

Electoral Boundary and Governance Review – Frequently Asked Questions

Based on the County’s current population, approximately how many residents on average does each division represent?

In 2018, the County conducted a municipal census counting a total population count of 40,705 residents. Based on the County’s current nine divisions, the average population per division is 4,523 residents.

What is the acceptable level of population deviation from the average number of residents each division should represent?

Other Alberta municipalities such as the City of Calgary, City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, Parkland County, and Red Deer County have used the ± 25 percent as their standard. This standard is also used by Rocky View Schools and is part of the [County’s Electoral Boundary Review Policy](#).

This is no definitive legislative standard of what an acceptable municipal population deviation should be. Legal precedent from the Supreme Court of Canada, effective representation is defined as within a maximum of a ± 25 per cent deviation from the average population per division. The Courts have also recognized the unique geographical nature of rural electoral ridings.

Which divisions are currently above or below the 25 percent acceptable standard of deviation?

Division 1 - Southwest Rocky View County; Bragg Creek (below the acceptable standard of deviation)

Division 3 - Elbow Valley; Springbank (above the acceptable standard of deviation)

Division 4 - Southeast Rocky View County; Langdon; Indus Springbank (above the acceptable standard of deviation)

Division 6 - Northeast Rocky View County; Kathryn; Keoma (below the acceptable standard of deviation)

Division	Population in 2018	Population Deviation from Average (4523)	% Deviation
1 - Southwest Rocky View County; Bragg Creek	2,525	-1,998	-44%
2 - Springbank	3,479	-1,044	-23%
3 - Elbow Valley; Springbank	5,957	1,434	32%
4 - Southeast Rocky View County; Langdon; Indus	7,010	2,487	55%
5 - East Rocky View County; Conrich; Dalroy	5,051	528	12%
6 - Northeast Rocky View County; Kathryn; Keoma	2,768	-1,755	-39%

Division	Population in 2018	Population Deviation from Average (4523)	% Deviation
7 - North Rocky View County; Balzac; Madden	3,462	-1,061	-23%
8 - Bears paw	5,576	1,053	23%
9 - Northwest Rocky View County; Cochrane Lake	4,877	354	8%
Total	40,705		
Average population per Division	4,523		

What is the difference between a “Reeve” and “Mayor”?

At Rocky View County, the Reeve is one of the nine Councillors is elected by Council. The appointment of Reeve is done every year at the Council Organizational Meeting. The primary duties of the Reeve are to preside over Council meetings and be the official spokesperson of Council. The duties of the Reeve can be found in the [County’s Procedural Bylaw and Council Code of Conduct Bylaw](#).

Legislatively, there is no definition for the position of ‘mayor.’ However, in Alberta, municipalities have frequently adopted the term ‘mayor’ as a position on Council that has been elected in a general municipal election (as opposed to a “reeve” being selected annually by Council from existing Councillors).

Under the proposed bylaw, the County is considering changing the title of Reeve to Mayor. This position will remain elected by Council annually at the Council Organizational Meeting.

When was the last time the County made changes to its electoral boundaries?

The County’s last major electoral boundary review was conducted in year 2000. In 2010, a minor electoral boundary adjustment was made to divisions 7 and 8 in accordance with the Bears paw Area Structure Plan.

What is the maximum / minimum number of elected representatives the County must have?

Legislatively there is no maximum or minimum number of elected representatives the County must have on its Council. Any changes to the number of elected representatives is done through a Council bylaw.

Will the changes that come out of this review be in effect for the next municipal election?

Any changes to the number of representatives on Council and/or electoral boundaries position must be passed by Council through a bylaw before December 31, 2020, in order for the changes be in effect for the next municipal election. The next municipal general election will be held on Monday, October 18, 2021.

If there are any changes, when will the changes come into effect?

Any changes to the number of representatives on Council and/or electoral boundaries will come into effect at the next municipal general election on Monday October 18, 2021.

Is this review related to the specialized municipality status the County is considering?

No. However, this review may inform the specialized municipality status work the County is considering. More information on the specialized municipality status project can be found at www.rockyview.ca/special.

Do changes to the County's electoral boundaries and governance structure affect my tax rate?

Changes resulting from this review will have no impact on your tax rate.

Do any changes to County's electoral boundaries affect school division boundaries?

School divisions are under the jurisdiction of the school board with its own boundary review process and will not be impacted by this review. However, considerations will be made in the County's review to align with school division boundaries where possible.

Do any changes to the County's electoral boundaries affect the federal or provincial riding boundaries?

Both federal and provincial ridings are separate from municipal divisions and will not be impacted by this review. However, considerations will be made in the County's review to align with federal and provincial boundaries where possible.

How much did this review cost?

At the November 26, 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved a budget of \$100,000 to conduct this review.

Who is conducting the review?

ISL Engineering, Transitional Solutions Inc. and Metro Economics have been retained by the County to conduct this independent and objective review.

When will Council make a decision?

The Electoral Boundary and Council Composition bylaw will be brought forward for Council's consideration on Tuesday October 27, 2020. The proposed bylaw is now available for viewing at <https://www.rockyview.ca/Government/Elections.aspx>

Can electors put forward a petition in response to the proposed Electoral Boundary and Council Composition bylaw?

Yes. Under the Municipal Government Act, electors of the County may petition Council to conduct a vote of electors regarding this bylaw. More information about petitions can be found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/petition-information-for-electors.aspx>

Who can I contact to get more information about this review?

Questions regarding the Electoral Boundaries and Council Composition may be forwarded to Project Lead Charlotte Satink, Municipal Clerk, at elections@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401.

Questions regarding meeting procedures or petitions can be forwarded to the Municipal Clerk's Office at legislativeservices@rockyview.ca or 403-230-1401.