

<b>Policy Number:</b>	<b>C-702</b>
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	<b>Municipal Clerk's Office</b>
<b>Adopted By:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Adoption Date:</b>	<b>2019 July 09</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>2019 July 09</b>
<b>Date Last Amended:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Date Last Reviewed:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

## Purpose

- 1 This policy establishes how and when Rocky View County (the County) determines and reviews its electoral boundaries.



## Policy Statement

- 2 Council by resolution may divide the County into voting subdivisions (Divisions) and, from time to time, alter the boundaries of those Divisions, as authorized by section 148 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000 c M-26, and section 36(1) of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, RSA 2000, c L-21.
- 3 Equal and effective representation is fundamental to any democratic electoral system and is the County's primary goal of an electoral boundary review.
  - (1) Equal representation is the principle that all votes count equally and therefore the population of each Division should be relatively equal.
  - (2) Effective representation helps ensure that County residents have the ability to access an elected representative equal in strength to the rest of the population.
- 4 The County is committed to designing clear, distinct, and easily identifiable electoral boundaries.



## Policy

### Criteria

- 5 The County's electoral boundaries are reviewed and established based on the following criteria:

#### **Population per Division**

- (1) The optimum Population per Division is the primary factor in determining electoral boundaries. The County's total population divided by the number of Divisions is the optimum Population per Division.
- (2) For the purpose of this policy, the County's total Population is determined using either the last County census profile or the Federal Census official population list from Statistics Canada, whichever was completed most recently.
- (3) Electoral boundaries are designed so the Population of each Division is within a range of  $\pm 25\%$  from the optimum.

#### **Future Growth**

- (4) Electoral boundaries are designed with the objective, wherever possible, to recognize how the timing of potential growth areas will affect population deviations.

#### **Easily Identifiable Boundaries**

- (5) Wherever possible, electoral boundaries are identifiable to the public by using major roadways and significant natural and man-made barriers such as the river, ravines, railways, etc.

#### **Least Number of Changes**

- (6) Electoral boundary proposals should involve the fewest changes possible to accomplish the required adjustments.

#### **Communities of Interest and Diversity Within Divisions**

- (7) Electoral boundaries are designed to ensure communities with common interests or sharing a common roadway access are kept within the same Division.
- (8) Where possible, the distribution of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and green space areas between Divisions is taken into account so that each Division contains a mixture of these developments.

- (9) Where possible the optimum population per division should take into account the County Plan, Intermunicipal Plans, and Area Structure Plans.
- (10) Where possible, the optimum Population per Division should respectively include both urban and rural areas.

### Historical Divisional Boundaries

- (11) Consideration is given to the historical electoral boundaries within an area but it is not mandatory that these boundaries are used.

### Frequency

- 6 A review of the electoral boundaries will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure criteria of this policy are met.
- 7 Any revisions to the electoral boundaries must be completed at least one year before a County general election commences.



### References

Legal Authorities
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, etc.
Related Procedures
Other

- *Local Authorities Election Act, RSA 2000, c L-21*
- *Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26*
- Rocky View County Bylaw C-5298-2000, "Electoral Boundaries Bylaw"
- N/A
- N/A



## Policy History

Amendment Date(s) – Amendment Description

- N/A

Review Date(s) – Review Outcome Description

- N/A



## Definitions

8 In this policy:

- (1) “Council” means the duly elected Council of Rocky View County;
- (2) “County” means Rocky View County;
- (3) “Division” means a municipal voting subdivision for the purpose of electing members of Council pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* and the Rocky View County “Electoral Boundaries Bylaw”, as may be amended or replaced from time to time;
- (4) “Population” means the total number of people residing within a defined area; and
- (5) “Rocky View County” means Rocky View County as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires.