

**Comparative Table**

This document illustrates the various iterations of the *Ward Boundary Design Policy*, from its current version to the Ward Boundary Commission’s proposed amendments and Administration's recommendation. Due to the restructuring of the policy and the significant language amendments, a redline document was not developed.

Policy Statement			
Current Policy (C469A)	Ward Boundary Commission Recommendation	Proposed Policy (C469B)	Rationale
<p>Clear, distinct and easily identifiable Ward boundaries are essential to the municipal election process. Ward boundary design should also respect the democratic principle of “one-person, one-vote” by striving to keep Ward populations substantially equal</p>	<p>Ward boundaries shall be reviewed and adjusted periodically to maintain Effective Representation. Effective Representation requires that boundaries are drawn with primary regard to Voter Parity, while considering Communities of Interest and other Criteria and Considerations that enhance Effective Representation.</p>	<p><b>Revision - language and format</b>                      Ward boundaries are an essential component of the municipal electoral system and a principal means to ensure effective representation. The structure of municipal Ward composition requires regular reviews to ensure that the conditions necessary to preserve effective representation are maintained.</p> <p>The purpose of this policy is to establish the guiding principles to be applied to the design of municipal Ward boundaries and to determine the extent and frequency of municipal Ward boundary reviews.</p>	<p>The Policy Statement is reconfigured to retain the Commission’s focus on Effective Representation.</p> <p>References to voter parity and specific criteria and considerations are removed from the overarching policy statement and embedded in other sections of the policy and procedure.</p>

Purpose of Policy			
Current Policy (C469A)	Ward Boundary Commission Recommendation	Proposed Policy (C469B)	Rationale
<p>1. Establish criteria to be used by the Returning Officer in developing proposals for Ward boundary changes.</p> <p>2. Define the responsibilities in the Ward boundary review process.</p> <p>3. Provide a framework for the Ward boundary review process with regard to timing, involving stakeholders and establishing reporting procedures.</p>	<p>The Commission<sup>1</sup> supports the existing Purpose elements of the Ward Boundary Design Policy and has no changes or recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Revision - language and format</b></p> <p><b>Guiding Principles</b></p> <p><b>1. Ward Boundary Design maintains effective representation.</b> Ward Boundary Design will be guided through the application of criteria to create the conditions conducive to Effective Representation.</p> <p><b>2. Ward Boundaries maintain their integrity through regular reviews</b> The integrity of Ward boundaries will be assessed and protected through reviews of Ward boundary design according to an established schedule.</p> <p>A review of municipal Ward boundaries will be conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by the Returning Officer, following every municipal general election, when only minor adjustments are required;</li> <li>• by a Commission of Council-appointed residents following every third municipal election cycle;</li> <li>• by a Commission of Council-appointed residents when Council deems necessary because major adjustments are required.</li> </ul>	<p>The language found in the existing policy, which the Commission recommended remain unchanged, is revised to fit the format of the Corporate Policy Framework.</p> <p>The Guiding Principles are aligned with the core value of effective representation, as recommended by the Commission, and provide a bridge to standardized process through references to criteria based design, review frequency, and review administrators.</p>

<sup>1</sup> 'The Commission' refers to the Ward Boundary Commission, which was struck as a temporary Committee of Council in 2019 via Bylaw 18893 [Ward Boundary Commission Bylaw](#)

Definitions			
Current Policy (C469A)	Ward Boundary Commission Recommendation	Proposed Policy (C469B)	Rationale
<p><b>Community League Boundary</b> The boundary of a community league as established by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.</p> <p><b>Electors</b> Eligible voters, as defined by the Local Authorities Election Act.</p> <p><b>Population</b> The total number of people residing within a defined area.</p> <p><b>Ward</b> A municipal electoral district for the purpose of electing members of Council and School Board Trustees, created under the Municipal Government Act and the Ward Boundary Bylaw.</p>	<p><b>Average Population</b> The Average Population per Ward is determined by dividing the City Population by the number of Wards.</p> <p><b>Average Number of Electors</b> The Average Number of Electors is determined by dividing the Number of Electors in the City by the number of Wards.</p> <p><b>Community League Boundary</b> The boundary of a community league as established by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.</p> <p><b>Communities of Interest</b> Typically considered as those groups of people within a geographic area that share a common set of attributes, goals, or pursuits.</p> <p>Geographically localized community within the larger city, social communities with considerable in-person interaction among residents which provide the personal settings and situations where residents seek to realise common values, socialise youth, and maintain effective social control.</p> <p>Of relevance are interests primarily determined through proximity/geographic location. The attributes of Communities of Interest may be historical or dynamic.</p> <p>Attributes can be defined according to: + location, as with a neighbourhood or a set of boundaries, including Community Leagues, school catchment areas, and Business Revitalization Zones; + the product of a common pursuit, such as shared local improvement concerns and neighbourhoods with longstanding mutual engagement; + the presence of a common trait, such as shared neighbourhood maturity and design, or common socio-economic characteristics (e.g., social, cultural, historical, or demographic composition), or economic ties. + any other factor that a Ward Boundary Commission deems is demonstrative of the existence of a community.</p>	<p><b>Revision - format</b></p> <p><b>Definitions</b> <b>Community League Boundary</b> The boundary of a community league as established by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.</p> <p><b>No revision</b></p> <p><b>Communities of Interest</b> Typically considered as those groups of people within a geographic area that share a common set of attributes, goals, or pursuits.</p> <p>Geographically localized community within the larger city, social communities with considerable in-person interaction among residents which provide the personal settings and situations where residents seek to realise common values.</p> <p>Of relevance are common interests that may be identified through tangible measures such as proximity/ geographic location. The attributes of Communities of Interest may be historical or dynamic. Attributes can be defined according to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• location, as with a neighbourhood or a set of boundaries, including Community Leagues, and Business Revitalization Zones;</li> <li>• the product of a common pursuit, such as neighbourhoods with longstanding mutual engagement through identifiable organizations and groups;</li> <li>• the presence of a common trait, such as shared neighbourhood maturity and design, or common socio-economic characteristics (e.g., social, cultural, historical, or demographic composition), or economic ties;</li> <li>• other factors that a Ward Boundary Commission deems is demonstrative of the existence of a community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p>	<p>A number of revisions are made to the Commission's recommended definitions, including:</p> <p><b>Communities of Interest:</b> The Commission's definition is reframed to provide additional clarity. References to school catchment areas are removed following the receipt of feedback from Edmonton Public School Board.</p> <p><b>Effective Representation:</b> The Commission's definition is replaced with an extract from the Supreme Court Ruling cited in the Final Report, following consultation with the Legal Services.</p> <p><b>Average Population:</b> References to 'average' are replaced with 'optimal', which is consistent with language used in other jurisdictions, including the Commission's final report, and better aligns with the Commission's intended application.</p> <p><b>Number of electors:</b> References to data sources are removed. This removes a vulnerability created by a reliance on an external data source and makes provision for Council's pending consideration of a voter's list.</p> <p><b>Growth:</b> Growth is replaced by 'Projected Population' which allows for the inclusion of demographic forecasts maintained by Administration. These forecasts were not contemplated at the time of the Commission-led review.</p> <p><b>Variance:</b> References to tiered variance are removed as they are deemed not to be operationally viable in the absence of corporate definitions of 'fast' and 'slow' growth. A single variance of 25% is suggested, which is consistent with both the current policy and that allowed by the policies of other jurisdictions of comparable size.</p> <p><b>Ward:</b> Ward is removed as it is not defined within the <i>Municipal Government Act</i>.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood:</b> Language is refined to align with terminology found in the Zoning Bylaw.</p>

	<p><b>Electors/Number of Electors</b> Eligible Voters, as defined by the Local Authorities Election Act. The Number of Electors shall be the latest Elections Alberta List of Electors.</p> <p><b>Effective Representation</b> Relative parity of voting power is a prime condition of effective representation. Effective representation and good government compel that other factors, such as geography and community interests, be taken into account in setting electoral boundaries to represent the diversity of the social mosaic. However, there cannot be wide variations in population size among the Wards.</p> <p><b>Growth</b> Population growth as projected by the City, based on sources such as Area Structure Plans, growth analysis and demographic modelling. The growth in the Number of Electors shall be taken from sources such as Elections Alberta and extrapolations of relevant data provided by Administration. Population Growth and the Number of Electors are forecast at the neighbourhood level.</p> <p><b>Major Adjustment</b> A boundary adjustment with a scope encompassing a significant number of Wards or looking at the entire City Ward structure.</p> <p><b>Minor Adjustment</b> A boundary adjustment limited in scale and affecting a small portion of the City, e.g., local, neighbourhood level adjustment between two Wards; or a minor corporate boundary adjustment that affects one or two Wards.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood</b> The City of Edmonton defines distinct technical boundaries, which may be different from residents' conception of their social neighbourhoods (as exemplified by discrete neighbourhoods covering purely industrial or commercial areas), but they provide a known and identifiable unit to work from.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood is the basic constituent unit of Ward boundaries.</p>	<p><b>Effective Representation</b> For the purposes of this policy, effective representation refers to the balance of individual (voter parity) and group concerns. This is best outlined as per the Supreme Court of Canada: <i>"The purpose of the right to vote enshrined in s. 3 of the Charter is not equality of voting power per se but the right to 'effective representation'. The right to vote therefore comprises many factors, of which equity is but one. The section does not guarantee equality of voting power. Relative parity of voting power is a prime condition of effective representation. Deviations from absolute voter parity, however, may be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or the provision of more effective representation. Factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic. Beyond this, dilution of one citizen's vote as compared with another's should not be countenanced."</i> Supreme Court of Canada. 1991. Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), [1991] <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Estimated number of Electors</b> The estimated number of residents in a Ward who are eligible to vote in municipal elections, as defined by section 47 of the <i>Local Authorities Election Act</i>. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Neighbourhood</b> The Neighbourhood is the basic constituent unit of Ward boundaries. The City of Edmonton defines distinct technical boundaries that determine a neighbourhood. These may differ from residents' conception of their social neighbourhoods, which are typically residential in nature, as a neighbourhood may encompass entirely industrial, commercial or other zoned land. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Major adjustments</b> A boundary adjustment with a geographic scope that encompasses multiple Wards or the citywide composition of Wards, or that affects a large number of residents. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Minor adjustments</b> A boundary adjustment that is limited in geographical scale or affects a small number of residents, if any. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p>	<p><b>Minor/Major Adjustment:</b> Language is revised to include a reference to the impact of an adjustment on residents.</p> <p><b>Population:</b> Language is revised to remove reference to data source to reflect changes, both past and pending, regarding the municipal census program.</p> <p><b>Voter Parity:</b> Language is revised to provide additional clarity and to use terminology consistent with that used elsewhere in the Policy and Procedure.</p>
--	---	---	---

	<p><b>Population/City Population</b> The total number of people residing within the municipal boundary of the City of Edmonton; and at a Ward level, within the boundaries of the Ward. Population numbers shall be taken from the latest federal census or municipal census, whichever is the most recent.</p> <p><b>Variance</b> The maximum acceptable divergence of the Ward Population or Ward Number of Electors from the Average Population or Average Number of Electors for the City, respectively, with the ideal being as close to the average as possible, with a target of +/-10% in established or slow growth Wards and +/-20% in Wards where significant population growth or decline is anticipated during the term of the new Ward Boundary design.</p> <p>Variance is considered throughout the duration of the Ward boundary structure, such that targets are met at the time of redrawing and for three subsequent elections.</p> <p><b>Voter Parity</b> The notion that every vote carries the same weight. Voter parity is achieved by creating electoral districts that contain roughly the same number of voters.</p> <p><b>Ward</b> A municipal electoral district for the purpose of electing members of Council and School Board Trustees, created under the Municipal Government Act S. 148(2)(a) and Bylaw 18893 Ward Boundary Bylaw.</p>	<p><b>Optimal Ward Population</b> The optimal Ward population is a measure for the substantially equal distribution of population and provides the benchmark through which variance thresholds are calculated. The optimal Ward population is determined by dividing the total residential population of the city by the number of Wards. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Population/City Population</b> The total number of people residing within the municipal boundary of the City of Edmonton and, at a Ward level, within the boundaries of the Ward. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Projected population</b> The projected population of a Ward in the final year of a four year election cycle, as determined by the Neighbourhood Population Projection maintained by Administration. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Variance</b> The maximum acceptable divergence of the Ward Population (or the Projected Population of the Ward) from the Optimal Ward Population (or Optimal Projected Population) is +/- 25% of that optimal. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p> <p><b>Voter Parity</b> Every vote carries the same weight. Relative voter parity can be achieved by designing Wards that contain roughly the same number of voters. <b>Revision - see rationale column</b></p>	
--	---	---	--

Criteria			
Current Policy (C469A)	Ward Boundary Commission Recommendation	Proposed Policy (C469B)	Rationale
<p>The following criteria are to be used by the Returning Officer in creating or designing Ward boundaries:</p> <p><b>2.01 Population vs. Number of Electors</b> The Population per Ward, not the number of Electors per Ward, will be the primary factor in designing Ward boundaries.</p> <p>The optimum Population per Ward will be determined by dividing the City Population by the number of Wards. Ward boundaries will be designed so the Population of each Ward is within a range of +/- 25% from the optimum.</p> <p>The optimum number of Electors per Ward will be determined by dividing the number of Electors in the City by the number of Wards. Ward boundaries will be designed so the number of Electors in each Ward is within a range of +/- 25% from the optimum.</p> <p>Respecting these "+/-" ranges will ensure that Wards are substantially equal with each other in both Population and number of Electors.</p> <p><b>2.02 Future Growth</b> Ward boundaries are to be designed with the goal of lasting at least three municipal general elections before a major revision is necessary.</p> <p>The potential for growth or decline in each Ward over the next three elections will be taken into account by having the highest Ward Populations and number of Electors in stable or declining Wards and the lowest Ward Populations and number of Electors in growth area Wards.</p> <p><b>2.03 Respecting Community League Boundaries</b> Since Community Leagues reflect the borders and concerns of neighbourhoods, Ward boundaries are to be designed so no Community League is split between two Wards.</p> <p>Since Community League Boundaries are not controlled by the City and are subject to change, it may be necessary to make minor modifications to the Ward boundaries prior to the major revision planned for every three (3) municipal general elections.</p>	<p><b>Criteria</b> In determining Effective Representation in the design of Ward boundaries, the following criteria should be employed in order of priority:</p> <p><b>Population</b> The Population per Ward is the primary criterion in designing Ward boundaries. In determining Population distribution across Wards, the Average Population of the City will be used as a benchmark against which acceptable Variances per Ward are determined. The Average Population per Ward should be substantially equal.</p> <p><b>Number of Electors</b> The Number of Electors per Ward is the secondary criterion for determining Ward boundaries. The Average Number of Electors of the City will be used as a benchmark against which acceptable Variances at the Ward level are determined. The Average Number of Electors per Ward should be substantially equal across Wards.</p> <p><b>Growth</b> As a third criterion, Ward boundaries should be designed with the goal of lasting at least three (3) municipal general elections before a Major Adjustment is necessary. Consideration should be given to both changes in Population and the Number of Electors, with the averages of both used to assess distribution and boundary alignment.</p> <p>Boundaries should be aligned so that the level of Variance is greater for growth-area Wards and lower for Wards in areas with stable or declining Populations.</p>	<p><b>Revision - Language and Format</b></p> <p><b>Criteria and Considerations</b> Criteria are the foundational elements of a review of the design of municipal Ward boundaries and are applied when both major and minor adjustments are anticipated. Considerations are used as a mechanism to refine proposed major adjustments following the application of the criteria.</p> <p><b>Criteria</b> Criteria are required elements of the Ward Boundary Review to be assessed:</p> <p><b>Population of each Ward</b> To ensure effective representation, the population of each Ward is the primary Ward boundary design criterion. The population of each Ward should be substantially equal, reflecting the optimal Ward population as closely as possible within allowable variance thresholds.</p> <p><b>Projected population of each Ward</b> To preserve effective representation, Ward boundaries should be designed with the goal of lasting at least three municipal general election cycles before a Major Adjustment is necessary. The number of residents in each Ward will be assessed to ensure that the projected population remains within allowable variance thresholds.</p> <p><b>Estimated number of electors who reside in each Ward</b> To ensure voter parity, the estimated number of electors in each Ward should be substantially equal, reflecting the optimal estimated number of electors in a Ward as closely as possible within allowable variance thresholds.</p>	<p>Criteria and Considerations largely reflect the Commission's recommendations, with the following exceptions:</p> <p><b>Prioritization of criteria:</b> The three main criteria are reordered so that population and population projections are the second and third criteria. This allows for Administration's neighbourhood growth forecasts to be leveraged appropriately and reduces the reliance on data provided by external sources regarding the number of electors.</p> <p><b>Communities of Interest:</b> References to school catchment areas are removed. This criteria is only applicable to Commission led reviews, aligning Edmonton's policy with that of other jurisdictions where administrative definitions of Communities of Interest are not contemplated.</p> <p>As such, reviews led by Administration are largely statistically driven, which is appropriate given their anticipated scope of encompassing only minor adjustments.</p>

<p><b>2.04 Communities of Interest and Diversity Within Wards</b> Ward boundaries will be designed to ensure communities with common interests or sharing a common roadway access are kept within the same Ward.</p> <p>Also, where possible, the distribution of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and green space areas between Wards will be taken into account so that each Ward contains a mixture of these developments.</p> <p><b>2.05 Easily Identifiable Boundaries</b> Wherever possible, Ward boundaries will be readily identifiable to the public by utilizing major streets and significant natural and man-made barriers such as the river, ravines, railways, etc.</p> <p><b>2.06 Least Number of Changes</b> Ward proposals developed by the Returning Officer should involve the fewest changes possible to accomplish the required adjustments.</p> <p><b>2.07 Block-Shaped Wards</b> Ward boundaries are to be designed relatively block-shaped with straight sides. This will help to ensure that Ward boundaries are drawn impartially.</p> <p>Ward boundaries which are long, narrow and twisted, or have saw-toothed or indented sides are more likely to give the appearance of being designed in a biased approach to achieve a specific result.</p>	<p><b>Communities of Interest</b> Preserving Communities of Interest is the fourth criterion for adjusting Ward boundaries.</p> <p>The following key attributes should guide the application of this criteria, wherever possible: + Neighbourhoods should not be divided between Wards. + Each Ward should be composed of a variety of Communities of Interest. + School catchment areas should be considered in boundary composition. + Ward composition should be a balance between established and new Neighbourhoods; between low growth and higher growth Neighbourhoods; and among different types of land use. + A Community League should not be split between Wards.</p> <p><b>Considerations</b> The Commission distinguished between Criteria requirements) and considerations (secondary factors to take into account). Distinguishing between Criteria and Considerations helps simplify the design process which has many complex variables to satisfy. The Commission's intent is that Ward boundaries are drafted based on the Criteria, and fine-tuned based on Other Considerations. After the requirements under the Criteria are met, the following Considerations (not in order of priority) should be taken into account to fine-tune drafted Ward boundaries:</p> <p><b>Readily Identifiable Boundaries</b> Wherever possible, Ward boundaries should be readily identifiable to the public. Consideration should be given to utilizing major transportation infrastructure and other significant artificial barriers and natural boundaries (e.g., river, ravines, parks) for aligning the Ward boundaries.</p> <p><b>Mix of Zones</b> Consideration should also be given to the distribution of residential, employment, institutional and green space areas between Wards. A Ward should not be dominated by any of these features and such features should be distributed among several Wards.</p>	<p><b>Communities of Interest</b> A review that encompasses major adjustments should contemplate the effective representation of groups as well as that of individual residents. As such, Ward design should reflect the following attributes, where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhoods should not be divided between Wards.</li> <li>• Each Ward should be composed of a variety of Communities of Interest.</li> <li>• A Community League should not be split between Wards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Considerations</b> Considerations are secondary factors that can be taken into account during the review.</p> <p><b>Readily Identifiable Boundaries</b> Wherever possible, Ward boundaries should be readily identifiable to the public. Consideration should be given to utilizing major transportation infrastructure and other significant artificial barriers and natural boundaries (e.g., river, ravines, parks) for aligning the Ward boundaries.</p> <p><b>Mix of zones</b> Consideration should also be given to the distribution of residential, commercial, and industrial zones, and green space areas between Wards. A Ward should not be dominated by any of these features and such features should be distributed among several Wards.</p>	
---	---	---	--

Procedure			
Current Policy (C469A)	Ward Boundary Commission Recommendation	Proposed Policy (C469B)	Rationale
<p>3.01 City Council will:</p> <p>(a) Inform the Returning Officer of revisions that are desired to the Ward boundaries;</p> <p>(b) Direct the Returning Officer to conduct a formal review of the Ward boundaries and to prepare boundary proposals for the consideration of Council;</p> <p>(c) Provide input into the Ward boundary proposals prepared by the Returning Officer, and;</p> <p>(d) Decide on any changes to be made to the Ward boundaries and pass the required bylaw by October in the year prior to a municipal general election to provide sufficient implementation time.</p> <p>3.02 Returning Officer will:</p> <p>(a) By September of the year following every municipal general election, send a summary to Council through the Executive Committee identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the current Population and number of Electors for each Ward,</li> <li>- the current "+/-" of Population and number of Electors of each Ward from the optimum Ward size, and</li> <li>- potential Ward boundary adjustments required before the next municipal general election;</li> </ul> <p>(b) When directed by City Council, develop Ward boundary proposals based on the criteria contained in this policy;</p> <p>(c) Arrange for input from the following stakeholders to determine the impact of any potential Ward boundary changes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General Public (through a public hearing),</li> <li>- Edmonton Public School Board,</li> <li>- Edmonton Separate School Board,</li> <li>- Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, and</li> <li>- City Administration;</li> </ul> <p>(d) Prepare the bylaw to adopt the accepted Ward boundary changes, and;</p> <p>(e) Implement the approved changes to the Ward boundaries.</p>	<p>The Commission recommends that items in the Procedure section, which includes specifics on how boundary design is undertaken, should be removed from the Policy and included in an Administrative Directive. The components related to roles/responsibilities and consultations should be kept in the policy under separate sections.</p> <p><b>Public Consultation</b></p> <p>(a) The City's Public Engagement Framework will guide the public consultation for boundary reviews.</p> <p>(b) For Major Adjustments where a Commission is appointed, the Commission directs the development and deployment of the public engagement efforts.</p> <p>(c) The public and stakeholders must be consulted on drafted Ward boundaries to inform the final proposed boundaries for Council approval.</p> <p>(d) A report on the results of the consultations is to be provided to Council.</p> <p><b>Stakeholder Consultation</b></p> <p>(a) The following stakeholders are to be provided an opportunity to provide input into the Ward boundary design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ All members of Council</li> <li>+ The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues</li> <li>+ Community Leagues</li> <li>+ School boards operating within City limits</li> </ul> <p>Any other stakeholder group not identified here that self identifies through the design process must be provided an opportunity to provide input.</p> <p>(b) A report on the results of the consultations is provided to Council.</p> <p><b>Periodic Ward Boundary Reviews</b></p> <p>(a) Ward boundaries are reviewed for alignment with the Policy after each general municipal election by Administration and a report is provided to Council on whether any Major Adjustments or Minor Adjustments are needed.</p> <p>(b) The Returning Officer may undertake a review of the Ward boundaries if Minor Adjustments are required.</p>	<p><b>Revision - Language and Format</b></p> <p><b>Process</b></p> <p>1. During Q4 following each municipal general election, the Returning Officer will report to Council outlining a recommendation regarding the design of municipal Ward boundaries. The report will indicate whether major or minor adjustments to boundary design are required based on a preliminary assessment that examines the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population of each Ward</li> <li>• Projected population of each Ward</li> <li>• Estimated number of electors who reside in each Ward</li> </ul> <p>If the Returning Officer recommends that only minor adjustments are necessary, proposed adjustments will be presented to Council as part of this initial report.</p> <p>2. City Council will provide direction regarding the scope of the Ward boundary review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If Council determines that only <b>minor adjustments</b> are required, the Returning Officer's recommended adjustments will be accepted or refined at Council's discretion, as described in Point 4 of these Requirements.</li> <li>• If Council determines that <b>major adjustments</b> are required, Council will establish a Ward Boundary Commission of residents, via bylaw, to conduct a review of the current design of municipal Ward boundaries and the criteria and considerations identified in this procedure.</li> </ul> <p>The Ward Boundary Commission bylaw will encompass, at Council's discretion, mandate, membership, engagement scope, remuneration, repeal and other stipulations deemed necessary. To allow sufficient time for a review conducted by a Commission, that Commission must be struck at least two years prior to the scheduled delivery of the required report to Council.</p>	<p>The Commission's recommendation is reconfigured to align with the format of the Corporate Policy Framework.</p> <p>The Process section considers the Commission's recommendations regarding scope, frequency, and public and stakeholder consultation. Council is removed as a stakeholder to be consulted, mitigating an identified risk of a perceived conflict of interest.</p> <p>References to reviews called by Council in a discretionary manner are removed as this decision making authority is implicit in Council policies. Similarly, Council are likely to only direct unscheduled major adjustments when a large scale change is evident.</p>



	<p>(c) A Ward Boundary Commission may be appointed by Council to review the Ward boundaries if Major Adjustments are required.</p> <p>(d) Any Major Adjustment by a Commission should commence in Year 10 of the 12 year expected longevity of Ward boundaries, providing sufficient time for updating Bylaw 18892 City Of Edmonton Ward Boundaries And Council Composition prior to the election in Year 12.</p> <p>(e) Council may direct a review of boundaries at any time. Triggers for a review not related to elections include, but are not limited to: annexation, legislative impacts, changes in number of Wards, or upon recommendation by Administration.</p> <p><b>Policy Review</b></p> <p>(a) The policy is to be reviewed after each general municipal election.</p> <p>(b) Any changes to the policy shall be effective for the following Ward boundary review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every <b>third election cycle</b> after the report of the last Ward Boundary Commission, Council will establish a Ward Boundary Commission to conduct a review of the current design of municipal Ward boundaries and the criteria and considerations identified in this procedure.</li> </ul> <p>The Ward Boundary Commission bylaw will encompass, at Council's discretion, mandate, membership, engagement scope, remuneration, repeal and other stipulations deemed necessary. To allow sufficient time for a review conducted by a Commission, that Commission must be struck at least two years prior to the scheduled delivery of the required report to Council.</p> <p>3. All reviews of Ward boundary design will include public engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City's Public Engagement Framework will guide public and stakeholder engagement based on whether the review is expected to assess major or minor adjustments.</li> <li>• Stakeholders include, but are not limited to: the General Public (through a public hearing), Edmonton School Division, Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, all individual Community Leagues, and Communities of Interest.</li> <li>• Where a Commission is appointed, the Commission will direct the development and deployment of public engagement efforts.</li> </ul> <p>4. Following the delivery of the report by the Returning Officer or Ward Boundary Commission, Council will determine the required changes to the design of municipal Ward boundaries and pass the required bylaw. According to Section 151(1) of the <i>Municipal Government Act</i>, bylaw amendments must be made by December 31 of the year before the general election at which it is to take effect.</p> <p>To enable the required operational processes, bylaw amendments should occur by October of the year preceding a municipal general election.</p>	
--	---	---	--