

## **BYLAW 20304**

### **City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw (Amendment No. 4)**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Bylaw 20304 be given the appropriate readings.

#### **Purpose**

To adjust the design of municipal Ward boundaries.

#### **Readings**

Bylaw 20304 is ready for second and third reading.

#### **Advertising and Signing**

This Bylaw was advertised in the Edmonton Journal on Saturday, March 11, 2023, and Saturday, March 18, 2023.

The subsequent legislated 60-day petition period concluded on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 without the receipt of a petition.

#### **Position of Administration**

Administration supports this Bylaw.

#### **Previous Council/Committee Action**

At the January 31, 2023, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Bylaw 20304 be read a first time.

#### **Report Summary**

Council Policy C469A - Ward Boundary Design (superseded by Council Policy C469B - Ward Boundary Design, approved at the October 17, 2022, City Council meeting), states that following every municipal general election, the Returning Officer is required to submit a report that

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provides information regarding Edmonton's municipal ward boundaries, including proposed adjustments.

This report recommends one adjustment to Ward boundaries be enacted via Bylaw 20304 - City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw Amendment No. 4 (Attachment 1). The proposed adjustment was determined by the findings of the review required by Council Policy C469A - Ward Boundary Design and incorporates direction provided by Executive Committee at the October 26, 2022 meeting.

Council gave first reading to Bylaw 20304 at its meeting of January 31, 2023, following which the Bylaw was advertised for two consecutive weeks (March 11 and 18, 2023) as per legislated requirements. The subsequent 60-day petition period concluded without receipt of a petition.

### **REPORT**

As per Council Policy C469A - Ward Boundary Design, following every municipal general election the Returning Officer is required to send a summary to Council identifying:

- the current population and number of electors for each Ward;
- the current "+/-" of population and number of electors of each Ward from the optimum Ward size;
- potential Ward boundary adjustments required before the next municipal general election.

The current Ward boundaries, which were recommended by the Ward Boundary Commission and approved by Council in December 2020 (Bylaw 19366 - Amendment to Bylaw 15142 - City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition), came into effect on Election Day, October 18, 2021. As per Policy C469A, major Ward boundary adjustments are designed to withstand three general election cycles, with the next major boundary review expected to occur following the 2029 Edmonton Election, unless otherwise directed by Council.

#### **Current Population and Variance for Each Ward**

Attachment 2 indicates the current population of each Ward and the variance from the optimum Ward population which, according to Policy C469A, is determined by dividing the city population by the number of Wards. Policy 469A allows a variance of +/-25 per cent from this optimum. The optimum Ward population for 2022 is 89,487.

Using Administration's population projections, which are based on a growth methodology developed by the Urban Planning and Economy Department, all Wards remain in compliance with policy criteria related to population distribution in 2022.

#### **Current Number of Electors and Variance for Each Ward**

Attachment 3 indicates the estimated number of electors for each Ward, and the variance from the optimum. Similarly to calculations regarding population, the optimum is determined by

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dividing the total number of electors by the number of Wards. The 2019 optimum number of Electors is 52,429.

The number of electors for each Ward is an estimated figure, using information provided by Elections Alberta in 2019. Given that this is the most recent source of data available to Administration, methodology could not be applied to accurately project the estimated number of Electors in 2022. However, it is reasonable to infer from the general population projections for 2022 that the number of Electors in each Ward falls within the +/-25 per cent variance allowed by Policy C469A.

### **Future Growth**

Criteria within Policy C469A states that Ward boundaries are to be designed with the goal of remaining compliant with Policy criteria for at least three municipal general elections before a major revision is necessary.

Growth projections developed by Administration verify that Ward populations will continue to meet the policy criteria regarding population distribution and growth at every election interval until the next major review is anticipated in 2029, as shown in Attachment 4.

As such, the Returning Officer does not recommend any major adjustments based on the criteria of population, electors or future growth.

### **Ward Boundary Adjustments Prior to the Next General Election**

Analysis of the data regarding the relatively equal distribution of population and electors between Wards verifies that the current Ward boundaries should withstand the next two election cycles without requiring a major adjustment. The additional aspects of the Returning Officer's review involved an assessment of potential minor adjustments that could be made to improve operational effectiveness and the experience of electors based on the 2021 Edmonton Election project.

Potential Ward boundary adjustments were considered in the context of the criteria outlined in Policy C469A and the operational lessons learned from the 2021 municipal general election, which prioritize optimizing the voting experience.

Administration proposed two potential adjustments to Executive Committee.

At the October 26, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, the following motion passed:

That the October 12, 2022, Office of the City Clerk report OCC01350 be referred back to Administration to revise Bylaw 20304 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Compensation Bylaw (Amendment No. 4) to delete Boundary Adjustment # 2 (as shown in Attachment 7) and return to City Council.

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### **Recommended Boundary Adjustment**

Move the Calgary Trail South neighbourhood to Ward papastew from Ward Karhiio to align the municipal Ward boundary with Edmonton School Division and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division Ward boundaries, as shown in Attachment 5.

This adjustment:

- eliminates one Edmonton School Division and one Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division Ballot Style from the Ward, thereby reducing the total number of ballots at Advance voting stations and at one Election Day voting station;
- has no impact on estimated number of eligible electors (zero eligible electors in the Calgary Trail South Neighbourhood as per the 2019 data from Elections Alberta);
- has a minimal impact on population in the affected Wards (11 individuals residing in commercial land, based on the 2019 municipal census); and
- involves a relatively small parcel of non-residential land (0.65 square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>)).

The revised bylaw, which includes the recommendation from Executive Committee, received first reading at the City Council meeting of January 31, 2023.

Following the publication of the required advertising and the conclusion of the 60-day petition period, City Council is asked to give second and third reading to Bylaw 20304. The Bylaw amends Bylaw 15142 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw by moving the Calgary Trail South neighbourhood to Ward papastew from Ward Karhiio. A redline version of the bylaw is provided as Attachment 6.

If Bylaw 20304 receives second and third reading, it will take effect on the date of the next Edmonton General Election: October 20, 2025.

### **COMMUNITY INSIGHT**

Administration consulted officials with the Edmonton School Division and Edmonton Catholic Separate School Division, both of whom indicated their support for Administration's recommended adjustment. Additionally, the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues was contacted, as a named stakeholder in Policy C469A, however no response was received during the engagement process.

Extensive public engagement was conducted by the Ward Boundary Commission in 2019 and 2020, when the most recent major adjustments to Ward boundaries were contemplated.

Bylaw 20304 was advertised in the Edmonton Journal on Saturday, March 11, 2023 and Saturday, March 18, 2023. The subsequent legislated 60-day petition period, which provides a means for electors to demonstrate their opposition to a proposed bylaw, concluded on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, without the receipt of a petition.

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### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Bylaw 20304 - City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries And Council Composition (Amendment No. 4)
2. Current Ward Population and Variance - Post 2021 Edmonton Election
3. Estimated Number of Electors and Variance - Post 2021 Edmonton Election
4. Projected Population Growth and Variance by Ward
5. Recommended Boundary Adjustment
6. Redline amendments - Bylaw 15142 City of Edmonton Ward Boundaries and Council Composition Bylaw

### **OTHERS REVIEWING THIS REPORT**

- M. Plouffe, City Solicitor