



May 9, 2024

Wheatland County is proposing a bylaw to adjust the existing electoral boundaries. The *Municipal Government Act* (s.148) states that Council may pass bylaws to divide the County into wards or divisions and establish their boundaries to provide equitable distribution of representation for residents.

#### Quick Info

<b>Bylaw:</b>	Electoral Boundaries Bylaw
<b>Proposal:</b>	To adjust the existing electoral division boundaries in order account for accurate population numbers, ensuring equal representation in all divisions.

Review of the electoral boundaries should occur when municipalities experience changes to their population. The current electoral boundaries have not changed since 2001, and since this time, population growth within them has not occurred consistently. This has led to an imbalance within the divisions, necessitating the need to review and adjust the electoral division boundaries.

Please see the following pages for more information.

Sincerely,

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# Proposed Electoral Division Boundaries Bylaw

## Information Sheet

### Why is the County proposing this adjustment?

Adjusting division boundaries is necessary to account for population changes in different areas of a municipality. Some areas experience more growth than others, resulting in some divisions having more people than others.

Re-establishing the electoral boundaries ensures that residents are equally represented among divisional councillors. This is important in guaranteeing fair representation for Wheatland County's residents, maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of our local governance.

**What are Divisions?**  
A division is a geographical area of a municipality for electoral representation purposes, to ensure the constitutional right of effective representation.

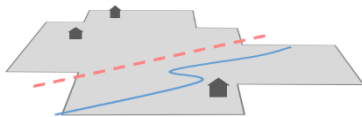
### When should Electoral Boundaries be reviewed?

A review of electoral boundaries should take place when municipalities see population growth. This may occur through incremental growth, new development, or other changes such as annexations.

### How were the boundaries for the Bylaw determined?

The boundaries were based on the following principles:

1. Minimal change to the historical division boundaries.
2. Ensuring that each division was within the  $\pm 25\%$  population average.
3. Account for identified growth areas that could impact each division.



**How are Electoral Boundaries determined?**  
A primary factor for determining electoral boundaries is the optimum distribution of population per division. The optimum population for each division should be within a  $\pm 25\%$  population average, which is determined by dividing the County's total population by the number of divisions.  
  
In addition to the optimum distribution of the population, the boundaries should be easily identifiable and use boundaries that are:

- logical following rivers, highways, and major roads, and
- intuitive to residents (electors).

### How will I be affected?

For many residents, their electoral division will remain the same. However, the adjustment in the electoral boundaries may impact who is nominated and elected as your Councillor for any upcoming elections in the County.

### Next Steps

1. Visit the **County website** to see a map of the proposed boundary changes and a draft of the Electoral Division Boundaries Bylaw at [wheatlandcounty.ca/projects-under-review](http://wheatlandcounty.ca/projects-under-review)
2. Come to our **open houses** to meet with the Councillors and staff. Please watch out for notices of open houses on the County website and social media.
3. **Contact** Wheatland County staff with any questions about the proposed amendments.

[wheatlandcounty.ca/projects-under-review](http://wheatlandcounty.ca/projects-under-review)

