

Ward Boundary Commission Review of Council Composition and Effectiveness

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council choose either Option A or Option B:

Option A

1. Direct Administration to:
 - 1.1. Recruit a Ward Boundary Commission through the 2023 Boards, Commissions and Committees process to review the effectiveness of the 14-ward system and potentially increase the number of Councillors to be implemented for the 2029 term of Council as set out in Attachment 1;
 - 1.2. Include one-time funding of \$176,000 to the City Clerk's Office 2024 budget for the operation of the Ward Boundary Commission for consideration during the 2024 One Calgary budget adjustment deliberations; and,
 - 1.3. Consult with the Ward Boundary Commission to prepare a service and financial impact analysis of the Ward Boundary Commission's recommendations, to be presented with the Ward Boundary Commission's final report in Q3 2024.
2. Give three readings to Bylaw 27M2023 to establish a Ward Boundary Commission and set out the terms of reference of the Ward Boundary Commission (Attachment 2); and, give three readings to Bylaw 27M2023 to establish a Ward Boundary Commission and set out the terms of reference of the Ward Boundary Commission (Attachment 2); and,
3. Rescind "Schedule A" from *Ward Boundary Determination and Review Policy* (CP2019-04) (Attachment 5).

Option B:

1. Direct Administration to:
 - 1.1. Recruit a Ward Boundary Commission through the 2023 Boards, Commissions and Committees process to review the effectiveness of the 14-ward system with no change to the number of Councillors as set out in Attachment 1;
 - 1.2. Include one-time funding of \$176,000 to the City Clerk's Office 2024 budget for the operation of the Ward Boundary Commission for consideration during the 2024 One Calgary budget adjustment deliberations; and,
 - 1.3. Consult with the Ward Boundary Commission to prepare a service and financial impact analysis of the Ward Boundary Commission's recommendations, to be presented with the Ward Boundary Commission's final report in Q3 2024.
2. Give three readings to Bylaw 28M2023 to establish a Ward Boundary Commission and set out the terms of reference of the Commission (Attachment 3); and, give three readings to Bylaw 28M2023 to establish a Ward Boundary Commission and set out the terms of reference of the Ward Boundary Commission (Attachment 3); and,
3. Rescind "Schedule A" from *Ward Boundary Determination and Review Policy* (CP2019-04) (Attachment 4).

HIGHLIGHTS

- In response to previous Council direction, this report presents two options for Council to address the number of Councillors following the 2021 General Election.

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- In addition, this report complies with the *Ward Boundary Determination and Review Policy* (“the Policy”) to review of the city’s population deviation in each ward to determine if ward boundary changes are required for the 2025 General Election.
- In keeping with criteria set out in the Policy, no changes to ward boundaries are required for the 2025 General Election.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Should Council direct a Ward Boundary Commission, Calgarians will have the opportunity to provide input on effective representation through public engagement.
- **Why does this matter?** Regular review of Council’s composition and alignment with Policy requirements help to facilitate effective representation for Calgarians.
- Alignment to Council’s Strategic Direction 2023-2026: Modernizing Government.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 5.

DISCUSSION

2014 Ward Boundary Commission

In 2014, a Ward Boundary Commission was tasked with identifying the ideal number of Councillors. The Ward Boundary Commission’s recommendations were presented at the 2014 November 14 Special Meeting of Council (Attachments 6 and 7), including a direction for Council to address the number of Councillors following the 2021 General Election.

Options to Review Council Composition

Option A provides for a Ward Boundary Commission with a mandate to review the effectiveness of the 14-ward system and potentially increase the number of Councillors to be implemented for the 2029 term of Council. Implementation of additional Councillors would occur in the 2029 term of Council to allow for services and budgets to be adjusted in the 2025 term of Council. This includes additional staffing, renovations to facilities and required changes to The City of Calgary’s governance framework, as well as constituent and interested party communications.

Option B provides for a Ward Boundary Commission to review the effectiveness of the 14-ward system with no change to the number of Councillors. Implementation considerations would occur in the 2025 term of Council, including services and budget impacts.

Ward Boundary Commission

As defined in the Policy, a Ward Boundary Commission acts as an independent and impartial body that leads work on City-wide ward boundary reviews and other matters directed by Council, including reviews of Council composition and effectiveness. An outline of the proposed timeline and activities for a Ward Boundary Commission aligned with the mandate of either Option A or B is provided in Attachment 1.

Section 145 of the Municipal Government Act requires that the establishment of a council committee be done by bylaw. Currently, the terms of reference for a Ward Boundary Commission are contained within the Policy. To align the Policy with current provincial

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legislation, a bylaw must be established, including the terms of reference, and Schedule A (Policy) must be rescinded. Should Council direct a Ward Boundary Commission:

- Attachment 2 is a proposed bylaw to establish and provide for a terms of reference, including composition, for a Ward Boundary Commission aligned with the mandate in Option A.
- Attachment 3 is a proposed bylaw to establish and provide for a terms of reference, including composition, for a Ward Boundary Commission aligned with the mandate in Option B.

Ward Population Deviation Analysis

The Policy outlines the schedule to review population deviations and determine if changes to ward boundaries are necessary. Generally, within eighteen months of a General Election, an analysis of the current population deviations is conducted and presented to Council.

As directed in the Policy, the population deviation between wards should not exceed +/- 15 and cannot exceed +/- 25 per cent. Currently, no wards exceed the population deviation, meaning that a review of the current ward boundaries is not required at this time. The table showing current ward population deviations and forecasted growth patterns is outlined in Attachment 8.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- Public engagement was undertaken
- Public/interested parties were informed
- Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken
- Public communication or engagement was not required

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Not applicable.

Service and Financial Implications

Tax-supported funding

- \$176,000 is recommended to be included in the 2024 One Calgary budget adjustments deliberations.
- Proposed Bylaw 27M2023 and Bylaw 28M2023 require the Returning Officer to recommend the remuneration of Commission members to Council prior to their appointment. An allocation of \$71,400 is recommended as the stipend for all Commission members, based on an estimated number of meetings (42), with additional funding as set out below.

**Law, Legislative Services and Security Report to
Regular Meeting of Council
2023 June 06**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2023-0496
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1.	Ward Boundary Commission stipend	\$ 71,400
2.	Ward Boundary Commission expenses	\$ 5,250
3	Public advertising and engagement	\$ 44,350
4.	Data analytics, research	\$ 35,000
5	Facility rentals	\$ 20,000
	TOTAL	\$176,000

RISK

Regular review of Council's composition and deviation of population among wards supports opportunities to improve Council's ability to perform their duties and the public's ability to be effectively represented.

If this work is not conducted, negative impacts may include:

- Unmanageable workloads for Members of Council and their staff;
- Decrease in quality and timeliness of responses by Members of Council to public inquiries and management of constituent issues and concerns; and,
- Disparate distribution of population among wards, affecting voter parity.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Option A and Option B: Timeline and activities
2. Bylaw 27M2023 (Option A)
3. Bylaw 28M2023 (Option B)
4. *Ward Boundary Determination and Review Policy* (CP2019-04)
5. Background and previous Council direction
6. 2014 Ward Boundary Commission Report on Number of Councillors
7. Minutes of 2014 November 14 Special Council Meeting
8. Current population deviation and forecasted growth patterns
9. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Kate Martin, Director/City Clerk	Law, Legislative Services & Security	Approve
Jill Floen, City Solicitor/General Counsel	Law, Legislative Services & Security	Approve
David Duckworth, City Manager	City Manager's Office	Inform
Les Tochor, Acting Chief Financial Officer	Corporate Planning & Financial Services	Inform