

Township of Brock Ward Boundary Review Guiding Principles

The objective of a Ward Boundary Review is to evaluate the suitability of the present wards in terms of approved Guiding Principles and to develop alternative designs that are consistent with those principles. The following five Guiding Principles have been developed from a number of sources and should apply to a ward boundary review in the Township of Brock to ensure that an effective and equitable system of representation is selected.

1. Representation by Population

- To the extent possible, every Councillor will generally represent the same number of constituents with some variation acceptable to take account of residential density and the patterns of settlement across the municipality.
- The acceptable range of population variance will not exceed 25% unless it can be justified as a way to meet one of the other criteria.
- Non-resident electors will be considered in the determination of population in the wards.

2. Population and Electoral Trends

- Wards will be designed so as to maintain equitable representation by population, to the extent possible, over a three-election cycle (2022, 2026 and 2030).
- Population projections will be based on adopted municipal-wide residential growth forecasts and other planning data compiled in 2020.

3. Representation of Communities of Interest

- Wards will be composed of plausible groupings of communities and established settlements.
- Wards will, to the extent possible, have regard for the rural nature of the municipality.

4. Geographical and Topographical Features

- The boundaries used to delineate wards should be straightforward and easily recognizable and, to the extent possible, reflect customary patterns of communication among communities and settlements within the municipality.
- Wards will be contiguous in shape and as compact as possible.

5. Effective representation

- The previous four principles are all subject to the overarching principle of "effective representation" as enunciated by the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Carter* case (that is, *Reference re Provincial Electoral Boundaries (Sask.)*, [1991]).
- This principle is intended to ensure that residents have comparable access to their elected representative and each Councillor will speak in governmental deliberations on behalf of approximately the same number of residents.