



Town of Whitby Policy

Policy Title:	Ward Boundary Review Guidelines Policy
Policy Number:	G 060
Reference:	Section 222 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 Council Resolution # 274-17 and # 16-21
Date Originated:	May 8, 2017
Date Revised:	January 25, 2021
Review Date:	As required
Approval:	Council
Point of Contact:	Town Clerk

Policy Statement

The Town of Whitby is committed to ensuring and respecting effective representation for all residents through the composition of its Wards.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guiding principles and criteria upon which consideration is to be given when determining the need for and when conducting a Ward Boundary Review.

Scope

The Ward Boundary Guidelines set out herein are applicable in any circumstance where consideration is to be given for reducing, increasing, adjusting, or maintaining the Wards through a Ward Boundary Review.

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1 Definitions

- 1.1 Community of Interest** means a neighborhood or recognized area of the Town with distinct or defining attributes, including, but not limited to ethnic, religious, historic, and cultural, wherein the residents share a common interest.
- 1.2 Effective Representation** means having approximately the same number of residents per Member of Council for each Ward to ensure that residents have equivalent access to and representation by each Ward Councillor.
- 1.3 Electoral Quota** is the optimal population to be represented per Member of Council for each Ward, found by taking the total population of the Town and dividing by the total number of Wards.
- 1.4 Electoral Range** is an acceptable plus or minus (+/-) variation from the Electoral Quota.
- 1.5 Geographic Boundary** means a natural or man-made feature that can serve as a Ward boundary.
- 1.6 Town** means The Corporation of the Town of Whitby or the geographic area of Whitby, as the context requires.
- 1.7 Ward** means a certain specific geographic area of the Town that is established as an electoral district for the purpose of electing a Member(s) of Council.
- 1.8 Ward Boundary Guidelines** means the criteria as set out in this policy by which Effective Representation will be assessed in each Ward and the Town as a whole.
- 1.9 Ward Boundary Review** means a comprehensive process by which Wards are reviewed, resulting in recommendations to either maintain, or to reduce, increase, or adjust the Wards prior to passing a by-law in accordance with Section 222 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25.

2 Responsibilities

- 2.1** Town Clerk to:
- a) Report to Council in the year following a general municipal election to identify:
 - The current population of each Ward;
 - The current variation of each Ward from the Electoral Quota;
 - Whether a Ward's variation is outside the Electoral Range;
 - The projected population of each Ward at five, ten, and fifteen year intervals;

- The projected variation of each Ward from the projected Electoral Quota at five, ten, and fifteen year intervals; and,
- Whether a Ward's projected variation is outside the projected Electoral Range.

b) Notwithstanding the above, the responsibility to report to Council may be delayed if the Town Clerk is aware of a pending release of Census Data or population forecasts are part of a Development Charges Study or similar undertaking.

2.2 Council to:

a) Approve this policy and review reports provided by the Town Clerk, in accordance with this policy, when determining whether or not to conduct a Ward Boundary Review and when making decisions regarding the maintenance or adjustment of Ward Boundaries.

3 Review Guidelines

3.1 The primary criterion for determining the need for a Ward Boundary Review will be the Electoral Quota.

3.2 Wards should be able to accommodate projected population changes within the Electoral Range for at least two election cycles.

3.3 The Electoral Range shall be established as:

- Not exceeding +/- 25% variation from the Electoral Quota.
- Ideally being between +/- 0% to 15% variation from the Electoral Quota;
- May be between +/- 15% to 25% variation from the Electoral Quota if the variation can be justified as necessary to meet the defined considerations as set out in Section 4; and,
- Only exceeding +/- 25% variation from the current Electoral Quota if the variation of the Ward(s) is projected to be independently corrected within the next two election cycles as a result of anticipated growth or decline in population.

4 Considerations

4.1 Protection of Communities of Interest

Consideration must be given to Communities of Interest in order to avoid fragmenting a Community of Interest between two or more Wards.

4.2 Geographic Boundary

The preferred Geographic Boundaries to define a Ward are arterial roads, Provincial highways, watercourses such as rivers or creeks, or railway lines. Where an arterial road or Provincial highway would not be practical for a Ward boundary, a local or collector road may be used.

4.3 Future growth

The potential for growth or decline of population in each Ward must be taken into account when reviewing a Ward's variance from the Electoral Quota. Any anticipated growth or decline expected to impact a Ward's variation must be calculated against the anticipated Electoral Quota.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Town of Whitby Ward Population Statistics and Projections

Appendix 2 1968 to 1996 Ward Boundary Map

Appendix 3 1996 to Present Ward Boundary Map

This Policy is hereby approved by Council Resolution #274-17 on this 8th day of May, 2017.

Town of Whitby Population Statistics

Year	Population	% Change in Population
1976	28,173	
1981	36,698	30.3%
1986	45,819	24.9%
1991	61,281	33.7%
1996	73,794	20.4%
2001	87,413	18.5%
2006	111,184	27.2%
2011	122,022	9.8%
2016	128,377	5.2%
2021	138,501	7.9%
2026	153,600	
2030	166,300	
2034	178,600	

Population by Ward – 1996 to Present Ward Boundaries (Appendix 3)

Year	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4
2001	8,432	24,717	23,455	30,809
2006	20,680	34,187	23,595	32,722
2011	27,094	36,830	23,339	34,759
2016	31,720	38,556	23,013	35,089
2021	34,400	43,000	24,700	36,600
2022	36,000	43,800	25,000	36,700
2026	42,600	47,400	26,400	37,200
2030	49,400	51,200	27,800	37,900

2034	56,100	54,800	29,200	38,500
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Town of Whitby Ward Boundaries 1968-1996

Appendix 2



