



# Electoral Boundary & Governance Review



## Electoral Boundary and Governance Review Recommendation Report

---

Rocky View County

August 2020



## Table of Contents

1.0	Executive Summary .....	1
2.0	Project Approach .....	2
2.1	Chief Elected Official, Selection and Title .....	2
2.2	Population and Spatial Analysis .....	2
3.0	Recommended Redistribution .....	5
3.1	Division 1 .....	6
3.2	Division 2 .....	6
3.3	Division 3 .....	6
3.4	Division 4 .....	7
3.5	Division 5 .....	7
3.6	Division 6 .....	8
3.7	Division 7 .....	8

## TABLES

Table 1, Historical Population by Electoral Division, 2006–2018 .....	3
Table 2, Population Projection to 2031 .....	4
Table 3, Recommended Redistribution .....	5

## APPENDICES

**Appendix A** Recommended Redistribution Map



## 1.0 Executive Summary

In November, 2019, Rocky View County Administration retained consultants from ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd. (ISL) along with subconsultants Transitional Solutions Inc. (TSI) and Metro Economics to conduct an independent and objective review of Rocky View County's electoral boundaries and elected official governance structure in order to deliver a solution that considers electoral division and governance models elsewhere in Alberta while recognizing and layering in the County's own unique municipal context.

Over the past eight months ISL has led research, technical analysis, public engagement and workshops with Council in order to address the two main goals of the Electoral Boundary and Governance (EBG) Review:

1. Creating consensus amongst Council on the selection of the Chief Elected Official, and
2. Determining the optimal number and shape of the County's electoral divisions in accordance with Electoral Boundary Review Policy C-702.

Based on Council's guidance from the workshops, this Recommendation Report contains only the recommended redistribution of the County's Electoral Divisions.



## 2.0 Project Approach

The project team was designed to ensure objectivity, with team members separated into two groups: a Calgary-based Engagement Group who were the primary interface with Council and the public, and an Analysis Group based out of Edmonton and Toronto who were involved in the contextual reviews, technical Geographical Information System (GIS) analysis and governance options research. This approach allowed the Engagement Group to bring their familiarity with the County to the forefront when engaging Council and residents which also maximized the independence and objectivity of the Analysis Group to avoid any local bias.

### 2.1 Chief Elected Official, Selection and Title

Subsequent to a Best Practices Review of governance models in Alberta and public input from an online survey conducted in April 2020, Council determined that the selection of the Chief Elected Official would continue to be Appointed-From-Within, as is current practice. Council also determined that the title of Mayor should be adopted by the County, retiring the title of Reeve – a change that is increasingly common in rural municipalities adjacent to large urban centres.

### 2.2 Population and Spatial Analysis

The project team conducted a spatial analysis of current and past electoral division boundaries, hamlet and approved plan (Area Structure Plan (ASP) and Conceptual Scheme) boundaries, and municipal census points to determine potential boundary adjustments. The following six criteria informed the parameters of this analysis:



**Population per Division**



**Future Growth**



**Easily Identifiable Boundaries**



**Least Number of Changes**



**Communities of Interest and Diversity Within Divisions**



**Historical Divisional Boundaries**

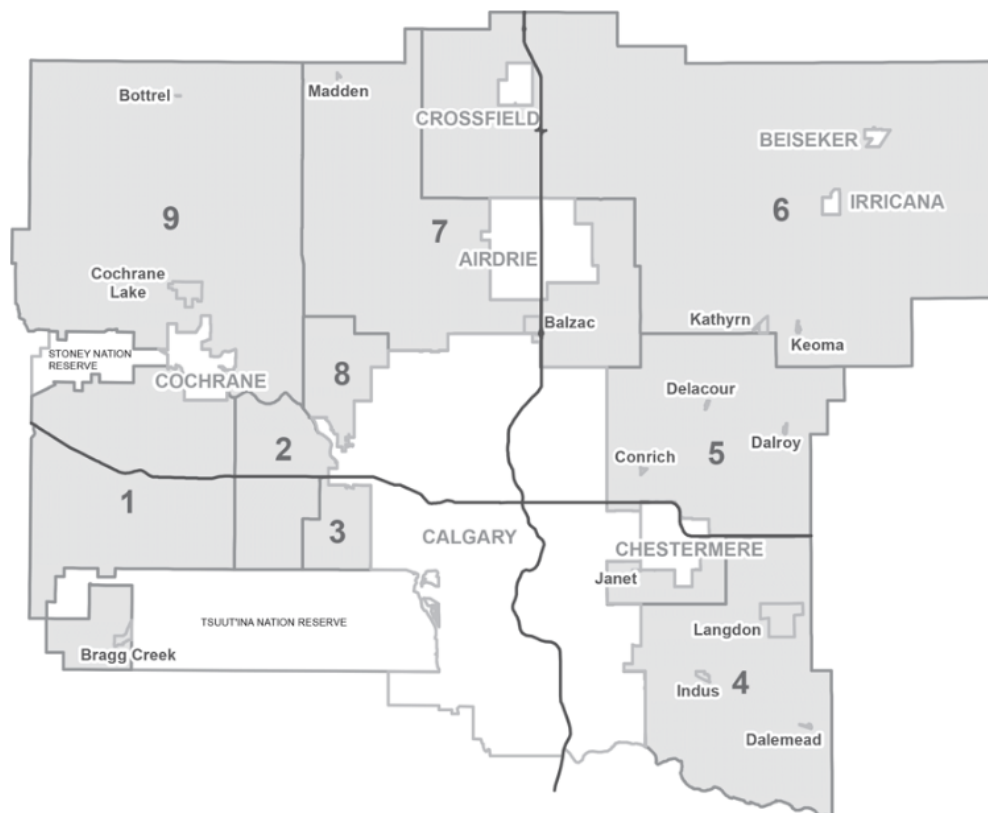
An assessment of the population growth trends within the current boundaries of the County's electoral divisions was undertaken using spatial analysis. [Table 1](#) presents the total population by electoral division and RVC from the 2006, 2013 and 2018 municipal censuses, as adjusted to reflect annexations that have occurred between 2006 and 2019. It also presents the average population per electoral division and the percentage extent to which each electoral division deviates from the average.



Table 1, Historical Population by Electoral Division, 2006–2018

Electoral Division	Municipal Census Results					
	2006 Population Count	Deviation from Average	2013 Population Count	Deviation from Average	2018 Population Count	Deviation From Average
1	2,653	-27.3%	2,543	-39.9%	2,526	-44.2%
2	2,919	-20.0%	3,115	-26.3%	3,479	-23.1%
3	5,420	48.5%	5,778	36.7%	5,957	31.7%
4	4,167	14.1%	6,579	55.6%	7,010	55.0%
5	3,906	7.0%	4,342	2.7%	5,051	11.7%
6	2,454	-32.8%	2,808	-33.6%	2,768	-38.8%
7	3,367	-7.8%	3,467	-18.0%	3,462	-23.4%
8	4,237	16.1%	4,826	14.1%	5,576	23.3%
9	3,733	2.3%	4,592	8.6%	4,872	7.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,856</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>38,050</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>40,700</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,228</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,522</b>	<b>—</b>

Current Electoral Division Map





Concurrent to the spatial analysis, population projections were prepared using Metro Economics' projection modelling system which develops population, employment and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by industry projections for each of Canada's approximately 290 census divisions and for each of its more than 5,400 census subdivisions – resulting in a National Base Case (prepared prior to the COVID-19 pandemic) that includes base data for Rocky View County.

The base year population of 40,700 was derived from RVC's 2018 municipal census extrapolated population count of 40,705 (less five residents lost to the Town of Cochrane in a recent annexation approval). **Table 2** presents the results of the Base Case population projection from the 2018 base year to the 2031 horizon year with intervals in 2021, 2025 and 2029, which represent scheduled municipal election years in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

Table 2, Population Projection to 2031

Municipality	2018 Census	Population Projections				2018-31 Change
		2021*	2025*	2029*	2031	
Rocky View County	40,700	43,083	46,252	49,421	51,005	+10,305

\* Municipal Election Year

To better understand the historical changes in the geographic distribution of RVC's population between 2006 and 2018 at a finer level, ISL divided the nine electoral divisions into 43 electoral division sub-areas (EDSAs).

The EDSAs were based on known and/or planned future growth, easily identifiable boundaries (such as rivers, highways/roads, etc.) and communities of interest, which included:

- Hamlets planned to grow in existing boundaries (e.g. Harmony, Langdon, and Cochrane Lake),
- Planned boundaries from area structure plans or conceptual schemes (e.g. Indus, Conrich, Dalroy, Delacour, Kathyryn, Balzac and the future Hamlet of Glenbow), and
- Proposed boundary expansions (e.g. Bragg Creek).

As the hamlets of Dalemead, Janet, Keoma, Madden and Bottrel are not planned to accommodate future growth at this time, EDSAs were not delineated specifically for them.

Using the EDSAs an analysis was undertaken of planned future growth, imminent future growth through the subdivision process, and potential new additional growth through proposed amendments to ASPs and conceptual schemes. The remaining planned dwelling capacities by EDSA provided a ceiling for future residential growth.

This work supported the disaggregation of projected population growth by EDSA, creating building blocks that could be reconstructed for recommending new electoral divisions.



### 3.0 Recommended Redistribution

ISL's recommendation to Council is a seven-division redistribution of the County's electoral boundaries as shown in the attached map ([Appendix A](#)). This recommendation is based on a series of linear divisions radiating out from the City of Calgary, resulting in divisions that blend dense growth areas with more rural low growth areas, balancing the composition of each division while providing each division with a share of growth and stagnation. At the same time, it was determined that Langdon should be made a standalone division, given the rate of growth within the Hamlet. As shown on [Table 3](#), all of the proposed divisions fall within the  $\pm 25$  percent tolerance up to the 2029 election year.

This recommended redistribution is a marked improvement on the current electoral divisions, bringing all populations within  $\pm 25$  percent (4,360 to 7,267) of the 2018 average population per division of 5,814 residents.

The proposed seven-division redistribution of the County's electoral boundaries would result in the most robust option to accommodate future growth and balance that growth with effective representation of residents. Projecting forward to the 2039 election year, the average population per division increases to 7,060 residents with a  $\pm 25$  percent tolerance of 5,295 to 8,825.

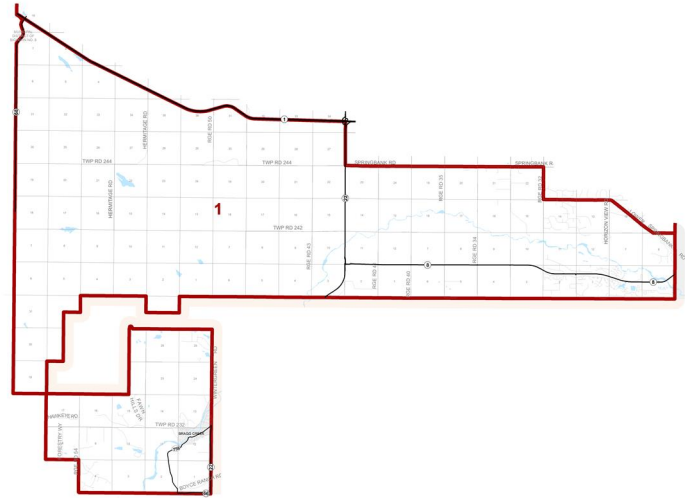
Table 3, Recommended Redistribution

Proposed Division	2018 Population	2018 Deviation from Average	2029 Projected Population	2029 Deviation from Average
1	6,783	16.7%	7,461	5.7%
2	5,179	-10.9%	7,436	5.3%
3	5,442	-6.4%	7,105	0.6%
4	6,157	5.9%	6,576	-6.9%
5	6,302	8.4%	6,896	2.3%
6	5,473	-5.9%	6,905	2.2%
7	5,364	-7.7%	7,042	-0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,700</b>		<b>49,421</b>	
<b>Average population per Division</b>	<b>5,814</b>		<b>7,060</b>	



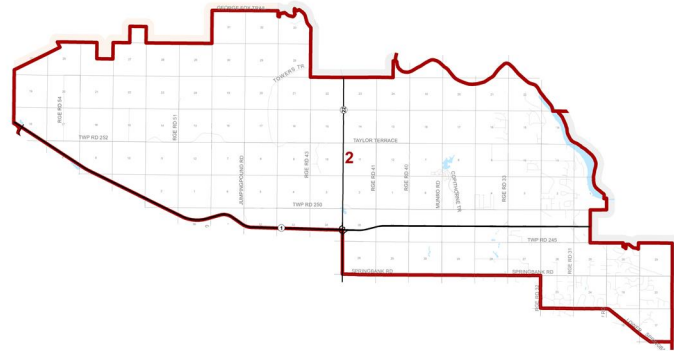
### 3.1 Division 1

- Contains the Hamlet of Bragg Creek
- Contains all development south of the Elbow River
- Contains a portion of the Springbank ASP south of Springbank Road/Lower Springbank Road
- Traditional low growth nature in this area will be supplemented by the high population growth along Highway 8
- Calgary is the only adjacent urban municipality



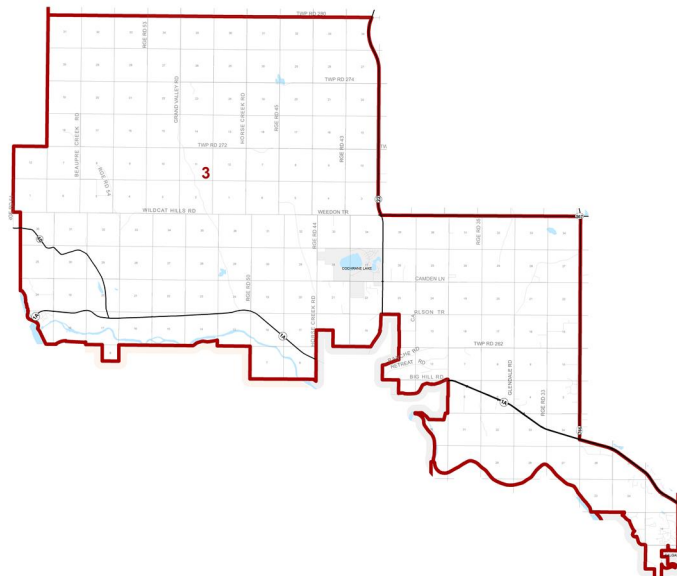
### 3.2 Division 2

- Contains Harmony ASP
- Contains portion of Springbank ASP north of Springbank Road/Lower Springbank Road
- Harmony is a fast-growing community that will drive growth in this division
- The northern boundary follows current boundary lines
- Adjacent urban municipalities include Calgary and Cochrane



### 3.3 Division 3

- Contains the Hamlet of Cochrane Lake and Cochrane North ASP
- Contains Glenbow Ranch ASP and a portion of Bearspaw ASP south of Hwy 1A
- Contains a portion of Bearspaw ASP west of Lochend Road (Hwy 766), following the current division boundary
- The Glenbow Ranch ASP is anticipated to be a big driver of growth in this division over the next decade
- Adjacent urban municipalities include Calgary and Cochrane

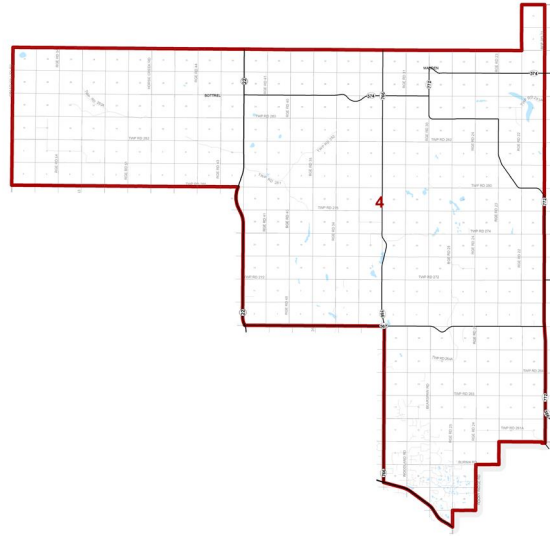






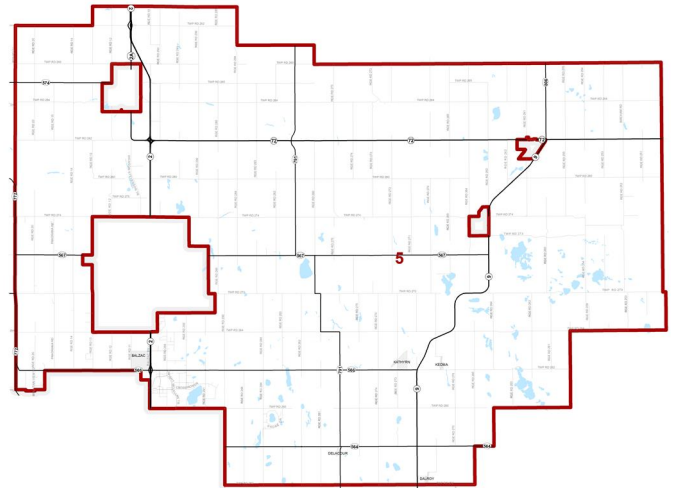
### 3.4 Division 4

- Contains the Hamlets of Bottrel and Madden
- Contains a portion of Bearspaw ASP east of Lochend Road (Hwy 766), following a current division boundary line
- The eastern boundary is Symons Valley Road (Hwy 722) carrying in a straight line north across the Writing Creek coulee along Range Road 21, following a current division boundary line
- Calgary is the only adjacent urban municipality



### 3.5 Division 5

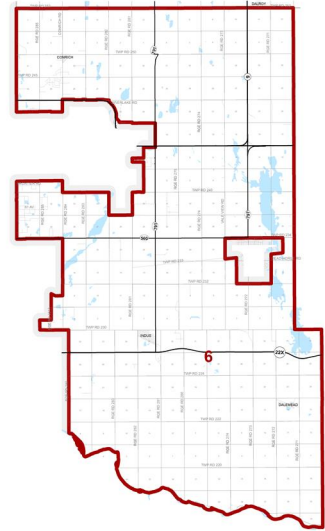
- Contains the Hamlets of Balzac, Kathryn, Keoma, Delacour and Dalroy
- Contains Balzac West and East, Omni and North Central Industrial ASPs
- The western boundary is Symons Valley Road (Hwy 722) carrying in a straight line north across the Writing Creek coulee along Range Road 21, following a current division boundary line
- Apart from commercial and industrial development, this division is primarily agricultural
- Adjacent urban municipalities include Calgary, Crossfield, Airdrie, Beiseker and Irricana





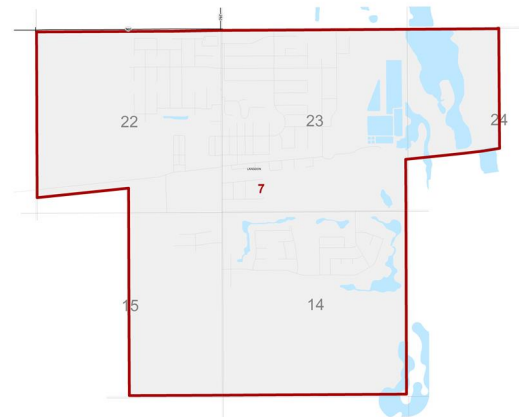
### 3.6 Division 6

- Contains the Hamlets of Conrich, Indus and Dalemead
- Contains Conrich ASP (except for northeastern-most quarter section) and Janet ASP
- Residential growth is growth is concentrated in the areas adjacent to Conrich and Langdon
- Adjacent urban municipalities include Calgary and Chestermere



### 3.7 Division 7

- The Hamlet of Langdon is retained as a standalone electoral division
- There are no adjacent urban municipalities





**APPENDIX**  
Recommended Redistribution Map

A



—— Other Road

— Secondary Highway

RECOMMENDED  
REDISTRIBUTION