



Report n° CLERK2023-01
Date: June 14, 2023
Submitted by: Monique Ouellet, Clerk
Subject: Ward Boundary Review

Nature/Goal

To provide an overview of the process for a ward boundary review and to seek Council's directive in preparation to the next budget process.

Directive/Previous policy

The ward boundaries were established further to the amalgamation in 1997.

Department's recommendation

THAT Report No. Clerk2023-01 which provides the process to conduct a ward boundary review, be received for information; and
THAT the administration be directed to include the Ward Boundary Review Project in the 2024 preliminary budget for consideration.

QUE le Rapport No. Clerk2023-01 visant à donner un aperçu du processus pour effectuer une révision des limites des quartiers, soit reçu à titre d'information; et

QUE l'administration soit mandatée à inclure le projet de révision des limites des quartiers dans le budget préliminaire 2024 pour considération.

Background

According to the data from the last four (4) Municipal Elections, the following demonstrates the change in voter population:

Ward	2010		2014		2018		2022	
1	2,492	15.4%	2,700	14.7%	2,704	14.9%	2,915	14.6%
2	1,928	11.9%	2,200	12%	2,171	11.9%	2,449	12.2%
3	1,891	11.7%	2,544	13.9%	2,572	14.1	3,183	15.9%
4	2,388	14.7%	2,863	15.7%	2,884	15.9%	3,208	16.1%
5	2,027	12.6%	2,198	12%	2,172	12%	2,193	11%
6	1,569	9.7%	1,681	9.2%	1,636	9%	1,707	8.5%
7	1,998	12.3%	2,165	11.8%	2,149	11.8%	2,323	11.6%
8	1,900	11.7%	1,963	10.7%	1,895	10.4%	2,019	10.1%
Total	16,193	100%	18,314	100%	18,183	100%	19,997	100%

Discussion

The ward system was established with eight (8) wards in 1997 further to the amalgamation and no review has ever been conducted since. With the growth that Clarence-Rockland has seen over the years, staff is recommending that a consultant with significant expertise in ward boundary reviews be retained to facilitate the process necessary to allow a fair and equitable adjustment to the current ward boundaries.

This comprehensive ward boundary review should be conducted with the following parameters:

- Provide options for a realignment of the existing eight (8) wards;
- Develop a ward structure that will accommodate growth and population shifts for at least the next three (3) Municipal Elections (2026, 2030, 2034);
- Conduct all steps, including research, public consultation as well as consultation with current Members of Council, the provision of a preliminary report outlining possible options and finally a final report with recommendations, no later than by the end of 2024, in order to be established in time for the 2026 Municipal Elections.

The Municipal Act, 2001 does not provide any criteria to guide such a review, however decisions issued by the Ontario Municipal Board (now Local Planning Appeal Tribunal) have established a set of guiding principles that have become the unwritten standard of boundary reviews in Ontario. These include:

- Effective Representation
- Representation by Population
- Communities of Interest
- Future Population Trends
- Physical and Natural Boundaries

The process for conducting a ward boundary review is provided for in the Municipal Act. Following the passage of the by-law a notice is required to be given within 15 days of its passing and there is a 45 days appeal period.

Consultation

n/a

Recommendations or comments from committee/ other departments

n/a

Financial impact (expenses/material/etc.)

If directed to proceed with the recommendation, an Request for Proposal (RFP) process to procure the services of a consultant to undertake a Ward Boundary Review with a mention that the project is pending Council's authorization, will be initiated and the project cost will be presented to Council in the preliminary budget for consideration.

Legal implications

Under Section 222(8)(a) of the Municipal Act, a by-law to change the current ward boundaries comes into force on the day the new Council of a municipality is organized, provided that the by-law is passed (and any appeal is settled) prior to January 1st of the year in which a regular election is held. Therefore, for any change of the current ward boundaries to come into force for the 2026-2030 Council Term, the by-law must be passed and any appeal settled by December 31, 2025.

Risk management

n/a

Strategic implications

n/a

Supporting documents

- Current ward boundaries as established in 1997