



## R.M. of Willner, No. 253 Policy Manual

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### Rural Municipality of Willner, No. 253 Electoral Boundary Review Policy

**Last review date: June 9, 2022**  
**Next review date:**  
**January 1, 2026**

#### **POLICY NUMBER**

200-7 ELECTION BOUNDARIES

#### **Purpose**

- 1 This policy establishes how and when R.M. of Willner, No. 253 (the Municipality) determines and reviews its electoral boundaries.



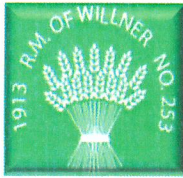
#### **Policy Statement**

- 2 Council by resolution may divide the Municipality into voting subdivisions (Divisions) and, from time to time, alter the boundaries of those Divisions, as authorized by section 49.1 of the *Municipalities Act*, and the *Local Government Election Act*.
- 3 Equal and effective representation is fundamental to any democratic electoral system and is the Municipality's primary goal of an electoral boundary review.
  - (1) Equal representation is the principle that all votes count equally and therefore the population of each Division should be relatively equal.
  - (2) Effective representation helps ensure that Municipality residents have the ability to access an elected representative equal in strength to the rest of the population.
- 4 The Municipality is committed to designing clear, distinct, and easily identifiable electoral boundaries.



#### **Policy**

#### **Criteria**



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5 The Municipality's electoral boundaries are reviewed and established based on the following criteria:

### **Population per Division**

- (1) The optimum Population per Division is the primary factor in determining electoral boundaries. The Municipality's total population divided by the number of Divisions is the optimum Population per Division.
- (2) For the purpose of this policy, the Municipality's total Population is determined using the last Municipality census profile and/or the Federal Census official population list from Statistics Canada, whichever was completed most recently.
- (3) Additional factor to be considered to determine if variance in population is acceptable is the fact that there is a disparity in infrastructure development due to "traffic" passing through the municipality to access recreation sites and commercial and agricultural resources outside the municipality as well as a large tract of land dedicated to the "Willner Pasture" (a former PFRA pasture.
- (4) Given the natural geographic boundary created by splitting the municipality in half (north and south) with 18 miles to the north and 18 miles to the south seemed the most logical and equitable division of land mass. The east/west divisional boundaries are based on the ranges (being 1, 2 and 3).

Electoral boundaries are designed so the Population of each Division is within a range of  $\pm 61\%$  from the optimum population of the municipality. Electoral boundaries are designed so the Population of each Division is within this range. Division 1 and 4 are near the Town of Davidson and have more dense population (voters). Division 2 encompasses the former "Willner PFRA Pasture" which deflates potential populations due to reduction in available residential acres. Division 3 encompasses a Hutterite Colony which inflates their population due to condensed residential housing. Division 5 carries close to the average population whereas Division 6 is the least populated but would not be if not for the Hutterite Colony in Division 3. Divisions 6 and 3 are the furthest from any major urban center in the municipality.

In order to maintain infrastructure throughout the municipality and maintain services to the agricultural industry of the municipality the land divisions provided through the electoral boundaries are deemed fair and equitable.



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### **Future Growth**

- (4) Electoral boundaries are designed with the objective, wherever possible, to recognize how the timing of potential growth areas will affect population deviations.

### **Easily Identifiable Boundaries**

- (5) Wherever possible, electoral boundaries are identifiable to the public by using major roadways and significant natural and man-made barriers such as the river, ravines, railways, etc.

### **Least Number of Changes**

- (6) Electoral boundary proposals should involve the fewest changes possible to accomplish the required adjustments.

### **Communities of Interest and Diversity Within Divisions**

- (7) Electoral boundaries are designed to ensure communities with common interests or sharing a common roadway access are kept within the same Division.
- (8) Where possible, the distribution of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and green space areas between Divisions is taken into account so that each Division contains a mixture of these developments.
- (9) Where possible the optimum population per division should take into account the Municipality Plan, Intermunicipal Plans, and Area Structure Plans.
- (10) Where possible, the optimum Population per Division should respectively include both urban and rural areas.

### **Historical Divisional Boundaries**





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- (11) Consideration is given to the historical electoral boundaries within an area but it is not mandatory that these boundaries are used.

### Frequency

- 6 A review of the electoral boundaries will be monitored on an ongoing basis, but at a minimum at least once every 4 years preferably prior to a general election, to ensure criteria of this policy are met. Said review is to be completed by a Committee appointed by council which is to include administration and council representatives.
- 7 Any revisions to the electoral boundaries must be completed at least one year before a Municipality general election commences.
- 8 Reporting of recommendations of reviews conducted are to occur within 3 months from the commencement of the review and the recommendations are to be made to council at a regular meeting.
- 9 Public consultation is to be an established part of the review process and public notice of the intent to engage in a review and public notice of the report prior to presentation to council is required.

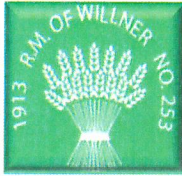


### References

Legal Authorities	• <i>Local Government Election Act,</i>
	• <i>Municipalities Act,</i>
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, etc.	• R.M. of Willner, No. 253
Related Procedures	• N/A



### Policy History



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Amendment Date(s) – Amendment  
Description

- N/A

Review Date(s) – Review Outcome  
Description

- N/A



### Definitions

8 In this policy:

- (1) “Council” means the duly elected Council of R.M. of Willner, No. 253;
- (2) “Municipality” means R.M. of Willner, No. 253;
- (3) “Division” means a municipal voting subdivision for the purpose of electing members of Council pursuant to the *Municipalities Act* and the R. M. of Willner, No. 253 “Election Bylaw”, as may be amended or replaced from time to time;
- (4) “Population” means the total number of people residing within a defined area;  
and
- (5) “R.M. of Willner, No. 253” means Rural Municipality of Willner, No. 253 as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires.