
TRUSTEE DETERMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION FOR ELECTIONS

Background Statement

The members of the Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic School Division are collectively a corporation under the name, The Board of Trustees of the Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School Division. The Board will allocate elected trustee positions over the areas of the School Division to address governance goals by combining municipalities with urban and / or rural school attendance areas and allocating numbers of trustees to these geographic regions which are specifically known as wards.

The numbers of trustees allocated per region will be primarily based upon the principle of “proportional representation.”¹ However, the assignment of one or more trustees to geographic regions will also consider the principle of “effective representation”² and the extent to which other variables in support of such representation need to be considered through the assignment process. Within each term of office, the Board of Trustees will determine the extent to which extraordinary circumstances, and therefore, variables other than proportional representation merit the establishment of unique wards and trustee representation in order to assure “effective representation” within the school division.³

This policy, as it becomes amended from time to time, will reflect the expectations of the *Local Authorities Election Act*, the *Education Act*, and the *St. Albert and Sturgeon Valley School Districts Establishment Act*.

This policy describes all of the considerations and processes used by the Board to determine its ward structures.

Definitions

Bylaw: A resolution regarding the nomination and election of trustees by wards and the determination of the boundaries of these wards upon which the opinion of the electors is to be obtained.

Effective Representation: Representation that includes geographic, historical, cultural, minority, economic, and local viability factors in addition to a representation by population model. The term was used to explain the 1991 Supreme Court Ruling that representation

¹ Alberta Education (2019). *Education Act*, S.76(3).

² Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), 1991 CanLII 61 (SCC), [1991] 2 SCR 158. Retrieved from <http://canlii.ca/t/1fsll> on April 23, 2020.

³ Elections Canada Official Reports. Chapter 2 – Making Representation More Effective. Retrieved from https://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=rep/off/recom_redis&document=ch2&lang=e on April 23, 2020.

by population should be the primary focus of electoral representation, but not an exclusive factor in determining the representation of citizens.⁴

Elector: A person who is eligible to vote in an election by being at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen, resides within Alberta, is resident to the School Division, and the person's place of residence is located within a ward of the School Division on election day.⁵

Principles for Effective Representation: Factors that can be determined and supported through evidence of their relevancy to effective representation. In Ontario, for instance, additional trustees may represent wards where high dispersion of schools is evident and additionally, where population density is significant within a geography area. In Ontario, where low population schools and municipalities requiring additional attention in order to sustain community viability exist, these variables may be considered when providing for additional trustee representation.⁶

Proportional Representation: A representation model that a board as governed by the *Education Act*, must, if "practicable," adhere to, through ward representation where the number of trustees to be elected in each ward is in the same proportion to the total number of trustees of the board as the population of the ward is to the population of the school division.⁷

Resident: An elector to a Catholic School Division. The elector is of the Roman Catholic faith and resides within one of the wards of the School Division.⁸

Roman Catholic: An individual who recognizes the Pope as the head of the church.⁹

Trustee: An elector within the School Division who through securing valid candidacy to pursue membership on the School Board has been either acclaimed to that membership or won an election to declare that membership.

Ward Representation: A model for trustee elections and representation, where a pre-allocated number of representatives is allocated to a geographic region and school attendance areas that are linked by a municipality. Electors living within a ward, vote for candidates residing within the school division who are pursuing board membership from that ward.¹⁰

⁴ Reference re Prov. Electoral Boundaries (Sask.), 1991 CanLII 61 (SCC), [1991] 2 SCR 158. Retrieved from <http://canlii.ca/t/1fsll> on April 23, 2020.

⁵ Government of Alberta (2000). *Local Authorities Elections Act*, S. 47(1).

⁶ Government of Ontario (2000). *Ontario Regulation 412/00*, S.4.

⁷ Alberta Education (2019). *Education Act*, S.76(3).

⁸ Alberta Education (2019). *Education Act*, S.74(3).

⁹ Alberta Education (2019). *Establishing a Separate School District Information Package*, p. 2. Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/79cc40cb-f846-48b1-8f46-10df3ecec07/resource/afd7085c-b06c-4ab2-8e28-5219cf468908/download/establishment-of-separate-school-districts-manual-2019.pdf> on April 23, 2020.

¹⁰ Government of Alberta (2000). *Local Authorities Elections Act*, S.21(3).

Processes

1. An individual residing within the boundaries of Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is a resident of the School Division providing that the individual declares that the individual is of the Roman Catholic faith (see Appendix).
2. A resident to the Greater St. Albert Catholic School Division is eligible to vote as an elector or to be nominated as a candidate for election as a trustee to any ward of the School Division under the provisions of the *Local Authorities Election Act*.¹¹
3. By December 31st in the year prior to a general election, through adopting a new bylaw, the Board will determine the extent to which it will amend its ward structure based upon the primacy of proportional representation, and subsequent consideration of accepted principles of effective representation, as they would apply to circumstances impacting any specific ward at the time.
4. In order to facilitate ease in voting upon resolutions and determining whether or not quorum for meetings is attainable, the total trustee memberships for the Division will be an odd number.
5. Unless changed through the introduction of a newly adopted bylaw, Bylaw No. 01/20 will prevail as the basis for determining the total amount of trustee memberships and distribution within wards in the next election.
6. On the basis of Bylaw No. 01/20, it is determined that in order to fulfill process item 4 of this policy, adhere to the definition of proportional representation, and the accepted principles of effective representation, 4 trustees are allocated to the St. Albert Ward, 2 are allocated to the Morinville Ward, and 1 trustee to the Legal Ward.
7. The allocation of one trustee to the Legal Ward accounts for the need to represent the unique circumstances of one school program sustaining viability within a municipality.

¹¹ Government of Alberta (2000). *Local Authorities Elections Act*, S.21(3).

CHURCH TRADITIONS CLASSIFIED AS ROMAN CATHOLIC

The following table outlines the Eastern Catholic Church traditions that are classified as Roman Catholic for the purpose of conducting a census,¹² as well as this policy.

Roman Catholic
<p>Alexandrian Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coptic Catholic Church • Ethiopian/Eritrean Catholic Church
<p>Antiochian Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maronite Catholic Church • Syrian Catholic Church • Syro-Malankara Catholic Church
<p>Armenian Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armenian Catholic Church
<p>Chaldean or Eastern Syrian Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaldean Catholic Church • Syro-Malabar Catholic Church
<p>Byzantine or Constantinopolitan Tradition (Greek Catholic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melkite Greek Catholic Church • Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church • Romanian Greek Catholic Church • Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church • Greek Catholic Eparchy of Mukachevo • Hungarian Greek Catholic Church • Slovak Greek Catholic Church • Ruthenian Catholic Apostolic Exarchate of Czech Republic • Italo-Albanian Catholic Church • Greek Catholic Apostolic Exarchate for Serbia • Greek Catholic Eparchy of Križevci • Apostolic Exarchate in the Republic of Macedonia • Bulgarian Greek Catholic Church • Greek Byzantine Catholic Church

Implemented September 30, 2020

¹² Alberta Education (2019). *Establishing a Separate School District Information Package*, pp. 6-8. Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/79cc40cb-f846-48b1-8f46-10df3ecec07/resource/afd7085c-b06c-4ab2-8e28-5219cf468908/download/establishment-of-separate-school-districts-manual-2019.pdf> on April 23, 2020.