



## MUNICIPALITY OF West Elgin

### Staff Report

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**Report To:** Council Meeting

**From:** Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer & Jana Nethercott, Clerk

**Date:** 2022-09-22

**Subject:** Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts

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#### **Recommendation:**

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer and Jana Nethercott, Clerk re: Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Districts for information purposes; and

That West Elgin Council hereby direct staff to coordinate efforts with Elgin County, City of St Thomas and local municipal partners to represent the interest and concerns pertaining to the proposed redistribution of the federal electoral districts; and

That the Municipality of West Elgin make the attached petition available to our residents at the Municipal Office.

#### **Background:**

[The Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for the Province of Ontario](#) (the Commission) is an independent body charged with readjusting the electoral boundaries under the [Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act](#) (the Act).

On August 19, 2022, the Commission released its proposed new electoral map for consideration at public hearings this fall. The population in Ontario has increased from 12,851,821 in 2011 to 14,223,942 in 2021. Thus, the [representation formula](#) in the *Constitution Act, 1867* has determined that Ontario has been allocated 122 seats, raising the total number of electoral districts in the province from 121 from the last redistribution plan prepared in 2012.

The Act directs the Commission to ensure that the population in each electoral district shall, as closely as reasonably possible, correspond to the electoral quota for the province. The quota for electoral districts in Ontario is 116,590, which was established by dividing the census population by the number of electoral districts assigned to the province.

The Act permits the Commission to depart from the quota where necessary or desirable in order to:

- respect the community of interest or community of identity in, or the historical pattern of an electoral district in the province, or
- maintain a manageable geographic size for electoral districts in sparsely populated, rural or northern regions of the province.

When considering these factors, the Commission must make every effort to ensure that, except in circumstances it views as extraordinary, the population of each electoral district in the province

remains within 25% (plus or minus) of the electoral quota. The upper limit of deviation from the quota is 145,738, and the lower limit of deviation from the quota is 87,443.

### **ELGIN – MIDDLESEX – THAMES**

Consists of:

- a. the Town of Aylmer;
- b. the municipalities of Bayham, Brooke-Alvinston, Dutton/Dunwich, Middlesex Centre, Southwest Middlesex, Strathroy-Caradoc and West Elgin;
- c. that part of the Municipality of Central Elgin lying southerly of John Wise Line;
- d. that part of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northerly limit of said municipality and the Sydenham River; thence generally southwesterly along said river to Dawn Mills Road; thence southerly along said road to Base Line; thence westerly along said line to Kent Bridge Road; thence southeasterly along said road and its production to the southerly limit of said municipality; thence northeasterly, northwesterly, northerly and westerly along the southerly, easterly and northerly limits of said municipality to the point of commencement;
- e. those parts of the Municipality of Thames Centre described as follows:
  - i. that part lying northerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of said municipality and Thorndale Road; thence northeasterly along said road to Nissouri Road; thence northwesterly along said road to approximate latitude 43°06'21"N and longitude 81°09'32"W; thence northeasterly in a straight line to Fairview Road at approximate latitude 43°06'39"N and longitude 81°08'35"W; thence southeasterly along said road to Thorndale Road; thence northeasterly along said road to the easterly limit of said municipality;
  - ii. that part lying southerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said municipality and Highway 401 (Macdonald-Cartier Freeway); thence westerly along said highway to Westchester Bourne road; thence southerly along said road to the southerly limit of said municipality;
- f. the townships of Adelaide-Metcalf, Malahide and Warwick;
- g. that part of the Township of Dawn-Euphemia lying easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northerly limit of said township and Forest Road; thence southerly along said road and its southerly production to the Sydenham River; thence generally southerly along said river to the southerly limit of said township;
- h. the Township of Southwold, excluding the part lying easterly of Sunset Road;
- i. that part of the Township of Zorra lying northerly and westerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of said township and Road 84; thence northeasterly along said road to 23rd Line; thence northwesterly along said line to the northerly limit of said township;
- j. the Village of Newbury; and
- k. the Indian reserves of Chippewa of the Thames First Nation No. 42, Moravian No. 47, Munsee-Delaware Nation No. 1 and Oneida No. 41.

### **LONDON SOUTH – ST. THOMAS**

Consists of:

- a. the City of St. Thomas;
- b. that part of the City of London lying southerly and easterly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the easterly limit of said city with the Thames River; thence generally westerly along said river to the Canadian National Railway; thence southeasterly

along said railway to Commissioners Road East; thence westerly along said road to Wharncliffe Road South; thence southerly and southwesterly along said road to Wonderland Road South; thence southerly along said road to Highway 402; thence generally southwesterly along said highway to the westerly limit of said city;

- c. that part of the Municipality of Central Elgin lying northerly of John Wise Line;
- d. that part of the Municipality of Thames Centre lying southerly of Highway 401 (Macdonald-Cartier Freeway) and westerly of Westchester Bourne; and
- e. that part of the Township of Southwold lying easterly of Sunset Road.

Currently, the Municipality of West Elgin and the County of Elgin is singularly represented by the riding of Elgin Middlesex London.

Current Federal Electoral District	Current Federal Electoral District Population	Municipality of Central Elgin Population Share (13,746)		Elgin County Population Share (51,912)		City of St. Thomas Population Share (42,840)	
Elgin – Middlesex - London	126,428	13,746	11%	51,912	41%	42,840	33%
2021 Census Population Data							

#### **ELGIN – MIDDLESEX – LONDON**

Consists of:

- a. the County of Elgin;
- b. that part of the County of Middlesex comprised of the Municipality of Thames Centre;
- c. the City of St. Thomas; and
- d. that part of the City of London lying southerly of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the westerly limit of said city with Dingman Creek; thence generally easterly along said creek to the westerly production of Southdale Road West; thence easterly along said production, Southdale Road West and Southdale Road East to White Oak Road; thence southerly along said road to Exeter Road; thence easterly and northeasterly along said road to Highway No. 401; thence northeasterly and easterly along said highway to the easterly limit of said city.

The Commission now has the proposed federal electoral district map out for consultation where the public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposed federal electoral district map by scheduled representation at any of the [public hearings](#).

The applicable public hearings for the Municipality of West Elgin is as follows:

London	Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, 551 Windemere Rd, London, ON	Monday October 24, 2022	6:30PM
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Virtual Hearing	Hamilton and Niagara; South Central Ontario; Southwestern Ontario; and Southernmost Ontario	Tuesday, September 27, 2022	6:30PM
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Pursuant to the *Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act*, the Commission has established the following rules to regulate its proceedings and the conduct including public hearings.

1. All persons wishing to make an oral submission must complete the Public Hearing Participation Form by September 25, 2022.
2. In the interest of transparency, the Commission will make public all written submissions that it receives in response to the proposed redistribution plan. These will be published on the Commission's website and will include the person's name and the date of the submission.
3. Two members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the holding of a hearing.
4. If a quorum cannot be present at a hearing, the Commission may postpone that hearing to a later date.
5. If the Commission cannot complete hearing representations within the time allowed, the Commission may adjourn the hearing to a later date at the same place or may—taking into account the convenience of persons whose representations have not been heard or have been only partly heard—adjourn the hearing elsewhere or to a virtual hearing.
6. At each hearing the Commission shall decide the order in which the representations are heard.
7. The Commission may restrict the time available for oral representations if necessary to meet timing constraints.
8. Only one person shall be heard in the presentation of any single representation, including a representation on behalf of an association or group, unless the Commission, in its discretion, decides otherwise.
9. The link to the virtual public hearing is not public and may only be shared with participants/observers who have registered with the Commission and with members of the media.
10. A moderator will manage the agenda, the speaking time and microphones of the participants.
11. The use of a headset by presenters at a virtual public hearing is recommended.

The Commission makes final decisions about where the federal electoral boundaries will be located following consultation, giving the public and Members of Parliament an opportunity to express their views and participate in the consultation process.

The Commission requires that representatives proposing alternative federal riding boundary scenarios must be prepared to indicate to the Commission not just the representatives' concerns, but to set out alternatives and, importantly, set out in as much detail as possible, including in a map, how other communities would be affected by the proposed alternatives. Due to the constraints facing the Municipality, the best avenue present to pursue alterations to the proposed federal electoral boundaries is via collaboration with the City of St. Thomas and Elgin County municipalities.

By coordinating efforts and presenting a united front representing Elgin County to the Commission, the Municipality has the best opportunity to prevent the lessening of political representation of the Municipality and its residents' interests. Coordination provides an opportunity to present an alternative option to the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission through the submission process.

The Commission is holding public hearings, both in person and virtually, to gather comments and feedback on the proposed boundaries and electoral district names, and information on such public hearings can be found here: [https://redecoupage-redistribution-2022.ca/com/on/phrg/index\\_e.aspx](https://redecoupage-redistribution-2022.ca/com/on/phrg/index_e.aspx)

Further, MP Vecchio's office had prepared to host two public events to hear from all constituents and gather feedback, however at the time of writing this report these have been postponed indefinitely.