



# Electoral Ward Review - Backgrounder

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

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DATE: February 10, 2020

### BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Black Gold School Division was established on August 25, 1994 by then Education Minister Halvar Johnson, and came into effect on January 1, 1995.

The Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division is comprised of seven (7) trustees and are elected as follows, according to [Bylaw No. 1-95](#):

- Ward 1 (Comprised of those lands lying within The Leduc School District No. 297): Two (2) Trustees
- Ward 2 (Comprised of those lands lying within The Town of Devon): One (1) Trustee
- Ward 3 (Comprised of those lands lying with The County of Leduc No. 25): Four (4) Trustees, each Trustee to be elected in one of the four (4) electoral subdivisions in the ward.

### ROLE OF THE BOARD

As the corporate body elected by the electors that support Black Gold School Division, the Board of Trustees shall provide overall direction and leadership to the Division and is accountable for the provision of appropriate educational services and programs to resident students of the Division, in keeping with the requirements of government legislation and the values of the electorate.

The work of the Board will be characterized by thinking and acting in ways that embrace the Division's core purpose "to inspire success" and its core values of student-focused learning, relationships, supportive environment, passion and managing resources responsibly.

### ABOUT THE ELECTORAL WARD REVIEW

#### ***Annexation Prompts Review***

Due to the municipal annexation of land from Leduc County and the City of Beaumont to the City of Edmonton, defined in [Order in Council 359/2018](#), the Black Gold School Division jurisdiction boundary has been adjusted as of January 1, 2019.

Consequently, a review of the electoral school trustee wards and subdivisions within the Division is required by the Government of Alberta in order to update the Board of Trustee of Black Gold School Division's [Bylaw No. 1-95](#).

On May 29, 2019 the Board of Trustees adopted the following motion:

*117/18-19 Trustee Steed -- that the Board direct administration to engage a consultant to facilitate a Black Gold Electoral Ward Review.*

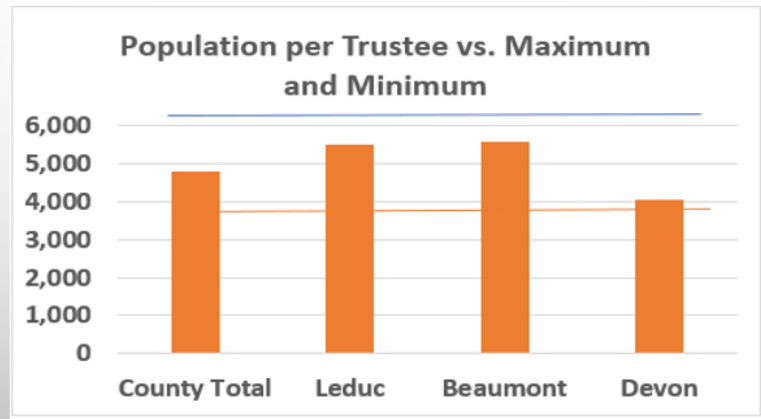


### Population Growth

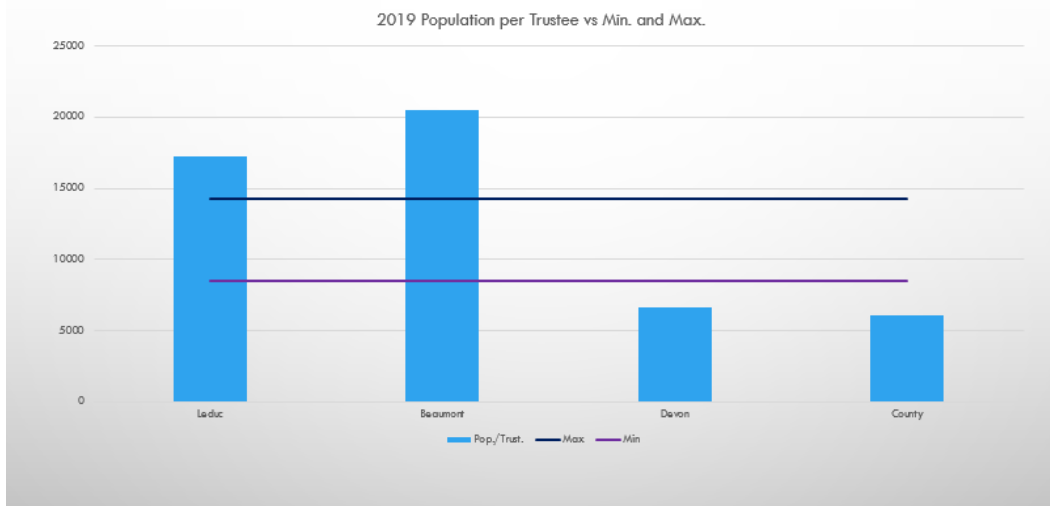
In addition to the annexation, there has been substantial population growth and development throughout the region in the last 25 years. Based on the 1993 census, the population of the region was approximately 35,089 residents; thus each trustee represented about 5,000 people. This ratio has shifted over the past 25 years. From 1994 to 2016 the population in the seven wards grew to approximately 76,600 people.

#### Populations Per Trustee Within Parameters 1995

These populations met the expectation that each ward would have a population per trustee that was no more than 25% above or below the average population per trustee.

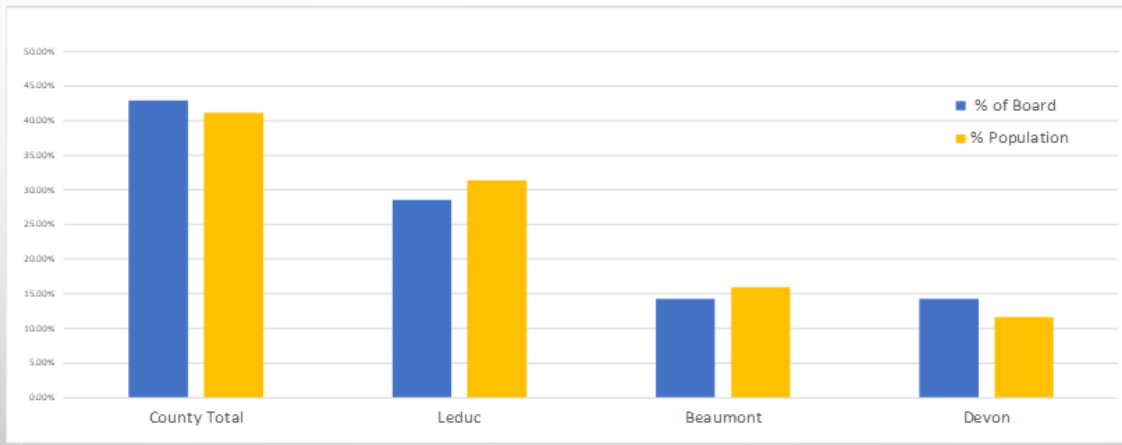


#### Population Per Trustee vs Minimum and Maximum 2019



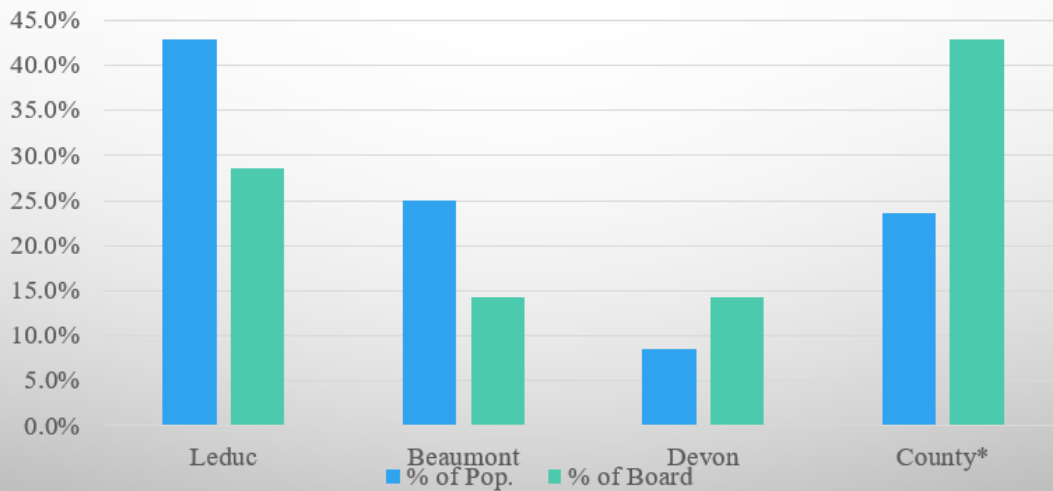


### PERCENTAGE OF BOARD VS PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 1995



### Percentage of Population vs. Percentage of Board 2019

Actual Local Census for Leduc, Beaumont, and Thorsby. The others were projected using recent changes





### ***What is the Purpose of the Review?***

The goal of the review is to re-examine ward boundaries/subdivisions and to ensure that each voter has equitable representation.

The [Electoral Boundaries Commission Act](#) will help guide the Black Gold School Division's electoral ward review:

#### *Population of electoral divisions*

*15(1) The population of a proposed electoral division must not be more than 25% above nor more than 25% below the average population of all the proposed electoral divisions.*

### ***Who is Conducting the Review?***

[David Steele, Consultant, Public School Boards' Association of Alberta](#), has been retained to review the matter and bring options to the Board for consideration.

### ***Who will make the decision?***

The Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing the wards and provide for the nomination and election of trustees in the wards and electoral subdivisions. Therefore, prior to July 1, 2020, the Board of Trustees will bring forth a motion or resolution and vote on a decision regarding any changes to the Black Gold School Division school Trustee electoral wards or subdivisions.

### ***When will changes be implemented?***

Should the Board of Trustees vote at some future date on an option to change the existing boundaries, the changes would not take place until the next municipal election in October 2021.

## **HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

### ***Ongoing Opportunity to Ask Questions and Provide Input***

Residents are welcome to submit their response and concerns via email or in writing to:

Attention/Subject: Electoral Ward Review  
Black Gold School Division, 3rd Floor, 1101-5th Street, Nisku, Alberta, T9E 7N3  
Email: [bgsd@blackgold.ca](mailto:bgsd@blackgold.ca)

### ***Attend Information Meetings***

Residents of Black Gold School Division (BGSD) are invited to learn more about the electoral ward review and provide their input regarding trustee electoral wards and subdivisions. The public meetings will take place on the following dates:

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020** | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Calmar Elementary School (Gymnasium)  
**Thursday, February 13, 2020** | 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Black Gold School Division Office (5th Floor)