

# A Case for Ward Boundary Reform

Presented by Laura Cattari,  
Advocacy Hamilton

“Relative parity of voting power is a prime condition of effective representation.

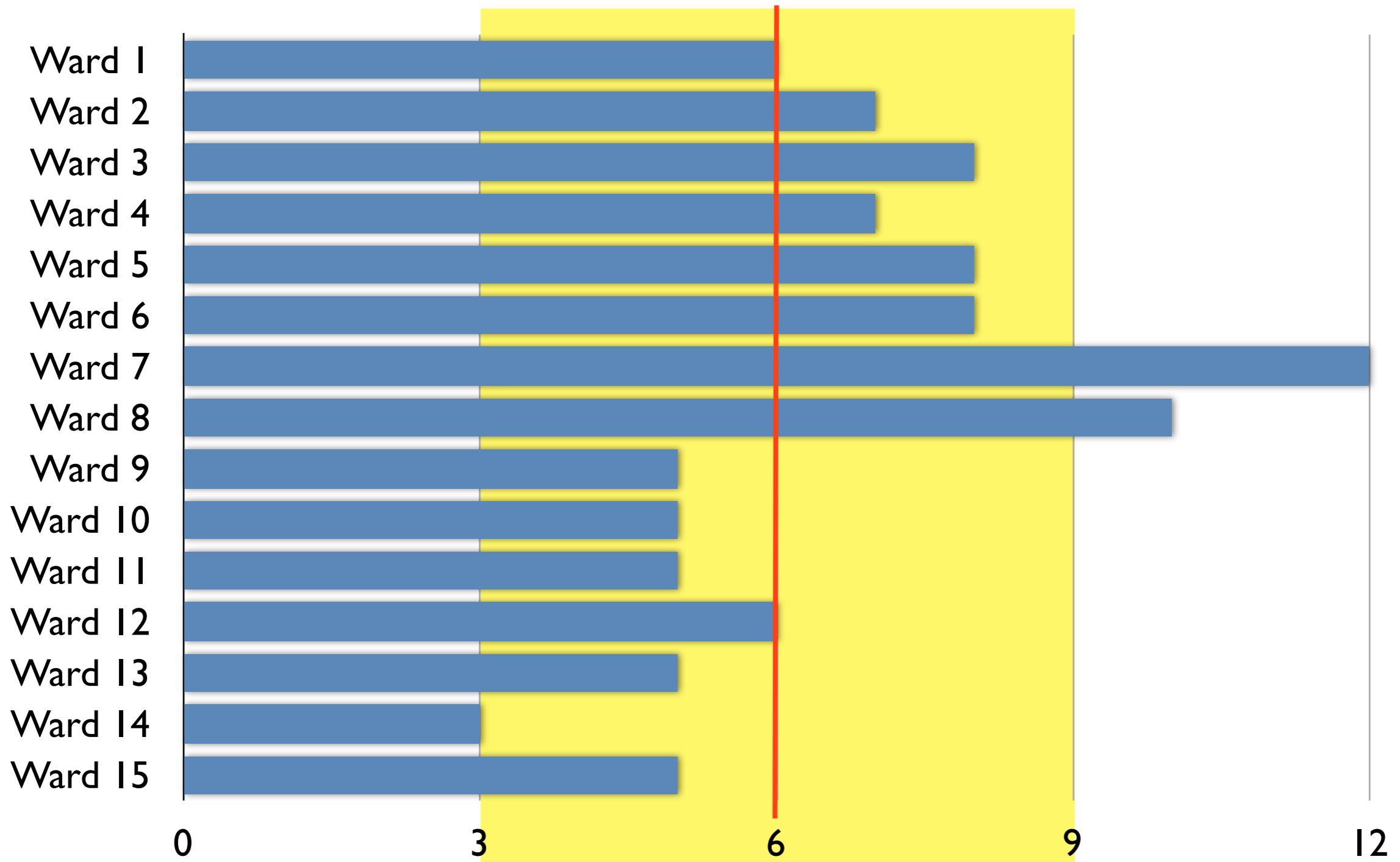
Deviations from absolute voter parity, however, may be justified on the grounds of practical impossibility or provision of more effective representation.

Factors like geography, community history, community interests and minority representation may need to be taken into account to ensure that our legislative assemblies effectively represent the diversity of our social mosaic.

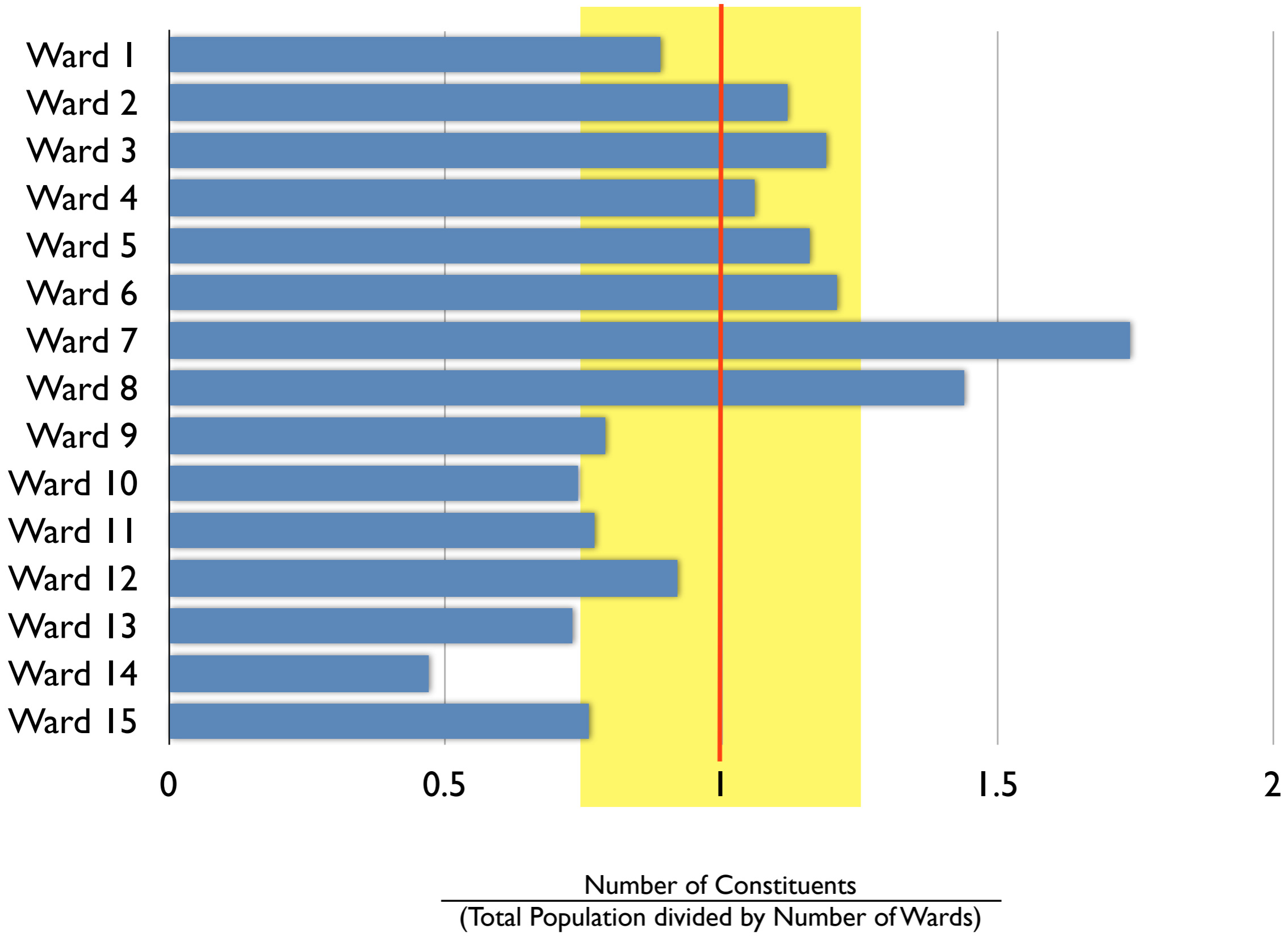
Beyond this dilution of one citizen's vote as compared with another's should not be countenanced.”

*Attorney General for Saskatchewan vs Roger Carter QC  
Supreme Court of Canada decision  
as per La Forest, Gonthier, McLachlin, Stevenson and Iacobucci*

■ Wards as a Percentage of Total Population 2006



# Comparison of Wards by Voter Parity 2006



Number of Constituents  
(Total Population divided by Number of Wards)

“... the purpose of the right to vote enshrined in s. 3 of the Charter is not equality of voting power per se, but the right to “effective representation”.

Ours is a representative democracy.

Each citizen is entitled to be represented in government.

Representation comprehends the idea of having a voice in the deliberations of government as well as the idea of the right to bring one’s grievances and concerns to the attention of one’s government representative;”

*Attorney General for Saskatchewan vs Roger Carter QC  
Supreme Court of Canada decision  
as per La Forest, Gonthier, McLachlin, Stevenson and Iacobucci*

# What are we asking of Council?

- direct staff to allocate funds for the ward boundary review process.
- direct staff to prepare and compile thorough terms of reference for a ward boundary reform consultant; including but not limited to geography, community history, community interests and minority representation, to guide the review process.
- direct staff to prepare a request for proposal (RFP) for a ward boundary review consultant;
- direct staff to initiate the call for the RFP so that the consultant will be prepared to commence work on January 15th, 2015.