



2026 RATEPAYER MEETINGS

Update from Shaune Kovitch, Chair

Chair's Update

2026 Ratepayer Meetings

- Advisory Council & Board
- Strategic Planning
- Empress Viability Review
- Municipal Partnerships
- Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy
- Resident Satisfaction Survey

Advisory Council & Board



SA 2 - SD 1
Kevin Bossert



SA 2 - SD 2
Rod Moench



SA 2 - SD 3
Brad Slorstad



SA 2 - SD 4
Justin Griffith

Special Area No. 2



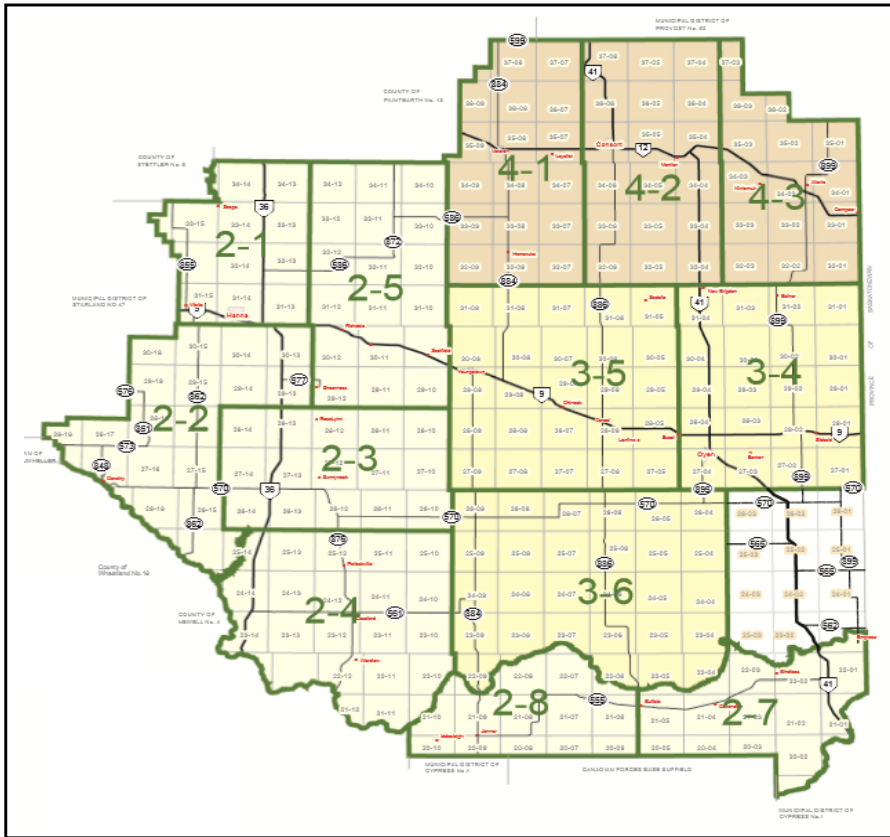
SA 2 - SD 5
Mark Blair



SA 2 - SD 7
Daryl Swenson



SA 2 - SD 8
Brad Osadczuk



SA 3 - SD 4
Erika Tessier



SA 3 - SD 5
John Kimber

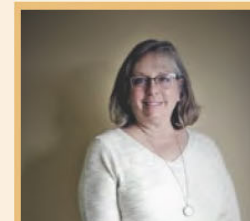


SA 3 - SD 6
Kevin Wilson

Special Area No. 3



SA 4 - SD 1
Gordon Long



SA 4 - SD 2
Laurie Ference



SA 4 - SD 3
Doug Noble

Special Area No. 4

Board Appointments & Governance

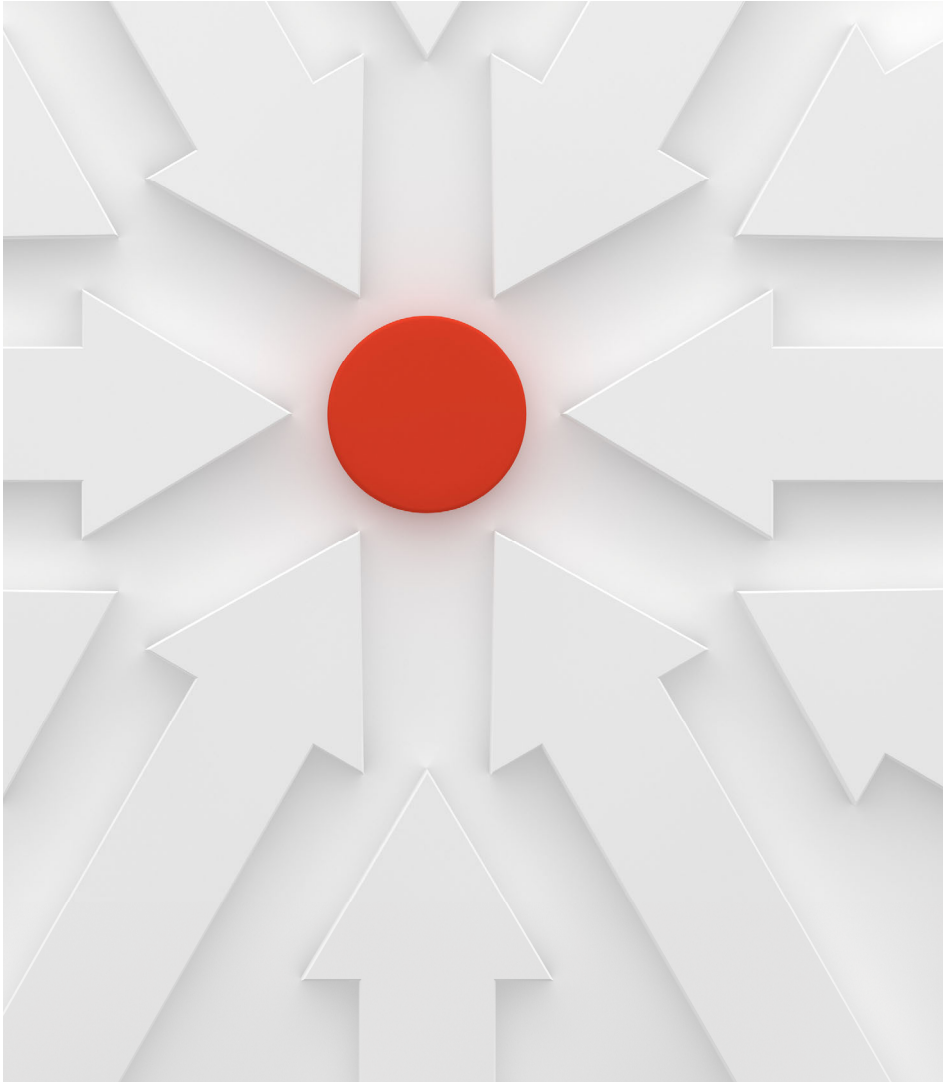
Board members are appointed by Order in Council (GOA).

- **Shaune Kovitch, Chair** (*Expires March 20, 2028*)
- **Brad Slorstad, SA2 Board member** (*Expires April 30, 2028*)
- **Kevin Wilson, SA3 Board member** (*Expires April 30, 2028*)
- **Doug Noble, SA4 Board member*** (*Expires April 30, 2028*)



Strategic Planning

2026 Focus



- Business plan refresh
- Updating Special Areas Board's Mission and Vision
- Review of current operations and service delivery standards

Empress Viability Review

Special Areas Role

- Viability review process is managed by Government of Alberta. More information at <https://www.alberta.ca/viability-reviews-for-municipalities>
- The viability review for the Village of Empress was initiated in January 2026 as a result of a petition.
 - A viability review is a process that helps municipalities determine their ability to continue as a municipality or develop a plan that leads to viability. These reviews support communities to plan for long-term success.
- The viability review process brings information together and empowers residents to make informed decisions about the future of their community.
 - Viability reviews analyze the municipality's: community, governance, administration, services, finances, and infrastructure.
 - Generally, viability reviews take between 12 to 18 months to complete.
- **Special Areas Board's role:**
 - **Compile information on municipal operations, help complete infrastructure audit, provide input through Viability Review Support Group (VRSG).**

Municipal Partnerships

2026 Focus

- Special Areas continues to enjoy strong partnerships with regional neighbors
 - These relationships include both rural and urban municipalities
- Focus on continuing to support these collaborative relationships, including:
 - Potential partnership projects
 - Industrial Tax Transfer funding
 - Regional approach to emergency management
 - Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks



Tax Recovery Land Sale Policy

Key Facts

- In 2021, Advisory Council and the Special Areas Board developed a draft Tax Recovery Land Sale (TRLS) policy based on prior TRLS in the Special Areas
- Advisory Council and the Board recommended the 2023 TRLS policy to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in 2022 to seek a *Ministerial Order* for approval
- Minister approved the 2023 TRLS policy in July 2023
- **Policy expires on July 16, 2026**

Resident Satisfaction Survey

2025 Key Findings

- 2025 was first year for this type of survey
- Received 85 responses
- 2025 survey key findings:
 - 85% rated **quality of life** as **Very High** or **High**
 - 78% were **Very Satisfied** or **Satisfied** with **quality of service**
 - Praise for **courteous, knowledgeable** SAB employees (84 - 76%)
 - **Transparency & effective representation** is an area for improvement
 - Residents identified **strategic priorities**: local healthcare, local road maintenance, increasing surfaced roads, and lowering municipal taxes and fees
- The report with more detailed findings available at www.specialareas.ab.ca

Resident Satisfaction Survey

2026 Survey

- Second year of survey
- Goal is to get feedback from residents in Special Areas
- Survey is open until October 2026
- https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/residentsurvey_2026_web
- Findings will be shared with Advisory Council in December during fall Advisory Council meeting.

ANNUAL RESIDENT SURVEY



www.specialareas.ab.ca/about/public-consultation/



Questions

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www.specialareas.ab.ca