



**City of Missoula, Montana**  
**Item to be Referred to City Council Committee**

**Committee:** Committee of the Whole

**Item:** Ward boundaries

**Date:** February 4, 2021

**Sponsor(s):** Neil Pennanen

**Prepared by:** Neil Pennanen

**Ward(s) Affected:**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1               | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2               | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3               | <input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Wards | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    |

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**Action Required:**

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending Title 1, Chapter 1.16 entitled "Election Wards."

**Recommended Motion(s):**

- City Council - February 22, 2021: **First reading and preliminary adoption:** Set a public hearing for March 8, 2021, and preliminarily adopt an ordinance amending Title 1, Chapter 1.16 entitled "Election Wards" revising and updating ward boundaries based on new population statistics.
- City Council Final Consideration - March 22, 2021: **Second and final reading:** Adopt/deny an ordinance amending Title 1, Chapter 1.16 entitled "Election Wards" revising and updating ward boundaries based on new population statistics.

**Timeline:**

Referral to committee:	February 8, 2021
Committee discussion:	February 17, 2021
Council action (or sets hearing):	February 22, 2021
Public Hearing:	March 8, 2021
City Council Final Consideration	March 22, 2021
Deadline:	March 22, 2021, effective 30 days later (April 21, 2021) to accommodate filing for municipal elections.

**Project Summary:**

Currently, adjustments to Ward boundaries are necessary in order to maintain practical equality of population inside each ward. Ward 2, Ward 3, Ward 4, and Ward 5 are out of alignment; therefore, a public hearing is needed to consider an ordinance to realign the Ward boundaries.

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**

Each ward shall be established and maintained by the City Council to be generally regular in shape and as equal in population as practically possible. Every two years City Council considers changes to Ward boundaries.

At this time, staff has determined that ward populations are misaligned and that adjustment of ward boundaries based on population equality is necessary. Staff will present a ward boundary scenario for COW to consider.

In order to accommodate the opening of filing for this year's municipal elections, the latest possible date for Council action is March 22, 2021, so the ordinance can go into effect by April 22, 2021.

**Financial Implications:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

Current Ward Map  
Draft Ordinance