



**City of Missoula, Montana
City Council Committee Agenda item**

Committee: Committee of the Whole

Item: Ward Boundaries

Date: January 31, 2023

Sponsor(s): Marc Hendrickson

Prepared by: Marc Hendrickson

Ward(s) Affected:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ☐ Ward 1 | ☐ Ward 4 |
| ☐ Ward 2 | ☐ Ward 5 |
| ☐ Ward 3 | ☐ Ward 6 |
| ☒ All Wards | ☐ N/A |

Action Required:

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

Timeline and Recommended Motions:

Committee discussion: February 8, 2023

Council sets public hearing: February 13, 2023

Recommended motion: City Council - First reading and preliminary adoption: Set a public hearing for March 6, 2023, and preliminary adopt an ordinance amending Title 1, Chapter 1.16 entitled "Election Wards" revising and updating Ward boundaries based on new population statistics.

Public Hearing: March 6, 2023

Final Consideration: March 13, 2023

Recommended motion: City Council - 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.

Deadline: March 13, 2023

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.

The updated ward populations have been an aggregate of the 2020 decennial census data and population derived from new residential construction based on building permits over the past two years.

The total estimated city population as of January 1st, 2023, is 83,448. The average estimated population per ward is 13,908. At +/- 3%, ward population should range between 13,491 and 14,325 people. However, Wards 2, 3, 4, and 6 do not meet this criterion. Wards 2 and 6 deviate on the high side and Wards 3 and 4 deviate on the low side. See the following tables for estimated populations.

Table 1: Estimated City Population and Ward Averages

January 1, 2023	Population	Average Population per Ward	+/- 3%	Minimum Population	Maximum Population
	83,448	13,908	417	13,491	14,325

Table 2: Estimated Ward Populations and Growth

Ward	2022 Total Housing Units	2022 Population	2020-2022 Change in Population	# People from Average	% People From Average	Aligned?
1	6,983	14,220	728	312	2.24%	Yes
2	7,184	15,760	2,694	1,852	13.32%	Over
3	5,277	12,160	257	-1,748	-12.57%	Under
4	5,989	12,361	113	-1,547	-11.12%	Under
5	5,179	14,092	293	184	1.32%	Yes
6	6,934	14,855	787	947	6.81%	Over
TOTALS	37,546	83,448	4,872			

At this time, staff has determined that ward populations are misaligned, and that adjustment of ward boundaries based on population equality is necessary; therefore, a public hearing is needed to consider an ordinance to realign the Ward boundaries. Staff has prepared a preferred 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 13, 2023**, so the ordinance can go into effect by **April 20, 2023**.

Financial Implications: n/a

Links to external websites: n/a