



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 |

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.

The updated ward populations have been an aggregate of the 2010 decennial census population data and population derived from new residential construction based on building permits over the years and presented in two year increments aligning with ward redistrict considerations.

The total estimated city population as of December 31, 2020 is 78,376. The average estimated population per ward is 13,063. At +/- 3 percent, ward population should range between 12,671 and 13,455 people. However, Wards 2,3,4, and 5 do not meet this criterion. Wards 2 and 5 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 Dec. 31, 2020

December 31, 2020	Population	Average Population per Ward	+/-3%	Minimum Population	Maximum Population
	78,376	13,063	392	12,671	13,455

Table 2. Estimate Ward Population and Housing Units, Dec. 31, 2020

Ward	2020 Total Housing Units	2020 Population	2018-2020 Change in Population	# People From Average	% People From Average	Aligned?
1	6,805	13,066	236	3	0.02%	Yes
2	6,748	13,800	979	737	5.6%	Over
3	5,266	12,537	102	-526	-4.0%	Under
4	5,854	12,533	51	-530	-4.0%	Under
5	5,492	13,482	418	419	3.2%	Over
6	6,435	12,958	259	-105	0.8%	Yes
TOTALS	36,600	78,376	2,045			

At this time, staff has determined that ward populations are misaligned and that adjustment of ward boundaries based on population equality is necessary. 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 22, 2021, so the ordinance can go into effect by April 22, 2021.

Financial Implications:
N/A

Attachments:
Current Ward Map
Draft Ordinance
Preferred Alternative Ward Map