

Introduced by Treece Council Bill No. R 176-21 A

A RESOLUTION

establishing a ward reapportionment committee.

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau delayed release of its tabulated data necessary for redistricting from the 2020 Census to late September 2021; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of the City Charter provides that ward boundaries shall be reviewed and revised from time to time as may be necessary to maintain as nearly as possible an equal number of inhabitants in each ward; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to provide for a review of the current ward boundaries based on the 2020 Census information and revise the boundaries as may be necessary to maintain equal representation, and desires to conduct such review and revision after appropriate public comment and upon the advice of a committee of citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Ward Reapportionment Committee is hereby established. The committee shall consist of seven (7) members. Each Council member shall submit to the Mayor the name of one (1) individual residing in the Council member's ward to serve on the committee as a representative of the ward. The Mayor shall appoint to the committee the individual selected by each Council member and one (1) additional member who may reside in any ward of the City. The Mayor shall designate from the committee members a chairperson and vice chairperson of the committee. Committee members shall serve until a final report is made to and accepted by the Council, at which time the committee shall cease to exist. If a member shall resign, miss three (3) meetings or for any other reason cease to serve, the member shall be replaced. If the member was a ward representative, the Council member whose ward the committee member represented shall submit to the Mayor a replacement, who shall be appointed to the committee by the Mayor. If the member was appointed by the Mayor from any ward in the City, the Mayor shall select and appoint a replacement.

SECTION 2. The committee is charged to make its final report and recommendation to the Council no later than February 15, 2022. The report shall consist of recommendations as to new ward boundaries with comparative population figures showing the proposed wards to be comparable in population. The committee may submit one or more alternate plans.

SECTION 3. In drawing proposed boundaries, the Committee should adhere to the following principles:

- A. The wards of the City should be as equal in population as present data permit;
- B. The reapportionment of the wards should be brought about in such a manner as to best serve the needs of existing neighborhoods, neighborhood associations, business districts, and other recognizable demographic features wherever possible; and
- C. The wards should be compact units drawn in such a manner so as to be readily understood by the voters and to contain contiguous existing neighborhoods, neighborhood associations, business districts and other demographic features with an identifiable community of interest.
- D. In consideration of the modest population shifts since the previous drawing of ward boundaries, the plans should prioritize equalizing wards with minimal change to existing boundaries

SECTION 4. The City Manager shall provide staff to assist the committee.

ADOPTED this 18 day of November, 2021.

ATTEST:




City Clerk



Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Counselor