

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Study Commission

FROM: Caeleb Heinen, Recording Secretary
Mike Maas, Ex Officio
Dan Clark, MSU Local Government Center

SUBJECT: Further Learning for Wards/Districts

MEETING DATE:

April 2, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE:

Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

The Study Commissioners and Ex Officio requested more data and materials on certain topics from their previous Learning Session on Wards and Districts. Dan Clark from MSU Local Government Center has provided more research to cover their interests.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

For the March 25th Reading Materials, click [here](#).

1.1 Outreach: Continue to strengthen and innovate in how we deliver information to the community and our partners.

BACKGROUND:

NEW Reading on Voter Turnout and Gerrymandering:

UNRESOLVED ISSUES:

- Comparison City Chart (with Voter Turnout)
- Voter Turnout in At Large vs. Wards
- Correlates of Voter Turnout - Political Behavior
- Seattle Districting Commission
- San Diego Charter Redistricting

[March 25th Agenda Reading Materials](#)

Mandatory Reading:

- At-Large VS Wards
- Wards Documents for Bozeman 2026

Supplemental Information (See March 25th Agenda):

- District Based Elections and Class Based Representation Evidence from the California Voting Rights Act
- Free Cities Center Analysis City Representation
- MIT At Large Elections and Minority Representation in Local Government
- Primer Districts vs. At-Large Elections Digital
- Trade-Offs between at-large and single member districts UofHouston
- Wards at-large in Canadian Cities

- Wards vs At Large on Diversity
- At-Large vs Ward - Implications for Public Infrastructure
- Hybrid City Council Election Systems

None Identified

ALTERNATIVES:

As per the Study Commission

FISCAL EFFECTS:

None Identified

Attachments:

[Comparison City Chart \(with Voter Turnout\).pdf](#)

[Voter Turnout in At Large vs. Wards.pdf](#)

[Correlates of Voter Turnout Political Behavior.pdf](#)

[Seattle Districting Commission.pdf](#)

[San Diego Charter Redistricting.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: March 25, 2026