

Memorandum

REPORT TO: Study Commission

FROM: Caeleb Heinen, Recording Secretary
Mike Maas, Ex Officio

SUBJECT: Proposal for wards as a sub-option on the ballot

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2026

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

RECOMMENDATION: Study Commissioner Campbell and Ex Officio Maas worked to create potential language for having wards as sub-options for the ballot.

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

BACKGROUND: Ex Officio, Mike Maas, and Study Commissioner, Deanna Campbell were tasked by the body to provide potential sub-option language related to election by ward system.

Sub-Options:

1. Choose one system for electing City Commissioners.
Vote for one:
 OPTION A: The Citywide (At-Large System)
Commissioners may live anywhere in Bozeman city limits and are elected by voters across the entire city.
 OPTION B The Ward System
The city is divided into equal neighborhood wards. Commissioners must live within a specific ward to ensure geographic representation across all parts of Bozeman.

2. If the Ward System (Option B above) is approved by voters, how shall those Ward Commissioners be elected?
Vote for one:
 OPTION A By Ward Voters Only.
Only the residents living within a specific ward may vote for that Ward's Commissioner.
 OPTION B By Citywide Vote
All voters in the entire city vote for every Ward's Commissioner.

OR

1. Choose one system for electing City Commissioners. Vote for one:

Option A: The Citywide (At-Large) System

Commissioners may live anywhere in Bozeman city limits and are elected by voters across the entire city.

Option B: The Ward System

The city is divided into equal neighborhood wards. Commissioners must live within a specific ward and are elected only by the voters who live inside that same ward

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None identified

ALTERNATIVES: As per Study Commission

FISCAL EFFECTS: none

Report compiled on: May 18, 2026