

# Memorandum

**REPORT TO:** Study Commission

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

**SUBJECT:** Discussions on Wards/Districts

**MEETING DATE:**

April 24, 2026

Citizen Advisory Board/Commission

Continued discussions on wards and districts, in advance of the Study Commission decisions on these topics.

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

Reference Materials are attached.

["Summary - Other City Charters"](#) created by Study Commissioners referenced for easy access on the previous research done on Montana City Charters.

Mandatory Reading:

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

Supplemental Information:

- 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

Resources regarding Wards/Districts and Voter Turnout and Gerrymandering:

- Comparison City Chart (with Voter Turnout)
- Voter Turnout in At Large vs. Wards

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**BACKGROUND:**

**UNRESOLVED ISSUES:**

- Correlates of Voter Turnout - Political Behavior
- Seattle Districting Commission
- San Diego Charter Redistricting

None Identified

**ALTERNATIVES:**

As per the Study Commission

**FISCAL EFFECTS:**

None Identified

**Attachments:**

[At-large VS Wards 3.12.26.pdf](#)

[Wards Documents for Bozeman 2026.pdf](#)

1. [district-based-elections-and-class-based-representation-evidence-from-the-california-voting-rights-act \(1\).pdf](#)

2. [pacificresearch.org-Free Cities Center Analysis City representation Single-member districts versus at large \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#)

3. [MIT At Large Elections and Minority Representation in Local Government.pdf](#)

4. [Primer\\_DistrictvsAt-LargeElections\\_Digital-1.pdf](#)

5. [Trade-Offs between at-large and single member districts-UofHouston.pdf](#)

6. [Wards at-large in Canadian Cities Candian Journal of Poli Sci.pdf](#)

7. [Wards vs At large on Diversity.pdf](#)

8. [At-Large versus Ward -Implications for Public Infrastructure.pdf](#)

9. [Hybrid City Council Election Systems.pdf](#)

[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 19, 2026