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**Cc:** [Eric King](#); [Mary Winters](#)  
**Subject:** Wards  
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Hi all,

It is rare indeed when I find myself in agreement with a Bulletin editorial, but I must say that I believe that the proposal for four of seven Councilors (or any number, for that matter) to be elected from wards is a solution looking for a problem.

There is no real reason to think that geographic boundaries will somehow provide better representation for Bend residents. I live on the west side of town, in the flat lands, and I have much more in common with someone who lives over near Pilot Butte than I do with people who live just up the hill on Aubrey Butte. So, I don't get how placing me in a ward with people up the hill provides me better representation. I don't necessarily share the same values or interests with people who live less than a mile from me and they likely have more money to spend on electing a candidate in "our" ward.

I also don't see how this will somehow lower the cost of running for office. It could easily increase the cost since anyone from anywhere can contribute a significant sum of money to a ward campaign, the election results could easily be influenced by people who reside outside the ward.

Decades ago I lived in Santa Rosa, California, and was an advocate of what we called district elections. The reason was that three of our five City Councilors all lived in the same exclusive neighborhood and did not represent the rest of the town. Moreover, we had a substantial, recognizable black community on the south side of town that was unrepresented. If we had these kinds of issues in Bend, this idea might have merit. But we don't, and it doesn't.

The city has wasted enough money on this solution looking for a problem. Most residents that I know, and this includes many who are politically active, don't know a lot about this issue because they are working on more important issues. That's what you should be doing, too, instead of spending time on an issue that most of us don't see as a problem.

Put a stop to this now. Please don't put it on the ballot. That will only result in more money spent picking sides, more money spent to run an election, and more time spent on something that isn't needed.

*Peace, Justice, Solidarity,*

Michael Funke  
Bend, Oregon

*Agitate, organize, mobilize, resist*

*Tiny purple fishes run laughing through your fingers. --Cream*

*Hail, Hail Rock and Roll. --Chuck Berry, 1957*

*Opportunity will move out of the way to let a man pass it by. --Henry Fool*

*It's not the rebels of the world that cause the troubles. It's the troubles that cause the rebels. --  
Carl Oglesby*

*I believe that everybody is getting carried away with something that has gotten out of hand.  
--Jerry Lee Lewis*