

From: Alan Bickett
To: [Council/All](#)
Subject: Proposed Ward System
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 10:03:57 AM

Dear Councilors,

I would like to provide input on the proposed use of a ward system to select some councilors.

Our nation's leadership is badly fractured along lines of political party, geography, religion, etc. The inability or unwillingness to work together for the common good is hurting the American people. In Bend, I believe our government is doing a better job of working to meet the growing needs of our city. I am concerned that a ward system would potentially undermine this cooperation.

Councilors are currently accountable to all Bend voters. A ward system would make at least some councilors accountable only to voters in a particular part of the city, which would create an incentive for them to maximize benefits to that portion of the city, even if doing so is not in the best interest of Bend overall. In larger cities with greater levels of diversity in race, economics, etc., it may make sense to use a ward system to ensure that all parts of the city have fair representation in decision making. I don't believe Bend has either the size or the divergence of interests to need such a structure. Citizens in all parts of Bend want many of the same things - safety, ease of transportation, access to suitable housing, education, etc. This can best be achieved by continuing a structure which encourages cooperation rather than internal competition for resources.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Alan Bickett
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