



# City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 08, 2011

Council Session

## Item F6

**#9345 - Consideration of Proposed Modifications to City Council  
Ward Boundaries Resulting from Redistricting**

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

# Council Agenda Memo

**From:** Chad Nabity, AICP

**Meeting:** November 8, 2011

**Subject:** Consideration of Proposed Modifications to City Council Ward Boundaries Resulting from Redistricting

**Item #'s:** F-6

**Presenter(s):** Chad Nabity, AICP

## Background

At the August 23, 2011 meeting the Grand Island City Council approved Mayor Jay Vavricek's appointments by to serve on a redistricting committee. The charge of this committee was to examine the existing City Council ward boundaries and to make a recommendation to the City Council about redrawing these boundaries to best equalize the population in each ward based on data provided by the 2010 U.S. Census of Population and Housing. In a representative democracy each member of the legislative body (City Council) should represent approximately the same number of people in the community to preserve the concept of equality (one person, one vote.) Generally, the equal-population requirement for state legislative and other districts is satisfied as long as the population of the smallest district and the population of the largest district do not vary by more than 10 percent.

Based on the 2010 Census each ward would ideally represent 9,704 people. The Census counts people, not voters, so districts need to be split based on the number of people in each district. Another reason to count people instead of voters is to insure that children are equally represented. They are a constituency that is entitled to representation but without the ability to vote.

## Discussion

The Grand Island City Council is required to consider redistricting and adopt new legislative districts if necessary within six months from the date that the Nebraska Unicameral adjourned from their regular session. The ordinance presented tonight will allow Council to meet that requirement.

The population of the wards as currently drawn is as follows:

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% Deviation</b>
Ward 1	10743	10.74
Ward 2	9432	-2.74
Ward 3	8949	-7.79
Ward 4	10012	3.25
Ward 5	9374	-3.74

The City of Grand Island Redistricting Committee included the following members:

Hall County Republican Designee	Jerry Piccolo
Hall County Democrat Designee	Glen Murray
Hall County Independent Designee	Gary Rosacker
Community Youth Council Member	Alex Wirth
Community Youth Council Member	Ashley Bykerk
City Council Representative	Bob Nieman
City Council Representative	Linna Dee Donaldson
At Large Community Representative	Anita Lewandowski Brown
Staff Member (Chairman)	Chad Nabity

The members of this committee along with Pat Larson, the Grand Island GIS Coordinator and Dale Baker, the Hall County Election Commissioner met and used the GIS system to try a variety of different options for Council wards that would achieve the population goals and minimize the number of ballot faces that need to be printed at election time.

The committee presented the map recommended for adoption to the City Council at a study session in October. The map as presented would set the boundaries of the wards and the population of each ward as follows:

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>% Deviation</b>
Ward 1	9833	1.33
Ward 2	9438	-2.74
Ward 3	9716	0.12
Ward 4	9600	-1.07
Ward 5	9935	2.38

The proposed population of each ward is well within the 5% deviation allowed from the ideal number. The ward boundaries break in logical areas based on precinct boundaries and other election boundaries. The proposed changes will not be negatively impacted by any proposed or pending annexation actions that Council may or may not approve.

The first map shows the current Council wards and the population of each ward

The second map shows the committee recommendation for new ward boundaries and the population of each ward (This is the map attached to the Ordinance and subject to approval). No sitting Council members will be moved from their district with the new boundaries as proposed.

### **Alternatives**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

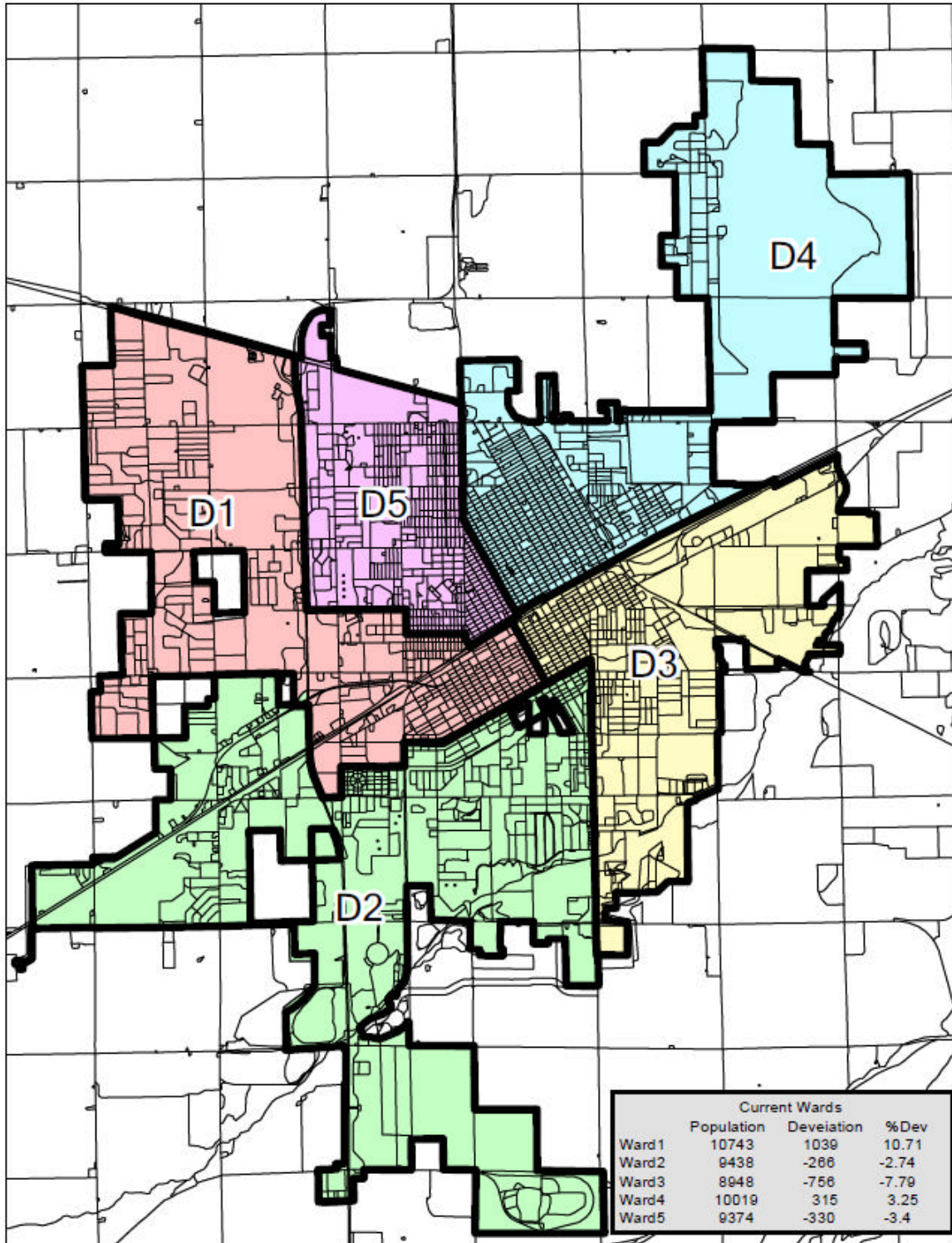
1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

### **Recommendation**

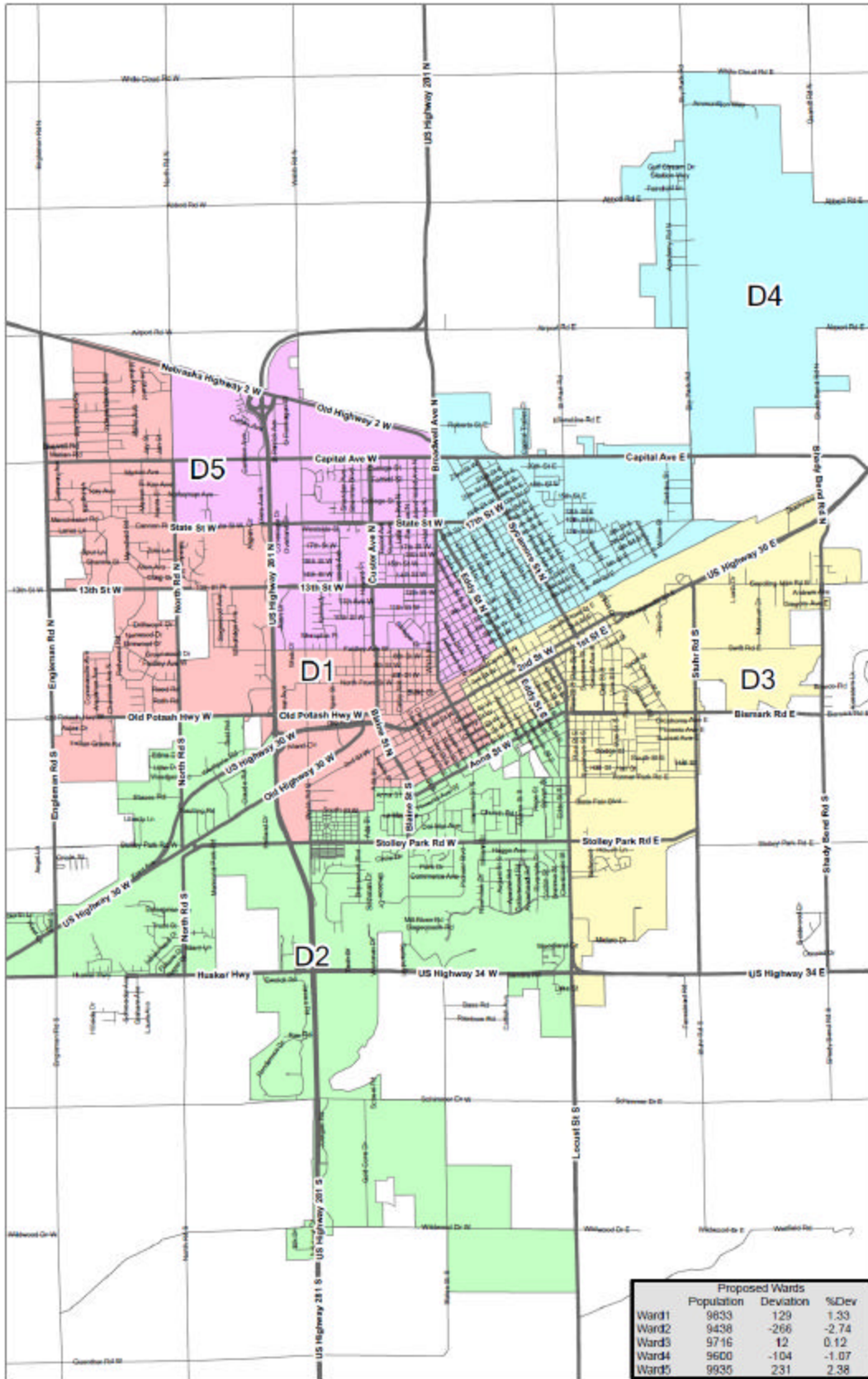
City Administration recommends that the Council approve the Ordinance and the new Ward Map as presented.

### **Sample Motion**

Move to approve the Ordinance as presented.



Current City Council Wards and Population based on 2010 Census



Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island Nebraska, November 8, 2011

ORDINANCE NO. 9345

An ordinance to amend Grand Island City Code Chapter 14, §14-3 pertaining to Elections; to amend §14-3 pertaining to election wards and their boundaries; to define the boundaries of the wards in the City of Grand Island; to adopt a revised map of such wards; to repeal Grand Island City Code §14-3 as it presently exists; and to provide for the publication and effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION I. Grand Island City Code §14-3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**§14-3. Wards; Boundaries**

The City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is hereby divided into five wards, numbered 1 through 5, the boundaries of such wards defined as shown on the drawing entitled, "*Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska.*" The Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, shall be kept current and on file if the office of the City Clerk.

SECTION 2. Grand Island City Code §14-3 as it presently exists is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the *Grand Island Independent* as provided by law.

Enacted: November 8, 2011.

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Jay Vavricek, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
November 4, 2011	☐ City Attorney