

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Work Session: Ward Redistricting - Criteria

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Meeting Date: June 27, 2011  
Department: Central Services  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: B  
Staff Contact: Keli Osborn  
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5406

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#### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

Every 10 years, the Eugene City Council adjusts council ward boundaries to accommodate population changes and shifts – thereby helping ensure equal protection under the laws. This work session provides an opportunity for the council to review public input on ward boundary criteria and determine which criteria will guide the creation of new ward boundary scenarios.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census data, Eugene's population totaled 156,222 – which means that each of the eight wards should have approximately 19,528 residents to assure equal representation across all wards. Current population distributions and demographics are included in Attachment A.

In a work session on February 14, 2011, the council discussed options for Eugene's ward redistricting process and possible boundary criteria. During the April 27 work session, the council concurred that it would oversee the ward redistricting process. The council also generally agreed on the proposed process and timeline, although it was noted that some councilors would like the process to be completed as early in fall 2011 as possible because potential candidates for positions on the Eugene City Council and Eugene Water & Electric Board may begin filing on September 8, 2011.

#### ***Outreach***

One step in ward redistricting is to agree on criteria that will guide how ward boundaries should be redrawn. Based on the council's February 14 and April 27 discussions, a list of possible criteria was generated. Throughout May and June, staff collected feedback from councilors, the public and interested parties on the proposed criteria, as well as other suggestions. Outreach techniques included:

- Online and paper survey – Spanish and English
- FAQs (frequently-asked-questions handout) – Spanish and English
- City of Eugene public website and social media
- Meetings with individual councilors
- Presentations to groups including the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Leaders Council and League of Women Voters
- Radio, television and newspaper coverage
- Interested parties list – email updates
- Information packets

- Neighborhood newsletter articles
- Informational open house, June 9

A summary of the feedback is included in Attachment B.

***Criteria***

Population range – Providing for wards of equivalent populations provides for equal representation, but can limit flexibility when attempting to reconcile other criteria. The results of redistricting generally are believed to support fair representation, accountability and greater responsiveness from elected leaders when wards or districts are closer in population size.

Accounting for anticipated growth – On the one hand, “sizing” wards for anticipated growth might help equalize representation over time. On the other, predicting future growth with certainty is impossible. Most feedback received supports working with the most recent and reliable numbers available. The chart below provides a snapshot of growth by ward, and reflects U.S. Census figures from 2000 and 2010.

Ward	Total Population 2010	Ward Populations 2001	Population change (#)	Percent
1	17,597	17,617	-20	---
2	17,705	17,699	6	---
3	21,003	17,768	3,235	18%
4	19,215	16,799	2,416	14%
5	20,047	16,572	3,475	21%
6	21,603	17,266	4,337	25%
7	19,449	16,829	2,620	16%
8	19,603	17,343	2,260	13%
Grand Total	156,222	137,893		

Incremental versus substantial changes – A small majority of survey respondents prefer “starting over” when drawing ward boundaries, though others lean toward keeping ward boundaries closer to their current configuration to maintain continuity for residents and elected officials alike. When preparing draft scenarios, staff expects to bring a mix of options in order to satisfy other criteria – giving council a chance to weigh the merits of different approaches.

Incumbent elected officials – Staff received advice to develop scenarios that neither protect incumbents nor specifically target current officials to redistrict them “out” of their wards. Incumbents often want to keep the same voters with whom they have built up name recognition and goodwill over time, and some voters also like to maintain their relationships with existing officials. Yet, the City Council could be open to criticism if redistricting to keep councilors and EWEB commissioners in their current wards were made a top priority.

Geography, and other neighborhood or ward features – Geographic boundaries can divide the population into different neighborhoods or communities, keeping a compact group of residents or voters together. But, following some geographic boundaries may fragment communities of interest or other groups of

people. Certain geographic boundaries could yield wards that are less compact, and rigidly following geographic boundaries – or other features such as major streets -- may leave less flexibility to accomplish other objectives.

A ward is generally considered compact if it has a fairly regular shape, with constituents all living relatively near to each other – though there can be disagreement about when a ward is compact. A contiguous ward is one where a person can travel from any point in the ward to another without crossing the ward boundary. Sometimes city boundaries are not contiguous, perhaps as a product of annexations or other actions. Water also can stymie contiguity, and can connect or divide an area.

General feedback received supports considering geographic features, along with other landmarks and barriers that define neighborhoods and areas, as factors in setting ward boundaries. In addition, school attendance areas and neighborhood association boundaries were cited as other elements to consider.

### ***Additional Considerations***

Demographics - A community of interest is a group of people concentrated in a geographic area who share similar interests and priorities – whether social, cultural, ethnic, economic, religious, or political. Some people believe that it is best to keep communities of interest whole, so that a community of interest can have a chance to have its own councilor looking out for its interests and individual councilors feel particularly responsible to serve discrete communities. Others believe that it is best to split communities of interest, promoting greater diversity and consensus-building. How redistricting accounts for race and ethnicity also is a consideration, and it is important to avoid redistricting scenarios that have the effect of discriminating against minority communities. Staff will provide demographic information with scenarios, and attempt to identify potential implications to support public input and council deliberations.

Other political bodies – Staff has received feedback to consider the relationship of city wards to wards and districts for other bodies. Two specific examples include: 1) situations in which neighbors might see the same council candidates on a ballot, but be in different Lane County Commissioner districts; and 2) the overlaps and gaps between wards for Eugene city councilors and EWEB commissioners and the EWEB service area.

### ***Next Steps***

The current timeline aims to establish redistricting criteria by the end of June 2011, and then begin generating boundary options for consideration. Several options will be presented to the City Council in a July 25 work session, at which time the council could choose all, some or none to put in front of the public for feedback.

Staff proposes returning to the council in September, with council approval of a scenario later in September or in October. Adoption of new ward boundaries would occur by resolution. Depending on the option selected by the council, however, an ordinance may be required to modify Eugene City Code – in 2001, for example, an ordinance was needed to implement new ward terms. Even if a code change is unnecessary, staff suggests the council schedule a public hearing on one or more scenarios before taking action.

The goal is to have final boundaries established in the fall of 2011 and no later than December 31, 2011.

## RELATED CITY POLICIES

The Eugene Charter provision related to redistricting is general and states:

***Section 33. Wards.** The council shall divide the city into wards and redefine the boundaries thereof as necessary to accord persons in the city the equal protection of the laws. No person may vote at a city election in a ward other than that in which he or she resides.*

The Eugene City Code includes the following:

***2.692 Elections – Wards.** The city council shall by resolution divide the city into eight wards, but neither this requirement nor any action pursuant to it disqualifies, or shortens the term of office of, a member of the council or the Eugene Water & Electric Board.*

Adopted Council Goals and Outcomes include:

*Effective, Accountable Municipal Government - A government that works openly, collaboratively, and fairly with the community to achieve measurable and positive outcomes and provide effective, efficient services.*

- Transparent and interactive communication
- Public engagement that involves the community broadly
- Stronger partnership between government entities

## COUNCIL OPTIONS

The council may identify one criterion or several criteria to guide new ward boundary scenarios, or may ask for additional information or time for deliberations.

## CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends the following criteria or guidelines:

- A population range difference of three percent, plus or minus, among wards
- Work with 2010 U.S. Census data and do *not* assume potential growth
- Develop scenarios without consideration of protecting incumbent elected officials
- Develop scenarios that consider geographic and neighborhood features, and strive for relative compactness and contiguity, without rigid adherence to these characteristics
- Provide demographic information with scenarios to support consideration of potential impacts

## SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to accept the City Manager's recommended criteria for developing ward scenario options.

## ATTACHMENTS

- A. Current Populations Distributions and Demographics
- B. Summary – Feedback on Ward Redistricting Criteria

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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### City of Eugene Council Ward Populations

Ward	Total Population	Target Population	Percent difference from equal population by ward
1	17,597	19,528	-9.9%
2	17,705	19,528	-9.3%
3	21,003	19,528	7.6%
4	19,215	19,528	-1.6%
5	20,047	19,528	2.7%
6	21,603	19,528	10.6%
7	19,449	19,528	-0.4%
8	19,603	19,528	0.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>156,222</b>	<b>156,222</b>	


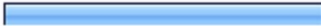

### City of Eugene Council Ward Demographics

(Percentages are based on each ward's population)

	Eugene Council Wards								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<b>Population</b>	17,597	17,705	21,003	19,215	20,047	21,603	19,449	19,603	<b>156,222</b>
<b>Hispanic or Latino</b>	1,393 (7.9%)	841 (4.8%)	1,027 (4.9%)	1,072 (5.6%)	1,166 (5.8%)	2,176 (10.1%)	2,265 (11.6%)	2,267 (11.6%)	<b>12,207</b>
<b>Not Hispanic or Latino</b>	16,204 (92.1%)	16,864 (95.2%)	19,976 (95.1%)	18,143 (94.4%)	18,881 (94.2%)	19,427 (89.9%)	17,184 (88.4%)	17,336 (88.4%)	<b>144,015</b>
<b>White Alone</b>	14,584 (82.9%)	15,304 (86.4%)	16,722 (79.6%)	15,839 (82.4%)	17,068 (85.1%)	17,678 (81.8%)	15,419 (79.3%)	15,436 (78.7%)	<b>128,050</b>
<b>Black or African American alone</b>	255 (1.4%)	164 (0.9%)	267 (1.3%)	333 (1.7%)	226 (1.1%)	210 (1.0%)	249 (1.3%)	252 (1.3%)	<b>1,956</b>
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native alone</b>	144 (0.8%)	112 (0.6%)	89 (0.4%)	131 (0.7%)	130 (0.6%)	235 (1.1%)	243 (1.2%)	184 (0.9%)	<b>1,268</b>
<b>Asian alone</b>	487 (2.8%)	561 (3.2%)	1,931 (9.2%)	1,026 (5.3%)	787 (3.9%)	470 (2.2%)	367 (1.9%)	581 (3.0%)	<b>6,210</b>
<b>Native Hawaiian and other pacific islander alone</b>	23 (0.1%)	22 (0.1%)	48 (0.2%)	49 (0.3%)	35 (0.2%)	66 (0.3%)	55 (0.3%)	43 (0.2%)	<b>341</b>
<b>Other race alone</b>	59 (0.3%)	48 (0.3%)	34 (0.2%)	39 (0.2%)	35 (0.2%)	26 (0.1%)	45 (0.2%)	22 (0.1%)	<b>308</b>
<b>Two or more races</b>	652 (3.7%)	653 (3.7%)	885 (4.2%)	726 (3.8%)	600 (3.0%)	742 (3.4%)	806 (4.1%)	818 (4.2%)	<b>5,882</b>
<b>Total Population Age 18 and over</b>	14,840 (84.3%)	14,341 (81.0%)	19,593 (93.3%)	15,661 (81.5%)	15,951 (79.6%)	16,404 (75.9%)	15,911 (81.8%)	15,033 (76.7%)	<b>127,734</b>

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau Redistricting PL 94-171, Regional GIS



**1. Please select the standard you think should apply (check only one):**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Each ward should have about the same number of people within a range of +/- 5 percent.		29.5%	18
Each ward should have about the same number of people within a range of +/- 3 percent.		59.0%	36
Each ward should have about the same number of people within a range of +/- (enter your preferred percent)		11.5%	7
		answered question	61
		skipped question	0



**Open-ended responses:**

1. 1
2. Zero Deviation - One person, One Vote
3. We need someone who will represent us. We live in N. Eugene, we were not able to vote in the 4J school elections, however, we would have been taxed had the increases taken place. School kids in our area to to Junction City. Our city councilor represents the Barger area. This is not our area. We should have never been annexed, we have little or no representation.
4. 1
5. 0.10%
6. 1
7. 1 percent


**2. Please select the standard you think should apply (check only one):**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Faster-growing wards should be drawn smaller to account for expected increases in the number of people living in them, and slower-growing wards should be drawn larger to ensure they have about the same number of people over time.		30.0%	18
The size of the wards should not be changed to account for expected changes in the number of people living in them. This could create inequities now without guaranteeing equity will be attained in the future.		70.0%	42
		answered question	60
		skipped question	1



**3. Please select the standard you think should apply (check only one):**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Ward boundaries should change as little as possible.		45.8%	27
The council should be willing to "start from scratch" in redrawing ward boundaries.		54.2%	32
	answered question		59
	skipped question		2

**4. The council should redraw ward boundaries without considering where current elected officials live.**







		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		83.6%	51
No		16.4%	10
	answered question		61
	skipped question		0

**5. Please check the standard you think should apply (check as many as apply):**


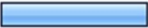
		Response Percent	Response Count
New boundaries should be drawn to keep incumbent councilors in their separate wards.		100.0%	10
New boundaries should be drawn to keep incumbent EWEB commissioners in their separate districts, with the at-large position not a factor.		60.0%	6
	answered question		10
	skipped question		51



**6. Please select the criteria you think should apply (check as many as apply):**

		Response Percent	Response Count
As much as possible, recognized neighborhood associations should not be further divided into different wards.		37.9%	22
Ward boundaries should be drawn to include a diversity of interests and backgrounds within each ward, to the extent it is practical.		29.3%	17
Ward boundaries should be drawn to keep groups with potentially similar interests together (example: college students on both sides of the river).		20.7%	12
Wards should be as compact as possible.		39.7%	23
Neighborhood features like shopping centers, parks, recreation centers, school attendance areas and others should be used to guide ward boundaries.		48.3%	28
Geography and natural features like the river, railroad tracks, and major roads or bridges should be used to guide ward boundaries.		82.8%	48
		answered question	58
		skipped question	3

**7. Please select the criteria you think should apply (check only one):**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Geography and natural features may make more sense as dividing lines between wards.		73.7%	42
Geography and natural features may make more sense as transitions, with wards crossing them.		26.3%	15
		answered question	57
		skipped question	4

## 8. Other ideas, suggestions or criteria to keep in mind when preparing draft scenarios for new ward boundaries?

1. Do what's right for the citizens not for the politicians or special interests!
2. I recall Eugene in the 50's; Seneca-Jones wet deck west of Garfield: Amazon Park the garbage dump; Central Oregon - Pacific Rail shunting logs - loads across Blair-River Road traffic connection north; Diamond Agripak serving the valley north
3. Please don't gerrymander this city up to suit your desires. There is a fair way to create equal population centers ...your job is to find it. Do not cater to special interest corporations. The people of this city are your first priority. Their descendants are your second.
4. While major roads and natural features sometimes make natural dividers, care should be taken. I-5 is a divider, but River Road is a natural "spine" with a cohesive community spanning each side of the road.
5. Use census tract and block boundaries as much as possible to enable easier monitoring and analysis of changes in demographics of each ward over time.
6. officials should represent their entire district not just some
7. Santa Clara is now split into two wards by River Road. However, River RD is the common feature connecting Santa Clara to the rest of the city. The Willamette river, Belt Line and NW Expressway are the common geographic and man-made barriers that separate Santa Clara's interests from the rest of the city. If these natural and man-made boundaries are too small for a single ward, including the River Road neighborhood or extending Santa Clara to Hwy 99 makes more sense than splitting the Santa Clara neighborhood into two as it is now. I have more in common with the parent across River Road who's child attends the same school as mine than I do with residents of Coburg RD and Norkenzie, which have more in common with the Cal Young and Good Pasture neighborhoods than mine.
8. If our area is in Eugene, why is our high school in Junction City? We would be better served if we were in the Santa Clara District. However, we seem to be represented by the Bethel District. This area is not our area. Therefore, we have little or no representation. In the last election, we were not given pertinent information. All we received was the tax measure for the Eugene Schools.
9. I do not see a GIS solution. We are paying for a GIS team, lets put them to work. We need the 8 geographical centers (loci). We need the optimal distribution of houses to wards that minimizes the total distance from each loci as proposal 1. We need the optimal distribution of houses to wards that minimizes the total travel distance between each loci and the houses in it as proposal 2.
10. Only seven changes are needed: .4% from Ward 8 to Ward 7 7.6% from Ward 3 to Ward 2 1.7% from Ward 1 to Ward 2 10.6% from Ward 6 to Ward 7 1.6% from Ward 5 to Ward 4 1.1% from Ward 5 to Ward 7 11.7% from Ward 7 to Ward1 Resulting in no deviation from the ideal district size - except for difference due to rounding. There is simply no justification for deviating from the ideal by more than .1 of 1% for any new Ward.
11. River Road/Santa Clara portions of Ward 7 with wards 5 and 6 than they do with the area east of Chambers and south of the river.
12. Eugene's wards seem to be excessively homogenous, politically and culturally. Maybe it's time to consider adopting the system used by the city of Springfield and the Eugene School District, where councilors are elected by all voters, rather than by voters who reside in their respective wards. Would such a change require voter approval of a charter amendment?
13. Consider re-drawing the neighborhood associations at the same time. They are of massively different sizes as well and do not always reflect current population "neighborhoods".

14. Keep it simple, don't make it contumacious, and don't make there have to be a new election due to potential changes in councilors or commissioners. Make it really, really, streamlined; Eugene can handle anything more dramatic.
15. I am open to and favor a city-wide election for either every council seat; or, a 4 seat city wide election and 4 wards elected for a term of six years each.
16. Major roads, school districts, and potentially neighborhood associations would offer some guidance. Using perceived interests, socio-demographic info, etc. seems like a dangerous path to take.
17. I thought there was software that would draw boundaries to ensure that wards are of equal size. Seems like a good starting place. Would not like to see gerrymandering.
18. Keeping communities of interest together, where possible, but without creating wildly zig-zagging boundary lines
19. Keeping wards in tact because of present elected officials should not be a consideration.
20. Wards need to have as even of a mix as possible of socio-economic populations. Diversity is very important. Specifically, one of the slowest growing areas in town (Ward 2) which also tends to coincide with the Southeast Neighbors has not had a new Councilor or Neighborhood Association President in my adult life (I am not very young). This is a strong sign of a mono-culture that needs to be more diverse.

**9. What additional information about ward redistricting would be helpful to provide on the City's website or in other ways?**

1. 4J construction/investment location
2. What ways the ward process can be skewed to allow for special interest groups to prosper. By dividing up or by grouping certain areas together, you can either allow or disallow all voices to be heard. Do your job.
3. It would be interesting to hear why last time this process was done, the least desirable scenario was chosen. How will the City prevent political/financial interests from unduly influencing the process this time as well?
4. Existing demographic information within each ward (age, race, gender, income, etc.), other existing boundaries (census, school district, etc.) overlaid to facilitate understanding of overlaps/gaps, identify schools/stores/other locations of interest/attractors.
5. Make certain that recently annexed areas and potential annexed areas are properly represented by being attached to adjacent areas that have the same interests. This is not the case in our area. We feel very much the "stepchild" in Eugene, however, we pay Eugene taxes.
6. considering any political reality is tantamount to gerrymandering. There is no politically based scheme that cannot be found to be detrimental to another group. We need a completely technocratic method that is transparent.
7. My preference would be for the current boundaries to stay the same as much as possible.
8. It would be nice if someone could explain how on Earth Ward 4 could have grown by less than the city-wide average over the last few years - with all the new development in the Chase Garden and Crescent areas. Likewise, how could Ward 3 have grown faster than the city-wide average when there has been next to no new housing starts in within the boundary. Did the census just do a much improved job of counting students south of the river will doing a lousy job of counting them north of the river? Or did one or both of these two wards start off with a large deviation from the ideal-sized district last time around?
9. Precinct by precinct populations to help with comments on which precincts should be part of which wards.
10. How people voted in the last election in the different wards.
11. pros and cons to proposals-notes or gist, not details
12. Show general age and income levels and how each ward will have a diverse mix of our population.
13. The City should be promoting involvement through the Neighborhood Services staff and the Neighborhood Leaders Council.

**Public Comment:**

Received: May 12, 2011  
 From: Paul Conte

**WARD 1 REDISTRICTING**

Ward 1 will need to be increased in area; however, it also needs realignment to reflect neighborhood association boundaries and the natural neighborhood community geography. The following are recommendations:

**OVERALL OBJECTIVES:**

1. Include the entire population of the Jefferson Westside Neighbors (JWN) and the Friendly Area Neighbors (FAN) within Ward 1.
2. In addition, include as much as possible of the Far West Neighborhood (FWN) in Ward 1.

**SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Align the EASTERN boundary of Ward 1 south of 18th Ave. with the Friendly Area Neighbors (FAN) boundary. This is just a minor adjustment for consistency that I don't believe will affect many residents.
2. Maintain the current EASTERN boundary along Willamette St. between W. 13th and 18th Aves.
3. Maintain the current Ward 1 boundary along W. 13th Ave from Willamette St. until the Ward 1 boundary turns north again.  
 (Note that some neighborhood association maps incorrectly show the JWN boundary along this segment of W. 13th Ave. as not including the tax lots on the south side of W. 13th Ave. The JWN Charter, however, defines the boundary as running down W. 13th Ave. and including these tax lots.)
4. At a minimum, align the Ward 1 EASTERN boundary north of W. 13th Ave. with the eastern boundary of the JWN (along Lawrence St.) See also #6, below.
5. Increase Ward 1 by adjusting the entire WESTERN boundary to incorporate all of the Far West Neighborhood.
6. If additional area is necessary for Ward 1, align the EASTERN boundary from W. 13th Ave. to W. 7th Ave. along Lincoln St., which is the natural boundary between "downtown" and "Westside."  
 If only a portion of this additional area needs to be included in Ward 1, create a "bump out" from Lawrence St. to Lincoln St. incorporating the blocks between W. 8th and W. 11th Aves. (more or less) because these blocks are definitely part of the historical "Westside" neighborhood and have a close affinity with JWN areas to the west.
7. a) If additional area is necessary for Ward 1, incorporate western areas of downtown by extending the Ward 1 EASTERN boundary northward along Willamette St. to the extent necessary.  
 b) If a reduction in Ward 1 area (from actions 1 through 5) is necessary, adjust the WESTERN boundary to exclude the southernmost areas that are west of Chambers St.
8. For adjustments not covered by these recommendations, please consult with the JWN and FAN neighborhood boards, as well as boards of other neighborhoods that may be affected.

**Public Comment:**

Received: May 18, 2011  
From: League of Women Voters

In response to the survey questions presented to the board by City Staff, the League of Women Voters indicated support for the following criteria:

- Each ward should have about the same number of people within a range of +/- 3 percent.
- The size of the wards should not be changed to account for expected changes in the number of people living in them. This could create inequities now without guaranteeing equity will be attained in the future.
- Ward boundaries should change as little as possible.
- The council should redraw ward boundaries without considering where current elected officials live.
- Ward boundaries should be drawn to keep groups with potentially similar interests together
- Wards should be as compact as possible.
- Geography and natural features like the river, railroad tracks, and major roads or bridges should be used to guide ward boundaries.
- Geography and natural features may make more sense as dividing lines between wards.

Their highest priorities among these criteria included:

- Each ward should have about the same number of people within a range of +/- 3 percent.
- The size of the wards should not be changed to account for expected changes in the number of people living in them. This could create inequities now without guaranteeing equity will be attained in the future.
- The council should redraw ward boundaries without considering where current elected officials live.
- Wards should be as compact as possible.

Lower priority was given to:

- Ward boundaries should change as little as possible.
- Ward boundaries should be drawn to keep groups with potentially similar interests together Geography and natural features like the river, railroad tracks, and major roads or bridges should be used to guide ward boundaries.

**Public Comment:**

Received: June 6, 2011

From: Jim Hale

Dear Mayor and Council –

I'm unable to attend Thursday' open house on redistricting, but....

As Ed Russo reports, it may be “impractical” for each new ward to have exactly 19,548 residents. But it is entirely practical, in this age of computer driven maps and census results, for the population each ward to be within, say, one tenth of one percent of the ideal (or plus or minus 20).

If the city staff say that is impractical, that is just political rubbish or ordinary inertia.

Important questions to ask about this process might be:

**How in the heck did it come to be that Ward 4 grew at LESS THAN the city-wide average rate when there has been so much development in the Chase Gardens and Crescent area?**

Did Ward 4 start out short of people last time?

**How did Ward 3 grow FASTER than the city-wide average rate – when it has had next to zero new building starts?**

Did it start out long last time?

Or did the census just do a much improved job of counting students south of the river this time?

If so, why didn't they do the same great job north of river?

The city doesn't need a lot of high-minded discussion about principles to be used overall in this process.

**The Council merely needs to direct staff to make seven changes:**

Move the .4% excess in Ward 8 to Ward 7.

Move the 7.6% excess in Ward 3 to Ward 2.

Move a number (1.7%) from Ward 1 to Ward 2 to get Ward 2 up to the ideal.

Move the 10.6% excess from Ward 6 to Ward 7.

Move 1.6% of the excess from Ward 5 to cure the shortage in Ward 4.

Move 1.1% of the excess from Ward 5 to Ward 7.

(The above changes would leave Ward 7 over by 11.7 per cent and Ward 1 short by 11.6%).

Move the resultant excess in Ward 7 to Ward 1.

**The above changes place seven wards at the ideal, leaving Ward 1 over by +.1% (a difference due only to rounding in the starting percentages).**

**None of these changes would necessarily jeopardize the residency of any councilor or commissioner.**

It is neither rocket science nor difficult politics. Nor should it take up a lot of staff time.

**Public Comment:**

Received: June 17, 2011

From: Laura Potter, Director of Business Advocacy, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

Mayor and Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding redistricting criteria. The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce considers redistricting in Eugene to be an important issue because it both affects and reflects the constituency's voice by ensuring that representation is equal among all our population. We were involved in this process ten years ago and have reviewed that criteria as well as the proposed criteria from the League of Women Voters. You'll find our criteria below is similar.

The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce proposes the following criteria be considered when establishing boundaries for wards:

- Equality of population—wards drawn to have less than 3% variance in total population. Where such a variance is necessary, wards with the greater potential for population increase should include a lesser population than those with less potential growth.
- Contiguity—wards composed of adjoining land with as near a 1:1 ratio between length and width as possible
- Geography, natural and existing boundaries—attention given to obvious natural features, such as rivers or large open spaces
- Communities of interest and natural groupings—wards drawn to represent groups sharing similar interests.
- Transportation links or barriers—consideration given to the way transportation links or barriers affect the common interests or the sense of community of residents

We appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing our testimony.