

**From:** paul vellozo <vellozo.p@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2021 5:19 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Elections by ward

Dear Aldermen and Mayor Copenhaver:

I support the ordinance to make city council elections by ward rather than at-large. This makes sense for a number of reasons. It is more fair and less costly for the candidates to run their races. I urge you to support this important ordinance.

Thanks

Paul Vellozo  
Jonesboro

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-----Original Message-----

From: Austin Zamora <adzamor@icloud.com>  
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 8:14 AM  
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: Ward Elections

Mr. Mayor and members of the council-

It is my understanding that ward elections are scheduled for vote during the January 19 city council meeting. Ward elections are important because they insure your vote counts and that democracy prevails at the local level. The at-large system enables someone who was rejected by the people of your ward to go on to represent you, essentially being appointed your representative by people that don't live in your neighborhoods. The at-large system was used in the past to prevent African Americans from gaining representation and it is high time we shelved this left over of that old system, especially as Jonesboro's growth has made at large systems more and more expensive. City council elections should be about ordinary people making sure the concerns of their neighbors are heard at City Hall, not how deep a candidates pockets are or how deep their friends' pockets are. Please consider supporting ward level elections.

Austin Zamora  
4004 Cornerstone Drive  
Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405  
870-558-8381

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-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Vardell <KVARDELL@astate.edu>

Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:55 AM  
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: Please vote for Ward Elections on Jan 19, 2021

Good morning,

I am asking that you please vote for Ward Elections in the upcoming election on Jan 19. This allows more fair representation of our city.

Thank you very much,  
Karen Vardell

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**From:** Rebekah Evans <rebekah.laurel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward Elections ordinance

Dear Council Members,  
I strongly **support the proposal to** make half the seats on city council elected by ward rather than elected at-large.

More people will be able to participate in city government if some of our seats are elected only by their ward. Our city is growing rapidly, and it should not be cost-prohibitive to run for City Council. A ward election system will make sure that everyone has access to the democratic process.

Ward elections will protect our votes by ensuring that the person elected is actually the choice of the people of the ward he or she represents.

At-large city council elections are remnants of the segregation era, and it's time for Jonesboro to move forward with policies that benefit all the people of Jonesboro.

Thank you all for your service to our community.  
Sincerely,  
Rebekah Evans  
Charleston Drive  
Jonesboro

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-----Original Message-----  
From: Lisa Tedder <lltedder@suddenlink.net>

Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 4:40 PM  
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: Proposed ordinance for city council to be elected by ward

Dear Aldermen and Mayor Copenhaver;

I am writing to ask that you support the ordinance to elect city council members by ward. I feel it makes it too costly for some to run for office if they have to run a city wide campaign. Candidates should live in the area they represent as well to better understand the issues facing each area and to better know his or her constituents.

Thank you,  
Lisa Tedder  
Registered voter, Jonesboro

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**From:** Barry Tedder <btedder@suddenlink.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 16, 2021 7:01 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** City counsel proposal on elections

Dear Aldermen and Mayor Copenhaver;

I strongly support the proposal to make half the seats on city council elected by ward rather than elected at-large.

More people will be able to participate in city government if some of our seats are elected only by their ward. Our city is growing rapidly, and it should not be cost-prohibitive to run for City Council. A ward election system will make sure that everyone has access to the democratic process.

Ward elections will protect our votes by ensuring that the person elected is actually the choice of the people of the ward he or she represents.

At-large city council elections are remnants of the segregation era, and it's time for Jonesboro to move forward with policies that benefit all the people of Jonesboro. Thank you all for your service to our community.

Barry Tedder, M.D.

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**From:** S Williams <sewilliams2004@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:16 PM

**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward voting

I am a resident of south Jonesboro on Latourette Lane.

I'm writing to request that the city hold ward elections instead of at-large elections for city council.

The at-large system means someone can lose their local ward but still be elected to represent people of that ward because of voters who don't live there.

City council races should be about neighbors representing neighbors and doing what's best for each other. People's interests are better served by council members from the ward representing their ward.

Thank you for your time.

Sara Williams

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**From:** paul vellozo <vellozo.p@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 8:32 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward elections

Dear Aldermen: Please vote to change the city council election to voting by ward. Please don't postpone this important change for any reason. It is long overdue and beneficial for all the citizens.

Thanks  
Pail Vellozo  
Jonesboro

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**From:** Danyelle H <danyellehutton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward elections

It is my understanding that ward elections and whether or not to have them is coming up for a vote this week. I want to voice my support of ward elections. The way I see it ward elections are important because this is a person from their neighborhood who is more in touch with the people and needs of those who live in that area than say an at-large position who is less in touch, if at

all. City Council positions should be about making sure all the voices of each community are heard and represented.

Danyelle Hutton

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**From:** Rebekah Diehl <rebekah.diehl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 9:14 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward Elections

Dear Council Members,

I strongly support and ask you to support as well the proposal to make half the seats on city council elected by ward. Our current process of city council elections is the direct result of racism and a holdover from the segregation era. We can be better than that.

More people will be engaged in local politics if they are able to vote for their own ward representative. Those elected should be chosen by the people of the ward they represent.

Thank you for your time and service. Support this proposal so that all in our community may benefit.

Rebekah Diehl

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**From:** Renay! <bottle.of.shine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 11:07 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Support for Ordinance 20-027

Hello, City Council!

I'm forwarding the same email I sent last summer about this ordinance to renew my support for this change. Expanding democracy, which this ordinance will help achieve, is always a good decision. Please support this ordinance.

Renay Williams  
Bunker Hill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Renay!** <[bottle.of.shine@gmail.com](mailto:bottle.of.shine@gmail.com)>  
Date: Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 3:34 PM

Subject: Support for Ordinance 20-027  
To: <[aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:aldermen@jonesboro.org)>

Hello, City Council!

I'm writing to express support for the ordinance to switch position one council seats from at-large elections to ward elections and sending the issue to the voters. At-large voting systems can dilute the votes of minority and marginalized residents, and a hybrid system will redress some of those issues, as well as make running for local office more accessible for those without generational wealth/social capital to run campaigns in their communities. This is a good move to make community politics more welcoming and relevant for all Jonesboro residents.

Thanks,  
Renay Williams  
Bunker Hill

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**From:** Alison Burton <[alisonb@bartelslawfirm.com](mailto:alisonb@bartelslawfirm.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>; Harold Copenhaver <[HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org](mailto:HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org)>; City Clerk <[CityClerk@jonesboro.org](mailto:CityClerk@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** Ward Voting

Good afternoon gentlemen and women,

I would like to voice my support for Mr. Bryant's proposal that we switch to ward style voting and that this measure be taken up at your next meeting. I believe that his proposal would bring better representation for the people of Jonesboro. To the best of my knowledge this was proposed sometime back in summer of 2020 and has not received a vote yet. Instead of just putting it off another six months or so, take up the issue, take a stand and record your votes for the people that you represent. I have lived in Jonesboro for over 20 years and I am a voting constituent. Thank you very much for you time in reading this and have a great day.

Alison Burton

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**From:** EMMA Agnew <[williamsemma62@gmail.com](mailto:williamsemma62@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 2:06 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <[Aldermen@jonesboro.org](mailto:Aldermen@jonesboro.org)>  
**Subject:** By-Ward Voting

Gentleman and Lady:

As always, thank you for your service and commitment to the citizens of Jonesboro; and thank you for placing By-Ward voting on the agenda.

I can not impress upon you how difficult it is for those of us with limited funds to run a successful political campaign. It is equally important that ALL citizens have equal representation and the ability to easily contact their representatives.

So as we begin a new year, I encourage you to view by-ward voting with an open heart and open mind.

VOTE YES for by-ward voting.

Emma Agnew

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**From:** Zachariah Carlson <zachariah.carlson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 5:53 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Please support ORD-20:027

Hello,

I'd like to just add my voice in support of ORD-20:027. Communities thrive when civic engagement is high, and permitting at least one seat for each ward to be selected exclusively by the people of that ward will encourage a sense of buy-in that may not currently exist. Now that we're past the 2020 election cycle, I hope the council gives this serious consideration so that if passed, it can be well communicated and prepared for by the next election.

Thanks,

Zachariah Carlson  
Bunker Hill Road

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**From:** Aaron Carroll <aaronw.carroll@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 18, 2021 7:30 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** ORD20027: Vote Yes

As someone that works within the city, shops in it, and was born and raised in and around it, I wholeheartedly support this ordinance. I ask that you vote YES in support of ORD20027.

Having a representative style government only works when the officials are selected by those they represent, not external parties.

Thanks,

**Aaron W. Carroll**, MPH, CPhT  
Hwy 349, Jonesboro, AR 72404

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-----Original Message-----

From: Kathryn Burns <kburns@astate.edu>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:47 AM  
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: city council election by ward

Dear Council Members,

I would like to voice my support for the proposal to make half the seats on city council elected by ward. For the longest time this is how I thought these elections were held, as it makes sense to me. I feel like people in a ward should be represented by someone of their choosing. In some of the wards, people who have more money for campaigning will get elected rather than someone without the means. Or many people may not even try to run as they know they don't have the funds to compete with someone with a bigger budget. So, I kindly ask that you consider supporting this proposal.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Burns  
Jonesboro, AR

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-----Original Message-----

From: Loren Ivener <loreniv@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:44 AM  
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: Hybrid system

Please support the hybrid system of electing the City Council. Thank you.

Loren Ivener  
313 Watertree Drive  
Jonesboro 72401

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**From:** Robin S Kuykendall <robin@kuykendalladvocates.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:09 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** Muhammad Asad Khan <asad337@gmail.com>; EMMA Agnew <williamsemma62@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Council representation at issue

To Our Faithful and Respected Representatives, One and All,

I understand that the Rules Committee today takes up a proposed change in council election structure, from all seats elected at large, to one seat designated per ward and all the rest at large. (Please forgive the simplified explanation, but it clears my brain door.)

This change is in the right direction, should the Council want to build more and better transparency and accountability to voters into its deliberations and actions. And, why shouldn't it?? I hope that's the direction the Council decides to go. I believe that many of our past public disputes could have been avoided with these more direct lines to the affected constituents. Dispute will not be stifled by unfairness and secrecy. That is a time-tested recipe for explosive dispute resolution practices, where everyone loses.

Further, I've heard no good reason to make a by-ward voting decision depend on 2020 census results. The decision to restructure the Council could and should be made independently of voting lines, whether current or to be drawn in the future. It is possible to use existing lines according to current population and then adjust as necessary, later, with 2020 demographics.

If there is an inclination to delay action on this proposal until after 2020 census results are received, then I would raise the question of deliberate intent to gerrymander one or two districts into a perpetual, corruptible minority. Our current system already cements within it the unsolved problem of underrepresented minorities. It would be foolhardy, indeed, to exacerbate that problem with gerrymandered districts, drawn to give our black population "their" one or two seats out of 12 or 14.

We need to be mindful that our surrounding Craighead County stands with open arms to take in disaffected people of all races, especially white people, leaving Jonesboro with the prospect of more abandoned buildings, fewer productive taxpayers, alienation of our major brain trust (A-State), and even more disgruntled residents left to survive on criminal enterprise.

For a nearby case in point, please examine the lengthy demise of growth and safety in Blytheville, Arkansas. That decline was not "because black people took over", but because industry and huge military resources abandoned and the community was not prepared to educate, accept, and incorporate the actual population contained in the limits. With all the benefits of modern infrastructure (major river port, interstate highway artery, rail lines, world class airport), the city failed to develop its human potential, making all the best infrastructure in the world a

relative wasteland. As of this writing, the corruption in city government is so pervasive that one councilman reported on the last meeting:

"January Council Committee Notes:

- New vehicle purchases for Code Enforcement and Animal Control in spite of concerns of the effectiveness of either department.

- CARES Act usage:

1. \$1,000 to every full-time city employee, \$500 to part-timers

2. Allocated \$80,000 for the mayor to buy a building that we don't need

- Failure of our police department to shut down businesses operating without licenses or tax IDs (costing city and state revenue)

- Discussion on the police department's 'take-home vehicle' policy and a refusal by the chief to provide any substantial evidence as to how it could possibly save money for city vehicles to be used both for work and personally

As always, please feel free to call, text, or email me with questions or concerns.

(870) 278-4034

[mattperrinforblytheville@gmail.com](mailto:mattperrinforblytheville@gmail.com)"

That could be our future, if we continue to tamp down fair representation and favor extractive economic practices that leave the city with ever-declining financial and labor resources. I urge you to enact the political structures needed to help this community to continue to come together, to continue to invest in strong human assets lying unused within our own yard. If the majority will share instead of hoard, I believe that God has promised to abundantly bless us all.

Sincerely,

Robin S. Kuykendall, JD

*Advocate & Educate, LLC*

(870) 918-3431

565 Virginia Avenue

New Madrid, Mo 63869

MAIL: 1408 Market Place Drive, No. 8

Jonesboro, AR 72401

<https://kuykendalladvocates.com>

*Tenn. BPR No. 019463; MoBar #69817; not licensed in Arkansas*

*Hours by appointment only, night or day*

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**From:** Ashleigh Givens <ashleigh.givens@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:30 PM

**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>

**Subject:** city council representation

Dear Council Members:

I strongly support the proposal to have half of our council be elected by ward. I am so pleased to see you are considering this shift.

Election by ward will allow more participation by citizens with strong ties to their own neighborhoods, which will make the council a true representation of Jonesboro's diverse community. Candidates will have the freedom to campaign well in their own wards, with less expense and much more face-to-face engagement, both during election and once in office.

This system would be very similar to school board zones, which has proven to be an effective way to bring a variety of voices to the table for decision-making and oversight.

Jonesboro citizens in every corner of the city care deeply about this community, and moving to this new election format would allow them more voice. It will take engaging all of us to move Jonesboro into a bright future.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Ashleigh Givens

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**From:** Shunqetta Cunningham <shunqettacunningham@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:35 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Move Forward with the Ward Vote

Good evening City leaders,

It is my highest hope that the city council pass to make council elections by ward with Position 1. This hybrid voting measure will provide more direct representation for our citizens and protect the integrity of the entire community. Please move forward with the vote tonight. Thank you.

Living To Impact,  
Shunqetta Cunningham  
PO Box 16855  
Jonesboro, AR 72403

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**From:** paul vellozo <vellozo.p@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:24 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward elections.

Aldermen: I watched the council meeting and was puzzled and disappointed. This important issue was postponed 6 months. I do not understand why in the intervening 6 months the questions were not resolved so you all could go ahead and vote on the issue. It seems like this could have been prepared better.

I would urge the council to resolve the outstanding questions so that we can put this important issue to the voters.

Disappointed in you all.

Paul Vellozo

Jonesboro

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**From:** Robin S Kuykendall <robin@kuykendalladvocates.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:23 PM

**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

**Subject:** Council elections & wards

Dear City Council, One and All,

I respect Mr. Bryant's attempt at a save of the modest, already-compromised by-ward election proposal, but we have no need for even more confusion with swaps or deferred implementation if we can avoid it. The city government is somewhat famous for forgetting what was so calmly agreed in the recent or distant past, which should give us pause from adding further obscurity to the issues.

I am disappointed to learn that some of you (remember, all of you represent every resident, a dubious assignment, at best) do not seem particularly fazed by the foreseeable possibilities of corruption that gerrymandering and constituent rigging bring with them. Perhaps it is time to begin a current corruption inventory of all sitting Council members, before the problem grows beyond control. Which Council members fatten on government funded projects, especially federally funded programs, while claiming to constituents that "government is the problem" and, "your taxes are too high"? I hope these Council members are not the ones who obstruct by-ward voting, but I have those fears. We are all beginning to wonder.

I fervently request that the proposal make expeditious headway through your chamber. Citizens deserve governmental transparency and accountability. Jonesboro's mercantile and industrial growth demand a more forward-looking, inclusive form of government, as well.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

Robin S. Kuykendall

(870) 918-3431

1408 Market Place Drive, No. 8

Jonesboro, AR 72401

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January 25, 2021

Gentleman and Lady:

I was deeply disappointed in the way which the By-Ward Voting issue was handled at the January 19th meeting. The issue was poorly orchestrated and left me feeling as if the council was not sure how to move this issue forward.

I have been a proponent of By-Ward voting for years and I am pleased to see the Council taking up this matter of equal representation for all Jonesboro citizens. However, this issue has been passed by the Nominating and Rules Committee once and I see no need to send it back through the committee to change the By-Ward Position from Position 1 to Position 2.

I hope you will move forward with this Ordinance 'as is' with the First Reading on February 2.

Sincerely,  
Emma Agnew

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**From:** Danyelle H <danyellehutton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 7:11 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Support ward elections

It is my understanding that ward elections and whether or not to have them is coming before the Rules and Nominations Committee this week. I want to, once again, voice my support of ward elections. The way I see it ward elections are important because this is a person from their neighborhood who is more in touch with the people and needs of those who live in that area than say an at-large position who is less in touch, if at all. City Council positions should be about making sure all the voices of each community are heard and represented.

Danyelle Hutton

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**From:** Timothy Oliver <toliver.11471@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 1, 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Larry Bryant <LJ@ljbryant.com>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** ORD-20:027

Members of the Nominating and Rules Committee and the Jonesboro City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer feedback on ORD-20:027. I strongly support this ordinance. After reviewing my fellow citizens' available emails and comments, I don't believe I have anything new to contribute. I would like to state that it seems very logical, based on other representative government models, that Jonesboro citizens within each ward should have the opportunity to vote exclusively for candidates who will represent their specific ward.

Thank you for considering this input and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Oliver  
Ward 3

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**From:** paul vellozo <vellozo.p@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 5, 2021 9:57 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Voting by ward

Dear Aldermen: Please change the city council elections from at large to by ward for all possible elections as soon as possible. Please do it by council rule making rather than an expensive special election.

This is a change that will promote fairness. It is overdue. I trust you not delay this important change.

Thanks  
Paul Vellozo  
Jonesboro

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-----Original Message-----

From: Patti Lack <pglack@suddenlink.net>  
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 9:27 AM  
To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: Ward decision voting ORD 20:027

To The Aldermen in Jonesboro,

I know that you will be addressing and whether to pass ORD-20:027 on Monday.

First, I'd like to suggest that you get in touch with the Director of Communications, Bill Campbell to make a post on the City's Facebook page announcing that this meeting is on Monday at 5:00pm and that the City leaders would appreciate as much input as possible to make the best decision for the citizens you represent.

Mr. Campbell can suggest to the citizens to email the City Council leaders with their thoughts on this subject. Make sure that individual emails are listed or use "aldermen" address and also to CC:the City Clerk to make it an official notification.

-I would like to see that we keep it the way it is right now, with both Council members being voted on by all the Citizens

- OR, Have both of the Council members be voted on by the Citizens that live in their Wards.

Every one of you cast a vote on issues that effect the entire City of Jonesboro.

-My feeling is that: I think that there will be a division between the 2 Council members of each ward if we don't have it LEAVE AS IS or both elected by WARDS.

Reason being:

1. One being that probably it's going to cost more to run Ward only vs. City wide.

Based upon the past 2 elections, it shows that it can cost from \$7000.00 and to as much as almost \$30,000.00 to run for a position on the Jonesboro City Council.

\*If a citizen is considering to run for City Council for the first time, it would always be the one elected by the Ward citizens, knowing that it probably wouldn't cost as much. And I tough being a first time candidate, you all know that.

So the Ward elected position seat would probably have most of the interested opponents challenge the majority of the time.

2. It's really not fair to the other position that they have a bigger, more expensive task to get elected than the other position.

3. In looking at the individuals and the groups that have donated to all of you in the past elections, we don't want to admit but we all know that donated "money" may influence a way that we look at things and decide. And I think that breaking the decision to split how the 2 positions are elected in each ward would open the door more to this.

IF that one the Council member that is elected by the citizens of their Ward is going to be "alittle' more focused on their needs vs the other Council member elected by all Citizens of Jonesboro is looking "alittle" more focused on the City- there's going to be WARD wars! Say that fast 5 times!

-I know that several of you have suggested and ran on having WARD meetings on a quarterly/twice a year basis. This is a fantastic idea and I hope you can get this started before the end of the first quarter(March) Citizens are ready to attend!

So either: Vote ORD-20:027 down and leave it as is OR Change this to BOTH Council members be voted on by Citizens of the WARD.

Have a good weekend!  
Patti

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**From:** Rebekah Evans <rebekah.laurel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 7, 2021 5:48 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward Elections: SUPPORT

Dear City Councilors,  
Please support the proposal for 2022 City Council elections to be elected by ward rather than at-large. Ward elections will benefit our city in many ways: added participation in city government, reducing the cost of running for city council, and leaving behind a remnant of the segregation era.

Thank you for your service.  
Rebekah Evans  
Jonesboro, AR

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**From:** Loren Ivener <loreniv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 7, 2021 8:59 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** City council elections

Please support the hybrid system of electing City Council members where 1/2 of the Council is elected by the voters in the Ward where the person resides.

Thank you.

Loren Ivener  
313 Watertree Drive  
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Loren

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**From:** Robin S Kuykendall <robin@kuykendalladvocates.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>; Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Cashing in on the choices we are allowed to make

Dear Mr. Mayor and Friends on the City Council, One and All,

Thank you for persisting in your work to address the strong debate you're receiving from your constituents on ward-based seat elections. I urge you to keep hands on and resist the temptation to throw the means of election into yet another special, delaying, expensive plebescite. You can do this!

As I watch our state legislature consider bill after bill to rid itself of federal involvement, especially in areas touching on voting, civil rights, and the like, I start to think, "What would this mean for modest-sized municipalities? Would it put us at a big disadvantage to the state, itself?" We need to look ahead. Our statewide voters are not thinking about the locally beneficial partnerships they enjoy with the national government, but we should not forget.

It is altogether foreseeable that those municipalities that grow more responsive to their various constituency segments will stand in stronger financial stead during the coming 5 years. Local taxpayers will be more willing if they see direct benefits from supporting Mayor and Council. Federal funding will likely flow more freely to municipalities that show themselves willing to avoid blind beliefs in nullification. (That's a term I learned when reading about American history, and we're seeing it in Little Rock, again. Here's

Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nullification\\_\(U.S. Constitution\)#:~:text=Nullification%2C%20in%20United%20States%20constitutional,to%20the%20state's%20own%20constituti on\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nullification_(U.S._Constitution)#:~:text=Nullification%2C%20in%20United%20States%20constitutional,to%20the%20state's%20own%20constituti on).) ) Nullification dazzles the resentful, but has never ended well, for *anyone*.

We may, indeed, need to grow our "base" of city voters, quickly, and it seems to me that by-ward elections would be a handy way to do it.

Sincerely yours,

Robin S. Kuykendall, JD  
*Advocate & Educate, LLC*  
(870) 918-3431

565 Virginia Avenue

New Madrid, Mo 63869

MAIL: 1408 Market Place Drive, No. 8  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

<https://kuykendalladvocates.com>

*Tenn. BPR No. 019463; MoBar #69817; not licensed in Arkansas*

*Hours by appointment only, night or day*

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-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Harris <susanharris47@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 10:50 AM

To: Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
Subject: Vote on alderman

Please vote to have at least one alderman from each ward elected by only the voters in their ward. This seems to be a good compromise.

Susan Harris  
2508 Hidden Hill Cir

Sent from Susan's iPhone

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**From:** Kaleb Webb <kaleb.webb72@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 11:50 AM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Please support ward elections

Council Members,

I am writing to you today in support of City Council elections by ward, rather than at-large.

It goes without saying that this would make our local democracy more direct. Council members already must reside in the ward in which they represent. However, it does not make sense that they are accountable to and chosen by the entire city. Having ward elections would enable the citizens of Jonesboro to elect public servants who represent them better, making our City the best it can be.

Again, please support ward elections.

Thank you,  
Kaleb Webb  
(501) 681-9986

"Nevertheless, we must persist."

**-Sen. Elizabeth Warren**

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**From:** Hard L <weino7@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 2:38 PM  
**To:** Council Comments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** alderman@jonesboro.org; aldermen@jonesboro.org  
**Subject:** Re Ward v Citywide v Hybrid

To Councilmen Street and Johnson, et al,

Moving mouse-turds to a vote demonstrates poor representative govment. Doing so creates unnecessary uncertainties, allows for possible exploitation, unequal representation and conflicting priorities for residents.

Please vote against "hybrid".

Howard L. "Hard L" Weinstock  
Wilkins Avenue, 72401  
Ward 4

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**From:** Shunqetta Cunningham <shunqettacunningham@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 4:36 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Cc:** City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward Vote

Hello to the Members of the Nominating and Rules Committee,

The consideration to change our current election system to a hybrid election system to begin for 2022, with one position at-large and one position being voted by ward citizens, presents a great opportunity to ensure direct representation, more accountability, and has the potential to yield better community results for our citizens.

I know amendments will be considered to this resolution tonight, but for the above reasons and more, I hope a part of this consideration is to forgo referring it to the general ballot and have the full Council vote only, and in favor, of this change.

Thank you.

Living to Impact,  
[www.shunqettacunningham.com](http://www.shunqettacunningham.com)

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**From:** Muhammad Asad Khan <asad337@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 4:40 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** WARD Elections

Dear City Council Members

The idea of Ward Elections is an excellent contribution to Democracy and a good effort towards becoming a more responsive and engaged to the community.

Please consider amending the ordinance to make it Ward elections for the next cycle.

Thank you.

M.Asad Khan, MD

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**From:** Megan Morris <meganlmorris33@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 4:53 PM  
**To:** Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward Representative

Jonesboro has 6 wards (or divided city areas) with 2 representatives to represent each ward. The City of Jonesboro has an opportunity to have more equitable elections that allows one of the 2 positions to be elected by the citizens of that ward. Currently all of our council members are elected at-large, meaning you can vote on any candidate running, even if they do not live in your neighborhood.

I wanted to encourage our council members to consider voting on this measure by the full council in support of one ward vote and one at-large seat.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Charles Harris <chasrharris@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 5:03 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Vote by ward

Please vote for the vote by ward proposal.  
Charles Harris  
2508 Hidden Hill Cr

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Angela Jefferson <ajefferson2487@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 6:10 PM  
**To:** Council Coments <CouncilComments@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** Ward Representation

I would like to be represented by direct representation of MY neighborhood by allowing one person to be elected by the citizens of the ward in which they serve.

Thank you.

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**From:** Craighead NAACP <craignaacp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** ORD-20-027

The NAACP anxiously awaits your positive vote to allow the citizens of Jonesboro to determine the issue of selecting at least one council position by ward only.

Thank you!

Emma Agnew, President  
Craighead County NAACP

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**From:** Lisa Melton <ldmelton47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2021 4:17 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** By Ward Voting

Dear Members of the Jonesboro City Council,

I urge your vote in favor of referring to voters the decision whether Position 1 council members should be elected only by voters who live within their specific geographic wards.. Electing council members by ward rather than citywide would make it more affordable for more potential candidates to run for the position, and, consequently, result in a council that is more representative of all of Jonesboro.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Melton  
605 W College Ave  
Jonesboro, AR 72401

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**From:** Linda Cobb <lindacobbrn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** Aldermen <Aldermen@jonesboro.org>  
**Subject:** ward voting

I urge your vote in favor of referring to voters the decision whether Position 1 council members should be elected only by voters who live within their specific geographic wards.. Electing council

members by ward rather than citywide would make it more affordable for more potential candidates to run for the position, and, consequently, result in a council that is more representative of all of Jonesboro.

Thank you for considering this request.

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