

Input for Asheville City Council District Criteria

Date Submitted	Comments
Apr 18 2018 9:03PM	Asheville council elections are fine. Stop messing with them. We don't need your conservative South Asheville district or any other. Hope you lose in court.
Apr 18 2018 9:10PM	Respectfully, as a tax payer, home owner, former business owner, and professional educator all here inside the city of Asheville, your committee and law are exceptionally anti-democratic. The people of Asheville do not want district elections. The southern part of the city hadn't put up any good candidates for a long time. When it did, he was the top vote getter in the election. All in all as an educator, I am left to teach that our state assembly is prejudiced against the city of Asheville. You took our airport. You tried to take our water. Now you are telling us how to vote. Shame on you.
Apr 18 2018 9:22PM	To the unfortunate staffer intern reading this: you work for goddamn crooks. The only reason this bill is a thing is to enact affirmative action for Republicans who've gone so far off the political spectrum they are closer to oligarchs in Russia. Please tell them to move to Russia, if they dislike actual democracy so much, and go fuck themselves. Thanks!
Apr 19 2018 2:07PM	Keep your hands off Asheville & try doing something positive for the people of this state.
Apr 19 2018 2:40PM	Mind your own business, you pack of interfering crooks and Art Pope lackeys. The residents of Asheville are entitled to a municipal government that is not dictated by unaccountable busybodies sitting on their fat rears in Raleigh while "representing" districts hundreds of miles away.

Apr 19 2018 3:33PM

Asheville refused to draw the maps...Asheville City leaders have no right to complain they refused to not comply with the law...This is why it was important that SB 285 became a law so we can get people elected to work for We the People not Choose the People.

Apr 19 2018 3:36PM

This legislative attempt to district the city is a shame. No one who lives in Asheville wants it. Its an attempt by outsiders to tell the citizens of Asheville what to do. Chuck Edwards, the rep. from Henderson county, which touches Asheville's county, is using this effort to pull resources to Henderson county from Asheville.

"To date, the City of Asheville has not exercised its option" If its an option, we opt not to make districts. Its not an option if the legislature forces Asheville to do it. If Asheville were forcing Hendersonville to adopt Asheville's rules, there'd be hell to pay. This is government over-reach.

Apr 19 2018 4:16PM

One district - Asheville City Council should be elected at-large. This provides the greatest representation of all Asheville residents.

Apr 19 2018 4:24PM

No districts. Asheville representation is fine in it's current form.

Apr 19 2018 4:58PM

My suggestion. Stay out of the City's business. This may be a Dillon Rule state but we can handle this ourselves without interference from the GOP controlled General Assembly. The citizens of Asheville will find a reasonable solution to ensure fair representation of all parts of the City's without your interference designed only to ensure more Republican representation on City Council. Love how the GOP screams for government to stay out of our business until they want to push a political agenda. See you in court.

Apr 19 2018 5:12PM

Asheville is too small to have districts. This is simply a misguided attempt at a Republican power grab. I see no benefit to having districts

Apr 19 2018 5:15PM

Asheville is too small to have districts. This is simply a misguided attempt at a Republican power grab. I see no benefit to having districts. Stick your S.L. 2017-83 where the sun don't shine and stay out of our Cesspool of Sin.

Apr 19 2018 6:21PM

The city residents voted last year that we do not want voter districts for city council elections. The legislature should respect the wishes of Asheville constituents and not impose districts.

Apr 19 2018 7:08PM

I am a South Asheville resident and I oppose districts! I want to elect at large city council members. And most of all I do NOT want Raleigh sticking their noses into our elections. This is really egregious. We want local government free of your interference. No districts!

Apr 19 2018 9:46PM

Wow...another power grab by a republican in a party with no moral standing evident from our current federal gvt and its consistent failure to attend to the national disasters that presently occur in the WH and Legislature.

My criteria is allowing votes to count. I think they call it democracy. And the people of Asheville have suggested you stay out of our city. Go ruin your own.

Apr 19 2018 10:26PM

I am from S. Asheville and strongly agree (as well as many of my fellow neighbors) for the need of districts to have more representation from S. Asheville. I think it is important to have representation that lives and is close to the environment and needs of the district they represent. Coming from Charlotte, it was nice to have a specific representative that was responsible for representing my specific area. It is important for that person to live (ie - shop, play, participate, etc.) every day in the area they are representing. Council members don't have time to be intimate with ALL of Asheville, and it's a failure to think that they can. Residents don't have time to be intimate with ALL council members and it's a failure to expect them to be able to. The recommendation I have is for S. Asheville to have its own district that is probably best followed by the Hendersonville Rd corridor.

Apr 20 2018 6:29AM

Districts should not be forced on the citizens of Asheville. The intent to do so is not based on the best interests of the citizens but on the attempt at partisan gain.

Apr 20 2018 7:14AM

Do not do this. It is illegal for the NCGA thi do this, and it will be taken to the courts, where you will waste taxpayers money, as it will be struck down. The public is watching you, and they will be voting...

Apr 20 2018 7:29AM

I am against City Council districts for Asheville. We voted against this last year and don't want it.

Apr 20 2018 7:58AM

I'm generally in favor of districts. The current process appears to favor central and north Asheville politicians. My recommendation is to carve out a West Asheville district drawn along the Haywood Road corridor. Properties southwest of Haywood road being in one district while those northeast should fall into another.

Apr 20 2018 7:59AM

The residents of Asheville voted against districts. Get out of their faces. WNC doesn't want your gerrymandering, legal or not.

Apr 20 2018 8:11AM

On November 7, 2017 city of Asheville voters overwhelming supported a referendum keeping Asheville as one district, electing councilors at large. Over 75% of voters supported keeping our system the way it currently is. Keep your state hands off our local governments. Asheville should NOT be districted.

Apr 20 2018 8:35AM

I am totally opposed to state representatives forcing districting on any and all cities who's residents have overwhelmingly rejected such heavy-handed and totally unnecessary oversight. Just go away an leave us/them alone. You all have caused enough damage. Spend your time figuring out how to pay our teachers what they deserve.

Apr 20 2018 8:42AM

The NC General Assembly should stop their intrusion into what is a local issue. The General Assembly surely has other issues that require their attention. Passing legislation requiring Asheville to amend its charter is a gross abuse of power by the General Assembly. If the General Assembly persists I would hope the City of Asheville would pursue litigation in order to protect our great city from this intrusion.

Apr 20 2018 8:57AM

The state has no business imposing its will on a municipality--especially when dominated by the party that supposedly opposes such governmental overreach.

Apr 20 2018 8:59AM

South Asheville has a representative under the current system. Why change? You are not fooling us--we know exactly why you want this.

Apr 20 2018 9:05AM

Leave Asheville alone and keep the state government out of city governing.
If you insist on manipulating Asheville you need an independent nonpartisan committee to draw the districts not legislators with political agendas.

Apr 20 2018 9:05AM

As you know, a referendum to provide for six single-member electoral districts governing the nomination and election of Asheville City Council did not pass, with 75 percent of voters saying no. I live in south Asheville and was one of those 75 percent who voted no. Senator Chuck Edwards stated that the referendum did not carry weight because most registered voters didn't participate and those who wanted the change were in minority. He went on to say that the council "wasted taxpayers' time and money on a sham of an election that they knew would attract such a low turnout." To suggest that was a sham of an election is insulting to our city and to the entire democratic process.

Vijay Kapoor, a resident of south Asheville, was elected to Asheville City Council in that "sham of an election". I do not want districts for Asheville City Council nor do I think the NC General Assembly should be requiring that we do so. Moreover, according to Senator Chuck Edwards and his predecessor Tom Apodaca, the main reason for redistricting is so that south Asheville residents are represented on Asheville City Council. As stated above, Vijay Kapoor is a south Asheville resident. Redistricting is not necessary and the debate on this issue is frankly a waste of the General Assembly's time, a waste of the city of Asheville's time, and a waste of taxpayers' money.

Please, no redistricting!!!!

Apr 20 2018 9:20AM

The NC General Assembly's proposal to draw districts for city council elections in Asheville goes against the will of the city government and the will of the people. Furthermore, the track record of the legislature's gerrymandered districts in North Carolina sets a bad example for any move by the state legislature to impose electoral districts. I respectfully request that the proposal for city council districts be withdrawn.

Apr 20 2018 9:41AM

If the NCGA was responsive to its constituents at all there would not be districts. How would a smaller footprint improve that? This is more and larger government for no foreseen benefit other than to micro manage local politics and allow for a GOP inroad where there is not an impetus to do so. Start representing the people of the city and not the interests of others that have no interest other than to gain more control of a gerrymandered state.

Apr 20 2018 9:49AM

I want Republicans to stop gerrymandering districts at the local and state level. Run better candidates if you can't win without cheating. Do not break Asheville City Council races into districts. At large winners only.

Apr 20 2018 9:55AM

Shove it up Chuck Edwards' ass.

Apr 20 2018 11:09AM

I'm totally confused as to why this bill was submitted by someone who does not live in or represent Asheville. What does he have to gain? The bill certainly goes against "government by, for, and of the people". Citizens in Asheville have spoken. Why should the legislature entertain this bill? His bill is rather paternalistic. . . saying that he knows better than the citizens of the municipality. It's scary when someone from another area tries to control this community.

Apr 20 2018 11:17AM

I do not support the General Assembly's legislation to redistrict the City of Asheville. And neither do 75% of its citizens who overwhelmingly rejected it in the November referendum. Chuck Edwards who put it forward does not even live in Asheville but is trying to control our area with his own agenda. He says it is because South Asheville is not represented but that is not true. South Asheville is represented by Vejay Kapoor. We must maintain fair voting practices and gerrymandering city districts will not do that. The reality is that every precinct voted against the Edwards proposal in the November referendum, including the most likely republican ones. We live in a democracy and the people have spoken! DO NOT REDISTRICT THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE.

Apr 20 2018 11:39AM

I and a clear majority of Asheville citizens oppose City Council election districts as unnecessary and detrimental to electing officials who will serve the best interest of the entire City. I therefore urge the General Assembly not to draw election districts for the City of Asheville which is in clear contradiction of the supposed Republican principle of allowing decisions to be made at the smallest governmental unit possible. Furthermore, the alleged reason for this interference--that the southern part of our city lacks representation--was clearly controverted in the last City Council election when a resident of South Asheville received the most number of votes of any person running for City Council. That said, if the General Assembly insists on violating the will of the people of Asheville, please don't gerrymander Asheville for political purposes. Partisan voting patterns should NOT be used to draw district boundaries. Districts should be compact and follow neighborhood and natural geological boundaries. Ideally, only four districts should be drawn, with two Council members remaining at large. The districts should be approximately equal in population. One district should start at the southern boundary and proceed toward the Downtown. One district should start along the western boundary and proceed toward the French Broad River. One district should start at the eastern boundary and proceed toward the Downtown. The other district should start from the north and proceed toward the Downtown. The entire Downtown should be included in one of those districts. No neighborhood should be split and the City should be consulted to supply a map of neighborhood boundaries.

Apr 20 2018 12:05PM

I do not believe that the state government has the right to go against the will of the citizens of Asheville. We voted to not have districts drawn and our elected representatives have stood behind that vote. Therefore, I believe there should not be districts drawn. period.

Apr 20 2018 12:14PM

Do not consider race of residents when drawing lines.

Apr 20 2018 12:14PM

Get rid of SL 2017-83 and let the residents of Asheville operate our city the way we want to, we elect our City Council to make decisions like this. As a registered Republican I am disappointed that a Republican majority General Assembly feels the need to continually meddle in local municipality government. Republicans/Conservatives generally pride ourselves on small government and this over-reach is unnecessary and against our principles.

Apr 20 2018 12:16PM

The legislature should let Asheville determine if districts are needed and if so where the lines should be drawn. The NC General Assembly should keep its nose out of local politics. It has already messed up the state enough by gerrymandering.

Apr 20 2018 12:20PM

Why don't you continue to use political party affiliation or race as you have in the past? Of course, you might want to come up with some neutral, but specious reason. In any event, I'm sure you'll make any federal challenge like shooting fish in a barrel.

Apr 20 2018 12:28PM

This is an unacceptable move by the state government. Attempting to gerrymander Asheville to get a Republican on the council is dirty politics and anti-democratic. Let us elect our representatives at large, it has never caused an issue until that guy Chuck started whining about it. We are proud to be very different than the rest of this worthless state and would like to stay that way, thank you.

Apr 20 2018 12:36PM

Support democracy and do nothing. Asheville has voted overwhelmingly to oppose this effort. As a South Asheville resident I can attest that South Asheville is fully represented on the Council by a most excellent person. What we have now is working. Non-Asheville and non-Buncombe County politicians should get out of Asheville's business.

Apr 20 2018 12:41PM

I am completely opposed to the heavy hand of Raleigh imposing districts on the City of Asheville. Asheville residents voted overwhelmingly against this proposal in a referendum last fall. Senator Edwards claims that the reason for districts is to allow fairer representation, particularly to ensure that South Asheville is represented. The problem is that relatively few people from South Asheville have run for City Council in recent years relative to other areas and voter turnout is generally lower there. Vijay Kapoor from South Asheville won the most number of votes last fall so clearly if there are candidates who run, they can garner the support of the entire City. The entire City shouldn't be penalized because of apathy in the South Asheville area which has resulted in few candidates running.

If there are districts, I would like to be able to vote for candidates in all districts. I am a board member of two City advisory commissions and frequently contact all Council members on a range of issues. They are willing to listen because they know they are accountable to all of the voters in Asheville and not just the ones in their district.

Republicans in the state legislature detest it when the federal government inserts itself into state affairs yet the GOP has had no qualms about interfering in the affairs of cities. This is a thinly disguised way of trying to get a Republican or two onto City Council. We're going to end up wasting yet more tax money on lawsuits which the City will probably win. I urge the state legislature to not move forward on this unpopular and unnecessary disruption to our local democracy.

Apr 20 2018 1:00PM

Asheville voters overwhelmingly rejected this idea, with 75% voting against it. No city precinct had a majority in favor of the idea. This is not about what is good for Asheville, it is about what Republican gerrymanders want. NO.
<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2017/11/07/referendum-impose-asheville-voting-districts-fails-wide-margin/841552001/>

Apr 20 2018 1:23PM

Since the citizens of the town in question don't want districts for City Council, why are you imposing them? For a bunch of Republicans who supposedly believe in small government, your actions are hypocritical. We are doing just fine out West, keep your hands off our city and repeal your unwanted law.

Apr 20 2018 1:30PM

Over 75% of Asheville voters voted "no" on redistricting. Council members should care about what is best for Asheville, not what is best for their district. We have a diverse council with members from almost all areas - including the South which had been underrepresented in the past. District voting would also drastically reduce a voters choice from voting for six (6) candidates to voting for only one (1). A Raleigh forced 6 district council is:

- 1) against the home rule desires of Asheville residents,
- 2) is a blatant attempt at gerrymandering for political advantage,
- 3) erodes the "what is best for Asheville" mentality,
- 4) may reduce the diversity of future city council membership,
- 5) reduces a voters choice from voting for 6 candidates to only 1, and
- 6) may reduce the quality of the council because of the necessity to elect one member from each of 6 districts instead of the BEST 6 candidates from an at-large field of candidates.

Apr 20 2018 1:54PM

Keep neighborhoods intact. Minimize gerrymandering. Extend time for Asheville City to draw its own Districts.

Apr 20 2018 2:40PM

There is no need for those in Raleigh to redraw districts in what is obviously an attempt at gerrymandering. Neighborhoods do not need to be split nor does party affiliation need to be considering if redrawing is necessary. Gerrymandering is an attempt to make votes not count and that is absolutely Un-American! Do the right thing folks.

Apr 20 2018 3:32PM

The criteria for drawing districts should be developed by City of Asheville officials, and ONLY IF the use of districts is approved in a local referendum.

Apr 20 2018 4:05PM

Why is the state forcing a seven district make up for our it's when the vast majority of Asheville residents don't want it.

Have you thought of a more logical approach of four districts, two at large and the mayor at large? That would provide a decent balance that would provide representation of the distinct parts of the city and ensure that the whole city is cared for?

We need a focus on good governance, not affirmative action for Republicans.

Apr 20 2018 4:13PM

I urge the General Assembly to withdraw the legislation that requires Asheville to be divided into council districts. Districts in a city of Asheville's size are unnecessary and counterproductive. They will instead predictably divide this small city.

Please cease the effort to make council districts.

Apr 20 2018 5:52PM

I support a system where each district has one representative and there are also several "at large" positions (may be 2 or 3) who represent the views of the city as a whole. 6 from districts and 3 "at large", as an example, would prevent deadlocks.

Apr 20 2018 8:14PM

No districts. Listen to the residents of Asheville who overwhelmingly voted against districting in Asheville.

Apr 20 2018 8:34PM

This city is best served by council members who have the city-wide interests in mind instead of parochial views and issues encouraged by districting. The city held a referendum which overwhelmingly demonstrated the preference for NO districts. Why not listen to the majority of citizen preferences instead of that proffered by narrow-minded political interests?

Apr 20 2018 9:02PM

I would like to suggest a compromise proposal. I now live in Asheville, but before retiring lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We had three wards and elected two council members from each one. The system worked very well and I never heard a complaint. I would like to suggest that Asheville simply be divided into four districts: North, East, South and West. With the odd shape of Asheville, that would follow the natural flow of the city. Elect two council members from each district for a total of eight and the mayor at large. Adjust the boundaries where they meet to have roughly the same population.

Apr 20 2018 9:53PM

The target needs to be turnout. Asheville elections are like a lot of municipal elections in that less than the major votes. Fix that, then fret over municipal districting.

Has districting for other NC municipal governments--or municipalities across the nation--provided any major benefits to the people?

I understand Sen Edwards proposed legislation to cut municipal election cycles to where they are only scheduled even years. That's not the answer to increasing turnout.

If the GOP has a competitive platform y'all's ideas will naturally foster high turnout. But instead the GOP seeks all sorts of mandated handicaps the rest of us have to try to appreciate. As an advocate for the disabled, having to talk about the 'GOP handicaps' is hard. Very hard. Our political system can't be about golf metaphors justifying a party with as much cash behind it as the GOP.

Compete on providing the most beneficial solutions, GOP. I will be fascinated when I have to spend time evaluating the upsides for voting for a GOP person versus only looking at the Dem field.

Apr 20 2018 10:11PM

The legislature should just keep their hands off Asheville's elections. This is a move by republicans to get from gerrymandering what they can not win by selling their ideas to the people of Asheville. Maybe a better answer is it develop candidates, programs and plans that address actual needs and not nonexisatan fake problems and appeal to the people rather than ramming a system that the VAST MAJORITY of Asheville voters DO NOT WANT down the throats off the community. Keep your filthy republican hands out of our elections! The Hendersonville legislator who is forcing the power move would be better served by keeping his focus on the majority he represents and keep his nose out of our business!

Apr 20 2018 10:22PM

Asheville does not want your gerrymandering. It's immoral hypocrisy to claim you want to "enable elected officials to be more responsive and more accountable" to us while rejecting our overwhelming vote against your plan and insulting us by arrogantly insisting that the clearly expressed will of the people is a "sham". You will go down to defeat.

Apr 21 2018 9:47AM

Forcing the city of Asheville to divide itself into voting districts is wrong. All of the state legislators from Buncombe county opposed this legislation, as did -overwhelmingly- the people of Asheville. The spoken reason put forward by Rep. Edwards when he proposed the bill was to give people from South Asheville a voice. In our last election, before this unlawful bill was passed, a city council member - Vijay Kapoor - from South Asheville was elected. Trying to force Asheville to divide itself is just one of many reasons I am unhappy with our current NC State Legislators. You people seem to be terrified of looking outside your own tiny bubbles and considering other people's points of view, needs, and experiences. I'll be glad to help vote you out soon.

Apr 21 2018 10:42AM

Asheville City Council Districts are currently determined and should remain determined by Asheville and it's citizens. Local control of this matter should remain. This attempt by the State of North Carolina to usurp citizen's local control is a matter of partisan politics vs empowerment of the citizens of Asheville.

Apr 21 2018 12:41PM

Leave the local districts alone to draw their own districts.

Apr 21 2018 3:51PM

In view of the overwhelming vote against districts by Asheville residents last fall, I am wondering why we are returning to this issue. If the original objective was to give South Asheville representation, then the election of Vijay Kapoor has made that moot. It seems to me that Asheville is well represented by the current council. At any rate, the districting of Asheville, if it is to take place, should be done by Asheville and/or an independent commission rather than the legislature.

Apr 21 2018 4:00PM

I prefer city wide elections. I believe it leads to governance that is not so narrowly focused - more for the common good. I have found this to be true in other communities I have lived in. The south side of Asheville is not feeling underrepresented at the moment. AND Asheville residents have expressed themselves: Do not draw districts! Please drop this issue.

Apr 21 2018 8:50PM

I am very disappointed to see the NC state legislature wants to move forward with imposing city council districts on the City of Asheville. Like most citizens, I voted against this as there is no need for the state to impose districts. As citizens, we have already overwhelmingly expressed our wishes. There is already far too much political gerrymandering in this state. Please support the citizens of Asheville in the decision we have already made.

Apr 21 2018 10:29PM

Asheville is already divided into well-defined neighborhoods. These should provide the basis for voting districts with neighborhoods left whole and not split between districts. Districts should be of approximately equal populations.

Apr 22 2018 1:00AM

Leave it to Asheville citizens to decide what to do. There has been a vote. Please respect our wishes and stay out of local affairs.

Apr 22 2018 8:39AM

There should not be any districts. This idea and legislation was brought forward by someone who does not even live in Asheville. The people of Asheville overwhelmingly voted for their city council to NOT be divided into districts! Why should that be overruled by people who do not even live here! This idea was proposed because supposedly the people of south Asheville did not have representation on the city council. But, when a qualified person from south Asheville entered the race, he overwhelmingly won a city council seat. The original argument that led to this law is null and void! Therefore, there are 2 solid reasons this law should now be null and void!

Apr 22 2018 8:48AM

I applaud your effort for public input! However, the City residents voted against districts and the legislature should respect their vote. Thank you

Apr 22 2018 4:06PM

The citizens of Asheville have made abundantly clear BY VOTING that they do not wish districting for the City Council elections. Our last election also demonstrated that South Asheville is *quite capable* of getting one of its own onto City Council. The top vote-getter was South Asheville resident Vijay Kapoor. This is blatant gerrymandering interference in our self-determination. I and my fellow citizens will have no part of it.

Apr 23 2018 7:10AM

I believe the City Council responded appropriately to the over reach of the State government to impose districts on the city of Asheville. The people were allowed to vote on the proposal and voted overwhelmingly against the idea of districts. I would expect the will of the people to be respected.

Apr 23 2018 8:31AM

Asheville citizens have voted and do NOT want to be divided into districts at this time. We are well represented throughout the city and this allows non-partisan views to be discussed and administered. The NC General Assembly does not need to get involved. Please respect our wishes. Thank you.

Apr 23 2018 9:47AM

I oppose voting districts for the City of Asheville. Instead of trying to drive consensus among Council members, districts will contribute to greater competition for limited resources and pit neighborhood against neighborhood.

Apr 23 2018 10:59AM

The General Assembly should honor the citizens who overwhelming voted against having districts. That's called democracy. If you do not honor that, then an independent group should draw them in a manner that districts are not politically gerrymanded

Apr 23 2018 11:15AM

I think it is important to get rid of gerrymandering by both sides, I prefer that we do not divide us into districts

Apr 23 2018 11:42AM

The NC General Assembly should not be requiring districts, and should stay out of the affairs of the City of Asheville. I'm a south Asheville resident, and we just elected Vijay Kipoor, a South Asheville resident, to Council. By not having districts, Council members have to be accountable to all city residents, not just the ones in their district. Stay out of local politics!

Apr 23 2018 2:40PM

we don't want asheville city districts or buncombe county districts

Apr 23 2018 3:44PM

This is a solution in search of a problem, and a gross over reach at the state level. The citizens of Asheville have made it abundantly clear that we do not want district based city council elections, and we certainly do not want districts designed by someone outside the city with the clear single intent of trying to boost their own political party. Surely the citizens of a city have the right to decide how they wish to organize their own government, and we all have recourse to the courts should we find any component of such a system legally lacking. This is the kind of blatantly political excess that has made our state the source of so much mocking and sadness nationwide in recent years. Kill this thing in the name of common sense and community values.

Apr 23 2018 4:02PM

Very simple geographic lines with adjustments for somewhat even population (projected perhaps) and no political analysis.

Apr 23 2018 4:07PM

I am a voting senior citizen in Buncombe county. I am opposed to the establishment of voting districts for the city of Asheville.

Apr 23 2018 4:43PM

I am highly suspect of the NC legislature drawing districts in a nonpartisan manner. A case in point is the recent 'attempts' the legislature made in redrawing districts. It has come down to an out-of-state individual to be given the task to redraw districts as our congressmen and women are incapable of being fair.

I am an independent voter and have seen over the decades parties arguing over politics, but no one truly representing the needs of the voters. Please prove me wrong and show me how it can be done in an impartial manner.

Tondra Bowers

Apr 23 2018 5:32PM

This is obviously a political move by a resident of Hendersonville to increase the number of Republican voters not to increase representation in the south part of the city. Asheville already has a fine representative from the south part of the city.

Apr 23 2018 5:56PM

You can't divide the city by race; that's illegal. So you may as well do to Asheville what you've been doing to the state and divide the city along party lines. That means dividing neighborhoods, mixing and matching small circles of Republican enclaves into one district and then just messing with the voters by spreading out districts and making it as difficult as possible to vote, especially if you're a Democrat. That's the criteria you used for the state, isn't it?

Apr 23 2018 9:44PM

I wish to state that I do not believe that districts in a city as small as Asheville are necessary for officials to be more responsive or accountable to the public. If there are concerns, they should be presented to the Asheville Council, not to the state legislature from a representative who is only representing a small part of Asheville city residents and whose constituents are mostly from outside the city. If an area of the city feels unrepresented at the city level, they should nominate and support a candidate to be elected from a general election. They also should be voting for others who stand for their beliefs. As a citizen of Asheville, I do not support election of city council by district.

Apr 23 2018 10:09PM

The people of Asheville made it very clear in last year's election that we don't need nor want districts in our City elections. We want our council members to represent EVERYONE in the City... not be partial to a particular geographic area.

We do not want districts and NCLEG needs to let us govern ourselves.

Apr 24 2018 8:56AM

The citizens of Asheville have already spoken. We do not want to be broken into districts. Forcing districts is an attempt to remove control of our community from the people.

Apr 24 2018 2:51PM

The state should stay out of local politics. City voters overwhelmingly rejected the idea, with 75 percent voting against it. No city precinct had a majority in favor of the idea. Just let Asheville govern itself.

Apr 24 2018 3:57PM

For most of the past 20 years, I have had no one representing me on the Asheville City Council and it will stay that way until we quit having at-large elections. We need to elect our city Council by districts so all prts of the city get represented.

Apr 24 2018 4:06PM

Thank you for this effort. As a former Asheville Council Member and Vice-Mayor I have direct exposure to the growing need for District representation in the city. It has been a decade since there has been any conservative representation on the city's governing body - there was 1 the 4 years before that. I understand that area - as in community - views are an important consideration in drawing districts, but it is a personal belief that political views are equally important. Without some measure of diverse input - per our Constitutional design - myopic political agendas evolve into entrenched monopolies. It is a personal belief this has happened in Asheville. Per your question - I would advocate that expanding potentials for diverse political representation on the city's governing body merits priority consideration. We appreciate you all taking up this arduous undertaking in the face of persistent resistance by city leaders. Diversity of thought is certainly not in the best interests of those wishing to sustain a super-monopoly with no one in the mix to turn the lights on.

Apr 24 2018 5:25PM

I fully support city district elections in Asheville for fair and balanced representation for all city residents.
If the city won't draw the districts then let the state do it for them !

Apr 24 2018 9:04PM

WE VOTE FOR THE MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO REPRESENT THE WHOLE OF ASHEVILLE. RECENT ELECTIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT DISTRICTS ARE NOT NECESSARY FOR A BALANCE OF REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Apr 24 2018 9:14PM

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SHAME ON YOU FOR CONTINUALLY ATTACKING OUR DEMOCRACY.

Apr 25 2018 9:40AM

WE VOTE FOR THE MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO REPRESENT THE WHOLE OF ASHEVILLE.

RECENT ELECTIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT DISTRICTS ARE NOT NECESSARY.....

Apr 25 2018 9:53AM

Gerrymandering devalues certain individual's vote and voice decisions that affect them and their community. I will be devastated if the new districts are drawn in a way such that any individual's voice matters more or less than others. The only way I can see this being done is by using a 3rd, non-partisan group to create the maps. Do not politicize voting districts, it is a threat to our democracy.

Apr 25 2018 10:50AM

WE VOTE FOR THE MOST QUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO REPRESENT THE WHOLE OF ASHEVILLE. RECENT ELECTIONS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT DISTRICTS ARE NOT NECESSARY. IT AIN'T BROKE. DON'T FIX IT!

Apr 25 2018 3:11PM

Districts are not necessary and not necessarily helpful in city elections. I believe the citizens of Asheville are capable of electing qualified candidates that represent diverse views and constituencies without interference or "help" from state legislators.

Apr 25 2018 3:43PM

You have already received input from the public. The public voted overwhelmingly to NOT divide Asheville into districts for City Council elections. Why should this be imposed on Asheville by so called representatives in Raleigh?? This is an effort to gerrymander AVL just as was done to the state of NC. Cease and desist. We the people have spoken on this issue.

Apr 25 2018 3:51PM

Population should be within a range for each district and any organized and registered neighborhoods should not be divided.

As a starting point there are 5 obvious districts: West(west of I-240), North(North of I-240), East(East of I-240),South(south of I-40) and Central (Between I240 and I-40). If there must be six then one representative should be At-Large.

Alternatively There could be four districts: West (West of the French Broad River) North/East (North of I240 and east of the Town Mountain ridge) Central (South of I240 to NC81) and South (South of NC81 to city limits) with two At-Large representatives.

Apr 25 2018 4:40PM

Districts are not necessary in city elections. The citizens of Asheville are capable of electing qualified candidates that represent diverse views and constituencies without interference or "help" from state legislators. Respect our vote. We already made this decision that we don't want a city divided.

Apr 25 2018 7:58PM

If Edwards this Districts are great. He should recommend his own home town have them. He Should look after Hendersonville and we will take care of Asheville.

Apr 25 2018 9:14PM

This is a terrible idea. I currently have a voice in the choice of every council member. This takes my voice away.

Apr 25 2018 9:43PM

You start this page with the following words: "Every citizen is entitled to a government that can function within its smallest possible footprint". Then you go on to describe a state law that left a massive footprint on the city of Asheville. Don't you see the hypocrisy?

Here in Asheville, we vote for the most qualified candidates to represent the whole of Asheville. Recent elections have demonstrated that districts are not necessary. I can only hope this law is struck down by the courts as an act of over reach by the state government.

Apr 26 2018 6:52AM

This plan is a complete overreach by the General Assembly. Buncombe County voted on the issue and it was overwhelmingly rejected. I accompanied my 4th grader on a trip to the Legislative Building, where she was told that our state government works to represent the people of North Carolina. I hope our next trip back isn't to protest that same legislature, but if needed, it will be.

Apr 26 2018 7:44AM

Why should Raleigh—and especially a Henderson County legislator!—decide how Asheville should conduct its voting for city representatives? I live in South Asheville and am satisfied with how the city currently chooses its representatives and certainly do not want people who do not live here to decide how and who I can vote for.

Apr 26 2018 7:51AM

Not a good idea. We govern okay as is and I NEVER have an issue getting a reply from either the Mayor or member with an email. I believe it was 3 to 1 on an unofficial but counted vote in the November 17 elections. The majority has spoken and there are many fellow residents who want less of the GA in our lives. Improve education, school safety and infrastructure which need fixing.

Apr 26 2018 7:56AM

With our state having districts so extremely gerrymandered throughout, it frightens me that Raleigh would again be so dictatorial as to demand redistricting in Asheville. Local control is generally much better than an authoritarian central state control. It is easy to see nefarious politics here. No redistricting in the city of Asheville!

Apr 26 2018 8:25AM

I have lived and voted within the City of Asheville for more than 30 years. I have spoken before City Council on a number of issues. I do not see the need to subdivide the city. The current system of staggered terms has resulted, over time, in broad representation of areas and political views. Subdivision should not be carried to its extreme.

Apr 26 2018 9:01AM

The City Council of Asheville let the people of Asheville decide if they wanted district representation, and we voted overwhelmingly to keep the "at large" system in place. This is yet another blatant effort by the Republican Party to consolidate rule by a minority party and undermine democracy. And I'm sick of it.

Apr 26 2018 12:34PM

I am not sure why the NC General Assembly and a Republican from another county feel the need to determine how our city is governed! How about if you mind your own business and let the citizens of Asheville decide. 75% of us voted against this idea so not sure why it is being imposed on us like children.

Apr 26 2018 1:47PM

Asheville is a city that is growing successfully. The people who live here are very capable of creating districts, or having open elections.

State officials are not in a position to determine what is best for Asheville and its residents, who are the taxpayers!

Apr 26 2018 9:58PM

I would set Asheville's districts just like Hendersonville's districts are set up.

Apr 27 2018 8:19AM

District elections represent the only FAIR way to elect our representatives. Folks in South Asheville have nothing in common with those in North Asheville. I applaud the work of Senator's Apodaca and Edwards.

Apr 27 2018 3:16PM

The City Council Districts currently used in Asheville reflect the population of Asheville.

It is true, the population of Asheville does not reflect the population of the State of North Carolina.

Gerrymandering our districts to try to make Asheville not vote like Asheville is illegal.

Frankly with all the issue our state and country are facing, it's shameful that you are wasting precious energy on these partisan efforts.

Please record my vote (

Apr 27 2018 3:18PM

The City Council Districts currently used in Asheville reflect the population of Asheville.

It is true, the population of Asheville does not reflect the population of the State of North Carolina.

Gerrymandering our districts to try to make Asheville not vote like Asheville is illegal.

Our inability to resolve the issues facing our state and country exist because of this decision to see every issue as partisan.

Please leave Asheville's districts alone. Let's act as citizens and neighbors and work together on the stuff that truly matters.

Apr 28 2018 6:01PM

The City of Asheville does not need to be drawn into districts. The city must act as a city of unity not divided by districts. The city voted overwhelmingly against being divided into district and the citizens of a municipality have the right to determine their governmental systems not the state legislature.

Apr 28 2018 10:07PM

This action by the NC General Assembly is premature because the residents of the City of Asheville showed via the referendum that at this time they are not supportive of selecting council members by districts. The most important criteria is that there is local support for this change.

Apr 29 2018 11:51AM

As a Sociologist who firmly believes in Democracy and has over the last several years seen its erosion in NC and the US, the only criteria I have in mind is that the citizens/residents of an area be allowed to practice Democracy, starting with majority rule. Asheville has shown overwhelming support to continue with city-wide voting for its Council. Let Democracy stand.

Apr 29 2018 1:15PM

What is it you don't understand? Asheville has already overwhelming voted against districting. From your opening premise to your historically failed legislation that has cost the tax payers millions i.e the bathroom bill and the gerrymandered congressional districts the Republican led congress is a clown show of monumental proportions. Go crawl back under your rock and stay there until we vote you out of office!

May 1 2018 5:31PM

I do not want Asheville to be divided into districts. All Council members represent the entire city and I appreciate being able to work with all of them. I definitely believe dividing the city into districts would create barriers to effective representation.

May 3 2018 12:21AM

oppose redistricting

May 3 2018 12:24AM

do not redistrict

May 4 2018 2:23PM

not interested in separate districts- we should be able to vote for all city council members

May 7 2018 7:31PM

I don't want districts for city council in Asheville.

May 8 2018 10:06AM

The city of Asheville should not be split into districts. I want to vote for the best people, period, regardless of which part of the city they reside in. Asheville is not that big compared to cities like Raleigh, Greensboro, or Charlotte. Districts are not necessary.

May 8 2018 11:12AM

To whom it may concern:

Our group has drawn districts with some basic considerations: contiguous precincts, neighborhoods with common interests are combined, existing "areas" of the city are respected, and districts are divided roughly evenly by registered voting population. District lines were drawn without regard to party affiliation or race.

South

Precincts: 18.2, 19.1, 29.2, 54.2, 55.1

Total Registered Voters: 15,861

Central

Precincts: 7.1, 8.2, 8.3, 9.1, 10.1, 11.1

Total Registered Voters: 14,047

East

Precincts: 1.1, 6.1, 17.1, 20.1, 21.1, 23.2, 23.3, 25.1, 62.1

Total Registered Voters: 15,444

North

Precincts: 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 22.2, 28.1, 70.1

Total Registered Voters: 18,315

West

Precincts: 12.1, 13.1, 14.2, 14.3, 15.1, 16.2, 42.1

Total Registered Voters: 15,958

Enka

Precincts: 24.1, 26.1, 43.2, 44.1, 45.1, 46.1

Total Registered Voters: 15,922

May 8 2018 1:21PM

Districts are not necessary in Asheville. The opportunity to weigh in on city decisions already exist, and we don't need to add another layer to the process. As it now stands, all of city council is beholding to my comments, districts will take that option away.

May 8 2018 3:01PM

I am opposed to the imposition of districts for Asheville's city council. A recent city referendum made it clear that the majority of residents don't want this. The recent election of a council member from south Asheville (as top vote-getter) shows that that portion of town can be represented. But primarily, the NC General Assembly has been involved in so many partisan attempts to reduce the rights of the current political minority (Democrats) that I'm afraid I've completely lost confidence in their ability to conduct this in a fair and non-partisan manner. If there were any interest among Assembly members in being fair and non-partisan, I would suggest establishing state-wide criteria of city population size, so that a city whose population exceeds a certain level automatically has district-based elections. However, again, I don't believe this is a pressing problem. I would rather see the NC General Assembly put its efforts into improving public education. Thank you.

May 8 2018 4:41PM

I do not think that the NCGA should force Asheville to draw districts. We should be able to select the most qualified candidates without regard to districts.

May 10 2018 11:26AM

Please approve district elections for the Asheville City Council. District elections would allow citizens to be more fairly represented. Since the city has chosen not participate in drawing the maps, the general assembly should draw the maps and approve them as soon as possible!

May 10 2018 11:41AM

Please proceed with the Asheville Districts. Asheville City Council could have participated but chose not to. Now they are even discussing reducing police training and staffing. I'm sure different areas of the city would not support that but there is no representation on city council to represent those concerns. It is rumored that certain city council members have an email contingency of over 9000 names to continue the current councils desires. District elections will provide more voice. Please draw the districts. Thank you.

May 11 2018 4:28PM

I live in Leicester, 8 miles from Asheville, N.C. A few years ago we got District Elections. It has been a real blessing for our community. Asheville cannot say honestly that they have always represented the whole city. It is the only fair way for all areas in the city to have a say in what's important in the city. I hope you all will take care of the city residents. Thank You.

May 11 2018 4:47PM

ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW. DISTRICTS ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. CONSIDER WHO ATE OPPOSED!!

May 11 2018 5:20PM

We need Fair and equal representation in Asheville city elections . District elections are badly needed in the City of Asheville North and central Asheville had controlled the city for way to long and it's time for a change . I fully support and encourage the state to draw the city districts ASAP

May 11 2018 5:27PM

Asheville voters are opposed to city council districts. Districts make no sense for a city our size and will make it more difficult to meet the challenges Asheville faces in the next several years. Will the legislature also force all other similarly sized towns to convert to a district system?

May 11 2018 9:00PM

I love the idea of districts. Some areas of the city are not represented on Council. But I think Council and city staff should be charged to develop the districts.

May 12 2018 11:13AM

I was elected to ASsheville city council 01-05. I was the first elected councilman from south Asheville in over 20 years. The city has a inner city voting cartel that has controlled local elections for years. History has always shown us that any form of government is best when citizens feel they have a fair chance to elect people to positions that enable them to feel they are represented!!! The city council has no intention to allow for district elections. Our county government does allow for district elections and it has achieved some balance. It is a proven fact that when citizens feel their concerns are being heard by their elected officials who live near them and understand them, they become more active in the process instead of feeling hopeless and decide not to vote because the system is going to defeat them anyway. Please think about how our system of government was always set up by our founding fathers. It works for all the various forms of government, large and small!!!!!!

May 12 2018 2:52PM

Asheville City Council now represents voters residing in North and South Asheville. I would like the city to have districts, North,East,West,South and Central.The mayor should be elected by all voters in Asheville.I am glad the General has decided to divide the city into districts. The liberal democrats want to maintain the status quo.

May 13 2018 7:51PM

fIRST TIME THE AREAS HAVE HAD A REASON TO ORGANIZE AND MEET BECAUSE THEY HAVE SOMEONE TO SPEAK FOR THEM IN THEIR DISTRICT ABOUT THEIR CONCERNS.

May 14 2018 9:00PM

No to mandated election districts for the City of Asheville. Lifelong Republican. City of Asheville resident since 2004. Always a supporter of local governments ability to govern best. Mostly against Federal mandates to States or a States mandate to a local government. Raleigh appears to be attempting to dictate a governmental overreach and ignore the City of Asheville elected officials AND the citizens referendum to keep local government elections as they are now. In no way would I support a district election for a small geographic area like the City of Asheville. I would consider myself mostly engaged with the political winds of western NC. I have talked with more than 100 people the last 3 years about district elections and not once, as in ZERO, not one single person has ever indicated in the slightest way they want district elections for our regions economic hub. I have called or went by the three peoples places of business who were interviewed by the Citizen Times over the last two years who indicated for the news story they wanted district elections. None of these three people would speak to me face to face and tell me they supported district elections. I encourage any lawmaker who believes those news stories where those three people told a reporter they supported district elections to please reach out and attempt to contact those same three people to see if they still feel like they could support the State mandating district elections for Asheville. No to State mandated election districts to Asheville

May 22 2018 1:17PM

Should the General Assembly choose to disregard the resounding will of Asheville's people, as displayed in the results of the November 2017 referendum, the primary criterion for the district-drawing process should be utter and complete TRANSPARENCY in every related action. All aspects of the process should be made visible to the public, and participation by citizens and elected representatives who are residents of Asheville should be maximized.

Total: 139