



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole – November 25, 2019
City Council – December 2, 2019

APPROVED & ACCEPTED
by City Council

12/02/2019

Candice Stjern
Candice Stjern
Acting City Auditor

Agenda Item: Set Precinct Boundaries for 2020 Election

Submitted by: Maureen Storstad, Finance Director

Staff Recommended Action: Approve Precinct Boundaries as shown on map

Committee Recommended Action:

Moved to City Council with the recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Action:

BACKGROUND: ND Century Code 16.1-04-01 assigns the duties and responsibilities for setting precinct boundaries within an incorporated city to the governing body of the city. For 2020 elections, the designation of precinct boundaries must be completed prior to December 31, 2019.

Following the 2010 Census and subsequent redistricting Ward and Precinct boundaries were set by City Council. This will again be up for review and potential adjustment following the 2020 Census and the legislative redistricting process. Historically, City of Grand Forks has not adjusted the precinct boundaries between the redistricting process, but does have the authority to do so in ND Century Code. New this year due to legislative action, the City must seek input from representatives of the political parties prior to establishing the precinct boundaries for the year, even if there is no change proposed. A letter and map of existing precinct boundaries has been sent to the district chair for each party, informing them of the existing boundaries, advising them that there is no recommended change for the 2020 elections, asking them to provide any input by November 22, 2019, and informing them of the Committee of the Whole and City Council dates that this item is planned to be discussed.

Voting locations are no longer required to be set prior to December 31 of the year prior to the elections. A separate staff report for setting voting locations will be brought to City Council in early spring.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

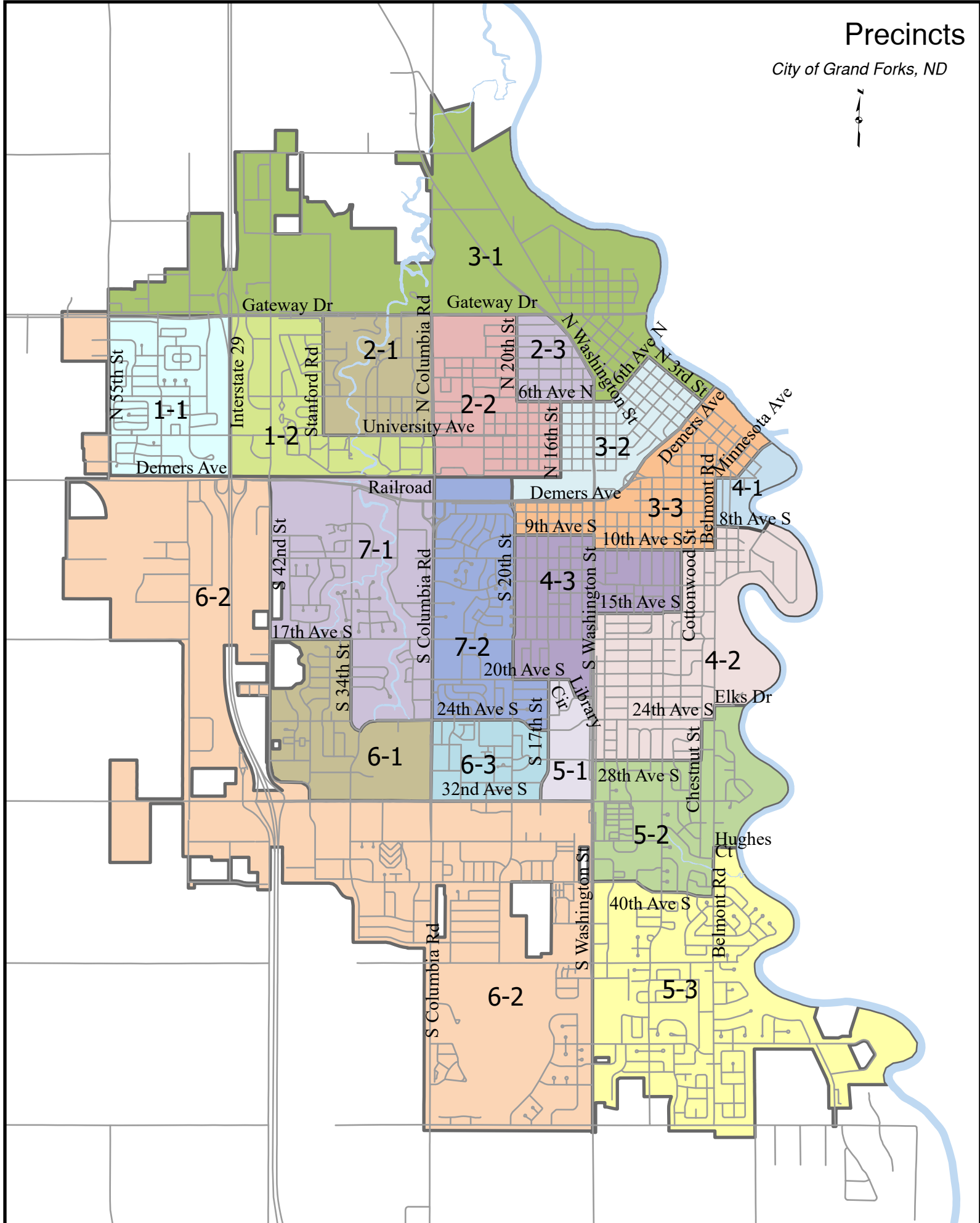
- ND Century Code assigns the responsibility for setting precinct boundaries within an incorporated city to the governing body of the city.
- The governing body is required to set the precinct boundaries prior to December 31 of the year preceding the election.
- The governing body is now required to seek input from the political parties prior to taking action on the precinct boundaries.
- District Committee Chairs have been sent correspondence consisting of a map of the precincts and information relating to providing input on this item, which included the Committee of the Whole and City Council meeting dates.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Precinct map
- Copy of letter sent to District Chairs

Precincts

City of Grand Forks, ND



255 N. 4th St.
PO Box 5200
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200



FINANCE AND
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
(701) 746-2620
Fax# (701) 787-3740

November 14, 2019

RE: Establishment of Precinct Boundaries for 2020 elections

Dear District Chair:

North Dakota Century Code § 16.1-04-01 requires the governing body of the city to divide the city into precincts and establish their boundaries. The governing body must exercise the authority of this chapter no later than December 31st of the year immediately preceding an election cycle.

The city is required to consult and seek input regarding the size, number, and proposed boundaries of the precincts from the representatives of the political parties organized within the county. We were notified by the County that you serve as the District Chair for District 17, so we are reaching out to you regarding this matter. If you no longer serve as chair, we ask for your assistance in providing us with correct contact information and/or forwarding this notice to the correct person.

Enclosed is a Ward and Precinct Map for the City of Grand Forks showing the precincts that have been established and used since the last redistricting process in 2011. We are not proposing any changes to precinct boundaries for the 2020 elections.

This item will be considered by the City Council for discussion at its meeting as Committee of the Whole on November 25, 2019, with anticipated final action of the City Council at its meeting on December 2, 2019. Both meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers if you wish to attend, however your attendance is not required. If you would like to provide any feedback to be distributed to City Council prior to their meetings, please forward your comments to me by November 22 so that it can be included in their packet with other information for this item.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me by email at slundmark@grandforksgov.com or by phone at (701)746-2664.

Sincerely,

Sherie Lundmark
City Clerk

enclosure