

City of Blaine  
Request for Council Action  
Meeting Date: October 24, 2022

Subject: Ordinance 22-2988, Amending Chapter 1.20 of Blaine Municipal Code and Redefining Ward Boundaries within the City limits under RCW 29A.76.

Department: City Attorney/City Manager

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Digital Signature)

Agenda Location:  Consent Agenda  Council Action  Unfinished Business

Action Needed:

City Council must approve updated voting wards to comply with RCW 29A.76.

Attachments:

1. Ordinance 22-2988.

Background/Summary:

Every 10 years a census is completed in the United States. Once the census has been completed and the data is compiled, cities with wards are required to evaluate and potentially propose the adjustment of ward boundaries. This is a multistep process that requires a significant understanding of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, population data, and the redistricting process.

On September 12, 2022, City Council authorized City staff to negotiate and enter into an agreement with a firm to review the existing ward boundaries and determine if adjustments need to be made according to the 2020 census data. Sammamish Data Systems Inc. was chosen due to the services offered and the substantial cost savings compared to other firms. Sammamish Data Systems Inc. also recently worked with the Blaine School District, so they are familiar with the City. This existing knowledge of the area has helped expedite the mapping process (which was reviewed during the September 26, 2022, Study Session). During the Study Session, the consultant proposed the ward boundaries in real-time.

On October 3, 2022, the proposed Ward map was published for public review. On October 10, 2022, the draft map was reviewed during a public hearing. The City Council considered all public comments on the proposed redistricting plan (which was limited to written comment) and finds that adoption of the proposed redistricting plan meets the statutory requirements in RCW 29A.76.010 and is in the best interest of the public.

The City is required by law to submit the final approved map to Whatcom County no later than November 15, 2022. If the ordinance is passed on October 24, 2022, the City can meet this deadline.

Budget Implications:  Current Budget  New Budget Request  Non-Budgetary

There are no budget implications associated with this Ordinance.

Recommendation:  Waive the second reading

Staff recommends City Council waive the second reading and approve Ordinance 22-2988, Amending Chapter 1.20 of Blaine Municipal Code and Redefining Ward Boundaries within the City limits under RCW 29A.76.

Reviewed By:

City Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Finance Director \_\_\_\_\_ City Clerk \_\_\_\_\_  
(Digital Signature) (Digital Signature) (Digital Signature)

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-2988**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON  
AMENDING CHAPTER 1.20 OF THE BLAINE MUNICIPAL CODE AND REDIFINING  
WARD BOUNDARIES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS UNDER RCW 29A.76**

**WHEREAS**, The Revised Code of Washington allows the Council of a non-charter code city to change boundaries of existing wards to be more closely represented by population;

**WHEREAS**, The City's ward boundaries were most recently established by Ordinance No. 11-2794 passed August 8, 2011;

**WHEREAS**, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 29A.76) requires that every municipality with internal voting districts evaluate those districts after each decennial census;

**WHEREAS**, the City engaged a consultant to review and evaluate existing ward boundaries and determine if adjustments need to be made according to 2020 census data;

**WHEREAS**, on September 26, 2022 the City Council held a study session regarding redistricting and approved a draft redistricting plan for publication that included adjustments to existing boundaries;

**WHEREAS**, on October 3, 2022 the City published the proposed redistricting plan for public review and comment and subsequently provided public notice via a newspaper of general circulation of the opportunity for written comment and a public hearing to be held on October 10, 2022;

**WHEREAS**, on October 10, 2022 the City Council held a public hearing on the redistricting plan, which included public notice and the opportunity for comment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has considered all public comments on the proposed redistricting plan (which was limited to written comment) and finds that adoption of the proposed redistricting plan meets the statutory requirements in RCW 29A.76.010 and is in the best interest of the public.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON as follows:**

**SECTION 1:** The City Council adopts the recitals above as finding of the Council.

**SECTION 2:** That Blaine Municipal Code, Chapter 1.20 is hereby amended as set forth below, and the wards shall be as bounded and described in the attached map "Exhibit A";

**1.20.010 Wards Designated.**

The territory situated and comprised within the corporate limits of the city of Blaine, in the county of Whatcom, in the state of Washington, is hereby divided into three wards to be numbered First, Second and Third Wards, respectively, and bounded and described in the map attached to the ordinance codified in this chapter and as set out in this chapter.

**1.20.020 First Ward.**

All area within the existing city limits described as follows:

Starting at the intersection of 2020 City Limits and the southern I-5 crossing.

Northwest on I-5 to H St.

East on H St to 6th St.

North on 6th St to the 2020 City Limit.

Clockwise on the 2020 City Limit to the point of the beginning.

**1.20.030 Second Ward.**

All area within the existing city limits described as follows:

Starting at the intersection of 2020 City Limits and the southern I-5 crossing.  
Northwest on I-5 to H St.  
West on H St to Harrison Ave.  
South on Harrison Ave to Boblett St.  
West on Boblett St to Drayton Harbor.  
Southwest through Drayton Harbor to the 2020 City Limits.  
Counter-clockwise on the 2020 City Limit to the point of the beginning.

**1.20.040 Third Ward.**

All area within the existing city limits described as follows:

Starting at the intersection of 6th St and H St.  
West on H St to Harrison Ave.  
South on Harrison Ave to Boblett St.  
West on Boblett St to Drayton Harbor.  
Southwest through Drayton Harbor to the 2020 City Limits.  
Counter-clockwise on the 2020 City Limit to the northern intersection of 6th St.  
South on 6th St to the point of the beginning.  
Includes all of the Semiahmoo section of the city.

**SECTION 3:** Repeal: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 4:** Severability: If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, separately and independently and, in the event that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may later be declared invalid or unconstitutional, then any ordinance or ordinances, or parts thereof, amended or repealed by such portion of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 5:** Effective Date: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force upon its passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor, if approved; otherwise, as provided by law and five (5) days after the date of publication.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, and approved by the Mayor on the same day.

**CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Lou Steward, Mayor

**ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel Crawford, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jonathan Sitkin/Peter Ruffatto  
City Attorney

# EXHIBIT "A" VOTING WARD BOUNDARIES MAP

City of Blaine - Proposed  
Commission Districts as  
Approximated Using  
Census 2020 Geography

- 1st District
- 2nd District
- 3rd District

City Limits

District Outline

