

Behind The City Scene



**Charles "Charlie"
Richardson
Council Member
Ward IV**

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The City is divided into 6 Council Wards. Heather Ridge is located in Ward 4. Now technically I should be denoting this as the Roman Numeral IV, but that reminds me of the IV years of Latin I was subjected to in high school with the attendant ugly flashbacks. *"Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres"*. Now back to 2018 AD. When a City Election occurs in years ending with either 3 or 9 the Election Commission springs into action.

This Commission consists of citizen volunteers who are responsible for analyzing the existing Ward boundaries and recommending adjustments. Wards are required to be compact and contiguous with approximately the same amount of residents in each Ward.

In 2019 Wards 4, 5, 6 will be up for election, plus two At-Large seats will be open. These Wards generally cover the Southern portion of the City from West to East. Ward 4 stretches from approximately S. Parker and S. Dayton all the way up to approximately S. Buckley and E. Mississippi. It is essentially on a SW to NE axis.

As we all know the City has experienced a lot of new apartment construction which will need to be taken into account. Currently each Ward contains approximately 55 thousand to 60 thousand residents. Voter turnout is unfortunately very low in Municipal elections. In 2015 my opponent and I received a combined total of approximately 8 thousand votes. As the City's population has increased the Wards will need to contain even more residents. After studying the population increase and the neighborhood layouts, the Election Commission will make a recommendation to City Council for the adoption of new Ward maps. Hopefully City Council will accept the recommendation without a lot of smoke and fire. But this is a political process so stay tuned! The recommendation will be very carefully scrutinized by the incumbent Ward 4, 5, and 6 Council Members.

When the Election Commission makes it's findings and recommendations I will schedule a presentation at a Ward meeting for a review and answer any questions.

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2018 Ward IV Town Meetings — held on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at EcoTech Institute, 1400 S. Abilene St., unless otherwise noted.