

Keystone Charter Commission

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Should the charter provide for elections for the town council by district or at large?

Considerations for “At Large” elections:

Pro “At Large”:

- 1) It is easier and less expensive to administer an election.
- 2) There is a broader pool of candidates.
- 3) This method should lead to office holders with a broader view of the needs of the entire community.
- 4) This is the method for elections used by most smaller communities in Colorado including: Dillon, Silverthorne, Blue River and Frisco.

Con “At Large”:

- 1) There may be increased cost of running for office for candidates as they would need to reach a broader group of people.
- 2) There could be concern that unique needs of neighborhood may not be recognized nor valued.

Considerations for Elections by District:

Pro election by district:

- 1) Perception that there may be a better understanding and support of unique needs of a district.
- 2) There would be a smaller number of constituents per representative.
- 3) Advocacy of individual constituent’s issues may be better.

Con election by district:

- 1) Our population is too small. Splitting into districts results in no more than 400 registered voters per district. This method for elections is used primarily by cities in Colorado with larger populations, like Denver and Colorado Springs.

- 2) It is more difficult and more complex to administer an election by district and using districts makes it difficult to maintain voter rolls which can lead to errors, especially with a single town clerk.
- 3) This method would require the printing and sorting of multiple ballots which would increase the cost of each election.
- 4) A smaller pool of candidates would risk there not being enough or no candidate for a district.
- 5) There is a greater risk of "Balkanization"/ divisiveness between areas or groups growing.
- 6) There is no accurate population data related to Keystone that has been collected to allow the town to be divided correctly into districts based on population.
- 7) In the case of new construction, the determination of the district in which a new building should be placed would require coordination between the town clerk, planning department, building department and often GSP mapping which would need to be outsourced increasing the cost of this method even further.

The following comments are from a citizen who is experienced in managing elections.

- 8) Voting by district can be very confusing to the voter as their favorite candidate may not be on the ballot they receive.
- 9) Who draws the lines between districts and how they are drawn is critical. This allows for mischief and 100% of the voters will never be satisfied. There are many court cases on this subject.
- 10) The voter rolls are maintained by the county. This does relieve a burden from the town clerk, but accuracy and corrections may be an issue when determining placement in a particular district.