



MINUTES
WARD & BOUNDARY COMMISSION

September 4, 2024, 5:00 p.m.

This meeting will be broadcast live via YouTube at City of Morgantown - YouTube
(<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofMorgantown/streams>)

No Zoom was setup

PRESENT: Chair Johnathon Trumble, Commission members: Sarah Barnes, Cindy O'Brien, Jane Lefevre, Alice Meehan, Deputy City Clerk Heather Carl, City Clerk Christine Wade, Geospatial Services Manager Marvin Davis, and Geospatial Technician Veronica Balcer.

The meeting was called to order by John Trumble at 5:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner O'Brien, to approve the July 31, 2024, meeting minutes as printed. Motion carried 5-0, with two open seats Ward 4 and Ward 7.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Chair Trumble declared the Public Portion open.

There being no appearances, Chair Trumble declared the Public Portion closed.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Review public feedback on proposed boundary changes

Chair Trumble read the comments of the feedback received from the proposed boundary changes.

Chair Trumble read a letter received from City Council regarding Section 7.05 of the City Charter, referencing the Ward Boundaries report. Please see attached labeled as Exhibit A.

After discussion of the feedback from the public survey, two modifications were proposed to the boundary map, as follows:

- Moving a portion of Sixth Ward between Harner Street and the north end of Maple Avenue into Second Ward.
- Moving a portion of Third Ward south to the centerline of Pleasant Street from Deckers Creek to the Monongahela River, formerly included in First Ward.

Please see attached map changes labeled Exhibit B & C.

After further discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Barnes, second by Commissioner O'Brien, to approve the changes. Motion carried 5-0, with 2 open seats Ward 4 and Ward 7.

B. Consideration of approval of the boundary change recommendation to City Council

After discussion, several changes were made to the map. Once a meeting is scheduled for next week to come back and talk about the changes, they will discuss further the recommendation to City Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Set date for next meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 5pm or Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 5pm. One of the dates given will be decided via email Thursday, September 5, 2024, once Deputy City Clerk Heather Carl checks the calendar for Council Chambers to see if the day and time will be available.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, there was a motion by Commissioner O'Brien, second by Commissioner Meehan, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 6:38 p.m.

Date Approved: 9-10-2024



Johnathon Trumble, Chair



MORGANTOWN
Office of the Mayor

304-284-7439
Morgantownwv.gov
389 Spruce St.
Morgantown, WV 26505

September 4, 2024

John Trumble
Ward Boundary Commission Chair
389 Spruce Street
Morgantown, WV 26505

Members of the Ward Boundaries Commission:

Under Section 7.05 of the City Charter, the Ward Boundaries Commission (Commission) reports to City Council before each election year a recommended plan and a map for adjustment of ward boundaries, or recommendation that no adjustment be made. In making recommendations for adjustment, the Commission is guided by the specifications in Charter Section 7.05(d), providing:

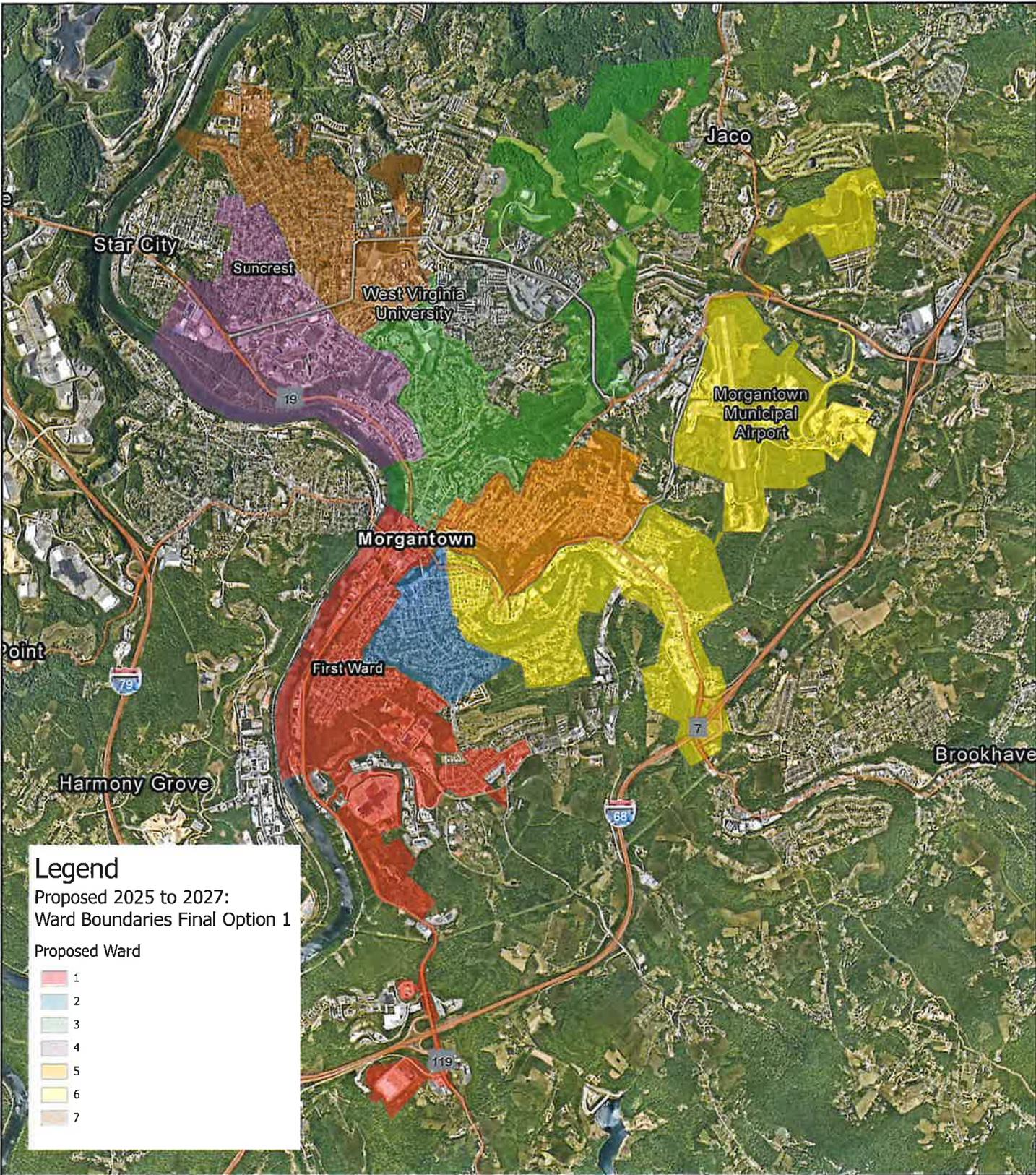
- (1) Each ward shall be formed of contiguous territory, and its boundary lines shall follow the precinct lines and the center lines of streets wherever practicable.
- (2) Each ward shall contain as nearly as practicable the same total population, determined by the most recently published United States Census Bureau American Community Survey five-year estimate and registered voter data; or, if such publication is unavailable, by the last decennial census and registered voter data. This specification shall not be construed to require the adjustment of precinct boundaries or to require the sacrifice of compactness of wards for the sake of achieving equality of numbers of residents among the seven wards of the City. The report shall include a map and description of the boundaries of each of the wards.

After filing of the Commission report, City Council considers the recommendations and determines whether to approve any changes by ordinance or to make alternate provisions for ward boundaries for the upcoming election. At a special meeting held August 20, 2024, City Council considered whether to amend the above City Charter provisions to specify that the Commission should consider exclusively the total population or exclusively the number of registered voters when recommending ward boundaries. City Council elected not to seek amendment to the Charter, but instead to notify the Commission that the preference of Council, when it is not possible to seek equality among both the total population and the number of registered voters, is to give primary preference to equalizing the number of registered voters in each ward. We hope this notice will assist the Commission as it considers its forthcoming report, and any future reviews of the City's ward boundaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Abu-Ghannam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joe Abu-Ghannam
Mayor



Legend
 Proposed 2025 to 2027:
 Ward Boundaries Final Option 1

Proposed Ward

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

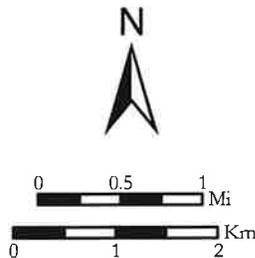


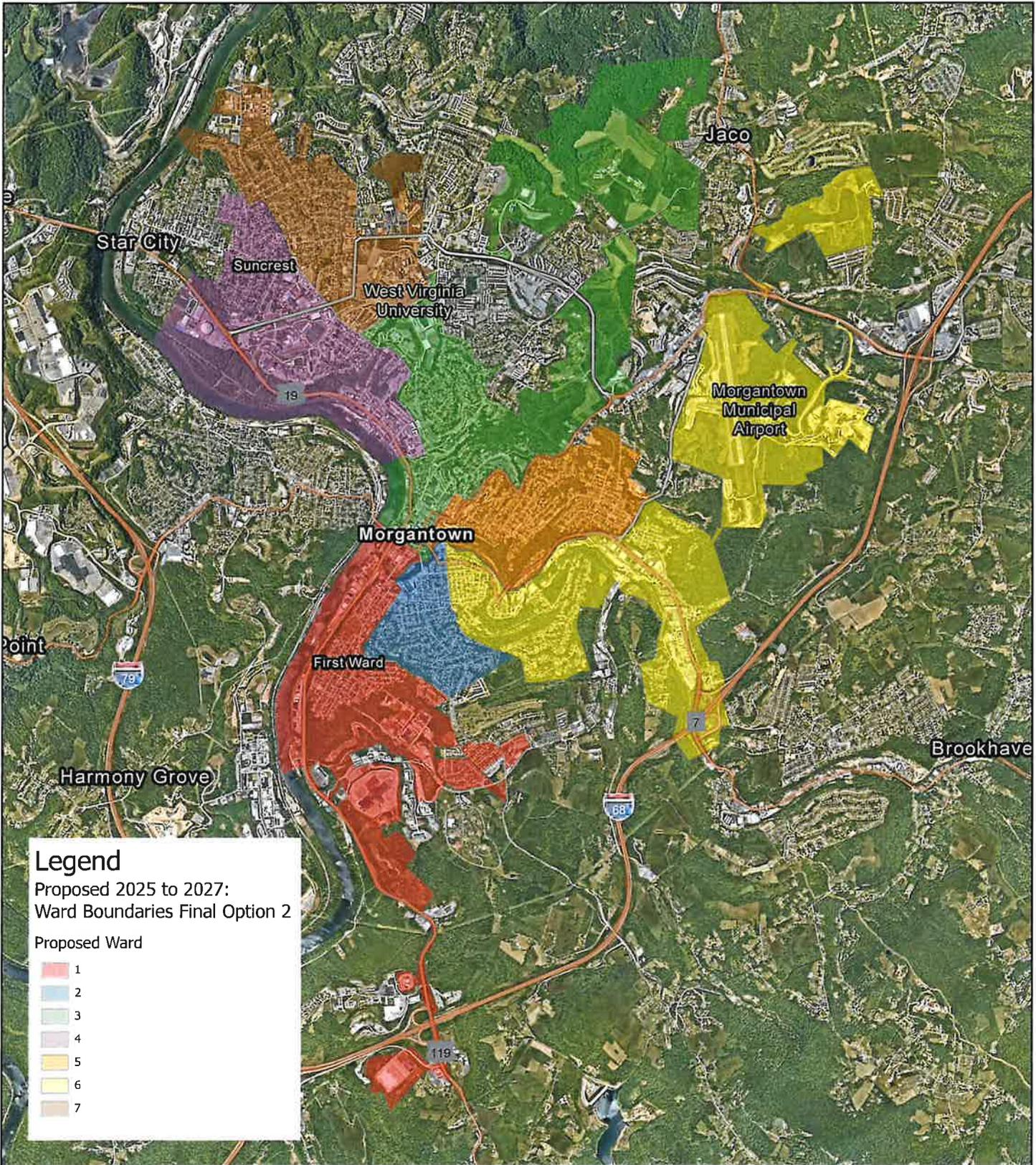
Ward & Boundary Commission Exhibit B

Map Created By: Veronica Balcer, Geospatial Technician. Credits: WVU Facilities, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Copyright nearmap 2015

2024

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere





Legend

Proposed 2025 to 2027:
Ward Boundaries Final Option 2

Proposed Ward

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7



**Ward & Boundary Commission
Exhibit C**

Map Created By: Veronica Balcer, Geospatial Technician. Credits: WVU Facilities, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/ NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Copyright nearmap 2015

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