**Are you sure you’re being fairly represented on the City Council?**

Many of us don’t realize that our ward representatives are not accountable to the people they should serve. That’s because they’re elected city-wide and are only branded “ward” because they have to live in those wards.

* Our city has grown and its needs have changed since our Ward system was adopted in 1929, but other than reducing the number of council seats in 1998, the city council hasn’t changed how ward seats are elected in nearly a century!
* In 1929 our population was about 50,000. Today we are nearing 300,0000. The only justification on record for Ward seats being elected city-wide is low voter turnout in each ward. Now that we have grown by 6 times, we need to fix that!
* All of the representatives on the Board of Education, both houses of our State Legislature, and our US House Representative, are all elected by separate districts within City limits. Why isn’t our City Council so configured?

**What this initiative is not about:**

* We are not advocating for a change in ward boundaries.
* We are not advocating to change the weight of the council being on city-wide issues. We are trying to make sure that the interests of the people are being conveyed by at least one member of the City Council.

**Intended Action:**  Have Ward members elected by the constituents they’re supposed to represent

**Timing:** While the city charter allows for special elections, our aim is to target the at-large municipal elections coming up in November 2023 in order to maximize voter turnout, and to constrain expenses. To do that, we need to start collecting the necessary 5,000 signatures on a petition very soon to be in position to elect ward members who will represent us in 2025.

The Leesville Road Coalition

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