

**CITY OF MERIDIAN ORDINANCE NO. 22-1988**

**BY THE CITY COUNCIL:**

**BERNT, BORTON, CAVENER,  
HOAGLUN, PERREAULT, STRADER**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MERIDIAN CITY CODE SECTION 1-7-1(C) CONCERNING CITY COUNCIL SEATS; AMENDING MERIDIAN CITY CODE SECTION 1-7-1(E) CONCERNING STAGGERED TERMS; AMENDING MERIDIAN CITY CODE SECTION 1-7-11(B) CONCERNING DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE MERIDIAN DISTRICTING COMMITTEE; ADDING MERIDIAN CITY CODE SECTION 1-7-11(I) CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL SEAT NUMBERS; VOIDING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Meridian adopted the Meridian Districting Plan, which created six (6) City Council districts and assigned a City Council seat to each district; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Idaho Code section 50-707A and Meridian City Code, beginning with the 2023 general City election, no candidate, including an incumbent candidate, may run for election or re-election to a City Council seat in a City Council district in which the candidate is not a resident; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is consistent with the intent of the Legislature and Idaho Code section 50-707A to fully implement the Meridian Districting Plan as soon as practicable; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is possible to fully implement the Meridian Districting Plan after the 2023 general City election by redesignating City Council seats 1 and 2 as City Council seats 2 and 1, respectively; and,

**WHEREAS**, if City Council seats 1 and 2 are not redesignated as City Council seats 2 and 1, respectively, the Meridian Districting Plan will not be fully implemented until after the 2025 general City election; and,

**WHEREAS**, the redesignation of City Council seats pursuant to this ordinance will not result in any substantive changes because the City Council members holding the redesignated City Council seats will serve the same four-year terms to which they were elected;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MERIDIAN, IDAHO:**

**Section 1.** Meridian City Code section 1-7-1(C) shall be amended to read as follows:

B. *City Council seats* ~~*established*~~. There shall be six (6) City Council seats on the Meridian City Council, which shall be numbered pursuant to Idaho Code section 50-707. Each City Council seat number shall be identical to the City Council seat number assigned as of August 22, 2022,

except that City Council seats 1 and 2, as they existed prior to August 22, 2022, shall be redesignated as City Council seats 2 and 1, respectively. ~~The Meridian Districting Committee shall number each City Council seat pursuant to this section and I.C. 50-707.~~ The number of each City Council seat shall correspond to the numbered City Council districts.

**Section 2.** Meridian City Code section 1-7-1(E) shall be amended to read as follows:

E. *Staggered terms.* At each election, three (3) City Council seats shall be open for election, alternating between City Council seats 2, 3, and 5 and City Council seats 1, 4, and 6 ~~in odd-numbered seats and even-numbered seats.~~

1. *Election in 2023.* In the 2023 general city election, the first election after the establishment of City Council districts in the City of Meridian, no candidate, including an incumbent candidate, may run for election or re-election to a City Council seat in a City Council district in which the candidate is not a resident. Incumbent City Council members who are serving in City Council seats 2, 3, and 5, ~~as such seats were designated prior to the assignment of City Council seats to City Council districts,~~ and who are running for re-election in 2023, must be residents of the respective City Council districts in which they are running. In order to preserve staggered terms, City Council members serving in City Council seats 1, 4, and 6, ~~as such seats were designated prior to the assignment of City Council seats to City Council districts,~~ shall serve the remainder of their terms in those seats, during which time they shall represent the City Council districts corresponding to their City Council seat numbers, regardless of whether they are residents of the City Council district to which their seat corresponds.

2. *Elections in 2025 and thereafter.* In the 2025 general city election and in each election thereafter, no candidate, including an incumbent candidate, may run for election or re-election to a City Council seat in a City Council district in which the candidate is not a resident.

**Section 3.** Meridian City Code section 1-7-11(B) shall be amended to read as follows:

B. *Duties and powers.* The Meridian Districting Committee shall be charged with, and authorized to:

1. Evaluate and apply federal decennial census data regarding the City of Meridian in order to establish six (6) City Council districts pursuant to the provisions of I.C. 50-707A; Title 1, Chapter 7, Meridian City Code; and all other applicable provisions of local, state, and federal law.

2. Assign City Council seats, numbering 1 through 6, to the corresponding numbered City Council districts, pursuant to this Chapter ~~the provisions of I.C. 50-707 and Title 1, Chapter 7, Meridian City Code.~~

3. Act independently to make decisions regarding designating and numbering City Council districts ~~and City Council seat numbers~~, without regard for the residency of elected officials or candidates running for municipal office of the City of Meridian.
4. Consult resources and experts in demographics and population distribution, including, without limitation, the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, the United States Census Bureau, and their delegees and staff, as needed or desired.
5. Consult resources and experts in districting and apportionment, including, without limitation, the Idaho Secretary of State, the Idaho Commission for Reapportionment, the Ada County Clerk, and the delegees and staff thereof, as needed or desired.
6. Consult City of Meridian Geographic Information System and Planning staff for information and assistance with establishment of City Council districts and the preparation of maps.
7. Consult the City Attorney or designee regarding compliance with applicable Idaho Code and Meridian City Code provisions.

**Section 4.** A new section shall be added, Meridian City Code section 1-7-11(I), to read as follows:

I. City Council may, pursuant to Idaho Code section 50-707, modify City Council seat numbers after the Meridian Districting Plan has been adopted, so long as such modifications are approved by ordinance at least one hundred thirty-five (135) days prior to the date of the next general city election.

**Section 5.** That all ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts thereof in conflict with this ordinance are hereby voided.

**Section 6.** That this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage and publication.

**PASSED** by the City Council of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this 16th day of August, 2022.

**APPROVED** by the Mayor of the City of Meridian, Idaho, this 16th day of August, 2022.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Simison, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Johnson, City Clerk