From: Jonathan Wainscott <jonwainscott@gmail.com>
Sent: 7/10/2019 8:44:42 AM
To: vijaykapoor@avlcouncil.com
Cc:
Subject: Voter registration data needs to be released

Vijay, the Board of Elections still has not published the District column on their voter registration spreadsheet which is updated daily and available on line. All precincts have been updated to be in specific districts. By figuring out which precincts are in which districts, one can compute the racial makeup of each district. I did that.

Here's the breakdown:
African-American percentage of registered voters in Asheville today- 10.17%
District 1 (West) 6.41%
District 2 (Central) 18.56%
District 3 (North) 3.66%
District 4 (East) 9.02%
District 5 (South) 12.43%

District 2 is 82.5% "more black" (in terms of registered voters, not population) than the at-large registration, and District 5 is 22.22% more black.

It was a small pain in the ass to do this. I, and anyone else, should be able to filter the data by district with a click of the mouse. The city needs to sign off on the data. Jennifer Sparks is in charge of updating data at the BOE. I have spoken to her several times over the last few months. She can be reached at (828) 250-4229.

It’s not cool for the City to have this info and not release it to the public. I hope you will expedite this so the public can have the info well before Council votes on what to do.

I’ll add that I appreciate the idea of adding 2 Council members as an effort to kick around possibilities for a change that can be seen as one made by Asheville rather than Raleigh, but there are too many cooks in the kitchen as is, and adding Council members reduces the power of each member’s vote. I doubt the idea will get support from others on Council, but you are obviously more informed on that.

Restoration of the Primary Election is really the only legitimate grievance the City has. Keep it simple.

Thanks again for your courage to take an unpopular stance on a popular (though thoroughly misinformed) public opinion.

J

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