

Columbus Ballot Issues 8 & 9

Both change who elects council members. Only one adds citywide seats.

START HERE The difference in one glance

ISSUE 8

District representation

Citizen-led proposal

9

DISTRICT SEATS

No citywide council seats



You vote for your district representative when that seat is up for election.

Current map stays until the regular post-census cycle.

ISSUE 9

District + citywide

City Council proposal

13

9 DISTRICT + 4 CITYWIDE

Phased in through 2030



You elect your district representative and help elect four citywide representatives across staggered elections.

2027 commission; current map for 2027. New boundaries used in 2029.

VS.



elected by one district



elected by the whole city

All members are legislative peers.

YOUR BALLOT

Four vote combinations. Three council outcomes.

NO / YES and YES / YES create the same council.

ISSUE 8

NO

ISSUE 9

NO

COUNCIL RESULT

9 members

Voters participate in all 9 over time

WHAT THIS COMBINATION DOES

No structural change

Today's system continues.

YES

NO

9 members

Each elected by one district

Issue 8 changes who votes

No citywide council seats.

NO

YES

13 by 2030

11 beginning in 2028

Issue 9 sets this structure

District-only voting plus citywide seats.

YES

YES

Same council as NO / YES

13 by 2030; 11 beginning in 2028

No extra structural effect

Issue 9 already includes district-only elections.

Issue 9 phase-in: 9 seats through 2027; 11 beginning in 2028; 13 beginning in 2030.

HOW IT WORKS TODAY

9 districts. 9 members. Every voter participates in all 9 over time.

Members must live in the districts they represent. Across staggered elections, every Columbus voter may vote for all nine seats.

RESIDENCY

One member must live in each district.

ELECTION

Every voter chooses among candidates for all nine seats.

WHY TWO PROPOSALS?

2025

District 7 voters preferred one candidate; the citywide vote elected another.

2026

Our City, Our Say advanced Issue 8. After compromise talks did not produce one amendment, City Council proposed Issue 9.

THE TRADEOFF



Neighborhood accountability

District residents choose their representative.



Citywide accountability

Every voter helps choose members with a citywide constituency.

Neither structure guarantees better government.

OTHER CHANGES

Both: district members are recalled by their district's voters. **Issue 9:** district candidate petitions drop from 250 to 150 signatures; the maximum population gap between the largest and smallest district rises from 1% to 7.5%; council voting thresholds adjust as seats are added.

The choice is about **who elects whom** - and to whom elected officials are accountable.

