



ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನವನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಪಕ್ಷ Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party



WARDS DELIMITATION – MAKING WARDS MANAGEABLE

Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) firmly believes that a ward, being the smallest unit of governance must be manageable administratively. For a ward to be administered by a Corporator & BBMP properly, the following conditions are critical –

1. Population / voter base of the ward needs to be reasonably small
2. Area of the ward needs to be reasonably limited
3. Road length needs to be reasonably small

The following is the current status on the above parameters for the BBMP limits of Bengaluru:

1. Population of about 1.25 crore people & total voter base of about 82 lakhs
2. Total area of about 710 sq. km.
3. Total road length of about 13,483 km

Assuming that the number of wards cannot exceed 200 in BBMP as mandated in The Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, 1976 (KMCA), the average numbers per ward on the above parameters works out to a little over 60,000 citizens per ward, a little over 40,000 voters per ward, area of about 3.5 sq. km. per ward and road length of about 68 km per ward.

Based on the above, certain boundary conditions must be set so that administration is uniform & efficient across wards –

1. Population of a ward must not exceed 75,000 and voters in a ward must not exceed 50,000
2. Area of a ward must not exceed 5 sq. km.
3. Road length of a ward must not exceed 100 km

If we were to apply the above boundary conditions to the existing ward structure of 198 wards, based on the voter data of the 2015 BBMP elections:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 148 wards will fulfil all the above boundary conditions• 18 wards will fulfil two of the boundary conditions	}	166 wards are easily manageable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 wards will fulfil only one of the boundary conditions• 20 wards will fulfil none of the boundary conditions	}	32 wards need to be addressed

** The 12 wards that fulfil only one of the boundary conditions were mostly based on number of voters being under 50,000 in those wards in 2015. Given that these are fast growing areas in the outskirts, they would have most likely exceeded 50,000 voters easily in the year 2020. This means that even the 12 wards will fulfil none of the boundary conditions based on the current voters' data!*

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THE SOLUTION

The 32 wards that do not fulfil the boundary conditions, are listed out in Annexure – I. Predictably, these wards are in the outskirts of the city, specifically the 110 villages that got integrated into BBMP in 2007. These 32 wards have a total area of about 382 sq. km. and total road length of about 6,341 km.

If these wards were to be doubled to 64 wards, the average area will work out to about 6 sq. km. and the average road length will work out to about 100 km, which makes it more manageable. Also, even with the expansion of the population in these outskirts, the voter base per ward will remain under 50,000.

32 Wards on the outskirts of the city to be doubled to 64 Wards	Voters in 2015	Area (sq km)	Roads (kms)
Total on each of the key parameters	17,65,944	382.4	6,341
Average based on the current 32 Wards	55,186	12.0	198
Average if these were to be expanded to 64 wards	27,593	6.0	99

The other 166 wards have a total voter base of less than 55 lakh voters (which would not have grown significantly too), have a total area of about 310 sq. km. and a total road length of about 7,000 km.

If these wards were to be restructured and compressed to about 125 wards, the average voter base per ward would be less than 45,000, the average area would be about 2.5 sq. km. and the average road length would be about 56 km.

166 Wards within the city to be compressed to 125 Wards	Voters in 2015	Area (sq km)	Roads (kms)
Total on each of the key parameters	54,96,969	309.3	6,979
Average based on the current 166 Wards	33,114	1.9	42
Average if these were to be compressed to 125 wards	43,976	2.5	56

The solution lies in applying a simple scientific & systematic methodology to drawing ward boundaries and making wards manageable. The above restructuring will also make the wards relatively more uniform so that the budget allocated to each ward can be spent for meaningful development in each ward.

Currently, the wards on the outskirts of the city continue to face huge problems since they are very large and consequently, the budget allocated is not sufficient to take care of the needs of the entire ward!

Government of Karnataka (GoK) has undertaken a process of delimitation and has passed a draft notification, which unfortunately is lacking any level of detail.

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BNP'S OBSERVATIONS ON THE DRAFT DELIMITATION DOCUMENT PUT OUT BY GoK

First up, the following observations emerge on close inspection of the document:

1. **NO DETAILS AVAILABLE:** The document does not have ward boundaries on a map nor any details with respect to the area of each ward, length of the roads, length of storm water drains (SWD) etc.
2. **NO BASIS FOR POPULATION / VOTERS ESTIMATION:** How has the population & voters of each ward been determined? Is the estimate of population based on the 2011 census? If yes, the parameter applied to account for the increase since 2011 needs to be clarified. For example, wards on the outskirts have recorded more growth than those in the interiors. Is the estimate of population based on the number of property tax payers or BESCOM connections or BWSSB connections, as held in the BBMP's database? If so, where is the data?

BNP'S DEMANDS ON THE DRAFT DELIMITATION DOCUMENT

1. Additional details must be provided for each ward including the ward boundaries on a map, total number of citizens & voters in each ward, area of the ward, road length & SWD length.
2. The following details must also be provided – population data as per 2011 census by ward, current registered voters on the electoral rolls by ward and the number of households with BESCOM connection by ward & BBMP property tax paying households by ward.
3. Citizens must be provided at least 4 weeks and not just 2 weeks after release of the draft for them to come back with meaningful suggestions after due analysis.
4. Basis of proposed reservation of new wards must also be announced, along with the announcement of delimitation, based on the demographic profile of each ward.
5. Election Commission (and not GoK) must undertake delimitation after consulting BBMP & GoK.

BNP'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE DRAFT DELIMITATION DOCUMENT

1. Based on a combination of the 2011 census data, BESCOM data, BBMP data & current electoral rolls, a reasonable estimate of the population & voter base of each ward must be established.
2. Boundary conditions for each ward along the following lines must be strictly enforced:
 - Population of a ward must not exceed 75,000 people and voters must not exceed 50,000
 - Area of a ward must not exceed 6 sq. km.
 - Road length of a ward must not exceed 100 km
3. 32 wards (given in Annexure – I) in the outskirts of the city to be expanded to at least 64 wards and the other 166 wards to be compressed to 125 wards, as enumerated earlier.

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ANNEXURE - I

Wards that do not fulfil any of the boundary conditions

S. No.	Ward No.	Ward Name	Assembly Constituency	Voters in 2015	Area (sq km)	Roads (kms)
1	184	Uttarahalli	Bangalore South	61,820	9.9	215
2	192	Begur	Bangalore South	68,950	19	280
3	194	Gottigere	Bangalore South	51,560	7.4	176
4	196	Anjanapura	Bangalore South	39,058	11.4	234
5	197	Vasanthapura	Bangalore South	57,532	5.7	143
6	174	HSR Layout	Bommanahalli	55,085	7.1	141
7	191	Singasandra	Bommanahalli	53,418	9.7	179
8	193	Arakere	Bommanahalli	48,238	6.6	155
9	5	Jakkuru	Byatarayanapura	51,110	23.5	349
10	6	Thanisandra	Byatarayanapura	67,727	10	235
11	7	Byatarayanapura	Byatarayanapura	63,602	10	144
12	9	Vidyanarayapura	Byatarayanapura	48,340	9.9	130
13	12	Shettihalli	Dasarahalli	55,893	8.1	144
14	14	Bagalagunte	Dasarahalli	62,983	4.3	123
15	25	Horamavu	K.R. Puram	85,459	17.5	341
16	26	Ramamurthy Nagar	K.R. Puram	45,216	7.3	144
17	53	Basavanapura	K.R. Puram	44,934	6.3	126
18	81	Vijnananagar	K.R. Puram	51,151	5.7	106
19	54	Hoodi	Mahadevapura	42,473	15	197
20	83	Kadugodi	Mahadevapura	36,101	11.2	101
21	84	Hagaduru	Mahadevapura	46,302	12.6	154
22	85	Doddanekkundi	Mahadevapura	52,699	12	155
23	149	Varthur	Mahadevapura	44,893	28.3	202
24	150	Bellanduru	Mahadevapura	60,459	26.4	249
25	73	Kottigepalya	Rajarajeswari Nagar	66,579	5.8	139
26	129	Jnana Bharathi Nagara	Rajarajeswari Nagar	62,255	11.9	233
27	160	Rajarajeshwari Nagar	Rajarajeswari Nagar	58,614	11.1	223
28	3	Attur	Yelahanka	49,014	8.8	169
29	40	Doddabidarakallu	Yeshwantpura	69,587	12.9	282
30	72	Herohalli	Yeshwantpura	62,394	7.8	184
31	130	Ullalu	Yeshwantpura	55,785	8.7	235
32	198	Hemmigepura	Yeshwantpura	46,713	30.5	453

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