



Office of the Dane County Clerk

**& Office of the County Board
Dane County Board of Supervisors**
City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703-3342

To: Dane County Municipal Leaders

From: Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell

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Dane County Board Chair Analiese Eicher

RE: Redistricting Timeline for Spring Elections

Dear Municipal Leaders:

Under both federal and state law, local governments must redraw municipal ward boundaries and political jurisdictions every 10 years to accommodate changing population and demographic trends. Dane County has experienced the largest growth in Wisconsin, adding approximately 60,000 new residents over the past decade.

Due to the COVID pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau was delayed in collecting and disseminating the data we need to begin the redistricting process. The data, which was due months ago, is now anticipated to be available sometime in the last two weeks of August.

A bill was drafted and passed in the Wisconsin Legislature that would have extended the timelines for local governments due to the lateness of the data and the compressed timelines. However, Governor Evers vetoed that bill, stating:

"In attempting to solve one problem, the bill creates a larger one. The bill creates too great of a delay in creating the new maps. This will result in malapportioned maps that do not accurately reflect current populations, which violates the constitutional principle of one person, one vote."

We believe the Governor is correct that violating the constitutional principle of "one person, one vote" is wrong and would almost certainly open county and municipal governments to a lawsuit that would be difficult to defend. Therefore, the only option that seems open to us is to work together to compress the timeline of redistricting while still continuing to ensure a non-partisan redistricting process that prioritizes public hearings and public input on the process and the proposed maps.

We appreciate the partnership of all Dane County local governments in this process, and although factors beyond our control have dictated this accelerated format, we recognize the challenge that it

presents to all of you. We are aiming to have an expedited process that is fair, non-partisan, and effective.

Outlined below is our tentative timeline for the redistricting process over the next few months.

This year, the County Board handed off the process of drawing new County Board districts to a non-partisan citizen [Redistricting Commission](#). In September, this commission will hold hearings, take submission of maps from the public, and ultimately recommend several maps to the County Board, which the County Board may not amend. This will be an iterative process where we will all need to stay in regular communication to create the best process possible under the tight timeline. We ask that you begin your process of redistricting as soon as possible and communicate any progress to staff of the Redistricting Commission so that we can accurately reflect your efforts in our County Board maps.

Once the Redistricting Commission has several proposed maps to submit to the County Board, the Board will schedule a special meeting in mid-October to take action to select one map and then convey that map to municipalities to work on their ward plans to submit back to Dane County by November 5th. Our goal is to hold a public hearing and adopt a supervisory district plan via resolution on November 18th.

Tentative timeline:

- **August 31:** Census data received by Dane County
- **September 1- 30:** Dane County Non-Partisan Redistricting Commission works with public
- **October 4:** Presentation by the Redistricting Commission of 3 selected maps to the Dane County Executive Committee
- **October 7:** Executive Committee recommends one map to the Dane County Board
- **October 14:** Dane County Board holds public hearing and adopts a *tentative* supervisory district plan via resolution
- **October 15 - Nov. 5:** Municipalities submit ward plans to Dane County
- **November 18:** Dane County Board of Supervisors holds a public hearing and adopts a supervisory plan via resolution

We understand this is an ambitious schedule, but we believe with your collaboration and support we can accomplish this redistricting process in a fair and effective way. Please contact the following Redistricting Commission staff with any follow-up questions or comments you have about the process:

Brian Standing, Senior Planner, Dane County Planning & Development

Standing@countyofdane.com

608.267.4115

OR

Rachel Rodriguez, Elections Management Specialist, Dane County Clerk's Office

Rodriguez.Rachel@countyofdane.com

608.266.4111

Thank you.