

Redistricting in 2022

November 9, 2021

Agenda

- Introductions and purpose of workshop.
Deputy County Manager, Karen Francois
County Auditor-Treasurer, Heather Bestler
- Presentation from the State's Demographic Center.
Senior Demographer, Megan Dayton, MN Demographic Center
- Redistricting information.
Elections Manager, David Triplett
 - Review redistricting timeline and our responsibilities.
 - Implications of redistricting.
 - Discuss role of a consultant and internal committee.
 - Legislative and judicial updates.

Purpose of this workshop

- Gain a better understanding of the current demographics in Ramsey County.
- Provide information on the redistricting process.
- Review the county's responsibilities.



Presentation by Megan Dayton, Senior Demographer

Background Information

What is redistricting?

It's the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts to ensure that the people of each district are equally represented.

When does it happen?

It is typically done in the United States every ten years, after the completion of the Census. In Minnesota, redistricting must be completed before the state primary in August and generally is completed in the winter or spring.

Who is responsible?

Each level of government is responsible for completing these duties. The Minnesota Legislature, cities, school districts, and counties all have redistricting responsibilities.

Responsibilities

- The Minnesota Legislature will first draw the state's congressional and legislative districts.
- Cities and townships will then draw their ward and precinct boundaries.
- Using the precinct boundaries established by the cities and townships, the counties and school districts will draw their districts.

County Responsibilities

- Duties of the county auditor:
 - Provide state legislative plans to cities.
 - Update the city and commissioner plans into the Statewide Voter Registration System and ensure voters are in the correct precincts.
 - Send notice to voters of these changes.
- Duties of the county board:
 - Re-establish or redistrict commissioner districts using the municipal precinct boundaries.

Implications of Redistricting

- The county has a limited role in the redistricting process since we are the last political subdivision to redistrict.
- The new boundaries will be used to represent the county's residents for the next decade.
- The five percent rule for county commissioners. Special election if district changes by more than five percent. *M.S. 375.025 subd. 4*

Redistricting Principles

- 1965 Voting Rights Act – prohibits redistricting plans that discriminate on the basis of race or membership in a minority group.
- Districts must be equally populated, as best as possible.
- Districts should be compact, contiguous, and preserve Communities of Interest.
- Avoid districts that favor or disfavor an incumbent, candidate or political party.

Tentative Timeline

- Legislative and congressional boundaries completed by **2/15/2022** or at least 25 weeks before August primary.
- Municipal precincts and wards completed by **3/29/2022** or within 60 days of legislative boundaries being passed.
- Other districts need to be completed by **4/26/2022** or within 80 days of legislative boundaries being passed.
- No elections held on the uniform dates in April/May 2022.
 - February is only time for special elections before August 2022.

Role of a Consultant

- Act as a non-biased agent to help manage the redistricting project for the county.
- Will engage board members and receive feedback about expectations for the new commissioner districts.
- Conduct a public input process.
- Draft potential redistricting plans for the board to consider.
- Ensure process is completed in a timely manner.

Role of Internal Redistricting Committee

- Cross-department team created to support administrative redistricting duties.
- Provide technical support for county board members, county board staff, and redistricting consultant.
- Act as an information resource to, and assist the work of, the county board and redistricting consultant.
- Verify the final county commissioner redistricting plan meets statutory requirements.

Legislative, Judicial, and State Actions

- MN House and Senate Redistricting Committees have been holding hearings.
- Redistricting panel appointed by MN Supreme Court.
 - Held many public hearings.
 - Prepared to draw legislative & congressional plans.
- MN Office of the Secretary of State is holding trainings for county auditors' offices around the state.

Available Resources

- [Ramsey County's Redistricting Webpage](#)
- [Information and Data from the MN OSS](#)
- [Minnesota Judicial Branch Special Redistricting Panel](#)