



Iowa League of Cities

October 12, 2021

Redistricting and Reprecincting 2021



Overview

- Redistricting and reprecincting every 10 years
- Governing bodies impact other governing bodies
- Maps must be submitted as GIS shapefile or Census block equivalency file
- Different requirements for different cities
 - Cities under 3500 with no wards
 - Cities under 3500 with wards
 - Cities over 3500 with no wards
 - Cities over 3500 with wards

City Council Responsibilities

- Review precinct and ward boundaries' compliance with Iowa Code
- Define precinct and ward boundaries by ordinance
- Allow county auditor to review plan and provide feedback
- Public hearing before final action taken to adopt new boundaries
- Certify populations of precincts and wards
- Publish notice of changes in precinct and ward boundaries
- Meet deadlines per Iowa Code

City Council Responsibilities

- Cities must file the following information with the Secretary of State (SOS), **even if no changes to precinct or ward boundaries:**
 - Precinct & Ward Map(s)—GIS shapefile or census block equivalency file (no paper maps)
 - Original City Reprecincting Worksheet—including population certifications of precincts and wards
 - Ordinance(s) describing precinct and ward boundaries
 - Agreements with counties (if any)

Cities under 3500 with NO Wards

Three Situations—a city can be in only one of the following:

- 1) < 3500 AND no wards AND consists of only one precinct composed of only incorporated territory = No Filing Requirement
- 2) 2000 < 3500 AND agreement with county = File Agreement & Reprecincting Worksheet with SOS
- 3) < 2000 = No Filing Requirement

Cities under 3500 with Wards

- Work through list of city responsibilities as outlined on previous slide (4) and page (1) in City Instructions
- Must file with SOS **even if no changes to ward boundaries:**
 - Precinct & Ward Map(s)—GIS shapefile or census block equivalency file (no paper maps)
 - Original City Reprecincting Worksheet—including population certifications of precincts and wards
 - Ordinance describing ward boundaries
 - Agreements with counties (if any)

Cities over 3500 with NO Wards

- Work through list of city responsibilities as outlined on previous slide (4) and page (1) in City Instructions
- Must file with SOS **even if no changes to precinct boundaries:**
 - Precinct Map—GIS shapefile or census block equivalency file (no paper maps)
 - Original City Reprecincting Worksheet—including precinct population certification
 - Ordinance describing precinct boundaries
 - Agreements with counties (if any)

Cities over 3500 with Wards

- Work through list of city responsibilities as outlined on previous slide (4) and page (1) in City Instructions
- Must file with SOS **even if no changes to precinct and ward boundaries:**
 - Precinct & Ward Maps—GIS shapefile or census block equivalency file (no paper maps)
 - Original City Reprecincting Worksheet—including population certifications of precincts and wards
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Precinct Standards

- Population cannot exceed 3500
- Lie within one legislative district
- Composed of contiguous territory
- Follow census block boundaries, even if different from actual geography
- Serve voter convenience and promote electoral efficiency
- Include city annexed territory population if annexed after January 1, 2020

Ward Standards

- Follow precinct boundaries
- Composed of contiguous territory
- Composed of compact territory
- Ideal ward population (city's population ÷ number wards)
- Divided into smallest number of county supervisor districts possible

Ward Standards

- Following items cannot be taken into consideration when drawing ward boundaries:
 - Addresses of incumbents
 - Political affiliations of registered voters
 - Past election results
 - Other demographic information beyond census head counts

Deadlines

- Iowa Congressional, State Senate and State House districts approved
 - Second Extraordinary Session will convene on October 28 / December 1
- City precinct boundary changes completed
 - No later than 60 days after legislative districts have become law / September 1
- County precinct and supervisor district boundary changes completed
 - No later than 90 days after legislative districts have become law / October 15
- City and County precinct boundaries effective
 - January 15, 2022

Notes

- City councils are doing this work—NOT up to city clerks to make these decisions
- Precinct and ward boundaries must be defined by ordinance
- Work with your county auditor throughout this process
 - Remember—county auditor must be given 7–10 days to review city council’s plan and provide written comments.
 - If city council rejects auditor’s suggestions, their reasons why must be included in ordinance that defines boundaries.

Notes

- Use City Instructions and Reprecincting Worksheet
- SOS mapping application is free to you
 - Send first and last names and email address to precinct.plan@sos.iowa.gov
 - Username and password will be issued
 - Training opportunities link will be emailed



Thank you!

515.281.0145

precinct.plan@sos.iowa.gov