

You need to know

- Legislators return to Des Moines on October 5 for a special session to discuss redistricting.
- Census numbers have been certified. The new numbers will change how cities draw precincts and wards and the distribution of Road Use Tax Funds.
- American Rescue Plan Reporting is coming up. Make sure your city is ready to submit the required reports.

[Governor Reynolds Sets Special Session For October 5](#)

- Due to delays in census figures coming from the Federal government, a special session will be required to redistrict Iowa's political boundaries.
- The Legislative Service Agency has released the first map and the Iowa Legislature will convene on Tuesday, October 5, at 10 a.m. to vote on this map.
- This special session is not limited to redistricting maps and the legislature has the discretion to take up other issues as they see fit.
- The Iowa Supreme Court has [issued a statement](#) saying they will allow the legislature to continue this redistricting process until December 1.

[2020 Census Data to Update RUTF](#)

- The Iowa Department of Transportation has updated the Road Use Tax Fund payments based on the 2020 census data.
- [This spreadsheet](#), along with other important census resources, can be found on the League's [Census redistricting FAQ](#), which is updated as more resources and information become available.

[Precincts and Wards Updates based on 2020 Census](#)

- Each city will be required to review its precinct and ward (if any) boundaries to ensure they comply with current law. [Code of Iowa Section 49.7](#) states: city councils shall complete any ward or precinct changes within sixty days after Iowa's congressional and legislative districts are finalized.
- The Iowa Secretary of State has compiled instructions and worksheets for use by city officials in this process. Additionally, should a city need to redraw precincts or wards, the Secretary of State has the necessary software and training available to all cities.
- Each city's responsibilities will depend on its population, ward boundaries, precinct boundaries, among other details. Cities over 3,500 in population will be required to file information with the Secretary of State's office.
- The secretary of State has released this [worksheet](#) and [instructions](#) for cities to utilize for their ward and precinct drawing responsibilities.
- The Secretary of State's office has provided this email, precinct.plan@sos.iowa.gov, to answer questions.

[American Rescue Plan](#)

- **Uses:** Now that most cities have received their first round of funds, the city council and staff should discuss the most effective and productive uses for the funds. As a reminder, ARP funds do not have to be obligated until December 2024 and do not have to be spent until December 2026.
Reporting requirements: As the ARP funds qualify as federal disaster relief funds, cities will need to file routine reports. The first report for ARP funds is due at the end of October. Cities should familiarize themselves with the reporting requirements before they are due. Get started by viewing [the Treasury's web page on compliance and reporting](#).

[Special Election to Fill Vacancy in HD29](#)

- Representative Wes Breckenridge has vacated his seat after taking a job with the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.
- The election to fill HD29 will be held on October 12.
- Jon Dunwell and Steve Mullan have been nominated by their party's central committee to appear on the ballot on October 12.

