



Local Government Redistricting 2020

February 2020

This document lists key dates and laws that impact the redistricting process for local governments in Minnesota.

In general, local governments are required to wait until redistricting maps for both congressional and legislative districts are complete before they can begin redrawing local wards and precincts. The deadlines provided in law are meant to ensure those new local boundaries are drawn in time to fully administer the state primary election based on all of the new boundaries (federal, state, and local) in August 2022.

| Date | Event |
|---|--|
| January 1, 2020 | All precinct and boundary lines frozen until completion of legislative and congressional redistricting, with limited exceptions. <i>Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.14, subd. 3</i> |
| February 15, 2022 | Deadline for enactment of new congressional and legislative districts. <i>Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.14, subd. 1a</i> |
| February 15, 2022 | Last day to conduct a local special election prior to the state primary election. <i>Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.135, subd. 4; 205.10, subd. 3a; 205A.05, subd. 1a</i> |
| March 29, 2022 (or within 60 days following completion of legislative districts) | Deadline for reestablishment or redistricting of municipal precincts (and wards, where applicable); local redistricting may begin upon adoption of new precinct boundaries. <i>Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.14, subd. 3; 204B.135, subd. 2</i> |
| April 26, 2022 (or within 80 days following completion of legislative districts) | Deadline for adoption of new local government election districts (except in certain cities with elections in 2021). <i>Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.135, subd. 2</i> |
| May 17, 2022 | State general election candidate filing period opens. <i>Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.16, subd. 3</i> |
| May 31, 2022 | State general election candidate filing period closes. <i>Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.16, subd. 3</i> |
| August 9, 2022 November 8, 2022 | State Primary and State General Elections. Candidates are elected based on the newly drawn districts. |

Key County Responsibilities

The county board is responsible for redistricting county commissioner districts. Commissioner districts must be redrawn within 80 days of completion of the legislative and congressional redistricting plans. The county board is also responsible for redistricting any precincts located within unorganized territory within the county. The county auditor coordinates redistricting processes with cities, townships, school districts, and the secretary of state.

- Standards for creating county commissioner districts: Minn. Stat. sec. 375.025
- Authorization for county to levy a special tax to cover redistricting expenses, with certain limitations: Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.135, subd. 5
- Authority for voters to seek a court-ordered redistricting commission, if county board is not sufficiently diligent: Minn. Stat. sec. 375.025, subd. 2

Key City, Town, and School District Responsibilities

All cities and towns are required to either reestablish their existing precinct boundaries, or redraw them to conform to statutory requirements, within 60 days of enactment of the legislative and congressional redistricting plans. If a new legislative or congressional boundary splits an existing precinct within the city or township, that jurisdiction must redraw the precinct boundaries to eliminate the split.

In a school district electing board members by district, the district boundaries must be confirmed or redrawn within 80 days of enactment of the legislative and congressional redistricting plans.

First class cities with wards and a 2021 municipal election must reestablish ward and precinct boundaries before that election occurs, and may revise them again in 2022 if necessary to conform to new congressional and legislative boundaries.

- Standards for creating precincts: Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.14
- Standards for creating wards: Minn. Stat. sec. 205.84; 204B.135, subd. 1
- Standards for creating school board district boundaries: Minn. Stat. sec. 205A.12, subd. 4; 205A.12, subd. 6
- Deadlines for first class cities with wards and a 2021 municipal election: Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.135, subd. 1
- Suspension of pay for mayor and city council if redistricting is not complete: Minn. Stat. sec. 205.84, subd. 2
- Suspension of pay for school board members if redistricting is not complete: Minn. Stat. sec. 205A.12, subd. 6
- First class cities with a four-year, nonstaggered council (if ward population changes by five percent or more): Minn. Stat. sec. 205.84, subd. 1, para. (b)
- Authority for voters to seek court order to conduct redistricting, or to revise adopted redistricting plan: Minn. Stat. sec. 204B.135, subd. 3