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MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Nikki Elsen, City Clerk

Date: July 29, 2021

Re: File 21-0980 Resolution establishing the City of La Crosse Redistricting Committee.

Redistricting is the process by which states adjust the boundaries of congressional, state legislative and local electoral districts to account for shifts in the population that occur over time. Redistricting is a relatively rare occurrence and typically takes place once every ten (10) years following the federal census.

Federal census data is expected to be released the third week of August 2021. The first phase of redistricting is for the county to draw tentative supervisory boundaries. Once the county releases its tentative plan, the second phase is for municipalities to adjust ward boundaries (voting districts) as necessary. The third phase is for the county to adopt a final supervisory district plan.

The City Redistricting Committee will be responsible for reviewing the county's tentative supervisory plan and census data to determine necessary adjustment to ward boundaries. Ward boundaries must conform to statutorily prescribed population ranges and meet other requirements, including compactness, contiguity and communities of interest.

Phase one is expected to occur once the census data is released mid-August with a tentative plan adopted on or about September 16th. The City will have from about September 17th to November 1st to adjust ward boundaries as necessary. A final plan should be adopted about November 9th so it can be sent to the state and implemented for Spring 2022 elections.

Following adoption of the final plan, an ordinance must be adopted to establish the boundaries of the aldermanic districts based upon the adjusted wards. Ideally, the County Supervisory Districts and City Aldermanic Districts will remain coterminous.

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