



# **CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Council Members

From: Nikki Elsen, City Clerk

Date: September 8, 2021

Re: File 21-1301 Resolution establishing an Aldermanic District and Ward Boundary Plan in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes and the 2021 Tentative County Supervisory District Plan.

Every ten years following the federal census, electoral district boundaries are redrawn to adjust for shifts in population and to ensure equal representation in a process call Redistricting.

There are three steps to the local redistricting process following release of the federal census data:

1. County boards adopt a tentative county supervisory district plan.
2. Municipalities enact legislation to establish ward boundaries.
3. County boards adopt a final supervisory district plan and municipalities adjust aldermanic districts.

Typically, federal census data is released by April and each step is allowed 60 days. Because the 2020 federal census data was delayed due to COVID-19 impacts, we are working with a condensed timeframe. The 2020 federal census data was released August 16<sup>th</sup> and the process needs to be complete mid-November.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, the County Redistricting Committee approved a recommended 2021 Tentative County Supervisory District Plan with 30 supervisory districts. A statutory public hearing is scheduled before the La Crosse County Board on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and the County Board is scheduled to adopt a tentative plan on September 16<sup>th</sup>. This will complete step 1.

Step 2 of the process then begins and must be complete by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The City Redistricting Committee is scheduled to convene September 20<sup>th</sup> to begin the process of creating ward boundaries based on the tentative county supervisory district plan and shifts in population. Because of the timeframe, it is essential the ward boundary plan be approved by the Council at its October meeting. A draft resolution has been prepared and will be noticed on the October Judiciary & Administration Committee agenda. The resolution will be incomplete until the City Redistricting Committee has sufficient time to create and recommend an aldermanic district/ward boundary plan. Once a recommended plan is established, the legislation will be updated accordingly and the plan attached. This is expected prior to the October 5<sup>th</sup> Judiciary & Administration Committee meeting.

Because of the shortened timeline and need for this legislation to be considered by the Council in October, having this legislation placed on the agenda, even though incomplete, provides more transparency to the process than short-circuiting the legislation once the City Redistricting Committee has a recommended plan.

Please contact me if you have questions.

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