



# **CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

**400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-7510  
cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org  
www.cityoflacrosse.org**

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Council Members

From: Nikki Elsen, City Clerk

Date: September 28, 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.

On September 20, 2021, the City of La Crosse Redistricting Committee met and discussed the tentative county supervisory district plan adopted by the La Crosse County Board. The adopted tentative supervisory district plan established 30 supervisory districts in the County with 13 of those supervisory districts being within the City of La Crosse municipal boundaries.

The City Redistricting Committee unanimously agreed to maintain coterminous boundaries (aligning City aldermanic district boundaries with the County supervisory districts) and directed staff to prepare ward boundary maps reducing the number of wards and equalizing population within the wards, all in effort to reduce voter confusion.

On September 27, 2021, the City Redistricting Committee met and reviewed draft ward boundary maps. Three maps were prepared for consideration (all utilizing the proposed supervisory district boundaries to maintain coterminous):

- Ward Plan with Major Divide – this plan focused on dividing each district into two wards by a very prominent boundary such as a major arterial, railway or other. Equal population was not considered.
- Ward Plan with Equal Population – this plan focused on trying to achieve an equal population of each ward within each district. No consideration of distinct boundary.
- Ward Plan #3 – this plan attempted to achieve both an equal population amongst the wards within each district as well as a distinct boundary separating the wards.

After much discussion and consideration of the criteria required when creating wards, the City Redistricting Committee voted unanimously to recommend Ward Plan #3 be referred to the Judiciary & Administration Committee. This aldermanic district and ward boundary plan maintains coterminous boundaries with 13 aldermanic districts and reduces the number of wards from 35 to 26.

Due to the expedited timeline caused by the delay in the release of census data, an adopted ward boundary plan must be submitted to La Crosse County no later than October 25<sup>th</sup>.

An Ordinance will be presented to the Council in November adjusting the aldermanic districts and a new map and legal descriptions will be prepared (this must be accomplished within 60 days of the wards boundaries being established).

Please contact me if you have questions.

Nikki M. Elsen, City Clerk, WCMC  
elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org  
608-789-7555