

Establishing Washington County 2022 Redistricting Principles

WHEREAS, county commissioner districts are the geographic area within a county in which a County Commissioner must reside when nominated, elected for office, and while serving on the Board of Commissioners (M.S. 375A.09 subd 3); and

WHEREAS, when it appears after a federal census that the population of the districts of the county are not in accord with the standards set forth in state statute, state and local governments must reestablish the boundaries of their elective districts (M.S. 375.025 sub 1).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners will use the following principles for the adoption of a County Redistricting Plan.

1. Number of Districts
 - The County will have 5 Commissioner Districts with a single commissioner for each district
2. Relationship to Other Boundaries
 - Commissioner Districts shall be bounded by town, municipal, ward, or precinct lines
3. Population Deviation
 - Commissioner districts will meet the population deviation required by state statute, unless doing so is not possible because of the lack of authority to split precincts
4. Contiguous Territory
 - Each Commissioner District shall be composed of contiguous territory
5. Regular and Compact in Form
 - Commissioner Districts shall be as regular and compact in form as practicable, depending upon the geography of the county and adhering to the preceding principles
6. Minority Representation
 - Commissioner Districts shall not be drawn with either the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the voting rights of any county citizen on account of race, ethnicity, or membership in a language minority group
7. Dividing of Political Subdivisions
 - The County Redistricting Plan will avoid the dividing of political subdivisions unless necessary to meet the principle of equal population or to preserve communities of interest
8. Preserving Communities of Interest
 - Commissioner Districts should attempt to preserve communities of interest, i.e. areas with similarities of interests, including but not limited to, racial, ethnic, geographic, social and cultural interests, where that can be done in compliance with the other principles
9. Incumbents
 - Commissioner Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating incumbents and should not result in either undue incumbent protection or excessive incumbent conflicts

Priority of Principles

Districts must be drawn in accordance with principles 1 through 9. If districts cannot be drawn fully in accordance with the principles 1 through 9, a districting plan must give priority to the principles in the order in which they are listed, except when doing so would violate federal or state law.

Other Redistricting Process Principles

1. Notice of Intent to Redistrict
 - Before acting to redistrict county commissioner districts, the County shall publish notice (at least three weeks in advance) of the time and date of the meeting at which redistricting will be considered and will provide public notice of all meetings related to redistricting and provide opportunity for public input throughout the process.
2. Public Participation and Review
 - Public Input before Maps are Drafted: There are provisions for public input on maps before draft maps are submitted to the Commissioners.
 - Public Review and comment on Draft and Final Maps:
 - County Commissioner discussions leading to proposed maps are public records and made available to the public.

- Following creation of draft county commissioner district maps by the Washington County Staff, the draft maps will be presented at a hearing of the county commissioners and the public given at least 3 weeks to review and comment on the draft maps before a hearing on final maps is held.
- The public will have the opportunity to review maps agreed to by the County Board and submit comments and alternative maps prior to a final decision by the County Commissioners.