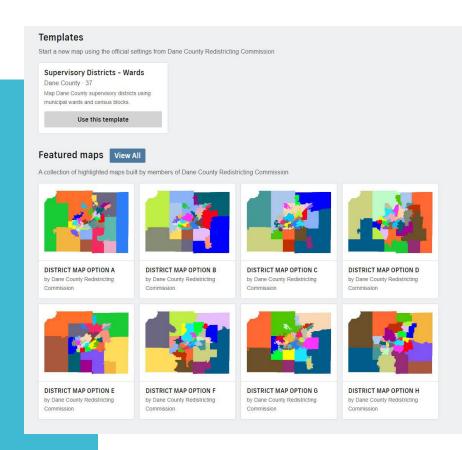
#### Redistricting 2020

Lessons Learned for 2030



#### Summary of 2020 County Redistricting



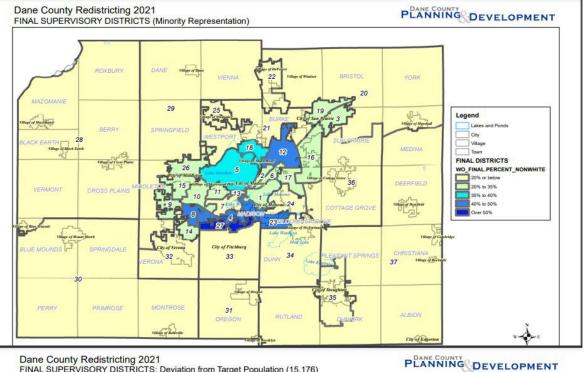


- First nonpartisan redistricting in Dane County history
- Redistricting commission, appointed by County Board Chair and County Clerk, met 19 times between October 2020 and October 2021
- 43 participants mapped and provided testimony about their "communities of interest"
- Commission reviewed over 30 maps submitted by public, staff and commission members; 63 distinct users used online mapping software
- County Board approved final supervisory district plan (2021 RES-250) 33-1.

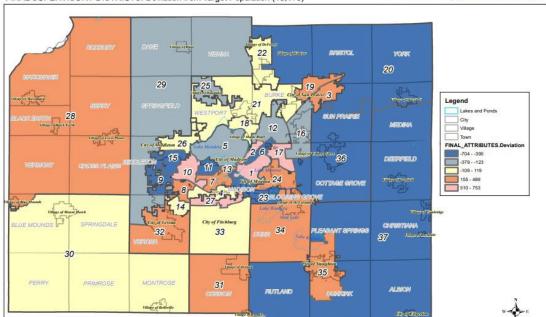
Local redistricting efforts to gear up with release of 2020 Census local data



#### Results: Criteria for Redistricting







#### All districts should (in priority order):

- Be "substantially equal in population." 1
  - All districts fall within 5% of target 2020 population (15,176)
- Minimize municipal boundaries or wards crossed.1
  - Less than 1% of municipal wards split, most of them zero population
- Provide effective representation of minorities under Voting Rights Act<sup>2</sup>
  - Five districts have minority populations of 40% or more, considered competitive for minority candidates
- Consider natural geography<sup>1</sup>
  - Where possible, districts follow major watershed lines
- Maintain "communities of interest"1
  - Districts take into account public mapping of communities
- Disregard incumbency<sup>3</sup>
  - Existing maps ignored in mapping process

<sup>1</sup>S. 59.10(3)(b), Wis. Stats. <sup>2</sup>US Code, Title 52, Ch. 103

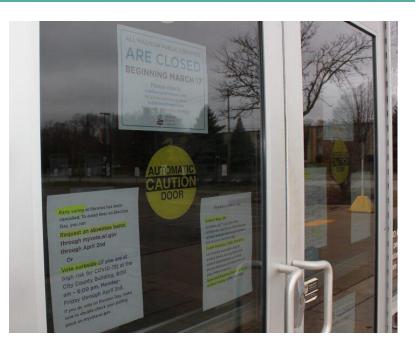
<sup>3</sup>S. 15.47(4)(c), Dane County Code

#### Challenges: Redistricting in a Pandemic

- 2020 Census results delayed 6 months
- No in-person meetings
  - Redistricting Commission meetings were all online
  - Workshops, seminars, outreach to public all curtailed
- Compressed timeframes at end of process



# Public Health Orders During the COVID-19 Pandemic O February: first case of COVID-19 in Dane County March: PHMDC first restricts mass gatherings; state restricts gatherings and enacts Safer at Home April: state continues under Safer at Home May: State Supreme Court overturns Safer At Home; PHMDC creates Forward Dane and moves to Phase 1 June: PHMDC moves to Phase 2 and later restricts bars and restaurants due to a spike in cases July: PHMDC further restricts bars and issues order requiring masks and face coverings indoors August: State issues statewide mask order \*Through 8/9



#### Pandemic-Related Schedule Changes

 U.S. Census data scheduled for April 1, not released until September 1.

- The good:
  - Allowed Redistricting Commission to expand public input to include "Community of Interest" mapping
- The bad:
  - Compressed timeframe for October 15 municipal ward reconciliation and final map adoption
  - Limited transparency and opportunities for public input in last phase.

all 2020

Mapping software for redistricting will be tested.

October 4-7 2021

A public hearing is held on the tentative upervisory district plan and the county body responsible recommends tentative plan to the County Board.

November 5 2021

> Municipalities adjust ward boundaries and submit ward plans to the county.

Summer 2020

Members for the non-partisan Redistricting Commission will be chosen by the County Board Chair and the County Clerk. It will consist of 11 Dane County residents.

> September 1-30, 2021

Redistricting issues are considered and resolved by the county, alternative supervisory districts maps are prepared, and meetings occur with local municipalities that may be split by districts.



October 14 2021

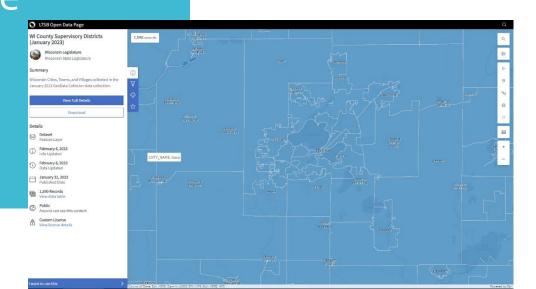
supervisory plan.

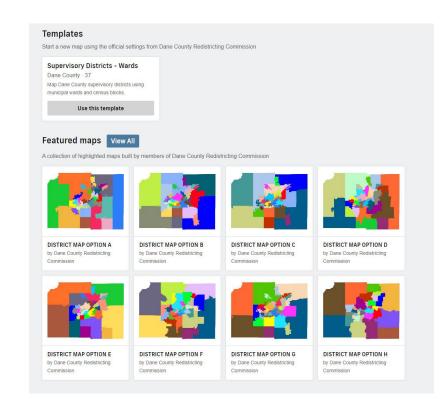
November 2021

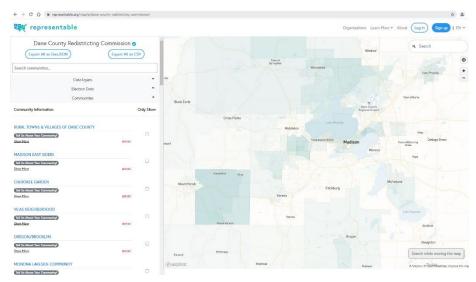
The county adopts final supervisory district plan and cities adopt aldermanic districts within 60 days of receipt of the municipal ward plans.

## What Could be Better: Mapping Software

- More data available during district mapping:
  - Municipal boundaries and wards
  - School districts
  - Communities of interest
- Interface improvements
- Live mapping at public Redistricting Commission meetings, with statistical analysis
- Integration with LTSB WISE-DECADE





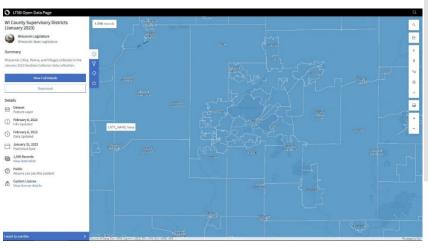


#### What Could be Better: Public Outreach and Participation

- Hampered by pandemic
- In-person workshops and mapmaking exercises should take place with stakeholders, students at schools, community centers, libraries and other community locations.
- Hybrid in-person / remote meetings and hearings of Redistricting Commission, Executive Committee and County Board
- Expand "community of interest" mapping and better integrate into final maps.







# What Could be Better: Training & Involvement for Municipal Clerks

- Start outreach earlier in process
- Get municipal clerk input on Redistricting Commission criteria for evaluating maps
- County may need to supplement WISE-DECADE training provided by state LTSB.
- County technical support and assistance to municipal clerks critical for ward reconciliation













### What Could be Better: Municipal Ward Reconciliation

- State law: municipalities must make "good faith effort" to accommodate tentative county district map.
- Little formal guidance about process or standards for county / municipality negotiation.
- Largely worked out at staff level.
- 2020 timeframes unusually compressed.
- No opportunity for Redistricting Commission to review modified maps

#### Recommended Ordinance Amendments

#### Add provisions to:

- 1. Require appointment and convening of Redistricting Commission at least 12 months prior to the release of data by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- 2. Charge Redistricting Commission with developing standards for review of maps modified through municipal ward reconciliation.
- 3. Include a step for the Redistricting Commission to reconvene after municipal ward reconciliation to review and approve the final district plan before it is submitted to the county board for final approval.

#### Recommended Process / Administrative Changes

- 1. The county should complete a robust public outreach campaign utilizing multiple forms of outreach, including in-person workshops.
- 2. Make sure all meetings are open to the public in both in-person and online formats.
- 3. Questions about the maps and the process should be directed to the Redistricting Commission.
- 4. There should be greater clarification of staff roles between Planning and Development, County Clerk and LIO.
- 5. When the Redistricting Commission is discussing changes to maps, live-mapping should be available during the meeting.
- 6. The county should allocate funds to hire a project GIS Technician to support the work of the Redistricting Commission.
- 7. The county should provide additional training to municipalities beyond the training from the Legislative Technology Services Bureau.
- 8. The county should work with the State Legislative Technology Services Bureau to:
  - a) ensure that the next generation of WISLR is available to counties and municipalities for the next redistricting effort.
  - b) provide access for members of the public to submit maps in the same platform that the county is required to submit the final maps.
- Staff should complete redistricting handbook to guide future redistricting efforts

#### More Information / Questions

- Dane County Department of Planning and Development
  - Brian Standing, <u>standing@countyofdane.com</u>
- Dane County Clerk's Office
  - Rachel Rodriguez, <u>Rodriguez.Rachel@countyofdane.com</u>
- Dane County Land Information Office
  - Fred lausly, <u>lausly@countyofdane.com</u>
- Dane County Board of Supervisors
  - Lauren Kuhl, <u>Kuhl.Lauren@countyofdane.com</u>