

From: [Town Chair](#)
To: [2021 Redistricting](#)
Cc: [Standing, Brian](#)
Subject: Dane County 2021 Redistricting Commission 9/23/21 Public Hearing
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021 3:01:59 PM
Attachments: [TofMFinal Official Map 2021.pdf](#)

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Dear 2021 Redistricting Commission Members,
I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your public service on this important nonpartisan, independent citizen 2021 Redistricting Commission. This Commission is to be applauded for its impartial, fair, and transparent work and its encouragement of public engagement and input.

How district maps are drawn is very important for the public, as population changes occur in Dane County, to ensure everyone is equally represented in a fair and effective manner. A cornerstone of our democracy is the principle of one person, one vote, and district boundaries can determine the power of each person's voice through their vote. Too often, unfortunately, the collective voice of towns is seldom heard over the dominant voice of cities.

Two of the stated goals of the 2021 Redistricting Commission is that the map shall minimize the number of municipal boundaries crossed in each of the county district, and that district lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association.

With respect to the first goal, unfortunately DistrictBuilder does not appear to provide an option to select complete, individual municipalities to "build" a new district with a stated total population goal in each new district of not more than 15,176. This lack of software functionality, and lack of easy to locate and view public access to current census population data for each town in Dane County, makes it difficult to easily determine how many adjacent towns could form a new district within the stated total population goal in each new proposed district.

With respect to the second goal, towns in Dane County are a "community of interest" that share similar values that bind our communities together. Shared town values, like the protection of prime agricultural land and natural areas, can often times be in stark contrast to the policies, objectives and actions of cities.

To ensure that elected officials on the Dane County Board of Supervisors truly "represent" the shared vision, values and interests of towns, it is imperative that individual town boundaries be kept intact when drawing new district lines, and that adjacent towns be placed together in any new districts that are created.

With respect to a new Town of Middleton district:

- 1) At a minimum, the Town of Middleton and the Town of Springfield should be together in any newly created district, and in any event not placed in a district with the City of Middleton.

A copy of the Town of Middleton Official Map is Attached for your review and use in drawing any new district boundaries.

- 2) Although it is difficult to determine using DistrictBuilder, based on State of Wisconsin Department of Administration 1/1/2021 Official Preliminary Population Estimates, it appears that a new district could easily be created comprised solely of the following adjacent towns in Dane County:

- o Town of Middleton, 6,775 (DistrictBuilder Town of Middleton population)
- o Town of Springfield, 2,957
- o Town of Cross Plains, 1,580
- o Town of Verona, 2,025
- o Town of Berry, 1,176

Total 14,513 (new proposed town district approximate population)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Richson