



DATE: February 27, 2023

TO: Dane County Executive Committee

FROM: 2021 Dane County Redistricting staff members

The 2021 Dane County redistricting process has been completed for over a year. During this time, County staff have taken the opportunity to survey members of the County Board and Redistricting Commission for feedback on the process. Additionally, staff have completed a post mortem of the process to develop recommendations for the next redistricting cycle.

It is important to point out that the 2021 redistricting process took place under extremely unusual circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These circumstances altered the timeline, meeting format, and outreach potential.

The recommendations identified by staff and through survey responses are listed below:

Suggested changes to County Ordinance:

- Require appointment and convening of Redistricting Commission at least 12 months prior to the release of data by the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Charge Redistricting Commission with developing standards for review of maps modified through municipal ward reconciliation.
- 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.

Process Recommendations:

- The county should complete a robust public outreach campaign utilizing multiple forms of outreach, including in-person workshops.
- Make sure all meetings are open to the public in both in-person and online formats.
- Questions about the maps and the process should be directed to the Redistricting Commission.
- There should be greater clarification of staff roles between Planning and Development, County Clerk and LIO.
- When the Redistricting Commission is discussing changes to maps, live-mapping should be available during the meeting.
- The county should allocate funds to hire a project GIS Technician to support the work of the Redistricting Commission.
- The county should provide additional training to municipalities beyond the training from the Legislative Technology Services Bureau.

- The county should work with the State Legislative Technology Services Bureau to:
 - ensure that the next generation of WISLR is available to counties and municipalities for the next redistricting effort.
 - 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

County staff have documented and developed a handbook for the Dane County redistricting process. This memo and any future changes to the process will be included in the handbook.