

# REDISTRICTING

Mid-Decennial Census Considerations and [2025 RES-362](#)

Presented to the Dane County Executive Committee on April 16, 2026

by

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# PROCESS/TIMELINE (for 2020 Census)

- ❑ Governed locally by [s. 15.47 of D.C. Ords.](#) (pgs. 28-29) and [s. 59.10 of Wis. Stats.](#), especially s. 59.10(3)
- ❑ Generally spanned about 18 months, summer 2020 to fall 2021.
- ❑ Latter half of 2020 and first half of 2021, staff conducted research; collected data; Redistricting Commission established; and identified, acquired, and tested software in preparation for 2020 Census data release (ultimately August 31, 2021).
- ❑ Between October 26, 2020 and September 30, 2021, the Dane County Redistricting Commission met 16 times.
- ❑ Redistricting Commission made its recommendation of 3 supervisory district options to the Board on September 30, 2021.
- ❑ [2021 RES-250](#) adopting the final supervisory district map plan was ultimately approved by Dane County on November 22, 2021.

# PROCESS/TIMELINE (cont.)

## □ 2021 process, *latter* stage (Aug. 31 to Nov. 22, 2021):

- Census data received by Dane County August 31, 2021.
- Redistricting Commission met four (4) times in September 2021.
- October 4, 2021, the Commission presented its three (3) recommended options to the County Board at a *Committee of the Whole*.
- October 6, 2021, the County Board *Executive Committee* recommended Sub. 1 to Resolution [2021 RES-199](#), proposing OPTION C as the county's tentative district plan, to the full County Board.
- October 14, 2021, the Dane County Board of Supervisors voted to approve Sub. 1 to 2021 RES-199.
- October 15 to November 4, 2021, Municipalities submitted ward plans to Dane County.
- By November 5, 2021, municipalities adjusted their ward boundaries and submitted ward plans to the county.
- November 18, 2021, the Dane County Board of Supervisors voted on a final supervisory district plan.

# How soon could a redistricting commission be assembled?

- ❑ Estimate of 2-3 months for communication among parties, appointments, and commission creation, particularly if a resolution is required
- ❑ Commission structured by [s. 15.47](#) of Dane County Code of Ordinances
  - ❑ 11 members
  - ❑ *Appointments* made by County Board Chair and County Clerk through open application process from a broad and diverse pool of candidates:
    - ❑ town resident, city or village resident, City of Madison resident, appointed by County Board Chair based on input from Dane County Towns Association, Cities and Villages Association, and City of Madison, respectively;
    - ❑ 4 each by County Board Chair and County Clerk.
  - ❑ *Eligibility* defined in s. 15.47(2), generally: must be resident of Dane County; may not be County Board supervisor, county employee, or consultant; may not have held position with political party within past year; may not have participated in 2011 redistricting process; must be impartial; must have familiarity with maps; and disclose potential conflicts of interest.

# TOTAL COST *ESTIMATE*

- ❑ Staffing costs (in-kind commitment of time, based on 6 months, fully encumbered, as percent of 1,040 hours): \$39,977
  - ❑ Senior Planner (est. 20 percent) (208 hours): \$15,184
  - ❑ Senior Planner (est. 10 percent) (104 hours): \$7,592
  - ❑ Deputy Land Records Administrator (est. 5 percent) (52 hours): \$4,585
  - ❑ Land Information Office (LIO) Staff (est. 5 percent) (52 hours): \$5,412
  - ❑ County Clerk/Information Management (est. 10 percent) (104 hours): \$7,204
- ❑ Software costs (from 2020-2021 process): \$26,848

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (ballpark): \$66,825

# *Past concerns over shrinking or expanding the board?*

- ❑ 2020 RES-200 was introduced on September 18, 2020 to reduce the board size from 37 supervisors to 35.
- ❑ 2020 RES-200 was *amended* and ultimately approved on October 26, 2020 *keeping* the board at 37 supervisors.
- ❑ Dane County has the second largest county board in Wisconsin, out of 72 counties, second only to Marathon County, which has 38.
- ❑ The *maximum* size of a county board under state statutes that Dane County could have given its population is 47. The *average* Wisconsin county board size is 25.

# *Current* administrative concerns over initiating mid-decennial census redistricting?

- ❑ **Sufficient time.** RES-362 would significantly compress the historic timeframe for research, data collection, product identification and acquisition, commission selection, public participation, communicating with local jurisdictions over potential ward adjustments, etc.
- ❑ **Staffing impact and Service Priorities.** Readjusting priorities and diverting from core services amid current vacancies.
- ❑ **Data reliability.** Unclear how precise population and other demographic data may be in non-decennial census years, particularly down to block level.
- ❑ **Budget.** There currently isn't a 2026 budget allocation for related products, support services, event venues, material, etc.
- ❑ **Rural Representation.** With fixed, consistent district populations, concern over ensuring sufficient rural representation in already very large rural districts *may* be exacerbated by reducing the board size.

# COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

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