



MEMO

DATE: January 18, 2022

TO: President Forsman and City Councilors

FROM: Ian B. Johnson, City Clerk, Provisional
Chelsea J. Helmer, Director of Administrative Services

RE: 2022 City of Duluth Redistricting Process

President Forsman and Councilors,

This Memorandum provides a brief overview of the City of Duluth Council District redistricting requirements and anticipated process.

I. Background.

After the State Legislature or Courts complete legislative redistricting on February 15th, municipalities have a legal requirement to establish precinct lines and council district boundaries.

A. Duluth Council Districts

1. Pursuant to the Duluth City Charter, after the census is final, the City Council has the responsibility to “determine whether or not the population of each council district is substantially the same” and to “equalize, as nearly as practical.”

2. Historically there has not been a large shift in Council District lines. The City Clerk’s office recommendation will aim for a deviation of less than 2% between Districts and the mean District size.

B. Precincts

1. Precincts serve an administrative function and are not subject to statutory size restrictions. The size of a polling site location is the primary consideration for determining precinct size and the ease of access for voters.

2. Precinct lines follow distinguishable geographic lines (i.e. streets, creeks, power line routes, etc.)

II. Proposed Timeline

- A. February 15, 2022 – Statutory deadline for legislative redistricting to be completed. This is the beginning date for cities to establish precincts and Council Districts.
- B. February 16, 2022 – Census data and applicable information about the City's process will be publicly available on a dedicated redistricting webpage.
- C. March 10, 2022 – Online Publication of proposed maps and Ordinance on dedicated webpage. Public hearing schedule posted.
- D. March 14, 2022 – Public Hearing; First Reading of Ordinance establishing Council Districts. Resolution establishing precinct lines filed and tabled; Committee meeting if desired.
- E. March 28, 2022 – Public Hearing; Passage of Ordinance establishing Council Districts and Resolution establishing precinct lines.
- F. March 29, 2022 – Statutory deadline for municipalities to complete redistricting.