



September 17, 2021

TO: Chair Murphy and Members of the House Redistricting Committee
FROM: League of Minnesota Cities
RE: Redistricting Considerations on behalf of Minnesota Cities

Chair Murphy and Members of the House Redistricting Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities and our 837 member cities to provide input on statewide redistricting. The League of Minnesota Cities does not have a formal policy on redistricting but has two primary considerations regarding the redistricting process and its impacts to cities.

First, the League recognizes that residents in our cities each share experiences unique to their social and geographic landscapes and often have similar political interests and needs. For this reason, the League supports the redistricting principle in Minn. Stat. § 2.91, subd. 2, which states: “political subdivisions not be divided more than necessary to meet constitutional requirements.” By following this guiding principle, our communities can receive fair and meaningful representation through their elected officials.

Second, cities are beholden by Minn. Stat § 204B.14 to a defined timeline to conduct local redistricting, including reestablishing or redistricting municipal precincts, wards, and adopting new local government election districts. It is imperative that the legislature completes state redistricting in a timely manner to allow cities a reasonable amount of time to confirm or redraw boundaries in advance of municipal elections in 2022. If the Legislature does not meet its statutory deadline, cities should not face suspension of pay for mayors and city councilmembers for any delays this would cause for their own redistricting.

The League believes that these two principles are essential for the redistricting process, and we hope that the committee will prioritize these as you embark on this historic task to shape the next decade of our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alex Hassel'.

Alex Hassel
Intergovernmental Relations Representative