

Local Redistricting 2010-2012:

Cities That Do NOT Have a 2011 Municipal Election and Townships

All cities and townships are required to either reestablish their existing precinct boundaries, or redraw them to conform to statutory requirements, within 60 days of completion of the legislative and congressional redistricting plans. If a new legislative or congressional boundary has split an existing precinct within the city or township, that jurisdiction must redraw the precinct boundaries to eliminate the split.

Key Dates

Date	Requirement	Statutory Reference(s)
January 1, 2010	All precinct boundary lines frozen until completion of legislative and congressional redistricting, unless changes are necessary to accommodate annexation or to split a precinct	204B.14, subd. 3
February 21, 2012	Deadline for adoption of new congressional and legislative districts	204B.14, subd. 1a
February 21, 2012 – April 3, 2012: (or 60 day period following completion of legislative districts)	Period for reestablishing or drawing new precinct boundaries (and ward boundaries, where applicable)	204B.14, subd. 3 (d)
March 13, 2012 (or within 21 days of completion of legislative districts)	Deadline for municipalities to acquire maps of school districts located within the municipality for purposes of coordinating precinct boundaries	Minn. Rule 8255.0015
April 3, 2012	Last day to conduct a local special election prior to the state primary election	204B.135, subd. 4
April 10, 2012 (or within three weeks of adoption of plan)	Deadline for voters to apply in district court for revisions to an adopted municipal districting plan	204B.135, subd. 3
May 3, 2012 (or within 30 days of adoption)	Deadline for notification to the secretary of state of precinct boundary changes	204B.14, subd. 5
May 16, 2012	Deadline for approval of new polling places	204B.16, subd. 3
May 22, 2012 – June 5, 2012	State general election candidate filing period	204B.09, subd. 1

June 19, 2012	Deadline for posting notice of new precinct boundaries in the municipal clerk's office (56 days prior to the date the boundaries take effect)	204B.14, subd. 4
July 20, 2012	Deadline for mailing notice of polling place changes to affected voters	204B.16, subd. 1a
August 14, 2012	State primary election New precincts and modified ward boundaries take effect	204D.03; 204B.14, subd. 3
November 6, 2012	State general election	204D.03

Standards for creating precincts

(Minn. Stat § 204B.14)

- From April 1, 2010, to April 1, 2012, precincts must follow a census block line.
- After April 1, 2012, all precinct boundaries must follow “visible, clearly recognizable physical features” (a graded street, road, boulevard, parkway, river, stream, shoreline, drainage ditch, railway right-of-way, or other line clearly visible from the ground).
- Precincts must be located wholly within one congressional district, one legislative district, one county, and (where applicable) one city ward.
- Precincts are not subject to equal population requirements.
- Coordination with school district boundaries may be helpful.

Other statutory requirements

- In cities with wards, failure of a city council to reconfirm existing boundaries or draw new boundaries to comply with the statutory standards results in a suspension of pay to the mayor and city council until the reconfirmation or redistricting is complete.
(Minn. Stat. § 205.84, subd. 2)
- In cities of the first class (Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester) where council members are elected to four year terms that are not staggered, if a ward population has changed by 5 percent or more, an election must be held for all council seats using the new ward boundaries in 2012 or 2013.
(Minn. Stat. § 205.84, subd. 1 (b))