

Local Redistricting 2010-2012: Cities With Wards and 2011 Municipal Election

Cities with wards and a 2011 municipal election must reestablish ward and precinct boundaries in 2011.

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
May 3, 2011 (14 days prior to start of the candidate filing period)	Deadline for reestablishing ward boundaries	204B.135, subd. 1
May 17 – May 31, 2011	Municipal candidate filing period	205.13, subd. 1a
May 31, 2011 (or within four weeks of adoption of ward boundaries)	Deadline for reestablishing precinct boundaries	204B.14, subd. 3 (c)
August 9, 2011	Municipal primary date, if necessary Newly-established ward boundaries take effect	205.84, subd. 2
February 21, 2012	Deadline for adoption of new congressional and legislative districts	204B.14, subd. 1a
February 21, 2012 – April 3, 2012 (or within 60 days after completion of legislative redistricting)	Period for modifying ward boundaries as necessary for reestablishing precincts to conform with new legislative and congressional districts	204B.135, subd. 1
March 13, 2012 (or within 21 days of completion of legislative redistricting)	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 wards

(Minn. Stat § 205.84, subd. 1; 204B.135, subd. 1)

- As equal in population as practicable
- Compact, contiguous territory
- Boundaries must be along census block lines (due to requirement that precincts be built along these lines)
- Other standards as may be provided in city charter or policy
- Modifications occurring in 2012 may not change the population of any ward by more than 5 percent

Other statutory requirements

- 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))