

Local Redistricting 2010-2012: Counties

The county board is responsible for redistricting county commissioner districts, and any precincts located within unorganized territory within the county. The county auditor assists in coordinating redistricting processes with cities, townships, school districts, and the secretary of state.

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 state legislative districts	204B.14, subd. 1a
April 3, 2012 (or within 60 days following completion of legislative districts)	Deadline for reestablishment or redistricting of municipal precincts; county redistricting may begin upon adoption of new precinct boundaries	204B.14, subd. 3; 204B.135, subd. 2
April 10, 2012 (or three weeks prior to scheduled action)	Deadline for publishing notice of intent to redistrict in newspaper covering county commissioner proceedings; notice must include time and place of meeting	375.025, subd. 1
May 1, 2012 (or within 80 days following completion of legislative districts)	Deadline for adoption of new county commissioner districts	204B.135, subd. 2
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 8, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for county auditor to publish notice of new legislative, congressional, and county commissioner district lines in qualified newspaper Deadline for voters to apply in district court for revisions to an adopted districting plan or to compel the board to act 	204B.14, subd. 4 375.025, subd. 2
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 county auditor's office	204B.14, subd. 4
July 13, 2012	Deadline for county auditor to notify school districts in county with territory affected by a precinct boundary change	204D.03; 204B.14, subd. 5
July 20, 2012	Deadline for mailing notice of polling place changes to affected voters	204B.16, subd. 1a
August 14, 2012	State primary election	204D.03
November 6, 2012	State general election	204D.03

Standards for creating county commissioner districts

(Minn. Stat § 375.025)

- County must contain as many districts as there are members of the board of commissioners.
- District boundaries must be creating using precinct lines.
- Districts must be composed of contiguous territory.
- Districts must be as regular and compact in form as practicable.
- Districts must be as nearly equal in population as possible; population of any one district may not vary by more than 10 percent from the average population size of all districts, unless it would cause a precinct to be split.
- A majority of the least populous districts contain may not contain less than a majority of the population of the county.

Other statutory provisions

- Counties may levy a special redistricting tax to cover expenses, with certain restrictions. (Minn. Stat. § 204B.135, subd. 5)
- A court may appoint a redistricting commission if the county board has not been sufficiently diligent in performing its duties to redistrict. (Minn. Stat. § 375.025, subd. 2)