



**CITY OF WAUKESHA**

**Administration**

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<b>Committee:</b> Common Council	<b>Date:</b> 6/15/2021
<b>Common Council Item Number:</b> ID# 21-2244	<b>Date:</b> 6/15/2021
<b>Submitted By:</b> Jennifer Andrews, Community Development Director	<b>City Administrator Approval:</b> Kevin Lahner, City Administrator <b>KL</b>
<b>Finance Department Review:</b> Bridget Souffrant, Finance Director <b>BS</b>	<b>City Attorney's Office Review:</b> Brian Running, City Attorney <b>BR</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Review and take action on criteria for creating new wards and aldermanic districts with 2020 census data.	

**Details:**  
 Following a census the City is obligated to create new wards and aldermanic districts for voting purposes. The reason the for redistricting is three-fold.

- 1 Person, 1 Vote: Districts drawn 10 years prior to the current census may not represent an equal number of constituents, and are required to be redrawn due to shifts in population.
2. Redistricting accounts for growth patterns, communities of interest, and is used as the basis for the creation of election geography.
3. Municipal wards are used to create aldermanic, supervisory, & legislative districts to aid voters & election officials.

The City expects to receive the census data needed for redistricting 4-5 months later than usual. In an effort to be as efficient as possible when the data does arrive, the staff is proposing that the Council adopt criteria, in advance, that provides the staff direction when creating the new wards and districts.

The staff proposes 6 criteria.

1. As contiguous as possible – Physically adjacent
2. Compact geographically as possible – Constituents within a district should live as near to one another as practicable.
3. Aldermanic districts should be as equal in size as possible. Deviations should be within 1% whenever possible.
4. Aldermanic district boundaries defined along major streets, railroads or other natural features.



5. Neighborhoods kept whole whenever possible.
6. Similar neighborhoods kept together whenever possible.

When the staff receives the data, they will create ward and district maps for Council approval based on the criteria adopted.

**Options & Alternatives:**

1. Approve criteria for redistricting and charge the staff with developing wards and districts that comply with the criteria for Council to approve.
2. Do not approve criteria in advance. This may cause several iterations of the maps resulting in making the approval process longer and using more staff time.

**Financial Remarks:**

NA

**Executive Recommendation:**

Approving criteria in advance will help with the efficiency of creating the new wards and districts. This will save staff time and help ensure that the approvals are completed within the 60-day window required.