



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

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Committee: None	Date: 10/5/2021
Common Council Item Number: ID #21-2602	Date: 10/5/2021
Submitted By: Brian Running	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator Click here to enter text.
Finance Department Review: Bridget M. Souffrant, Finance Director	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney
Subject: Ordinances to accomplish redistricting of wards and aldermanic districts, and to re-assign polling places.	

Details:
 The City is performing a mandatory, once-every-ten-years redistricting of wards and aldermanic districts. As explained in a memo to the Council earlier this week, the process is triggered by the federal census, and it is done strictly according to state statutes. Redistricting requires a Common Council resolution or ordinance. Because our wards and aldermanic districts are given in Municipal Code §1.01 and §1.02, and polling places in §1.03, redistricting requires amending the code, and we do that with ordinances, not resolutions.

Two ordinances are being presented to the Council for approval. One adjusts wards, and the other amends aldermanic districts and assigns polling places for each. Because the federal census data came very late this year and we have spring elections coming, we have to do our redistricting within a short time window. Our redistricting has to be completed and returned to the County by October 18. The October 5 meeting is the last regularly-scheduled Council meeting before then, so approval of the ordinances on October 5 is critically important. Staff has worked hard to draw the lines according to state law, which imposes criteria that have to be followed: Wards have to compact, contiguous, fit within county supervisory district boundaries, and cannot split census blocks. Aldermanic districts have to be compact, contiguous, and as close to equal in population as possible. Changes in one place on the map result in cascading changes throughout the rest of the map. The plan being presented to you is the best balance of all the factors in compliance with the law.

Options & Alternatives:
 There is no option not to perform the redistricting, it is mandatory. Boundaries can be altered, but it is not a simple process. Staff already ran through a number of permutations within the mandatory criteria, and the plan being presented has the fewest negatives. Failure to accomplish redistricting will likely result in lawsuits against the City.

Financial Remarks:
 There is no financial impact to the City.

Executive Recommendation:
 City Attorney's office recommends Council approval of the two ordinances as presented.

