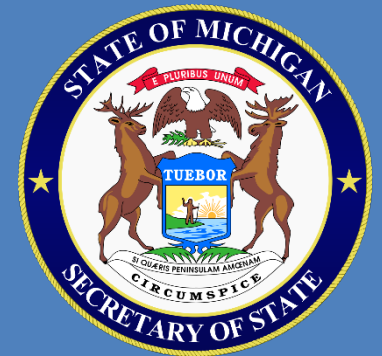


REDISTRICTING: PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES

MICHIGAN BUREAU OF ELECTIONS

Michigan Association of
Municipal Clerks

September 1st, 2021



REDISTRICTING BASICS

- Michigan Constitution and statutes require redrawing congressional, state senate, and state representative districts after decennial census
- State statutes also provide deadlines for redrawing county commission districts and municipal precincts
- Municipal charters have their own deadlines for redrawing wards/districts

MICHIGAN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (MICRC)

- Added to Michigan Constitution because of Proposal 2018-2
- Autonomous commission
- 13 randomly-selected voters serve as commissioners (10,000 applicants)

**MICHIGAN
INDEPENDENT
CITIZENS
REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION**



COMMISSION'S ROLE



- Draw congressional, state house, state senate districts
- Public hearings
- 45 days public Comment

Role of Secretary of State



- Administer application process
- Administer selection process
- Serve as the “secretary without a vote”

CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Census Delay and Constitutional Deadlines

- Census data needed for maps (released Aug. 12/Sept. 30 instead of April)
- Finalized maps due **Sept. 17** followed by 45-day public comment
- Maps must be adopted **Nov. 1**

Constitutional criteria for new districts

- Equal population
- Comply with Voting Rights Act and other federal laws
- Geographically contiguous
- Communities of interest
- Partisan fairness
- Disregard political incumbents
- Local government boundaries
- Compactness

REDISTRICTING: MAPS TO BALLOTS

- Tasks and timeline for BOE and election clerks
- Overview of QVF update timeline

MICRC completes districts for State House, Senate, and U.S. Congress



Voters receive ballot with correct candidates

WORKING BACK FROM NOVEMBER 2022

- November 8, 2022: General Election
- August 2, 2022: Primary Election
- June 23, 2022: Right to absentee ballot
- June 18, 2022: Absentee ballots sent to military / overseas voters
- June 3, 2022: Ballots (approx. 5,000 candidate combinations) to printers
- April 19 – June 2, 2022: Signature review, challenges, litigation
- April 19, 2022: Candidate signature filing deadline
- April 4, 2022: Re-presenting deadline
- TBD – April 19, 2022: BOE Update of the Qualified Voter File (QVF)
- TBD: MICRC final maps

REDISTRICTING: QVF TASKS

- Street Index has addresses for ~8 million voters
- Updating QVF takes place in two stages:
 - Stage 1: New district lines added to QVF
 - Stage 2: Identify all parts of street index where any district has changed, and update registrations accordingly

REDISTRICTING: QVF CHANGES

- “Global” moves of large groups of voters moved from one district to another
- Address-by-address adjustments (time-consuming)
- Precinct changes after district changes
- Local clerks review changes

REDISTRICTING TIMELINE



COUNTY COMMISSION APPORTIONMENT

- Counties must redraw county commission districts within 60 days of release of official census figures
- BOE built a County Commission District (CCD) tool, which will provide counties with an easy-to-use interface for creating their county Commissioner districts
- The tool is optional, and counties are not required to use it for apportionment

COUNTY COMMISSION APPORTIONMENT

- Multiple releases of Census Redistricting Data in 2021 (August 12 and September 30)
- 60-day window will begin with September release (BOE's Opinion)
- CCD Tool goes live September 1
- Nothing prevents counties from starting now (using CCD Tool or another tool)

MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Michigan Association of
Municipal Clerks
September 1st, 2021



WHO SETS PRECINCT BOUNDARY LINES

- In a township, the approval of all precinct boundary alterations must be granted by the local election commission*

City

- Clerk
- Attorney
- Assessor

Township

- Clerk
- Supervisor
- Treasurer

Charter Township

- Clerk
- Two Trustees
Appointed by the
Township Board

*For cities: consult city charter for commission membership.

LOCAL DATES AND DEADLINES

- Precinct boundary changes must be approved no later than 120 days prior to the August primary in the second year following each federal census (MCL 168.661(3)):
 - **April 4th 2022**
 - Resolution of approval must be sent to BOE
- Election Commission Meeting public posting
 - **18 hours ahead of meeting**

WHAT ARE PRECINCT BOUNDARY LINES

- Clearly observable boundary (MCL 168.654a):
 - A named road or street.
 - A road or highway that is part of the federal, state primary, or state secondary road system.
 - A river, stream, or drainage feature that is 40 feet or more in width.
 - A natural or constructed permanent physical feature that is shown on an official county, city, or township map issued by the Department of Transportation or a United States geological survey topographical map.
 - An apartment building, a dormitory or other permanent multiple-unit housing structure.
 - A village or school district boundary line

CHANGING POLLING PLACES

- The adjustment of a precinct boundary *may* lead to you needing to adjust your polling place location
 - The city council or township board is responsible for determining the location of polling places in the jurisdiction. Michigan election law, MCL 168.662
 - A polling place may not be established, moved or abolished less than 60 days before an election (or in certain emergency cases outlined in MCL 168.662)

BALLOT CONSIDERATIONS

- Split precincts: multiple ballot styles due to different US House, State Legislative, County Commission, School, and Village districts within a single precinct
 - Impacts the issuance of AV ballots and management of election day ballots
 - Can be managed but sometimes unavoidable

UPDATING THE STREET INDEX

Whenever a precinct or district boundary changes, the precinct and district values in the street index must be updated:

1. Use authoritative data
 - Precinct map, new Federal, State, and County district maps (Census blocks)
2. “Translate” maps to QVF street segments
3. Assign new precinct/district value to an existing street segment
4. Split an existing street segment, then assign new precinct/district values

UPDATING THE STREET INDEX

■ Precinct changes – submit the following:

1. A map of your current precinct boundaries
2. A map of your new (proposed) precinct boundaries
3. A signed copy of the resolution from your local election commission, approving the changes
4. A 'marked up' street index listing report. (Or the digital changes in QVF if Redistricting module available).
5. A written description of your new precinct boundaries
6. A list of all precincts, including the name and address of each polling location

UPDATING THE STREET INDEX

- Note: Redistricting Tools are being developed and may be available as a module in QVF.
 - The tools would allow you to assign new precinct/district values, or to split street segments, then assign new precinct district values in QVF. (No need for a hardcopy, “marked up” street index report)
- District (e.g. State House, State Senate, US Congress) changes – submit the following:
 - A ‘marked up’ street index listing report. (Or the digital changes in QVF if Redistricting module available).

PRECINCT GEOGRAPHY AND SIZE

- All addresses in existing street segments must be accounted for
 - Adding new streets is a separate process. Do not add new streets during redistricting
- Precincts must contain no more than 2,999 voters
 - GIS may help
- Other considerations:
 - Resource allocation
 - Shared polling places
 - Location Availability
 - Volume
 - AV activity

OTHER IMPORTANT STEPS

- Notify all appropriate agencies of the changes (State, County, School, etc.)
- Update jurisdictional maps to reflect changes
- Update your website, GIS, or other public documents to reflect the changes
- Educate your voters on the changes
 - Utilize social media, local postings and publications
 - Discuss options with election material print vendors

SENDING NEW VOTER INFORMATION CARDS

- An updated Voter Identification Card must be issued to every voter affected by a permanent voting district change or a precinct reassignment.
 - Electors placed in a new Congressional, State Senate, State House or County Commissioner District must be issued a corrected Voter Identification Card. (MCL 168.499(3))
 - Electors assigned to a new precinct must be issued a corrected Voter Identification Card. (MCL 168.499(3))
- Returned official election mail will inform list maintenance efforts

THANKS FOR LISTENING

■ Questions?

- General BOE: (517) 335-3237, elections@michigan.gov
- Street Index Questions: Nicholas Daum (517) 335-1003, daumn1@michigan.gov

■ Resources available:

- Election Officials' Manual Chapter 14 Establishing Voting Precincts and Polling Places
- Upcoming Redistricting Module
- Monitor future News Updates