

2016 OA-032

AMENDING CHAPTER 15 OF THE DANE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
CREATING AN INDEPENDENT CITIZEN REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Dane does ordain as follows:

ARTICLE 1. Unless otherwise expressly stated herein, all references to section and chapter numbers are to those of the Dane County Code of Ordinances.

ARTICLE 2. Section 15.47 is created to read as follows:

**15.47 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. (1) Composition.** The Redistricting Commission shall consist of eleven (11) citizen members who are residents of Dane County and are appointed as provided herein.

**(a)** Appointments shall be made through an application process structured to recruit candidates from broad and diverse sections of the Dane County electorate.

**(b)** From those individuals who apply, the County Board Chair shall appoint an individual who is a resident of the City of Madison, a resident of a town in Dane County, and a resident of a city or village other than the City of Madison. Prior to making these appointments, the Chair shall confer with the City of Madison, the Dane County Towns Association, and the Dane County Cities and Villages Association regarding the appointment.

**(c)** The County Board Chair and the County Clerk shall each appoint four (4) additional citizen members from the pool of applicants that meet the eligibility criteria.

**(d)** Members of the commission shall serve from the time of appointment until completion of the redistricting process following the decennial census. A vacancy occurring during the redistricting process shall be filled consistent with this section.

**(2) Eligibility Criteria.** All members of the Commission shall be residents of Dane County and meet the following criteria:

**(a)** May not be a member of the Dane County Board, an employee of Dane County or a contract consultant;

**(b)** May not be a lobbyist registered with the Dane County Board;

**(c)** May not hold or have held an official position with a political party or partisan organization within the year prior to appointment;

**(d)** May not have participated in the State of Wisconsin 2011 partisan redistricting process;

**(e)** Must be impartial, which includes refraining from engaging in any political party activity or supporting the election or defeat of any candidate or referendum during their tenure on the commission, and at the time of appointment no intent to seek election to the office of county board supervisor in the spring primary and general election immediately following redistricting;

**(f)** Have a familiarity with maps;

**(g)** Disclose any potential conflict of interest in conformance with s. 9.60.

47 (3) The county clerk and the Planning & Development Department shall provide  
48 the commission with such staff assistance as may be required to carry out its  
49 functions.

50 (4) The commission shall use the following criteria and procedure to develop a  
51 proposed redistricting plan for consideration by the county board.

52 (a) Within 30 days after the population count by census block becomes available  
53 in printed form from the federal government or is published by a state agency,  
54 but no later than May 15th following the year of each decennial census, the  
55 commission shall propose a tentative county supervisory district plan and map. In  
56 preparing the tentative plan and map and in making any adjustments to the  
57 tentative plan, the commission shall be guided by the criteria set forth in Wis.  
58 Stat. s. 59.10(3)(b) and sub (b).

59 (b) The mapping process shall include opportunities for the public to submit map  
60 proposals for consideration.

61 (c) The commission shall develop up to three maps for consideration by the  
62 county board that divide the county into the number of districts determined by the  
63 county board. In the preparation of its plan for dividing the county into districts  
64 for the election of county board supervisors, the commission shall apply  
65 applicable state and federal law, which shall control in the event of any conflict  
66 with this ordinance. The commission shall also apply the criteria set forth in the  
67 following paragraphs to the maximum extent practicable. The following  
68 paragraphs shall be applied and given priority in the order in which they  
69 are listed.

70 1. Each district should represent the same population size, in accordance with  
71 the U.S. Constitution and state statutory requirements that districts be  
72 substantially equal in population, contiguous and compact. If difference in  
73 population are necessary to complete the maps, any such differences  
74 in population must be justified by the other criteria set forth in this section.

75 2. The map shall minimize the number of municipal boundaries crossed in each  
76 of the county districts.

77 3. Such districting plan shall be established in a manner that ensures the fair  
78 and effective representation of the diverse ethnic and racial populations in Dane  
79 County which are protected by the Federal Voting Rights Act.

80 4. The map shall take into consideration geography and natural boundaries such  
81 as rivers and lakes.

82 5. District lines shall keep intact neighborhoods and communities  
83 with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical,  
84 racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other.

85 6. Districts shall be drawn without regard to incumbency.

86 (d) If none of the maps submitted by the Commission are adopted by the county  
87 board, the maps shall be re-referred to the commission which shall have the  
88 opportunity to submit an amended map to the county board for reconsideration  
89 within the time frame set by state statute.

90  
91 *[EXPLANATION: This amendment creates the Dane County Redistricting*  
92 *Committee.]*