



Approved: January 17, 2012

2012 REDISTRICTING PROCESS, TIMELINE & PRINCIPLES

Timeline/Process Steps

Action	Date
Council discusses, provides input, reviews and approves redistricting process, timetable, and principles.	January 17
Staff prepares maps showing existing wards with population data as well as possible scenarios/plans for redistricting based on approved process & principles.	January 18-31
Presentation of/Possible Council direction on scenarios	February 6
Public input period on possible scenarios and plans (includes public open house)	February 7 – 21
Public Hearing; Public comments to Council; Council direction to staff	February 21
Additional Discussion/Action if needed on Redistricting	March 13*
Depending on legislative actions, Council approves proposed redistricting plan or provides preliminary approval until legislative action is taken.	March 20

* Special meeting may be needed in combination with the work session if action is desired.

Note: The schedule will need to be modified if a legislative plan is approved before February 3. Additional discussion/meetings will be added as needed.

Opportunity for Public Input/Distribution of Information:

1. Public Open House/Information Session
2. Information on City Website
3. Press releases to local media (Northfield News, KYMN Radio, Northfield Patch)
4. Request public comments/input:
 - a. Submitted in writing for those submitted outside of a Council meeting
 - b. Comments submitted to City Clerk
5. Input at Council meetings
6. Official Public Hearing
7. Communication to the public on the details of the county redistricting process, timeline and input opportunities.

Principles:

1. The plan shall comply with the City Charter, and all applicable state and federal laws.
2. The plan shall comply with the redistricting rules and guidelines as developed by the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. Election districts must be:
 - a. Compact
 - b. Contiguous
 - c. Equal in population (to some degree)
 - d. Composed of Census blocks
3. The plan shall preserve political subdivisions
4. The plan shall not protect or pair up incumbents
5. The plan shall identify polling places complying with state and federal laws.
6. The plan shall attempt to balance the socio-economic status of the composition of the four wards.
7. The plan's ward boundaries shall attempt to take into account defined communities of interest.
8. The plan's precinct boundaries shall be constructed to consider the City's representation interests on the Rice County Board of Commissioners.
9. The plan shall accommodate anticipated residential growth areas based on the Comprehensive Plan.