

**CHAPTER 15**  
*(Revised 07-21-2022)*  
**REDISTRICTING PROCEDURE**

**15.01 PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this Chapter is to regulate Redistricting Procedure in Brown County. Brown County citizens believe in the idea of free and fair elections, and that freedom from undue influence through the act known as "gerrymandering" is essential to those ends. The County Board believes the creation of political districts is best handled without undue partisan or personal influence, and that currently elected County Board Supervisors, and/or political parties, should be prevented from unduly influencing this process to the greatest extent possible.

**15.02 CITIZENS DRAFTING AD HOC COMMITTEE.**

A Citizens Drafting Ad Hoc Committee shall be created (hereafter, the "Drafting Committee").

**15.03 MEMBERS OF THE CITIZENS DRAFTING AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**A) MEMBER APPLICATION SOLICITATION**

The County Board Chair shall solicit applications for Drafting Committee membership, and such applications shall be submitted directly to the County Board Office for recording purposes.

**B) PRIOR CITIZENS DRAFTING AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBER SOLICITATION**

The County Board Chair shall solicit prior members of prior Drafting Committees to apply for membership on the new Drafting Committee.

**C) SELECTION OF MEMBERS**

The County Board Chair shall select a total of seven Brown County citizens, up to two of which may be prior Drafting Committee members, to sit on the Drafting Committee, subject to confirmation by the County Board, and such confirmation shall occur if feasible on or before December 31 in the year prior to the County's redistricting process.

**D) MEMBER RESTRICTIONS**

Members of the Drafting Committee must not be dues paying members of a political party, be a paid lobbyist of a political nature or a member of a lobbyist organization, nor hold an elected office at the time of appointment to, or during their tenure as a member of, the Drafting Committee.

**E) CHAIR AND PROCEDURES**

At the first meeting, the Drafting Committee members shall elect a Chair and the Drafting Committee shall follow Brown County's Committee procedural requirements.

**15.04 ADVISORS TO THE CITIZENS DRAFTING AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**A) ADVISOR SELECTION**

The County Director of Planning and Land Services (hereafter, the "Director") may seek at least one, but not more than two, Advisors to participate in all meetings of

the Drafting Committee, such as a municipal clerk, the County Clerk, one member of the existing County Board as selected by the County Board Chair or one member of a prior Drafting Committee. The Director shall submit to the County Board Chair the selected advisors, subject to confirmation by the County Board. The Director, as the Senior Advisor, may assist the Drafting Committee as determined appropriate by the Director and as time and resources allow. The Director may also invite to certain meetings other individuals as the Director determines appropriate to advise the Drafting Committee about specific aspects of developing voting district plans.

#### **B) ADVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Between the time of their selection and until formal approval of a Tentative Map by the County Board, Advisors shall limit their comments to how the mapping boundaries affect the drawing of Districts/Wards, the development and accurate distribution of ballots, issues at polling locations, related costs and other issues directly related to the development of voting district plans. Advisors who fail to limit their comments as directed above may be removed by the County Board Chair, upon the recommendation of the Drafting Committee Chair and the Director, and such decision shall be final.

#### **15.05 NUMBER OF DISTRICTS**

Prior to January 31 in the year of a County redistricting process, the County Board shall approve and submit to the Director the exact number of districts, or a numerical range of districts, that shall be used by the Drafting Committee when developing its supervisory district map options. This will establish the number, or numerical range, of supervisory districts that the County Board deems desirable for use in developing the Tentative Redistricting Map and the Final Redistricting Map.

#### **15.06 REDISTRICTING TRAINING**

The Director may provide redistricting training, to include content matter and in a format as determined appropriate by the Director, and as time and resources allow, and to make available to all County Supervisors and Drafting Committee members, preferably prior to January 1 of the year of the County's redistricting process.

#### **15.07 MAPPING CRITERIA**

Federal and state laws require that all maps drafted shall have districts that are substantially equal in population and in no case shall the most and least populous districts of a map exceed the maximum constitutional population range. Therefore, the population assigned to each county supervisory district is to provide for substantially equal and constitutional representation for the subsequent ten-year period.

**A)** Wisconsin Statutes require that the territory within the districts of all maps drafted shall satisfy the established contiguity and compactness standards. Therefore, the Drafting Committee shall satisfy the contiguity and compactness standards established by Wisconsin Statutes.

**B)** The Brown County Board of Supervisors and many of Brown County's municipalities consider Municipal Boundaries to be a primary criterion because following these boundaries improves the ability to develop legal and logical municipal wards, so the Drafting Committee shall highly prioritize municipal boundaries when drafting the county supervisory district maps.

**C)** Anticipated Population Growth should be considered because the redistricting mapping is for the subsequent ten-year period, there are significant differences in growth between municipalities over a ten-year period and its inclusion increases equalized representation more accurately throughout the ten-year period. Therefore, it is appropriate for the Drafting Committee to consider: assigning supervisory districts within low growth rate municipalities, populations that are

greater than the Average Census Population per district; and to consider assigning supervisory districts within high growth rate municipalities, populations that are less than the Average Census Population per district.

**D)** All other criteria should, to the extent lawful to do so, be considered secondary to the criteria in specified in Subsections A, B and C, above.

**E)** Other secondary criteria which may be considered, to the extent lawful to do so, include Natural Boundaries (e.g., the Fox River), Communities of Interest (which may include rural vs. urban interests) and Racial and Ethnic Groups. The Drafting Committee may also consider other criteria that are relevant to the development of district maps, and the Drafting Committee may prioritize the secondary criteria to guide Planning staff during the development of the district maps.

**F)** All maps drafted by the Drafting Committee shall also avoid diluting the voting strength of racial and other minorities as specified by law.

#### **15.08 PROHIBITION IN MAPPING CONSIDERATIONS.**

The Drafting Committee may not give any consideration to whether any map favors or disfavors any incumbent or potential candidate. Locations of current Supervisor residences should not be taken into consideration when drafting new maps.

#### **15.09 DRAFTING PROCEDURE.**

##### **A) MAPPING PERSONNEL**

Upon the release of the necessary census data, the Director of Planning should select two Planning staff members to create, within 30 days, a minimum of two maps each, as determined appropriate by the Director and as time and resources allow.

##### **B) INITIAL MAP SUBMISSION**

The Director shall initially submit to the Drafting Committee a minimum of four maps within 30 days, if reasonably practical, of the release of the necessary census data.

##### **C) SUBSEQUENT MAP SUBMISSION**

If the Drafting Committee is directed by the County Board to prepare additional maps, the Drafting Committee shall prepare and submit no less than two additional maps, but no more than four additional maps within the time period provided by the County Board and allowed by State statute.

#### **15.10 PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

The Drafting Committee will hold a Public Comment session before the approval of any maps and submission of those maps to the County Board Chair.

#### **15.11 SUBMISSION OF MAPS**

The Drafting Committee shall submit to the County Board Chair no less than four maps, but no more than six maps, and shall recommend one of the maps for approval as the County's Tentative Redistricting Map. The Drafting Committee may also recommend that certain maps should not be approved.

#### **15.12 COUNTY BOARD VOTING PROCEDURE.**

##### **A) SCHEDULING OF VOTING**

Upon the receipt of maps, the County Board Chair shall schedule a public hearing held by the County Board, and shall place the maps as an agenda item for action on or before the next scheduled County Board meeting, subsequent to the public hearing.

**B) VOTING ON THE MAPS**

The County Board shall first consider the Drafting Committee’s recommended map as a separate vote. If the recommended map is not approved, then all other maps must be voted upon, either each map as a separate vote, one or more additional maps each voted on separately, or the remaining maps grouped for one vote.

**C) REJECTION OF INITIAL MAPS**

If none of the initial maps submitted by the Drafting Committee are approved by the County Board, the County Board may direct the Drafting Committee to submit additional maps to the County Board Chair by a specified date, or the County Board may draft their own map.

**D) REJECTION OF ADDITIONAL MAPS**

If none of the additional maps submitted by the Drafting Committee are approved by the County Board, the County Board may draft its own map.

**15.13 REPORT FROM THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE**

The Drafting Committee shall prepare a Summary Report consisting of how the Drafting Committee process functioned, whether there were problematic issues, how those issues were addressed and whether there are any recommendations for revisions to the County’s Redistricting Procedure. The Drafting Committee Chair shall submit, within 60 days of the approval of the Tentative Redistricting Map, such Summary Report to the County Board Office for the County Board Chair, who shall provide the Summary Report to the full County Board.

**15.14 SUPERVISOR BEHAVIOR.**

It is inappropriate for County Board Supervisors to unduly influence, or attempt to unduly influence, members of the Drafting Committee, Advisors to the Drafting Committee and/or Planning and Land Services and other County employees from impartially carrying out their duties under this Chapter. It is assumed that the County Board Supervisor selected to serve as an advisor in Section 15.04, is exempted from this section.