

**LINCOLN COUNTY**  
**REDISTRICTING 2021 COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:45am**  
Meeting Location: Room 256 – County Board Room,  
Government Services Center 801 N. Sales St., Merrill, WI 54452

**Electronic Attendance Available:** Persons wishing to attend the meeting electronically may enter the meeting beginning ten minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number or address:

Meeting ID  
[meet.google.com/bed-bugz-dvi](https://meet.google.com/bed-bugz-dvi)  
Phone Numbers  
[\(US\)+1 813-370-0639](tel:+18133700639)  
PIN: 484 981 138#

The teleconference cannot start until the host (department head) dials in and enters the host password.

**Attendance Policy:** Lincoln County encourages all individuals attending in person to follow the most recent CDC guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. All public participants' phones, microphones and chat dialog boxes will be muted or disabled during the meeting. If "public comment" appears on the agenda, before the meeting is called to order, the clerk will ask teleconference attendees whether any public comment is being offered. When called upon by the clerk or chair, any person offering public comment should state their name and comments.

### **Agenda**

1. Call meeting to order
2. Kickoff – overview and expectations
3. Review Timeline and action needed
4. Review NCWRPC Draft Plan
5. Set Public Meeting dates
6. Set next meeting date:
7. Adjourn

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Committee Members –Kevin Koth, Bob Weaver, Don Friske, Hans Breitenmoser Jr., Greta Rusch, Paul Gilk, Julie Allen

Other County Supervisors, Department Heads, NCWRPC, and Local Media

Posted on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ .m. by \_\_\_\_\_

**Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of this meeting. Please contact the county clerk, at 715-539-1019 or [chris.marlowe@co.lincoln.wi.us](mailto:chris.marlowe@co.lincoln.wi.us), as early as possible so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential.**

#### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Must be held in a location which is reasonably accessible to the public.
2. Must be open to all members of the public unless the law specifically provides otherwise.

#### NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

1. In addition to any requirements set forth below, notice must also be in compliance with any other specific statute.
2. Chief presiding officer or his/her designee must give notice to the official newspaper and to any members of the news media likely to give notice to the public.

#### MANNER OF NOTICE:

Date, time, place, and subject matter, including subject matter to be considered in a closed session, must be provided in a manner and form reasonably likely to give notice to the public.

#### TIME FOR NOTICE:

1. Normally, a minimum of 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting.
2. No less than 2 hours prior to the meeting if the presiding officer establishes there is a good cause that such notice is impossible or impractical.

#### EXEMPTIONS FOR COMMITTEES AND SUB-UNITS:

Legally constituted sub-units of a parent governmental body may conduct a meeting during the recess or immediately after the lawful meeting to act or deliberate upon a subject which was the subject of the meeting, provided the presiding officer publicly announces the time, place, and subject matter of the sub-unit meeting in advance of the meeting of the parent governmental body.

#### PROCEDURE FOR GOING INTO CLOSED SESSION:

1. Motion must be made, seconded, and carried by roll call majority vote and recorded in the minutes.
2. If motion is carried, chief presiding officer must advise those attending the meeting of the nature of the business to be conducted in the closed session, and the specific statutory exemption under which the closed session is authorized.

#### STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS UNDER WHICH CLOSED SESSIONS ARE PERMITTED:

1. Deliberation of judicial or quasi-judicial matters. Sec. 19.85(1)(a)
2. Considering dismissal, demotion, or discipline of any public employee or the investigation of charges against such person and the taking of formal action on any such matter; provided that the person is given actual notice of any evidentiary hearing which may be held prior to final action being taken and of any meeting at which final action is taken. The person under consideration must be advised of his/her right that the evidentiary hearing be held in open session and the notice of the meeting must state the same. Sec. 19.85(1)(b).
3. Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee. Sec. 19.85(1)(c).
4. Considering strategy for crime detection or prevention. Sec. 19.85(1)(d).
5. Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Sec. 19.85(1)(e).
6. Considering financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of specific charges, which, if discussed in public would likely have an adverse effect on the reputation of the person referred to in such data. Sec. 19.85(1)(f).
7. Conferring with legal counsel concerning strategy to be adopted by the governmental body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Sec. 19.85(1)(g).
8. Considering a request for advice from any applicable ethics board. Sec. 19.85(1)(h).

#### CLOSED SESSION RESTRICTIONS:

1. Must convene in open session before going into closed session.
2. May not convene in open session, then convene in closed session and thereafter reconvene in open session with twelve (12) hours unless proper notice of this sequence was given at the same time and in the same manner as the original open meeting.
3. Final approval or ratification of a collective bargaining agreement may not be given in closed session.

#### BALLOTS, VOTES, AND RECORDS:

1. Secret ballot is not permitted except for the election of officers of the body or unless otherwise permitted by specific statutes.
2. Except as permitted above, any member may require that the vote of each member be ascertained and recorded.
3. Motions and roll call votes must be preserved in the record and be available for public inspection.

#### USE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT:

The meeting may be recorded, filmed, or photographed, provided that it does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting or the rights of the participants.

#### LEGAL INTERPRETATION:

1. The Wisconsin Attorney General will give advice concerning the applicability or clarification of the Open Meeting Law upon request.
2. The municipal attorney will give advice concerning the applicability or clarification of the Open Meeting Law upon request.

#### PENALTY:

Upon conviction, any member of a governmental body who knowingly attends a meeting held in violation of Subchapter IV, Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, or who otherwise violates the said law shall be subject to forfeiture of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$300.00 for each violation.

# Redistricting 2020

North Central Wisconsin RPC  
Redistricting 2020

# Introduction

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# Reapportionment

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count –or a census – of America’s population.

As established in the U.S. Constitution, the census is the basis for determining the number of representatives each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives

1962 Supreme Court decision Baker v. Carr that  
“one person, one vote”

# Redistricting

“Redistricting” refers to the establishment of boundaries for political units such as state legislative, city, and county districts

Under Wis. State. 59.10 county governments in Wisconsin are required to redistrict following the federal decennial census

# Redistricting

- o What is Redistricting?
  - o Redistricting is the process of revising the geographic boundaries within a state from which people elect their representatives.
    - o State Legislature
    - o County Board
    - o City Council

# Redistricting

- o County government has a great deal of authority in the creation of redistricting maps
- o However, use of power may have a long-term effects on:
  - o Citizen relations
  - o Intergovernmental relations



# Involving The Citizens

- o May appoint advisory committees including:
  - o League of Women Voters
  - o Service Clubs – Rotary, Lions, etc.
  - o Significant voting blocks – Seniors, Veterans, Minorities
- o State law requires at least one public hearing on Tentative Plan and another on the Final Plan

# Respecting Communities of Interest

- o Traditional neighborhoods
- o Common boundaries
- o Racial or Ethnic groups
- o Common characteristics
- o Townships and Cities

# General Rules of Redistricting Should...

- o Substantially equal population
- o Be compact
- o Respect communities of interest
- o Retain the core existing districts
- o Cooperation between county and municipalities

# Substantially equal population

- o Ideal population=County population / number election districts
- o  $100,000 / 20 = 5,000$
- o Plan deviation
  - o Degree to which a districting plan varies from a plan composed of “ideal” districts

# Plan Deviation

- Deviation between the largest and smallest districts less than 10% of the “ideal” population is generally constitutional. *Brown v. Thompson*

# Plan Deviation example

- o Example  $100,000 / 20 = 5,000$
- o 10% of 5,000 = 500
- o **Population deviation between the largest and smallest district could be 500**
- o So that does not mean that you can have one district at 4,500 and another at 5,500 that would be a 20% deviation

# Compact

- o Maintain compactness of districts
- o Avoid districts of unusual shape (gerrymandering)
- o Gerrymandering is a form of boundary delineation in which the district boundary is deliberately modified for electoral purposes.

# Respect communities of interest

- o Municipal Boundaries
- o Neighborhoods, Lake & School Districts
- o Racial or Ethnic groups



# Retain the core existing districts

- o Look at locations of existing Supervisors
- o Try to keep similar areas intact when possible.

# Cooperation between county and municipalities

- o Work with municipalities to make election boundaries that are easy to administrate.
- o Municipalities must make a “good faith effort” to accommodate the tentative county supervisory district plan by establishing wards which meet the county’s needs.

# Wards

- o Wisconsin Law, requires that all cities, villages, and towns with a population of 1,000 or more establish wards.
- o Municipalities under 1,000 may establish wards if they chose
- o The county board may request municipalities to establish wards if it places the municipality in two or more supervisory districts

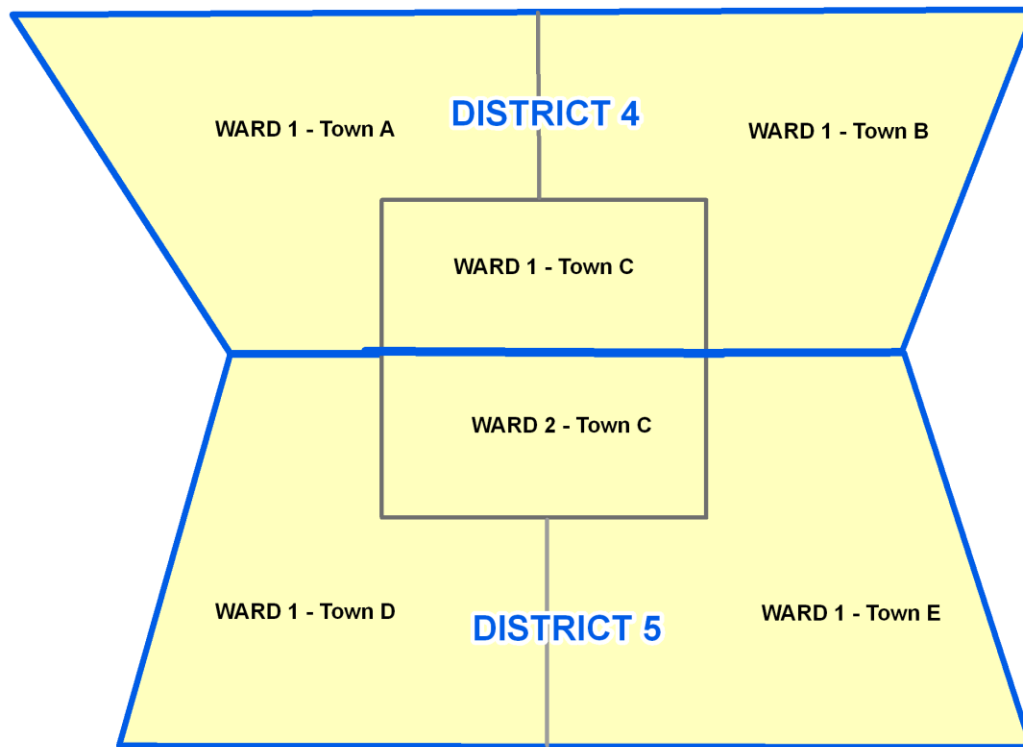
# Wards

- o Do not constitute election districts from which officers are elected, and thus are not subject to the “one person, one vote”
- o Wards are intended to serve as administrative subunits that are aggregated into election districts

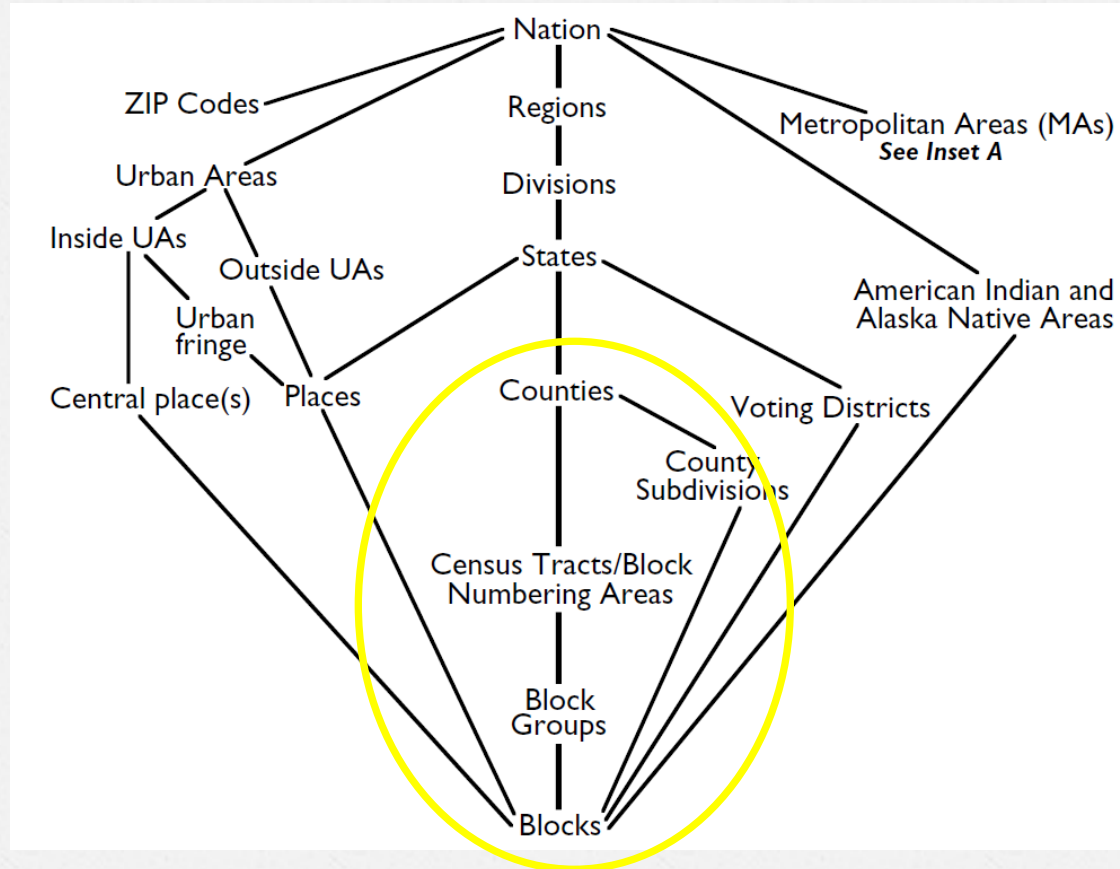
# Wards

- Wards are used to describe the boundaries of aldermanic, supervisory, and legislative districts
- This aids voters and election officials.

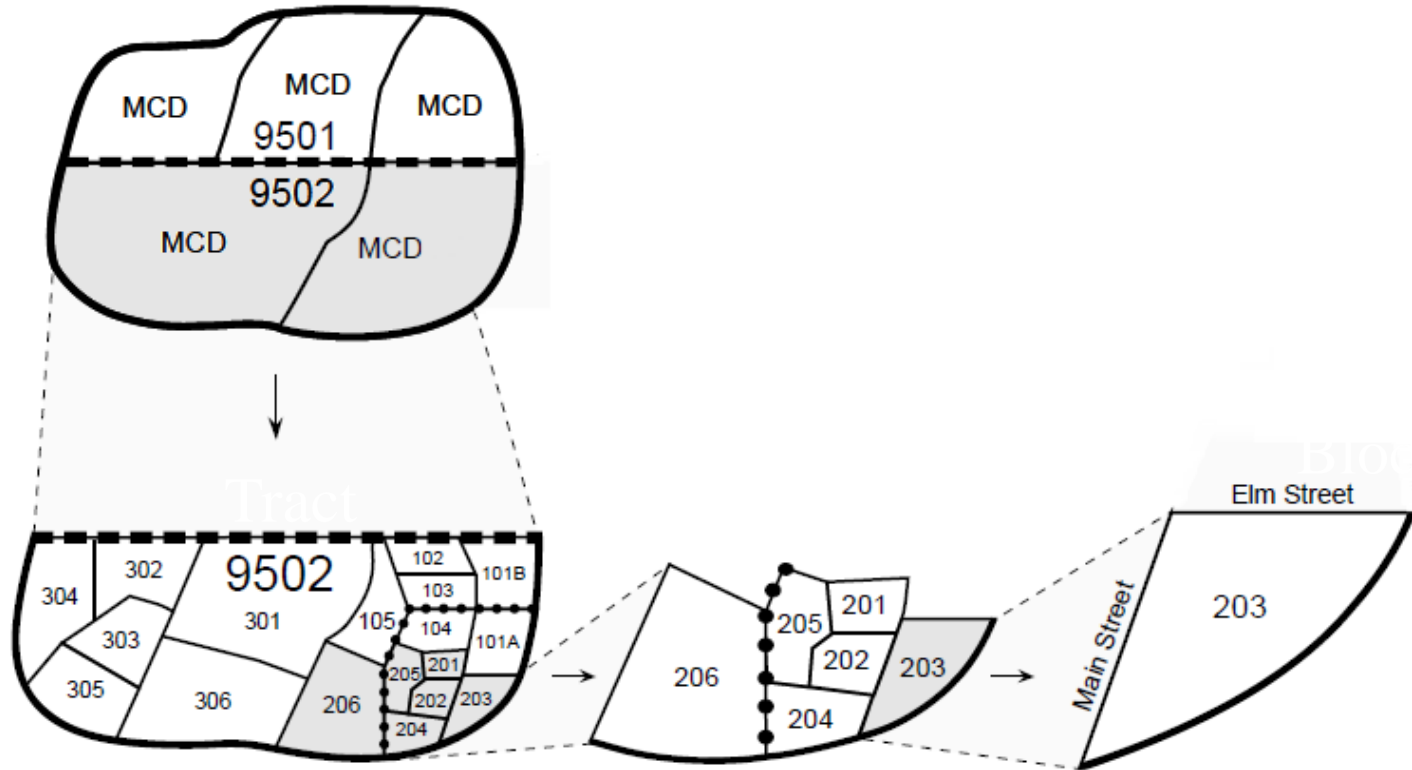
# Wards



# Census Geography



# Census Geography





# County Supervisory Districts - Steps

- o STEP 1
  - o Form a Committee
- o STEP 2
  - o Determine the number of districts
- o STEP 3
  - o Create a tentative plan (within 60 days of population data)

# County Supervisory Districts - Steps

- o STEP 4
  - o Public hearing on tentative plan to solicit suggestions from public & municipalities
- o STEP 5
  - o Work with municipalities to make adjustments to tentative plan
- o STEP 6
  - o Public hearing on final plan

# County Supervisory Districts - Steps

- o STEP 7

- o Adopt final district plan.



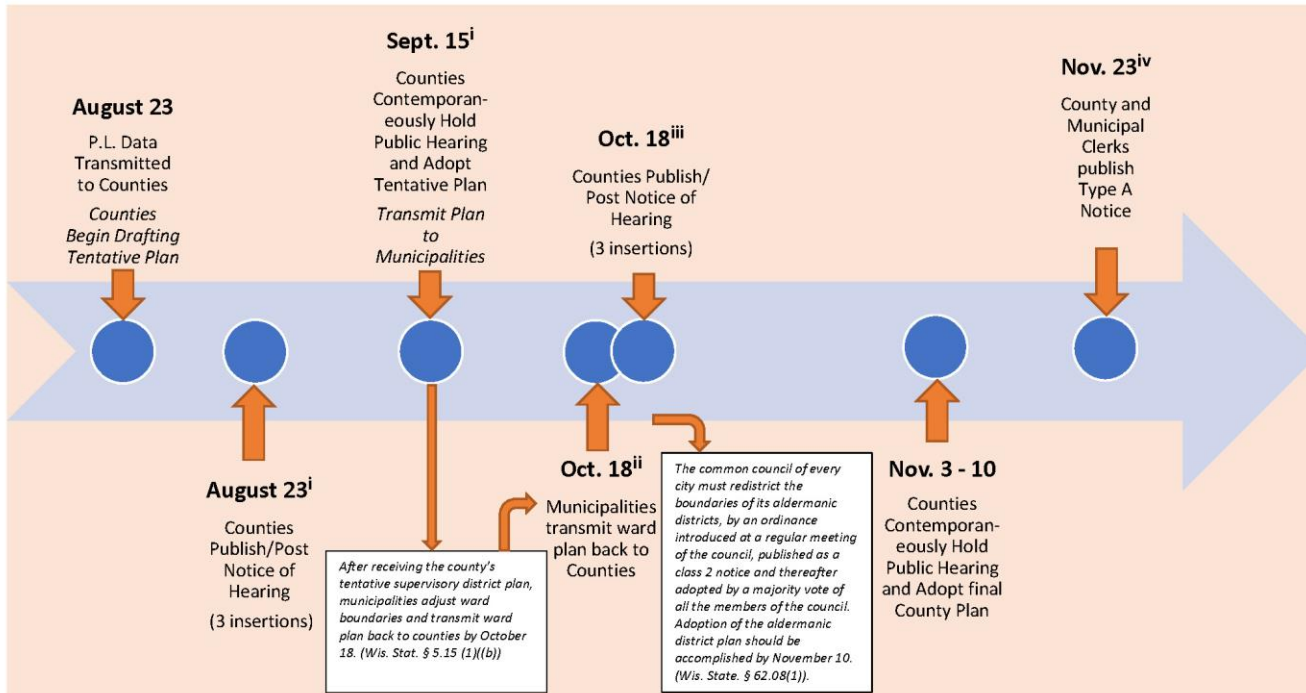
# Summarize

- o Form committee to work on Redistricting
- o Determine the number of districts
- o Work with citizens and municipalities
- o Create a Tentative Plan – submit to municipalities
- o Public hearing
- o Present Plan to County Board

# Proposed Timeline

- o **By August 1<sup>st</sup>** – County creates committee to work on the redistricting process
- o **By September 1<sup>st</sup>** – Schedule meeting with NCWRPC to go over the rules and process of redistricting with the county committee.
- o **September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Draft Tentative Plan and hold public hearing
- o **October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>** – Creation of Wards/adjustments of Ward lines by municipalities
- o **On or before November 10<sup>th</sup>**– Adoption of Final County Supervisor District Plan (County Board Meeting)
- o **November 23<sup>rd</sup>** – County and Municipal Clerks publish Type A Notice

# 2021 COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL REDISTRICTING TIMELINE



i Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)1. (NOTE: Publication/posting requirements are being discussed with LRB. Review publication/posting requirements and alternatives under ss. 985.02 and 985.05 with corporation counsel.)

ii Wis. Stat. § 5.15(1)(b).

iii Wis. Stat. § 59.10(3)(b)2. (NOTE: Publication/posting requirements are being discussed with LRB. Review publication/posting requirements and alternatives under ss. 985.02 and 985.05 with corporation counsel.)

iv Wis. Stat. § 10.06(2)(a). Some counties may publish earlier depending upon publication frequency. (NOTE: Elections commission must deliver Type A Notice regarding state offices to county clerk pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 10.06(1)(a))

# Questions?

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MCD	Census 2010	Census 2020	Change	Percent Change
Birch town	594	570	-24	-4.04%
Bradley town	2408	2382	-26	-1.08%
Corning town	883	825	-58	-6.57%
Harding town	372	364	-8	-2.15%
Harrison town	833	828	-5	-0.60%
King town	855	964	109	12.75%
Merrill city	9661	9347	-314	-3.25%
Merrill town	2980	2881	-99	-3.32%
Pine River town	1869	1874	5	0.27%
Rock Falls town	618	635	17	2.75%
Russell town	677	693	16	2.36%
Schley town	934	950	16	1.71%
Scott town	1432	1377	-55	-3.84%
Skawanaw town	391	386	-5	-1.28%
Somo town	114	123	9	7.89%
Tomahawk city	3397	3441	44	1.30%
Tomahawk town	416	458	42	10.10%
Wilson town	309	317	8	2.59%
County Totals	28743	28415	-328	-1.14%



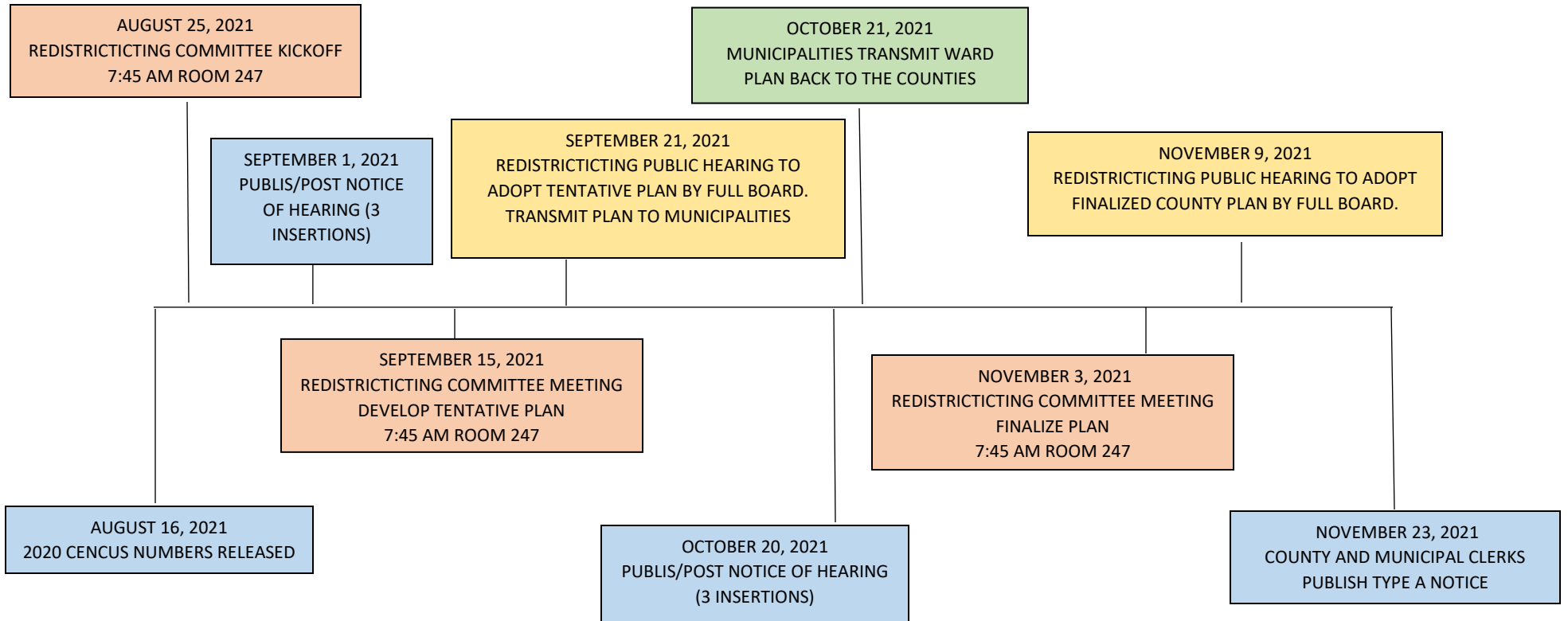
## Lincoln County Census 2020 Population by Existing Disticts

DISTRICT	PERSONS	PERSONS18	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	ASIAN	AMINDIAN	PISLAND	OTHER	OTHERMLT	Percent Deviation
1	1,205	972	1,138	13	20	9	12	0	12	1	-6.73%
2	1,238	969	1,123	35	27	6	28	0	14	5	-4.18%
3	1,313	1,084	1,178	32	40	11	36	0	12	4	1.63%
4	1,218	937	1,118	19	38	9	19	0	15	0	-5.73%
5	1,324	1,069	1,268	10	21	7	8	0	8	2	2.48%
6	1,433	1,119	1,327	13	38	14	25	0	14	2	10.91%
7	1,253	1,017	1,204	8	11	12	11	3	3	1	-3.02%
8	1,155	945	1,039	17	48	7	27	0	14	3	-10.60%
9	1,270	1,037	1,229	5	12	4	11	2	6	1	-1.70%
10	1,373	1,107	1,336	3	10	8	10	0	6	0	6.27%
11	1,206	978	1,161	4	15	5	12	1	8	0	-6.66%
12	1,300	1,098	1,246	3	17	7	17	1	9	0	0.62%
13	1,271	1,096	1,217	2	26	2	14	1	9	0	-1.63%
14	1,240	1,062	1,182	2	21	16	7	1	7	4	-4.02%
15	1,134	876	1,039	16	26	5	25	0	23	0	-12.23%
16	1,332	1,055	1,256	2	24	15	22	0	9	4	3.10%
17	1,286	1,058	1,193	4	37	4	17	0	27	4	-0.46%
18	1,458	1,257	1,397	3	28	15	3	1	11	0	12.85%
19	1,290	983	1,152	67	21	15	12	1	12	10	-0.15%
20	1,462	1,169	1,396	11	19	7	15	0	14	0	13.16%
21	1,296	1,020	1,246	2	9	13	15	0	10	1	0.31%
22	1,358	1,109	1,289	3	21	16	9	2	17	1	5.11%
Totals	28,415	23,017	26,734	274	529	207	355	13	260	43	

Ideal Distict Size= 1292

Overall Deviation = 25.39%

# LINCOLN COUNTY 2021 REDISTRICTING TIMELINE DRAFT



August 25, 2021