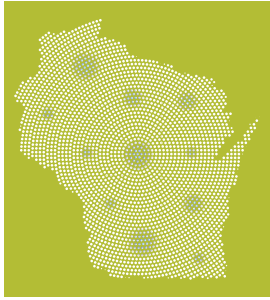




Delayed Census Means Less Time for Local Redistricting

Curt Witynski, Deputy Executive Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities



As most municipal officials know, the COVID pandemic has caused the U.S. Census Bureau to delay releasing 2020 census data to the states. The Census Bureau usually delivers the data by March 31 of the year following the census. The Bureau most recently indicated the data will be delivered to

states by August 16, 2021. In Wisconsin, the Legislative Technology Services Bureau will then spend one to two weeks processing the census data to make it available to counties and municipalities through the agency’s local redistricting software (WISE-LR), which local governments will use to complete the local redistricting process.

Given the significant delay in receiving census data, the League worked with the Wisconsin Counties Association on attempting to enact legislation, AB 369, extending the statutory deadlines by which local governments must complete the local redistricting process. Under the bill’s adjusted local redistricting timeline, 2022 spring elections would have been held using current alderperson district boundaries. New municipal wards and alderperson district maps would have taken effect for the 2023 spring primary and election. While the Legislature passed AB 369, Governor Evers vetoed the bill on July 9, 2021.

As a result of this veto, municipalities and counties will be forced to rush through each step of the local redistricting process in a highly compressed timeframe to have the new county supervisory district and aldermanic district maps completed and adopted by the end of November 2021. League staff has worked with the Wisconsin Counties Association on drafting a recommended timeline for completing each step of the local redistricting process by November 23, the date

county and municipal clerks must publish Type A notices for the 2022 spring election. Under this recommended timeline, communities will not have the 60 days provided in the statutes to accomplish their ward adjustments. It must be emphasized that this recommended timeline is merely a suggestion and does not carry the force of law. Nevertheless, we encourage cities and villages to work closely with their counties to accomplish redistricting by the middle of November using this compressed timeline.

Read the League and Counties Association recommended 2021 County and Municipal Redistricting Timeline on page 11 of this issue of the magazine and check for updates on the League’s website <https://lwm-info.org>

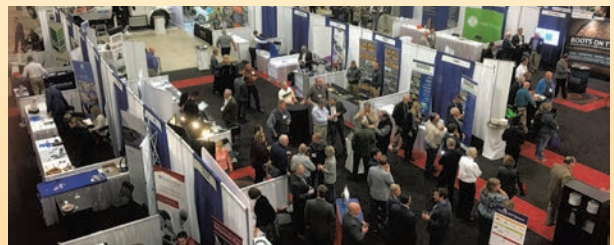
► p.11



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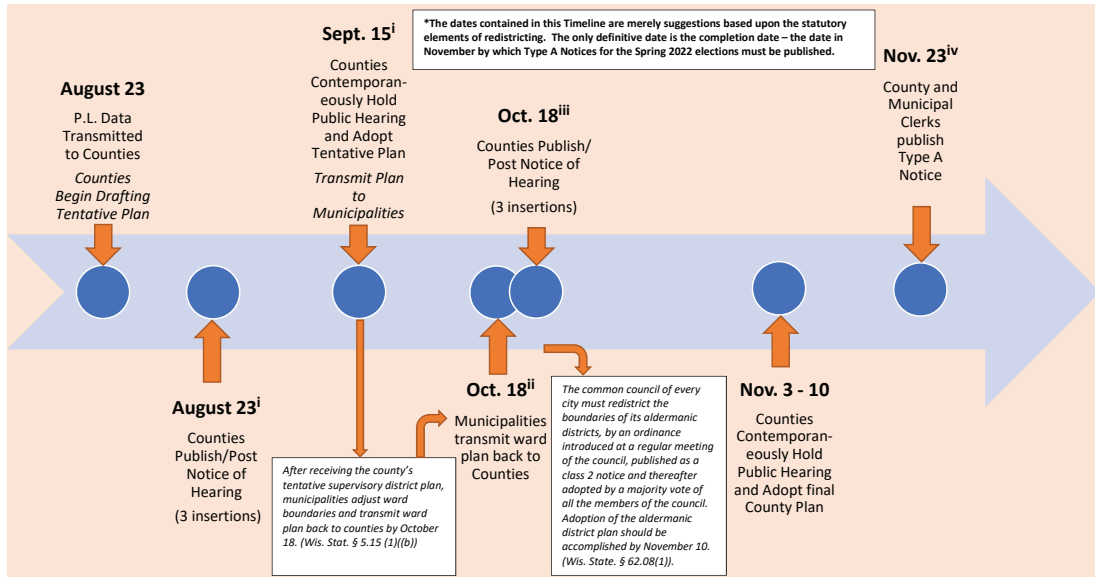
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2021 COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL REDISTRICTING TIMELINE*



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))



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