
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

May 10, 2011

Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
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Common Council to Begin City Redistricting Process

The Common Council's Judiciary and Legislation Committee will meet on Monday, May 16, 2011 to discuss a proposed city election ward map – one of the first steps in the city's redistricting process.

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, chair of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee, said the committee will be overseeing the redistricting process with assistance from non-partisan Legislative Reference Bureau staff trained in geographic information systems and redistricting laws and procedures.

“The deliberation on the election wards (Council file # 110062) is a standard and ministerial part of the redistricting process, as the ward changes are minor, technical adjustments to ward boundaries necessitated by the county's (redistricting) plans and by requirements of state law,” Alderman Hamilton said.

“But our timeline is not a hurried one, and the public will have ample opportunities for input as we move toward drawing up final election wards and aldermanic district boundaries in the coming weeks and months,” he said.

The city's preliminary proposed map of aldermanic districts will be available for public review prior to the June 6 Judiciary and Legislation Committee public hearing on the map, the alderman said, noting that the hearing will be a full three weeks prior to the committee's scheduled June 27 vote on the proposed map.

Also, he said it is possible the committee will hold an additional public listening session in June.

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Milwaukee Redistricting/ADD ONE

“We will gauge the public’s reaction to the maps and plans and set our course accordingly,” Alderman Hamilton said. “If it becomes apparent that we could benefit from an additional public session, then I will move forward with scheduling one.”

A tentative schedule of the city’s redistricting process:

Monday, May 16 – Judiciary and Legislation Committee

Review of proposed election ward map prepared by LRB

Tuesday, May 24 – Common Council

Adoption of ward map

Monday, June 6 – Judiciary and Legislation Committee

Public hearing on proposed aldermanic district map prepared by LRB (no action)

Monday, June 27 – Judiciary and Legislation Committee

Action on proposed aldermanic district map

Tuesday, July 6 – Common Council

Adoption of aldermanic district plan

Alderman Hamilton has said the Council will complete its redistricting process by the end of July.

The United States conducts a census of the entire population every 10 years. This information is used for many purposes, including the distribution of federal and state revenues and the drawing of boundaries for election districts at the federal, state and local levels.

Wisconsin law requires that once the census data becomes available, local governments and the state legislature are required to adjust the boundaries of election districts so that they are as equal as possible in population.

The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) distributed detailed 2010 census data to all 50 states in April, thereby triggering the start of the local redistricting process. Counties are first required to develop a tentative supervisory district plan for their county boards. After that, municipalities are required to revise the boundaries of election wards and then their city council districts. Subsequently, school districts and the [state legislature](#) are also required to update the boundaries of their election districts.

Go to <http://city.milwaukee.gov/Redistricting> for more details about redistricting in the City of Milwaukee.