



ASHANTI HAMILTON
ALDERMAN, 1ST DISTRICT



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- Zoning and Neighborhood Development Committee
- Wisconsin Center District Board of Directors

Delay and time crunch means public should pay attention to and provide input in Milwaukee County redistricting process

Statement of Alderman Ashanti Hamilton September 30, 2021

Yesterday (Wednesday, September 29) the Judiciary Committee of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors met and rejected all of the redistricting maps submitted by an independent review commission. The committee instructed the commission to go back to the drawing board and produce a map incorporating the considerations brought forward by several Board Supervisors at yesterday's hearing.

This further delay means the Common Council's Judiciary and Legislation Committee, which I chair and which will oversee the City's redistricting process, must wait for the County Board to give final approval to the County maps before they can be considered.

During the County Judiciary Committee meeting yesterday there was mention of the significant time crunch that such a delay in the process would put the City under, but at the meeting's end, no timetable was shared as to when to expect a new map that would be reintroduced to the Judiciary Committee that would then go to the full County Board.

The wait can be frustrating, but the County Board deserves credit for carrying through with an independent and thoughtful process.

I am strongly recommending that City of Milwaukee residents and stakeholders participate directly in the County's redistricting process in the next week to two weeks, as an extension of the City's process.

Why am I urging this action? Because the delay and time crunch will directly affect and greatly shrink the City's redistricting deliberations.

So please take this civic opportunity to pay attention to and provide feedback during the County's redistricting process.

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NOTE:

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.

The usual timeline for local redistricting has been significantly altered by the delay of Census information. Local redistricting started getting underway in late August, after the State of Wisconsin distributed Census data to its 72 counties. The timeline as it was expected to unfold back in August is provided below. *Please note that these dates are subject to change and have already been altered.*

September 1, 2021: “Late” date for receipt of Census data from Milwaukee County

September 15, 2021: Milwaukee County adopts its tentative district plan and transmits it to the City.

October 4, 2021: The Judiciary and Legislation Committee hears proposed ward plan.

October 11, 2021: First notice provided of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee hearing relating to district plan.

October 12, 2021: The Common Council adopts ward plan.

October 18, 2021: Second notice provided of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee hearing relating to district plan.

October 18, 2021: Ward plan due back to Milwaukee County.

October 25, 2021: The Judiciary and Legislation Committee hears proposed district plan.

November 2, 2021: The Common Council adopts final district plan.

November 10, 2021: Final district plan due back to Milwaukee County.

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