

Subject Congressional Redistricting

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Overview

This bill adopts a new plan for Minnesota's congressional districts, to be effective for the 2022 state general election cycle and thereafter. The plan would fulfill the requirement of the Minnesota Constitution that a new set of districts be enacted by the legislature following each decennial census.

Technical changes related to adoption of this redistricting plan are also included in the bill.

Details about each individual district, including maps, can be found on the website of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, here:

<https://gis.lcc.mn.gov/redist2020/plans.html>.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Number of districts.
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Enacts congressional redistricting plan C2101-0 as the district plan for the state's congressional districts effective for the 2022 election cycle and beyond. The plan is as published on the website of the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) on November 23, 2021. Visual maps showing detailed boundaries for each district can be found on that website.

Overall, the districts contained in the plan reflect the following features, which are reflected in the statistical reports corresponding to each district that are also published on the website of the LCC:

Population. Consistent with principles of constitutional law, districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable. The ideal district population is 713,312.

In this proposed plan, the populations across districts are as follows:

Section	Description
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District 1: 713,312

District 2: 713,312

District 3: 713,312

District 4: 713,311 (-1)

District 5: 713,312

District 6: 713,312

District 7: 713,312

District 8: 713,311 (-1)

Compactness and contiguity. A principle recommended for enactment by the Redistricting Committee requires congressional districts to be “compact and contiguous.”

Statistical measures of compactness and contiguity for each district are available on the website of the LCC. All districts are comprised of fully contiguous territory.

District “nesting.” The state constitutional principle of nesting applies to state legislative districts, but does not apply to the design of congressional districts.

District numbering. A principle recommended for enactment by the Redistricting Committee requires congressional district numbers to begin with District 1 in the southeast corner of the state and end with the highest-numbered district in the northeast corner of the state.

The districts in this proposed plan are numbered accordingly.

Minority communities. Principles of federal constitutional law and the federal Voting Rights Act require attentiveness to the impact of district design on the voting power of racial and language minority communities.

In this proposed plan, there are two districts that are classified as “minority opportunity” districts. A minority opportunity district is classified in this plan as a district in which at least 30 percent of the total voting age population identifies as a member of a minority community. There are no districts in which a single minority group is a majority of the total voting age population of the district.

Section	Description
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Tribal reservations. A principle recommended for enactment by the Redistricting Committee limits the division of federally recognized American Indian Tribal reservations, except in limited circumstances.

A statistical report showing Tribal reservations that are split in the creation of a district is available on the website of the LCC.

Political subdivisions. A principle recommended for enactment by the Redistricting Committee in October requires that the division of counties, cities, school districts, and towns be minimized, in circumstances where a division would disproportionately dilute the influence of that subdivision in the political process. This principle would not apply if compliance would create a conflict with other redistricting principles that are given greater priority in the committee's recommendation.

Statistical measures showing political subdivisions that are split in the creation of a district are available on the website of the LCC.

2 Distribution.

Eliminates a requirement that the revisor of statutes code a metes and bounds description of each legislative and congressional district into the Minnesota Statutes. The codification of a metes and bounds description is replaced with a new requirement that a plan components report, or an equivalent report, be made available and published on the website of the LCC. Specific detail about the contents of these reports is provided in the bill.

Existing requirements that enacted plans be deposited with the secretary of state, and distributed further by the secretary, remain unchanged.

3 Effective date.

Provides that this act is effective and applies to districts for offices to be elected at the 2022 state general election and thereafter.



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