

Congressional and Legislative Redistricting 2020: Timeline Scenarios

February 2020

This document describes the possible timelines for enacting congressional and legislative redistricting plans following the 2020 Census. The scenarios are based on the default statutory procedure (plans are enacted through the legislative process) and under the more recently common procedure (plans are ordered by a judicially appointed redistricting panel, following failure of legislature to enact plans).

Default Statutory Procedure (No Court Involvement)

Under this scenario, the legislature draws and adopts a redistricting plan, and the plans are signed into law by the governor during the 2021 legislative session or early in the 2022 session. There are no lawsuits or other involvement in the process by the judicial branch.

Date	Event
April 1, 2020	Official date of the U.S. Census.
December 31, 2020*	Initial statewide population results are released by the census bureau. With release of the initial 2020 results, ideal populations for congressional and legislative districts can be calculated and compared with current district populations, which are still based on the 2010 census.
2021 legislative session	Upon convening of new legislature, appropriate committees on redistricting established to begin work drawing new maps.
April 1, 2021*	Comprehensive block-level census totals are released to the state. These are the data that contain the level of detail necessary for new districts and maps to be created.
Late 2021 legislative session, early 2022 session	Legislature draws and debates new district maps. Maps are approved and enacted into law.
February 15, 2022	Deadline for enactment of new congressional and legislative districts. (Note: this deadline is an aspirational “policy” of the legislature. See § 204B.14, subd. 1a.)
March 29, 2022 (or within 60 days following completion of legislative districts)	Deadline for reestablishment or redistricting of municipal precincts (and wards, where applicable); local redistricting may begin upon adoption of new precinct boundaries.
April 26, 2022 (or within 80 days following completion of legislative districts)	Deadline for adoption of new local government election districts (except in certain cities with elections in 2021).
August 9, 2022 November 8, 2022	State Primary and State General Elections. Candidates are elected based on the newly-drawn districts.

Note: Dates marked with an * are approximate for the 2020 cycle

Alternate Redistricting Scenario (Court Involvement)

Under this scenario, the legislature attempts to draw and enact legislative and congressional redistricting plans, but the plans either fail to be approved by the legislature, or are vetoed by the governor. This scenario largely reflects the procedure that played out in the 2010 and 2000 redistricting cycles. For the 2020 cycle, the Minnesota Supreme Court could decide to change the court process compared to that outlined here.

Date	Event
April 1, 2020	Official date of the U.S. Census.
December 31, 2020*	Initial statewide population results are released by the census bureau. With release of the initial 2020 results, ideal populations for congressional and legislative districts can be calculated and compared with current “official” district populations, which are still based on the 2010 census.
January, 2021*	Upon convening of new legislature, appropriate committees on redistricting established to begin work drawing new maps. Lawsuit filed alleging that the current districts (still based on 2010 census results) are unconstitutional, because they fail to meet the new ideal population standard for equal districts. Minnesota Supreme Court grants requests of parties in lawsuit to establish a special redistricting panel to hear the case, but the court stays further action to create a panel, deferring to the legislative process.
April 1, 2021*	Comprehensive block-level census totals are released to the state. These are the data that contain the level of detail necessary for new districts and maps to be created.
Late 2021 legislative session	Legislature draws and debates new district maps, but plans are not enacted.
June 2021*	Noting that the 2021 legislative session has adjourned without enacting a redistricting plan, the court lifts the stay on establishment of a special redistricting panel and appoints its members.
Summer/Fall 2021	Special redistricting panel begins work; public hearings inform creation of new maps. Order declaring principles to be used in drawing maps is issued by the panel.
February 15, 2022	Deadline for enactment of new districts. New maps have not been enacted and signed by the governor. Special redistricting panel issues final order declaring existing legislative and congressional districts unconstitutional. The order includes maps and new districts.
August 9, 2022 November 8, 2022	State Primary and State General Elections. Candidates are elected based on the newly-drawn districts.

Note: Dates marked with an * are approximate for the 2020 cycle