

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NUMBER AND APPORTIONMENT OF COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS

Heritage Center  
September 13, 2021

Attendance: Chairperson Jim Brey, Supervisor Jamie Aulik, Supervisor Kevin Behnke, Supervisor Susie Maresh, Supervisor Rick Gerroll, Supervisor Jim Baumann, Supervisor Rita Metzger, and Supervisor Ken Sitkiewitz. Also in attendance were County Clerk Jessica Backus, Corporation Counsel Peter Conrad, Planning and Zoning Director Tim Ryan, Associate Planner and GIS Specialist Andrea Raymakers, GIS Coordinator Matt Randerson, and Supervisor Tyler Martell. Supervisor Rick Henrickson was excused.

Call to Order: Chairperson Brey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion and possible action on Tentative County Board Supervisory District Plan:

Chairperson Brey turned it over to GIS Coordinator Matt Randerson who informed the committee that three County plans and two City of Manitowoc plans were created. The City and County plans are interchangeable; whichever City plan is selected would be drawn within the selected County plan.

The three County plans presented focus on the rural areas, City of Kiel and City of Two Rivers.

County Plan A had the lowest deviation of 13.18% and a similar supervisory district layout to the current map with the exception of Supervisory District 15 and 18. Supervisory District 18 shifted west to include Town of Cato and Rockland. Supervisory District 15 moved south to include Town of Liberty and Eaton and the Village of Valders. This plan would not create extra ballots for even year spring elections.

County Plan B had the highest deviation of 14.32% and was very different from the current map. All but one supervisory district shifted in some way. The City of Two Rivers and Town of Two Rivers would have four supervisory districts. This plan would not create extra ballots for the even year spring elections.

County Plan C had a deviation of 13.4% and changed the least from the current map. The biggest change was within the Town of Meeme. Supervisory District 12 and 13 have run vertically in past maps', this map has those two districts running horizontally to match the current legislative lines. This would create less wards for the municipality, if and only if the legislative lines are drawn the same as the current lines. There is no guarantee the lines would be drawn as they are now. This plan would create two extra ballots for the even year spring elections.

Supervisor Aulik mentioned he preferred County Plan C because there isn't a compelling reason to alter the district lines if the population fits within the guidelines.

Supervisor Gerroll agreed with Supervisor Aulik.

GIS Coordinator Matt Randerson presented the two City of Manitowoc plans that both have a .03% deviation.

City Plan A had the most changes with a portion of Supervisory District 10 moving south of Waldo, a portion of Supervisory District 6 moving north of Waldo, a portion of Supervisory District 8 moving northeast over Supervisory District 2 and portions of Supervisory Districts 4 and 5 moving north of the Manitowoc River.

City Plan B had a few minor shifts. The most significant shift was Supervisory District 3 moving north of Waldo. Otherwise the dividing line for most districts were the Manitowoc River and Waldo Blvd. This map had a similar layout to the current map for the City.

Chairperson Brey preferred City Plan A.

Supervisor Sitkiewitz preferred City Plan A as well.

Corporation Counsel questioned if the legislative lines are drawn different than what County Plan C would anticipate, would that create more ballots for the Town of Meeme. Clerk Backus said it would not because the Supervisory District contests take place in spring. The Legislative contests take place in fall. This map change would make it easier for the poll workers and the voters because the poll books would be consistent with ward numbers for the spring and fall elections if the supervisory district lines ran the same way as the legislative lines. Right now, the spring election poll books and ballots are split as Wards 1 & 2 because those are the wards in Supervisory District 13, then the other book is Wards 3 & 4 for Supervisory District 12. The fall election poll books and ballots are split by Assembly District as Wards 1 & 4, then Wards 2 & 3. Supervisor Aulik mentioned ten years ago, the State was supposed to take what the County provided for maps. However, the state trumped the County, thus creating four wards for Meeme versus the two that were originally drawn. Ultimately, the State should take what the County gives them and draw the legislative lines from there. Corporation Counsel mentioned this line could change. He would prefer not to use a plan with a little higher deviation not knowing what the State intends to do with the legislative lines. Plan A would be the better choice because it is the lowest deviation.

Supervisor Behnke preferred County Plan A over the other plans, there isn't an increase of ballots, the deviation is lower, and the uniformity looks the best.

Supervisor Behnke moved, seconded by Supervisor Gerroll to select County Plan A for the rural areas, City of Kiel and Two Rivers. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Sitkiewitz moved, seconded by Supervisor Metzger to select City Plan A for the City of Manitowoc. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Brey informed the committee the Public Hearing for the Tentative Supervisory District Plan will be held by the County Board next Tuesday, September 21 at 6:00p.m. before the County Board meeting.

Chairperson Brey and the committee thanked Matt and Andrea for their hard work on the maps.

Adjournment: Supervisor Maresh moved to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Baumann. Motion passed unanimously. The committee adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Backus, County Clerk