

## **2012 REDISTRICTING**

Following the 2010 census, state and local governments will undertake the process of redistricting to establish the election districts to be used in the 2012 elections. The following are some of the key dates, principles and processes that will take place on the county level for our redistricting efforts.

### **County Board Role**

The County Board may choose to complete the redistricting with the assistance of the county auditor, or it may choose to appoint a redistricting commission made up of 5-9 county residents to perform the redistricting duties of the county. The county must provide a 3 week notice to the public prior to adopting a redistricting plan.

### **County Redistricting Principles (to be used to establish county commissioner districts)**

- Commissioner districts may not split precincts
- Districts shall be composed of contiguous territory and be as compact as practicable
- Districts shall be as nearly equal in population as possible
- No district shall vary in population by more than 10% from the average of all districts
- A majority of the least populous districts shall contain not less than a majority of the county population

### **Ten Percent Population Variance**

Statute requires commissioner districts to be as nearly equal in population as possible. However, in the creation of commissioner districts, precincts may not be split. To calculate the allowed variance of 10%, the total county population is divided by the number of commissioner districts and that is multiplied by 10%.

### **Commissioner Districts up for election in 2012**

Minnesota law requires that there shall be a new election of commissioners in all districts at the next general election following redistricting. However, for districts whose change from redistricting is less than 5% of the average of all districts of the county, those commissioners need not stand for re-election, unless their normal four year term is expiring. Commissioner Districts 1 and 3 will be on ballot as those terms will be expiring. Districts 2, 4, and 5 will also be on the ballot for election unless the change in population from the old district to the new district is less than 5% of the average district population.

### **Calculation of 5% Rule**

The threshold for requiring an election is calculated by dividing the county population by the number of county commissioner districts and then multiplying by 5%. The population change of a district is calculated by adding those individuals shifted out of the district to those individuals shifted into the district. If the total shift is greater than the 5% threshold, then a new election is required for that district regardless of whether the current term is expiring.

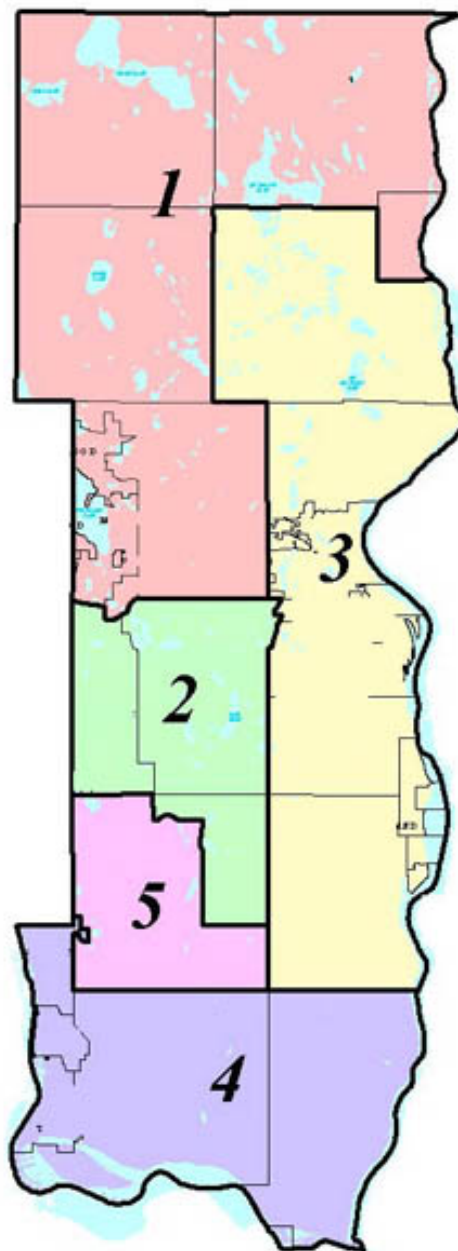
### **Two and Four Year Terms**

The county board, or redistricting commission, shall determine the number of board members to be elected for two year terms and for four-year terms at the 2012 election in order to provide for staggered terms on the county board.

### Redistricting Calendar

Date	Process/Function	Statutory Citation
<i>February 21, 2012</i> (25 weeks prior to state primary)	Legislature intends to complete congressional and legislative redistricting	M.S. 204B.14 subd. 1a
<i>April 3, 2012</i> (or within 60 days of the completion of state redistricting, whichever comes first)	City and township precincts must be established	M.S. 204B.14 subd. 3
<i>May 1, 2012</i> (or within 80 days of the completion of state redistricting, whichever comes first)	County Commissioner Districts must be established or reconfirmed	M.S. 204B.135 subd. 2 & M.S. 375.025 subd. 1
<i>June 4, 2012</i>	Last day to file county plan with county auditor for districts to be effective for 2012 elections	M.S. 375.025 & M.S. 645.15
<i>May 22 – June 5, 2012</i>	Candidate filings for 2012 election	
<i>August 14, 2012</i>	State primary election	
<i>November 6, 2012</i>	State general election	

### Current County Commissioner Districts



Information from the draft 2010 Redistricting Guide prepared by the Office of the Secretary of State was used in the creation of this document.