



## Redistricting Requirements & Principles

*for the*

2022 Blue Earth County

### Board of Commissioners Redistricting Plan

The Blue Earth County Board takes seriously its responsibility to redistrict its residents into County Commissioner districts. While not required by law to create redistricting principles, the Board has elected to establish these guiding principles to add understanding and transparency to the process. These principles will help guide the Board's work in adopting the final redistricting plan.

#### **2022 Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners Redistricting Plan Components**

##### Requirements:

- The County shall be divided into five consecutively-number districts.
- Commissioner districts shall be bounded by town, municipal, ward, or precinct lines and respect political subdivisions.
- No district shall vary in population more than ten percent from the average for all districts in the county, unless the result forces a voting precinct to be split. The principle of population-based representation shall be considered with a goal of districts as nearly equal in population as practicable.
- A majority of the least populous districts shall contain not less than a majority of the population of the county.
- Each district shall be composed of contiguous territory as regular and compact in form as practicable, depending upon the geography involved. Districts shall be created that are reasonably compact and allow for easy travel across district without leaving it.
- The public shall have the opportunity to provide input on the redistricting plan, including conducting a public hearing on the plan or plans after publishing three weeks' notice of the meeting where the matter will be considered.

##### Principles:

- Redistricting is completed in a politically neutral fashion and without regard to incumbents or potential candidates.
- Neighborhoods, cities/communities, natural features, or other commonly-identified features within districts are preserved by centering or fully including them in districts.
- The plan results in districts that are understood and identifiable by the public. Prior districts, boundaries, and election-related physical features are considered.
- Representational and population balance between the County in its entirety and the City of Mankato are considered.
- Communities of interest are considered and preserved whenever practicable. Communities of interest are groups of county residents with clearly recognizable similarities of social, geographic, cultural, ethnic, racial, language, economic, occupational, trade, transportation, or other interests.
- The impact of the redistricting plan on the number of districts or precincts created is considered, including its ease of administration and its cost for the resulting election processes.