

# Drawing Precinct Boundaries

## Precinct Requirements

Each county has adopted a board of supervisors representation plan. The plan determines who will draw the county's precinct boundaries.

### Plan One

In Plan One counties, the board of supervisors is elected at-large without residency requirements. The supervisors draw the precinct boundaries. There are no supervisor districts, so no supervisor district boundaries are drawn. For more information, see page 6.

### Plan Two

In Plan Two counties, the board of supervisors is elected at-large but supervisors must live in supervisor districts. The supervisors draw the precinct boundaries. The supervisors must establish a temporary redistricting commission to draw the supervisor district boundaries. For more information, see page 8.

### Plan Three

In Plan Three counties, the board of supervisors is elected by supervisor district and the supervisors must live in supervisor districts. The supervisors must establish a temporary redistricting commission which will draw the precinct boundaries. LSA will draw the supervisor district boundaries. For more information, see page 8.

[\[§331.206, 331.208, 331.209, 331.210, 331.210A\]](#)

## All precincts in all counties must meet the following standards:

- Precinct population cannot exceed 3,500

Find the population by adding together the census population data for the census blocks or other geographic units included in each precinct.

[\[§49.3\(1\)\]](#)

**Important Note:** Precinct boundaries can be changed for a limited number of reasons. Population growth is not one of them. If there are areas in your county where substantial growth is anticipated in the next ten years, you may wish to establish precincts with populations less than the 3,500 maximum allowed by law.

- Precinct must lie within one legislative district

Each precinct must be contained in a single legislative district unless this would cause the creation of a precinct containing the residences of fewer than 50 registered voters.

[\[§49.3\(1\)\(b\)\(1\)\]](#)

- Composed of contiguous territory

Precincts must be composed of contiguous territory within a single county.

[\[§49.3\(1\)\(b\)\(2\)\]](#)

- Follow census block boundaries

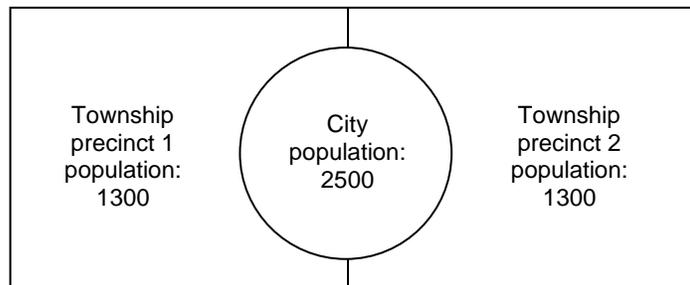
Precinct boundaries must follow census block boundaries even if they are different from actual geography.

[\[§49.3\(1\)\(c\)\]](#)

- Townships as precincts

The following will be considered precincts unless the board of supervisors or temporary redistricting commission takes action to determine otherwise:

- Each township that does not include any part of a city with a population over 2,000
- The unincorporated portion of any township, containing a city with a population over 2,000, lying outside that city. See the example below with a total unincorporated township population of 2,600.



If townships are divided into more than one precinct, the sections must be reasonably equal in population except where division into more than one precinct is necessary to comply with [§49.3\(1\)\(c\)](#).

[\[§49.4\]](#)

- Exclude city annexed territory

If a city annexed territory after January 1, 2020, subtract the annexed territory population as certified by city to the State Treasurer from the population of the surrounding unincorporated territory. The population of such annexed territory should be added to the population of the incorporated territory to which it was annexed.

[\[IAC 721—21.30\]](#)

### **Joint City and County Precincts**

To establish a precinct composed of both incorporated and unincorporated territory, the city and the county must adopt a mutually satisfactory agreement. Copies of agreements between the county and the city council of each city affected must be enclosed with the materials submitted to SOS. The deadline for cities to file their precinct boundaries with SOS is September 1, 2021, or 60 days after the legislature passes a redistricting plan, whichever is later.

This requirement does not apply when the total population of the city is fewer than 2,000.

[\[§49.6, 49.7\(2\)\(a\)\]](#)