



CITY OF MARSHALL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

Meeting Date:	Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Category:	NEW BUSINESS
Type:	ACTION
Subject:	Consider a Resolution Reestablishing Voting Precincts, Wards, and Polling Locations.
Background Information:	<p>Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts to ensure that the people of each district are equally represented.</p> <p>Redistricting is done in the United States after the completion of Congressional reapportionment, which decides how many seats each state has in the 435 member House of Representatives. Reapportionment happens following the Decennial Census.</p> <p>In Minnesota, the state legislature has constitutional responsibility for redistricting Minnesota's Congressional districts, as well as Minnesota Senate and House districts, and Metropolitan Council districts. Local governments are responsible for redistricting other election districts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County boards are responsible for redistricting county commissioner districts • City councils are responsible for redistricting city wards • School boards are responsible for redistricting board member districts <p>In addition, during the redistricting time period, cities and townships will establish (or reestablish) their precinct boundaries as part of the redistricting process, as will counties that have unorganized territory.</p> <p>After review of our 2020 Census redistricting data, we believe that the accuracy of the Census Tract 3605, which overlaps with our Ward 1 voting district, is undercounted. This tract encompasses SMSU and a large amount of rental housing that was unoccupied due to the timing of COVID-19.</p> <p>Under Section 2.10 of our City Charter, The Council shall, by ordinance, provide for the establishment of wards, define, or change their boundaries, and increase or eliminate the number of wards in the City. No change, increase, or elimination shall be made within three (3) months prior to any election held in the City governmental offices. Within six (6) months following the official certification of the decennial census of the United States and the filing of the census list with the City, the Council shall, by ordinance, re-determine ward boundaries so as to make said wards as nearly equal in population as practical.</p> <p>It is staff's opinion that with the current data provided by the Census Bureau the City of Marshall will not need to redistrict its precincts or wards, even with the inaccurate population undercount located in Ward 1.</p> <p>On Tuesday March 1 staff met with the legislative and Ordinance Committee to present the above information and three options for the Legislative and Ordinance Committee to consider for the full council.</p>

Option 1: Reestablish the City of Marshall Precincts and Wards (No Changes).

Option 2: Move 89 people from Ward 3 to Ward 1.

Option 3: Move 220 people from Ward 3 to Ward 1. This change will reestablish neighborhoods and make the Ward lines between Ward 3 and Ward 1 easier to identify.

Options 2 and 3 were presented to the L&O Committee the results received from the 2020 Census will not allow voting districts for Lyon County to keep the same boundaries if the City of Marshall chooses to reestablish its currently voting districts.

Staff have had meetings with Lyon County staff to discuss options to minimize the impact of redistricting by redrawing precinct and ward lines within Marshall Ward 1 and Ward 3.

Motion by Lozinski, Seconded by Meister to recommend that the City Council Reestablish the City of Marshall Precincts and Wards and Polling Locations. All voted in favor. 3-0

Population and Option Impacts:

Option 1

City of Marshall	Population
W-1	4,116
W-2	4,728
W-3	4,784

Option 2

City of Marshall	Population
W-1	4,205
W-2	4,728
W-3	4,695

Option 3

City of Marshall	Population
W-1	4,336
W-2	4,728
W-3	4,564

Fiscal Impact: NA

Alternative/Variations:

Option 2: Move 89 people from Ward 3 to Ward 1. This change will allow Lyon County to keep its current voting districts with minimal impact the City of Marshall voting districts.

Option 3: Move 191 people from Ward 3 to Ward 1. This change will reestablish neighborhoods and make the Ward lines between Ward 3 and Ward 1 easier to identify. This change will allow

	Lyon County to keep its current voting districts with a slightly larger impact, compared to Option 2, to the City of Marshall voting districts.
Recommendations:	That the Council approves the Resolution Reestablishing Voting Precincts, Wards, and Polling Locations.