



Memorandum

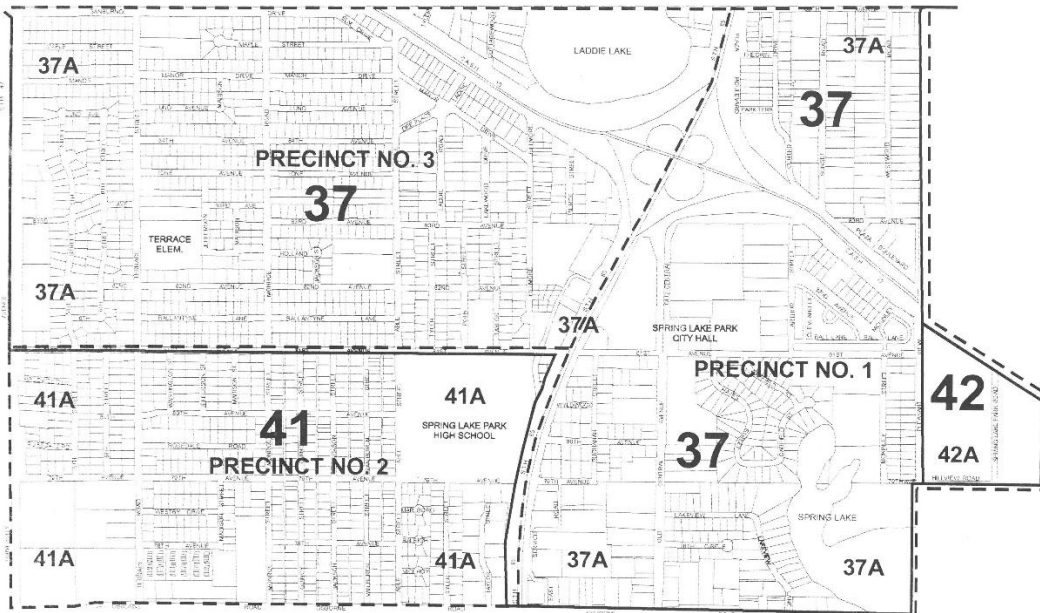
To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council
From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer
Date: March 16, 2022
Subject: Redistricting

Redistricting is the process of redrawing election district boundaries to ensure that the people of each district are equally represented. This process is done once every 10 years, in the year ending with 2, after the decennial census.

Since the Legislature was unable to come to consensus on legislative and congressional redistricting maps by February 15, a special redistricting panel appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court drew the maps. The City of Spring Lake Park is now entirely located in one Legislative District - Senate District 39 and House District 39A. The City continues to be part of the 5th Congressional District.

Now that the legislative and congressional redistricting maps have been drawn, it is now up to the City to draw its precinct boundaries.

Below is the current precinct map that was adopted in 2012.

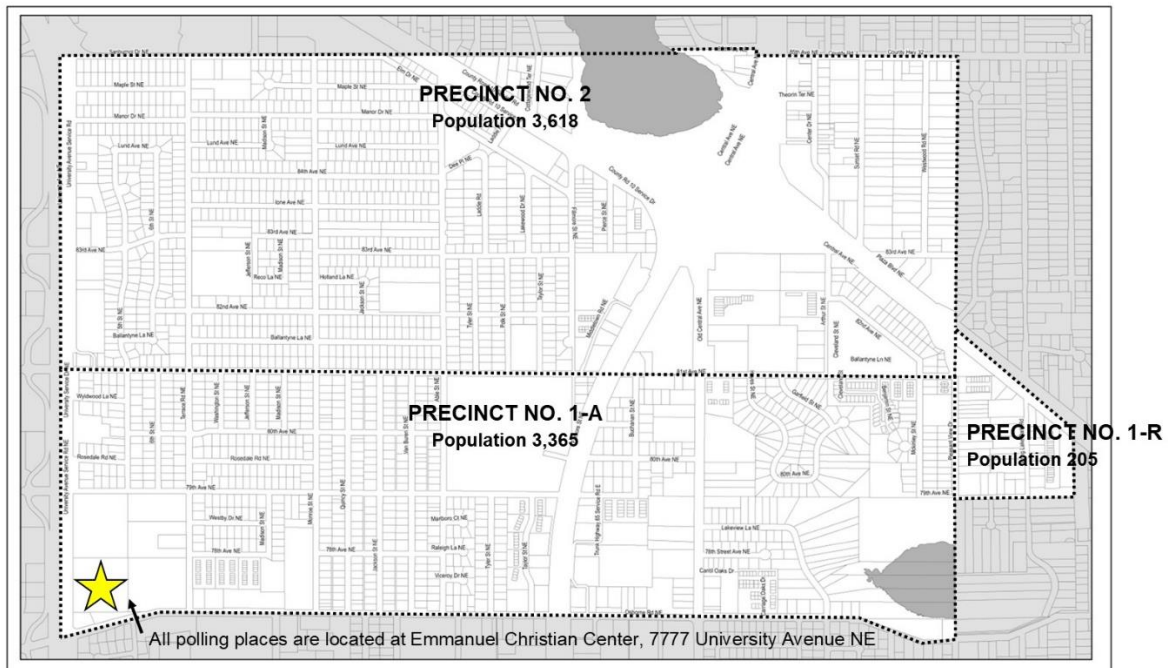


As the City is now in one legislative district, staff is recommending reducing the number of precincts from 4 to 3. This will ease election administration, reduce election equipment costs, and reduce the need for election judges.

Staff evaluated two precinct scenarios: splitting the City into two precincts using Able Street NE as a boundary or creating two precincts using 81st Avenue NE as a boundary.

If the City was to use Able Street as the dividing line, the population of the City west of Able would be 3,943 and east of Able (excluding the Ramsey County portion) would be 3,040. If the City was to use 81st Avenue as the dividing line, the population of the City north of 81st Avenue would be 3,618 and south of 81st Avenue (excluding the Ramsey County portion) would be 3,365. The Ramsey County portion of the City requires its own precinct in accordance with a State Law prohibiting a precinct to cross a county line.

Using 81st Avenue NE as the dividing line represents the least amount of change for our residents from the current map, as well as results in the most equal sized precincts. Based on those two criteria, staff recommends the following precinct map for the City of Spring Lake Park:



For polling place purposes, Precinct 1-R and Precinct 1-A would be combined. This is consistent with the action the City Council took in 2021.

All voters will continue to vote at Emmanuel Christian Center, 7777 University Avenue NE.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.