

Wisconsin 2021 Redistricting: Least Change Plan

Author: Zac Stoor

Date: September 28, 2021

This map aims to reach perfect population equality while remaining as close as possible to old district lines. As most districts only saw small population changes, the changes made are marginal. Wherever possible I reunited counties that were split under the previous map, and tried to avoid splitting new ones. District 4, based in Milwaukee, took in the entire cities of Greenfield and River Hills and a small portion of Wauwatosa, all within Milwaukee County. District 5 took in significant portions of Waukesha and Dodge Counties from Districts 1 and 6 respectively. District 1 expanded slightly in Rock County to include more of Janesville and all of Beloit. Madison-based District 2 was quite overpopulated, and thus shrunk to accommodate its neighbors' underpopulation. Richland County was reunited and a portion of Sauk County was moved from District 2 to District 3. District 3 lost a small amount of land in Jackson County to achieve perfect population in District 7. District 8 was also overpopulated, thus shifting territory to District 6, reuniting Winnebago County and splitting Calumet County in the process. Overall, two new counties are split while two formerly split counties are reunited and Milwaukee County is split three times instead of four. The current district lines are followed as closely as possible, and are quite close to the final result.

While District 4 is not majority-Black, minority groups do compose a majority of the District as a collective (47.1% white). This is the only Voting Rights Act district in the state. Wisconsin state law with regard to congressional redistricting is quite unrestrictive. The only requirements are those mandated by federal law. This map complies with all federal standards and is therefore legal under Wisconsin law.