

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Reapportioning

Q: What is the Data Release Packet?

A. The Data Release Packet is an electronic packet sent via email, containing information and instructions regarding the reapportioning process.

Q. What is in the Data Release Packet?

A. The Data Release Packet contains materials needed to complete the reapportioning process. It also contains clear instructions and step-by-step guidance to take you through the process.

Q. When will I receive my packet?

A. Emails containing the Data Release Packets are sent on a rolling basis as our office processes your materials and packages them.

Q. Where can I read more about the attachments you send me?

A. Included within the zip folder attached to your packet are brief instructions on each document included.

Q. How do we request changes to the draft map we received?

A. If you have selected Option A and are seeking technical assistance from this office, any revisions or requests for consultation must be sent in writing to ma.reapportioning@sec.state.ma.us.

If you have selected Option B, you will need to work within your own municipality to generate any revisions.

Q. Do we have to have a public hearing on the proposed map?

A. No. State law does not require a public hearing on the new precinct boundaries. Some municipalities may have by-laws or ordinances that require a public hearing or may want to have a public hearing, but it is not required under state law.

Q. Do we have to have a public meeting on the proposed map?

A. Yes. The local approving body must vote at a public meeting, posted in accordance with the open meeting law, to adopt the map and approved the required paperwork, including the legal description and block report.

Q. Do the new precinct lines need to be adopted as a by-law or city ordinance?

A. No. State law does not require the new precinct lines be adopted as a by-law or ordinance. The state laws require the local body vote to approve the new precincts. However, some municipalities may have a charter, ordinance or by-law that requires the new precinct lines be adopted as a by-law or ordinance. If a municipality does require the new precinct lines be adopted as a by-law or ordinance (which generally has more notice requirements), we recommend waiting until after the LEDRC has approved the new precincts before incorporating them into a by-law or ordinance. If you have the local approving authority vote to approve the new precincts and submit them to the LEDRC, the municipality can adopt them as a by-law or ordinance AFTER the municipality has the approval of the LEDRC.

Q. What documents need to be submitted to the LEDRC?

A. The following items must be submitted to the LEDRC (checklist is included in your Data Release Packet):

- ✓ Certified copy of the vote of the local approving authority (Select Board, Town Council, City Council or Board of Alderman)
- ✓ Official legal description for each precinct and ward (where applicable)
- ✓ Official block listing (for each precinct and ward, where applicable)
- ✓ Approved map

Q. Do you have a sample vote?

A. Yes. A sample vote is included with your Data Release Packet.

Q. When will the LEDRC meet to review maps?

A. The LEDRC will begin meeting once locally approved maps are received. Meetings are posted in accordance with the open meeting law and you will be notified of the meeting at which your submission will be considered.

Q. Do we have to attend the LEDRC meeting when our map is considered?

A. Probably not. While you are welcome to attend, it is not required. If you have chosen Option A, this office will present your map and supporting paperwork to the LEDRC on your behalf. If you have chosen Option B, you may need to attend to present the map and materials and answer any questions the LEDRC may have.

Q. How will we be notified if the map is approved or rejected by the LEDRC?

A. The LEDRC will send a formal letter of approval or rejection.

Q. What happens if our map is rejected by the LEDRC?

A. If the LEDRC rejects the map, you will be notified in writing of the reasons why and will be provided with an opportunity to revise the map and resubmit. If LEDRC

rejects the map again or no revisions are received, the LEDRC will appoint a master to draw your precinct lines.

Q. When do the changes in precincts go into effect?

A. These changes go into effect on December 31st, 2021.

Reprecincting Checklist for Municipalities

Follow this checklist in order to complete the reprecincting process.

1. Verify Receipt of Materials

- ONE (1) Official Precinct Map, which includes:**
 - Labels (numbers and/or letters) of your wards and/or precincts
 - A table listing the population for each precinct
- ONE (1) Block Report, which is:**
 - A list of the census blocks for each precinct, including demographic and population data
- ONE (1) Vote of Adoption Template:**
 - To be used for the official vote of the local approving authority (Select Board, City Council, Town Council, etc.)

2. Next Steps

- Review all of your materials
- After reviewing this map, contact our office at ma.reprecincting@sec.state.ma.us to schedule a review session to request any revisions to this map.

Notify our office to finalize your materials for submission by emailing ma.reprecincting@sec.state.ma.us. We will then send you the official map, block report, and a draft legal boundary description. Upon receipt, your municipality must carefully review these final materials. Report any concerns to our office **as soon as possible**.
- Schedule a vote of the local approving authority (Select Board, City Council, Town Council, etc.) to approve your map and reprecincting materials, as soon as possible.**
Please notify our office the date of the vote by emailing us at: ma.reprecincting@sec.state.ma.us
- Once the vote has passed, please send all materials, including a certified copy of the vote back to the Secretary's Office:

Local Election Districts Review Commission
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth
c/o Elections Division
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705
Boston, MA 02108

Once approved by the LEDRC, your new precincts will be in effect for 10 years until the next U.S. Census is taken in 2030.

Precinct	2010 pop	2020 pop	Change
1A	2811	2727	-84
1B	2785	2752	-33
		Total =	-117
2A	2855	2707	-148
2B	2919	2691	-228
		Total =	-376
3A	2889	2778	-111
3B	2841	2644	-197
		Total =	-308
4A	2833	2688	-145
4B	2817	2700	-117
		Total =	-262
5A	2929	2858	-71
5B	2950	2812	-138
		Total =	-209
6A	2857	2627	-230
6B	2765	2707	-58
		Total =	-288
7A	2784	2778	-6
7B	2795	2769	-26
		Total =	-32