



City of Oskaloosa
City Council Study Session
Council Chambers
City Hall, 220 S. Market Street
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
Agenda

Monday, November 1, 2021, 5:15 P.M.

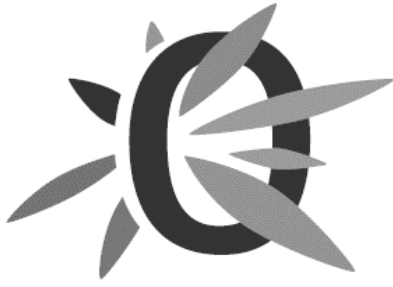
1. Discussion of redistricting city wards and voting precincts

Documents:

[COM 20211101 REDISTRRICT STUDY SESSION.PDF](#)
[MEMO REDISTRRICTING ANALYSIS 10-21-21.PDF](#)
[POPULATION DEVIATION TABLE.PDF](#)
[EXISTING WARDS MAP.PDF](#)
[PROPOSED WARDS MAP.PDF](#)

2. Adjourn

If you require special accommodations, please contact the city manager's office at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 641.673.9431.



City Council Communication

Meeting Date: Nov. 1, 2021 (Study Session)

Requested By: Development Services Department

Item Title:

Discussion of redistricting city wards and voting precincts

Explanation:

This item is intended to give the City Council the opportunity to review and discuss staff's analysis report regarding the city's wards and voting precincts and proposed revisions due to results from the 2020 Census.

Budget Consideration:

None

Attachments:

Analysis memo to City Manager Schrock
Population deviation table
Existing Wards & Precincts Map
Proposed Wards & Precincts Map

To: Michael Schrock, City Manager
Amy Miller, Interim City Manager

From: Shawn Christ, Development Services Director

CC:



Date: October 21, 2021

Subject: Ward and Voting Precinct Redistricting Analysis

I've completed an analysis of Oskaloosa's wards/voting precincts based on data released from the 2020 Census and guidance released by the Iowa League of Cities and Iowa Secretary of State. The following is a summary of my interpretation of the city's responsibilities and recommended next steps.

City Responsibilities

After each federal decennial census, the city council must review its precinct and ward boundaries to verify the following:

1. Ward boundaries follow precinct boundaries. *(Iowa Code Section 372.13)*
2. Wards are "as nearly equal as practicable" to the ideal population (2,890) which is determined by dividing the number of wards (4) into the 2020 population of the city (11,558). *(Iowa Code Section 372.13)* Ward populations are certified to the Iowa Secretary of State Office by a person authorized by the city council.
3. Wards are composed of "contiguous territory as compact as practicable". *(Iowa Code Section 372.13)* The wards' overall length and width should be nearly equal, resulting in a squared shape and shortest possible perimeter.
4. Consideration is not given to addresses of incumbent officeholders, political affiliations of registered voters, previous election results, or demographic information other than population head counts. *(Iowa Code Section 372.13)*

Voting precinct boundaries must meet the following standards:

1. Precinct population cannot exceed 3,500. *(Iowa Code Section 49.3)*
2. Precincts must lie within one Iowa legislative district. *(Iowa Code Section 49.3)*
3. Composed of contiguous territory. *(Iowa Code Section 49.3)*
4. Follow census block boundaries. *(Iowa Code Section 49.3)*
5. Must serve the convenience of voters and promote electoral efficiency. *(Iowa Code Section 49.5)*
This means the boundaries are easy to describe, with direct routes of travel to polling places, and reducing election costs by creating only as many precincts as necessary.
6. Must include territory annexed after January 1, 2020.

The city council must complete any changes to its precinct and ward boundaries no later than 60 days after Iowa's legislative districts become law. Iowa's revised districts have not been adopted yet, due to a delayed release of redistricting data as a result of COVID-19. Iowa lawmakers met in special session October 5 and rejected the proposed redistricting maps. A second special session is scheduled for October 28 to consider another set of proposed maps. If new legislative districts are approved at that time, the city council will have until December 27 to complete changes to its precincts/wards. If legislative districts are not approved at that time, a third set of proposed maps will be drawn for a court-ordered approval deadline of December 1.



Existing Wards and Precincts

In Oskaloosa, the voting precinct boundaries match ward boundaries. On August 15, 2011, the city council passed an ordinance modifying its four ward/precinct boundaries to meet applicable standards. The four quadrants attempted to follow the major thoroughfares and populations deviated from the ideal (equal) population by approximately 2 percent.

Recommended Ward Changes

With completion of the 2020 Census, the city's four wards now deviate by over 4 percent. It is my opinion that the ward boundaries should be modified so that the wards are more equal in population and, if possible, are more compact and efficient to remain consistent with state law.

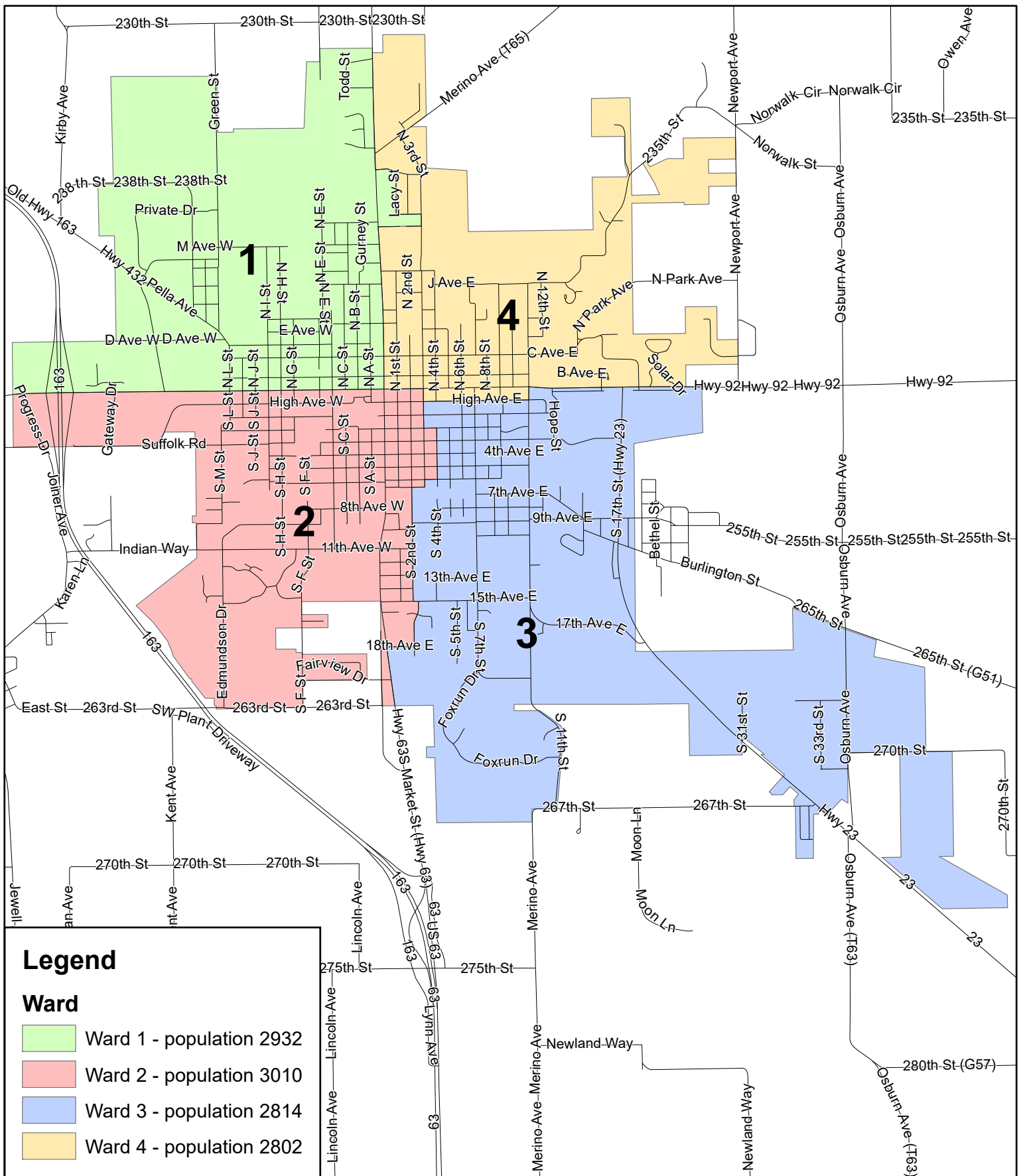
I've attached for your consideration a proposal that makes three minor adjustments to our current ward boundaries, as follows:

1. North Market Street will become the sole boundary between Wards 1 and 4. Although this change will split the William Penn campus across two wards, the boundary will follow the highway and become much easier to describe. Additionally, the two wards will become nearly equal in population (2,880 people in Ward 1 and 2,881 people in Ward 4).
2. A four-block section east of South 3rd Street between 2nd Avenue East and 6th Avenue East will transfer from Ward 2 to Ward 3. This will smooth the line between the two wards, make them both more compact, and also nearly equal in population (2,891 people in Ward 2 and 2,906 people in Ward 3).
3. A three-block section north of High Avenue East between Market Street and 3rd Street will transfer from Ward 2 to Ward 4. This will smooth the line between the two wards, make them more compact, and also nearly equal in population (2,891 people in Ward 2 and 2881 people in Ward 4).

Overall, the attached proposal results in wards deviating from ideal population by no more than 0.55 percent. The wards are also more compact and easier to describe. I believe these changes will meet state code requirements.

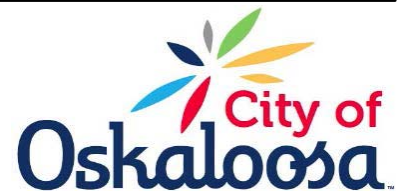


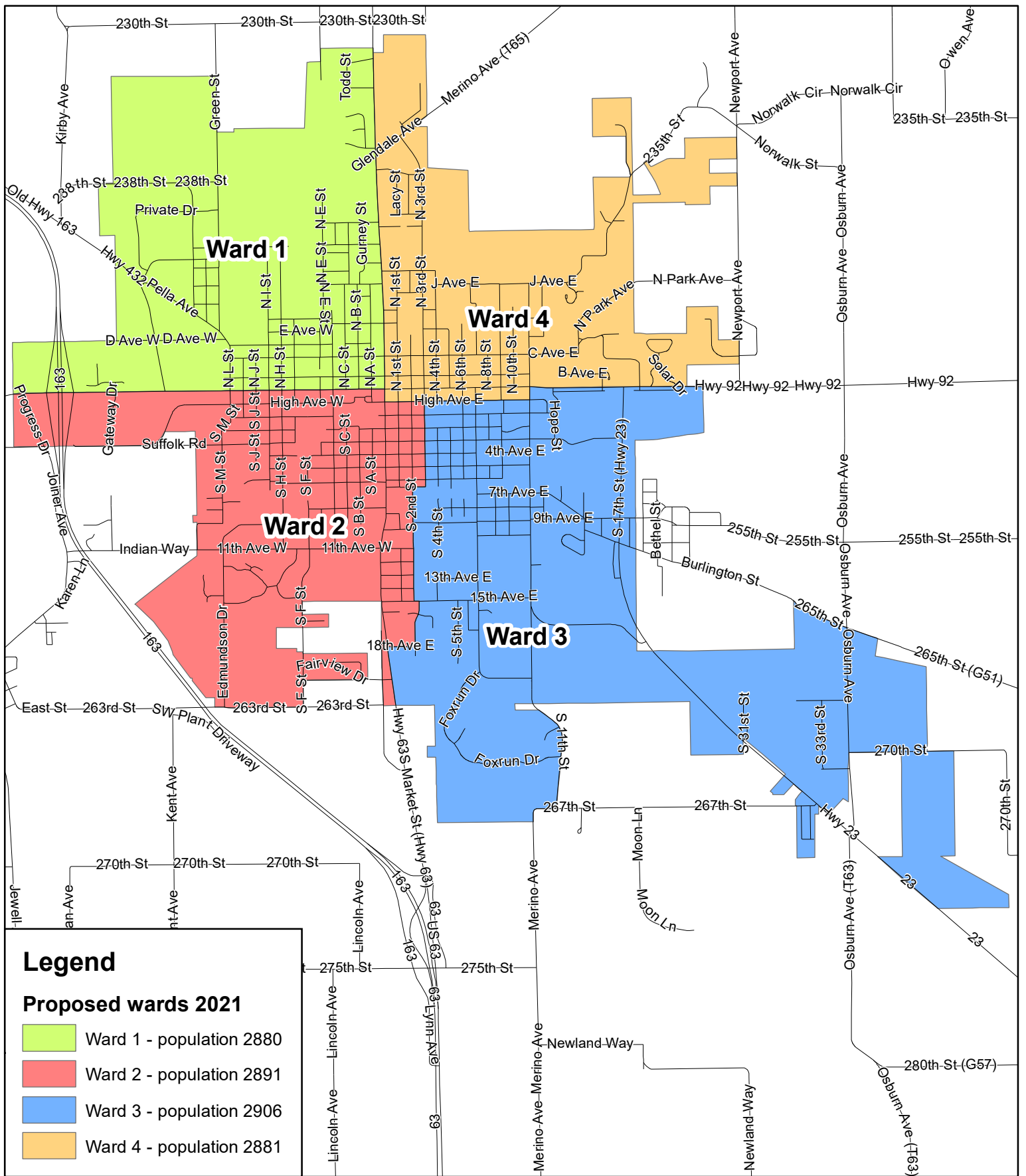
	2010 After Redistricting			2020 Existing (before redistricting)			2020 Proposed Redistricting		
	2010 Population	Ideal	Deviation	2020 Population	Ideal	Deviation	2020 Population	Ideal	Deviation
Ward 1	2,916	2,866	1.74%	2,932	2,890	1.45%	2,880	2,890	-0.35%
Ward 2	2,869	2,866	0.10%	3,010	2,890	4.15%	2,891	2,890	0.03%
Ward 3	2,872	2,866	0.21%	2,814	2,890	-2.63%	2,906	2,890	0.55%
Ward 4	2,806	2,866	-2.09%	2,802	2,890	-3.04%	2,881	2,890	-0.31%
Total	11,463			11,558			11,558		



1 inch = 3,200 feet

Existing Wards & Voting Precincts Map





1 inch = 3,200 feet

Proposed Wards & Voting Precincts Map

