



## OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER | THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

CITY CLERK | ELECTIONS | PUBLIC TRUSTEE | RECORDING & MARRIAGES

### REPRECINCTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### What is the difference between redistricting and reprecincting?

**Redistricting** deals with the creation of new boundaries representing political jurisdictions and is based on population data gathered from the 2020 Decennial Census. For example, Congressional, State House, State Senate, City Council, RTD, and DPS boundaries are affected by redistricting.

**Reprecincting** is the creation of boundaries used in conducting and administering elections, is based on *active* registered voter count *and is a nonpartisan process*.

#### What is the role of the Office of the Denver Clerk and Recorder in reprecincting?

Our office's role is to create precincts for the purpose of conducting and administering elections. This process uses the count of active, registered voters within each census block shape to build new precincts. Our precinct shapes are then used as building blocks by local jurisdictions to then create their own districts.

#### Who draws the state and legislative districts?

The Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions, which were established in 2018 by Colorado voters, created the Congressional and State Legislative districts. Go to <https://redistricting.colorado.gov> to learn more about this process.

#### Who draws the City Council districts?

Denver City Council will create their own Council Redistricting Committee to help create new districts. Their districts will be built using election precincts as their building blocks, combined with the population data released by the Census Bureau.

#### Why do the number of active voters matter for reprecincting?

Precinct population size is dictated by Colorado Statute. Per C.R.S. 1-5-101(3): *One Precinct per 1,500 active voters, up to 2,000 with approval.*

#### How are communities of interest taken into consideration for reprecincting?

Since our work is based on the number of active voters, we will take comments into consideration, but modifications will have to be minor and not significantly interfere with the math dictating precinct size. **Reprecincting should not become a politically motivated issue.**

There are opportunities with the Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions and City Council for communities of interests to provide feedback on those maps.

#### What is a community of interest?

A community of interest is a neighborhood, community, or group of people who have common policy concerns and would benefit from being maintained in a single precinct. A community of interest may tell its own story about what neighbors share in common, and what makes it unique when compared to surrounding communities. Communities of interest are defined by its members.

### **When must the Office of the Denver Clerk and Recorder complete the reprecincting?**

**Pursuant to C.R.S. 1-5-103(1), the last day for the Elections Division to change or add new precincts is January 31, 2022.** To meet this deadline, election precincts must be set no later than mid-December. Once election precincts are set, the Elections Division begins the time-consuming process of rebuilding the precincts within the Statewide Colorado Registration and Election System (SCORE).

### **What happens if the Office of the Denver Clerk and Recorder does not meet the timeline?**

This is not an option for our office. We are required by law to complete the reprecincting process by the January 31, 2022 deadline. If reprecincting is not complete, this will affect the precinct caucuses for the 2022 State Primary Election.

### **How did COVID-19 impact the Census data reports? How does this impact the reprecincting timeline?**

2020 Census data was originally expected to be released in early April 2021. This data is now expected to officially be released by September 30, 2021. This six-month delay will have a domino effect on all entities responsible for redistricting or reprecincting, by greatly shortening their windows to create and finalize new precinct or district plans.

Redistricting must be completed at the state level first, as all election precincts must legally avoid being split across any Congressional or State Legislative district boundaries.

Deadlines for the Congressional redistricting plans are still due by December 15, 2021, and State Legislative plans are still due by December 29, 2021 for Supreme Court approval.