

REDISTRICTING FOR CITY COUNCIL WARDS

The official population of the City of Urbana decreased approximately seven percent as a result of Census 2020, from 41,250 people in 2010 to 38,336 in 2020. City Council Ward boundaries now must be adjusted to reflect the Census 2020 count and to rebalance the population among the seven City Council Wards. This redistricting must be completed before the November 2024 petition filing deadline for the April 2025 municipal election.

The goal is to have a new ward map drawn and approved by the Urbana City Council by May 2024. The City of Urbana invites members of the public to participate in the redistricting process by creating proposed ward maps utilizing a mapping tool called [Dave's Redistricting](https://davesredistricting.org). The current ward map has been published as a base map for use as a starting point for creating new maps at <https://davesredistricting.org/join/f8191e7b-573e-4d73-9024-cf5149f2ff60>.

Tips for using Dave's Redistricting

1. Create a free account
2. The basemap linked above is locked; in order to edit, you will need to make a copy first.
3. Begin editing using the paint tool.
4. Use the "Share Map Icon" to share your map's URL.
5. For assistance, please reference the articles and videos available at Dave's Redistricting

Submission Process

Members of the public may email proposed ward maps to: Wardmaps@urbanaininois.us. If you wish, you may include a message explaining the rationale behind your map.

Maps that comply with guidelines for redistricting will be considered by the City Council.

Deadline for submission: February 15th, 2024.

Anticipated Timeline

February 15 th , 2024:	Open submission deadline
February:	Legal review of submitted maps for compliance with guidelines
March:	Council review of eligible submitted maps
April:	Council selection of proposed final ward map and public comment period
May:	Council approval of final ward map.

GUIDELINES FOR REDISTRICTING

The following guidelines reflect best practices for redistricting. They were approved by the Urbana City Council on December 11, 2023. ([Resolution 2023-12-095R](#))

1. Each of the seven proposed wards should contain the residence of the incumbent City Council member.
2. Any proposed map should be based on Census 2020 data certified as official by the Illinois Secretary of State.
3. All wards should be reasonably compact and contiguous; some wards will be geographically larger than others due to differences in types of housing, population density, land use and annexation patterns.
4. Wards should be substantially equal in population (ideally, 5477 based upon Census 2020) with maximum deviation of 10% between the lowest and highest population wards.
5. Whenever possible, census blocks should be utilized as the building blocks of redistricting.
6. Proposed maps should avoid fragmenting or packing racial minority communities.
7. Proposed maps should not dilute the voting strength of racial minority populations.
8. Proposed maps may take into consideration respecting traditional neighborhoods and existing subdivisions, taking into consideration the maximum deviation allowed.
9. Precinct, demographic, population and other data will be provided in the software platform to inform redistricting.
10. Precincts should not be divided between two or more wards unless necessary to equalize populations between wards
11. City Council is not limited to selecting any of the proposed maps submitted by the public for final adoption.

CURRENT WARD POPULATION & DEVIATION FROM IDEAL (Census 2020)

NOTE: Deviation from ideal between lowest and highest ward populations currently is 28.41%. This is greater than 10% threshold tolerated by the courts.

Ward	Population	Deviation from Ideal
1	5,176	-5.49%
2	4,150	-24.22%
3	5,669	3.51%
4	6,160	12.48%
5	5,073	-7.37%
6	6,122	11.79%
7	5,986	9.3%

PARTIAL SPECIAL CENSUS

The City of Urbana will conduct a Partial Special Census on October 15, 2024 to recount some neighborhoods close to campus. The Special Census will not impact the Census 2020 population used for redistricting, and Ward Maps are not redrawn after a partial census. While adhering to the maximum population variance, Wards maps that anticipate a higher population recount around Campus would draw those respective boundaries for smaller populations (compared to the ideal) today. Below is a map showing the Census Tract and individual census blocks that will be recounted next year.

Map of Partial Census Blocks and Estimated Population Changes

