



FAQ Regarding City of Peoria Redistricting

What is the City's current form of government?

The City of Peoria's current form of government consists of one Mayor; 5 District Council Members, each representing one of five Council Districts; and 5 At-Large Council Members, each representing the City as a whole. The terms are staggered so that the At-Large Council Members are elected at one time and the District Council Members and the Mayor are elected at the next election.

What is the City's current method of election?

The method of election is different for the type of Council Member. Each is elected for a four year term. The last election was in 2011 for the five At-Large Council Member positions, for terms that run from 2011 to 2015. The At-Large Council Members are elected by a cumulative voting process which allows the voter to distribute a total of five votes to one or up to five candidates.

The Mayor and District Council Members were elected in 2009 for terms that run from 2009 to 2013. The Mayor and District Council members are elected by a traditional one vote method; i.e., in each Council District a voter is allowed to vote for one candidate for District Council Member, in addition to being allowed one vote for a candidate for Mayor.

Why is the City considering new Council Districts, redistricting?

The City is considering new Council Districts due to population changes which resulted from the 2010 Census. The U.S. Voting Rights Act and the 1987 lawsuit settlement, which affected the electoral structure, requires the five Council Districts to remain in place and the redistricting to take place following receipt of the census reports every ten years.

The boundary changes are required to have nearly equal districts based on the 2010 Census population data. For five districts, the goal of each district was 23,001 people with a maximum deviation of 5% [21,851 to 24,151]. To reach the goal of 23,001 people, the 1st District would need to grow by 2,622 people, the 2nd District would need to grow by 2,386 people, the 3rd District would need to grow by 1,696 people, the 4th District

would need to grow by 1,620 people and the 5th District would need to shrink by 7,623 people.

What action has the City taken this year regarding redistricting?

The City Council, on April 12, 2011, appointed the City Council Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting for the purpose of making a recommendation on boundaries for City Council Districts. The Committee conducted three public hearings and agreed upon criteria for establishing the new boundaries and has recommended Map 12 as an example of what five Council Districts could look like.

In addition, responding to public input, the administration prepared maps showing examples of eight and ten Council Districts. The City Council on August 9, 2011 reviewed the examples of five, eight, and ten districts, and deferred any action until their October 11, 2011 meeting. The deferral was requested to accommodate input from neighborhood organizations and community discussion regarding the form of government [At-Large Council Member system], number of districts, and cumulative voting. The Council also directed staff to provide information regarding the issues and processes for redistricting, form of government, and cumulative voting.

What criteria did the Redistricting Committee use to determine potential District boundaries?

- Nearly equal in population
- Compact
- Contiguous
- Major thoroughfares as boundaries
- Keeping together communities of interest

Where can I find information about the City of Peoria redistricting process, including examples of maps?

<http://www.ci.peoria.il.us/redistricting>

What is the lawsuit that everyone refers to regarding the number and method of election of Council Members?

The case is captioned *Joyce Banks, et al. v City of Peoria* and it was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois in 1987. The case number is 87-2371. The settlement was approved in November 1987.

Who decides the boundaries and numbers of Council Districts?

The City Council will make a decision on District boundaries, whether or not to change the method of election, and/or the number of Council Districts.

Who decides on the method for electing Council and the form of government [number and type of Council Members]?

Any change in the method of election or the number of Council Districts must be done by referendum. The referendum question may be initiated by the City Council or by citizen petition. If the referendum question is initiated by the City Council, the City would seek approval of the Federal District Court to hold the referendum.

When does there have to be a decision on the boundaries, number of districts, method of electing, and form of government [number and type of Council Members]?

November, 2012

What are the options?

- Proceed with five Districts and change the boundaries based on 2010 Census data
- Change Cumulative Voting
- Change the form of government (number and type of Council Members/Districts)

How would the boundaries be changed?

The City of Peoria Redistricting Committee would make a recommendation to the Council on possible boundary changes, with the final decision made by the City Council. Potential boundaries would take into consideration nearly equal population, compactness, contiguity, thoroughfares as boundaries, and the consideration of communities of interest. The City Council would pass an ordinance changing the boundaries.

What is the process to change the number of district, method of electing, and/or the form of government [number and type of Council Members]?

By referendum.

When is the next election for Council Members? Is it at large or district?

District Council Members will be elected in 2013.

What would be the impact on the currently elected Council Members and Mayor if the number of Council Districts or At-Large Council Members were increased or reduced?

A change in 2011 or 2012, reducing the number of At-Large Council Members, would result in the terms of current At-Large Council Members being shortened, with the new system going into effect in 2013.

What are the next steps in the Redistricting process?

- Proceed with 5 districts; or
- Review changes to Cumulative Voting; and/or
- Review changes to number and type of Council Districts/Council Members