

Proposed Buena Vista County Voting Precincts with 2020 Census Data

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met on December 7, 2021, and during their meeting, reviewed and discussed the setting of the Buena Vista County Voting Precinct boundaries after reviewing and following the IA Code and rules from the IA Secretary of State's office. The Supervisors were assisted by Susan Lloyd, Buena Vista County Auditor, Karla Ahrendsen, Election Deputy, and Eric Chase, Buena Vista County GIS Coordinator.

Public Hearing: The Board of Supervisors is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed Reapportioning plan. The public hearing is set for Monday, December 20th at 6:00 pm in the Buena Vista County Courthouse Public Meeting Room.

Iowa House of Representatives Districts: Due to the 2020 Census and the State of Iowa House of Representatives re-districting statewide, Buena Vista County has different House Districts assigned with different boundaries than that of the last census. Buena Vista County will have House District 5 and 6. A voting precinct cannot contain more than one House or Senate District.

Criteria: The State of Iowa has the following requirements that must be followed when setting voting precinct boundaries.

1. Must not contain more than one state house or senate district in one precinct.
2. Must follow census block data boundaries.
3. Must be contiguous.
4. Must be compact.
5. Must follow city and township boundaries (as much as possible.)
6. Must not take into consideration residences of current Board of Supervisors or elected officials from County.
7. Must be under 3,500 people.
8. Voting location can be outside of the precinct boundary if necessary.
9. Board of Supervisors hold a public hearing to approve the plan before submitting it to the Auditor.
10. Auditor must submit the final approved plan to the Iowa Secretary of State Office after the public hearing for final approval by the State.
11. Precinct boundary changes take effect with any election held after January 15, 2022.

New Voting Precinct Proposals: Given the list of required criteria, the Board of Supervisors has two voting precinct proposals that they will be considering, and will vote on which proposal is the "best plan" possible, after public comment during the public hearing. Prior to the 2020 census data, Buena Vista County had 10 voting precincts and both of the two proposals will reduce to 8 precincts due to consolidations and legislative district boundary changes.

Plan C: Precincts 1-4 are within Storm Lake city limits; Precinct 5 contains all of Maple Valley, Nokomis, Elk, and Scott Townships, including the City of Alta (3,028 population); Precinct 6 contains all of Brooke, Barnes, Lee, and Lincoln Townships, including the cities of Linn Grove, Rembrandt, and Sioux Rapids (1,797 population); Precinct 7 contains all of Newell, Coon, Fairfield, and Poland Townships, including the cities of Newell, Albert City, and Marathon (2,510 population); Precinct 8 contains all of Hayes, Grant, Providence, and Washington Townships that are outside the City limits of Storm Lake, and includes the cities of Lakeside and Truesdale (2,219 population).

Plan D: The only change from Plan C to Plan D is moving Poland Township and Marathon to Precinct 6 (2,190 population), and removing them from Precinct 7 (2,229 population).

A map of the proposed districts may be obtained at the Buena Vista County Auditor's Office, or they will be on the County's website at <https://buonavistacounty.iowa.gov/>. Comments or objections may also be sent to the County Auditor's Office, P O Box 220, Storm Lake, IA 50588.