

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Reprecincting

Q: What is the Data Release Packet?

A. The Data Release Packet is an electronic packet sent via email, containing information and instructions regarding the reprecincting process.

Q. What is in the Data Release Packet?

A. The Data Release Packet contains materials needed to complete the reprecincting process. It also contains clear instructions and step-by-step guidance to take you through the process.

Q. When will I receive my packet?

A. Emails containing the Data Release Packets are sent on a rolling basis as our office processes your materials and packages them.

Q. Where can I read more about the attachments you send me?

A. Included within the zip folder attached to your packet are brief instructions on each document included.

Q. How do we request changes to the draft map we received?

A. If you have selected Option A and are seeking technical assistance from this office, any revisions or requests for consultation must be sent in writing to ma.reprecincting@sec.state.ma.us.

If you have selected Option B, you will need to work within your own municipality to generate any revisions.

Q. Do we have to have a public hearing on the proposed map?

A. No. State law does not require a public hearing on the new precinct boundaries. Some municipalities may have by-laws or ordinances that require a public hearing or may want to have a public hearing, but it is not required under state law.

Q. Do we have to have a public meeting on the proposed map?

A. Yes. The local approving body must vote at a public meeting, posted in accordance with the open meeting law, to adopt the map and approved the required paperwork, including the legal description and block report.

Q. Do the new precinct lines need to be adopted as a by-law or city ordinance?

A. No. State law does not require the new precinct lines be adopted as a by-law or ordinance. The state laws require the local body vote to approve the new precincts. However, some municipalities may have a charter, ordinance or by-law that requires the new precinct lines be adopted as a by-law or ordinance. If a municipality does require the new precinct lines be adopted as a by-law or ordinance (which generally has more notice requirements), we recommend waiting until after the LEDRC has approved the new precincts before incorporating them into a by-law or ordinance. If you have the local approving authority vote to approve the new precincts and submit them to the LEDRC, the municipality can adopt them as a by-law or ordinance AFTER the municipality has the approval of the LEDRC.

Q. What documents need to be submitted to the LEDRC?

A. The following items must be submitted to the LEDRC (checklist is included in your Data Release Packet):

- ✓ Certified copy of the vote of the local approving authority (Select Board, Town Council, City Council or Board of Alderman)
- ✓ Official legal description for each precinct and ward (where applicable)
- ✓ Official block listing (for each precinct and ward, where applicable)
- ✓ Approved map

Q. Do you have a sample vote?

A. Yes. A sample vote is included with your Data Release Packet.

Q. When will the LEDRC meet to review maps?

A. The LEDRC will begin meeting once locally approved maps are received. Meetings are posted in accordance with the open meeting law and you will be notified of the meeting at which your submission will be considered.

Q. Do we have to attend the LEDRC meeting when our map is considered?

A. Probably not. While you are welcome to attend, it is not required. If you have chosen Option A, this office will present your map and supporting paperwork to the LEDRC on your behalf. If you have chosen Option B, you may need to attend to present the map and materials and answer any questions the LEDRC may have.

Q. How will we be notified if the map is approved or rejected by the LEDRC?

A. The LEDRC will send a formal letter of approval or rejection.

Q. What happens if our map is rejected by the LEDRC?

A. If the LEDRC rejects the map, you will be notified in writing of the reasons why and will be provided with an opportunity to revise the map and resubmit. If LEDRC

rejects the map again or no revisions are received, the LEDRC will appoint a master to draw your precinct lines.

Q. When do the changes in precincts go into effect?

A. These changes go into effect on December 31st, 2021.