Chapter 1 – GOVERNANCE

Sec. 1-1 Size of County Board

The County Board shall consist of 24 members elected as provided by law.

(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012)

State Law reference — Power of County Board to determine its size, 55 ILCS 5/2-3002; term of members, 10 ILCS 5/2A-23.

Sec. 1-2 Number of Districts and Representation

There shall be 12 multimember districts, with two members elected from each district. The 12 districts shall be as depicted on the official DeKalb County Board district maps as maintained by the County Clerk, and as described on the basis of the number of precincts that have been approved for the County. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of County Board member unless he or she is a legal voter and has been a resident of the County, and the County Board district from which elected (or appointed), for at least one year immediately preceding the general election (or date of appointment if filling a mid-term vacancy), and registered to vote at a residence located in said district at the time of filing their statement of candidacy (or at the time of appointment).

(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012; Ord. No. 2014-05, 3-19-2014)

State Law reference — Power of County Board to require Board Members to be elected from districts, 55 ILCS 5/2-3002.

Sec. 1-3 Re-Districting

In addition to the criteria mandates that are stipulated by federal and state laws for redistricting of County Board districts, the following procedures shall be used:

1. County Board districts shall each have a population as nearly equal as practical to the ideal population to each other. County Board districts shall not vary in population from the ideal district population except as necessary to comply with one of the other standards enumerated in this section.
2. County Board districts shall divide townships or municipalities only when necessary to conform to the population requirement of paragraph (1) of this section. To the extent possible, district boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of townships and municipalities. The number of townships and municipalities divided among more than one district shall be as few as possible. When there is a choice between dividing townships and/or municipalities, the more populous shall be divided before the less populous.
3. No County Board district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent Board member, or other person or group, or for the purpose of augmenting or diluting the voting strength of a language or racial minority group. In establishing districts, no use shall be made of any of the following data:
    a. Addresses of incumbent County Board members;
    b. Political affiliations of registered voters;
    c. Previous election results;
    d. Demographic information, other than population, except as required by the Constitutions and the laws of the United States and the State of Illinois.
4. County Board districts shall be created in such a manner so that no precinct shall be divided between two or more districts, insofar as is practicable.

5. The quotient, obtained by dividing the total of the absolute values of the deviations of all district populations from the applicable ideal district population (numerator) by the number of districts (denominator) established, shall not exceed three percent of the applicable ideal district population, except as necessary to achieve one of the other standards enumerated in Section 1-3. If the quotient exceeds three percent, it should be as close to the ideal quotient as possible.
6. County Board districts shall not have a population which exceeds that of any other County Board district by more than eight percent, except as necessary to achieve one of the other standards enumerated in Section 1-3. If the population variance exceeds eight percent, it should be as close to the ideal population variance as possible.
7. County Board districts shall not have a population which varies by more than five percent from the applicable ideal district population, except as necessary to achieve one of the other standards enumerated in Section 1-3. If the ideal district population exceeds five percent, it should be as close to the ideal district population as possible.
8. County Board districts shall be comprised of contiguous territory, as nearly compact as practicable. Areas which meet only at the points of adjoining corners shall not be considered contiguous. In general, reasonably compact districts are those which are square, rectangular, or hexagonal in shape, and not irregularly shaped, to the extent permitted by natural or political boundaries.
9. If it is necessary to compare the relative compactness of two or more districts, or of two or more alternative districting plans, the tests prescribed by paragraphs a. and b. below shall be used.
    a. *Length-width compactness.* The compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of the district are equal. The measure of a district's compactness is the absolute value of the difference between the length and the width of the district. In general, the length-width compactness of a district shall be calculated by measuring the distance from the northernmost point or portion of the boundary of a district to the southernmost point or portion of the boundary of the same district, and the distance from the westernmost point or portion of the boundary of the district to the easternmost point or portion of the boundary of the same district. The absolute values computed for individual districts under this paragraph may be cumulated for all districts in a plan in order to compare the overall compactness of two or more alternative districting plans for the County.
    b. *Perimeter compactness.* The compactness of a district is greatest when the distance needed to traverse the perimeter boundary of a district is as short as possible. The total perimeter distance computed for individual districts under this paragraph may be cumulated for all districts in a plan in order to compare the overall compactness of two or more alternative districting plans for the County, or for a portion of the County.
10. The County Administrator, the Community Development Director, and the County Engineer, utilizing the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Management Office (IMO) staff, shall each independently develop a potential plan for redistricting. If a vacancy exists in one of these offices, then the Forest Preserve Superintendent will fill the open spot. These individuals shall not discuss or share any details of his or her plan with the others, or with any member of the Board, until such plans are presented to the County Board for consideration. The IMO Director will independently submit a report to the County Board analyzing each of the three plans for the degree of compliance with the various criteria as set forth in this Section 2-27.1 of the County Code, as well as with any Federal or State requirements.
11. All three plans shall be presented directly to the County Board for consideration not later than the regular monthly meeting of the County Board which next occurs 90 days after the release of the census data. No County Board Committee shall first review the three plans nor make a recommendation on a preferred plan. The County Board shall strive to adopt a plan within the legal time-frame parameters for such action.

(Ord. No. 2014-12, 11-19-2014; Ord. No. 2018-51, 11-21-2018 PDF *; Ord. No. 2019-28, 3-20-2019* PDF *; Ord. No. 2021-05, 4-21-2021* PDF *)*