



Questions and Answers

Q: When does City Council actually go to 15 members?

A: Due to population loss, City Council must cut two wards before April 1, 2025. Beginning January 5, 2026, the reconfigured City Council would consist of fifteen wards. The representatives for the fifteen wards would be determined based on the results of the November 2025 election.

Q: Why are we cutting wards?

A: The City Charter - akin to the US Constitution - is the City's governing document. The City Charter mandates that City Council uses data from the decennial Federal Census to determine the number of wards in the City.

Q: When do the maps need to be in place?

A: The City Charter mandates that City Council complete a redistricting process based on the results of the Decennial Census. Due to delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, data needed by states and local governments for redistricting from the 2020 Census was not available until August 2021. This delay prevented City Council from undertaking the redistricting process in 2020 – which would have impacted the 2021 municipal elections. City Council leadership is now engaging in the process to ensure potential candidates and residents are aware of the boundaries well before the 2025 municipal elections.

Q: How many residents must be in each ward?

A: Each ward must consist of approximately 24,800 people.

Q: When does City Council need to make a final decision on maps?

A: The Charter mandates that Cleveland City Council pass their new map by April 1, 2025.

Q: What happens if City Council misses the deadline?

A: If Council fails to submit a map by the deadline, the Mayor will submit a map to Council within 15 business days. Council will then have 10 business days after receiving the Mayor's map to implement a map. If Council fails to do so, then the Mayor's map is adopted.

Q: Where can I get more information on the Redistricting process?

A: [Section 25-1 of the Charter of the City of Cleveland](#) details the "Reapportionment of Wards" process – the map-drawing process.