

2.1 to legislative enactment or court order, in Minnesota Statutes no later than the date of the
2.2 state primary in the year ending in two.

2.3 Sec. 3. **DISTRICTING PRINCIPLES FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS.**

2.4 Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** The principles in this section apply to legislative
2.5 districts.

2.6 Subd. 2. **Nesting.** A representative district may not be divided in the formation
2.7 of a senate district.

2.8 Subd. 3. **Numbering.** Legislative districts must be numbered in a regular series,
2.9 beginning with house district 1A in the northwest corner of the state and proceeding across
2.10 the state from west to east, north to south, but bypassing the 11-county metropolitan
2.11 area until the southeast corner has been reached; then to the 11-county metropolitan area
2.12 outside the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul; then in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

2.13 Subd. 4. **Equal population.** The population of a legislative district shall not deviate
2.14 by more than two percent from the population of the ideal district.

2.15 Subd. 5. **Minority representation.** Legislative districts shall not be drawn with
2.16 either the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the voting rights of any United States
2.17 citizen on account of race, ethnicity, or membership in a language minority group, and
2.18 must otherwise comply with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United
2.19 States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, United States Code,
2.20 title 42, sections 1973 to 1973aa-6.

2.21 Subd. 6. **Contiguity; compactness.** Legislative districts shall consist of convenient,
2.22 contiguous territory structured into compact units. Contiguity by water is sufficient if the
2.23 body of water does not pose a serious obstacle to travel within the district. Legislative
2.24 districts with areas that connect only at a single point shall not be considered contiguous.

2.25 Subd. 7. **Minor civil divisions.** Political subdivisions shall not be divided more
2.26 than necessary to meet constitutional requirements.

2.27 Subd. 8. **Preserving communities of interest.** Where possible in compliance with
2.28 the preceding principles, communities of interest shall be preserved. For purposes of this
2.29 principle, "communities of interest" include, but are not limited to, groups of Minnesota
2.30 residents with clearly recognizable similarities of social, geographic, political, cultural,
2.31 ethnic, economic, or other interests. Additional communities of interest will be considered
2.32 if persuasively established and if consideration thereof would not violate applicable law.

2.33 Subd. 9. **Consideration of plans.** Legislative districts shall not be drawn for the
2.34 purpose of protecting or defeating an incumbent. The impact of redistricting on incumbent
2.35 officeholders is a factor subordinate to all redistricting criteria to determine whether

3.1 proposed plans result in either undue incumbent protection or excessive incumbent
3.2 conflicts.

3.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE; EXPIRATION.** This section is effective the day following
3.4 final enactment and applies to any plan for districts enacted or established for use at the
3.5 state primary in 2012 and thereafter. This section expires June 1, 2012.

3.6 Sec. 4. **REPEALER.**

3.7 Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections 2.031, subdivision 2; 2.444; and 2.484, are
3.8 repealed.

3.9 Sec. 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

3.10 Except where otherwise provided, this act is effective for the state primary election
3.11 in 2012 and thereafter.