



MEMO

Legal Department

To: Mayor Haila, Ames City Council

From: Mark O. Lambert, City Attorney

Date: May 6, 2022

Subject: Memorandum of Agreement with Story County regarding census blocks and reprecincting.

At the December 21, 2021 Ames City Council meeting, the Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement with Story County to accompany the decennial reprecincting ordinance that was adopted at the same meeting.

The Iowa Secretary of State reviewed our ordinance, and caught one small error, and the Council subsequently amended the ordinance to correct that error.

The Iowa Secretary of State's office has now reviewed the agreement between the City of Ames and Story County regarding certain census blocks, and is requiring some adjustments to the agreement. The attached agreement is to fix those small errors in the December 21, 2021 agreement which were identified by the Secretary of State.

State law requires that precincts follow census blocks. The U.S. Census incorrectly designated some census blocks as unincorporated, when they are actually within the Ames city limits. Therefore, the attached agreement assigns those census blocks to precincts. Also, several unincorporated Census blocks are not contiguous with and/or are in a separate state legislative district from their rural townships, and these unincorporated Census blocks will be added to an Ames precinct. Note that this does not mean that the individuals living in these census blocks now assigned to precincts in Ames, who do not live within the Ames corporate limits, will be eligible to vote in City elections -- it only

means that they will be assigned to an Ames precinct for voting purposes only. The Auditor's office will have separate "township ballots" at election time for the few individuals who reside in these areas. This is a common practice in the redistricting/repincincting process and such an agreement has been in place since the last redistricting in 2011.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Story County regarding census blocks and the new precincts in Ames.
2. Do not approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Story County.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Secretary of State's office is requiring this amended agreement to correct some small errors in the original agreement approved in December 2021. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Attorney that the Council adopt Alternative #1.

Memorandum of Agreement

The parties to this agreement are the City of Ames, Iowa ("City"), and Story County, Iowa ("County"). This agreement is entered into as of May 3, 2022 to comply with changes imposed by the State of Iowa following its review, and updates the previous agreement signed by both parties in December of 2021.

WHEREAS:

Following the federal decennial census, and after the redistricting of congressional and legislative districts, city councils and county boards of supervisors are required to complete any changes in precinct and ward boundaries.

Cities and counties are required to use federal census block information when defining precincts and wards for the purposes of redistricting.

A portion of two federal census blocks within the City's corporate limits was designated by the census as unincorporated, one in Grant Township territory and one in Franklin Township territory.

The City and the County agree that a portion of both federal census blocks 191690001012085 and 191690001023002 are designated as unincorporated in error.

The City and the County agree to combine said incorporated portion of federal census block 191690001012085, as shown on the official County map, with the contiguous Ames Precinct 3, as defined by City of Ames, Ordinance No. 4456, into one voting precinct.

The City and the County agree to combine said incorporated portion of federal census block 191690001023002, as shown on the official County map, with the contiguous Ames Precinct 7, as defined by City of Ames, Ordinance No. 4456, into one voting precinct.

Furthermore, the following unincorporated federal census blocks are not contiguous with and/or are in a separate legislative district from their rural townships:

- Blocks 191690001012063, 191690001012147, 191690001012056, 191690001012057, 191690001012058, 191690001012062 in Grant Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 3
- Grant Township with the exception of federal census blocks 191690104001003, 191690104001002, 191690104001006, 191690104001005, and 191690104001029 to be combined with Ames Precinct 3
- Block 191690013021049 in Washington Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 5
- Blocks 191690013031005, 191690006005021, 191690006005022, 191690006005014 and 191690006005013 in Washington Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 16
- Block 191690001023007 and the unincorporated portion of Block 191690001023002 in Franklin Township to be combined with Ames Precinct 7

The City and the County agree to combine census blocks 191690001012063, 191690001012147, 191690001012056, 191690001012057, 191690001012058, 191690001012062 and the incorporated portion of 191690001012085, and Grant Township with the exception of federal census blocks 191690104001003, 191690104001002, 191690104001006, 191690104001005, and 191690104001029 and Ames Precinct 3 as defined by City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. 4456 into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 3 in Ward 1.

The City and the County agree to combine census block 191690013021049 and Ames Precinct 5 as defined by City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. 4456 into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 5 in Ward 1.

The City and the County agree to combine census blocks 191690013031005, 191690006005021, 191690006005022, 191690006005014 and 191690006005013 and Ames Precinct 16 as defined by City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. 4456 into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 16 in Ward 3.

The City and the County agree to combine census blocks 191690001023007 and 191690001023002 and Ames Precinct 7 as defined in City of Ames Municipal Code, Ordinance No. 4456 into one precinct, namely Ames Precinct 7 in Ward 2.

Dated this ____ of May, 2022.

City of Ames, Iowa

By _____
John Haila
Mayor

Attest:

Diane Voss, City Clerk

Dated this 3rd of May, 2022.

County of Story, Iowa

By _____
Latifah Faisal, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Lucy Martin, Auditor