

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 22

WHEREAS, uniformity of district boundaries used by the departments of State government is desirable for the efficient and coordinated planning and administration of State programs, the convenient delivery of State services, the improved coordination of Federal, State and local governmental activities, and the increased responsiveness of State programs to regional and local, as well as statewide conditions; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 10, issued August 13, 1969, after extensive study by the Operating Cabinet, established a system of uniform State Districts on an interim basis for a one-year period of State departmental testing and evaluation and made provision for citizen and local governmental review and involvement in the final district delineation; and

WHEREAS, State government's experience with the interim districts during the trial period has confirmed the potential benefits of the uniform state districting system and demonstrated the system to be a substantial improvement over the former pattern of overlapping State departmental administrative districts; and

WHEREAS, opportunity for local review of the interim districting arrangement has been provided and there has been extensive local involvement in the final district delineation, including the establishment of a broadly representative Regionalization Task Force for Northeast and East Central Wisconsin, the conduct of county public hearings in several areas of the State and continuing discussions with citizens, local public officials and representatives of various organizations in the State; and

WHEREAS, the local review process has evidenced a strong and continuing commitment to the concepts of uniform State Districts and regionalization; and

WHEREAS, a year-long process of State government evaluation and intensive local participation in review and final district development has led to the adjustment of the interim districts and the development of a system of uniform State Districts which is clearly the dominant preference of the great majority of citizens and local governmental officials and which has been judged by the members of the Operating Cabinet as an appropriate arrangement for the improved administration of State programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WARREN P. KEOWLES, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby order and direct that:

I. A uniform system of State Districts be established as follows:

- A. Southeastern District: consisting of Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties.
- B. Southern District: consisting of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, and Sauk Counties.
- C. Western District: consisting of Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon Counties.
- D. West Central District: consisting of Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties.
- E. Northwestern District: consisting of Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, and Washburn Counties.
- F. North Central District: consisting of Adams, Florence, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Vilas, and Wood Counties.
- G. Lake Michigan District: consisting of Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano, and Sheboygan Counties.
- H. Lake Winnebago District: consisting of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago Counties.

II. The Departments of Administration; Agriculture; Health and Social Services; Industry, Labor and Human Relations; Local Affairs and Development; Natural Resources; Revenue and Transportation shall:

- A. Recognize and adopt the uniform State Districts for State planning and administrative purposes.
- B. Prepare plans to implement the State Districts as completely and as rapidly as is possible, consistent with maximum efficiency and citizen convenience, and proceed, after gubernatorial review and approval, with the implementation of such plans.
- C. Extend State services on the basis of the State Districts, and as broadly within the Districts as is economically feasible, toward the end that State services will be conveniently available to citizens.
- D. Organize information collection, reporting and dissemination activities on a State District basis, or on a county-by-county basis compatible with the uniform districting structure.

- E. Plan, budget and deliver State services to respond to the unique regional and local characteristics and conditions of each State District.
- F. Employ the districts as a guide in promoting the creation and development of new multi-county regional planning organizations. Regional planning organizations may include either all of the counties or some of the counties within a State District, but to the extent practicable, the boundaries of new regional planning organizations should not extend across State District boundaries.
- G. Similarly the State Districts shall serve as a guide for the creation of other regional level planning and development organizations, toward the end that functional planning and development activities at the regional level will, to the maximum extent possible, be coordinated with State District activities and fully integrated into the regional comprehensive planning process.
- H. Coordinate district level and local departmental activities with those of all other State departments and develop cooperative arrangements for district operation, toward the end that interdepartmental use of personnel, equipment and facilities will produce economies of field operation and will maximize citizen convenience.
- I. Coordinate district level and local planning and administration of State programs with regional and local organizations, including comprehensive regional planning agencies and functional organizations, toward the end that to the maximum extent possible, consistent with State objectives, State programs shall be planned and administered in a manner consistent with and in furtherance of the objectives of regional and local comprehensive planning.

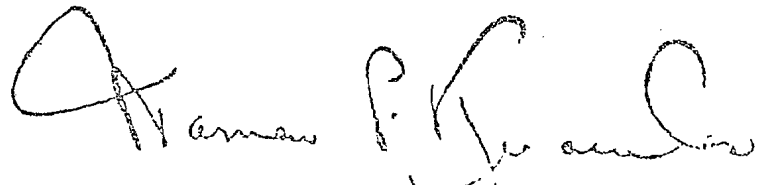
III. State departments and agencies not enumerated in Section II of this executive order are encouraged to examine the State Districts and, where appropriate, to adopt them for their planning and general administrative use. Where it is not feasible to adopt the State Districts, State departments and agencies are encouraged to coordinate their program developments with State departments organized on the uniform State District basis and with regional planning organizations.

IV. Established regional planning agencies and other multi-county organizations, whose boundaries do not presently conform with the uniform State Districts, shall continue to receive State encouragement and support.

- A. Full departments are directed to provide for communication and coordination between the State Districts and such organizations.

- B. While it is a long run objective that multi-county organizations and the State Districts should be generally consistent, the progress and achievements of existing regional organizations must be preserved and built upon. As locally initiated adjustments to existing regional organizations are undertaken, a closer consistency with the State Districts should develop.
- V. The uniform State Districts, established by this executive order, shall be reasonably stable and shall be fully implemented.
- A. The long period of study, testing and extensive local review has delayed the realization of the potential benefits and economies of uniform districting. It is imperative that the State Districts, established by this executive order, be fully employed with the confidence that they will not be significantly altered in the near future.
- B. Conditions change over time and the State Districts should be responsive to such developments. When such changes result, a county or groups of counties desirous of obtaining a districting adjustment should petition the Governor who will establish appropriate means to fully assess local preferences and State administrative requirements.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 24th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy.


GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Secretary of State