

WHEREAS, the existing boundaries of multi-county regions and districts used by the departments and agencies of State government comprise an overlapping and sometimes conflicting pattern, reflecting their uncoordinated development and bearing little or no relationship to federally established districts within or overlapping the State, or to various cooperative arrangements which are developing among local and county governments; and

WHEREAS, this condition has created confusion and inconvenience for State citizens, a lack of coordination among State agencies and between local, state, and federal governments, and a dilution of citizen participation in public programs; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Office of the President, recognizing that many federal programs require or actively encourage the delineation and utilization of areawide administrative districts or regions, and recognizing that efficient accomplishment of joint federal-state or federal-local programs depend on effective coordination at the state level and at the regional or district level within states, has issued Bureau of Budget Circular A-95 requiring that districts or regions created by federal agencies conform to state established districts; and

WHEREAS, after extensive study by a working committee composed of representatives of the principal operating departments of the State government, a state district system has been developed to help remedy the present situation and improve coordination and efficiency in the planning and management of state and other public programs; and

WHEREAS, districts have been formed by grouping together counties of similar or related social, economic, and physical characteristics; and

WHEREAS, the districting pattern has been designed to serve as the basic framework for the planning and administration of state programs, to promote the more efficient delivery of state services, and to promote and encourage maximum local participation in the development and coordination of federal, state, local, and private sector programs, with the overall objective of better coordinating state programs with one another and with other governmental and private programs to facilitate access to state and other public services most needed by citizens.

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

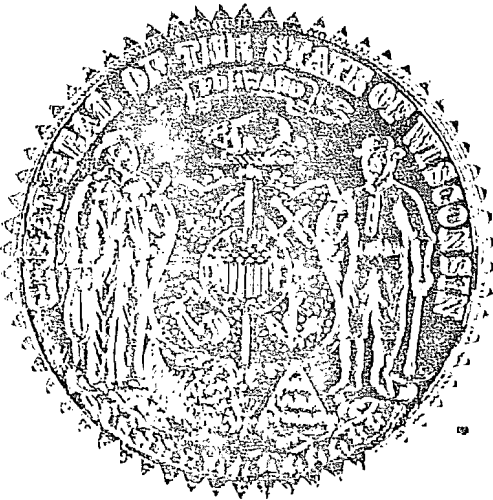
- I. Each of the departments of the operating cabinet of State government shall:
  - A. Recognize and adopt, on an interim basis for basic statewide planning and state administration purposes, the boundaries of the State Districts as delineated on the attached map (Appendix I).
  - B. Take steps to plan for program modification to conform to the district boundaries, including negotiations with federal agencies which have boundary requirements to establish common boundaries with state agencies.
  - C. Review field services and operations to determine the extent to which they can be carried out on the district basis.
  - D. Review data collection and dissemination activities to determine the kind of statistical data and information that can have meaningful collecting and reporting on the district basis, or on a county-by-county basis compatible with the district.

E. Maintain flexibility, particularly during the next twelve months, to adjust to changes that would improve the district structure.

II. A local review process shall be established and formally conducted:

- A. Upon resolution of any county board requesting a public hearing on the state district system, a representative of the Executive Office will conduct public hearings in the locality, on either a single county or multi-county basis.
- B. After the local review public hearings are completed and after the first year's experience with their use for state administrative purposes, a thorough review of the system will be undertaken and appropriate adjustments will be made in the subsequent Executive Order providing for final implementation of administrative districting.

III. Regional planning shall continue to be encouraged throughout the State, and to enhance federal-state-local cooperation and coordination, the state district boundaries should be used as a guide when new multi-county regional planning commissions are created. The progress of existing commissions which have well established planning programs should not be hindered. The uniform district plan is intended not to disrupt existing working relationships among local units of government, but, rather, to enhance their effectiveness.



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 eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine.

*Harold G. Jones*  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

*Robert C. Zimmerman*  
Secretary of State