

**2-3-102. Precincts — Establishment, consolidation, or change of boundaries — Splitting precincts.**

(a) (1) After May 16, 1991, no voting precinct shall be established, created, consolidated, divided or the boundaries otherwise altered unless ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction, by reason of an annexation or other change in the boundary of a county or municipality or in accordance with subdivision (a)(2). Any boundary which is altered in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision (a)(1) shall coincide with a census block, tract, municipal or county boundary as designated on United States bureau of the census maps prepared for the 1990 federal decennial census. After phase 2 maps for a county under the block boundary suggestion program of the bureau of the census for Census 2000 are submitted to the bureau of the census by the office of local government, any **precinct boundary** in such county which is altered in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision (a)(1) shall coincide with a census block, tract, municipal or county boundary as designated on United States bureau of the census maps prepared for the 2000 federal decennial census.

(2) The county election commission may establish, consolidate or change the boundaries of precincts whenever the public convenience or law requires it; provided, that if any **precinct boundary** is altered pursuant to this subdivision (a)(2) then all of the following conditions must be met:

(A) Any boundary which is altered in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision (a)(2)(A) shall coincide with a census block, tract, municipal or county boundary as designated on United States bureau of the census maps prepared for the 1990 federal decennial census; provided, that after phase 2 maps for a county under the block boundary suggestion program of the bureau of the census for Census 2000 are submitted to the bureau of the census by the office of local government, any **precinct boundary** in such county which is altered in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision (a)(2) shall coincide with a census block, tract, municipal or county boundary as designated on United States bureau of the census maps prepared for the 2000 federal decennial census; and

(B) All precinct boundaries within the jurisdiction of such county election commission that do not coincide with a census block, tract, municipal or county boundary as designated on United States bureau of the census maps prepared for the 1990 federal decennial census shall be altered so that such boundaries do coincide with a census block, tract, municipal or county boundary as designated on United States bureau of the census maps prepared for the 1990 federal decennial census; provided, that after phase 2 maps for a county under the block boundary suggestion program of the bureau of the census for Census 2000 are submitted to the bureau of the census by the office of local government, any **precinct boundary** in such county which is altered in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision (a)(2) shall coincide with a census block, tract, municipal or county boundary as designated on United States bureau of the census maps prepared for the 2000 federal decennial census.

(3) Any political subdivision which alters the boundaries of any voting precinct in accordance with the provisions of this subsection (a) shall send a map to the office of local government and to the office of management information services for the general assembly, which map shall clearly show the new boundaries of such voting precinct.

(4) All census descriptions, census delineations, census district lines and other census designations as used in this subsection (a) are those established for and by the United States bureau of the census for taking the 1990 or 2000 federal decennial census in Tennessee.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (a)(2) to the contrary, a **precinct boundary**

established, consolidated or changed pursuant to subdivision (a)(2) may coincide with a line which divides a census block if:

(1) The line splitting the census block was approved by the United States bureau of the census and population was allocated between the areas split by such line pursuant to the fee paid block split program of such bureau; and

(2) In addition to the maps required to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a)(3), the allocation of population for any split block is also sent to the office of local government and to the office of management information services for the general assembly.

[Acts 1972, ch. 740, § 1; T.C.A., § 2-302; Acts 1984, ch. 951, § 1; 1991, ch. 373, § 1; 1993, ch. 362, § 1; 1999, ch. 421, §§ 1-5.]