

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received prior to 5 pm on September 15, 2021

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 6:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Phoebe Kae Amsden

From: Phoebe Kae Amsden <4senuf@live.com>
Residence: Broadus, Montana

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.
Phoebe Amsden

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Chris Amyes, Kalispell MT <cjamtPA@pm.me>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:27 PM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map – By Population Not Politics

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

- Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
- The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
- Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Amyes, PO Box 9828, Kalispell, 406 890-3457

PS - Contact information is provided to comply with requirements to provide input. I do not consider it to be public information.

Chris Amyes
Kalispell, MT

Support Hillsdale College:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.hillsdale.edu/__;!!GaaboA!5o98NM0Cbp5in0iiMEgVfHiylHJDUXQli7t2Xo1AAle65_cagz11ndtJ-r4S1utpbg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.hillsdale.edu/__;!!GaaboA!5o98NM0Cbp5in0iiMEgVfHiylHJDUXQli7t2Xo1AAle65_cagz11ndtJ-r4S1utpbg$)

Support Judicial Watch:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.judicialwatch.org/__;!!GaaboA!5o98NM0Cbp5in0iiMEgVfHiylHJDUXQli7t2Xo1AAle65_cagz11ndtJ-r6JMzPdBg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.judicialwatch.org/__;!!GaaboA!5o98NM0Cbp5in0iiMEgVfHiylHJDUXQli7t2Xo1AAle65_cagz11ndtJ-r6JMzPdBg$)

[image]

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: martin ans

From: martin ans
Residence: 2549 Interlachen Drive

Message:

As Montana is determined by a State boarder, the districts should also be based on established legal boarders – county lines. The fairest split is by population and contiguous contact of the counties. District 2 would start in the State's NW corner in Lincoln and flow as follows — Lincoln, Flathead, Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Chouteau, Pondera, Teton, Lewis & Clark, Missoula, Powell, Granite, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Lake, Sanders, Mineral and Silver Bow. Based upon the published 2020 census this "district" population would be 541,890. The rest of the state would comprise District 1. Based upon the published 2020 census this "district" population would be 542,614. A number difference of 724 or less than .000367%. These district compositions permit each congress person to have a diverse cross section of Montana's population. Respectfully, Martin Ans — 10 Sept 2021.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Larry Ashcraft <lashcraft42@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 12:28 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Map and Comment Submission
Attachments: Redistricting East West splitting Gallatin Cascade.pdf

I have deep concerns about the fairness of this committee. I've been a Montana voter in Montana for 58 years. When we get two congressional districts the lines should be done by fairness and not political gain. I encourage you to use the map that shows Bozeman and Gallatin county in the east and follow the lines of equal representation.

Thank you,

Larry Ashcraft
503 Bayview Dr.
Polson, MT. 59860
406-250-3303
lashcraft42@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Chance Aune

From: Chance Aune
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:
I vote east-west.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 9:07 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Deb Baker

From: Deb Baker
Residence: Dillon, MT.

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Wendy Beye <wbeye@bitterroot.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 12:41 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional Districts

I am a retired election administrator, and have been involved a number of times in the redistricting process that follows each national census.

Please consider the following as you work through creating a map for our (finally!) two Congressional Districts:

1. Gerrymandering is illegal. The boundaries of each district should be based solely on population, compactness, natural boundaries, county boundaries, city boundaries, with politics off the table.
2. The precedent of an east/west split of the state into two districts should be heavily considered. The Continental Divide is a traditional boundary that has existed since the days of indigenous peoples.
3. The districts should be easy for voters to understand, so they are confident they are voting the correct ballot when they enter the voting booth each Congressional election.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Wendy Beye
142 Alec Roy Road
Roundup, MT 59072
406.320.2732
wbeye@bitterroot.net

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carol Biedermann

From: Carol Biedermann
Residence: Whitehall

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Anthony Biel

From: Anthony Biel
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Debbie Blanchard <dbkneedle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 6:03 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New congressional districts in Montana

Good morning,

I have seen several maps showing the new proposed congressional districts. I find it interesting that most of the maps show most of the state in an Eastern district, and a very small section of western or southwestern Montana in a western district.

It appears this is not an even split of this large state. You can't have 75% of the state in one district and 25% in the other district. How is that fair representation?

I like the North district and South district proposed map the best. This seems close to an even split between the two districts and would give each district close to even representation of the state.

I am also hearing politics being involved in this decision about where to draw the district boundaries. Why bring politics into this at all? This decision should be about equal representation of the citizens of Montana. Both Republicans and Democrats obviously want their party to benefit from these new districts, but that should be up to the voters. You want your own party to win? Pick a strong candidate and let the candidate convince the voters to vote for that candidate.

The districts you create will stay here indefinitely. People will move in and out of any particular district continually. So a particular area that may

be democratic currently may not stay that way for long. It should be up to the candidates to convince people to vote one way or the other.

Thank you for your time.

Debbie Blanchard
Great Falls, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 7:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Douglas F Bohn

From: Douglas F Bohn
Residence: Victor

Message:
To whom it may concern,

Montana MUST retain it's fair East – West division for our districting regarding U.S.Senate representation. I have submitted a map that accomplishes this goal with only 163 difference in population between the western and eastern divisions.

Thank You for your at least equal efforts toward this goal.
Respectfully,
Doug Bohn

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 18th August 2021 09:26

Your Full Name:
Cherie Bowman-Lyons

Email Address:
cherietom@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Great Falls MT

Your Comment/Input:
Wouldn't it make sense and be fair to use previous East/West US congressional districting for MT (from when we last had two seats) as a baseline and adjust from there for population. Hopefully that would minimize any controversy or concerns from either major party.

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Virgle Brite

From: Virgle Brite
Residence: Columbia Falls, MT

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,
Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.

The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.

Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Virgle Brite
16 Westberg Ct,
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
virglebrite@gmail.com

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Flathead County
Board of Commissioners
(406) 758-5503



Brad W. Abell
Randy L. Brodehl
Pamela J. Holmquist

September 14, 2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P. O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Commission Members:

The Flathead County Commissioners are united in strongly recommending the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission keep Flathead County within a Western Montana Congressional District, and **not split Flathead County** when developing the plan for the second Montana Congressional District. Your goal should be to draw appropriate boundaries around geographic areas such that each district results in "fair" representation.

According to MCA 5.1.115-Redistricting criteria, Flathead County should remain whole for the below reasons:


1. MCA 5-1-115 (2)(b): *The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district must be as small as possible...* Flathead County includes twelve State House Districts and six State Senate Districts. These districts should remain in one congressional district to avoid distorting representation.
2. MCA 5-1-115 (2)(c): *The districts must be contiguous, meaning that the district must be in one piece. Areas that meet only at points of adjoining corners or areas separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers that prevent transportation within a district may not be considered contiguous.* Currently all transportation routes are connected throughout the county and are not "...separated by geographical boundaries or artificial barriers...". The principle of contiguity is relatively non-controversial and it promotes geographic "recognizability" by incumbents, challengers, and voters. You have a duty to promote and preserve geographic compactness and contiguity when drawing districts.
3. MCA 5-1-115 (2)(d): Flathead County is compact and not elongated, making it reasonable to keep it whole. This will benefit our citizens by promoting better communications between representatives and constituents; enhancing "voter knowledge of one's representatives and 'political neighbors,'" and promote the perception that the resulting congressional districting patterns are fair.

Flathead County is experiencing rapid, unprecedented growth in one of the last remaining untouched areas of our Nation. Because of the proximity to one of the most visited U.S. National Parks, the county greets and welcomes millions of visitors every summer who are eager to

experience the natural beauty of this untouched wilderness area. Preserving the county as an entire district will enable a representative to serve a homogenous district and provide strength in numbers to address the ongoing growth challenges to the County. Our vote and representation as we manage this surge of people should not be diluted.

Flathead County continues to lead the nation in operational and fiscal discipline. Our county workforce is small, and we require many, many volunteers to ensure a fair election. A Western Montana Congressional District that includes all of Flathead County, provides for an easier election process that is already complex, for our very small elections department. We urge you to consider these very real concerns. Any attempt to ignore this and split Flathead County would be seen by the citizens of Flathead County as a deliberate manipulation of district boundaries to enhance the electoral prospects of a particular political interest. It is imperative that your commission draw appropriate boundaries around geographic areas keeping Flathead County in a Western Montana Congressional District.

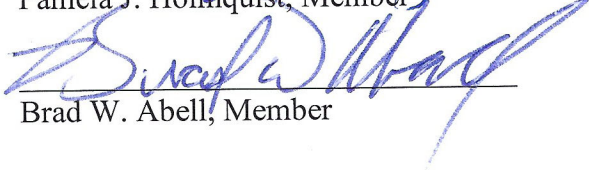
Sincerely,
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FLATHEAD COUNTY, MONTANA



Randy L. Brodehl, Chairman



Pamela J. Holmquist, Member



Brad W. Abell, Member

Sherley, Laura

From: ScotiaColleen <ColleenDeLong@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:05 PM
To: Districting; maylinn.smith; jeff.essman; joe.lamson; dan.stusek; kendra.miller
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting with proposed map attached
Attachments: East_West_splitting_Gallatin_&_Cascade.pdf

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

This proposed map is based upon population, not political data, and complies with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements. It creates East and West districts which follows historical precedent. The districts are compact and contiguous. It minimizes splits of cities and counties.

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.

The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.

Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scotia Brosnan
2146 Merganser Drive
Kalispell Montana 59901
colleendelong@protonmail.com

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

Sherley, Laura

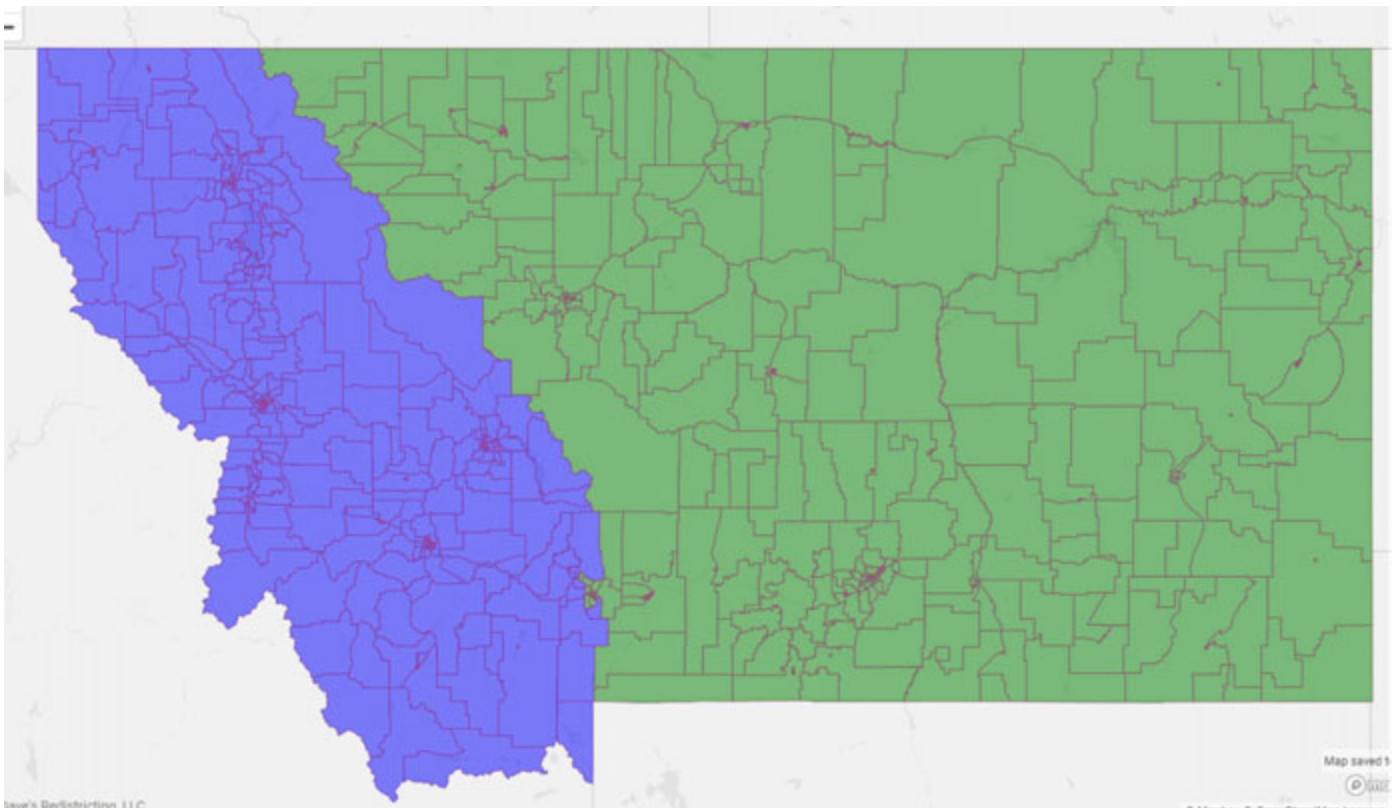
From: Kimberly Buck <kim_rae_buck@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Sent from my iPhone

Redistricting should be drawn with Eastern and Western guidelines. We live in the western part of the state which north and south is similar in culture and geography to one another. As seems to be the case with Eastern Mt, north and south. That creates a good balance politically.

I believe that this map below that is an appropriate way to achieve the goals of the Re-Districting Committee while at the same equal distribution along both party lines and population.

Kimberly Buck
800 College Ave
Deer Lidge, MT. 59722



Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 30th August 2021 16:16

Your Full Name:
Charles Caldwell

Email Address:
speedycbc@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
MISSOULA

Your Comment/Input:

Unless we want revolving dictators supported by a majority of the legislature, we need both House and Senatorial districts to be as balanced as possible - if not possible within districts, number of districts within the state. There is no doubt that the districts should be as equal as possible in voter population (not popular population) and that inmates should be counted in their district of residence, not in the district of their detention. Thanks for your consideration. I know it is more complicated than my priorities listed above. Good luck!

Sent via www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/

Sherley, Laura

From: Joan Carlson <bigskycarlsons@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 6:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

To: Redistricting Commission
From: Joan Carlson

Dear Redistricting Commission,

The Congressional Redistricting of the state of Montana should not be as complicated as the commission and others have been making it. Montana had two districts in the 1980's that served the state very well. That same division should be used now that we are eligible once again for an additional Congressional seat. Manipulation of the division should not be allowed to Democrats or Republicans in order to create a political advantage. The population and traditional priorities of each area make for a natural and equitable East/West division.

Sincerely,
Joan

Joan Carlson
BigSkyCarlsons@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Carlsons' redistricting map

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Carlson <garycarlson11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Kolman, Joe <jkolman@mt.gov>; Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Carlsons' redistricting map

Joe and Rachel. For what it is worth, and my being a former candidate for Congress who ran when we had two House seats here is my opinion for a map.

Divide the state in half like we had in 1984. The public had accepted that and will again. Please do not make it complicated, and you can quote me to the committee. The 1984 map was fine. Use me as a source for this opinion as I had to follow it and did. I lost to Pat Williams and did not complain. I could maybe win this time with the same map.

Gary Please count this as my recommended map. Thank you Joe and Rachel

--

Gary K. Carlson, Publisher
White Hat Express
garycarlson11@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 2:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Brian Cayko

From: Brian Cayko
Residence: Great Falls Montana

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Tom Cherry <t369cherry@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Competitiveness in ReDistricting

Commissioners -
DavesReDistricting shows some serious deficiencies in the Competitiveness realm. 83% of our House districts are NON-competitive! Senate districts are 78% NON-competitive.

My own sampling, of 14 House districts on the HiLine: ZERO are listed as Competitive. (Defined as outside a 55-45 range.) Six senate districts along our southern border are a bit better but only come up to 33% Competitive.

I suspect some of these aberrations lay in not wanting to broach conventional boundaries like County lines. Dave's Analytics suggest it would only take a 1.5% swing to get to a minimally Competitive stage. With a 10% population increase to spread around, there should be room for this to be improved in a few places. Nothing sacred about County lines or school boundaries -- with so much cross-county trade going in to our 3-4 largest cities (40% in some industries). Also Rural School consolidations afoot in recent years.

College, Universities' growth, etc

The benefits of more Competitive districts, as you know, is a more moderate representation -- yielding less radical legislation or stalemate.

I know it's late in your process to re-do these the most proper way but perhaps a semblance of constitutional independence might be appropriate: a North-South dichotomy of the two Congressional districts would give the Commission room to improve Competitiveness in the underlying legislative districts.

Thanks in advance for your consideration,
Tom Cherry
Helena

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Childress

From: James Childress
Residence: CUT BANK

Message:

The only way to make redistricting fair to all is to divide the state evenly roughly along the continental divide creating an east and west district. The population with this map, including political leanings, is the same on both sides. Neither major political party should gain an advantage when the state single district is split in two and this map supports this requirements of redistricting guidelines. If gerrymandering of any kind is attempted, this will open the committee and state up to lawsuits. Parties need to win districts based on their platform and ideas not because a district has a majority of voters registered for a particular party. <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::71d817b5-efb0-42f4-964c-42a8cb8d1c35> [davesredistricting.org]

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Connie <constancedale@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map

September 13, 2021

Dear Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon **MONTANA LAW, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.**
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with **MONTANA LAW AND CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS.** The Congressional District should be **WITHIN 1% DEVIATION** with RARE exceptions of up to 3%. The map should **MINIMIZE SPLITS OF CITIES AND COUNTIES.** The Districts should be **COMPACT AND CONTIGUOUS.**
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an **EAST AND WEST DISTRICT,** with the line going from **NORTH TO SOUTH.**
4. Here is the link to **my map.** You can copy, paste and print it.

file:///C:/Users/Connie/Downloads/East%20West%20splitting%20Gallatin%20&%20%20%20%20Cascade%20(1).pdf

5. **VOTERS ARE LASER FOCUSED AND EXPECT YOU TO FOLLOW THE LAW !!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Connie Ciabaton

600 Grand Drive, #22

PO Box 1474

Bigfork, MT 59911

ConstanceDale@yahoo.com

609/231-5034 c

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 8:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: justin w cleveland

From: justin w cleveland
Residence: Fairfield

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Justin Cleveland

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MEL CRICHTON <kj9c@att.net>
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

The ideal solution could be one that sends one democrat and one republican to Washington.... Like we do with senators

Mel Crichton

Big Sky

Sherley, Laura

From: Tommy C <tcuezze@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 9:08 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Comments
Attachments: block-assignments.csv; ATT00001.htm

Dear Montana Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for all the hard work you are doing drawing this decade's congressional district boundaries. Please accept these written comments.

- In the past, Montana's two congressional districts were of course divided along a primarily North/South line. However, the commission should not rigorously adhere to this concept. Given the state's population changes, no primarily North/South line can achieve the redistricting criteria listed by the Montana Legislature, especially the goal of keeping communities of interest together. For example, a North/South line would likely require splitting Gallatin and Park counties, two counties which cooperate closely economically and socially and should be included in the same district.
- A future MT-01 or "eastern" district should naturally be centered in Billings and include eastern Montana. Eastern Montana is a natural fit for a district with Billings both geographically and economically, given Billings's status as a premier petroleum hub and agricultural center.
- Native Americans are Montana's largest minority and a critical community of interest. Montana's Indian Reservations should be kept in the same district so as to comply with the VRA and allow for greater representation of native peoples in Congress. As such, Flathead, Lake, and Glacier counties as well as their surroundings should be included in MT-01 with Eastern Montana. This would create a district close to the population target.
- MT-02 should be centered in Bozeman, Missoula, Helena, and Anaconda/Butte. These four population centers share a Western Montana heritage and all feature large universities, a tourism/timber/ranching/mining economy, and similar social characteristics.
- Creating districts of equal population will require splitting at least one county. Given this unfortunate necessity, Cascade should be the choice to be split. Montana law states that large counties should be split first, and Cascade is one of the largest in the state. It's also a county that shares economic and social characteristics with both Eastern and Western Montana and has historically "bridged the gap" between the two. By keeping the city of Great Falls itself in MT-02 while adding parts of its outskirts to MT-01, a map with equal populations and minimal splitting of political subdivisions can be achieved.

These suggestions would result in a map that looks something like the one I have attached below. The attached map is of course only a suggestion and should be modified to include the expertise of the commission and the voices of all Montanans. The map is attached as a .csv file of block assignments.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 29, 2021 8:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gerald -Cuvillier

From: Gerald -Cuvillier
Residence: Trout Creek

Message:

Quit playing games with us. Either divide the state by north and south or east and west. Simple!

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

Troy Downing
Commissioner



Office of the
Montana State Auditor

September 7, 2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Re: Congressional Redistricting

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Montana has the opportunity this year to take center stage in the fight against the gerrymandering and corruption that has become so prevalent in Washington DC and across the Nation. Montana has always done things differently and that is why Montana continues to be the “Last Best Place.”

This rapid population growth has earned Montana a second seat in the United States House of Representatives. However, even before this additional seat was announced, there was a concerted effort to gerrymander these districts to strengthen or weaken political parties.

This additional seat is too consequential in protecting our way of life and our representative democracy to allow it to devolve into a political tug of war. The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission has a duty, under Article 1, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, to create two districts of equal population size — doing so in a way that is fair and without partisanship factoring into the decision. The inclination of many to design districts that will support one party over another is antithetical to the intent of the Founding Fathers and contrary to the values Montanans hold dear.

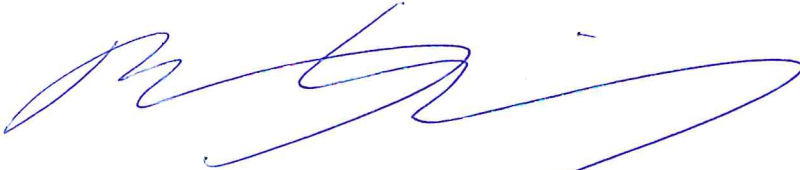
The Montana Constitution is also clear the districts must be compact and contiguous, meaning a district cannot be separated, and natural or artificial barriers cannot inhibit transportation from one piece of the district to another. The Commission should also make attempts not to divide towns, cities, and counties into separate districts. Neighbors should not be represented in Washington DC by different individuals. The splitting of towns and neighborhoods must be considered a direct attempt to gerrymander districts and quickly repudiated. While I firmly believe the current Commission is committed to nonpartisan decision-making, dividing towns and neighborhoods creates a dangerous precedent that will make gerrymandering easier and more common in the future.

We have an opportunity to show the rest of the country that Montana understands the constitutional intent of our forefathers and can draw new districts without political posturing. Any attempt to draw politically “fair” districts is simply an abandonment of the intent of the constitution and, at most, a feeble attempt to appease political cronies by gerrymandering congressional districts.

Re: Congressional Redistricting
September 7, 2021
Page 2

Allowing gerrymandering and insider deals to determine congressional lines is in direct conflict to the way the rest of the country correctly sees Montana as the "Last Best Place." I strongly urge the Districting Commission to follow both the Montana and US Constitution in determining boundaries for Montana's two House districts.

Sincerely,



Troy Downing
Montana State Auditor
Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

CC:

Commissioner Jeff Essmann
Commissioner Joe Lamson
Commissioner Kendra Miller
Commissioner Maylinn Smith
Commissioner Dan Stusek

Sherley, Laura

From: Keith Duncan <kduncan632@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-districting
Attachments: 20210915_172118.jpg

Dear Redistricting Commission;

Thank you for your service to our state.

You are creating the rules for the Congressional and Legislative districts for the next ten years. The Constitution of Montana and the MCA are both very clear as to the guidelines to be used as you redistrict the state. the Montana Constitution and the MCA which clearly states, "Each district **SHALL** consist of compact and contiguous territory" and "**SHALL** be nearly equal in population as practicable." (Article V, Sect 14 MT Constitution) (emphasis added).

There is NO (zip, zero, zilch) provision for "fair and competitive" districts found in either document. These are entirely subjective terms that MUST NOT be used in the determination of Congressional and Legislative boundaries. The Democrat members of the commission continue to press for this Un-Constitutional standard. Rather the Commission should follow the guidance of the law, as noted above. That is it! When making the rules, follow the rules! Going down the "fair and competitive," rabbit hole is an invitation to gerrymandering and contention because it cannot be accurately defined and is NOT part of the either the Montana constitution or the MCA!

Chairwoman Smith, you were appointed as the "non-partisan" member of the commission. It is your responsibility to the people of Montana to be just that, non-Partisan! You chair a committee that is partisan, it is your responsibility follow the laws of the Montana which says each district is to be of equal population.

The map that I favor is attached. It is an East West division with only Cascade County being split. This looks to me like the best solution to the rules that are in place. Please carefully consider this map.

Thank you for your service to Montana!

Keith Duncan

3917 15th Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-799-0475

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Will Dyas

From: Will Dyas
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Dyas

From: John Dyas
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Johnathan Ellis <JohnnyEllis@Knights.ucf.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional 2 Districts Submission
Attachments: map-image.png; map-analytics.json; district-data.csv; precinct-assignments.csv

This Congressional map of Montana of my creation on DRA focuses on keeping the southeastern portion of the state within one district, while keeping population deviation low a difference of just under 700 people, with the only county splitting being 5 precincts within Missoula County being apart of the new 2nd Congressional district while the rest of the county is in the 1st district. This map only splits Frenchtown from the previously mentioned splitting of Missoula County. This map focuses on keeping a compact and competitive 1st district.

If you need any more information about this map or need it to be transferred to another districting program just let me know, I plan to submit my plan for the State Legislative districts within the coming days.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Johnny Ellis

Sherley, Laura

From: J. F. <getmoretozz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 7:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Congressional Districts
Attachments: Screenshot_20210910-192403_OfficeSuite.jpg; Screenshot_20210910-192252_OfficeSuite.jpg

Please be informed that I oppose any redistricting plan that does not divide Montana into two roughly equal districts, either in size, or population, or if possible, both. However, the dividing line must run essentially north - south in some fashion so as to divide the state so there is clearly an eastern district and a western district !

Some sample maps are attached:

Sincerely,
JIM FERGUSON
23607 CEDAR HILLS ROAD
Dayton, MT 59914
Ph. 406.849.5959

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jennifer Fielder

From: Jennifer Fielder
Residence: Thompson Falls, MT

Message:
Dear Commissioners,

Wherever possible, it seems appropriate that Congressional Districts should be drawn using county boundaries, and be generally shaped in a uniform block so they are easy to understand and accommodate easy access between representatives and those they represent.

They should NOT include long skinny (gerry-mandered) protrusions or donut-holes.

I think it would probably be best if the western residents of the state are formed into 1 district and the central and eastern residents are formed into the other district. This would balance the population in each district and probably better facilitate access between constituents and their representatives than any other design I can think of.

Here is a draft map that achieves these goals and results in equal population balance <https://districtr.org/plan/44680> [\[districtr.org\]](https://districtr.org)

Thank you for your consideration, and your ethical service.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Adam Forslund

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Hillman-Glazier, Trista <THillman-Glazier@mt.gov>; Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Adam Forslund

From: Adam Forslund
Residence: Miles City, MT

Message:

Given the potential for both sides of the political isle to be upset. It is my view that both house seats should be 'at-large.'

There is historical precedence to support two at-large seats. From 1889-1919 Montana had two at-large seats. In fact, Jeanette Rankin was elected when we had two at-large house seats.

It seems like the best way to solve this issue is to simply have two representatives that are beholden to the entire state.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Karen T Foust

From: Karen T Foust
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

In looking at proposed plan
45763

I am in favor of it. It looks equitable. Please put me down as in favor of that arrangement.
Thank you!
Karen Foust

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Fox

From: James Fox
Residence: Fairfax VA,

Message:

Thank you for the critical public service you are providing though your work on redistricting. Please consider including a test for gerrymandering during your important deliberations. See the updated Guide to Fair Redistricting. <https://preprints.apsanet.org/engage/api-gateway/apsa/assets/orp/resource/item/6138e4f565db1ec5eab053ec/original/fair-and-square-redistricting.pdf> [preprints.apsanet.org] (More than 1650 views and 950 downloads on the American Political Science Association Preprints Page)

Respectfully and Gratefully,
Jim Fox

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia L Fraser

From: Patricia L Fraser
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I have reviewed and endorse: districtr.org/plan/45763 [districtr.org] This map plan meets all the criteria necessary for re-districting purposes and, thus, seems fair and uncomplicated.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Steven Galloway <segdreams@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 2:56 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts

Commissioners and Chair Smith;

We need to have an east, west division. These areas have many differences, this would give the best representation to each area. Please follow the constitution by creating population equal districts and not political districts. Minimize splitting cities and counties. Districts should be within 1%. The work you are involved in will have a lasting impact on our states future. History in the making. I like the map I have attached.

Representative Steven E Galloway 202 Sun Prairie Road G.F. 59404 406-727-4963

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert J Galt

From: Robert J Galt
Residence: Malta, MT

Message:

I favor the East/West Continental District because I believe it better represents the whole state. It is also how Montana has sectioned off the State forever. I believe if you allow the Southwest District, you are going right back to Party Politics. The Southwest District will give the Democrats an unfair advantage by having both Bozeman and Missoula in the same District.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gerald Gaston

From: Gerald Gaston
Residence: Bozeman Mt

Message:

I oppose any redistributing that puts Flathead and Bozeman together. That is partisan and unreasonable.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Leni Gaston

From: Leni Gaston
Residence: Bozeman Mt

Message:

I am firmly opposed to combining Flathead and Billings together. I think that is partisan and ridiculous. The maps that have very equal population distribution seems far more reasonable.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Thomas Gerrity <thomasgerrity@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MT #2

To Whom It May Concern:

I have to inquire why is all this hand wringing going on when there was acceptable MT #2 in 1992, the year MT lost the district. No system is perfect, but that one worked so why won't it now?

Keep it simple, resurrect the 2nd district as it was in 1992 and move on.

Respectfully,

Tom Gerrity
Great Falls

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lynnae Giffin

From: Lynnae Giffin
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:
I vote east west

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Jim Gomolka <realfoodwins-jim@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MAP proposal
Attachments: EWdistricting.png

Hello,

I request that Montana districts be drawn similar to the attached map where districts are in an east-west division. This is to have each district dealing with issues common to their geography and location. The mountains create a natural divider.

Thank you,
Jim Gomolka

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 6:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ingrid De Groot

From: Ingrid De Groot
Residence: Dillon, MT

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Please do not create “competitive” districts based on population voting data. The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, not gerrymandered at the behest of a particular party.
2. The congressional districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The congressional districts should be evenly split, with population numbers differ no more than 1%. (In rare rare cases, populations numbers may differ up to 3%). The map should minimize splits of cities and counties—the districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Furthermore, districts should fairly represent both urban and rural populations.
3. Precedent is should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana congressional districts have been drawn to divide Montana into eastern and western districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Krista Degroot <pphs@me.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 8:18 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional redistricting map
Attachments: East West splitting Cascade.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Chairwoman Smith and Commissioners:

I advocate for the proposed redistricting map, which is based upon population, not political data, and complies with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements. It creates east and west districts, which follows historical precedent. The districts are compact and contiguous, and the map minimizes splits of counties and cities. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Krista De Groot
Dillon, MT
406.834.3656
pphs@me.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Betsey Hallila

From: Betsey Hallila
Residence: Whitehall, Montana

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mary Halloran

From: Mary Halloran
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Memo To: Montana Redistricting and Apportionment Commission
From: Jane Hamman
Date: September 10, 2021
Subject: Citizen Input for Your Consideration

As an interested citizen, I have followed the deliberations and decision making of the prior three redistricting commissions and your meetings to date. I write to provide my input as you reach your critical decision making.

- It is important to minimize splits in cities, counties and federal reservations.
- Drawing districts as close to a 1% population deviation as practicable is the goal.
- I favor retaining our historic East/West divide for congressional districts because it provides the greatest cohesion of issues and best reflects the work of Congressional committees. A North/South divide creates greater difficulty for both representatives in responding to their constituents reflecting scope of the issues and coping with the increased travel distances.

I have attached an East/West divide map depicting in general terms the towns and counties that relate to each other for commerce, entertainment and governance districts and regions. The fine point details for boundaries of our two congressional districts are best left to your decision making.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service on this very important commission.

Jane Hamman
P O Box 164
Clancy, MT 59634-0164
(406) 933-8203

Sherley, Laura

From: Tim Hancock <mtvista.tim@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Districting
Cc: TIM HANCOCK
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MONTANA Congressional District Map (Proposed)
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

TO: Montana Redistricting and Apportionment Commission

I am submitted the attached photo for consideration in your analysis.

Historically the State has been a east/west divide and I encourage you to keep that in mind.

I also encourage you to make the districts with as close as possible. "Equal" population regardless of political leaning.

Respectfully,

Tim Hancock

>

Sherley, Laura

From: Stefanie Hanson <shanson@beckmansrealestatemt.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Cc: Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map – By Population Not Politics
Attachments: East West splitting Cascade.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

This proposed map is based upon population, not political data, and complies with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements. It creates East and West districts which follows historical precedent. The districts are compact and contiguous. It minimizes splits of cities and counties.

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stefanie Hanson, 194 Frontage Park, Kalispell, MT 406-250-1782, shanson@beckmansrealestatemt.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Linda Harmon <klase2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Attachments: East West splitting Cascade.pdf

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and Constitutional requirements.

The Congressional District should be within 1 % with rare exceptions of up to 3 %.

The map should minimize splits of cities and counties.

The Districts should be compact and contiguous.

This proposed map is based upon population, not political data, and complies with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

It creates East and West districts, which follows historical precedent.

Linda Harmon
501 Mill St
Scobey, MT 59263

406-390-0775

klase2@yahoo.com

GOD BLESS MONTANA

GOD BLESS OUR USA

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Maria Hartford

From: Maria Hartford
Residence: Whitehall

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Kathy Hassan <kathyhassan@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn Smith; Jeff Essmann; Joe Lamson; Dan Stusek; Kendra Miller
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING MAP
Attachments: East West splitting Gallatin & Cascade.pdf

Honorable Commission Chairwoman Smith and Commission members Essmann, Lamson, Stusek and Miller:

As active Montana taxpaying voters, we are writing to seek your APPROVAL of the attached "East/West Split of Gallatin & Cascade Counties" proposed redistricting map. This proposed map is effectively based upon population and not specific political data. This proposed map complies with Montana statues and constitutional requirements which is of utmost importance. Not only does this proposed map create East and West districts that follow historical precedent, but these districts are both compact and contiguous. The goal of minimizing splits of cities and counties is achieved with the use of this recommended map.

Thank you for your consideration. We trust the five-member Commission will adequately represent Montanans and choose an extremely amicable resolution.

Kathleen and Art Hassan
86 Whitepine Creek Road
Trout Creek, Montana 59874
Phone: 406 827-0924
Email Address: kathyhassan@blackfoot.net

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:11 PM
To: Districting; Weiss, Rachel
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tim Holmes

From: Tim Holmes
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I am very alarmed at the rise of gerrymandering in politics, which is always used for party advantage. The concept of one-person-one vote should extend to the community level.

I urge you to base districting on population numbers, using STRAIGHT LINES for borders. That will forever after be an indication that the lines have not been altered. Even if those boundaries have to be adjusted in the future to accommodate population movement, they should always be straight thereafter.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Martha J. Hopkins

From: Martha J. Hopkins
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Dear Commissioners and Chair Smith,

It is extremely important in these contentious times for your work in redistricting to not only BE impartial, but also to APPEAR impartial.

Be politically blind. Apportion the new districts based on Montana law. Do not gerrymander. The map should minimize county and city splits and result in close to identical populations.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 10:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Melissa MA Jardstrom

From: Melissa MA Jardstrom
Residence: Bozeman Mt

Message:

Thank you for your time and consideration in this process and in giving all participation careful, and justified, thought. I am in opposition to any redistricting that would favor any one political party. I support a district map that is fair to all voters with no consideration to the political affiliation or the typical voter for that particular geographical area. The map that appears to be most fair minded to me is:

<https://app.districtbuilder.org/projects/e0a5c47f-4434-47ff-b0a9-01233ba3a87b> [app.districtbuilder.org]

Melissa Jardstrom – Gallatin County

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Chuck Jarecki <skywagon49@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional redistricting map
Attachments: East West Continental splitting Gallatin.pdf

Greetings from Polson:

I have been a Montana voter for the past fifty-eight years and served several years as an election judge. My concern is that when Montana again gets two Congressional Districts, the division in the State should be fair and equitable in that no district line should be drawn that shows political bias. Therefore, I encourage you to divide Montana similar to the attached map. The important thing here is that the city of Bozeman would be in the eastern district. This division is based on population, not political parties.
Thank you for your consideration.

Charles M. Jarecki
218 Pheasant Ridge
Polson, MT 59860
406-883-2248
skywagon49@outlook.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sharon L Jensen

From: Sharon L Jensen
Residence: Plentywood

Message:

Please don't allow Bozeman & Missoula to be in the same district. We are a red state. The red represents Montana. Missoula & Bozeman do not represent the mindset of the majority of our state.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Kathryn L. Johnson <kljohnson_22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 5:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting Map Desired
Attachments: Redistricting Email re Congressional Maps.docx

Hello,

I prefer the East/West divided map, which was similar to what was used in the past.

The map is attached.

Sincerely,

Kathryn L. Johnson
31549 Meadow Rd.
Polson, MT 59860

(406) 883-9367

Sherley, Laura

From: Sam Johnson <sam.elliott.johnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Addition of second congressional district to Montana

Dear Commission,

In a hyper partisan era of politics, I'm relieved to know that Montana has an independent group tasked with dividing the state. As key components to creating new districts, your group must divide the population evenly, be compact, and comply with national voting laws. Additional consideration must be cast to ensure indian reservations are contiguous within the new districts, and that partisan lean is minimized.

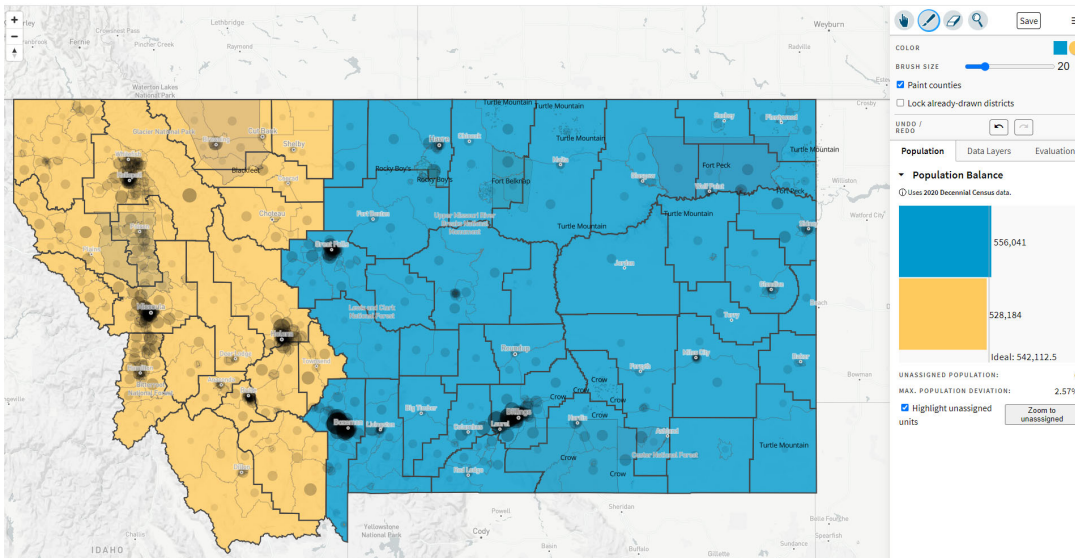
I think the cleanest way to do this is split at the county level, along an East/West divide. This proposal equally divides the metro areas, parses population evenly, minimizes legislative districts input to retain congressional autonomy, ensures tribal boundaries are respected, and aligns with regional economies/sentiments.

I'm happy to provide a shapefile if that is easier as well.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to the proposed maps.

map: <https://districtr.org/plan/39399> [districtr.org]

Sincerely,
Sam



Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 4:04 PM
To: Districting; Weiss, Rachel
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: sam johnson

From: sam johnson
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Redistricting should follow a West / East divide for MT. Native American communities should not be gerrymandered.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Diane M Jones

From: Diane M Jones
Residence: Haugan

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Bob Kane <putterkane@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Congressional Redistricting Map
Attachments: Redistricting East West splitting Gallatin Cascade.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin

Subject: Fw: Congressional Redistricting Map

I am forwarding this email with an attached Congressional Redistricting map we Republicans support because it is fair and complies with MT law. This map depicts a traditional East and West split of our state. Democrats have submitted hundreds of maps showing a Southwest district to combine Bozeman and Missoula together. This is the only way they can gerrymander a district to have any chance of winning a congressional seat in Montana. To stop Democrats attempt to win a seat by gerrymandering, we need your help by forwarding this email with attached map. Please note it is important to CC the Commissioners and to provide your name, address, phone number and email address. Thank you for your assistance to keep Montana Red! Our country needs Montana to stop the Marxist Democrats radical agenda!

To: districting@mt.gov
CC: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov
Dan.Stusek@ mtleg.gov
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

This proposed map is based upon population, not political data, and complies with Montana statues and constitutional requirements. It creates East and West districts which follows historical precedent. The districts are compact and contiguous. It minimizes splits of cities and counties.

Please do not create "competitive " districts - based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based on Montana law, NOT gerrymandering based on political data.

Your Name G. Robert Kane

Address 3009 Riverbend, Bonner, MT

Phone Number 406 258 6970

email Address putterkane@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carol Kienenberger

From: Carol Kienenberger
Residence: Dodson, MT 59524

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,

I started to submit comments but for some reason it submitted before I was finished. So to continue:

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

The Congressional District should be within the 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous. (unlike the 'muskrat district' in Eastern MT.) Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Carol Kienenberger
)

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Saturday, September 4, 2021 12:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 4th September 2021 00:31

Your Full Name:

Skyhawk Kinetic

Email Address:

skyhawkkineti123@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

noida

Your Comment/Input:

Hi, i have follow your articles and i must say that your article is very informative and meaningful keep going.

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rebecca Schaer Kingmanq

From: Rebecca Schaer Kingmanq
Residence: Whitefish, MT

Message:

Dear Commissioners and Chair Smith,
PLEASE , when you select Congressional maps, please consider the following:

1. Do not make this based on politics!!! Do NOT create "competitive" districts, Rather, Please and i don not know how you can justify NOT doing this, but I feel strongly that the lines should be drawn based on MT LAW !!!, not gerrymandered based on political data.
2. Our congressional Districts , should they not comply with Montana Law and constitutional requirements? I would assume you would, agree? What is that? That the congressional district should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. Further, the map should minimize splits of cities and of counties. This would also keep things much simpler for any county that would need to be split not to mention each city. Also, The Districts should be compact and contiguous. I would think these considerations would be Very relevant points!
3. Precedent . I also believe that this TOO is an IMPORTANT concept that should guide our commission. Historically, the MT congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an east and west district, with the line going from North to South. Why should we veer from that? We want this to be fair and LEGAL.
Please consider these matters strongly. Thank you.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Darlene Kolczak <darkolczak@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map
Attachments: East West splitting Gallatin & Cascade.pdf

Dear Chairman,

I am in favor of a map that splits both Cascade County and Gallatin County. To me it is the most fair and follows the Montana Laws. I feel that the precedent that we have shown in the past is that districts should be drawn so we have an East District and a West District with the division going from north to south. This map also will comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The districts should be compact and contiguous. I have attached a map to show these lines.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Darlene Kolczak
1818 Landusky Road
Zortman, Montana 59546

Sherley, Laura

From: Mike Lang <nasml@itstriangle.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 6:05 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
I favor the east west continental map splitting Gallatin County
Thank you for your consideration.

--
Mike L Lang
PO Box 104
Malta, MT 59538
406-654-7357

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: MIKE L LANG

From: MIKE L LANG
Residence: Malta, MT`

Message:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South. I nominate the east west format of your maps, splitting Gallatin County
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

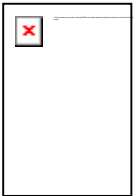
Sherley, Laura

From: Caron Lavoie <caronlavoie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:43 PM
To: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.



Caron Lavoie

RE/MAX Broker, RE/MAX ALL STARS

(406) 880-8855 | caronlavoie@gmail.com

www.caronlavoie.remaxagent.com [caronlavoie.remaxagent.com]

3420 S Reserve St / Missoula, MT 59801





Date: September 15, 2021

To: Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

From: Nancy Leifer on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Montana

The Montana League of Women Voters supports the Districting and Apportionment Commission developing two congressional districts that are fair to all Montanans. Fairness includes taking into account the likely political impact of proposed districts in representing the voters of Montana. This is not gerrymandering; this is ensuring that the goal of not unduly favoring one party is not left to chance. Recent voting data indicates the overall political makeup of our state is 55% Republican, 42.5% Democratic and 2.5% other. Creating two districts that each match these state numbers will guarantee two Republican districts and effectively disenfranchise the 42.5% of Montanans who are Democrats.

Since we cannot have 1.1 (55% of 2) Republican Representatives and 0.85 (42.5% of 2) Democratic Representatives, a fair map would have one district with as close to equal Republican and Democrat voters as possible. The expectation is that this competitive district would regularly flip between the parties and allow more equal representation over time. Competitive districts are known to encourage voter engagement and turnout as well as representatives that work hard for their constituents. The League of Women Voters urges the Commission to include political fairness among the data examined and choose maps that create one politically competitive district for further consideration.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gary Libecap

From: Gary Libecap
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Mt redistricting for congressional districts needs to follow the traditional east/west division. There is already far too much partisan division in this country to add one more. It undermines trust in institutions and process for short term political gain.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Warren Little <dite3little@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

please choose east and west districts, balancing population as well as possible. thanks., warren little.voter since Ike.

Warren Little
PO Box 8127
Missoula, MT 59807-8127
406-317-1018
dite3little@gmail.com

The Federal Gov't is \$28 trillion in debt today compared to just \$9 trillion 12 years ago. Our debt to GDP ratio is 130% compared to just 59% in 2000. And skyrocketing. Expect bankruptcy in 4-8 years. (add this signature statement about the debt to your emails and ask your contacts to do so too. Maybe it will finally wake someone up in Congress.)

Sherley, Laura

From: Warren Little <dite3little@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] How to divide the map

east, west map split is only fair way. just try to split the state down the middle with the population as close as you can make it. Please do it fair and above board. thank, warren little, age 91 4th generation..

Warren Little
PO Box 8127
Missoula, MT 59807-8127
406-317-1018
dite3little@gmail.com

The Federal Gov't is \$28 trillion in debt today compared to just \$9 trillion 12 years ago. Our debt to GDP ratio is 130% compared to just 59% in 2000. And skyrocketing. Expect bankruptcy in 4-8 years. (add this signature statement about the debt to your emails and ask your contacts to do so too. Maybe it will finally wake someone up in Congress.)

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Don Lorenzen

From: Don Lorenzen Residence: Stevensville

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Brad Lotton <bradlotton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 12:46 PM
To: Sherley, Laura
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Congressional redistricting

Hi,

I selected a map from one of numerous ones sent to me by a friend because I am interested in my representation in congress. The one I submitted was one that was closest to what I would like to see happen. Actually I don't like that it divides Gallatin county as I believe all of the county should be included in whatever district they wind up in. The north to south division is what I remember when we used to have two representatives and makes sense because the industry and professions of the working people living in the east is very different then the people living in the west side of the state.

Please don't make these districts based on politics but rather about what will be the best representation of the people living in these areas

Thank you for the difficult work on this commission,

Brad Lotton

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, 04:34:39 PM MDT, Sherley, Laura <lsherley@mt.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Lotton,

Thank you for your congressional district map submission! If possible, would you be able to send a link to your map on the program you used to produce it? It is easier for the commission to analyze if they are able to zoom in on your recommended lines.

Thank you,

Laura Sherley

Research Assistant

Legislative Services Division

(406) 444-4408

From: Brad Lotton <bradlotton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Districting <districting@mt.gov>
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional redistricting

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to speak in favor of dividing the State into congressional districts similar to the map I have attached to this e-mail. The division should be North to South and not pay attention to any supposed political advantages to either party. The new districts should not divide counties or towns and should allow for equally populated districts as much as is practical.

I am excited that we will have a new representative regardless of his/her political affiliation that will actually be able to represent friends, neighbors and myself who have our own unique issues in our respective geographical area. Thank you for creating districts that will be fair and balanced representation according to the people living and working in the districts with no regard made to political differences.

Brad Lotton

PO Box 1656

Havre, Mt. 59501

406-265-7362

Sherley, Laura

From: Brad Lotton <bradlotton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional redistricting
Attachments: East West Continental splitting Gallatin.pdf

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to speak in favor of dividing the State into congressional districts similar to the map I have attached to this e-mail. The division should be North to South and not pay attention to any supposed political advantages to either party. The new districts should not divide counties or towns and should allow for equally populated districts as much as is practical.

I am excited that we will have a new representative regardless of his/her political affiliation that will actually be able to represent friends, neighbors and myself who have our own unique issues in our respective geographical area. Thank you for creating districts that will be fair and balanced representation according to the people living and working in the districts with no regard made to political differences.

Brad Lotton
PO Box 1656
Havre, Mt. 59501
406-265-7362

Sherley, Laura

From: SHELLEY LUSTMAN <shelleypip@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

I Shelley Lustman residing at [1492 lower valley rd Kalispell Mt 59901 \[x-apple-data-detectors\]](#) , strongly recommend that you follow our constitutional laws ! Recent legislation have made this requirement, contiguous and with less than a 1 percent variable (which is easy to do with technology) no more breaking up communities! We had straight line districts 10 years ago and it worked fine! We the people are watching very closely as we are not going to stand for not having election integrity, thanking you in advance for your anticipated cooperation Shelley Lustman

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

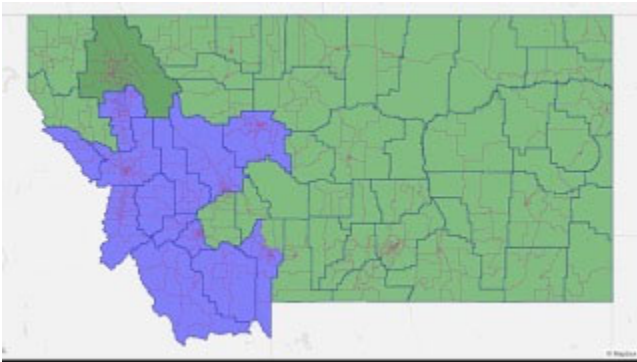
From: Sue Malek <suemalek@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map for new congressional district

The new congressional district for Montana should allow all Montanans the opportunity to be represented by making the district competitive. I have pasted a copy below of a redistricting map I recommend.

Recently I visited my hometown of Conrad where I learned that increasingly people in north central Montana are being referred to Kalispell and Polson for health care. It is important for people in north central Montana to have political influence in the area that provides essential services for them.

Of course, historically and today, many residents of North Central Montana own or visit vacation homes in the Kalispell region. The ties between these areas is growing stronger because of health care.

The map is the third map from an article by Mike Dennison that appeared in the Missoula Current: <https://missoulacurrent.com/government/2021/09/congressiona-district-montana/> [missoulacurrent.com]



--

Sue Malek

May joy be abundant and troubles few and far between.

Sherley, Laura

From: Marlene <mmcc@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Attachments: cidf_ktd4bp7a1.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: robby maurer

From: robby maurer
Residence: frenchtown

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when considering congressional maps:

1. Do not create "competitive" district based on politics! The congressional district lines should be drawn based on Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The congressional districts should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your time and consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sherry Mayer

From: Sherry Mayer
Residence: Big Sky, Montana

Message:

Hello committee members,

I wanted to leave a comment about the redistricting line. The links to writing a comment on your web page come up as 404 ERROR> As a conservative, I am asking for a procedure that is relatively free of political bias and responsive to the shift in the electorate for the past decade. It is important this bipartisan map does not harm that quality.

Fair and not influenced by the liberals in this state.

Sherry Mayer

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kelly McCall

From: Kelly McCall
Residence: Whitehall

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Districting; Weiss, Rachel
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Adam McLane

From: Adam McLane
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

If you put the following counties in the Western District, it will have 99.7% of half of Montana's population: Missoula; Flathead; Lewis & Clark; Ravalli; Silver Bow; Lake; Lincoln; Glacier; Beaverhead; Jefferson; Sanders; Deer Lodge; Madison; Powell; Pondera; Broadwater; and Mineral.

Adam

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Susie McNatt <susie.mcnatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 10:05 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Map and Comment Submission

<https://districtr.org/plan/45035> [districtr.org]

Districting and Apportionment Committee,

Here is my proposed map submission for the Congressional redistricting. I have reviewed this map and while it is not perfect, it best supports the concept of an east/west split that I believe is the most sensible for Montanans.

The issues of the largely agricultural east are different from those of the mountainous west, so this keeps issues of like concern bound together. This map also keeps the two large reservations, Browning and CSKT, in one district.

This map achieves a .02% population deviation which is well within the required restrictions and in compliance with Montana constitutional requirements, and it also agrees with the precedent established when we previously had two House representatives. Naturally, I expect the commission to comply with HR506, the Montana Constitution, and other applicable and binding laws.

Thank you for your efforts and consideration.

Susan McNatt
29028 Finley Point Ln
Polson, MT 59860
susie.mcnatt@gmail.com
406-887-2344

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kevin Mefford

From: Kevin Mefford
Residence: Victor Mt 59875

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cindi Meinhold

From: Cindi Meinhold
Residence: Stevensville, Montana

Message:

Please do not create competitive districts. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. Historically Montana districts have been divided into east and west districts with the line going from north to south. The lines should be drawn based on Montana Law. Thank you.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Hill Mescall <mescall.hillary04@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 10:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Possibly the perfect redistricting map - URGENT!
Attachments: NorthWestVsRest-Division-Only-Splitting-Cascade-ZERO-Deviation.pdf; ATT00001.htm; assignment-236f0e6b.csv; ATT00002.htm

Commissioners and Chair Ms Smith:

I looked at the maps that were submitted and I personally think that Tonia Dyas map is the best and fairest to all. If you have any questions please contact Tonia.

Thank you for your consideration and let us keep Montana...Montana for all residents with a fair redirecting map.
Hill Mescall

467 Enterprise Blvd. # 311
Bozeman MT 59718

From: Hill Mescall
Date: September 11, 2021 at 2:10:49 PM MDT
To:
Subject: Fwd: Possibly the perfect redistricting map

Check out this map I just submitted !
<https://districtr.org/plan/45542> [districtr.org]

When you get to the map, click on Data Layers and turn on "Show County Boundaries" and "Show numbering for painted districts"

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Possibly the perfect redistricting map
Date: Sat, 11 Sep 2021 13:58:03 -0600
From: Tonia Dyas <tonia@tbaseonline.com>
Reply-To: tonia@tbaseonline.com
To: districting@mt.gov, Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov, Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov, Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov,
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov, Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

I would like to submit a proposed map for the Federal Congressional Districts in Montana.

I don't think a more perfect map could be drawn. This proposed map is based strictly upon population, contiguous counties and contiguous districts.

Only 1 county is divided (Cascade). None of the tribal groups are divided. And best yet, the population difference between District 1 & 2 is only 47 people for a population deviation of 0% .

It complies with all the Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

The population of district 1 is 542,136 and district 2 is 542,089 for a net difference of 47.

I've attached a CSV file with the data so you can recreate
or you can look at my saved map here <https://districtr.org/plan/45542>
[\[districtr.org\]](https://districtr.org)

Thank you for your consideration
Tonia Dyas
1855 Bridger Woods Rd
Bozeman, MT 59715
tonia@tbaseonline.com

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 7th September 2021 11:47

Your Full Name:

James Milford

Email Address:

redemptionandrecovery@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Park City

Your Comment/Input:

Please set districts that are setup by as equal population, without considering present political make up. Avoid dividing cities and counties when considering us congressional districts

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/

Sherley, Laura

From: mist_mt@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Attachments: East West splitting Gallatin & Cascade (1).pdf

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create "competitive" districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sherley, Laura

From: Susie Moore <susie@nprmt.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:50 PM
To: Districting; Maylin.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District and Apportionment!

Commissioners and Chair Smith:

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susie Moore 709 Patton Lane Whitefish, MT 59937 406-261-7449 susie@nprmt.com



Susie Moore
Broker/REALTOR®

National Parks Realty
601 Spokane Avenue, Whitefish, MT 59937
Mobile: 406.261.7449
Office: 406.862.8400

www.NationalParksRealty.com [nationalparksrealty.com]

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Randal Morger

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Hillman-Glazier, Trista <THillman-Glazier@mt.gov>; Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Randal Morger

From: Randal Morger
Residence: Fort Benton

Message:

Move a perpendicular line across the state. At the point where half the population is west of line, and half of it east, snap the wire. How much easier can it get? And they're paying you to figure this out? (...and don't give me any bunk how this might divide some counties or even towns/cities. We elect state reps and senators now that divide counties, and city officials who are voted in by less than the city-wide populace. Live with it.) VR, Randy Morger

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Murrick sixtysix <murrick66@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Attachments: East West splitting Gallatin & Cascade (1).pdf

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create "competitive" districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sherley, Laura

From: mutthusa@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Attachments: East West splitting Gallatin & Cascade (1).pdf

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create "competitive" districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sherley, Laura

From: JC Nickisch <jcnick34@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; JC Nickisch
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Montana Congressional districts
Attachments: East West splitting Cascade.pdf

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Nickisch

Missoula, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: JC Nickisch <jcnick34@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; JC Nickisch
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional districts

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Nickisch

Missoula, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: Vicky O'Hara <vo'hara@fortbenton.k12.mt.us>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 10:27 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration. It is wise to not combine both Missoula and Bozeman into one district.

Keep the parties out of this issue, which will not happen. The proposed maps are based upon population, not political data, and complies with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements. It creates East and West districts which follow historical precedent. The districts are compact and contiguous. It minimizes splits of cities and counties.

I also wonder why a north and south map was not proposed with lines going east to west?
Vicky O'Hara, 5254 Frenchman Ridge Road, Fort Benton, Mt. 59442, 4066225333

--

Blessings,
Vicky O.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lloyd C Phillips

From: Lloyd C Phillips
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Shad Pippin <pippin1973@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Montana

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please leave politics out of the redistricting of the State of Montana. Any redistricting needs to be based on population and not political data. Historical precedence has had the state divided from North to South creating an East and West district. The redistricting should comply with any Montana State law. It has been done before and it should be done again.

I realize that you are probably under a lot of pressure from various individuals and special interest groups regarding this matter. We are truly living in unprecedented times. However, with that being said, "We the People" means everybody. Any effort to manipulate the redistricting of Montana to favor one political party over the other is a form of disenfranchisement. As Montanan's we deserve better than that.

Respectfully submitted,

Shad Pippin
P.O. Box 10642
Kalispell, MT 59904
(406) 885-3603
pippin1973@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 7th September 2021 09:32

Your Full Name:

Pat Plowman

Email Address:

partplowman@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Boyd, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Blessings 🙏 We submit the district line divide Montana to form, as before, an East district and a West district. The line must be colorblind (red, white, green, purple etc.), not splitting counties and with a population variation of no more than 1% as in hb506. <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billhtml/HB0506.htm>

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/

Sherley, Laura

From: Melina Pyron <melinapyron@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Congressional Redistricting

Dear Commissioners and Chair Smith,

I am an Independent. I am greatly concerned about ideas for drawing the districts along a north/south line. That is not right for Montana, as it would create heavy potential for unfair outcomes based on our populations. This redistricting project needs to meet Montana statutes and constitutional requirements. We must keep Montana districts and elections fair and transparent. The map I have posted below is based upon population, **not political data**.

Historical precedent sets East and West districts. This is extremely important because with Montana's state make up, it guards against the unintentional creation of gerrymandered districts in favor of one political party over the other.

The districts on this map are compact and contiguous. This map minimizes splits of cities and counties within as close to 1% as possible, just as the guidelines recommend.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=05cbfc500d&attid=0.4&permmsgid=msg-f:1710979349012990857&th=17be9ea71bf2cb89&view=att&disp=inline> [mail.google.com]

I want to remind you that these guidelines are there for a reason. We have to protect our election fairness in Montana at all costs and times. If we don't, we are lost as a community and as a functioning state.

It is your solemn responsibility to pay attention to the guidelines and the data, be ethical and honorable, and draw the districts in a manner that is fair to ALL Montanans, regardless of political affiliation.

Thank you for your hard work, service and leadership.

Sincerely,

Lisa Pyron

PO Box 7353

Missoula, MT 59807

melinapyron@yahoo.com

406.546.5041

--

Melina

"Trust is our most valuable commodity."

Melina Pyron

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 11:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Eric Reinhardt

From: Eric Reinhardt
Residence: Belgrade Mt.

Message:

I support plan 45763 as a fair balance of population for Montana's second Congressional seat.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 9:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Stuart Reynolds

From: Stuart Reynolds
Residence: Havre

Message:

I have reviewed some maps, and find it interesting that there has been an attempt to incorporate Gallatin/Bozeman into a western district with Missoula. which I find incongruous. From a civic standpoint, Bozeman does not relate to western Montana, but elates to Billings and eastern Montana. In regard to economics, particularly medical (my special interest) Bozeman relates to billings, and Bozeman is in the eastern district in the Montana Trauma System. Those Counties north of Cascade relate to Webern Montana much more then Gallatin County.

To me, this smacks of Gerrymandering rather than representative decision making.

Thanks.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: freestyle05 <freestyle05@prodigy.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 7:16 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; JeEssmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.com; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.com; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Map Comment Submission

Districting and Appointment Committee,

My Wife and I are strongly in favor of an East/West districting for our Congressional representation and also feel that the two major university meccas, Missoula and Bozeman should not be in the same district.

We have seen a number of maps that accomplish this purpose and replicate our State's historical split .

Freeman and Mary Jane Robinson
P O Box 8
Big Arm, MT 59910
406 883-2201

Sherley, Laura

From: dave@elk-hunting-tips.net
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 8:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map
Attachments: maps.png

The redistricting for the second US House seat should be drawn with Eastern and Western guidelines. The western part of the state is very similar in culture and geography. The political composition have both Left and Right portions of the area that balance. For this reason we believe that the map that is attached is a fair way to achieve the goals of the Redistricting Committee while at the same time complying with State of Montana statutes that require balanced distribution along both party lines and population.

David W Rowell
797 Tamarack Drive
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
406-431-0876

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Helen M Sabin

From: Helen M Sabin
Residence: Corvallis, MT

Message:
Montana Redistricting Commission

With respect to the current redistricting process, please incorporate the following crucial considerations in your decision making:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your doing the right thing for the people of MT.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 7:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marc L. Sabin

From: Marc L. Sabin
Residence: Corvallis, MT

Message:

Montana Redistricting Commission

With respect to the current redistricting process, please consider the following important considerations:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Niki Sardot

From: Niki Sardot Residence: Florence, Mt

Message:

Dear Committee,

Please create a fair map that has NOTHING to do with politics or gerrymandering!!!!

Follow the law...,use population for heavens sake!!

Use EAST/WEST map.

DO NOT consider a NORTH/WEST

Try to be fair

Niki

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 6:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Michael Schauf

From: Michael Schauf
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Paul Schmaltz <smutz1952@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Schmaltz
124 Buffalo Stage
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-890-3076

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Schreiber

From: Patricia Schreiber
Residence: Helmville, MT

Message:

I suggest the historic east/west division of Montana for the redistricting for the new congressional seat.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Andrew Scott <scottamt67@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional district map proposal

Dear commission members:

I've tried to follow developments on the creation of Montana's new Congressional district map. Some proposals I've seen are concerning to me because they fail to heed current physical, cultural and political boundaries and even, in some cases, leave some counties straddling the two districts.

I feel strongly that Park County, where I live, should remain in the same district as Gallatin County. There are literally thousands of Montanans who live in one of these counties and work in the other. Hundreds of businesses operate across the county line. Many of us frequently shop and recreate in both counties. It would be harmful to us to live under separate representation when our interests are so aligned.

I've used the [district.org \[district.org\]](https://districtr.org) website to create a map that keeps all counties intact, minimizes opportunities for unfair political advantage, and ensures a compact boundary with nearly equal population representation:

<https://districtr.org/plan/46234> [districtr.org]

Please consider this proposal as you perform your important work.

Sincerely,

Andrew Scott
512 N. 3rd Street
Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 223-8051
scottamt67@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Deb Sjostrom

From: Deb Sjostrom
Residence: Malta, MT

Message:
Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: daskinner@centurytel.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional district map

14 Sept 2021
2970 US Hwy 2 E
Kalispell MT 59901 6638

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Montana 2020 Census Redistricting Committee:

I have neither the time, nor resources, nor savvy, nor patience to submit a proposal for a Congressional district map for the 2022-2030 election cycles. I will be more than happy to comment on whatever maps will be submitted this week. However, I would like to reiterate what I expect representative districts to look like in the most-general sense. Both districts should be about the same size (compact) and similar in terms of overall voting patterns, which in turn should resemble the overall Montana voting pattern, with a close (say one percent at most) match in overall population. I say this because Montana representation at the federal level is fundamentally different than it would be in terms of state or local governance/elections.

Conventional "wisdom" has split Montana into East and West, roughly along the Continental Divide plus or minus a county line or two. But the historic division between a unionized and industrial West (mostly Democratic) and agrarian East is an artifact as best. Much has changed since 1980 at both the state and federal level, with the most obvious and blatant trend manifesting itself in the "red/blue" patterns of rural Republican voting and urban Democratic voting. This is a national phenomenon, which should be considered deeply when it comes to the relationship of a "rural" state like Montana with the federal government -- which in turn is dominated by urban interests with the exception of the Senate -- and we know there are certain august personages who are working quite diligently to strip America's uppity rural peasantry of any significant federal influence.

With relatively few votes to begin with, the best way to empower the electoral majority of Montana voters and their wishes absolutely is when the delegation is "unified." That holds true for Montana's two US Senators, who are often at odds on pretty major issues, and will absolutely hold for our two-of-435 U S representatives. If they agree on nothing, the federal government will in fact DO nothing. These two congressional seats should be districted in such a way that they reflect STATEWIDE interests on the federal table. Right now, Republicans seem to hold the advantage, but Montana Democrats could change that if they stopped toeing the "educated" progressive policy line.

My bottom line is, I would hope to holy heck that SOMEONE, including the membership of your commission, will present a North South; Hi Line-Low Line; with two districts running the full east-west length of Montana from Idaho to both Dakotas. I'm not interested in horseshoes or doughnuts or blobs, nor am I interested in an obsolete representation of "historic" voting trends from 40 years ago. Montana interests of TODAY should be presented in Congress, and the best way to do that is to run the district line east and west, NOT north and south.

I will be following this small increment of your work with considerable interest. Thank you for your fair and honest work.

Dave Skinner

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Michael Starmer

From: Michael Starmer
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Barbara Starmer

From: Barbara Starmer
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mike Starmer

From: Mike Starmer
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Michael Starmer <flyfishin_dude@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map

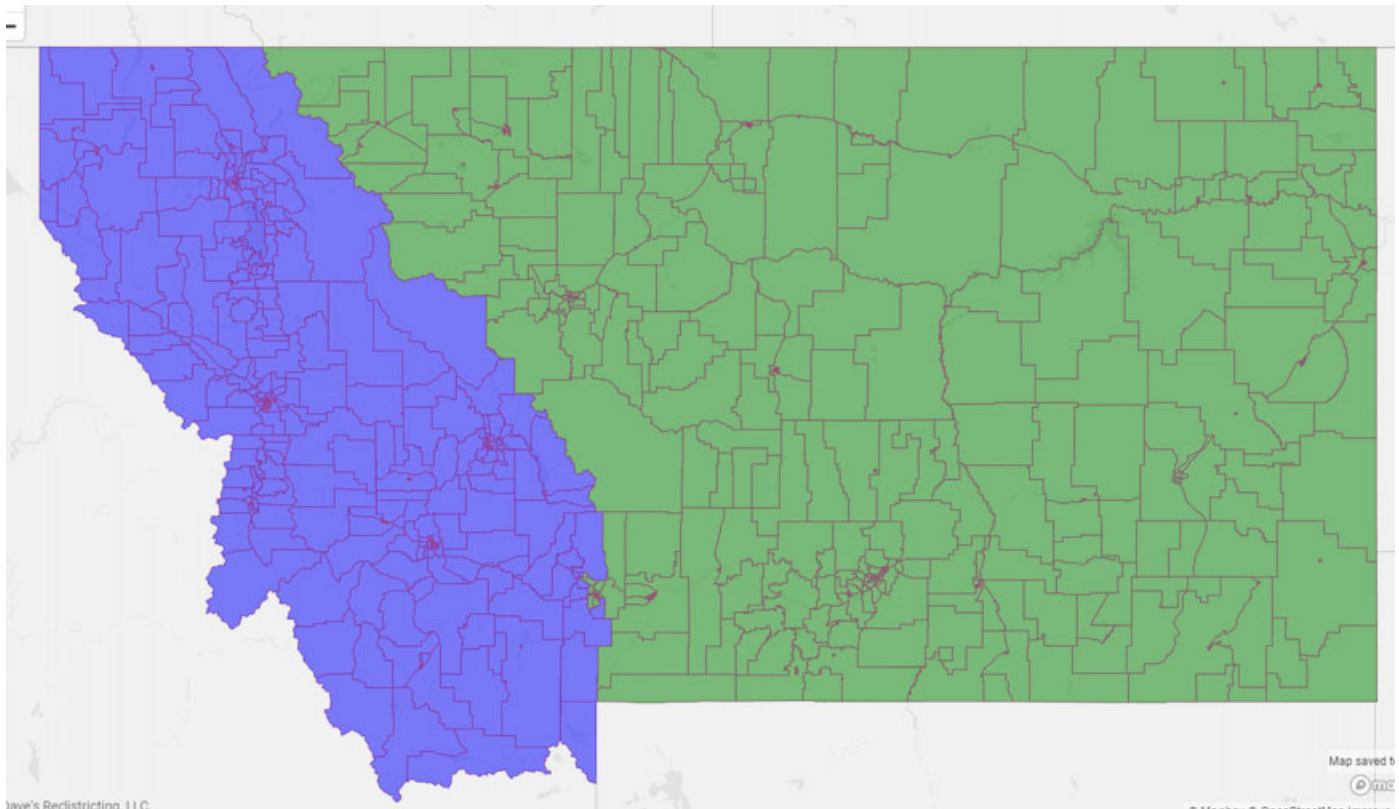
Re-Districting Co0mmittee,

I've investigated the geographic composition of Montana and come to one conclusion. The redistricting for the second US House seat needs to me accomplished using East/West guidelines.

Western Montana has a cultural and geography that is very similar. Regarding its political composition, there are both Left and Right portions of the area that balance. For this reason I believe that the map that follows is a fair way to achieve the goals of the Re-Districting Committee while at the same time complying with State of Montana statutes that require balanced distribution along party lines and population.

Thank you for your time.

Mike



Mike Starmer
8721B Ranch Club Rd.
Missoula, MT 59808-5415
(406) 544-1412
flyfishin_dude@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Dorothy Starshine <starshine1200@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 11:38 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank You

I am concerned about the redistricting because we need to have as close as is possible, equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats in each district. Surely that can be discerned by using past voting records.

Sherley, Laura

From: Susan Stengel <slsmt413@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 7:54 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Maps

Dear Commissioners and Chair Smith -

Please review all proposed redistricting maps for Montana based solely on population and compliance with statutes and constitutional requires - not on political data / party affiliation (ie., gerrymandering). Redistricting maps should create East and West districts - which follows historical precedent. The districts should be compact and contiguous, while minimizing splits of cities and counties.

We have reviewed the proposed maps, and submit the one below as our first choice for your consideration.

<https://districtr.org/plan/45542> [districtr.org]

The map was drawn based strictly on population, and contiguous counties and districts. Only Cascade county is divided. NO tribal groups are divided. It complies with all Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

And the population deviation is 0% with a net difference of 47:

District 1	542,136
District 2	542,089

Now that Montana has two Congressional seats, it is critical that the division of the state into two congressional districts be done to ensure fair representation of ALL Montanans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Susan & Casey Stengel
484 Running Horse Trail
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-624-6945
slsmt413@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Donna Stone

From: Donna Stone
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

An equal north-south division would make the most sense, dividing evenly the distance of travel to see constituents, and providing diversity amongst the regions rather than total solidarity in needs, beliefs, and lifestyle.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 11, 2021 11:17 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gary Stubblefield

From: Gary Stubblefield
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

Thank you for your consideration. I personally prefer the maps that have been drawn North/South that splits Cascade County but not Gallatin County. I do NOT want to see an East/West line constructed in this state. I think that is pure political bias with obvious malintent.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Stubblefield
Missoula, MT

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Nate Thompson <natethompson11@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Housing Maps

Hello,

For the MT house seats, I believe using I-90/I-94 as the dividing line would be in best interest of the state. This would require both of our elected representatives to travel both in the western and eastern parts of the state. We can move forward from interests of the west vs east side of the state, and would result in representatives that are impacted by all varying climates of our state. Having two members that have to deal with the varying geography/climates across our state seems to make the most sense.

It would provide a pretty united front that both reps are aware and conscious of the broadest swath of ideal real estate that our entire state borders contain.

Thank you for considering I-90/I-94 as the dividing lines.

Nate Thompson

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: Sally Tucker <kickingasparagus@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please approve East-West Districts (CasCo split)
Attachments: signal-2021-09-13-224640.jpg

Greetings! Thank you for all the effort the commission has put in to this project.

I have been dismayed by the unnecessary complication of deliberations, with injection of 'political parity' and vaguely defined 'communities of interest' as criteria considered - in clear violation of the Montana Constitution.

Your mission, according to your web page is :

"Using population data from the most recent U.S. Census, the commission must draw districts with approximately the same number of people in them."

I urge you to select the East-West (Cascade County split) district solution (see attached), as it most closely satisfies the Montana Constitutional requirements.

It also appears to better satisfy the 'political parity' and 'community of interest' quests desired by democrats, even though those criteria are not constitutionally germane to this process.

Thank you for considering Montana citizens' input, and courageously abiding by our State's Constitution in your deliberations.

I sincerely hope ideology and federal turmoil have less influence on your results than your fellow Montanans' input; have been proud to see the We the People engagement and research inspired by your districting work.

Thank you for hearing and honoring us in these deliberations. This is how government by the people works; how communities come together and find true equity under law.

Best regards, peace and wisdom to you all,

Sally Tucker

1914 Montana Ave

Black Eagle MT. 59414

I served in the Montana Senate from 1978-1998, including three terms as Majority Leader and one term as President of the Senate. In addition, I was the elected Missoula County Attorney from 1998-2014. As such, I think I have a pretty good appreciation for the geographic, economic, cultural and political diversity of our state. It is in this context that I make these comments regarding the creation of Congressional districts. To begin with, I support the application of standards which will keep Montana in compliance with the U.S. and Montana Constitutions and the federal Voting Rights Act. In addition, I think it is possible to create two districts, with various counties that are kept individually whole. Finally, I think the Commission should endeavor to create two districts that are fair and competitive for both the Republican and Democratic parties.

These proposed districts are largely similar but the first proposal (Option A) includes Jefferson County with a group of other counties located to its north, west and south and the second proposal (Option B) moves Jefferson County to District #2 and shifts Carbon County to District #1. Both proposals take into account the substantial population growth that has occurred in Western Montana since the last census shifting Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Glacier and Broadwater Counties to District #2 and Cascade County to District #1 (to maintain overall population balance).

Both proposals have the added benefit of including all seven of Montana's Native American reservations in one district, #1.

Missoula and Gallatin Counties which have also grown substantially are grouped together in District #1 because they have a very important common interest in the future of the University of Montana and Montana State University.

Option B (which has Carbon County grouped with Southwestern Montana) has the advantage of keeping all of Montana's counties which border Yellowstone National Park (a significant federal and unique economic partner to our state) together in District #1, thereby providing considerable benefits to that area. In addition, because one of Carbon County's principle economic drivers, the Red Lodge Mountain ski area, is grouped with Gallatin County ski areas (Big Sky, Bridger Bowl and the Yellowstone Club), there is a recognition of a significant common economic interest to those counties.

On the other hand, Option A (which has Jefferson County grouped with Southwestern Montana) is slightly more contiguous and more similar to the 1980 version of Congressional districts.

Both these maps keep counties whole while also maintaining a very low population deviation of 0.35% or 1889 people (Option A) and 0.25% or 1335 people (Option B) between the two districts.

Both these maps combine several of the larger cities in Montana creating representation for both urban and rural Montana in Congress.

Both these maps have one competitive district, with four of the Democrats winning the district on the elections listed in Dave's Redistricting and four Republicans winning the district. That means District #1 should be highly competitive and neither map unfairly favors one party with two safe seats.

Both maps map balance population growth in the state, with growing Gallatin County, which grew by 29,447 people this decade, with the growing Flathead and Yellowstone counties, which together grew by 30,188 last decade.

No doubt some will find fault with my proposals but they accomplish the goals the Commission is charged with bringing about. Nothing is perfect and I look forward to responding to the comments of others. Thank you for considering these proposals.

Fred Van Valkenburg
112 University Avenue
Missoula, MT 59801
fvanvalkenburg@bresnan.net

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 12, 2021 12:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jack R. Venrick

From: Jack R. Venrick
Residence: Rollins

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

I sent you the map we prefer which only divides a small portion of Cascade County.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Richard Virga

From: Richard Virga
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when considering congressional maps:

1. Do not create "competitive" district based on politics! The congressional district lines should be drawn based on Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The congressional districts should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mike Walker

From: Mike Walker
Residence: Huson Montana

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when considering congressional maps:

1. Do not create "competitive" district based on politics! The congressional district lines should be drawn based on Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
 2. The congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The congressional districts should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: troylibbyjbs <troylibbyjbs@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Maps
Attachments: Congressional District Maps with 2020 Data.pdf



Troy Libby Chapter

Commission Chair Maylinn Smith, and Commissioners Jeff Essmann, Joe Lamson, Dan Stusek, and Kendra Miller:

Thank you for taking public input on the very critical redistricting process in Montana. We submitted maps to this Commission in June and appreciate the opportunity to resubmit maps for your consideration using the 2020 census data.

We have watched and reviewed the commissions actions for the past few months and we are pleased to hear that the Commission plans to keep this process non-partisan and that you will complete your proposals without political favoritism. We are, however, disappointed that you chose not to apply the same 1% deviation to the Congressional map as you outlined for the State Legislative map, as required by the Montana Code Annotated. We believe that the end goal of equal Congressional Districts can still be achieved.

Attached are two maps for the Congressional districts that we would like the Commission to consider. Each is within the 1% deviation and divides the State into two equal parts, by population and meets the Commission's other criteria.

Finally, we look forward to seeing your Commission's proposal when it is available for public comment, which follows Montana State Law and does not divide counties within Montana.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mitchell Walters
Chapter Leader
TroyLibbyJBS
300 North Kootenai Drive, Troy MT 59935
406 291 6991

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 7th September 2021 12:33

Your Full Name:
Christopher Ward

Email Address:
christopher.ward@q.com

City and State of Residence:
Great Falls Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please use the most recent 1990 congressional District boundaries but move Glacier, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson and Broadwater counties into D2. This is a logical boundary and counties moved have natural connections to the Great Falls area and each other. Please decide based on geography and history not politics. Thanks.

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 10:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lisa Weaver

From: Lisa Weaver
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Billings and Kallispell should not be on same district. Keep districts within a regional area, even in population and balance in political persuasion

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Deborah M. Wilson

From: Deborah M. Wilson
Residence: Kila Montana

Message:

Please consider the map showing East West reservations Splitting Cascade only. This proposed map is based on population and complies with Montana statues and constitutional requirements and the districts are compact and contiguous and it minimizes splits of cities and counties. Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into and East and West District with the line going from North to South which follows historical precedent.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

Sherley, Laura

From: Kathy Workman <kathyworkman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 10, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting

To Montana redistricting commission:

I am writing with great concern about how the laws that are set in place are being pushed over by personal agendas. The Montana law states that the districts are to be equal in population only. Political party may not even be considered. Please follow the law. I am asking for a line that runs East and West that offers a northern/ southern legislative district. Thank you for upholding the laws that protect and serve us!

Kathy Workman
Great Falls Mt

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kandy Zanto

From: Kandy Zanto
Residence: Great Falls, MT

Message:

Commissioners and Chair Smith,

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional maps:

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 2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
 3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.
- Thank you for your consideration.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])