

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Friday, May 21, 2021 4:55:24 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 21st May 2021 16:55

Your Full Name:

Nancy Leifer

Email Address:

nancleifer@gmail.com

Your Comment/Input:

Comments of the League of Women Voters Montana Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting May 25, 2021 Commission Chair Smith and members of the Commission: My name is Nancy Leifer, and I am here on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Montana to offer comment on the criteria for redistricting in Montana. The League of Women Voters encourages the Commission to implement the following: 1. Full counting of all persons who reside in a jurisdiction —regardless of age, citizenship status, or ability to vote—for the purposes of reapportionment and redistricting. 2. Formalized transparency and public participation measures, including disclosing timelines, decision-making processes, underlying data sets and all consultants/experts hired, and allowing for full public participation. 3. Partisan-neutral redistricting criteria that reflect the diversity of the state (including racial and ethnic diversity and communities of interest), provide for overall competitiveness, and recognize political subdivisions. 4. Assignment of prison populations to their home communities to avoid prison-based gerrymandering. 5. Redistricting processes that are accessible for and inclusive of as many diverse communities as possible. Last August, the League of Women Voters sponsored a webinar hosted by the Brennan Center for Justice that provided an introduction for the public to Montana’s redistricting process. We thank Commissioners Essmann and Lamson for their participation in that webinar. The League looks forward to hosting more virtual public events going forward to help the people of Montana understand the redistricting process and how they can participate in Commission meetings and hearings. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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

From: [Susan Reneau](#)
To: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtlet.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; [Weiss, Rachel](#); [Kolman, Joe](#); [Aldrich, Ginger](#); [Sherley, Laura](#); bluemountain@montana.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments from a voter and Montana citizen regarding the new Second Montana Congressional District
Date: Friday, May 21, 2021 4:23:44 PM

Dear Appointed Officials Tasked with Drawing the Boundary Lines for the Second Montana Congressional District:

I know your “official” name of your commission is called “2020 Districting and Apportionment Commission” but that really doesn’t tell many people what you really are doing, so I address you so your title makes sense. Maylinn is the presiding officer who was appointed by the Democrat-leaning Montana Supreme Court; Jeff and Dan are appointed by Republican leadership; and Kendra and Joe are appointed by Democrat leadership. I’m also sending this to your staff of the commission since they process all the comments.

I hope others will use your emails I have in this comment to send their comments to all of you and will circulate my comments to their friends to motivate them to also send comments to you.

I urge this commission to properly represent the voters of Montana by making sure there are eastern and western Congressional District that includes cities, towns and rural areas so all aspects of Montana voters are properly represented. Please keep in mind, Commissioners, that the majority of voters in the 2020 election voted for Republicans at the local, state and national levels in Montana, so each district should represent the voters across the state. When Montana had two representatives back in 1990, we had the western and eastern House of Representative districts, not the northern and southern districts as has been discussed by Democrats.

Naturally, a representative works for ALL citizens, whether they vote or not. I know that. But, when it is said and done, the only people who are counted in our republic are those that step up to the voting booth as legal citizens and vote. Democrats call us a democracy but we are a republic. Voters are the citizens that put a new representative into office, not any citizen, but the representative will work for every citizen, even those citizens that never lift a finger to vote. That is why I ask you to think of the voters first when drawing the district lines for the eastern and western districts. Please use active voter rolls when selecting where the lines are drawn for each U.S. Montana representative’s district. Being a valuable citizen is voting. People risk everything to come to America because we are a nation that provides such freedom and opportunity. Voting gives all of us that right, and citizenship is that avenue to voting.

Two House Representatives are very special and we want you as

commissioners to make sure you draw those boundary lines properly to reflect the voters of Montana that care the most about our state and nation, no matter what party they select. A voter is a very special person. Citizenship in the United States of America is also very special.

I urge Republicans Jeff and Dan to stand tall and strong against the three other commission members to make sure the lines drawn in Montana for the two Congressional Districts properly reflect the fact that is Montana we are Republican, conservative, God-loving, flag-waving Americans. I hope all five of you remember that.

God Bless America and God Bless all of you.

Susan Campbell Reneau
4 Martha's Court
Missoula, MT 59803

bluemountain@montana.com

From: [j_w](#)
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Redistricting Ideas
Date: Thursday, May 20, 2021 2:49:57 PM

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:Mail [go.microsoft.com]) for Windows 10

From: [j_w](#)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov <dan.stusek@mtleg.gov>; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov <maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov>; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov <jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov>; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: Redistricting Ideas

4-13-2021

Dear 2020 Commissioners,

My name is John Wright and I applied for the Chairperson position on your commission in the past when I taught in Cascade. I will be moving back to Montana from Arizona to teach and hope these ideas will help you along the way of creating legislative and congressional maps.

1. I liked the idea of lowering the deviation of 5% per district to 3% in 2010 and hope that continues in 2020.
2. It might be advantageous to only have ONE MAP using the current legislative districts as a template with modifications from the 2020 Census BEFORE public testimony, like the Existing Plan in 2010. The reason being is it would prevent people reading from a partisan card at the public meetings saying partisan talking points for the Democrat and Republican plans. I saw this being done at the Great Falls meeting in 2012. It is essential for citizens to speak from the heart and not from a Democrat or Republican card.
3. The 2020 (Existing Plan) Map should be modified AFTER public testimony is over. This way the commission will not act as a mini-legislature using partisanship to redraw lines in their favor. The committee members should not find ways to gerrymander or cheat the other side in future elections, which is against the spirit of the Montana Constitution.
4. If we get an extra House district (crossed fingers) there should be one North-South Map and one East-West Map for public comment. Each map would be created by one Democrat and one Republican to ensure bipartisanship. This way you should know which map is preferred by most citizens and how the districts should be drawn based on unbiased public testimony.

Thank you for your time and feel free to email me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
Mr. John Wright

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:Mail [go.microsoft.com]) for Windows 10