

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received prior to 5 pm on June 9, 2021

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:49:02 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 08:49

Your Full Name:

Natalie Adams

Email Address:

natalieadams1219@gmail.com

Your Comment/Input:

I encourage the commission to support a plan that would include no more than a 1% population deviation as presented in HB 506. The ideal plan would keep districts compact, contiguous, and very importantly keep rural communities with rural and urban with urban communities. The needs of a rural community are far different than what individuals might want and need in a more developed / urban area. Please keep this in mind and ensure that residents of MT are kept in mind and this does not turn political. Our ranchers and farmers are the backbone of this state and it is imperative they continue to have a voice. Places like Bozeman should not dictate for the rest of Montana. Districts have been distorted and gerrymandered in many states and this cannot and should not happen in Montana! Thank you.

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

From: [ColleenDe](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow the Law and Constitution When Redistricting
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 7:49:17 PM

Follow the Law and Constitution When Redistricting

Commissioners,

I am writing to remind you that the law (MCA 5-11-115) and the Montana Constitution **REQUIRE** you to set district boundaries with the following criteria:

- Compact & Contiguous Territory
- Less than 1% difference in population

I also demand that you set the congressional districts using the same criteria as for legislative districts.

I am not asking for anything special. I am only asking you to follow the Montana Constitution and the law.

Sincerely,

Scotia Brosnan
Flathead County Montana
916-802-7657

Sent from ProtonMail Mobile

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 1:59:22 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 13:59

Your Full Name:

James Compton

Email Address:

overcomingpp@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Whitefish

Your Comment/Input:

As a lifelong resident of Montana and an advocate for integrity, I urge justice and equity in the redistricting of Montana's U.S. Congressional districts by adherence to the following: 1% population variable with like & contiguous districts!

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

Dear Ms. Weiss,

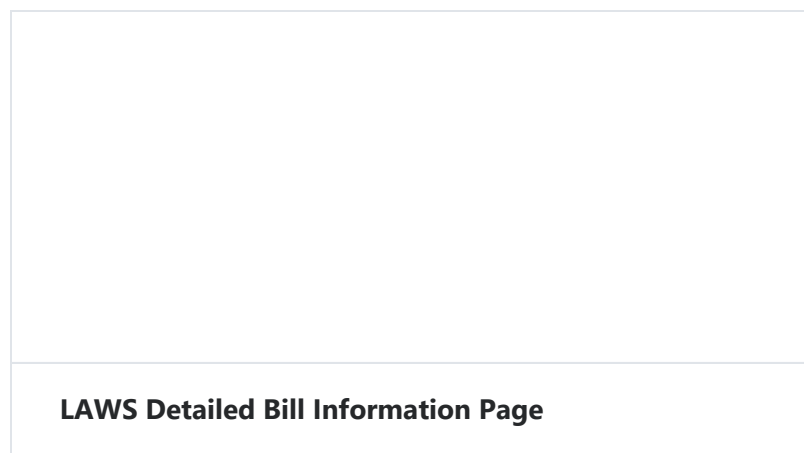
Thank you for the information and update you gave me yesterday re: redistricting.

Montana voters are watching what is going on and looking for a fair, honest outcome so we can restore election integrity to our elections. In doing the research for the commission, I hope you and the commission will take into account House Bill 506. This Bill was supported, this past legislative session, by most all Helena Democrats and Republicans, then signed into Montana Law on 5/14/21 by Governor Gianforte. I attached HB 506 below for your reference. **HB 506 would require districts to be compact, contiguous, keeping rural with rural, urban with urban and less than 1% deviation in population.**

It would be nice to see a clean, simple, straight line running North and South down the Continental Divide. That would basically divide the State East side and West side. I know you do the research and the commission will make the rules, I hope everyone will take into serious consideration HB506 along with the other criteria.

<https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billpdf/HB0506.pdf>

[LAWS Detailed Bill Information Page](#)



Thank you in advance for "ALL" the research you are doing to make this a fair process.

Sincerely,
Connie Dale
ConstanceDale@yahoo.com

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 6:13:37 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 7th June 2021 18:13

Your Full Name:

Renee S Dimler

Email Address:

reneesuz07@gmail.com

Your Comment/Input:

As a registered voter in the county of Flathead, and seeing such a great increase in our population from large urban areas, we want the drawing of boundaries to coincide with HB506 and ensure the districts are re-drawn in a way that is NOT influenced by political affiliation or in any way that skews the general population's voting rights.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:01:16 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 7th June 2021 20:01

Your Full Name:

Dianne Hansen

Email Address:

diannedave2@gmail.com

Your Comment/Input:

We attended the Republican Dinner in Eureka a few days ago and learned about the redistricting plan coming up. The idea of a C shaped district that would connect our area with Eastern Montana and is over 60% Democrat is not acceptable to us. We want to keep rural with rural, and urban with urban. Thank you for considering our opinions, me and my husband. Dianne and David B. Hansen in Fortine, MT Registered Republicans 406 882-4050

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 4:17:39 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 16:17

Your Full Name:

Lynn Hansz

Email Address:

gardengofer@live.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

“Montana now qualifies for two Congressional Representatives. The planned redistricting effort must ensure the resulting district boundaries reflect parity between urban and rural voters. The new district boundaries must not result in political dominance by the democrat party.” We cannot let the largest cities and University towns dominate rural and small town Montana.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 1:06:07 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 13:06

Your Full Name:

James Hansz

Email Address:

cardoc203@live.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Montana now qualifies for two Congressional Representatives. The planned redistricting effort must ensure the resulting district boundaries reflect parity between urban and rural voters. The new district boundaries must not result in political dominance by the democrat party.

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

From: [Ed Hill](#)
To: [Districting](#); [Ed Hill](#); [Hill Ed](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting comments
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 5:10:04 PM

Hello Commission

Please consider fair and bipartisan districts in Montana.

I ask that you remove the percentage of variance of population in each district.

Eastern Montana has a different economy than western Montana. Separate voices need to be heard in Washington DC.

Thank you, TYVM

Respectfully

--

Representative

Ed Hill HD28 Havre

hillforhouse28@gmail.com

406.390.1098

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 7:54:41 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th June 2021 07:54

Your Full Name:

Charles Jarecki

Email Address:

skywagon49@outlook.com

City and State of Residence:

Polson, MT 59860

Your Comment/Input:

I have been a resident of Montana forever 60 years. I urge you to follow the redistricting guidelines as spelled out in HB 506, passed by the 2021 Montana legislature

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 10:53:36 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 10:53

Your Full Name:

Gina Klempel

Email Address:

klemlog@aboutmontana.net

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell

Your Comment/Input:

GOOD MORNING: I completely support HB 506 as written. Montana is a large state with the larger cities fostering most of the votes and it must be a level playing field in order to not disenfranchise the rural areas the FOOD BASKETS of this state. It's imperative that the 1% stay in place. Thank you for your consideration.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:43:11 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th June 2021 10:43

Your Full Name:

Robert Larsson

Email Address:

andy@skinnersights.com

City and State of Residence:

St. Ignatius, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

While considering redistricting in Montana, please apply some common sense and restrict the gerrymandering as we have seen in the past. One only needs to consider Senate Districts 8 and 16 to see obvious and intentional partisan gerrymandering at work in Montana. Please consider HB506 and help us restore integrity to the Montana voting process. Thank you all for the hard work. We appreciate the dedication and commitment it takes to serve our state in this way.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:24:59 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 12:24

Your Full Name:

Mary Ann Lavelle

Email Address:

mymontana.newyork@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I support this bill.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 9:10:41 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th June 2021 09:10

Your Full Name:

Nancy Leifer

Email Address:

nancleifer@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Public Comment for June 10th Districting and Apportionment Commission Submitted by Nancy Leifer on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Montana Item 3:c Criteria for Congressional and Legislative Districts The League of Women Voters supports 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. The League supports drawing of districts that allow for election of Native Americans to the legislature in proportion to their percentage of the state population, thereby ensuring an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. The League of Women Voters Montana urges this Commission to create, where possible, districts that are competitive for the candidates running for office. Competitive districts have been found to encourage more voter participation in elections and encourage elected representatives to pay closer attention to the concerns of their constituents than do representatives in “safe” districts. Item 4:c Operating Procedures The League of Women Voters requests that the Commission clarify the application of the proposed language for the deadline for public comment to be included in the pre-meeting materials for Commission members. If the policy were in effect for today’s meeting, for example, what would be the effective deadline for submission to include a minimum of 72 hours and how would a weekend affect the deadline? 5:00 pm Monday June 7; Sunday, June 6 at 5:00 pm; or 5:00 pm Friday, June 4? The League of Women Voters also requests that the Commission include in its map submission criteria examples of user-friendly mapping software widely available now that would be compatible with the Maptitude software used by the Commission and meet submission criteria. Members of the public may not be aware of what software programs deliver data that have “equivalency files giving the census block to district assignments” or whether the files are in .dat, .dbf., or .txt format, or Esri Shapefiles (.shp) or Caliper data files (.cdf or .dbd). They may not know whether their maps are based on official Census geography (TIGER line) and P.L. 94-171 data. Listing examples of commonly accessible, free software (e.g., Representable, Dave’s Redistricting) that meet the criteria would assist the public in making sure the maps they draw

fit the criteria needed for submission. Item 5:c Process, Data and Timeline The League of Women Voters urges the Commission to implement prison population reallocation to prisoner's last known home address for in-state prisoners. Item 6: Any Other Concerns not on the Agenda The League of Women Voters commends and supports efforts by the Commission to encourage public participation in the redistricting process. The League will be offering informational programs to the public about Montana's redistricting process and how to be involved. Our goal is to encourage Montanans to speak up by submitting comments and maps so that the Commission has the local community-level information needed to draw maps that fairly reflect the population of Montana.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:53:24 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 08:53

Your Full Name:

Douglas Nicholson

Email Address:

douglas.nicholson@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

In regards to the redistricting effort for Montana, I encourage the commission to support a plan that would include no more than a 1% population deviation as presented in HB 506. An idea plan would make districts compact, contiguous, and keep rural with rural, and urban with urban. Thank you Doug Nicholson

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:39:30 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 08:39

Your Full Name:

Evelyn R Noble

Email Address:

lnoble406@gmail.com

Your Comment/Input:

Please set district boundaries so they are a Compact & Contiguous Territory with less than 1% deviation in population, to follow HB 506 (recently signed into law by the governor) and the Republican plan which is more fair.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 7:58:08 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 19:58

Your Full Name:

Mark Noland

Email Address:

marknolandhd10@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Bigfork MT

Your Comment/Input:

To all the good folks responsible to help our wonderful state with the daunting task of coordinating boundary and district changes , I would implore you to uphold the HD 506 legislation that was signed into law . May the good Lord bless you in your efforts.
Respectfully Representative Mark Noland

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

From: [Regina Plettenberg](#)
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment from Election Administrators on congressional line
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:01:14 AM

If a congressional line splits a county (or counties), our Association hopes the Committee will consult with the Election Administrator(s) in that county (or counties) when drawing the new congressional line and future legislative lines to insure that splits will not be created that will make it difficult to print ballots and maintain voter secrecy which makes it difficult to administer elections. We thank the Committee for all of its hard work and we look forward to working with the Committee and assisting in any way we can.

Regina Plettenberg
MACR Legislative Chair

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:37:32 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 09:37

Your Full Name:

Pat Plowman

Email Address:

partplowman@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Boyd, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

PLEASE support a plan that would include no more than a 1% population deviation as presented in HB 506. An ideal plan would make districts compact, contiguous, and keep rural with rural, and urban with urban. PLEASE, either straight east to west lines or north to south. No jerrymander lines or doughnuts if we are to have a peaceful State. We are not Democrat or Republican. We are Montana! No strings bean districts. Praying for you

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:15:23 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 14:15

Your Full Name:

Sharon Poore

Email Address:

sbearpoore@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings

Your Comment/Input:

I would like to encourage the commission to support a plan that would include no more than a 1% population deviation as presented in HB 506. An idea plan would make districts compact, contiguous, and keep rural with rural, and urban with urban. Thank you.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:16:08 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 11:16

Your Full Name:

Jim Riley

Email Address:

jim@lifelivedriven.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell

Your Comment/Input:

I support a plan that would include no more than 1% population deviation as presented in HB 506.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:11:47 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 09:11

Your Full Name:

Susan E Smith

Email Address:

Susbosmith@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena

Your Comment/Input:

Please establish a plan to include no more than 1% population deviation as presented in HB506 to make districts compact, contiguous and keep rural with rural and urban with urban and establish clear East-West districts for fair representation of citizen interests with NO C-shaped or gerrymandered districts. We must live with these districts for 10 years. Please keep the process fair and transparent and work for us and not for partisan power!

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 10:14:18 AM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th June 2021 10:14

Your Full Name:

Magalie Swanke

Email Address:

magalie@yarnheads.com

City and State of Residence:

Livingston, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

No more than 1% population deviation. Do not change the rural fabric of our communities by giving the suburban areas a greater ratio of power. Keep rural with rural and suburban with suburban. Do NOT turn us into Chicago and kill the rural vote.

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

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 6:41:23 PM

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th June 2021 18:41

Your Full Name:

Lewis Zanto

Email Address:

Lewzanto@msn.com

City and State of Residence:

Great falls

Your Comment/Input:

Please reestablish the districts as they were prior to the 2000 census. If there is a compelling reason why that is not possible then the most fair distribution would be an east west district split. The voters are entitled to a fair and transparent process. Thank you for making that occur.

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