

# Public Comments

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

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, June 19, 2021 1:20:06 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 19th June 2021 13:20

**Your Full Name:**

Shibu Arens

**Email Address:**

shibuarensmt@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I'm writing to request that the Districting and Apportionment Commission adopt a strong political fairness standard to guide your work adopting new legislative and congressional maps. We vote in elections to be represented fairly and equally in Helena and Washington. If the voters aren't able to turn those votes into representation, it strikes at the core of our political system. The Commission should aim to proportionally reflect the will of Montanans in the legislature. Thank you all for your hard work serving our great state and for allowing the public to have input in this critically important process. Best, Shibu Arens Missoula, Montana

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, June 19, 2021 1:12:46 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 19th June 2021 13:12

**Your Full Name:**  
Mary Jennifer Allen

**Email Address:**  
[mmallen58@gmail.com](mailto:mmallen58@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**  
Kalispell, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Thank you so much for all the hard work the Commission is doing on behalf of Montanans. I'm writing today to urge you to adopt a maximum deviation standard of 5%, which has historically worked well. The pandemic may have potentially caused undercounts in some of our most vulnerable communities, so it's especially important that the Commission return to its historical standard. Adopting a 5% standard will give the Commission flexibility to keep more counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest whole. A higher allowable deviation allows the Commission the flexibility it needs to balance all criteria, even if most districts can be drawn with much smaller deviation. Please don't unnecessarily split communities or ignore other important criteria in order to adhere to a strict deviation standard. Thank you for your time and your service to our state.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:24:57 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 11:24

**Your Full Name:**

Brett Allen

**Email Address:**

baallenba@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

To Whom it May Concern, I strongly support the creation of fair and competitive congressional and legislative districts. I want to see it done properly, fair, and effectively. Montanans deserve it to be done the right way so we have trust in our government and our processes. Though we have a history of doing it one way, that doesn't necessarily mean it should be done that way in 2021. Times change and therefore so do the processes. Please keep it fair and competitive. Thanks, Brett Allen Concerned Missoulian

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 9:44:40 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 4th July 2021 21:44

**Your Full Name:**

Tom Arvidson

**Email Address:**

tomarvidson00@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula Mt

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I'm writing to ask the Districting and Apportionment Commission to adopt a strong political fairness standard to guide your work adopting legislative and congressional maps. Montanans vote in elections so that they can be represented fairly in Helena and Washington. If voters aren't adequately able to turn those votes into representation, it strikes at the heart of our political system. The Commission should aim to proportionally reflect the will of Montana voters in the legislature. That's just Montana common sense. Thank you all for your hard work serving our great state and for allowing the public to have input in this process. Best, Tom Arvidson

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 4:00:54 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 22nd June 2021 16:00

**Your Full Name:**  
Thomas A Arvidson

**Email Address:**  
tomarvidson00@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**  
MISSOULA

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I'm writing to ask the Districting and Apportionment Commission to adopt a strong political fairness standard to guide your work adopting legislative and congressional maps. Montanans vote in elections so that they can be represented fairly in Helena and Washington. If voters aren't adequately able to turn those votes into representation, it strikes at the heart of our political system. The Commission should aim to proportionally reflect the will of Montana voters in the legislature. That's just Montana common sense. Thank you all for your hard work serving our great state and for allowing the public to have input in this process. Thanks, Tom Arvidson

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:44:15 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 29th June 2021 17:44

**Your Full Name:**

Gordon Ash

**Email Address:**

[kmprash@centurylink.net](mailto:kmprash@centurylink.net)

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell, MT.

**Your Comment/Input:**

Districting and Apportionment Commissioners, Thank you so much for all the hard work the Commission is doing on behalf of Montanans. I'm writing today to urge you to adopt proposed criteria that would require fair maps with competitive districts; including a maximum deviation standard of 5%, as the Montana Commission and many other states have historically adopted. In a census year dominated by a global pandemic that could have potentially caused undercounts in some of our most vulnerable communities, it's especially important that the Commission maintain its historical standard and precedence. Adopting a 5% standard will give the Commission flexibility to keep more counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest whole and give flexibility to help our election administrators. This flexibility does not mean the Commission will be required to underpopulate half of districts by 5% and overpopulate half of districts by 5%. The average deviation between districts on the current plan was less than 1% (a roughly 90 person difference between districts), even though the allowable deviation was more than 3 times that limit. A higher allowable deviation simply allows the Commission the flexibility it needs to balance all criteria, even if most districts can be drawn with much smaller deviation. Don't unnecessarily split communities to adhere to a strict deviation standard that conflicts with other important criteria. Thank you for your time. Thank for the opportunity to comment and participate. Gordon Ash 2370 Foothill Rd. Kalispell, MT. 59901 [kmprash@centurylink.net](mailto:kmprash@centurylink.net)

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 11:10:22 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 3rd July 2021 11:10

**Your Full Name:**

Terry Atkinson

**Email Address:**

hometown@midrivers.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Lewistown

**Your Comment/Input:**

Please allow the new redistricting to go forward without legislature interference. The people of Montana voted to keep the process as nonpartisan as possible, please don't carry on with any legislation trying to hinder the people's desires. Thank you, Terrence and Cheryl Atkinson

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 7:50:37 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 07:50

**Your Full Name:**

Robert Balhiser

**Email Address:**

patty-bob@msn.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Helena, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Redistricting should not be intentionally designed to give either party a political advantage.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Steve Barkley](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 5:14:24 PM

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Please help ensure that the districting is fair and equitable and not politically driven or influenced!

Thank you,  
Steve Barkley  
Long time MT resident

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 9:30:02 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 09:29

**Your Full Name:**

John Bebee

**Email Address:**

bebee.john@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Great Falls, MT , 59404

**Your Comment/Input:**

I support creation of fair and competitive congressional and legislative districts. It should be based on a political fairness criteria as has been the case with previous commissions. Please don't have it favor one party over the other- make it fair.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

July 1, 2021

Dear Commissioner,

My name is Carlie Boland, and I'm the Senator for District 12. I have had the privilege serving in the legislature since 2009, both in the House as well as the Senate. I'm writing to you today to urge you to adopt a competitiveness criteria in your meeting on July 9th. Since my district was put into place in 2014, in partisan elections, Democrats have carried my district 11 times and the Republicans have carried it 12. Both parties are more than capable of winning, and that drives candidates to campaign and make their case to voters about why they would best represent State Senate District 12. Over the years I have had hundreds of conversations with voters on the doorstep, and those conversations made me a better legislator. I heard about voters' concerns, and the real and tangible challenges faced by everyday Montana families from soaring prescription drug prices to securing a quality education for kids. We need more of those conversations to build a better legislature, not fewer. That's why I'm asking this Commission to adopt a competitiveness criteria that will ensure a reasonable share of districts statewide are competitive."

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sen. Carlie Boland

1215 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N

Great Falls, MT 59401

406-868-1029

[Carlie.boland@mtleg.gov](mailto:Carlie.boland@mtleg.gov)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 10:13:49 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 21st June 2021 10:13

**Your Full Name:**

Lee Boman

**Email Address:**

lee.boman@icloud.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I'm writing to ask the Districting and Apportionment Commission to adopt a strong political fairness standard to guide your work adopting legislative and congressional maps. Montanans vote in elections so that they can be represented fairly in Helena and Washington. If voters aren't adequately able to turn those votes into representation, it strikes at the heart of our political system. The Commission should aim to proportionally reflect the will of Montana voters in the legislature. That's just Montana common sense. Thank you all for your hard work serving our great state and for allowing the public to have input in this process. Best, Lee Boman

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 5:55:53 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 21st June 2021 05:55

**Your Full Name:**

Mary O Borchard

**Email Address:**

mary.borchard06@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula

**Your Comment/Input:**

Just previous letter I don't have a comment.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, June 20, 2021 1:34:02 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 20th June 2021 13:34

**Your Full Name:**

Mary C Boschert-Brannin

**Email Address:**

branninme@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula

**Your Comment/Input:**

I'm writing to ask your commission to adopt guidelines in regard to your adopting legislative and congressional maps. This is the only way to ensure strong political fairness standards will be used in your work. Montana voters, like me, rely on being represented fairly in both Helena and Washington, D.C. Without this representation our political system is inadequate, our votes don't really count. Your commission should aim to proportionally reflect the will of Montana voters. That is just Montana common sense. Thank you for your hard work serving our state and for allowing us to have input in the process. Mary Boschert-Brannin.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 10:47:56 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 10:47

**Your Full Name:**  
Patricia BradleyA

**Email Address:**  
[patbradley368@gmail.com](mailto:patbradley368@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**  
Twin Bridges

**Your Comment/Input:**

Your work is essential to all Montanans, both Republican and Democratic and Other. Ergo, we all benefit if this commission builds on the criteria used by the previous commissions (as required in our constitution). So, we need politically neutral maps and fairness measures that can be constructed with election data. Again, please follow the intent of our constitution, work to provide fair and competitive congressional and legislative districts. YOU CAN DO IT. MONTANANS WANT YOU TO DO IT. Thank you.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 4:00:07 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 4th July 2021 16:00

**Your Full Name:**

Nan Brandenbergerpayne

**Email Address:**

nancbp@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Bozeman, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

PLEASE work to have equitable and fair voting districts! Any political affiliated line drawing is NOT representing the people, all of which have the right to equal access to vote.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Glenda Brown](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting for second  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 8:27:10 AM

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Good morning,

Please ensure that Montana's new districts are not politically motivated ... they are Citizen motivated... By which I mean boundary lines are drawn by common sense and physical terrain, not political and gain. Please consider using a simple north-south boundary, perhaps along the continental divide so that representatives can easily actually represent the people of their district, without having to struggle with continental divide in winter.

Thank you for common sense.

Glenda Brown  
330 Goodrich Rd.  
Kalispell Montana

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What does the Lord require of you but to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:24:16 PM

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

From: "LAUREN CALDWELL" <lauren.s.caldwell@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 9:18:31 AM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the important work you are doing to create fair maps for Montana.

As you conduct this work, please support compliance with the Voting Rights Act and a 5% deviation standard between districts as a MANDATORY criterion. The 5% deviation is especially important this year to allow the commission to account for oddities in the 2020 Census data caused by the global pandemic and to better respond to unique circumstances in local communities.

Please additionally support discretionary criteria of political fairness, maintaining communities of interest, and political competitiveness (to ensure candidates have to earn the votes of Montanans in their districts).

Finally, please do NOT rank criteria so there is flexibility to balance the unique needs of each district and be responsive to public feedback.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
LAUREN CALDWELL  
1003 Highland St Helena, MT 59601-5121  
lauren.s.caldwell@gmail.com

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

**From:** [Maylinn Smith](#)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#); [jeff.essmann](#); [Joe Lamson](#); [Kendra Miller](#); [Dan Stusek](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:21:36 AM

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It did not appear that this comment went to the entire commission so I am forwarding it.  
Maylinn

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** LAUREN CALDWELL <[lauren.s.caldwell@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lauren.s.caldwell@everyactioncustom.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jun 30, 2021, 9:18 AM  
**Subject:** Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**To:** <[maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov)>

Dear Presiding Officer Maylinn Smith,

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the important work you are doing to create fair maps for Montana.

As you conduct this work, please support compliance with the Voting Rights Act and a 5% deviation standard between districts as a MANDATORY criterion. The 5% deviation is especially important this year to allow the commission to account for oddities in the 2020 Census data caused by the global pandemic and to better respond to unique circumstances in local communities.

Please additionally support discretionary criteria of political fairness, maintaining communities of interest, and political competitiveness (to ensure candidates have to earn the votes of Montanans in their districts).

Finally, please do NOT rank criteria so there is flexibility to balance the unique needs of each district and be responsive to public feedback.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
LAUREN CALDWELL  
1003 Highland St Helena, MT 59601-5121  
[lauren.s.caldwell@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.s.caldwell@gmail.com)

**From:** [Tom Cherry](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Criteria  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 12:23:10 PM

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Commissioners -

Here's some further thoughts on your efforts to establish Mapping Criteria for Legislative districts. (My sense is the Congressional part is your easier, more straightforward, task.):

***Equal Populations above All-Else*** (10,000 for House, 21,000 for Senate districts)

Racial Fairness/tribal could be an easy Building-Block at your outset.

The requirement for compactness and contiguousness is almost another Given; with over 50 counties under 20,000 population it would have to be in the "discretionary" column.

There seem to be ample prohibitions on incumbents, party affiliations and/or partisan data. No need for more contrivances like HB 506/Election Laws; preempting the Commission's autonomy has been attempted and failed in the past. An outstanding staff, that lives and dies with Legislative relations, is another "check" on Discretion(s). Remotely compelling from NCSL might be the Continuity of Representation; sounds a lot like maintenance of Market-Share(s) for Institutional Memory? The time for any major/new Competitiveness criterion has probably past. (Almost prohibited by Partisan "balance" or use of election results.) Equivalent to Partisan Fairness as well.

Save the Hi-Line's railroad/Amtrak communities, the State's Agriculture and Urban pockets are too widespread for ready manipulation. Simply Another "discretionary" for Commissioners to sort out in final allocations. Given the balloon-like context or dynamic, many Gains one place often come around to Losses elsewhere.

Institutional Memory resides with staff as well as one certain Commissioner. Past administrative precedents are not feelings nor hard-fasts but guideposts to be accepted or modified in 2021. ***By the Ones!*** With No History of *creating* contests between incumbents (or 2010 names/dates/places of Abuse) in-hand, it seems to be the natural

order of mapping processes. There are also Golden Rules of cartographic styling and conventions you could harangue in to the night (2 x 4 better than 3 tall X 2 wide!\*?); those who've not cited specifics from the old (2010) Minutes by now, have probably dug this nuance deeper than it need be.

With no major atrocities from 2010 (and *some* GREAT steps forward) I'd suggest strong adherence to the previous 2010 Commission's Criteria. Not too hard to see a compromise on the Standard Deviation -- at 3%. But the Legislator covering Hell Creek to Alzaeda is hanging in the balance; that kind of finalization "step" is to be expected (and it's less likely to be repeated with one of the other deviations) Hopefully you can get it as-right as the 2010 Commission; too rigid impairs your Group's ability to deliver a viable product timely.

My own opinion is that many of our communities could benefit from a Glacier/Yellowstone dichotomy for the Congressional Districts. And it can be done without advantage for either Party. No need to tie your hands too much. It's an Area Code!

Please don't let it go to some Judge in Schnectady for resolution. If nothing else, WE, in Montana, know Better than any of those. Continued Best in your endeavours.

Happy Fourth of July,  
Tom Cherry

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, June 11, 2021 8:51:17 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 11th June 2021 08:51

**Your Full Name:**

Pat Clancey

**Email Address:**

patclancey5@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Helena

**Your Comment/Input:**

Greetings, I have not been able to watch or closely follow your meetings, but I want to encourage the committee to use the most flexible and adjustable process possible for drawing legislative and congressional boundaries. Montana has a pretty distinct rural/urban divide which would tempt some to gerrymander the minority voters into districts dominated by majority voters. I would like to see the commission get creative to allow fair and equitable representation of generally progressive urban voters and generally conservative rural voters. I suspect it is not legal to do so, but one creative approach to establishing the two congressional districts would be to "bunch" approximately half of the state's population in the more urban areas together - for instance, those towns & cities that contain approximately half the state's population as one district with discontinuous borders, the other approximately half of the state's population in the more rural district that essentially surrounds the urban district. Regarding state legislative boundaries, again I support a very flexible approach that would allow a similar representation of rural-urban voters. Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, June 11, 2021 8:36:00 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 11th June 2021 08:35

**Your Full Name:**

Gilda A Clancy

**Email Address:**

[g-clancy@peoplepc.com](mailto:g-clancy@peoplepc.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Helena, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I am VP of the Lewis and Clark Republican Women and am submitting these comments on their behalf. The Lewis and Clark Republican Women support making districts compact, contiguous, with no more than a 1% population deviation. We would like to see urban constituents kept within district boundaries and rural within their district boundaries. This just makes sense due to their different lifestyles and interests. Thanks.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 11:36:55 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 11:36

**Your Full Name:**

Bridget Clarke

**Email Address:**

bclarke0@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Indigenous American votes are at particular risk of being slighted by the redistricting process. To avoid this and to protect the votes of all Montanans, I urge you to adopt a 5% deviation between districts and to keep Tribal Nations and political subdivisions whole when as much as possible. Please consider the actual (versus intended) impact of district lines on the representation of everyone concerned. Thank you for your work.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, June 19, 2021 8:30:51 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 19th June 2021 08:30

**Your Full Name:**

Mike Cline

**Email Address:**

mike.cline2129@icloud.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Bozeman, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I am strongly supportive of the most OBJECTIVE, unbiased criteria available for redistricting — i.e. respect for established political subdivisions such as towns, cities and reservations. TAKE political bias out of the equation.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 7:36:14 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 1st July 2021 19:36

**Your Full Name:**

Janelle Corn

**Email Address:**

[janelle.g.corn@gmail.com](mailto:janelle.g.corn@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Florence, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

My district used to include Missoula County between Florence and Lolo. Democrats ran successfully. I'd like to see the restoration of those voting district boundaries.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 7:17:47 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 2nd July 2021 07:17

**Your Full Name:**

Karen cramer

**Email Address:**

karen@beckmansrealestatemt.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Please continue to support the plan that supports the law.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 12:50:11 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 21st June 2021 12:50

**Your Full Name:**

Roberta L Crane

**Email Address:**

rlcrane7@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I'm writing to ask the Districting and Apportionment Commission to adopt a strong political fairness standard to guide your work adopting legislative and congressional maps. Montanans vote in elections so that they can be represented fairly in Helena and Washington. If voters aren't adequately able to turn those votes into representation, it strikes at the heart of our political system. The Commission should aim to proportionally reflect the will of Montana voters in the legislature. That's just Montana common sense. Thank you all for your hard work serving our great state and for allowing the public to have input in this process. Best,

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 8:50:14 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 08:50

**Your Full Name:**

Roy Curet

**Email Address:**

rocu@rocketmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula

**Your Comment/Input:**

Partisan redistricting or 'Gerrymandering' is poison to the democratic process. If you can't win in fairly drawn districts then you shouldn't win. Districts should be drawn to be roughly equal in population and should follow clear, logical and natural boundaries.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 7:13:06 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 24th June 2021 19:13

**Your Full Name:**

Lorilee Cuvillier

**Email Address:**

lorileecuvillier@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Trout Creek, Montana.

**Your Comment/Input:**

Commissioners, This redistricting had better be fair to both sides. Divide the state evenly either north to south or east to west. Gerrymandering will not be tolerated. The people are watching you closely.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Grace Decker](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fair process is essential!  
**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 9:34:39 AM

---

Dear Commissioners,

A fair redistricting process is essential in setting up our second MT House district. While both political parties will be eager to see the districts drawn to solidify their power, a FAIR process will ensure that the voters are proportionally represented in our districts. Please, please, adopt a strong political fairness standard as you draw legislative and congressional maps. Thank you all for serving our great state.

Best,

Grace Decker  
Missoula, MT



**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:22:29 PM

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

From: "Cherilyn Denton" <[cheryl.denton.teacher@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:cheryl.denton.teacher@everyactioncustom.com)>  
To: "joe lamson" <[joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 11:38:01 AM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello. My name is Cherilyn Denton and I live in Carbon County. I am writing to you today in regards to the Districting Maps you are about to create.

I know you have an important task in front of you, and that it will require your best efforts. For that, I thank you. With this in mind, I urge you to remember that the commission can only draw up fair maps by using fair criteria. Please support compliance with The Voting Rights Act as a MANDATORY criterion when considering district boundaries. Indigenous Montanans deserve to have a district that reflects their needs in representation in our government.

Please also support a criteria of political fairness. Montana has been a shining example of a fair and balanced government for decades. Our elected officials should come from districts where they need to earn the vote of the people in their districts. No singular political party should have an unruly advantage over any other political party. It is imperative that you, and the entire commission, support a criteria of political fairness that maintains communities of political interest, such as our Indigenous Montanans, and political competitiveness. Thus, ensuring fair and balanced elections and governance for ALL of Montana. Let us continue to be the paramount example for other states, and our nation.

Finally, I would urge you and the Districting Committee to not rank the criteria early on in the decision-making process. Doing so will cause a "tying of hands" later in the process which can prevent the flexibility necessary to balance the criteria needed to meet the unique needs of each district and to be responsive to public feedback.

I thank you for your time and consideration of these points.

Sincerely,

Cherilyn Denton

9523 US Highway # 212 Joliet, MT 59041

[cheryl.denton.teacher@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.denton.teacher@gmail.com)

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 8:01:21 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 2nd July 2021 08:01

**Your Full Name:**

Greg Depner

**Email Address:**

[gdep57@gmail.com](mailto:gdep57@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Billings

**Your Comment/Input:**

I will only vote for candidates that support fair and equitable voting redistricting policy.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]A Plea for Fair Redistricting  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:32:50 PM

---

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

From: "Patricia Doyle" <pkdoyle10@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Saturday, July 3, 2021 2:14:09 PM  
Subject: [spam]A Plea for Fair Redistricting

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I came to Montana 41 years ago as a volunteer to work on trails for the Bitterroot National Forest Service. I fell in love with the land and people I met and never left.

I raised my son and taught in Missoula 32 years. I've witnessed many changes over the years, but none have distressed me as much as the divisiveness of the population over the past decade.

I sincerely hope you will consider representing justly ALL the citizens of Montana according to precedence set for the structure set up in 1972 when our Constitutional Convention delegates created an independent bipartisan Districting & Appointment commission.

I consider maintaining communities of interest, such as tribal nations & political competitiveness of utmost importance.

Thank you for the work you have done and continue to do.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Doyle  
395 Tie Chute Ln Florence, MT 59833-6536  
pkdoyle10@gmail.com

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**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 5:18:11 PM

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

From: "Maureen Driscoll" <[driscollmaureen748@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:driscollmaureen748@everyactioncustom.com)>  
To: "joe lamson" <[joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 4:30:25 PM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Please support compliance with the Voting Rights Act as a MANDATORY criterion in considering district boundaries.

Please support a 5% deviation standard between districts as a MANDATORY criterion, as supported by federal law, to allow the commission to account for oddities in the 2020 Census data caused by the global pandemic and to better respond to unique circumstances in local communities.(Write your comments here)

Please support criteria of political fairness (ensuring the legislative balance of power reflects the state and does not unduly advantage one party), maintaining communities of interest (like tribal nations), and political competitiveness (ensuring candidates have to earn the votes of Montanans in their districts).

Please do NOT rank criteria so there is flexibility to balance the unique needs of each district and be responsive to public feedback. Ranking criteria prematurely will tie the commission's hands.

Sincerely,

Maureen Driscoll  
1932 Wall St Butte, MT 59701-5524  
[driscollmaureen748@gmail.com](mailto:driscollmaureen748@gmail.com)

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**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, June 20, 2021 6:19:52 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 20th June 2021 06:19

**Your Full Name:**

Steve M Durkin

**Email Address:**

sldurkin@bresnan.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Great Falls

**Your Comment/Input:**

Please keep the line running north and south.....

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 10:17:37 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 10:17

**Your Full Name:**

Mary Fahnestock-Thomas

**Email Address:**

maryft@charter.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Hamilton, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

To ensure fair redistricting, I fully support a computerized process. I particularly do not trust the current Republican-led government of Montana not to gerrymander in its own favor.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 11:05:50 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 1st July 2021 11:05

**Your Full Name:**

Tom Finkle

**Email Address:**

[jabsog002@gmail.com](mailto:jabsog002@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell

**Your Comment/Input:**

Please follow the law in MCA 5-1-115, and stay within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation.” Thanks, Tom Finkle

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please draw fair Congressional Districts  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:23:00 PM

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

From: "Roger Fischer" <[rfischer94@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:rfischer94@everyactioncustom.com)>  
To: "joe lamson" <[joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)>  
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 8:59:32 AM  
Subject: [spam]Please draw fair Congressional Districts

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

As a Montanan and as an American, I am committed to our system of representative democracy. Our system does not work when it is biased against certain voters. Please take great care in drawing Congressional district boundaries that are fair. It is really important to me that you draw boundaries that respect the Voting Rights Act, especially as it relates to the rights of Indigenous Montanans to elect representatives of their choosing. I also ask that you support a 5% deviation standard between districts as a MANDATORY criterion as supported by federal law. The commission can use this to account for oddities in the 2020 census data that occurred as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. It is critically important that you support political fairness. Democracy does not work when one political party systematically disadvantages the other. Equally important is your support of political competitiveness. Make the politicians earn the votes by working hard to listen to potential constituents. Finally, please do not rank criteria so as to allow for flexibility in meeting the needs of each district and to promote responsiveness to public input.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Roger Fischer  
4386 Brookside Ln Bozeman, MT 59718-6371  
[rfischer94@gmail.com](mailto:rfischer94@gmail.com)

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 7:34:16 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 19:34

**Your Full Name:**

Doris L. Fischer

**Email Address:**

dfischer@3rivers.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Sheridan

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I urge you all to continue the fine legacy of Montana's 2000 and 2010 Districting and Apportionment Commissions, in creating legislative districts and our new congressional district that are fair and competitive. Political bias ought not enter into your deliberations. Rather, we voters look to you to maintain our ability to pick our preferred candidates. Please avoid any temptation to draw gerrymandered boundaries that essentially allow candidates to pick the voters. Thank you, and thank you for your service to the State of Montana and the voting public.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 10:44:55 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 10:44

**Your Full Name:**  
Catherine Fitzgerald

**Email Address:**  
[cfitzgerald8888@yahoo.com](mailto:cfitzgerald8888@yahoo.com)

**City and State of Residence:**  
Billings, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I have been watching your progress to complete this important work and want to express my thanks for your careful consideration of the criteria used to determine competitive districts. In a sparsely populated state, using the federally allowable +/- 5% deviation makes sense in order to allow voters to be in a geographically cohesive district. Again, thank you for your service. C Fitzgerald

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Redistricting comment  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:29:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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**From:** "Joe Lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
**To:** "joelamson49" <joelamson49@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:29:13 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Redistricting comment

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**From:** "Joe Lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
**To:** "kim flohr" <flohrkmf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:28:51 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting comment

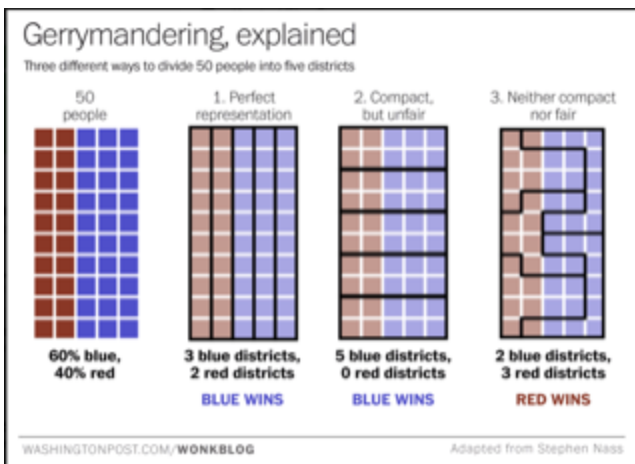
Thank you for your thoughtful comments.

Joe Lamson

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**From:** "kim flohr" <flohrkmf@gmail.com>  
**To:** "districting" <districting@mt.gov>, "Maylinn Smith" <Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov>, "Jeff Essmann" <Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov>, "Joe Lamson" <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>, "Dan Stusek" <Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov>, "Kendra Miller" <Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 8:34:37 AM  
**Subject:** Redistricting comment

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,  
I'd like to thank you for asking for public comment before you adopt criteria for this redistricting process. I want to submit public comment on the issue of adopting a politically neutral map that doesn't unduly favor any political party. I was encouraged to see both proposals put forward by four members of the commission with criteria aimed at preventing plans that unduly favor one party. I can't think of anything more important to the redistricting process than this basic goal of redistricting. Average Montanans don't want redistricting plans that put a finger on the scale to tip the balance in a way that skews elections. Redistricting plans should be totally neutral to both parties so the makeup of districts reflect the whole state and how that state votes in any given election. Gerrymandering is a loaded term that gets used a lot by both sides, but the one thing I think everyone can agree on is that it's bad and unfair. No one wants gerrymandering, so how do we avoid it? A while back I read an article in the Washington Post that stuck with me, and I've included the graphic from it called "Gerrymandering, explained."



It shows a group of 50 people and 3 different ways that they could be drawn into districts. It's an oversimplification of redistricting and gerrymandering, but I think it's an important way to think about how district lines can skew the outcomes of elections in a way that doesn't reflect the will of voters. The first example is called "Perfect representation" because it reflects the will of the voters. The second is called "Compact, but unfair" because the districts look fair enough and might even look to the naked eye like a reasonable way to draw districts, but when you actually consider the effect of the lines, it's extreme gerrymandering that skews the will of those voters. The last example is called "Neither compact nor fair." This is the most obvious example of gerrymandering which, again, skews the will of the voters. What struck me from these examples, though, is that the third example is easy to pick out as gerrymandering but the second might not be. The second example, "Compact, but unfair," is actually the worst example of gerrymandering shown because it gives one party 2 more seats than the voters intended, while the third more obvious example gives one party 1 extra seat. Just because something looks reasonable on the surface, doesn't mean it's fair. I hope this Commission will remember that and choose to dig deeper than just asking if they like the looks of a map and hoping that no one notices how a map will provide undue advantage. This is an awesome responsibility and one that I expect won't always be easy, but to me, there's nothing more important to redistricting than trying to ensure basic fairness. When it comes to redistricting, people often say things like voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around. Now it comes down to you five to ensure that this is the case here in Montana. Please avoid maps that unduly favor or disfavor a political party. A map that looks fair on its face might not achieve the basic principle of fair representation. Only this Commission has the power to avoid that."

Sincerely; Kim Flohr, Billings, Mt

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**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Redistricting comment  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:36:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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**From:** "Joe Lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
**To:** "districting" <districting@mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:29:38 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Redistricting comment

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**From:** "Joe Lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
**To:** "joelamson49" <joelamson49@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:29:13 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Redistricting comment

---

**From:** "Joe Lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
**To:** "kim flohr" <flohrkmf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:28:51 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting comment

Thank you for your thoughtful comments.

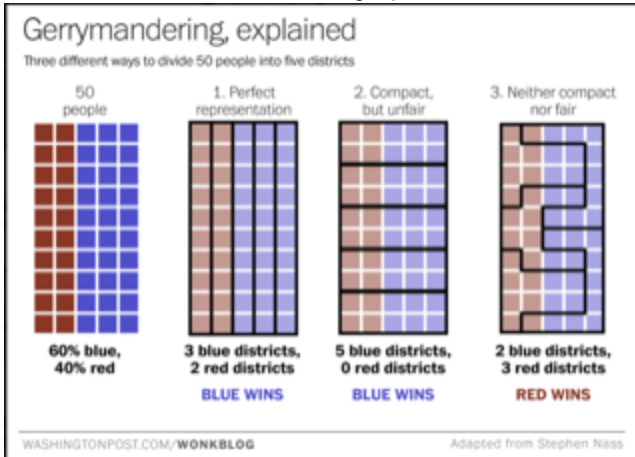
Joe Lamson

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**From:** "kim flohr" <flohrkmf@gmail.com>  
**To:** "districting" <districting@mt.gov>, "Maylinn Smith" <Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov>, "Jeff Essmann" <Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov>, "Joe Lamson" <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>, "Dan Stusek" <Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov>, "Kendra Miller" <Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 5, 2021 8:34:37 AM  
**Subject:** Redistricting comment

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Redistricting plans should be totally neutral to both parties so the makeup of districts reflect the whole state and how that state votes in any given election. Gerrymandering is a loaded term that gets used a lot by both sides, but the one thing I think everyone can agree on is that it's bad and unfair. No one wants gerrymandering, so how do we avoid it? A while back I read an article in the Washington Post that stuck with me, and I've included the graphic from it called "Gerrymandering, explained."



It shows a group of 50 people and 3 different ways that they could be drawn into districts. It's an oversimplification of redistricting and gerrymandering, but I think it's an important way to think about how district lines can skew the outcomes of elections in a way that doesn't reflect the will of voters. The first example is called "Perfect representation" because it reflects the will of the voters. The second is called "Compact, but unfair" because the districts look fair enough and might even look to the naked eye like a reasonable way to draw districts, but when you actually consider the effect of the lines, it's extreme gerrymandering that skews the will of those voters. The last example is called "Neither compact nor fair." This is the most obvious example of gerrymandering which, again, skews the will of the voters. What struck me from these examples, though, is that the third example is easy to pick out as gerrymandering but the second might not be. The second example, "Compact, but unfair," is actually the worst example of gerrymandering shown because it gives one party 2 more seats than the voters intended, while the third more obvious example gives one party 1 extra seat. Just because something looks reasonable on the surface, doesn't mean it's fair. I hope this Commission will remember that and choose to dig deeper than just asking if they like the looks of a map and hoping that no one notices how a map will provide undue advantage. This is an awesome responsibility and one that I expect won't always be easy, but to me, there's nothing more important to redistricting than trying to ensure basic fairness. When it comes to redistricting, people often say things like voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around. Now it comes down to you five to ensure that this is the case here in Montana. Please avoid maps that unduly favor or disfavor a political party. A map that looks fair on its face might not achieve the basic principle of fair representation. Only this Commission has the power to avoid that."

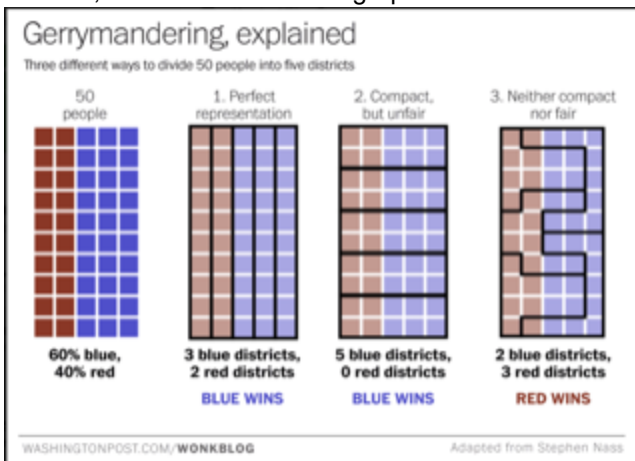
Sincerely; Kim Flohr, Billings, Mt

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**From:** [kim flohr](mailto:kim.flohr@mtleg.gov)  
**To:** [Districting](mailto:Districting@mtleg.gov); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comment  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 8:34:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,  
I'd like to thank you for asking for public comment before you adopt criteria for this redistricting process. I want to submit public comment on the issue of adopting a politically neutral map that doesn't unduly favor any political party. I was encouraged to see both proposals put forward by four members of the commission with criteria aimed at preventing plans that unduly favor one party. I can't think of anything more important to the redistricting process than this basic goal of redistricting. Average Montanans don't want redistricting plans that put a finger on the scale to tip the balance in a way that skews elections. Redistricting plans should be totally neutral to both parties so the makeup of districts reflect the whole state and how that state votes in any given election. Gerrymandering is a loaded term that gets used a lot by both sides, but the one thing I think everyone can agree on is that it's bad and unfair. No one wants gerrymandering, so how do we avoid it? A while back I read an article in the Washington Post that stuck with me, and I've included the graphic from it called "Gerrymandering, explained."



It shows a group of 50 people and 3 different ways that they could be drawn into districts. It's an oversimplification of redistricting and gerrymandering, but I think it's an important way to think about how district lines can skew the outcomes of elections in a way that doesn't reflect the will of voters. The first example is called "Perfect representation" because it reflects the will of the voters. The second is called "Compact, but unfair" because the districts look fair enough and might even look to the naked eye like a reasonable way to draw districts, but when you actually consider the effect of the lines, it's extreme gerrymandering that skews the will of those voters. The last example is called "Neither compact nor fair." This is the most obvious example of gerrymandering which, again, skews the will of the voters. What struck me from these examples, though, is that the third example is easy to pick out as gerrymandering but the second might not be. The second example, "Compact, but unfair," is actually the worst example of gerrymandering shown because it gives one party 2 more seats than the voters intended, while the third more obvious example gives one party 1 extra seat. Just because something looks reasonable on the surface, doesn't mean it's fair. I hope this Commission will remember that and choose to dig deeper than just asking if they like the looks of a map and hoping that no one notices how a map will provide undue advantage. This is an awesome responsibility and one that I expect won't always be easy, but to me, there's nothing more important to redistricting than trying to ensure basic fairness. When it comes to redistricting, people often say things like voters should choose their politicians, not the other way around. Now it comes down to you five to ensure that this is the case here in Montana. Please avoid maps that unduly favor or disfavor a political party. A map that looks fair on its face might not achieve the basic principle of fair representation. Only this Commission has the power to avoid that."

Sincerely; Kim Flohr, Billings, Mt

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 8:20:16 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 24th June 2021 08:20

**Your Full Name:**  
SUSAN FOSTER

**Email Address:**  
[susankfoster406@gmail.com](mailto:susankfoster406@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**  
Kalispell, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Congressional Districting - One of the more interesting ideas I have seen is dividing the state north/south rather than the traditional east/west to create the new, second Congressional District. In this way, each Congressional district will better represent the "whole" of Montana rather than just the very different geographic and demographic east/west divide.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:03:36 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 24th June 2021 13:03

**Your Full Name:**

Connie Foust

**Email Address:**

conniefoust@reagan.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Plains

**Your Comment/Input:**

I believe this redistricting should be done north to south in the middle of the state. We need a representative from the western side and one from the eastern side. I do not want to see gerrymandering benefit one party over another. This approach would be the most honest way to approach it and keep the politics out of such an important decision. We in Sanders County feel as if we do not have adequate representation on the national level. We do not have one representative west of the Continental Divide.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Gerald Giebink](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Proposed Prisoner Reallocation Plan  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 2:31:07 PM

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Commissioners,

My name is Gerald Giebink, and I was a Census Field Manager for the United States Census Bureau in Montana during the 2020 Census. I am writing in opposition to the proposed plan to reallocate state prisoners from their physical location during the Census to their last known address. There are three very good reasons to oppose this plan: it is inconsistent with Montana State Code, it results in an inconsistent application of law/government policy, and it is impractical.

#### INCONSISTENCY WITH MONTANA STATE CODE

Per the most recent version of the Montana Code Annotated (MCA), the proposed plan is at best inconsistent with state law, and at worst plainly illegal. The statute establishing the general redistricting criteria states:

“(1) Subject to federal law, legislative and congressional districts must be established on the basis of population.” (Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115)

The key phrase here is “established on the basis of population”. Population is defined exactly one time in the MCA:

“(16) ‘Population’ means the number of inhabitants as determined by an official federal, state, or local census or official population estimate approved by the department of commerce.” (Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-4121)

This proposed plan takes the actual population provided by an official federal census, and utilizes administrative records to alter it. It cannot be truly described as a “state census”, since it is merely the alteration of an existing census based on administrative records and not an actual enumeration of individuals of the state. It clearly is not a federal or local census. Even if a “census” or “population estimate” was to be conducted, it would be subject to the approval of the Montana Department of Commerce, rather than simply a cooperative effort between the Commission and the Department of Justice.

In fine, the proposed plan does not base districts on an official population, as required by statute, but on a skewed and altered version of an official document. This opens the Commission up to costly litigation that could be avoided by simply utilizing data from the 2020 Census as delivered, rather than attempting to alter it.

As an extraneous point, should someone point out that the definition of “population” cited does not come from the same title as the statute establishing the Commission and its mandatory redistricting criteria, I would point to the following statute:

“Applicability of Definitions. Whenever the meaning of a word or phrase is defined in any part of this code, such definition is applicable to the same word or phrase wherever it occurs, except where a contrary intention plainly appears.” (Mont. Code Ann. § 1-2-107)

Finally, to address a point brought up from Native American Rights Fund Staff Attorney Jaqueline De León, in her statement dated May 25, 2021. As proof that “under Montana election law, a person does not lose their original residency in a particular place as a result of being involuntarily kept at a public institution, such as a prison or a jail”, she cites Mont. Code Ann. § 13-1-112, which establishes rules for residency “[f]or registration, voting, or seeking election to the legislature”. There are two points this particular statute is not applicable. First, redistricting is based on population, which is defined as:

“... the number of inhabitants as determined by an official federal, state, or local census or official population estimate approved by the department of commerce.” (Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-4121)

Note that it uses the word “inhabitants”, not “residents”. Generally speaking, one can be an inhabitant without establishing permanent residency. Moreover, this is in line with the policies and procedures used by the US Census Bureau. Focus was on whether the individual had lived at the address on census day, rather than if they intended to make it their permanent home.

Furthermore, this definition is not applicable, as it is specifically to be used “[f]or registration, voting, or seeking election to the legislature” (Mont. Code Ann. § 13-1-112). In fact, the term “resident” in the MCA and in the Administrative Rules of Montana is not even particularly consistent. For example, the requirements to be considered a “resident” for the purpose of getting a Montana driver’s license (60 consecutive days, per Mont. Code Ann. 61-5-103) are significantly different from the requirements to establish residency for the purpose of buying a residential hunting or fishing license (180 consecutive days, per Mont. Code Ann. § 87-2-102), which are in turn different from the rules regarding residency for the purpose of in-state tuition (12 consecutive months\*). Rather than muddy the waters by choosing an interpretation of residency requirements, the Commission should stick to the report received from the US Census Bureau, using the locations that people actually inhabit.

#### INCONSISTENT APPLICATION OF STATE LAW/POLICY

Generally speaking, the state is obligated to treat similar groups similarly, unless there is a compelling reason to deviate. The mere fact that the individuals in question cannot vote does not justify arbitrarily changing their residency. Children and noncitizen residents similarly cannot vote, and yet they are not excluded from the counts of their respective counties. To treat prisoners differently, and to deprive the communities they affect of adequate representation based on their actual population, flies in the face of this principle. Moreover, because the amount of representation has a correlation with how funding is distributed among communities, this could lead to a disparate impact on districts that have prisons. Finally, both parties proposed redistricting criteria that include “keeping communities of interest intact”, and while they both define “community of interest” differently, prisons fit squarely under both of their definitions. The Democratic proposal cites “social, cultural, and economic interest, or occupations and lifestyles”, and no one can deny that prisons are communities with unique social systems and lifestyles. The Republican proposal cites “social and community commonalities”, into which prisons similarly fit. All in all, this proposal sets bad precedent regarding the equitable application of state policy regarding redistricting.

#### IMPRACTICAL

This is a quite simple argument. Spending a third of the Commission’s budget on a process where the results are uncertain is a poor use of state funds. Moreover, the requirement that, at the very least, the process be overseen and approved by the Montana Department of Commerce per the legal requirements mentioned above hurt the ability of the Commission to complete its work quickly and within the time allotted by statute.

In summary, the proposal is legally dubious at best, results in inconsistent applications of state policy, and is impractical.

I sympathize with the Native American Rights Fund’s desire to ensure that the tribes of Montana are adequately represented. That is, after all, why I joined the US Census Bureau in the first place. During my year as a Census Field Manager, I managed areas that included 5 of the 6 federally recognized reservations of Montana. Our employees worked tirelessly, striving to obtain accurate numbers for the reservations in the face of impossible odds and shifting deadlines. We REFUSED to cut corners in Montana, and completed our work by the appointed time. I was there, in the Billings Area Census Office, when the last addresses came in, on the last day that we could continue to work. The work of thousands of enumerators and census field supervisors was laser-focused on making sure the tribes were accurately counted and adequately represented. Their work is what will lead the tribes to have the representation that they deserve, not a back-room alteration of the actual official population count. While the NARF’s heart is in the right place, this is not the proper way to accomplish their goal. They are welcome to work to change the wording of the law, or to challenge it in court, but appealing to the Commission to change it is not right.

Should there be any questions, I am available via email or phone.

Gerald B. Giebink  
[gbgiebink@gmail.com](mailto:gbgiebink@gmail.com)  
406-998-9525

Disclaimer: The statements contained herein are the opinions of Gerald B. Giebink only, and do not constitute the opinion of the US Census Bureau, its partners or affiliates, or its employees. These statements also do not

constitute the opinion of any other individual or organization.

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:13:35 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 11:13

**Your Full Name:**

Henry Gonshak

**Email Address:**

uncanny@outlook.com

**City and State of Residence:**

BUTTE

**Your Comment/Input:**

I strongly support the redistricting proposals put forth by this commission. For years, Republicans, in Montana and nationwide, have been involved in gerrymandering, an attempt for them to maintain minority control of the country. This proposal will make the electoral process fairer, helping ensure that every vote counts equally. The only way to overcome the scourge of gerrymandering is for districts to be drawn by independent professionals who are not beholden to either party.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 12:14:02 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 12:14

**Your Full Name:**

Mark Good

**Email Address:**

[mgood91700@gmail.com](mailto:mgood91700@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Great Falls, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

To: Redistricting Committee Members Fr: Mark Good, 917 3rd Ave South, Great Falls, MT 59405 Re: Comments on redistricting I would hope that all commissioners would want the outcome of this process to be a map that that is viewed as fair to all parties and does not provide an unfair advantage to any political party. Our democracy requires that voters have confidence in the process of electing our representatives to government, and a key part of that process is creating districts that reflect the uniqueness and differences of each state as a whole. As you go about your work there are several criteria that I believe should guide your decisions: 1. Ideally every district should be competitive. Voters should get to choose their leaders and not the other way around. Every candidate should have to earn the votes of residents in their district. A competitive district creates a healthier democracy and one better representative of all the voters in the district. Better candidates tend to run for office in a district where they believe an honest discussion of issues and hard work gives them a reasonable chance of winning. By contrast, the least competitive districts tend to elect the most extreme candidates that are unresponsive to those in the minority. It probably isn't possible to make every district competitive, but where possible, the effort should be made. A fair map should be politically neutral, one where neither side enjoys an unfair advantage. 2. Districts should be roughly equal in size, but to help make them competitive and better selective of the interests of communities, commissioners should have the flexibility to balance population with other criteria. There may be legitimate disagreement about how much deviation should be allowed, but setting the deviation standard at 5 percent (the federal allowable maximum) would better ensure that political subdivisions like counties or communities of interest are not unnecessarily divided to meet population requirements. This deviation would also allow the commission to account for census undercounts, which likely occurred because of limitations of the census count as a result of the pandemic. 3. The fairness of the map should be judged by how closely the number candidates of elected from each political party corresponds to the votes as a whole. The redistricting plan should be politically neutral. 4. The criteria used should also be unranked or co-equal so that the commission can balance the needs of each

district and reflect feedback from the public. Ranking criteria will likely lead to lower ranking criteria being ignored in favor of higher ranking criteria. Communities and areas are not the same, so commissioners should have the flexibility to equally consider all criteria in their decision making. Because of our constitution, Montana has a history of creating fair and equitable districting. I very much appreciate living in a state with an independent districting commission and having the opportunity to comment on how the district boundaries will be drawn. I also appreciate your efforts in this important and often under appreciated process.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 12:11:25 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 10th June 2021 12:11

**Your Full Name:**

Kerry Guffy

**Email Address:**

khawkguffy@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Whitefish, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Sirs/Madam's: Please be advised that we live in a great state which you all know, but we also live here because of our family's love of outdoors and friends. We don't want anything to change that. Please keep the 1% of the urban and farms separate. I will just make things harder if you do not. If you change the power company, then we will start being more of a California state and not MT. They are turning their state into a complete mess and I would like to see our state and government to be for MT. Thank you.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, June 27, 2021 9:22:59 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 27th June 2021 21:22

**Your Full Name:**

William nickolas Hagen

**Email Address:**

wnhagen@outlook.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Bigfork

**Your Comment/Input:**

Please redistrict the state into east /west like it was done in the past. Do not use a C Shaped district for purely political reasons.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 11:02:50 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 11:02

**Your Full Name:**

Ryan Hammon

**Email Address:**

ryandhammon@hotmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Helena

**Your Comment/Input:**

Gerrymandering - parties and politicians picking their voters rather than the other way around - is perhaps the most despicable thing that occurs in our politics these days. Don't do it. Eliminating bias altogether isn't possible, but you can at least start by choosing not to avail yourselves of the sort of granular data that might lead you down darker avenues. Focus your efforts on drawing districts that adhere, to the extent possible, already existing city, county, and neighborhood boundaries. For the second US Congressional district, aim for maximizing compactness. These are both straightforward standards any layperson can easily understand. Do the right thing. DO NOT GERRYMANDER.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 10:24:58 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 10:24

**Your Full Name:**  
ELIZABETH HARRIS

**Email Address:**  
[sometimesunshine@msn.com](mailto:sometimesunshine@msn.com)

**City and State of Residence:**  
BOZEMAN

**Your Comment/Input:**

I strongly support the creation of fair and competitive congressional and legislative districts. I am a political independent who works tirelessly each election season for candidates of both parties in various districts based on their positions on policy critical to enhancing the welfare of all Montanans. The more fair and balanced the districts are, the better candidates we get and the better legislative outcomes we get for Montana residents.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 11:01:55 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 29th June 2021 11:01

**Your Full Name:**  
Arthur C Hassan III

**Email Address:**  
[arthassan@blackfoot.net](mailto:arthassan@blackfoot.net)

**City and State of Residence:**  
Trout Creek

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Presiding Officer Maylinn Smith and Honorable Commission members Jeff Essmann, Joe Lamson, Kendra Miller and Dan Stusek: Please know as a Montana resident and voter, I am quite concerned with the enormous responsibility placed upon this Commission to draw new boundaries for Montana's congressional and legislative districts. To that end, I would suggest Montana's 56 counties be divided in half – one half for one U.S. House Representative and the other half for the second U.S. House Representative. However, the eight counties – Yellowstone, Gallatin, Park, Silver Bow, Lewis & Clark, Cascade, Flathead and Missoula -- housing the eight major cities of Billings, Bozeman and Livingston, Butte, Helena, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Missoula should also be divided: four of these counties for one U.S. House Representative and four of the other counties for the second U.S House Representative. This allows an adequate and fair representation of residents living in major cities. It also allows the Native American Indian Reservations inhabiting parts of these eight counties to be mixed with those residents living among multiple smaller rural communities. I seek your full support on this important redistricting issue. Respectfully submitted, Arthur C. Hassan, III – Trout Creek

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 9:53:16 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 28th June 2021 21:53

**Your Full Name:**

Kathleen S. Hassan

**Email Address:**

[kathyhassan@blackfoot.net](mailto:kathyhassan@blackfoot.net)

**City and State of Residence:**

Trout Creek, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Presiding Officer Maylinn Smith and Honorable Commission members Jeff Essmann, Joe Lamson, Kendra Miller and Dan Stusek: I am writing to each of you who have the immense responsibility of drawing new boundaries of Montana's congressional and legislative districts. To be brutally honest, I believe the most accurate and reasonable decision when redrawing boundaries is to fairly divide Montana's vast land mass into appropriate 50/50 population centers. For instance, the eight major cities of Billings, Bozeman and Livingston, Butte, Helena, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Missoula would have as equal as possible a suitable population divide – four major cities being represented by one US House District and the other remaining four major cities being represented by a second US House District. This would allow an adequate representation of residents living in major cities mixed with those residents living among multiple smaller rural communities. The rural communities would be blended better among districts within the eight largest Montana cities. Also, for your consideration, is dividing the seven Native American Indian Reservations with an equal population split among each separate Congressional District; four smaller Reservations in one Congressional and a remaining three Reservations in the other Congressional District. However, is it not true that Native American Indian tribes are ruled by authority of Tribal Councils and deploy their own tribal law enforcement. And the tribes consider themselves a sovereign nation within our United States government and Montana government? How does a sovereign nation operate independently within another sovereign nation? I seek your full support on this important redistricting issue. Respectfully submitted, Kathleen S. Hassan – Trout Creek

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [John Heffernan](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Congressional Representative  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 10:07:03 PM

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To whom it may concern;

My main comment is that I would prefer to see a computer drawn district rather than a gerrymandered district. I feel so much more confident in the randomness of a computer than the partisan vagaries of a hack. I can live with the probability that I might not like my rep. but it's harder to live with a hand-picked sycophant.

John Heffernan  
Missoula, MT

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 10:46:21 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 2nd July 2021 10:46

**Your Full Name:**

Dennis Heinzig

**Email Address:**

dheinzig@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Whitefish, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I respectfully ask the commission to focus on a fair plan that is politically neutral. Please provide for population equality and a +/- 5% deviation to allow commissioners to balance population equality with other important criteria like keeping a county intact or ensuring political fairness. Please make every district as competitive as possible, so that each party has to earn our votes in their district. This will result in a healthier democracy for our state. Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 4:24:41 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 4th July 2021 16:24

**Your Full Name:**

Nikki Helms

**Email Address:**

bnninmt@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell

**Your Comment/Input:**

I support the plan that follows the law. We do not need any "flexibility" in the decision-making. The law is clear and it is the law.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 29, 2021 5:05:55 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 29th June 2021 17:05

**Your Full Name:**

David Emil Henderson

**Email Address:**

pinetreearts@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Red Lodge, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Montana has a diverse population ("Red State v Blue"), and it is important to create districts that fairly accommodate the differences.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 6:42:39 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 4th July 2021 06:42

**Your Full Name:**

Mary k Hoag

**Email Address:**

kayhoag6@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula

**Your Comment/Input:**

I strongly encourage the commission to follow the guidelines of the past commissions that have taken place after our constitution was rewritten. DO NOT allow any partisan politics to change how redistricting occurs.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 7:41:57 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 2nd July 2021 07:41

**Your Full Name:**

David Ingram, MD

**Email Address:**

dli1957@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Committee Members, Please follow the law in MCA5-1-115. It clearly states in Section 2(a) "must be .. within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation." The details in the law are intended to decrease the ability to create relative advantage and decrease "flexibility". Please do not deviate from the tenets of the legislation so that the commission can conduct its important work without concerns of bias and impropriety. Montana will be watching. Sincerely, David Ingram, MD

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps and Make Montanans proud  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 12:18:16 PM

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

From: "Kristin Jacobson" <tervo.kj@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 8:03:24 PM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps and Make Montanans proud

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am a concerned Montana voter that asks / expects this commission to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act as a MANDATORY criterion in establishing and considering district boundaries. I am very concerned about the rights of Native Americans to be able to elect representatives of their choice. And with a member of Matt Rosendale's staff on this committee, and given Rosendale's voting record since taking office, I am hoping this commission will serve all Montanans and not a singular political party.

I ask that the Commission NOT rank the criteria so that there is maximum flexibility to balance each districts unique needs with public input. I also expect the Commission to support a 5% deviation standard between districts as a MANDATORY condition as supported in federal law, commission should work to account for issues associated with the odd situation of the global pandemic during the 2020 census, and ensure response to unique circumstances in local communities.

Please ensure political fairness through balance of legislative power reflecting our whole diverse state and does not unduly reflect one political party. Please maintain cohesiveness of tribal nations and other communities of interest as well as political competitiveness whereby candidates must earn the votes of Montanans in their district. I expect this commission to act in the respectable manner that the original 1972 Constitutional Convention did that set the course for a proud Montana foundation protecting working class Montanans and their way of life. Thank you, do good work!!!

Sincerely,  
Kristin Jacobson  
712 Gilbert St Helena, MT 59601-2611  
tervo.kj@gmail.com

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

**From:** [tervo.kj@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tervo.kj@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Kristin Jacobson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps and Make Montanans proud  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 8:03:40 PM

---

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I am a concerned Montana voter that asks / expects this commission to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act as a MANDATORY criterion in establishing and considering district boundaries. I am very concerned about the rights of Native Americans to be able to elect representatives of their choice. And with a member of Matt Rosendale's staff on this committee, and given Rosendale's voting record since taking office, I am hoping this commission will serve all Montanans and not a singular political party.

I ask that the Commission NOT rank the criteria so that there is maximum flexibility to balance each districts unique needs with public input. I also expect the Commission to support a 5% deviation standard between districts as a MANDATORY condition as supported in federal law, commission should work to account for issues associated with the odd situation of the global pandemic during the 2020 census, and ensure response to unique circumstances in local communities.

Please ensure political fairness through balance of legislative power reflecting our whole diverse state and does not unduly reflect one political party. Please maintain cohesiveness of tribal nations and other communities of interest as well as political competitiveness whereby candidates must earn the votes of Montanans in their district. I expect this commission to act in the respectable manner that the original 1972 Constitutional Convention did that set the course for a proud Montana foundation protecting working class Montanans and their way of life. Thank you, do good work!!!

Sincerely,  
Kristin Jacobson  
712 Gilbert St Helena, MT 59601-2611  
[tervo.kj@gmail.com](mailto:tervo.kj@gmail.com)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 12:20:34 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 1st July 2021 12:20

**Your Full Name:**

David A. Johnson

**Email Address:**

swansong@montanasky.us

**City and State of Residence:**

Bigfork MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I urge the Districting and Apportionment Commission to adopt the Republican Commissioners' proposed Plan. More specifically I urge you to follow MT law (MCA 5-1-115), particularly Section 2(a) where districts “must be... within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation.”

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, June 18, 2021 7:57:06 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 18th June 2021 07:57

**Your Full Name:**

Elizabeth Judd

**Email Address:**

betzcj@comcast.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

It is crucial that this process be fair and open to all Montana residents. Gerrymandered maps will only further disenfranchise voters. I encourage and request that this process move forward with all Montanans receiving representation without partisan map drawing. Thank you,  
Elizabeth Judd

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 8:19:17 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 9th June 2021 20:19

**Your Full Name:**

Val Keaveny sr

**Email Address:**

mdkeaveny@charter.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Great Falls

**Your Comment/Input:**

Should be done as previously when Montana had 2 Representatives.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:33:50 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 17th June 2021 12:33

**Your Full Name:**

Gina Klempel

**Email Address:**

[klemlog@aboutmontana.net](mailto:klemlog@aboutmontana.net)

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell

**Your Comment/Input:**

Good afternoon: I support HB 506 It is simple and fair. Please just follow the law 5-1-115 says it all. Thank you, Gina Klempel

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 17, 2021 12:33:50 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 17th June 2021 12:33

**Your Full Name:**

Gina Klempel

**Email Address:**

[klemlog@aboutmontana.net](mailto:klemlog@aboutmontana.net)

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell

**Your Comment/Input:**

Good afternoon: I support HB 506 It is simple and fair. Please just follow the law 5-1-115 says it all. Thank you, Gina Klempel

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, June 20, 2021 7:17:42 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 20th June 2021 07:17

**Your Full Name:**

Bill LaFond

**Email Address:**

wmlafond@midrivers.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Glendive MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I urge you to follow clear city, county and reservation lines and to not allow gerrymandering to give advantage to either political party, and to also try to keep the districts as close as possible in population size.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, June 26, 2021 4:02:12 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 26th June 2021 16:02

**Your Full Name:**

Erik Larsen

**Email Address:**

mastik878@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Saint Regis MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I would like to ask you to consider the vast differences in rural vs city areas and make this redistricting as even/equal as possible. It certainly would not be fair allowing all our major cities to be included in one district. We must include a large section of rural area with A city to be on equal footing. Thank you.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 9:48:26 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 25th June 2021 09:48

**Your Full Name:**

Karol Johnson Larsen

**Email Address:**

[kbjlvt@gmail.com](mailto:kbjlvt@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Saint Regis MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Hi I am very concerned about the upcoming redistricting agenda. Montana is very unique in regards to population, we are spread about a large area. Our cities like others are densely populated. But the large mass of people in a densely populated municipal area is vastly different than the majority population in rural areas. Rural areas have lost their voice in many states. I don't want that happening here in Montana. Please seriously consider this in your decision making. A district must consist of equal proportion of rural population to municipal population. So the district may cover hundreds of acres with only one or two large cities so they match appropriately. We must not have a district say with Missoula, Butte, Billings and Bozeman all in one district. That would be very disproportionate. City life and rural life have vastly different needs and districting must represent everyone fairly.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Nancy Leifer](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment From LWV Montana for July 8 hearing  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 6:02:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [LWV Montana Comment for Hearing July 8.docx](#)

---

Dear Commission Staff:

Attached is public comment for the July 8 Districting and Apportionment Commission hearing.

Document contains comment on two subjects:

Prison gerrymandering

Criteria

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Leifer

Nancy Leifer  
President, League of Women Voters Montana  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers  
C: 406-207-9114  
E: [nancleifer@gmail.com](mailto:nancleifer@gmail.com)

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission Hearing July 8, 2021  
Public Comment on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Montana  
Nancy Leifer, President, LWV Montana

**Public Comment on Prison Gerrymandering:**

The League of Women Voters of Montana recognizes that the data necessary to allocate incarcerated individuals to their home communities for purposes of drawing new districts in Montana is not complete. We encourage the Commission to reallocate the prison population for which data does exist for 2020. We urge the Commission to take steps to ensure that complete data on home communities and integration into census data are anticipated and accomplished for the 2030 census districting.

**Public Comment on Districting Criteria:**

Montana's 1972 Constitution envisioned a strong role for Montana citizens in governing the state. Creation of an independent districting commission that would free the state from partisan loggerheads was part of that vision. Nine members of the League of Women Voters were delegates to the Constitutional Convention and contributed to the creation of Montana's independent districting commission, one of the first independent commissions in the nation.

Today, the League of Women Voters of Montana urges this Commission to center its decisions about criteria on one concept: what criteria will most effectively and fairly engage voters for the next ten years.

To this end, the League recommends:

Mandatory compliance with the Voting Rights Act and its intent to require equitable representation of Indigenous people and other minority groups.

Mandatory compliance with a reasonable maximum 5% deviation between districts to give the Commission flexibility in keeping communities of interest intact.

Keeping discretionary criteria co-equal to allow maximum flexibility in balancing competing concerns. Montana independent commissions have done a good job in the past and should continue this practice.

The League recommends the following discretionary criteria to promote voter engagement:

Keep communities of interest intact where possible. Given the availability of easy map-drawing software, especially those focused on mapping communities of interest, it is very likely the Commission will have a wealth of information from the local level defining communities of interest. Given the diversity of Montana, the characteristics of these communities of interest are likely to be equally varied.

Maintain political fairness, in effect as well as intent, to mirror the political makeup of the voters statewide. To this end, maps can be analyzed using measurements including efficiency gap, mean-median and partisan symmetry. To engage voters fairly, election results should mirror the political make-up of Montana voters.

Where possible, support competitive districts. Studies show that competitive districts promote more voter engagement. Representatives elected from competitive districts are more likely to be responsive to their constituents' concerns. Competitive districts also encourage voter participation in elections.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The League commends the Commission for its efforts to seek public comment and allow public maps to be submitted.



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 3:40:20 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 15:40

**Your Full Name:**

Tim Leifer

**Email Address:**

mt.tim@hotmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Corvallis, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

To my way of thinking, districting should represent voting citizens in a way which ensures that voters get to pick their leaders, leaders don't get to pick their voters.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 1:44:13 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 13:44

**Your Full Name:**

Jean Lemire Dahlman

**Email Address:**

LemireDahlman@rangeweb.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Forsyth MY

**Your Comment/Input:**

I support fair legislative districts.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 10:25:22 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 10:25

**Your Full Name:**

Wally Lindquist

**Email Address:**

wally0414@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Butte, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

This needs to be done without gerrymandering. Please make this fair so all votes count.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [SHELLEY LUSTMAN](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 11:52:49 AM

---

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

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [SHELLEY LUSTMAN](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 11:49:19 AM

---

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

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [MIKE MALONE Owner](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission.  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 7:20:17 AM

---

this is against the law in MCA 5-1-115, where it clearly says in Section 2(a) “must be... within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation.” That section of Montana law also details the criteria that must be used. These rules are exactly followed in the Republican members plan, and we want them to enact that plan when they decide upon their criteria.

**From:** [MIKE MALONE Owner](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission.  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 7:20:19 AM

---

this is against the law in MCA 5-1-115, where it clearly says in Section 2(a) “must be... within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation.” That section of Montana law also details the criteria that must be used. These rules are exactly followed in the Republican members plan, and we want them to enact that plan when they decide upon their criteria.

**From:** [MIKE MALONE Owner](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission.  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 7:20:20 AM

---

this is against the law in MCA 5-1-115, where it clearly says in Section 2(a) “must be... within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation.” That section of Montana law also details the criteria that must be used. These rules are exactly followed in the Republican members plan, and we want them to enact that plan when they decide upon their criteria.



**From:** [James Manning](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 2:28:59 PM

---

To the Redistricting Commission:

As you begin your work to redraw Montana's legislative and congressional districts, I urge you to adopt a set of criteria that will ensure fair and competitive district maps.

Specifically, I urge you to adopt the maximum federally allowable population equality deviation to balance this criterion with other important criteria, and that your criteria be unranked and co-equal in their consideration. This will provide maximum flexibility to help make the overall mapping politically neutral, competitive and without unnatural divisions in communities and counties where possible. The goal and impact should be to ensure that voters pick their representatives, who must earn their votes, and not that representatives get to pick their voters.

The electorate has a right to fair elections, and fair and sensible redistricting is one of the foundations of this right.

It's an important task; I wish you success in your work.

Regards,

Jim Manning  
7/5/21

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James G. Manning  
[jimgmanning@gmail.com](mailto:jimgmanning@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 12026  
Bozeman, MT. 59719  
406-585-2672  
650-580-1083(c)  
-----

**From:** [Maylinn Smith](#)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#); [jeff.essmann](#); [Joe Lamson](#); [Dan Stusek](#); [Kendra Miller](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Redistricting  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 7:14:58 PM

---

I will forward any emails I get to the rest of the commission, unless you prefer that I just send them to Rachel to include in public comment.

Maylinn

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Jerry Markman** <[jmarkman42@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jmarkman42@everyactioncustom.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Jun 30, 2021, 2:22 PM  
**Subject:** Redistricting  
**To:** <[maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov)>

Dear Presiding Officer Maylinn Smith,

We are in perilous times, with democratic institutions in great danger. As you do your work, I implore you to COMPLY with the Voting Rights Act. I also hope the results of your work do not advantage one party or break up communities of interest like tribal nations.

History has its eyes on you....Sincerely, Jerry Markman

Sincerely,  
Jerry Markman  
3132 Rose St Bozeman, MT 59718-6076  
[jmarkman42@gmail.com](mailto:jmarkman42@gmail.com)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, June 19, 2021 11:10:33 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 19th June 2021 23:10

**Your Full Name:**

Steve Mcarthur

**Email Address:**

stevemcarthur@aol.com

**City and State of Residence:**

MONTANA

**Your Comment/Input:**

Make to non partisan! Do the right thing!

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:23:30 PM

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

From: "Jan McCandless" <mccandlessclan@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 4:18:07 PM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

(Write your comments here)when you start the redesigning the voting districts please keep in mind ALL Montanans in mind. This is not only done party wise but including all Native peoples in Montana. Make sure their wants and wishes are included in your redistribution of getting 2 representatives in Washington DC Also please support the 5% deviation as federal rule due to the pandemic that we all have been through. We got through this mess together let's work fairly on this project. Thank you for consideration in this matter

Sincerely,

Jan McCandless  
1116 Yale Ave Billings, MT 59102-1850  
mccandlessclan@yahoo.com

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, June 18, 2021 11:46:47 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 18th June 2021 11:46

**Your Full Name:**

Harold & Kathy McIntyre

**Email Address:**

hfmac57@earthlink.net

**City and State of Residence:**

BELGRADE

**Your Comment/Input:**

The Republican Party uses Gerrymandering simply to draw lines of re-districting to add an unfair advantage in elections. As decades have shown, the GOP utilizes Gerrymandering as a "last ditch" effort, to try and win elections where their party is not the preferred party of a specific area. The GOP has routinely used the US Census Data every ten years, focusing on large suburban and metropolitan areas to "piece meal" and "dissect" those into smaller areas, where it will split up predominantly Democratic voters. They use the Census data which provides previously designated "towns", to "cities" due to the increase of population. Thus, using Gerrymandering as a precise "surgical tool", to weaken Democratic areas and increase the GOP stronghold. Should it ever occur to the GOP to provide plausible solutions and platforms for communities, hold "in-person" Town Halls and meetings to obtain what the constituency truly needs and wants for their areas, and have definitive values and ethics which define the GOP, then their practice of Gerrymandering would not be a necessary tool for their party to win elections. They would be elected into Office simply by their representation of their people, and having a platform that provides for everyone, including Democratic voters in their areas. If a party such as the GOP cannot win an election without shifting and moving districts, like pieces on a chessboard, then perhaps they need to re-evaluate what their Party stands for, and just how do they truly serve the voters of their State. The time for Gerrymandering is over. If you belong to a Party that truly represents the voters wishes, then Gerrymandering is not necessary.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 11:35:59 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 2nd July 2021 11:35

**Your Full Name:**

Ted Mead

**Email Address:**

meadted@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

As you undertake the critical role of setting legislative districts for Montana I ask that you set the criteria so that the population deviation be +/- 5%, that each district be politically fair when practical, which to me means that either party could win each district, and that the other criteria used be unranked and co-equal. Good luck in your deliberations and decisions. Ted Mead

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 7:44:07 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 25th June 2021 19:44

**Your Full Name:**

Nancy Mehaffie & Bruce Hunn

**Email Address:**

[hunn.mehaffie@gmail.com](mailto:hunn.mehaffie@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Thompson Falls

**Your Comment/Input:**

Please be very careful with the mapping of the new split to two districts. I have seen where districts were split so voting could be very one-sided. Please do make the split based on the scientific split of land and by populations of both parties. Please no weighting of districts to favor a party. Keep integrity in the process.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Montanans ask for fair criteria in making maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:22:44 PM

---

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

From: "Kristy Michael" <kristymichael725@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 10:33:32 AM  
Subject: [spam]Montanans ask for fair criteria in making maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hi--I am a retired Montana educator who has lived in Bozeman for almost 50 years. As you meet to discuss districting, I ask that you please comply with the Voting Rights Act, use a 5% standard of deviation between districts, make sure that you strongly consider criteria of political fairness and take into consideration the balance and flexibility that is needed in each unique district.

Of special importance to me are keeping in mind the rights of Montana's indigenous people to elect representatives as well as any anomalies that may have surfaced in the unusual 2020 Census and truly listening to the feedback that you receive from citizens. I especially ask that you not rank the criteria to be used so that you can genuinely be responsive to this feedback.

Sincerely,  
Kristy Michael  
712 S 10th Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-4356  
kristymichael725@gmail.com

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 6:01:06 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 3rd July 2021 06:01

**Your Full Name:**

Thomas Millett

**Email Address:**

simplytom65@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Marion, Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

Follow the Law and Constitution When Redistricting Commissioners, I am writing to remind you that the law (MCA 5-11-115) and the 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 Constitution and the law. Sincerely, Thomas Millett

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Thomas Millett](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Follow the Law and Constitution When Redistricting  
**Date:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 5:59:58 AM

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Commissioners,

I am writing to remind you that the law (MCA 5-11-115) and the 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 Constitution and the law.

Sincerely,

Thomas Millett

Marion, MT

**From:** [bullheadm@aol.com](mailto:bullheadm@aol.com)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please don't delay congressional redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 2:32:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [Gianforte-Census-Letter-PDF \(1\).pdf](#)

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Dear Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I encourage you to adopt a timely schedule for congressional redistricting that involves public hearings and public engagement as soon as the Census Bureau makes redistricting data available.

Governor Gianforte recently signed onto a letter with 14 other Governors across the country asking the Census Bureau to produce redistricting data before their current planned release on August 16th. The Census Bureau has indicated that August 16th is likely the earliest they can provide this redistricting data, but if state governments and redistricting bodies all across the country are trying to get data earlier to put districts in place in a timely manner, why would this Commission delay the process even more than necessary after official Census data is available in August?

As Governor Gianforte's letter (attached) notes, "We are now facing a nearly half-year delay beyond the statutory deadline for receiving redistricting data. This delay places an unreasonable burden on our states and undermines public trust in the foundations of our democratic republic."

This Commission should engage the public in robust debate and complete the congressional redistricting process within 90 days of availability of Census data, just as the Montana Constitution requires.

With the redistricting process already several months behind schedule across the nation, delaying the redistricting process further once official Census data is available would be a disservice to Montana.

Thank you for considering public comment on this important topic.

Sincerely,

*Terry*

Terry Minow, Vice Chair  
Big Sky 55+  
502 Lower Valley Road  
Boulder, MT 59632  
406-225-4397



June 22, 2021

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

We write to you in regard to a matter of utmost importance: the 2020 Census. While we recognize the difficulties associated with completing a decennial census amid a pandemic, the ongoing delay in the release of 2020 Census redistricting data places our states in a nearly impossible situation to redraw lines prior to the 2022 election cycle. Consequently, we urge you to release redistricting data this month or as soon as possible prior to the delayed release date of September 30, 2021, and the release of the “legacy format” data on August 16, 2021.

Over the course of the past year, states and commonwealths played an integral part in ensuring the 2020 Census achieved a complete and accurate count of persons living in the United States on April 1, 2020. States and commonwealths have worked in conjunction with the U.S. Census Bureau (the Bureau) to inform Americans of the importance of the 2020 Census and encourage them to complete their questionnaires. In addition, our state and local complete count committees walked alongside the Bureau to ensure local communities were engaged, and while the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many planned events, our complete count committees adjusted and leveraged their online presence to achieve a complete count.

States aided the Bureau within the Bureau’s fluctuating timelines for self-response and non-response follow-up (NERFU) in good faith. Yet, we are now facing a nearly half-year delay beyond the statutory deadline for receiving redistricting data. This delay places an unreasonable burden on our states and undermines public trust in the foundations of our democratic republic.

As you know, the U.S. Constitution and state constitutions task state governments with redistricting their respective congressional and legislative districts in the year immediately following the decennial census. To do so, states have historically received apportionment data in December of the year of the census and redistricting data in February or March of the following year—two to three months later, allowing states time to perform redistricting work in the spring and summer consistent with various state constitutional and statutory deadlines.

As a departure from the traditional timeline, the Bureau released 2020 apportionment data in April 2021, nearly four months behind schedule, which should result in the delivery of 2020 redistricting data by June or July of this year. However, it is our understanding that the Bureau will not release redistricting data until on or about September 30, 2021, with a potential release of legacy data sometime in mid-to-late August

2021. The extended timeline represents a six-to-seven-month delay of redistricting data and is nearly double the conventional length of time between releasing both data sets.

Based on affidavits filed in federal court by the Bureau, it appears that nearly all of the data processing necessary for the public release of the redistricting data will be complete by June 24, 2021. Further delaying the release of redistricting data negatively impacts redistricting efforts nationwide, places state governments in an unnecessarily precarious position, and presents compounding delays in operations at every level of government.

Districts for the U.S. House of Representatives cannot be drawn until the data has been released. Districts for state legislatures also cannot be drawn until this data has been released. Districts for county, parish, township, and municipal governing bodies cannot be drawn until states have had the opportunity to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Lastly, districts for school district seats cannot be drawn until county, parish, township, and municipal governing bodies have had the opportunity to draw their own respective districts.

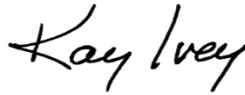
As a result of such negative impacts to our constitutional responsibilities, we seek the release of redistricting data as soon as possible—and in line with traditional timelines—so that states may begin to perform important redistricting tasks on behalf of our constituents.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued service to our great nation.

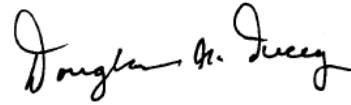
Sincerely,



Governor Asa Hutchinson  
State of Arkansas



Governor Kay Ivey  
State of Alabama



Governor Doug Ducey  
State of Arizona



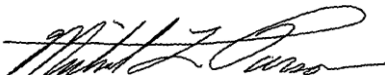
Governor Ron DeSantis  
State of Florida



Governor Brian Kemp  
State of Georgia



Governor Kim Reynolds  
State of Iowa



Governor Mike Parson  
State of Missouri



Governor Greg Gianforte  
State of Montana



Governor Pete Ricketts  
State of Nebraska



Governor Doug Burgum  
State of North Dakota



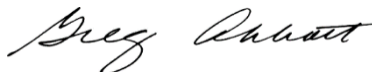
Governor Mike DeWine  
State of Ohio



Governor Henry McMaster  
State of South Carolina



Governor Bill Lee  
State of Tennessee



Governor Greg Abbott  
State of Texas



Governor Mark Gordon  
State of Wyoming

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 5:21:24 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 3rd July 2021 17:21

**Your Full Name:**

Susan Morgan

**Email Address:**

confluence@rocketmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula

**Your Comment/Input:**

All districts should be drawn in rectangles of the right size for a set number of citizens, without political gerrymandering! Our democracy depends on it.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 2:39:44 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 14:39

**Your Full Name:**

Kimberly Morisaki

**Email Address:**

[kim@ugbuilding.com](mailto:kim@ugbuilding.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Since the time of the Copper Kings, Montana citizens have fought to keep money and unfair influence out of our politics. We deserve and demand districts that represent our population as it actually is and not gerrymandered districts that will help a few rich Republicans keep control of everything. Do the right thing and treat all Montana voters fairly.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Maryanne Mott](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] District mapping for state and congressional districts  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 12:27:03 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I have been a cattle rancher in Montana since 1978 and care deeply about the political life of our state. I am sorry I am unable to be present for your hearings but because I feel the decisions you are about to make and the criteria you will use in making them are so important, I am submitting the following comments.

First and foremost, political fairness is essential to a democratic process. That is why we have chosen to have an independent commission rather than letting the leaders pick their voters. I count on you to make sure that the median seats will look like and vote like the state as a whole.

I urge you also to not rely on ranked criteria which ends up giving undue weight to some criteria and little to none to others. Unranked criteria will allow you to apply your wisdom and independent judgement in the process.

Similarly using a deviation of +/- 5% rather than be handcuffed by a +/- 1% deviation will allow modest flexibility where merited.

Our state has long been a leader in fair and equitable districting. It is a point of pride for me that we are among very few (my state of origin, Michigan, being another) to have an independent districting commission. Thank you for serving on the Commission and for considering my perspective on these matters.

Maryanne Mott  
B Bar Ranch  
818 Tom Miner Creek Road  
Emigrant, MT 59027



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 4:38:34 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 30th June 2021 16:38

**Your Full Name:**

Brian Kal Munis

**Email Address:**

kalmunis@live.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Philipsburg, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

As a PhD in political science and incoming tenure track professor (Fall 2021) in that field, I strongly urge the committee to draw two maximally competitive districts. The peer-reviewed literature in political science and adjacent fields makes abundantly clear that electoral competition breeds higher rates of civic interest and civic behavior -- including, most importantly, voting -- which is of utmost importance to the health of any representative democracy. I further urge the commission to draw these districts in such a way that maximizes the competitiveness of both because it is the right thing to do for Montana based on my understanding of our state as a 6th generation Montanan. Montana is a politically diverse and complex state, which distinguishes us from our neighboring states, and the districts should reflect that. Creating uncompetitive districts would be out of step with the true fabric of our great state and doing so ought to be avoided.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 5:52:56 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 3rd July 2021 17:52

**Your Full Name:**  
Elizabeth Newsom

**Email Address:**  
[wijim.7@juno.com](mailto:wijim.7@juno.com)

**City and State of Residence:**  
Missoula

**Your Comment/Input:**

I support HB 506 (as signed into law by Gov. Gianforte) and respectfully encourage the Commission to draw boundaries so that the districts: (1) are contiguous {leave the pretzel shapes to Auntie Annes}; (2) count prisoners in the town where they reside, not where they're incarcerated; (3) equity in population, no more than a 1% population deviation {in the year 2000 < 5%; year 2010 < 3%; let's make 2021  $\leq$  1%}; and (4) establish a clear, simple East-West division. Thank you, in advance, for all your hard work to ensure that the redistricting process is fair, non-partisan, and will result in an equitable representation of all Montanans.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 4:04:09 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 16:04

**Your Full Name:**

Lynn Noble

**Email Address:**

lnoble406@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell

**Your Comment/Input:**

Commissioners, I am writing to remind you that the law (MCA 5-11-115) and the 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 Constitution and the law. Sincerely, Lynn Noble Kalispell, MT

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [sephrie](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Follow the Law and The Constitution when Redistricting  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 1:39:35 PM

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7/5/2021

Districting and Apportionment Commission

Greetings,

Please follow the Law!

Recent legislature was passed, and Governor Gianforte signed into law MCA 5-1-115 which establishes the *Redistricting Criteria* for establishing legislative districts in Montana. It is now the Law of the State of Montana.

I fully support this bill and the enumerated criteria for state-wide redistricting. Specifically, I find Section 2(a) to be essential when it says: *“The districts must be as equal as practicable, meaning to the greatest extent possible, within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation from the ideal population of a district as calculated from information provided by the federal decennial census. The relative deviation may be exceeded only when necessary to keep political subdivisions intact or to comply with the Voting Rights Act.”*

Also essential are Sections (b), (c), and (d): (b) *”District boundaries must coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state to the greatest extent possible. The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district must be as small as possible. When there is a choice between dividing local political subdivisions, the more populous subdivisions must be divided before the less populous, unless the boundary is drawn along a county line that passes through a city.*

(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.*

(d) *The districts must be compact, meaning that the compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of a district are equal. A district may not have an average length greater than three times the average width unless necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act.”*

Do the laws of Montana have any import? If so you, should follow the requirements specified in this Montana statute and in the Montana Constitution.

Your failure to do so at a minimum, would show the people of Montana that 1) you do not respect the law, 2) you consider yourselves to be above the law, 3) you put political considerations over a fair and equitable process and 4) you ignore the Montana Constitution, specifically Article V, Section 14(1) which says: **“Section 14. *DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT.* (1) The state shall be divided into as many districts as there are members of the house, and each district shall elect one representative. Each senate district shall be composed of two adjoining house districts, and shall elect one senator. Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable.”**

If you choose to ignore the Law, at a minimum, you will show the people of Montana that you treat democracy as a sham which you choose to override, by not honoring the will of the majority people.; Or, at worst, it will lead to judicial action which may invalidate your decision and throw the whole redistricting process into chaos.

Please do your job. Follow the Constitution. Follow the Law.

Regards,

Joseph L. and Laurie S. O'Rourke

197 Stage Bend Ln.  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912  
406-253-5087

**From:** [Tom Osborne](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Following the constitution on redistricting  
**Date:** Saturday, July 3, 2021 4:47:02 PM

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I am asking you to follow the law ( MCA 5-11-115) and The Constitution that require district boundaries be set using the following criteria : Compact and Contiguous Territory and less than 1 % difference in population.

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

Sincerely

Tom and Mae Osborne  
67 Tronstad Dr.  
Kalispell, Mt., 59901

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

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 10:31:48 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 21st June 2021 10:31

**Your Full Name:**

brittany palmer

**Email Address:**

brittanyleepalmer@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

missoula MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, I'm writing to ask the Districting and Apportionment Commission to adopt a strong political fairness standard to guide your work adopting legislative and congressional maps. Montanans vote in elections so that they can be represented fairly in Helena and Washington. If voters aren't adequately able to turn those votes into representation, it strikes at the heart of our political system. The Commission should aim to proportionally reflect the will of Montana voters in the legislature. That's just Montana common sense. Thank you all for your hard work serving our great state and for allowing the public to have input in this process. Sincerely, brittany palmer precinct committee person for Library 91 in Missoula

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 6:39:07 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 1st July 2021 18:39

**Your Full Name:**

David Patenaude

**Email Address:**

dpatenaude1@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Belgrade, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Hello, I would like to ask the commission to adopt criteria that will ensure fair and competitive maps that allow our communities to pick elected officials who truly represent them. Regards,

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 3:33:43 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 4th July 2021 15:33

**Your Full Name:**

Mark Payne

**Email Address:**

markg.payne@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Bozeman, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Dear Commissioners, As you undertake the task of redistricting in Montana this year I urge you to create fair and competitive congressional and legislative districts. Voting rights and voter districts are of great importance to all of us living in the great state of Montana. As an election judge (paid volunteer) I am a strong supporter of every voter having equal opportunities to vote in a competitive district - not districts that are purposely 'stacked' to favor a political party. Tampering with any voter's rights is about as un-American as it gets! Sincerely, Mark Payne Bozeman, MT

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 9:20:47 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 1st July 2021 09:20

**Your Full Name:**

Susan Rabatin

**Email Address:**

azul1@ix.netcom.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Gallatin Gateway, Montana 59730

**Your Comment/Input:**

Parties and their candidates should not be able to pick their voters by drawing lines that suit their near-term political agenda. At this historical moment in Montana history, I challenge this committee to do their job with justice and the long term welfare of our beloved state in the forefront of their thoughts and actions.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**James M. Regnier**

P.O. Box 299  
Lakeside, MT 59922  
jregnier@centurytel.net

June 30 , 2021

Re: Mandatory and Discretionary Criteria for Congressional  
and Legislative Districts

Dear Presiding Officer Smith and Commissioners Lamson, Essman, Stusek and Miller;

I would like to thank each of you for your willingness to serve on the 2020 Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission. I know from personal experience the long hours and study each of you is putting forth in this commitment. Your service to Montanans cannot be underestimated. Thanks again.

As some of you know, I had the privilege of serving as presiding officer of the 2010 Commission. As a former Commissioner I want to be appropriately helpful in some way to the current Commission. In that regard, I note that the Commission will be discussing various proposed mandatory and discretionary criteria at your upcoming meeting on July 8, 2021. I thought this might be an opportune time for me to chime in. As you are well aware, this is an important phase in your task of drawing district lines, because the criteria you adopt serve as a template in the drafting of the 2020 Congressional and Legislative Districts. I have reviewed the various proposals offered by the Commissioners and would like to share a few of my thoughts.

Without commenting on each of your criteria proposals, I would like to encourage an approach which uniformly applies when considering the adoption of districting criteria. I know redistricting software has improved greatly since the 2010 cycle and, in fact, there are many out there who think districts should simply be drawn using a computer model. I disagree. Each of you brings personal experiences to the table that simply cannot be replaced by a computer. That is why you were selected to serve on this important Commission. Please give yourself the discretion, where appropriate, to carry out your duties. If you do not give yourself some leeway in adopting the criteria, it is my belief you will have a difficult time drawing districts that will ultimately pass public scrutiny. This process is complicated enough; don't make it any more complicated than necessary.

For example, as we actually started drawing the lines in the last cycle, we were challenged in some instances to satisfy state and federal constitutional population requirements. The 2010 census reflected a substantial decrease in population in eastern Montana and a corresponding influx of population in Bozeman and western Montana. I suspect the most recent census shows a similar pattern. I remember times where we were actually reaching out to sparsely populated areas of Montana to meet this requirement. Montana is no Iowa. We live in a state where the population is not evenly distributed, the Voting Rights Act impacts the creation of majority/minority districts and the beautiful Rocky Mountains run

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June 30, 2021

Page 2

from our southern to northern borders. In the 2010 cycle we adopted a 3% plus or minus population deviation. I think in the end we worked hard and actually adopted a plan with a less than 3% deviation. I note, however, that one of the proposals on the table is a 1% deviation. In my opinion, choosing such a restrictive deviation requirement may result in the creation of districts that hamper your ability to achieve compactness or meet some of the other criteria. I think this is an area where you can give yourself a little more discretion without damaging your final product

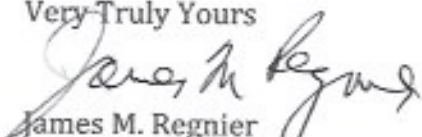
The same demographic and geographic considerations come into play when defining the compactness requirement. In 2010 we defined compactness to include a "general appearance test" as well as a "functional compactness" definition. Again, given Montana's unique geography and demographics, the Commission should, in my view, give itself some leeway in this regard as well.

In broader terms, I am concerned that the Commission is considering a scheme of prioritizing mandatory and discretionary criteria. I've tried to think this process through in the "hands on" drafting of a proposed district. I think it would be a quite difficult process to execute in practical terms. I could also envision this process setting the stage for legal challenges down the road if the sequential, prioritization scheme is not followed. The argument, of course, would be the Commission did not precisely follow its own criteria. One of the unstated goals of your Commission is to adopt a final plan that that can survive subsequent legal and court challenges. No one would dispute the importance of this goal.

Finally, I would like make a few comments regarding the notion of competitiveness when drawing districts. The nearly universal distaste for gerrymandering is rooted in the public's conception of what a democratic election should be. In my opinion, redistricting commissions should strive to enable competitive elections within legislative districts because competitive districts are the opposite of gerrymandered "safe seats." Many believe, as I do, that competitive districts elect candidates who are less divisive and better serve the entire electorate. I am proud of the fact that Ballotpedia, an interactive almanac of U. S. politics, ranked our 2010 redistricting plan as the fifth most competitive in the country. I would refer you to the discussion of competitiveness and other topics in the law review I co-authored : Caitlin Boland Aarab and The Honorable Jim Regnier, *Mapping the Treasure State: What States Can Learn from Redistricting in Montana*, 76 Mont. L. Rev. (2015).

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours



James M. Regnier

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:23:18 PM

---

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

From: "Timothy Rooney" <tim.s.rooney@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 6:53:55 AM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing you as a concerned montanana to please support compliance with the Voting Rights Act (especially as it relates to the rights of indigenous Montanans to elect representatives of their choice) as a MANDATORY criterion in considering district boundaries.

Please support a 5% deviation standard between districts as a MANDATORY criterion, as supported by federal law, to allow the commission to account for oddities in the 2020 Census data caused by the global pandemic and to better respond to unique circumstances in local communities. This just plain makes sense!

Please support criteria of political fairness (ensuring the legislative balance of power reflects the state and does not unduly advantage one party), maintaining communities of interest (like tribal nations), and political competitiveness (ensuring candidates have to earn the votes of Montanans in their districts).

Please do NOT rank criteria so there is flexibility to balance the unique needs of each district and be responsive to public feedback. Ranking criteria prematurely will tie the commission's hands. This will not help out in any way moving forward into the new year in Helena.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Rooney  
1725 W Koch St Apt 5 Bozeman, MT 59715-4129  
tim.s.rooney@gmail.com

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**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 5:12:11 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 10th June 2021 17:12

**Your Full Name:**

Hal Schmid

**Email Address:**

hschmid@montana.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Arlee, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Madam Chair, Commissioners, and Commission staff: In listening to the meeting today and the discussion of public submission of proposed maps, what I heard you all asking for was a "rationale" to accompany the map. Why this map? What are the key characteristics used in constructing the map? How does it address the criteria the commission has identify? And so on. Without an accompanying rationale, a map's utility is lessened and it is open to conjecture. With a rationale, the pros and cons can be analyzed more efficiently and more easily compared with other submissions. So I think what you are looking for is a rationale to accompany a map submission. And the commission can specify what that rationale should address and provide a meaningful format/frame for potential submitters. Thank you for the work you all are doing and for the orderly and collegial manner in which you are doing it. There is tremendous opportunity for litigation in this process and its outcome. Do not let that frighten you or deter you. "In good faith" will get us all through this process. Hal Schmid Arlee, MT

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 10:20:15 AM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 10th June 2021 10:20

**Your Full Name:**

Frances Schrader

**Email Address:**

[schrader1501@blackfoot.net](mailto:schrader1501@blackfoot.net)

**City and State of Residence:**

Darby, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Suggest we go back to 1913 - 1919: both representatives "at-large".

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:21:15 PM

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

From: "Linda Semones" <lindasemones@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 1:42:30 PM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair Criteria in Creating Montana's Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I would like to thank each of you for working on this difficult task of creating our new districts. The decisions you make are momentous and serious, as they will directly affect the lives of each and every Montanan.

I respectfully request that you support the mandatory criteria of complying with the Voting Rights Act. This is of utmost importance to our Native American Montanans who should be allowed to elect representatives of their choosing. Equally, I ask you to support the 5% deviation standard between districts. This is in compliance with federal laws, and allows the commission to account for pandemic related variances in the 2020 Census data.

For discretionary criteria, there are three important items. First, communities of interest, such as tribal nations, should be kept whole. Second, political fairness is ethically required. One party should not be given advantage over the other party. And thirdly, our districts should be competitive. Each candidate should have to work hard, on a fair playing field, to actually get out and earn the votes of the residents of their district.

And finally, please do not rank the discretionary criteria. Not ranking the criteria will allow the Commissioners some leeway as they try to balance the needs of each district and respond to public comment. In this way, the Commissioners will be able to ethically divide the state.

Again, I thank you for your service on this important committee.

Sincerely,

Linda Semones 404 S. Church Ave. Bozeman MT 59715 [lindasemones@hotmail.com](mailto:lindasemones@hotmail.com)

Sincerely,

Linda Semones

404 S Church Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-4817

[lindasemones@hotmail.com](mailto:lindasemones@hotmail.com)

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**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 1:48:09 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 21st June 2021 13:48

**Your Full Name:**

Dave Skinner

**Email Address:**

daskinner@centurytel.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Kalispell

**Your Comment/Input:**

Madam Chair, members of the commission, I'm Dave Skinner from Kalispell. While I will provide further input in a paper form, at this point I am most concerned about how much "deviation" will be factored into the districting rules. I have closely watched the 2000, 2010 and now the 2020 redistrictings, and to make things brief, I much preferred the 2010 maps to the outrageous mess of 2000, of districts joined across wilderness areas and cute pinwheels jabbing out of urban centers. Despite that, Republican legislative majorities have held for nearly two decades now, increasing nearly every cycle. Let me be blunt and say, despite Joe Lamson's best efforts (and he truly is the best, otherwise he'd not be selected again), Montana at large and in general is honestly not particularly "competitive" in terms of Democrat versus Republicans. My impression therefore is, "competitiveness" is a complete canard and not an honest criteria. While Montana used to be split East West with Democrats up in the west because there were a lot of blue-collar industrial jobs, the perverted reality is, the national Democratic Party did much to terminate the employment of union-style laborers, who by magic now vote Republican. The Carter administration began the trend and later Democratic presidencies and Congresses just piled on. Why? Because concurrent with these changes was the increasing rural-urban national split with Democratic cities and Republican suburbs/hinterlands. The bottom line of this massive shift nationally means the old East West Rep Dem split in terms of the US Congress no longer applies. The Continental Divide is no longer relevant to Montana politics. Montana has changed in fundamental ways, trending Republican with an urban crescent of Democrats (what redistricting wonks call a "purplemander) that in turn isn't solidly Democratic. These trends will continue as long as the national Democratic Party ignores rural America at best, or treats rural America as some kind of "sacrifice zone," as in economically shafting rural communities with policies that make urban voters happy, at worst -- a deliberate, arrogant worst. The next decade at least, it will be critical that Montana's tiny four votes in Congress present a unified Montana front on issues most Montanans find important. So -- think real hard about following county lines diagonally East to West with a balanced population with minimal deviation, leaving us with North and

South congressional districts that join Montana's actual "community of interest" in the national context. By the way, I'd be honored if that shape becomes known as a "Skinnermander." I also want to touch on the boundary issue, or "communities of interest," even though I'm risking being branded as "RACIST." I support the idea of the Legislature "looking like Montana" to a point. But let's not forget that the Montana Indian caucus is not all Democrat. There are native American Republicans in state office, and by gosh, under honest redistricting, I'd bet there would be more. And let's be honest, there are those in Montana who would hate to see that historic "bloc" of Native American voters become bipartisan. I think that would be pretty cool, because it would be a huge leap away from destructive "identity politics." When it comes to tribal elections, obviously, those are purely sovereign and self-governing. But tribal citizens are Montana citizens too, treated as, and acting as same. Indians, same as all other Montanans, have an equal right and responsibility to vote in state local and federal elections, and in the context of THOSE elections, tribal members should be treated by redistricting without favor or disfavor or any criteria other than those applicable to all other Montana political entities, contiguous, compact, evenly populated plus or minus one percent. I'm confident the subsequent election results will, yep, look like Montana. Please, this job needs to be done right. If it isn't, I'll be one of the first co-plaintiffs in what is sure to be a long line. Thanks for reading, see you soon.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 11:02:45 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 4th July 2021 11:02

**Your Full Name:**

Mark Smith

**Email Address:**

mark@aspen-island-ranch.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Lavina, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

We still live in a nation of laws, and Montana law is clear as to how reapportioning must proceed. I would urge the committee to give all Montanans fair and equal treatment in reapportioning both the national congressional and state legislative districts. Moreover, the committee's duty is to abide by the law- including MCA 5-1-115 section 2a - in proposing districts within 1% of each other in population. Thank you, Mark Smith, Lavina, MT

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, July 4, 2021 10:51:30 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 4th July 2021 22:51

**Your Full Name:**

Patti Steinmuller

**Email Address:**

psteinmul@msn.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Bozeman

**Your Comment/Input:**

I appreciate that the mandatory criteria for congressional and legislative redistricting comply with the appropriate provisions of the Voting Rights Act. The following comments regard the discretionary criteria. As a voter I am following and participating in this process and have high expectations for fair and competitive districts to be developed by the commission. 1. I request that while the districts be approximately equal in size that the federally allowable deviation, plus or minus 5%, be used by the commission in maintaining population equality among the districts. Allowing the maximum deviation provides the opportunity to maintain small towns, school districts, counties, communities of interest, and areas such as tribal reservations intact. This would reduce confusion among voters in a single county or area of common interest trying to accurately ascertain their newly assigned district. The possibility of census undercounts could be better addressed if the maximum deviation were allowed. Census counting during the pandemic was incredibly challenging and unusual in many ways which increased the risk of undercounting, especially in underserved communities. 2. Although not every district can be designed to ensure competitiveness, I request that the commission aim to develop districts that will be competitive. As a voter, I want my vote and my views to be heard and addressed by candidates. Eligible voters of all or no parties are less likely to vote when districts are viewed as being uncompetitive. I want candidates to recognize that they need to earn the votes of constituents, not to assume that they need not meet with or communicate with the electorate. 3. I request that commissioners give priority to political fairness regarding developing district maps. Neutral maps should be the goal. Political parties should not be favored or disfavored because of the maps. I support use of the political fairness criteria that has been used by redistricting commissions in the past. 4. Instead of ranking the criteria, I advocate for co-equality of criteria to enable the commission to balance special needs most effectively in each district and can fully consider input from communities. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 1:36:23 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 1st July 2021 13:36

**Your Full Name:**

Tom Stelling

**Email Address:**

stelling\_thomas@yahoo.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Missoula- Montana

**Your Comment/Input:**

As a former Cascade County Commissioner I expect the commission to be fair in drawing the district lines. Let's keep politics out of the process for once and come together for the benefit of the people of Montana.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 11:57:17 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 2nd July 2021 11:57

**Your Full Name:**

Alan Stempel

**Email Address:**

stempelalan@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

Brockway, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I think the state should be split along an East West access so both Representatives work across the state. This would give agriculture and tourism equal interest for both offices. The East West split also ensures the Representatives will spend time through all parts of the state. If the split is North South then one Representative will have a much smaller district.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 2:36:41 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 02:36

**Your Full Name:**

Dave Swaim

**Email Address:**

IsNoMore@protonmail.ch

**City and State of Residence:**

Evergreen, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Commissioners, MCA 5-11-115 and the Constitution require you to set district boundaries which are compact and contiguous territory and with 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 only asking you to follow the Constitution and the law. Regards, Dave Swaim  
Evergreen, MT

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please Use Fair-minded Criteria When Developing Montana's Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:24:00 PM

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

From: "Linda Swanson" <lindaswanson2015@everyactioncustom.com>  
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 3:05:48 PM  
Subject: [spam]Please Use Fair-minded Criteria When Developing Montana's Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Linda Swanson and I live in Missoula. I am writing to let you know how important it is for Montana to continue to have fair political practices, which ensure the balance of legislative power and do not give advantages to anyone one party. Please keep in mind the Voting Rights Act when considering district boundaries. In addition, I hope you will back a 5% deviation standard between districts to allow the commission to account for oddities in the 2020 Census data caused by the global pandemic and to better respond to unique circumstances in local communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues and your service to our state.

Sincerely,  
Linda Swanson  
2465 Peregrine Loop Missoula, MT 59808-5812  
lindaswanson2015@gmail.com

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**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Sunday, June 20, 2021 9:08:15 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 20th June 2021 21:08

**Your Full Name:**

Anne Tate

**Email Address:**

[anneltate@gmail.com](mailto:anneltate@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Bigfork

**Your Comment/Input:**

Districting and Apportionment Commissioners, Thank you so much for all the hard work the Commission is doing on behalf of Montanans. I'm writing today to urge you to adopt a maximum deviation standard of 5%, as the Montana Commission and many other states have historically adopted. In a census year dominated by a global pandemic that could have potentially caused undercounts in some of our most vulnerable communities, it's especially important that the Commission return to its historical standard. Adopting a 5% standard will give the Commission flexibility to keep more counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest whole and give flexibility to help our election administrators. This flexibility does not mean the Commission will be required to underpopulate half of districts by 5% and overpopulate half of districts by 5%. The average deviation between districts on the current plan was less than 1% (a roughly 90 person difference between districts), even though the allowable deviation was more than 3 times that limit. A higher allowable deviation simply allows the Commission the flexibility it needs to balance all criteria, even if most districts can be drawn with much smaller deviation. Don't unnecessarily split communities to adhere to a strict deviation standard that conflicts with other important criteria. Thank you for your time.  
Anne Tate

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Saturday, June 19, 2021 4:18:50 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 19th June 2021 16:18

**Your Full Name:**

John Teague

**Email Address:**

grumpy@blackfoot.net

**City and State of Residence:**

Clinton, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I say we do away with the entire "redistricting" process and leave both representatives "at large". That way everyone in the entire State can vote for one, both, or neither candidate.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**Judy Territo**  
**PO Box 644**  
**Columbia Falls, MT 59912**  
**(406) 890-5311**

June 10, 2021

Re: Redistricting

Dear Commission:

I'm writing to you regarding your job in redistricting our state to complete the requirement of a second Congressperson.

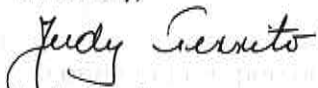
I fully expect you to follow Montana Law MCA5-11-115 and the Montana Constitution which requires you to:

- 1) Have compact and contiguous Territory,
- 2) Less than 1% difference in population,
- 3) And, you must set the Congressional districts using the same criteria as for Legislative districts.

The people of Montana are much more informed about what is happening in our state so please do not try any changes from the above criteria to favor either Democrats or Republicans. We will not allow it and will fight to see the process done right.

If you would like to discuss this further with me, please contact me at (406) 890-5311.

Sincerely,



Judy Territo

[judyterrito@gmail.com](mailto:judyterrito@gmail.com)

Charles Territo  
PO Box 644  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912  
(406) 890-5311

June 10, 2021

Re: Redistricting

Dear Commission:

This Commission has been given a very important job redistricting for a second Congressperson so I'm writing to you with my concerns.

I fully expect you to follow Montana Law MCA5-11-115 and the Montana Constitution which requires you to:

- 1) You must set the Congressional districts using the same criteria as for Legislative districts.**
- 2) Less than 1% difference in population, (not 5%)**
- 3) AND, have compact and contiguous territory.**

I will be following this very closely. Any changes from the above criteria will be challenged and questioned.

Please email me with any future meetings or decisions at the email below.

Sincerely,



Charles Territo  
[chuckterrito@gmail.com](mailto:chuckterrito@gmail.com)

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Friday, June 25, 2021 5:07:13 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 25th June 2021 17:07

**Your Full Name:**

Anne Thomas

**Email Address:**

[anniethomas@itstriangle.com](mailto:anniethomas@itstriangle.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

McLeod, MT 59052

**Your Comment/Input:**

It's important that Park County become part of the western district so that it fairly represents voters. This change is vital to voters' voices. It should not remain part of the eastern district. Thank you.

Sent via [www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please continue Montana's tradition of fair play  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 2:23:49 PM

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

From: "Marla Unruh" <[mkulib@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mkulib@everyactioncustom.com)>  
To: "joe lamson" <[joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)>  
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 3:23:36 PM  
Subject: [spam]Please continue Montana's tradition of fair play

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Please continue Montana's tradition of fair play and make sure that our two new districts exemplify political fairness. Make sure that Montana's subcultures, such as Indian communities, are represented, and balance urban and rural communities equally and competitively. We want our representatives to earn their votes!

Sincerely,  
Marla Unruh  
1130 Cannon St # 1 Helena, MT 59601-2147  
[mkulib@gmail.com](mailto:mkulib@gmail.com)

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**From:** [tracey Vivar](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re-districting.  
**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 6:54:56 PM

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It is of utmost importance that this re-districting take place in a fair, unbiased, non-partisan manner. We citizens of Montana are not interested in any sort of gerrymandering!!

--

Tracey Vivar

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 10:49:44 PM

---

# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 1st July 2021 22:49

**Your Full Name:**

Audrey A Wagner

**Email Address:**

andreannaw22@gmail.com

**City and State of Residence:**

BILLINGS

**Your Comment/Input:**

Give everyone a chance. Every vote needs to count. We are a large state with a small population. We need to hang together.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [troylibbyjbs](mailto:troylibbyjbs)  
**To:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Congressional Districts  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 30, 2021 5:46:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [North\\_South\\_Attachment.pdf](#)  
[West\\_East\\_Attachment.pdf](#)



## Troy Libby Chapter

June 30, 2021

Commissioners Marylinn Smith, Jeff Essmann, Joe Lamson, Dan Stusek, and Kendra Miller:

I am writing on behalf of the Troy Libby Chapter, John Birch Society; located in Lincoln County Montana. We are very concerned about some of the current proposals for redistricting, in that they do not follow Montana law and are a clear attempt to gerrymander the districts in our State.

Our goal is to see that our elected officials and their appointments follow the laws, rules, and procedures that they created. We were disappointed that the Montana Supreme Court did not allow for public comment on the appointment of the commission's Presiding Officer, nevertheless, we expect that your commission will consider these two sections of the Montana Code Annotated very carefully:

5-1-115. Redistricting criteria Section 2,

(a) The districts must be as equal as practicable, meaning to the greatest extent possible, within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation from the ideal population of a district as calculated from information provided by the federal decennial census. The relative deviation may be exceeded only when necessary to keep political subdivisions intact or to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

(d) The districts must be compact, meaning that the compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of a district are equal. A district may not have an average length greater than three times the average width unless necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

Although, "the ideal population" is up for interpretation, we believe that each district must closely represent 50% of Montana's population, within 1% relative deviation, and section (d) states that the districts must be compact. Therefore, with only two districts, your commission has only two options; one that bisects the state North and South or one that bisects the state West and East. To create lines across this state in any other grouping is clearly violating Montana State law.

We have researched Montana's population, as of 2021, and believe that the only fair and equitable solution is either;

1. North/South District, which utilize current county lines (please see attachment 1.) North population of 546,929 and South with a population of 538,075, the difference of 8,854 and a relative standard deviation of 0.816%.

2. West/East District, utilizing current county lines (please see attachment 2.) West population of 537,789 and the East with a population of 547,215, difference of 9,426 and a relative standard deviation of 0.869%

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,

Mitchell Walters

Troy Libby JBS Chapter Leader

Sent with [ProtonMail \[protonmail.com\]](https://protonmail.com) Secure Email.

Attachment 1. **North/South Districts** following current county boundaries.

North Population = 546,929

South Population = 538,075

\* Population is based on 2021 data from

[Population of Counties in Montana \(2021\) \(www.worldpopulationreview.com\)](http://www.worldpopulationreview.com)



Attachment 2. **West/East Districts** following current county boundaries.

West Population = 537,789

East Population = 547,215

\* Population is based on 2021 data from

[Population of Counties in Montana \(2021\) \(www.worldpopulationreview.com\)](http://www.worldpopulationreview.com)



**From:** [Kevin Ward](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter For Districting Committee  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 3:27:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [Criteria Sign-On Letter.pdf](#)

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Chair Smith & Commissioners,

Please find attached a letter signed by 326 Montanans requesting your adoption of criteria that will define fair & equitable maps.

With Gratitude,  
Kevin Ward

July 5, 2021

Montana Districting & Apportionment Commissioners,

We are so thankful to the Montanans who served as Constitutional Convention delegates in 1972 for their creation of an independent commission to draw our district maps. Fair and equitable districting is the first step of electing leaders who govern in our interest and make the promise of democracy real for us all.

To that end, the 326 Montanans who have signed on to this letter support the following criteria recommendations for your consideration:

Mandatory Criteria:

- **We support compliance with the Voting Rights Act.** The votes of Indigenous Montanans should not be diluted. The Montana Constitution promises the political and civil rights of all citizens and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas. Both state and federal law require equitable representation for Indigenous Montanans to elect representatives of their choice.
- **We support a 5% deviation between districts.** By adopting a higher deviation, the commission is able to balance criteria more intentionally ensuring that communities of interest and political subdivisions can stay together. Further, the higher deviation will allow the commission to account for 2020-specific oddities in Census data due to the global pandemic. Federal case law is also clear on this issue; if all legislative districts in a plan remain within 5% above or below the ideal district size, it is a presumptively legal plan.

Discretionary Criteria:

- **We support communities of interest and political subdivisions being considered and kept whole when possible.** Communities of interest, like Tribal Nations, should be kept whole when possible and defined by Montanans during the public comment process. Political subdivisions, like cities, counties, & reservations, should also be considered as communities of interest. We recognize that in some instances city limits and county lines don't align perfectly with the communities people consider home, and in those cases, the communities people identify with should be considered for districting purposes first and foremost.
- **We support political fairness as a criteria.** We believe that the balance of power in the legislature should reflect the political balance of the state as a whole. Further, political fairness should be judged by the actual impact of district lines on fairness,

not only the intent of political fairness. While intent provides critical context for a decision, it's the impact of the decision that is meaningful and measurable. The Montana Constitution has a Free Elections Clause that says "All elections shall be free and open..." Any plan that creates an undue partisan advantage, *regardless of intent*, violates this constitutional principle.

- **We support competitiveness as a criteria.** It's not realistic that every district be competitive, but the Commission should strive for competitive districts, when possible. By drawing competitive districts, candidates of every party have to earn the votes of the Montanans in their district resulting in more informed candidates and voters.

This list is not representative of the full list of criteria that the Commission must adopt, but simply the criteria that the undersigned feel must be prioritized. Finally, **we strongly believe that these criteria should not be ranked** more granularly than mandatory and discretionary. By maintaining co-equality of criteria, the Commission can balance the unique needs of each district and center feedback from the public as the center of the process instead of locking them out before Census data even arrives.

Montana has long led the country in fair and equitable districting and is one of only a few states with an independent districting commission. We look to you to continue this tradition by adopting criteria that will help define a map that ensures Montanans get to pick their leaders rather than leaders picking their voters.

Thank you for your consideration and service to Montana.

Tom	Pruitt	Alder	59710
Trey	Henrikson	Anaconda	59711
Todd	Pressdee	Anaconda	59711
Williams	Clark	Anaconda	59711
Shari	Sutherland	Belgrade	59714
Karen	Kroemer Spiess	Belgrade	59714
David	Patenaude	Belgrade	59714
Amy	Olson	Belt	59412
Martina	Morris	Belt	59412
Karen	Baumgart	Billings	59101

Caitlin	Cromwell	Billings	59101
Simon	Harris	Billings	59101
Pari	Kemmick	Billings	59101
Julia	Maxon	Billings	59101
Lisa	A Baracker	Billings	59101
Tully	Olson	Billings	59101
Alanna	Wulf	Billings	59101
Cheryl	Brock	Billings	59101
Addison	Sessions	Billings	59101
Laura	Blatz	Billings	59101
Ethan	Abbey	Billings	59102
Deborah	Abbey	Billings	59102
Bradley	Graybeal	Billings	59102
Lauren	Marsh	Billings	59102
Leah	Berry	Billings	59102
Soraya	Ramhormoz	Billings	59102
Paul	Chinberg	Billings	59102
Carrie	La Seur	Billings	59102
Pam	Meissner	Billings	59102
Karen	Fliger	Billings	59102
Leslie	McCormick	Billings	59102
Adela	Awner	Billings	59102
Colleen	Wulf	Billings	59102
Bonnie	Eldredge	Billings	59102
Robin	Kratschmer	Billings	59102
Uri	Barnea	Billings	59102
Lisa	Ventura	Billings	59102
Doug	Gledhill	Billings	59105
Twila	Moon	Billings	59105
Vicki	Dickinson	Billings	59105



Sherman	E Oland	Billings	59105
Carol	Beam	Billings	59105
Jean	Boone	Billings	59106
John	Smillie	Billings	59106
Jean	Jacques	Billings	59106
Rosie	Costello	Billings	59106
Robert	Mackin	Billings	59106
Kris	Spanjian	Billings	59106
Lauri	Miron	Billings	59106
Steve	Barkley	Bozeman	59715
Remya	Nair	Bozeman	59715
Gary	Parker	Bozeman	59715
Eric	Scranton	Bozeman	59715
Courtney	Duchin	Bozeman	59715
Bella	Shackleton	Bozeman	59715
Rose	Quinn	Bozeman	59715
Steve	Guettermann	Bozeman	59715
Emily	Holmes	Bozeman	59715
Bella	Sheckleton	Bozeman	59715
Amanda	Garant	Bozeman	59715
Emma	Bode	Bozeman	59715
Terry	Bradley	Bozeman	59715
Colleen	Schmidt	Bozeman	59715
Phil	Williams	Bozeman	59715
James	Sangster	Bozeman	59715
Scott	Hills	Bozeman	59715
Cindy	Bowker	Bozeman	59715
Larry	Robins	Bozeman	59715
whitney	tawney	Bozeman	59715
Virginia	Caplette	Bozeman	59715

DN	Collins	Bozeman	59715
Susan	McClure	Bozeman	59715
Kirsten	Taylor	Bozeman	59715
Michelle	Risho	Bozeman	59715
Paul	Burns	Bozeman	59715
Jill	Schaunaman	Bozeman	59715
Jason	Erickson	Bozeman	59715
Cheryl	Eiholzer	Bozeman	59715
Ben	Phinney	Bozeman	59715
Meghan	Boyce	Bozeman	59715
Barbara	Phinney	Bozeman	59715
Jeana	Antle	Bozeman	59715
Ari	Ronai-Durning	Bozeman	59715
James	Murphey	Bozeman	59715
Nancy	Jochem	Bozeman	59715
Gail and John	Richardson	Bozeman	59715
Patti	Steinmuller	Bozeman	59715
Deborah	Berglund	Bozeman	59715
Alex	Blackmer	Bozeman	59715
Rebecca	Barkley	Bozeman	59715
Aja	Osita	Bozeman	59718
Michelle	Vered	Bozeman	59718
Claudia	Streichan	Bozeman	59718
Bruce	Smith	Bozeman	59718
Jim	Cunningham	Bozeman	59718
Terri	McCollim-Hall	Bozeman	59718
Amber	Raile	Bozeman	59718
Kathryn	Hiestand	Bozeman	59718
Christina	Clinton	Bozeman	59718
Larry	Cronenwett	Bozeman	59718

Susan	Greeno	Bozeman	59718
Vincent	Furst	Bozeman	59718
Douglas	Rohn	Bozeman	59718
John	Batsel	Butte	59701
Kathy	Milodragovich	Butte	59701
Annie	Harris	Butte	59701
Barbara	Gregovich	Butte	59701
Angie	Hoang	Butte	59701
Wilma	Immonen	Butte	59701
John	Svaldi	Butte	59701
Marlene	Miller	Butte	59702
Karen W	Porter	Butte	59703
Angela	Geisel	Choteau	59422
Rick	Kerr	Choteau	59422
Mary	Milodragovich	Clinton	59825
Brian	Peck	Columbia Falls	59912
Peter	Newbury	Columbia Falls	59912
Rochelle	Gravance	Columbus	59019
Deborah	Rogala	Darby	59829
Mark	Faroni	Dixon	59831
Nancy	Rockwell	Dixon	59831
Steve	Glow	Dixon	59831
Rush	Hardin	Ennis	59729
gayle	gregovich	Great Falls	59401
Gordon	Whirry	Great Falls	59401
Randy	Gray	Great Falls	59401
Denise	Boggs	Great Falls	59401
William	Clawson	Helena	59601

Abbey	Cook	Helena	59601
Amanda	Frickle	Helena	59601
Nick	Lockridge	Helena	59601
Jill	Lombardi	Helena	59601
Colleen	Martin	Helena	59601
Stephen	Riggs	Helena	59601
Shelby	Rogala	Helena	59601
Karen	Lane	Helena	59601
Clarice	Beck	Helena	59601
Bonnie	Bowler	Helena	59601
Carol	Jacobsen	Helena	59601
Kay	McOmber	Helena	59601
Gretchen	Rooney	Helena	59601
Kevin	Ward	Helena	59601
Heather	O'Laughlin	Helena	59601
Bill	Caccia	Helena	59601
Katherine	Appling-Freistadt	Helena	59601
Carolyn	Radakovich	Helena	59601
Jake	Brown	Helena	59601
Lauren	Caldwell	Helena	59601
JoAnn	Hanson	Helena	59601
Eric	Stimson	Helena	59601
Cynthia	Gustafson	Helena	59601
Vaughn	Kauffman	Helena	59601
Grayson	Jacobs	Helena	59601
Austin	Kempf	Helena	59601
Janet	Childress	Helena	59601
Sandi	Ashley	Helena	59601
Myrna	Austin	Helena	59601

Joyce	Bateman	Helena	59601
Gayle	Joslin	Helena	59601
Ginger	Knaff	Helena	59601
Jeff	Sillick	Helena	59601
Jeffrey	Bartos	Helena	59601
Jerry	Hoover	Helena	59601
Heather	O'Loughlin	Helena	59601
Brian	Green	Helena	59601
Dan	Reeser	Helena	59602
Julie	Reeser	Helena	59602
Jerry	Blythe	Helena	59602
William	Schellenger	Helena	59602
Jena	Marshall	Helena	59602
Rosanna	Bailey	Helena	59602
JoLynn	Yenne	Helena	59901
Mike	Rieger	Jefferson County	59634
Helen	Fee	Jefferson County	59634
Thomas	Carlsen	Jefferson County	59634
Marlyn	Atkins	Jefferson County	59634
Karole	Lee	Jefferson County	59634
Sandra	Goodwin	Jefferson County	59634
Ken	Clark	Jefferson County	59635
Gael	Bissell	Kalispell	59901
Heidi	Gaiser	Kalispell	59901

Cecily	McNeil	Kalispell	59901
Penny	Leistiko	Kalispell	59901
Astaras	V	Kalispell	59901
Maureen	Louden	Kalispell	59901
Jennifer	Durban	Kalispell	59901
Steve	Lundberg	Kalispell	59901
John	de Neeve	Kalispell	59901
Jane	Hamilton	Kalispell	59901
Jacob	Bachmeier	Kalispell	59901
Frederick	Stephens	Kalispell	59901
Dean	Marsh	Kalispell	59901
Heather	Wilson	Kalispell	59901
John	Kyle	Kalispell	59901
Jane	Timmerman	Kalispell	59901
Charles	Evans	Libby	59923
		Lincoln	
Karen	Carter	County	59917
		Lincoln	
Tammi	Corchero	County	59917
Abbie	Bandstra	Livingston	59047
Mary	Grandy	Livingston	59047
Daniel	Sullivan	Livingston	59047
Margarita	McLarty	Livingston	59047
Brian	Hoffman	Marion	59925
Sharon	Bloker	Missoula	59801
Sarah	Brethauer	Missoula	59801
Emma	Covill	Missoula	59801
K. Jane	Duncan	Missoula	59801
Daniel	Fleming	Missoula	59801
Rachel	Garwin	Missoula	59801

Jessica	Grennan	Missoula	59801
Ronald	Korwald	Missoula	59801
Svein	Newman	Missoula	59801
Linda	Pilsworth	Missoula	59801
Cat	Wiechmann	Missoula	59801
Izzy	Milch	Missoula	59801
Mary	Sullivan	Missoula	59801
Shelly	Meyer	Missoula	59801
McKenzie	Carter	Missoula	59801
Erin	Miller	Missoula	59801
Caitlin	Piserchia	Missoula	59801
Joe	Stauffer	Missoula	59801
Kate	Mrgudic	Missoula	59801
Jon	Ellingson	Missoula	59801
Laurel	Hesse	Missoula	59801
Martha	Thayer	Missoula	59801
Suddhabha	Lannen	Missoula	59801
Linda	Helding	Missoula	59801
Kiah	Abbey	Missoula	59802
Meaghan	Bailey	Missoula	59802
Krystin	Gehrich	Missoula	59802
Hannah	Honey	Missoula	59802
Ivy	MacDonald	Missoula	59802
Jennifer	McBride	Missoula	59802
Sierra	Mcmurry	Missoula	59802
Amy	Rathke	Missoula	59802
Ella	Smith	Missoula	59802
Jeremiah	Gaiser	Missoula	59802
Danielle	Vazquez	Missoula	59802
Kayje	Booker	Missoula	59802

Bridget	Clarke	Missoula	59802
Kate	Geranios	Missoula	59802
Cathy	Stewart	Missoula	59802
Kayje	Booker	Missoula	59802
Pat	Kujawa	Missoula	59803
Tom	Hagan	Missoula	59804
Alicia	Walters	Missoula	59804
Edward	Brown	Missoula	59806
Heather	Voorhees	Missoula	59808
Hannah	Reagan	Missoula	59808
Kim	Hawkins	Missoula	59808
Sarah	Lester	Missoula	59808
Randy	Crawford	Park City	59063
Mark	Polakoff	Red Lodge	59068
catherine	schmidt	Red Lodge	59068
		Sanders	
Susan	Strand	County	59874
jan	lombardi	Seeley Lake	59868
Jeanne	Koester	Seeley Lake	59868
		Thompson	
John	Maxwell	Falls	59873
Christine	Merriman	Whitefish	59937
Mary	Alexine	Whitefish	59937
Richard	Frazier	Whitefish	59937
Bo	Matson	Whitefish	59937
Lindy	Cubberley	Whitefish	59937
Sheila	Shapiro	Whitefish	59937
Marijke	Stob	Whitefish	59937
Umar	Bell	Whitefish	59937
Susan	Leaverton	Absorkee	59001



Kathleen	Quinn	Gardiner	59030
Sarah	Stewart	Gardiner	59030
Linda	Remmick	Edgar	59041
Gage	Hull	Laurel	59044
Grant	Barnard	Red Lodge	59068
Bill	Milton	Roundup	59072
Wade	Sikorski	Baker	59313
Kelly	Wicks	Glendive	59330
Kelly	Quick	Great Falls	59404
Melanie	Moore	Great Falls	59404
David	Saslav	Great Falls	59404
Rise	Pelloni	Great Falls	59404
Gerry	Jennings	Great Falls	59404
Anne	Martinez	Great Falls	59404
Patrick	McGuffin	Great Falls	59404
Carolyn	Craven	Great Falls	59405
Robert	Willits	Great Falls	59405
Raymone	Annau	Great Falls	59405
Patricia	Rosenleaf	Great Falls	59405
Daniel	Biehl	Great Falls	59405
Terry	Hulse	Great Falls	59405
Dorothy	Starshine	Great Falls	59405
Kurt	Shepherd	Great Falls	59405
Sara	Walsh	Augusta	59410
Heather	McCartney-Duty	Choteau	59422
Lydia	Sanders	Conrad	59425
barbara	guran-eubank	Cut Bank	59427
Rena	Lattin	Power	59468
Sally	Lydon	Sand Coulee	59472

Juanita	Polston	Ulm	59485
Claudia	Howard	Havre	59501
O. Alan	Weltzien	Dillon	59725
Joseph	Cleary	Divide	59727
		Gallatin	
Susan	Rabatin	Gateway	59730
Rande	Mack	Manhattan	59741
Cynthia	Harrison	Polaris	59746
Curtis	Kruer	Sheridan	59749
Gaagii	Lammers	Three Forks	59752
Larry	Leonard	Virgina City	59755
Kristine	Ellingsen	Bozeman	59771
Timothy	Hills	Bozeman	59771
Mark	Collins	Bozeman	59772
Pamela	Kloote	Bonner	59823
Donetta	Klein	Hamilton	59840
Dylan	Flather	Hamilton	59840
Dale	Broszeit	Hamilton	59840
Colleen	Hinds	Heron	59844
Shelley	Eisenrich	Hot Springs	59845
Charles	Bertsch	Polson	59860
Jeff	Tuttle	Polson	59860
Leslie	Dalbey	Polson	59860
John	Woodland	Superior	59872
Susan	Strand	Trout Creek	59874
Michael	Grauer	Big Fork	59911
Kathy	Kinzfogl	Big Fork	59911
martin	chamberlin	Big Fork	59911
Gil	Jordan	Coram	59913
Debo	Powers	Coram	59928

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 11:12:53 AM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 11:12

**Your Full Name:**

Jurgen Weiel

**Email Address:**

[jurgenweiel@msn.com](mailto:jurgenweiel@msn.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Bozeman

**Your Comment/Input:**

Since we are supposed to have free and fair elections, I hope that the redistricting commission stays away from gerrymandering which is completely the antitheses of free and fair elections. I am an independent and only care that we get qualified representation and not someone who is beholdng to any group. Period. Thanks.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [dmwheat](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] date to commence redistricting efforts  
**Date:** Friday, July 2, 2021 10:03:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to redistricting commision.rtf](#)

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Dear Commissioners: Attached are my comments concerning when to commence your redistricting efforts. Thank you for your time and attention. Michael E Wheat

July 1, 2021

To the members of the Redistricting Commission

Subject: Date of delivery of census data for commencement of redistricting plan

Dear commission members:

I am aware that you are discussing which date you should commence your redistricting efforts: i.e., either mid-August when you will be able to access the census data in the Legacy format, or on September 30 when the data will be delivered utilizing dvd's and flash drives. We are all aware that the Montana Constitution requires the completion of a final redistricting plan "within 90 days after the official final census figures are available." I also know there are arguments on either side of this issue, but I would encourage you to move forward with the August date, utilizing the data in the Legacy format. I make this recommendation for the following reasons:

The data available in the Legacy format in August is the same data that will be available on September 30 - just in a different format. In fact, in response to Commissioner Miller's e-mail request for guidance from Mr. Whitehorne, with the census bureau, Mr. Whitehorne stated that the only difference between the August posting and the September posting was that the posting in August requires recipients to take an action to receive the data, and the September posting is the bureau taking action to deliver the data. The State of Montana has utilized the Legacy format in past redistricting efforts, and would certainly be able to utilize it again in this circumstance.

From my perspective, it would be better to start the process in mid August rather than late September because it gives you more flexibility and avoids the pitfalls of weather, holidays and legislative deadlines. I know your job is very demanding and time consuming, so the more flexibility you can have the better your product will be. I also believe starting the process in August will allow for more public input.

Thank you for considering my comments and good luck in fulfilling your important responsibilities.

Very Truly yours

Michael E Wheat  
Former Montana State Senator, and  
Retired Montana Supreme Court Associate Justice

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 2:46:46 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 5th July 2021 14:46

**Your Full Name:**

Gordon Whirry

**Email Address:**

[gwhirry@gmail.com](mailto:gwhirry@gmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Great Falls

**Your Comment/Input:**

Please make every effort to provide Montana with fair and competitive redistricting and avoid partisan gerrymandering. Due to census problems and to allow flexibility the federally allowed 5% deviation should be used. Criteria should be unranked and divisions set to allow politically neutral competitive races to the extent practical. Community and tribal boundaries should remain intact.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)

**From:** [Deborah Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Follow the Law and Constituon When Redistricting  
**Date:** Monday, July 5, 2021 11:03:10 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Commissioners,

Please remember that MCA 5-11-115 (law) and the Constitution REQUIRE that you set district boundaries with the following criteria:

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

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

You are REQUIRED to follow the law and the Constitution. I will watch the outcome of the redistricting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deborah M. Wilson

Kila, Montana

**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 23, 2021 5:34:37 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 23rd June 2021 17:34

**Your Full Name:**

John Wright

**Email Address:**

[jwright68@hotmail.com](mailto:jwright68@hotmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Westby, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

I can see people saying 5% deviation for the Democrats, and 1% deviation for the Republicans at future meetings. I would like to see the current legislative districts being redrawn based on the 2020 census results similar to the 2010 Existing Plan using 2% deviation per MT house district. The deviation could be raised to 3% if communities testify they want to maintain their community of interest like school districts, reservations and counties. The bottom line is the deviation could be maximized at 3% per MT house district. The Congressional districts need to be 1% or less because they are large in area and population.

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)



**From:** [leg-noreply@mt.gov](mailto:leg-noreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** Submission from Redistricting Input Form  
**Date:** Monday, June 28, 2021 6:49:53 PM

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# Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

**Date:** 28th June 2021 18:49

**Your Full Name:**

John Wright

**Email Address:**

[jwright68@hotmail.com](mailto:jwright68@hotmail.com)

**City and State of Residence:**

Westby, MT

**Your Comment/Input:**

Suggestions for increased bipartisanship: 1. Have the seating arrangement with the Democrats and Republicans alternating seats like they did during the 1972 Montana Con-Con. This would encourage increased communication among both parties and decrease the Us vs. Them mentality. 2. Have each map created with one Republican and one Democrat working together with disagreements settled by a coin flip or the Chair making the tie-breaking vote. Have the committee people who sit next to each other create each map. This way the testimony would be less partisan and more from the standpoint of what is best for each district. Thank you

Sent via [leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/](https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/redistricting-input/)