

# Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between 5 p.m. October 2 and 11:59 p.m. on October  
4, 2021

Distributed electronically October 5, 2021

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Steve Barkley  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:39:17 PM

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From: Steve Barkley  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:  
Gallatin County should be kept whole

Ive lived in Gallatin County for 24 years and its home and has a diversity that is unique in its industries and tourism etc and should be kept together

Please keep Gallatin County whole

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Geraldine Beck  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 8:17:43 AM

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From: Geraldine Beck  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Things to keep in mind while drawing the new maps:

Creating fair districts requires balancing many factors. Political competitiveness ensures those elected work hard to represent a broad range of constituents and improves their responsiveness to the voters. Political parity ensures that each political party will have representation in proportion to the party's overall share of voters. Both require looking at voting pattern data to assess fairness. Communities of interest are defined by the people within them and depend upon citizen input. Minimizing dividing counties, cities and towns, and other existing boundaries must be balanced against all the other factors.

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

**From:** [Cindy Bowker](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting Commission  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 12:18:10 PM

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Thank you for taking comments. I know your goal is to be fair, but it is hard to see how dividing a county is fair to all its residents. Keeping the natural boundaries of cities, counties and Tribal communities should be the highest priority. I understand the population needs to be as equal as possible and that no party is unduly favored. But unity in cities, counties and Tribal communities seems more important to me. Please don't divide them.

Cindy Bowker  
3180 Shooting Star Lane  
Bozeman 59715

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Virjeana Brown  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:24:00 PM

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From: Virjeana Brown  
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

Please do not split Gallatin County. Gallatin County has become the second largest in the state and should not be split in two in an effort to dilute the voices of those who live here. All voices need to be heard and I don't want to see gerrymandering affect Montana in a negative way. Keep Gallatin County whole.

I have lived in Gallatin County since 1993 and specifically Belgrade since 1996. I have seen Gallatin County change significantly over the years and it is very important to me that all voices are heard for the county.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [Marisa Bueno](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional district map  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 12:26:46 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

In this time of so much partisanship and politicization, I am encouraged by this commission's work to ensure that all voices are represented and heard fairly in our state. This work is the essence of democracy and I appreciate it. Thank you as well for taking action to ensure that Montanans who are currently incarcerated are counted in the district of their home address instead of the prison or jail they currently reside in. As you consider the best congressional maps for Montana tomorrow, I encourage you to please ensure that those chosen meet the following criteria:

- Maintains the natural boundaries of our cities, Tribal communities, and counties.
- Is as equal in population as possible.
- Is competitive, when possible, to ensure that no party is unduly favored.

Please ensure that our state does not become a ridiculous echo chamber of one way of thinking (and I would say this with regards to either party).

Thank you,  
Marisa Bueno  
Bozeman, MT 59715

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nyla Chandler  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:19:17 PM

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From: Nyla Chandler  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

My husband Steve Bracken and I have lived in the Gallatin valley for 40 years. We believe that redistricting should proceed with one of the baseline components being to keep the whole valley in one district.

I was born in Bozeman in 1961. I went to primary and secondary school here, then went to MSU in Bozeman and Missoula for undergraduate studies. After working as an RN after a few years in Missoula I returned to Bozeman like a homing pigeon in order to ski, hike and help preserve the environment here by being active with MWA and the local land trust and other environmental and social issues. I completed my Masters degree at MSU and have continued to work in healthcare. We have renovated a craftsman style bungalow in southeast Bozeman near Petes hill. We enjoy the community and forests and all that Gallatin Valley offers. I work in Belgrade currently.

The fast growth has dismayed us. The problems the valley faces are many.

Gallatin County is uniquely blessed with lots of natural beauty, options for outdoor recreation and sustainable businesses that depend on keeping those qualities intact. This should not be influenced by politics. The rivers, forests, agriculture and recreational areas need to be protected. The health and well being of the people who live here depend on that.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Janet Childress  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:52:58 PM

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From: Janet Childress  
Residence: Helena

Message:

Please do not split Gallatin County in the redistricting. It deserves to to be kept whole. Just like Yellowstone County, Gallatin County should anchor its own congressional district. Many maps submitted to the Commission are splitting Gallatin County to ensure there would be no competitive district.

Counties should only be split to better achieve other goals adopted by the Commission and not to ensure that districts will be noncompetitive and favor one party.

The Districting and Apportionment Commission must remain independent as our Constitution intended. This means that partisan maps submitted with the intent to split Gallatin should be off the table for consideration. Period.

I have family in Gallatin County. They have lived there for decades. Their voices deserve to be heard in an equitable manner.

Gallatin County should be kept whole in the interest of equal treatment, fairness, and nonpartisanship. Splitting it would be gerrymandering which is not acceptable.

Thank you for your consideration.

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



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jerome Edward Coffey  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 3:06:44 PM

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From: Jerome Edward Coffey  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Please keep Gallatin County whole and in the Western Congressional District. Geography and proximity matter.

I have lived in Gallatin County for 50 years, raised my children here and buried my wife here.

The astronomical recent growth requires unified planning and problem solving.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carol Collins  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:37:22 PM

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From: Carol Collins  
Residence: Gallatin Gateway

Message:  
Gallatin County should be in one district.

I leave south of Big Sky on the Gallatin River. We have lived here for 32 years. The natural beauty of the area is of no major importance to the state and nation

Gallatin county is the gateway to Yellowstone Park and vast amounts of public lands. Splitting the district could be detrimental

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [Katie Distin](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting - Gallatin County  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:19:13 PM

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Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Hello,

Please do not split Gallatin County. I believe this will dilute what the majority of this growing community stands for and is unnecessary gerrymandering.

I live in Bozeman and I have lived here for almost 15 years. I love this county and it's diversity.

Gallatin County citizens need to be able to be heard regarding what is important to them. We have a unique population and surrounding ecosystem who's interests should be heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,  
Katie Distin  
822 S Black Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59715

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Charles Doolittle  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:14:01 PM

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From: Charles Doolittle  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:  
Please do not split Gallatin County

We moved here two years ago to be near our kids in Bozeman. We appreciate the arts, the local outdoor options and the beauty of this area.

This county should continue to maintain its entity and not to be changed by purely political motivation.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joslin Fields  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:12:38 PM

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From: Joslin Fields  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I am stunned that there is an effort to divide the Gallatin county for political gain. I feel very strongly that we remain a whole!

I have lived here since 1991. I live on the NE side where neighbors chat on the street. Most of us walk and bike here and have a sense of community. Our county should not be severed for political purposes. Lets work together to try to protect the wild lands and trails that are so essential to making life here so enjoyable. We must maintain our unity which is far more important for our health and happiness in the long run.

Gallatin county has been my home for over 30 years. It has been friendly and welcoming and accepting. Lets not create divisions that will result in animosity and unfair gains for political purposes!

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carrie French  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:34:00 PM

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From: Carrie French  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Im writing to ask you to keep Gallatin County whole in redistricting.

I was born and raised in Gallatin County and have spent most of my life here, as has my immediate family.

Please protect the integrity of our local elections by not allowing unfair redistricting practices.

Gallatin County is a fast growing community and deserves to remain whole and to be a cornerstone. It should not be allowed to be split up in a partisan effort to give one party and unfair advantage.

Thank you for your consideration.

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# BLACKFEET NATION

P.O. BOX 850 BROWNING, MONTANA 59417  
Telephone (406) 338-7521 Fax: (406) 338-7530

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ILIFF “SCOTT” KIPP, SR. – VICE CHAIRMAN  
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MARK E. POLLOCK  
MARVIN WEATHERWAX, JR.  
VIRGIL LAST STAR

September 16, 2021

## **Testimony of Blackfeet Nation in Support of Proposed Congressional District Map:**

Dear Montana’s Independent Redistricting Commission:

We call on the Commission to adopt Public Map Number 42 for Montana’s two congressional districts. The Blackfeet Nation endorses this map for three reasons. First, Blackfeet have strong ties with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes and to Western Montana and we would like to be included in a Congressional district with them. Second, we believe a competitive district would best serve Blackfeet’s interests. Finally, we believe that a map that is competitive and includes two Native American communities is preferable because it means that no single Native American community is isolated and we believe it will lead to greater engagement with Native American issues within the state at large.

First, Blackfeet Nation has strong ties to Western Montana, to the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), and to Whitefish. Our Reservation borders Glacier National Park and our economy is connected to the Park—just as the economies of Whitefish and Columbia Falls are connected to the Park. Our high school in Browning is a Class A school—we compete in the Northwest Conference against schools from Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Ronan, Libby, and Polson.

Many CSKT members, or their family members, live on the Blackfeet Reservation, and many Blackfeet members, or their family members, live on the Flathead Reservation. Our familial and political connections are similar historically as we shared responsibility and stewardship for what is now called Glacier National Park. The Blackfeet and CSKT both share a spiritual and cultural connection to the mountain ranges in and around Glacier National Park. Origin stories, historical hunting and timeless ceremonies continue to take place in these mountains as they have for generations before.

Our two reservations have shared legislative districts in the State House and State Senate for many years. We have both close cultural and economic ties to CSKT.

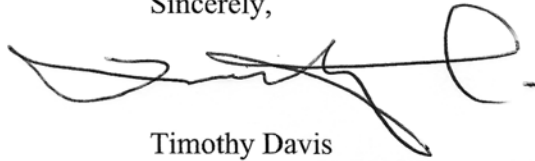
Second, we highly value competitiveness in a congressional map. A competitive district means that politicians need to engage with us in order to secure our vote. For that reason, we believe competition leads to a healthier democracy and more favorable outcomes for our people. We do not receive a lot of engagement from politicians. We believe a competitive district would mean more engagement, which means that the issues that matter to our community are more likely to be addressed. It is essential to us that there be a competitive district in Montana.

Finally, we believe that the competitive district should include as many Native American communities as possible. As the largest minority community in Montana, we believe that inclusion of two Native American communities in a competitive district best serves Native Americans in the state of Montana because it will lead to Native issues being elevated across the state instead of just one Native community. We are strongly against a map that does not include any Native American reservations in the competitive district as we believe that will lead to the exclusion of Native American voices and lead to even less engagement by politicians. We believe this is the only map where competitiveness is possible while also including the Blackfeet Nation in the competitive district. The Blackfeet Nation strongly prefers to be included in this map.

We also believe this map satisfies both the mandatory criteria and the goals adopted by the Commission. No map can perfectly satisfy all of the requirements, but we believe that the proposed map does the best job of balancing the competing rules that the Commission must follow.

We hope the Commission will take these comments into consideration, and implement the above map. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Davis', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy Davis  
Chairman of the Blackfeet Nation



**From:** [Wesley Furlong](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Dion KILLSBACK](#); [Jacqueline De Leon](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Blackfeet Nation Testimony  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 4:02:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [Blackfeet Nation Testimony\\_09.17.21.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

Attached please find a letter from Timothy Davis, Chairman of the Blackfeet Nation, to the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission regarding the proposed congressional district maps.

**Wesley James Furlong | he/his/him**

Staff Attorney

Native American Rights Fund

745 West 4th Avenue, Suite 502

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 276-0680 w.

(907) 276-2466 f.

[www.narf.org](http://www.narf.org) [[narf.org](http://narf.org)]

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am continuing to work from home normal hours.**

**You may still reach our office by contacting our office manager Jill Rush at (907) 276-0680 or [rush@narf.org](mailto:rush@narf.org).**

Alaska Bar Association No. 1611108

State Bar of Montana No. 42771409

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Daphne Gillam  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:24:29 PM

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From: Daphne Gillam  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:  
Do not split Gallatin County in half please.

4th generation Bozeman native. I love the diversity- you can drive 15 minutes out of Bozeman and youre in Montana  
We have a condo in Bozeman and a working ranch in Wilsall.

It is very diverse- university, small rural communities, ski areas, high tech areas, ranches, farmland, boutique hotels – a MIX. There is plenty of variety in the county to represent many diverse opinions,

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Brian Globerman  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:44:17 PM

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From: Brian Globerman  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:  
Please do not split Gallatin County

I live on the west side of Bozeman in Gallatin County.

Gallatin County should be kept whole because we are one community with common interests.

Thank you for your consideration.

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tim Hills  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:38:46 PM

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From: Tim Hills  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Gallatin County is an important Western MT community and should be kept whole.

I live on Main Street, in Bozeman, going on two years now.  
I am here primarily for my proximity to the mountains that surround Bozeman, and the wilderness.

This is a diverse community in this county and those who live here are best represented by one voice.

Thank you for your consideration.

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dana Huschle  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:13:17 PM

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From: Dana Huschle Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Please don't gerrymandering, Gallatin County should not be split

I've lived in Gallatin County since 1980, in Bozeman, it's my home

Splitting the county will disenfranchise our votes

Thank you for your consideration.

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

**From:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ruth Kopec  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:34:03 PM

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**From:** MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** Districting <districting@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ruth Kopec

From: Ruth Kopec  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I believe Gallatin County should not be split between the two congressional districts being drawn for Montana. Local governmental units should be maintained. The only reason to split Gallatin County is to provide a partisan advantage which is an invalid reason for such an action.

I have lived in Gallatin County for over 18 years as a full time resident. Its future is important to me and the ability to have my vote matter in the future of the county, the state of Montana and this country is vital.

Gallatin County is one of if not the fastest growing communities in Montana. Its political influence should not be diminished by being split between the proposed congressional districts. As it continues to grow it will face many issues that may be impacted by congressional actions.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Stephanie Lindsay  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:51:10 PM

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From: Stephanie Lindsay  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Gallatin county should be kept as one county and not split up into 2 districts. It will not be good for the county or the state if gallatin county is split up. Maintain the integrity of gallatin county as it now is.

I work at MSU, spend lots of \$ in Gallatin county.

It is in the best interests of the people who live in Gallatin NOT to break up/redistricting the county.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Roxanna Mclaughlin  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:48:10 PM

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From: Roxanna Mclaughlin  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Hello! I hope your day is a good one. I am writing to say I am in favor of keeping Bozeman the anchor of its own Congressional district.

Gallatin County is now the second largest county in the state, and to dilute its vote power by dividing it is just unpatriotic and suspicious.

Any partisan maps submitted with intent to split Gallatin county should be off the table for consideration.

Do good. Thank you.

Ive lived near Bozeman pass for 17 years. Most of the people I meet that live here value the land, water, air, and wildlife and thats why they choose this place to live. I treasure knowing this.

We have a strong patriotic ethic and this needs to be respected and honored. Our diverse population, over and over, demonstrates that we work together across partisan attempts at division.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Murphey  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:16:21 PM

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From: James Murphey  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I understand that there is some consideration about splitting Gallatin County between the two US House districts. I am strongly opposed to this. We in Gallatin County are one community, and should be considered as a whole in the Western District

I live in Bozeman, moving here in 1986, and the sense of community has always been a strong one, even between the city and outlying areas. We all make use of the same resources

Despite having more rural and urban parts of the county, we all work together, and I believe we should be treated as such

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Katy Osterloth  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:13:21 PM

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From: Katy Osterloth  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I would like to see Gallatin County kept intact. We are a rapidly growing district where the will of the people is important to be heard. I do not see a good reason to split the district.

I am a resident of Gallatin County and have been for 21 years.

We want to have a strong voice as a growing and large community of Montanans.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David Peters  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:43:59 PM

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From: David Peters  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

As a resident of Gallatin county I would strongly request that redistricting plan for the state of Montana not include a divided Gallatin County.

We have lived in the county just outside Bozeman for over 5 years. We moved here because of the mixture of old and new Montana. Enjoying the positive contributions of both.

Gallatin county is a wonderful blend of rural and urban, long-timers and new-comers, farming and hi-tech, young and old, and people who have had great success with living with this diversity.

Please dont divide the rich blend that Gallatin County represents!

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nancy Sanders  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:07:37 PM

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From: Nancy Sanders Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Bozeman already has growing pains, so it will be VITAL to have a unified voice to address these issues. We dont want an East vs west or a north vs south division

As a seven year resident I have both lived in the city of Bozeman and in the county. Its the best place Ive ever lived

It has served us well for many years and will continue to do so

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Michael Schaub  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:34:34 PM

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From: Michael Schaub  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

As a Gallatin County resident my family and I oppose any thought of splitting the county for House district borders. Thank You.

I have lived in the county for the last 8 years on Bridger creek golf course. This is the most beautiful vibrant county in the state

As the fastest growing county it is the new melting pot and the views of the community should be applied to one district.

Thank you for your consideration.

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Melissa Stanley  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:14:13 PM

---

From: Melissa Stanley  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I am writing to express my opinion in keeping Gallatiin County as one district.

I have lived here almost 15 years. I believe it is a great place to live and raise children, while connecting to the outdoors.

To keep our community feeling whole and connected, it seems important not to have a divided district. It will make our voice stronger to remain whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patti Steinmuller  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 4:06:43 PM

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From: Patti Steinmuller Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I live in Gallatin County, and I noticed that several maps submitted to the redistricting commission have split Gallatin County into two Congressional districts. I urge you to dismiss these maps. One of the goals of the redistricting process was to leave counties intact. Splitting Gallatin County disregards this goal. Since Gallatin County is now the second largest county in population the state, it's reasonable that large counties like Gallatin should be allotted their own district. Although Gallatin County comprises individuals of diverse perspectives, they are many issues common to the entire county. Thus, it is important that voters in Gallatin County be represented in Congress by a single representative. Finally, splitting Gallatin County appears to be an effort to gerrymander the state so that neither district would be competitive politically. Since political parties should not be given preference by the final map, I urge the commission to dismiss the maps that split Gallatin County from further consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Brian Schmidt  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:04:53 PM

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From: Brian Schmidt  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Please do not split gallatin county. It would be detrimental to our local democracy if any political party could just divide up parts of the state for their benefit.

I live in Bozeman and have for the last 11 years. I love Bozeman and gallatin county

At this time there is no need to divide a county that has been thriving in the boundaries where it currently exists

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Karen Stoltzfus  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 2:08:36 PM

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From: Karen Stoltzfus  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I am in favor of keeping Gallatin county intact for the redistricting process! Please do not split Gallatin County.

Gallatin County is important to me because it has been my home for 40 years and we pay plenty of taxes! I want my voice to be heard as part of the community and be a part of the decision making process.

There is no reason to split Gallatin County and should be left as is. I fear it would dilute the strength of the area's general opinions and muddle the general consensus of Gallatin County.

Thank you for your consideration.

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