

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment
Commission

Comments received prior to 5 pm on July 16, 2021

Sherley, Laura

From: Kiah Abbey <kiah.abbey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legislative Criterion

Dear Chair Smith & Commissioners,

I write to first thank you for your commitment thus far to a thoughtful and intentional redistricting process. Though I know the hearings and work sessions have been long, it's heartening to see Montanans in public service deeply invested in finding the best path forward for our state.

My family homesteaded up Brackett Creek, built roots in Columbus, and I was raised in Billings. I went to school and started my professional career in Bozeman before my partner's career brought us to Missoula. Having known and lived in so many different places, I understand deeply that Montana's communities deserve a commission with the flexibility to draw legislative maps that meet their needs. If a strict 1% deviation was put into place, it would jeopardize the commission's ability to actually respond to the unique needs and communities of interest in each of our special places.

Further, only by taking into account historic electoral results and voting trends can the Commission confront the inherent political nature of redistricting. We have the data and tools to transparently talk about and create a legislative map that is competitive (each party has an equal chance of winning a district) and fair (the legislative map is reflective of the voting trends of the state). To ignore the political would not only be naive, but would be a disservice to Montanans.

After seeing the intentionality and commitment to consensus that you maintained in your adoption of Congressional criterion, I'm confident that this commission has the maturity and commitment to public input to successfully draw maps that are fair, competitive, and responsive to our communities' needs.

Thank you for your time and commitment.

With Appreciation,
Kiah Abbey
Missoula, MT

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Kiah Abbey
(e) kiah.abbey@gmail.com
(#) 406.672.8004

"If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." - Lila Watson

Sherley, Laura

From: Dee Abbott <dabbott3652@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you!
R. Dyon "Dee" Abbott
3652 Kinsey Road
Miles City, MT 59301

Sherley, Laura

From: Mark A <drmarkvanzantdmd@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Sir/Ma'am;

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: Elliot Adams <elliottadams88@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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Sincerely, Elliot Adams

Sherley, Laura

From: Natalie Adams <natalieadams1219@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments on Redistricting - July 20th Agenda

Hello,

I have several concerns with the commission's decisions to use Fair and Competitive Districts. This seems extremely biased to support a political party and very arbitrary in nature. I do not support this and strongly encourage public comments to begin at the start of the meeting so decisions are not made until all comments are considered. See below additional concerns:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

As a commission, you are to ensure a fair and honest redistricting process. Please do what is right.

Thank you,

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Natalie Adams, M.S.
Bozeman, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:50

Your Full Name:

Christine Ahner

Email Address:

ahnergram@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comment! Keep districts as even as possible! Do not use fair and Competitive Districts as mandatory or discretionary criteria!!!!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Randy Alford <jracpa@montana.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting

Dear Districting Commission,

I have lived in Montana for 44 years and am very concerned about the possible gerrymandering that is being considered for the new congressional district for Montana. A democratically elected government to represent we the people requires trustworthy elections that are determined by counting all the votes, not gerrymandering districts to favor or disfavor a political party. We Montanans are proud of our culture of helping our neighbors and our whole communities, and we should not introduce the toxic policy of gerrymandering congressional districts to divide our state and communities on the basis of partisan lines.

Specifically, I think the Districting Commission should do the following:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.
4. I'd like to see a north/south line separating eastern and western Montana with most counties being undivided. If a few counties need to be divided, do it with a north & south line and make it as straight as possible.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Sincerely,

J. Randolph Alford

Sherley, Laura

From: J Alford <mtjra@protonmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional Redistricting

Dear Districting Commission,

I am a lifelong Montanan who hopes that you will consider the voices of all Montanans as you make important decisions about Montana's new Congressional district. We Montanans want trustworthy elections to determine who represents we the people in Congress. I hope you will hear the voice of the people and create districts that differ in population by less than 1 percent. Would you want to live in a district that was gerrymandered to disfavor your political party or a candidate you supported? You would not consider such gerrymandering to be fair and therefore should not use any gerrymandering to favor or disfavor a political party.

In the interest of fairness and nonpartisanship during the districting process, I ask that you do the following:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the voters to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you for your time and for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

John Alford

Sherley, Laura

From: Jane Alford <jane.e.alford@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:34 AM
To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting

Dear Districting Commission,

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Thank you for hearing my voice.

Sincerely,

Jane Alford

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 13th July 2021 07:49

Your Full Name:

Chris Amyes

Email Address:

cjamtPA@pm.me

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT

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, Chris Amyes

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tamra Anderegg <tamianderegg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

July 16, 2021

Dear members of the Redistricting Commission,

As a voter in Montana, I have significant concerns with the decisions made in your July 8th and 9th meetings as well as with the potential decisions in the upcoming meeting scheduled for July 20th.

When drawing the next legislative districts, Democrat members talked about “fair and competitive” criteria. What exactly is the definition of fair and competitive? Both terms are met with subjective criteria and ambiguity. Districts should be as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with the rare exception of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to manipulate or pack districts to favor different parties. The use of “Fair and Competitive Districts” would make one district more “competitive and by default, would require you to make one less “competitive”. This, then clearly violates the tenant approved by all parties that no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Whereas the Constitution has plain language “Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory” and “shall be nearly equal in population as practicable”. (Article V, Sect 14 MT Con). Therefore, the only way a district can truly be competitively drawn is to consider party affiliation and group to near equal totals of Republicans and Democrats. But wait what about the Libertarians and Independents- are they being excluded? Mind you, there is no support in the law nor the Montana Constitution to support such injudicious and capricious criteria, no fair way you can even establish a definitive meaning to either and have voted to exclude other parties. Yet you voted in support to establish these two parameters.

In the upcoming July 20th meeting, your agenda appears to continue the work session on Legislative criteria and it only allows for what appears to be just 15 minutes for public comment. As a constituent, this is totally unacceptable. It is seemingly apparent that you

do not wish to hear from your constituents about your actions and will not seek comments on the actions for an entirely new section of your duties: the state legislative seats. Therefore, I am requesting and imploring you to change the agenda, to allow for public comment at all points in the decision-making process from Montana citizens about the second set of criteria you are proposing, especially in light of the fact that Montana has a very rich tradition of public participation and open meetings.

As you very well know, these rules are crucial, the process must be transparent and allow for participation and inclusiveness if there is to be hope of legitimacy for Montana voters. This next meeting is too important to continue to push through in this direction as such and I, thereby, ask you, once again to allow for public comment before your actions on the Legislative criteria.

Thank you for your dedication to this critical task and your consent to include Montana citizens in your deliberations for our states future and generations in the necessary and righteous work you are doing to ensure quality of life, livelihood opportunities and liberties for all – as it is “The Last Best Place”.

Respectfully,

Tamra Anderegg

1716 Ferret Way

Great Falls, MT 59405

(406) 781-6275

tamianderegg@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Tamra Anderegg <tamianderegg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

July 16, 2021

Dear members of the Redistricting Commission,

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When drawing the next legislative districts, Democrat members talked about “fair and competitive” criteria. What exactly is the definition of fair and competitive? Both terms are met with subjective criteria and ambiguity. Districts should be as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with the rare exception of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to manipulate or pack districts to favor different parties. The use of “Fair and Competitive Districts” would make one district more “competitive and by default, would require you to make one less “competitive”. This, then clearly violates the tenant approved by all parties that no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Whereas the Constitution has plain language “Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory” and “shall be nearly equal in population as practicable”. (Article V, Sect 14 MT Con). Therefore, the only way a district can truly be competitively drawn is to consider party affiliation and group to near equal totals of Republicans and Democrats. But wait what about the Libertarians and Independents- are they being excluded? Mind you, there is no support in the law nor the Montana Constitution to support such injudicious and capricious criteria, no fair way you can even establish a definitive meaning to either and have voted to exclude other parties. Yet you voted in support to establish these two parameters.

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Thank you for your dedication to this critical task and your consent to include Montana citizens in your deliberations for our states future and generations in the necessary and righteous work you are doing to ensure quality of life, livelihood opportunities and liberties for all – as it is “The Last Best Place”.

Respectfully,

Tamra Anderegg

1716 Ferret Way

Great Falls, MT 59405

(406) 781-6275

tamianderegg@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 13:32

Your Full Name:
Veronica Anderson

Email Address:
vbovee@msn.com

City and State of Residence:
Libby, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I am very disappointed to learn that this committee will not be taking public input at your next meeting BEFORE any actions are taking on your part. As you are an appointed body and not elected by any Montanan, it appears that you would rather perform is very important job on our own. Please reconsider your decision to move forward without first hearing from the citizens of Montana. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th July 2021 14:07

Your Full Name:

Diane Anderson

Email Address:

danderson1070@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Great Falls

Your Comment/Input:

If you truly want to inspire confidence in our political system, it seems wise to depoliticize the redistricting process. Competitive races inspire candidates to listen to all constituents in order to define their messaging and hold the candidate accountable to the voters, regardless of party. It inspires creativity in addressing challenges and facilitates good communication and problem-solving, something that is often short in supply. Configuring districts to create a political bias only leads to mediocrity and distrust. If this were not so, we would not have so many independents and third party voters. For the reasons stated, I encourage this committee to respect the diversity, culture and natural boundaries of Montanans above political gamesmanship in carving out boundaries. Regards, Diane

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Deb Arnold <debrajeanarnold@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

1. Please, Do NOT restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you MUST allow for public comment at the BEGINNING of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states: No plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do NOT pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 11:16

Your Full Name:

Daniel Arnold

Email Address:

darnold@cyberport.net

City and State of Residence:

Whitefish, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Sean Ashby <seanpashby@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:47 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the Redistricting Process Fair

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sean Ashby

Concerned Montana Citizen

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:37 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:36

Your Full Name:
Dorothy Ashcraft

Email Address:
dashcraft49@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Polson, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Public comments AFTER your decisions are made makes it look like your minds are already made up. Allow some time for comments prior to decision making. You're schedule may have to be adjusted but, oh well. Please avoid tactics to pack districts that would favor one party or the other. Remember you are working for voters and always allow them to choose who will represent them. Avoid SR1 at all costs!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:11

Your Full Name:

Larry Ashcraft

Email Address:

lashcraft42@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

MT

Your Comment/Input:

I am concerned that the committee is restricting comments from the public. What good is public comment after the vote???? We the people want to be heard and are tired of the left gerrymandering and trying to pack district to benefit the Democrats. We want everything out in the open for ALL to view. Allow the Voters to decide who will represent them, NOT THIS COMMISSION.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 15:02

Your Full Name:

Gordon Ash

Email Address:

kmprash@centurylink.net

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT.

Your Comment/Input:

REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY _ 7/8/2021 My name is Gordon Ash – Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony
Political Fairness: • I’m here to talk about Redistricting and focus on the importance of strong political fairness criteria so that no party is given an unfair advantage in the legislature. In the last year this State has clearly identified Democracy, Choice and voter recognition as critical tenets. • It is critical that votes translate into political representation equally. • A fair plan should be politically neutral. No unfair advantage should occur on either party side. • Election data will be widely available to interested Montanans through public redistricting websites and should be used to ensure maps are fair and politically neutral. • We have our independent Commission, you, which can use election data for the purpose of creating a fair map instead of a systematically biased one. • The Commission should adopt a standard of judging the effects of maps instead of an intent standard. Intent is hard to prove, and sometimes plans can have unforeseen consequences on political fairness that the drawer never intended. • And lastly- 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 that doesn’t exist statewide violates this constitutional principle, regardless of the intentions of the drawer.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 09:41

Your Full Name:
Marilyn Athearn

Email Address:
mathearn@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
Dixon MT

Your Comment/Input:

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule. It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Co

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

Sherley, Laura

From: T Baer <honeybeemaria73@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Dear Sirs and Mams

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the *beginning* of your July 20th meeting.

It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule.

It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: Baeten's <baetenemt@charter.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

To whom it may concern,

Please keep the redistricting of Montana fair for all it's residence by doing the following.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you for your time in this important matter for all Montanans.

Sincerely,

Rita Baeten
Billings, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 18:33

Your Full Name:

Rita Baeten

Email Address:

baetenemt@charter.net

City and State of Residence:

Billings, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Keep Montana fair for all it's people. The following would help do this. 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you for your time in this important matter. Sincerely, Rita Baeten

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:27

Your Full Name:

Julie Baldrige

Email Address:

juliebravo@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell

Your Comment/Input:

The Agenda for your redistricting meeting on July 20th shows that you will take public comment AFTER the meeting. Please reconsider, and move public comment to the beginning of the meeting. What good is public comment after you have made your decisions? In your decision making, please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements and will reduce the ability to pack districts to favor specific parties. Using "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria goes against the Commissioner's other criteria, which says no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. I ask that you not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. All the VOTERS to decide who will represent them...not this Commission. Thank you for your time, service and consideration, Julie Baldrige Kalispell juliebravo@gmail.com

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Julie Baldrige <juliebravo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

The Agenda for your redistricting meeting on July 20th shows that you will take public comment AFTER the meeting. Please reconsider, and move public comment to the beginning of the meeting. What good is public comment after you have made your decisions?

In your decision making, please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements and will reduce the ability to pack districts to favor specific parties.

Using "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria goes against the Commissioner's other criteria, which says no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. I ask that you not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. All the VOTERS to decide who will represent them...not this Commission.

Thank you for your time, service and consideration,

Julie Baldrige
Kalispell
juliebravo@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Robin Bare <robin@SellHelena.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Districting
Cc: <mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,
Robin

Robin Bare Broker/Owner
Uncommon Ground LLC
406-459-9772
Robin@SellHelena.com



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Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:18 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 09:17

Your Full Name:

Robin Bare

Email Address:

robin@sellhelena.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:26

Your Full Name:

Philip Barney

Email Address:

barnowitz@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Polson, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Redistricting is a difficult task that requires adherence to objective criteria, the primary one being equal population as stated in the Montana Constitution. Subjective criteria, such as "fairness" and "competitiveness" have no place and imply a partisan decision. In the past, "gerrymandering" of legislative districts has occurred to give one political party or ethnic group an advantage. For example, in Lake County a legislative district crossed the continental divide between Browning and Arlee to give Native Americans an advantage, and the "spoke" districts in Missoula were very unfair to the Republican voters. I urge you to use population as a primary determinant of legislative and congressional districts. Also, public comments should be reviewed and heard before any decisions are made. Thank you for your service.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: brivic@bresnan.net
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Vicki Barrows
Billings, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:52

Your Full Name:

Rebecca Beard

Email Address:

beta01@blackfoot.net

City and State of Residence:

Elliston

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 12th July 2021 13:36

Your Full Name:
Maryrose A Beasley

Email Address:
mrosebeasley@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Roundup

Your Comment/Input:

I ask that you consider fair and logical districts when determining the new boundaries. Previous boundaries have crossed mountain tops, making it very difficult for representatives to visit all their constituents on the "other side of the hill". Please keep the two Federal House districts as together as is possible, without crisscrossing the state. Again, that makes it difficult for people to have personal contact with their representative. I've talked to people that are concerned with whether the new boundaries will affect school districts, voting districts, etc. Please keep communities with similar interests together. This country doesn't need any more divisions than it already has. Thank you. Maryrose

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:53

Your Full Name:
Wayne Beckman

Email Address:
wbmusic@msn.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 13:09

Your Full Name:

Mark Beland

Email Address:

butcherbeland@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Bozeman

Your Comment/Input:

I would pray that all members of the commission recognize the Voting Rights Act while establishing new voting districts in order to responsibly account for everyone's point of view. Districts should not simply be figured by county. Tribal rights and those of other minorities would be drowned out by Mr. Essmann's plans.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Sarah Bell <sheepdog13@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,
Sarah Bell
Missoula, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:32

Your Full Name:

Sarah Bell

Email Address:

sheepdog13@icloud.com

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:04

Your Full Name:

Xena Benedetto

Email Address:

xenabenedetto@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1) public comments should be allowwd first prior to the commission making a final decision. It would not be fair to finalize decisions without public input. We want this to be fair and transparent. 2) Keep districts equal in population count as much as possible 1% or up to 3%. This would keep things fair, equal and not favor different parties. Montana has always been a place of freedom, fairness and wholesome values. We don't want things to change. We love Montana because of the way it is and too much change will destroy our state. 3) Do not use fair and competitive districts as mandatory or discretionary. This once again would be unfair and not giving voters the choice of who is going to represent them. The commission's own criteria states that no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. It should be up to the voters. In closing I hope that you all detach yourself from this political anxiety and do the right thing. Protect our Montana values and don't allow all of this change to come in here and destroy the only place we have left to be at peace.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:08

Your Full Name:

Susy Benjamin

Email Address:

jsbenj@msn.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena,MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Lyn Bennett <joylynbennett@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:20 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

My comments on redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that state no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you

Lyn Bennett

Sherley, Laura

From: acb 3 <acbennett3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

My comments on redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that state no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you

--

Art Bennett
acbennett3@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Victoria Bennett <vabennett97@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Commission members,

I am writing to ask that you do not use “Fair and Competitive Districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission’s other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area’s partisan makeup. It is important that you allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,

Victoria Bennett

Sherley, Laura

From: jimb59501 <jimb59501@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ambiguous Language

Dear Members,
Thanks for your time and service on this committee.

Please avoid the word competitive, fair, equal etc as it is ambiguous and only further leaves open possible interpretation for the future.

Fair to me might not be fair to you and with that in mind; competitive becomes a term that tries to even the playing field. If you perceive you are not treated fairly then to be competitive you will change the playing field to tip it to your advantage.

Example in basketball; You are 5' slow and overweight playing against a 6' 10" speedy silky smooth player.

Since the court we play on has always been the same through the years, how do we make the court competitive for me.

Maybe we could lower the basket to 5' and shrink the court to one-third in size. We have taken away height and speed factor and I am now more competitive.

As obtuse as this example is, this is your thinking.

Keep your terminology simple and easy to interpret, just like your favorite cake recipe.

Thanks,
Jim Bennett
Havre, MT
406-209-3986

Sent from my Galaxy

Sherley, Laura

From: Kathy Bergevin <kat.bergevin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting Meeting July 20

Please Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Please Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Please Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party.

Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bergevin
Bozeman, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: Seth Berglee <sethberglee@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Imput for redistricting commission

Members of the Commission,

I appreciate all the time and effort that you are putting into this process!

I do have a few comments.

First, I would ask that you provide public comment at the start of your Monday meeting. Your current agenda doesn't allow for public comments until after the meeting.

Secondly, Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Keeping the 1% up to 3% standard will best fulfill constitutional requirements.

Third, Do not favor either party or use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as a criteria for setting the boundaries. I don't see how the commission will be able to meet that goal without favoring one political party over another.

Regards,

Seth Berglee
PO Box 340
Joliet, MT 59041
Phone: 406-690-9329

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:07

Your Full Name:

Seth Berglee

Email Address:

sethberglee@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Joliet, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commission members, I would request that there be a more substantial public comment time before the next meeting. Districts should also be kept as equal in population as possible while still being contiguous. The within 1% up to 3% is a great rule and should be the standard if at all possible. Making districts "fair or competitive" shouldn't be up to the commission to decide and is outside of the constitutional scope of the commission. Thank you for your hard work in the redistricting process and service to Montana! V/R Seth Berglee

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Todd Bernhardt <bernhardt.capital@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Comment

Districting and Apportionment Commission Members,

The choices before you are clear:

1. To take a common sense approach to redistricting based on MCA
2. To take a partisan gerrymandering approach

The first approach sounds good and right and **is** good and right. The second approach sounds bad and wrong and **is** bad and wrong.

Please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

With regard to "Fair and Competitive Districts", that is clearly political speak for drawing districts with the intention of favoring a political party--something expressly forbidden by Montana law. Thus, I would encourage you to not include this phrase or concept in your criteria.

Again, please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

Sincerely,

-Todd Bernhardt

Sherley, Laura

From: Jonene Bernhardt <jonene.bernhardt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Comments

Dear Members of Districting & Apportionment Commission,

Please take a common sense approach to re-districting based on MCA, not drawing districts with the intention of favoring a political party--something expressly forbidden by Montana law.

Please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

Thanks for your work on this important issue!

~Jonene Bernhardt
Flathead County

Sherley, Laura

From: Alicia Bernhardt <aliciabernhardt33@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:21 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Comment

Districting and Apportionment Commission Members,

The choices before you are clear:

1. To take a common sense approach to redistricting based on MCA
2. To take a partisan gerrymandering approach

The first approach sounds good and right and **is** good and right. The second approach sounds bad and wrong and **is** bad and wrong.

Please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

With regard to "Fair and Competitive Districts", that is clearly political speak for drawing districts with the intention of favoring a political party--something expressly forbidden by Montana law. Thus, I would encourage you to not include this phrase or concept in your criteria.

Again, please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

Sincerely,

Alicia Bernhardt

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:19

Your Full Name:
Donald Blakslee

Email Address:
jblaksleecorp@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Victor, Montana

Your Comment/Input:
Do not restrict public comments. Keep districts limited to 1%. Do not use "Fair and competitive Districts".

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:01

Your Full Name:
Louis Van Blarigan

Email Address:
lvanblarigan@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
MISSOULA, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 14:51

Your Full Name:

Barbara Blum

Email Address:

boblum@bresnan.net

City and State of Residence:

Lakeside, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commissioners: I'm writing to urge you to listen to the public comments BEFORE any decisions are made. It is useless to listen to the public comment AFTER your decision; that doesn't even make sense. Further, I urge you to follow the law, Montana Constitution, and set the new districts with no regard to political makeup. The two congressional districts should be selected based on area and population, making both as close to one another as practical. This is not a political process and should not be used in this manner. Please do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as has been suggested. What do these terms mean? "Fair and Competitive" are nebulous terms and can be interrupted in many ways. Thank you for your time and service on this Commission. Sincerely, Barb Blum Lakeside MT

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 14:23

Your Full Name:

Juliette Bouma

Email Address:

original7Lfarmmiss@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Stevi, MT 59870

Your Comment/Input:

We are aware of and watching this process...

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Larry Bowman <trick285@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylin@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mt.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,

Larry O Bowman
Stevensville, MT 59870

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 13th July 2021 11:16

Your Full Name:

Anne Boychuck

Email Address:

aboychuck@me.com

City and State of Residence:

Bigfork, MT

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, Anne Boychuck

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:14 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 13th July 2021 11:13

Your Full Name:

Dan Boychuck

Email Address:

dboychuck@me.com

City and State of Residence:

Bigfork, MT

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, Dan Boychuck

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:11

Your Full Name:
Penelope Brainard

Email Address:
brainard_3@q.com

City and State of Residence:
Florence, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Public comments need to be allowed at the beginning of the July 20 meeting. Redistricting should be done only by population and not by partisan districts. Voters expect a transparent process. We want to decide who will be our representative by a legal voting process only.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:45 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 07:44

Your Full Name:
Kathryn Bramer

Email Address:
bramerames@msn.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena Montana

Your Comment/Input:

In these critical times, and as Montana's new US Congressional district is being delineated, it's very important to me that the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission follow criteria consistent with both the MT and US Constitutions and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act as you do your important work. Specifically, criteria must ensure the creation of fair districts that do not attempt to favor any political party. Enough Montana legislative and congressional districts should be established fairly so that candidates from either political can win election. Thank you for your attention to fairness and constitutional and legal compliance as you establish fair and competitive legislative and congressional districts for Montana.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Travis Brazill <travisb@farmersebank.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Districting
Cc: 'maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov'; 'jeff.essman@mtleg.gov'; 'joe.lamson@mtleg.gov';
'dan.stusek@mtleg.gov'; 'kendra.miller@mtleg.gov'
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting,

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,

Travis Brazill

Helena Market President
Farmers State Bank Helena Branch

travisb@farmersebank.com

Main: 406-603-4300

Direct: 406-603-4301

Cell: 406-439-0912

Fax: 406-603-4304

www.farmersebank.com [farmersebank.com]

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Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 09:11

Your Full Name:
Harold Travis Brazill

Email Address:
travisb@farmersebank.com

City and State of Residence:
Elliston, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 9:57 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 09:57

Your Full Name:

Beth Brennan

Email Address:

babrennan@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Chair Smith and Commissioners, The District and Apportionment Commission is faced with the question of when it must file its final plan for congressional districts. According to the Montana Constitution, “Within 90 days after the official final decennial census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.” Mont. Const. art. V, § 14(3). Because the final census data will be “available” on August 16, 2021, the most prudent interpretation is that the 90-day clock will begin on that day. The U.S. Census Bureau is releasing data twice this year – first on August 16, and then in a more user-friendly format on September 30. U.S. Census Bureau Statement on Release of Legacy Format Summary Restricting Data File (March 15, 2021). The Census Bureau has been working for the past decade to upgrade its presentation of census data and make it more user-friendly. But because it is so far behind schedule in releasing census data, it is under tremendous pressure to release census data so that states may proceed with congressional redistricting. The August 16 and September 30 data are the same. Id. (“[W]e reaffirm our commitment to providing all states tabulated data in our user-friendly system by Sept. 30, 2021.”). Id. (emphasis added). The September 30 data will be easier to access because of additional formatting by the Bureau. In other words, the difference between the two releases is one of form, not substance. Without any Montana Supreme Court decisions interpreting Article V, section 14(3), the Commission cannot know with certainty whether the Court will consider the August 16 data “official final decennial census figures” that are “available” to the Commission. If it does, the 90-day clock begins to run when the Bureau releases the “legacy format” data. If the Court instead holds that the September 30 data are the “official final decennial census figures” that are “available” to the Commission, the Commission will have an additional six weeks to file its final plan. This uncertainty cannot be resolved until and unless the Commission’s plan is challenged as untimely and the Court interprets Article V, section 14(3). In other words, the Commission must make a decision on the basis of imperfect information. Because of that, the most practical approach for the Commission is to assume the Court will interpret Article V, section 14(3) conservatively, and treat August 16 as the triggering date. I appreciate your consideration of this public comment. Beth A. Brennan Brennan Law & Mediation, PLLC

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 09:35

Your Full Name:

Darren Brockie

Email Address:

brockiemtnhi@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Whitefish

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: darren brockie <brockiemtnhi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:38 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20 redistricting meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Regards,
-Darren Brockie
Whitefish, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:06 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 07:05

Your Full Name:

Terry Brockie

Email Address:

brockie_terry@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Hays MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please keep SD 16 & HD 32 the same.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:25

Your Full Name:

Scotia Brosnan

Email Address:

Scotiacolleen.sb@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you. Respectfully, Scotia Brosnan

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Dee Brown <mtbrowns@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] drawing the lines

I have been surprised to read that the committee is actually trying to draw 'fair' lines at the next meeting. Why wouldn't you use the 1-3% to fill the requirements rather than bring politics into this?

Comment periods AFTER you have decided the rules should be illegal...legislators can fix that awful decision but not until next time.

If the commission is truly 'nonpartisan' you will allow the people to decide candidates---NOT the commission..

Dee Brown
Hungry Horse

Sherley, Laura

From: Carol Buchanan <carol@carol-buchanan.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Montana Congressional Districts

My comments:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states **no plan will favor or disfavor a political party**. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

We the People should and will decide who represents us. Not some unelected committee.

Carol Buchanan

Carol Buchanan

Author

The Vigilante Quartet:

The Ghost at Beaverhead Rock (2016)

Gold Under Ice (2012)

Spur Finalist, Western Writers of America

The Devil in the Bottle (2011)

God's Thunderbolt: The Vigilantes of Montana (2009)

Spur Winner, Western Writers of America

<http://www.carol-buchanan.com> [carol-buchanan.com]

<http://www.carol-buchanan.com/blog> [carol-buchanan.com]

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/CarolBuchananMT> [twitter.com]

<http://www.facebook.com/Carol.Buchanan.Author> [facebook.com]

Sherley, Laura

From: burnjj@charter.net
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Districting
Cc: 'Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov'; 'Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov'; 'Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov';
'Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov'; 'Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov'
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Gerrymandering is a wicked evil. To avoid it I urge you to set Redistricting boundaries based on a population count +/- 1%. To go higher than that is to invite abuse. Do the right thing!

Sherley, Laura

From: Meg Burvainis <meg@exegrp.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:17 PM
To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Montana is noted for fairness and integrity in their elections. I ask that you continue that legacy in the decisions you make regarding redistricting this week. Please keep our districts as equal as possible in population so that our elections can continue to be fair and not manipulated to place one party or the other in a favored position. Please use the method that dictates 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% that will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. And in this America of “government by the people and for the people”, please allow those people to make public comment before finalizing the process. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Meg Burvainis
384 West Daffodil Drive
Billings, MT 59102

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 5:55 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 05:54

Your Full Name:
Evelyn Cahalen

Email Address:
cahalene@att.net

City and State of Residence:
Marion, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 5:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 05:55

Your Full Name:
Herbert Cahalen

Email Address:
cahalene@comcast.net

City and State of Residence:
Marion, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] New Congressional Ditsriects

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

From: Gary Carlson <garykcarlson11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:49 AM
To: terry nelson <terryndar@hotmail.com>; Wendy McKamey <wsgmckamey@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Congressional Ditsriects

Good morning. I thought I would put my two cents worth in on the issue because in 1984 I was a candidate running for the House when Montana had two seats. I was also hoping to run again but no census gave us back two seats until now.

I lost in 1984 to incumbent Pat Williams. Actually, we had a good race with five debates - but sad to say Pat won re-election.

To be quite honest, you as the redistricting committee could make it quite simple and basically make the two House seats fairly close to what we had in 1984. One House in the West and one in the East.

Don't get too overly complicated. I lost to Williams because no other Republican even wanted to run against an incumbent. I had no primary challenge.

Just divide the state in half by population. It will be OK for both parties. Maybe, I might even run again. Wouldn't that be amazing? I could make it an interesting race, especially, if Pat Williams daughter ran on the Democrat ticket.

Thank you for all you are doing. Now get it done so we can move forward.

Gary K. Carlson
Former political appointee in Reagan Admin.

--

Gary K. Carlson, Publisher
White Hat Express
garykcarlson11@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Bruce C <brucec606@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:10 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Tracy Sharp
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting Commission Public Comments

Dear Commission:

My name is Bruce Cartwright. I am a citizen of Montana and live in Lake County. My address is: P.O. Box 231, Pablo MT 59855. My telephone number is: (406)360-6371. I am concerned about the redistricting that is going to occur in Montana as a result of the most recent census. I respectfully request that you note the following points:

1. The agenda for the Redistricting Commission's 20-July-2021 public meeting does not allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the **beginning** of your July 20th meeting.

2. This commission should keep districts as equal as possible in terms of population. Using the 1% standard (with rare exceptions of up to 3%) will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our citizens are the victims of gerrymandering. This affects me personally. My representatives are located not in or near Lake County, but in Browning. I have attempted to contact my representative (both house and senate) but have never received a response. I believe the lack of response is due to the extreme geographic distance from me (over 80 miles away, as the crow flies). For all intents and purposes, I have no state representative or state senator. I did not have a say in who represents folks living in Browning and they should not have a say in who represents me. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule.

3. It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

Thank you for your time and attention to my comments.

Bruce Cartwright

Sherley, Laura

From: Stefanie Yancho <syanch@yaho.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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 only asking you to follow the Constitution and the law.

Sincerely,
Stefanie Cavalea

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 13th July 2021 15:17

Your Full Name:

Stefanie Cavalea

Email Address:

syancho@yahoo.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 only asking you to follow the Constitution and the law. Sincerely, Stefanie Cavalea

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

Sherley, Laura

From: polsoninsulation@ronan.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:58 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
DanStusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exception of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on the area's partisan makeup.
Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely, James J. Cheff
46343 Good Medicine Trail
Ronan, MT 59864

Sherley, Laura

From: Terry Churchill <terry.churchill74@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Terry Churchill

Clancy, Montana

406-422-0026

Sherley, Laura

From: Debbie Churchill <debbie@mtgop.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

--

Debbie Churchill
MTGOP Grassroots Director
1300 Aspen Street, Ste. B
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-6469
debbie@mtgop.org

Sherley, Laura

From: Debbie Churchill <debbie.churchillmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letters re Redistricting
Attachments: Redistricting Letters.pdf

See attached letters from concerned citizens.

Debbie M. Churchill
debbie.churchillmt@gmail.com
(406) 799-8506

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 08:41

Your Full Name:

Debbie Churchill

Email Address:

debbie.churchillmt@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Clancy, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Joseph M Cleary <josephmcleary@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:24 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank You for Working for Fair, Equitable and Politically Competitive Redistricting

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Montan's redistricting process.

I firmly believe that the redistricting criteria that are important to most Montanans are those that are consistent with Montana's long history of leadership among the 50 states for open and equitable redistricting. Those criteria are

- No more than a 5% deviation in the populations of all districts redrawn.
- Maximizing competitiveness for all districts based on current political party distribution.
- Maximizing political fairness - neither major party should have an advantage in the new districts.
- Completely unbiased ranking of redistricting criteria

I sincerely hope you will keep these criteria in mind for redistricting congruency for both legislative and congressional districts.

Your work forms the bedrock of our democratic voting process. I wish you every success.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Cleary
910 Pumphouse Road
Divide, MT 59727
406-267-3361

Hello committee members,

I want to thank you for serving on this redistricting committee, it is a task not to be taken lightly. As a citizen of Montana for the last 57 years, I have come to appreciate the distinction of "The Last Great Place", I want to see it stay that way. This is a great state because of the hardworking ethics of the people that live here.

I want to take a moment and encourage you to consider the boundaries for the 2 districts we as Montanans get to develop and that they will be a representation of the population of Montana and in accordance to Montana law.

The process looks straight forward with 5-1-115 MCA and the recent HB 506. I am not here to favor one party over another, but I am speaking against some of the proposals I have seen with the outskirts of the state circling all the way around the state in the name of "Fair and Competitive". I do not see those words in the constitutional language.

We as Montanans "desire to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and future generations". I believe this can only happen if we stick to the laws that which govern us and not try to let our own opinions govern us.

I would also like to encourage a time for more public comment at the July 20th meeting that is upcoming.

Thank You,

Justin Cleveland

Fairfield, Mt.

Sherley, Laura

From: Robert Confessore <rconfessore@logan.org>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Districting
Cc: 'Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov'; 'Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov'; 'Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov';
'Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov'; 'Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov'
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Good Afternoon,

The Montana Redistricting process plays a critical role in determining representation for Montana voters. Montana voters expect a fair and nonpartisan process. It has come to my attention that Democrats are doing everything in their power to draw both the congressional districts AND legislative districts in their favor. Therefore as a citizen who loves this state I respectfully ask the following relative to the upcoming 20 July meeting:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you my fellow Montanans for allowing me to express my opinions. Please take care.

Respectfully,

Dr. Robert J. Confessore



Robert J. Confessore Ph.D. RCEP EP-C EIM3 FACS
Clinical Exercise Physiologist/EMT
Logan Health Medical Fitness Center
205 Sunnyview Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-758-2270 X1 phone
406-751-4101 fax
rconfessore@logan.org

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information. Any opinions, views, advice or other statements contained in this communication are those of the individual sender and do not necessarily represent those of Logan Health. Logan Health and its affiliates claim all applicable privileges related to the information contained in or transmitted with this communication. LHPA616

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:20

Your Full Name:
Robert Confessore

Email Address:
rconfessore@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Whitefish, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Good Afternoon, The Montana Redistricting process plays a critical role in determining representation for Montana voters. Montana voters expect a fair and nonpartisan process. It has come to my attention that Democrats are doing everything in their power to draw both the congressional districts AND legislative districts in their favor. Therefore as a citizen who loves this state I respectfully ask the following relative to the upcoming 20 July meeting: Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you my fellow Montanans for allowing me to express my opinions. Please take care. Respectfully, Dr. Robert J. Confessore

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Katelyn Coon <katelyncoonmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:14 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Dear Commission,

It has come to my attention that you will be making a decision about redistricting. Please DO NOT restrict public comments. The current agenda does not allow for public comments until after your decision has been made. How is that logical, fair, ethic, or in the interest of the people? This commission should value public comment and should prove so by transparency and listening to ALL community members. Public comments should be heard PRIOR to your decision. Additionally, these districts should be made up of equal population... not in a way that benefits one party of voters. How is this even up for option? Packing districts is in violation of your duty to the PEOPLE.

Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them! This is a Republic, in case you have forgotten.

I am extremely disappointed in the ongoing political games in this valley. We pride ourselves on integrity, honesty, and ethic. Please remember you are servants to the public, not one party.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Coon

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 11:55

Your Full Name:
Michael Cooper

Email Address:
mkcoop65@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Great Falls

Your Comment/Input:

It is your job to keep the districting fair and as competitive as possible. It is the voters who pick the winners and losers and not a slanted districting maneuver by one party or the other, whether on a local scale or state scale. Please be at peace with your conscience knowing that you have done all you can to make the districting as fair as possible. THIS IS THE MONTANA WAY. A fair fight is always the best. thank you

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

Sherley, Laura

From: beth cooper <cooperb38@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

To all: I wanted to weigh in on this subject of redistricting, because it is of great importance to the the people of Montana. The following are some points that need to be addressed:

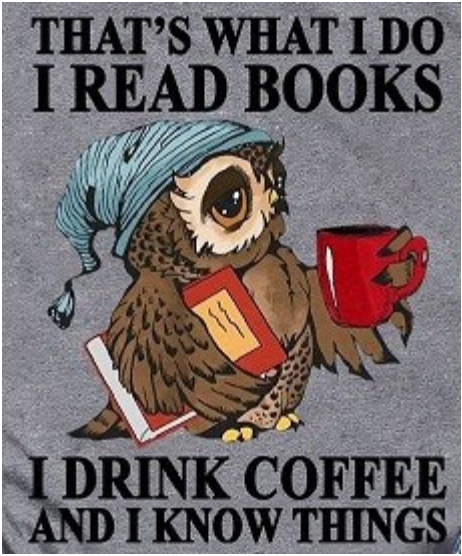
- 1. Please, do not restrict any public comment. If you really are concerned about transparency and public opinion in this process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of the July 20th meeting...not after the meeting has occurred!*
- 2. Please, keep the districts as equal as possible regarding the population. The 1%-3% rule fulfills constitutional requirements, while at the same time, reduces the ability to "gerrymander" or pack districts in order to favor different political parties!*
- 3. Please, do not use "fair and competitive" districts, as mandatory/discretionary criteria, and/or "aspirational" goals. This would go against the Commission's current criteria regarding favor/disfavor of a political party. Your job is not to pick winners or losers based on a certain area's partisan makeup. All in all, please allow the VOTERS to decide on who represents us, and not the Commission!*

We expect you to act and to make decisions that are fair and balanced for all concerned. We don't need to have any biased criteria, when making any decisions regarding the people of Montana. Again, we urge you to do the right and correct thing in this matter.

Thank you.

*Beth Cooper
Great Falls MT*

"The truth is like a lion. You don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself". Augustine of Hippo



Sherley, Laura

From: Jacob Corcoran <jacob.helena@live.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:15 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

My name is Jacob Corcoran and write these comments to you as a concerned citizen.

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. We need to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jacob Corcoran
Citizen of Helena, MT

July 13, 2021

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission: Thank you for your service and thank you also for the opportunity to share comments with you.

Some of our comments have already been introduced by other Montanans, yet we think it is important to note when many Montanans have similar issues regarding redistricting.

It would be great if there were more districts. Or at least more polling places throughout Montana. The Montana Constitution says there should be as many districts as there are members of the House. Can there be more members of the House?

A major concern for us is regarding our Tribal population in Montana. The Tribes in Montana are sovereign nations. Ideally each reservation should be a district with representation. The Montana Constitution does not address this. It says there should be as many districts as there are members of the House.

On Reservations, voting can be difficult due to long distances to a polling place off of the Reservation. There are often long distances to a local post office as well. If you don't drive or own a vehicle, getting to the polls or post office can seem impossible.

The shrinking population of many rural areas in Montana means a contiguous region of equal population leads to long travel to polling places. Also, more rural post offices are closing and long distance travel to the post office may also be an impediment in rural communities, especially for our elders.

Urban areas present different concerns and opportunities. There are areas in Montana's urban areas which "bleed into" the larger community and yet are separated by a county line. The polling place in the urban area may be closer than a polling place at the county seat. Similarly to the remote rural communities, the small communities outside of the urban areas may do well to be a part a district from the urban area to minimize travel distances to the polls and to the post office.

District competitiveness is also important to us. As Margie MacDonald stated in the Great Falls Tribune, "It makes us more responsive to our constituents".

We have a personal story to share. We ALWAYS send messages either by phone or e-mail to ALL of the representatives and senators from our community whether or not they are from our district, that is part of being a community! During the 2019 legislative session, we contacted a representative from the Helena community who voted against Medicaid Expansion. We sent her an e-mail asking her why she voted against Medicaid Expansion, but she did not reply to our question. She did win her seat unopposed and perhaps did not feel the need to respond to our question or concerns. Medicaid Expansion is important to many people in our community, including people in her district.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Beth & Rick Cottingham

928 Logan Street, Helena MT 59601

thecottingsams@q.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Montana State Council on Judicial Accountability <bart@mtscoja.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov joe.lamson@mtleg.gov dan.stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

[Montana State Council on Judicial Accountability](#)

2300 North Harris P.O. Box #6563 Helena, MT. 59604

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

To the Districting and reapportionment Commission.

Greetings,

I'd like to take this opportunity to address this commission. As you are aware there are many concerned Montana citizens watching the progress of this commissions work. Thank you for your time and efforts.

It is imperative that you all value and allow as much public input and transparency in these decision making processes. Public comment must come before ANY votes, and please disallow unreasonable time restraints to those wanting to make point for their advocacy, such as a 2 or 3 minute limit. I realize some may ramble, and keeping them on point is important.

Districts must be as balanced and proportionate to population as is possible. Allow this process to let the VOTERS, We The People, decide who will represent us as citizens of Montana.

And, most importantly, do not let your pride or political motivation drive your decision. Make a logical, rational decision that is best for Montanans.

Best Regards,

Bart J. Crabtree

President

Montana State Council on Judicial Accountability, Inc.

2300 North Harris P.O. Box #6563

Helena, Montana 59604

406.868.4555 (personal cell)

406.318.9556 (google voice)

www.mtscoja.org [mtscoja.org]

facebook/mtscoja

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 13th July 2021 09:50

Your Full Name:

Karen Cramer

Email Address:

karen@beckmansrealestatemt.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please when redistricting use the plan that supports the law. Thank you

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 12:58 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 12:58

Your Full Name:

Willis Curdy

Email Address:

wcurdy@bridgemail.com

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, MT.

Your Comment/Input:

To: Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the decennial redistricting and apportionment process. I applaud your willingness to spend hours listening to Montanans or reading their comments like mine concerning the criteria the Commission will use to help draw the new Congressional and Legislative District boundaries. You have an important responsibility ahead of you and I hope you will do the best for Montana. My wife and I have lived on the western edge of the Missoula City limits for nearly forty years. We worked in Missoula as did nearly all the individuals who lived in our growing neighborhood. For several of those decades, the state senate district in which we were placed ran from about one mile east of our house west to the Hot Springs and Niarada areas. I respected the good citizens of Lake, Sanders and Mineral Counties but their community interests were clearly different than that of my community. We felt that we were politically left out of the Missoula community. Fortunately, the 2000's and 2010's redistricting moved almost all of Missoula County residents into districts which were totally within Missoula County. The only exception being was a senate district which extended north into Lake County. Most people were supportive of that exception because Missoula's significant Native American population was included in that district's extension onto the CSKT Reservation. I cannot emphasize the importance of keeping areas which have closely held interests together. The last redistricting really worked to keep suburban and urban areas together in the largest counties in Montana. Like those more urban areas, many of our more rural neighbors feel that when they are carved into a more urban area that their community interests are forgotten or ignored. I encourage the Commission to keep communities of the same interest together instead of fragmenting them into areas where their interests have little in common. Related to the previous comments, prior commissions have worked hard to keep our Native American reservations well represented. I am asking you to continue the good work of the previous redistricting processes. Our tribal communities feel that they do have a strong voice in Helena because of what we've done. Let's allow our Native communities feel that they have a say in the law-making process. In 2012 there was a strong push to keep to a 3% deviation standard between legislative and congressional districts. To me that deviation was appropriate for that time. However, due to the national pandemic and questions concerning the complete accounting of U.S. residents in the 2020 Census, I would encourage the Commission to use a 5% deviation. I would prefer the 3% but flexibility is in order for this time. Thank you again for all the work you've done. I realize that many Montanans don't understand or appreciate your work but as an elected official I do thank you for your efforts Respectfully, Willis Curdy, 11280 Kona Ranch Road, Missoula, MT. 59804

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Gerald Cuvillier <geraldcuvillier@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional districts

Don't play politics with this. Make the division either north and south or east and west. Do your jobs!
Gerald J. Cuvillier
P.O. Box 1421
Trout Creek, Montana 59874
(406) 827-9684

From: [Gary Carlson](#)
To: [Kolman, Joe](#); [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Carlson
Date: Saturday, July 25, 2020 12:18:55 AM

Hi A+ staffers. In the next few days I will send you some information on the 14th Amendment . The architect of the Amendment had definite thoughts about the phrase."Under the Jurisdiction Thereof" and illegals, tourists, visitors, foreign workers etc. were not to be considered as citizens. They should not be counted in the apportionment part of the census for representation.

Gary That is a good question to ask the profs. See what they say. That should be interesting.

--

Gary K. Carlson, Publisher
White Hat Express
garykcarlson11@gmail.com

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:51:50 PM

Submit Information to the Redistricting Commission

Date: 24th July 2020 14:51

Your Full Name:

Gary Kenneth Carlson

Email Address:

garykcarlson11@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Number of total representatives

Your Comment:

Rachel and Joe: I am going to give you some information to begin with that you may have, but may not have. The U.S Constitution , Article 1, Section 2 guarantees each state, territory or district at least one rep. Constitution also states that ther can be no more than one rep for every 30,000. Apportionment calculation is based on the total resident population (citizen and non-citizen) It also includes U.S. Armed Forces Personnel and federal civilian employees stationed outside the USA and their dependents living with them. Yes, children under 18 are included. Note: This number for population does not say it is the number to use for representiave apportionment. Seven states which have only one rep at this time are: WY with 560,000 plus; VT with 625,000 plus; ND with 670,000 plus; 10,000 plus; SD with 810,000 plus; DE with 897,000 plus; and Montana over one million plus. Only five states have two: RI; NH; ME; and HI. *The first US house had 65 members. *After the 1800 census the number in the House expanded to 142. *After 1910 census the House grew from 391 to 433 when federal law raised the number. AZ and NM became states on Aug 8, 1911. *The Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929 set 435 as the total for the House. Note: No amendment was needed to raise the number. Congress did it. *Recommend that the Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929 be amended adding seven reps to 435 for the states that have only one rep currently. Unless we amend this Act states with one rep will never gain another rep due to increased illegal numbers in states like California. That is why illegals should not be counted for the part about Congressional Apportionment.

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/public-comment/

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting
Date: Saturday, July 25, 2020 10:46:37 AM

Submit Information to the Redistricting Commission

Date: 25th July 2020 10:46

Your Full Name:

Gary Kenneth Carlson

Email Address:

garykcarlson11@gmail.com

Subject Line:

ting and counting for appotionment on census

Your Comment:

Rachel and Joe: For counting individuals for Congressional apportionment I go back to the words of the author of the 14th Amendment, Senator Jacob Howard. He said: Citizenship: "This will not, of course, include persons born in the United States who are foreigners, aliens who belong to the families of ambassadors or foreign ministers accredited to the government of the United States, but will include every other class of person." If Senator Jacob Howard was serving on this Montana committee I think he would support two House Seats for Montana's representation but would not include counting illegals for apportionment fot House seats. Counting them for total population is one thing but apportionment for House representation is another . Thank you. Gary

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/public-comment/

Sherley, Laura

From: Connie <constancedale@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] To Districting Committee re: 7/20 Meeting

It's time Helena and Washington, DC representatives put in public offices start FOLLOWING THE LAWS AND ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

Please FOLLOW THE MT LAWS, passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. **DO NOT** start changing the rules to benefit one party over another. MCA 5-1-115(2) explicitly states that "the Districting and Apportionment Commission must comply with the following criteria when developing legislative & congressional districts." and it then list several criteria YOU MUST ABIDE BY! I attached it below. You must set district boundaries with the following criteria as per Montana Code Annotated and NOT CHANGE THE RULES to benefit one party over another. I realize it's a difficult task but you have been put on the committee to FOLLOW & UPHOLD the laws not change them as you please. The law clearly states:

Compact & Contiguous Territory
Less than 1% difference in population

5-1-115. Redistricting criteria, MCA

Thank you for upholding the law, your oath of office to the MCA, MT and U.S. Constitutions.
Connie Dale

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 14:04

Your Full Name:

Connie Dale

Email Address:

ConstanceDale@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Bigfork

Your Comment/Input:

It's time Helena and Washington, DC representatives put in public offices start FOLLOWING THE LAWS AND ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. Please FOLLOW THE MT LAWS, passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. Do not start changing the rules to benefit one party over another. MCA 5-1-115(2) explicitly states that "the Districting and Apportionment Commission must comply with the following criteria when developing legislative & congressional districts." and it then list several criteria YOU MUST ABIDE BY! I attached it below. You must set district boundaries with the following criteria as per Montana Code Annotated and NOT CHANGE THE RULES to benefit one party over another. I realize it's a difficult task but you have been put on the committee to FOLLOW & UPHOLD the laws not change them as you please. The law clearly states: Compact & Contiguous Territory Less than 1% difference in population 5-1-115. Redistricting criteria, MCA Thank you for upholding, the law, your oath of office to the MCA, MT and U.S. Constitutions.
Connie Dale

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

Sherley, Laura

From: ALLENE K DANA <aksdana428@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:45 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting process

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,

Allene Dana

3031 Grand Ave # 163

Billings, MT 59102

Sherley, Laura

From: Patty Daniels <grayrabbithollow@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: MT Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Subject: MT Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. I'd like to urge you to allow an open public comment at the beginning of your next meeting on July 20th, 2021 at 10 am.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,

Patty Daniels, Whitefish, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: michelle daniels <michelle.daniels40@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MT Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. I'd like to urge you to allow an open public comment at the beginning of your next meeting on July 20th, 2021 at 10 am.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,

Michelle Daniels, Whitefish, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:03

Your Full Name:
Christopher Daubin

Email Address:
cdaubin1@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Hamilton Montana

Your Comment/Input:
The current district boundaries are working just fine. Do not try to fix something that is not broken. Almost always redistricting is an attempt by one political party to gain an advantage, not an effort to better serve the citizens.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:04

Your Full Name:
Margaret Daubin

Email Address:
mmdaubin@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Hamilton, Montana

Your Comment/Input:
Don't change the boundaries! They represent the citizens just find the way they are currently.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 19:32

Your Full Name:
REBECCA DAWSON

Email Address:
beccadawson1@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Missoula

Your Comment/Input:

I have been following this process for months. As it has unfolded I have become very concerned about how the process is going and what the possible outcome will be. As we all know, our State has grown which has allowed us to gain back a once lost Congressional seat. It is incumbent upon you to make certain that this new district represents the citizens of our wonderful state, and not just the interest of the political parties. In my opinion, the New District should be based on the following: 1. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 2. Pay attention to State Laws, they matter. 3. Do not attempt to skew the political representation for the district. 4. Allow voters to select their choice for office, not the Commission. 5. The District should represent the most fair and unbiased solution possible. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. 6. Your duty is to this state, not the politics of the moment! Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. 7. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Thank you for your time. Please do what is best for our home and everyone who lives here.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Rebecca Dawson <beccadawson1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:31 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

To the Re-Districting Committee Members,

I have been following this process for months. As it has unfolded I have become very concerned about how the process is going and what the possible outcome will be. As we all know, our State has grown which has allowed us to gain back a once lost Congressional seat. It is incumbent upon you to make certain that this new district represents the citizens of our wonderful state, and not just the interest of the political parties.

In my opinion, the New District should be based on the following:

1. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
2. Pay attention to State Laws, they matter.
3. Do not attempt to skew the political representation for the district.
4. Allow voters to select their choice for office, not the Commission.
5. The District should represent the most fair and unbiased solution possible. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party.
6. Your duty is to this state, not the politics of the moment! Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup.
7. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Thank you for your time. Please do what is best for our home and everyone who lives here.

--

Rebecca Dawson
406-880-9866

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 09:34

Your Full Name:

Duane Day

Email Address:

drday14@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Lakeside, MT

Your Comment/Input:

First, thanks for time to work on this very important opportunity for Montana ! Also thanks for the opportunity to provide input into the redistricting and apportionment process. This is not an opportunity afforded to many in other states, and it is so important that these crucial decisions are informed by the public. Second, I encourage the Commission to keep the legislative and congressional criteria and goals as similar as possible. This will help limit confusion for Montanans while we engage in the process, and it will allow the Commission to apply equitable standards to both plans. Finally, please remember our existing Criteria requests including a 5% deviation standard and criteria that provides for a fair map that does not unduly advantage either party. It is most critical that we lay out a map that is IMPARTIAL to any party or person. thanks again, duane day Lakeside, MT

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:47

Your Full Name:
Michal Edwards Delgado

Email Address:
michali@blackfoot.net

City and State of Residence:
St Ignatius, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. I ask you commissioners, do not restrict public comments. I see that the agenda for July 20th does not allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. What good is this? If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. it is most important to keep the districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different agenda and special interest groups. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states, no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. This is not in your job description. I know this is a big task....you do represent all of the people of Montana. Thank you for serving on this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Frank Delgado <fdmdelgado@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:53 PM
To: Districting
Cc: <Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov> < Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov> < Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov> < Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov> < Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting for the State of Montana

Committee Members for the Redistricting and Apportionment Committee for 2020.

Suggestions from a Resident of the State Of Montana:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you very much for serving on this committee,

Frank Delgado
35489 Dublin Gulch Road
St Ignatius, Montana 59865
fdmdelgado@blackfoot.net



Virus-free. www.avg.com [avg.com]

[\[avg.com\]](http://avg.com)

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:55

Your Full Name:
Frank D Delgado

Email Address:
fdmdelgado@blackfoot.net

City and State of Residence:
St Ignatius, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Michal Delgado <michali@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:43 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Comments
Attachments: michali.vcf

Comments on Redistricting:

1. I ask you commissioners, do not restrict public comments. I see that the agenda for July 20th does not allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. What good is this? If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. it is most important to keep the districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different agenda and special interest groups.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states, no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. **Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. This is not in your job description.**

I know this is a big task....you do represent all of the people of Montana. Thank you for serving on this Commission.

Michal Edwards Delgado

**35489 Dublin Gulch Rd
St Ignatius, Mt 59865
406-370-8913**

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:14

Your Full Name:

Steve Dennison

Email Address:

stevedennison75@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

St Ignatius, MT 59865

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comment. Allow public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exception of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts in favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Allow the Voters to decide who will represent them, not the Commission

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:35

Your Full Name:

Steve Dennison

Email Address:

stevedennison75@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

St Ignatius, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comments at the July 20th meeting. Keep districts as even as possible. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as a mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:35

Your Full Name:

Steve Dennison

Email Address:

stevedennison75@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

St Ignatius, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comments at the July 20th meeting. Keep districts as even as possible. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as a mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Vicki Dennison <vpdennison@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Districting
Cc: maylin@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting Process

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vicki P. Dennison
St. Ignatius, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: stevedennison75@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:01 AM
To: Districting
Cc: maylin@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mt.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO Gerrymandering - Support HB 506

I support the Commission strictly follow MT law as outlined in HB 506.

No gerrymandering! districting@mt.gov

Steve Dennison
St Ignatius, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 09:25

Your Full Name:

Steve Dennison

Email Address:

stevedennison75@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

St Ignatius, MT 59865

Your Comment/Input:

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule. It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 11:16

Your Full Name:
Christine Deveny

Email Address:
cmdeveny7@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena

Your Comment/Input:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I live on 2nd Street in Helena and have been dismayed that I am not in the same Senate District as my adjacent neighbors. Instead, our short street is in the district with citizens in Elliston/Avon and beyond leaving me with little representation. It makes absolutely no sense to separate communities like this. Please correct this abomination. Additionally I support a process that stringently follows Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, that uses criteria that fairly creates a sensible number of legislative districts that do not favor a particular political party ensuring that every candidate has a fair chance to win. Again, thank you for your work.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:37

Your Full Name:

kelly dolan

Email Address:

kdutopian@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

HELENA

Your Comment/Input:

The Commission regarding Redistricting for public comment needs the statutory 1-3% rule....and the Commission needs to open public comments at the beginning of their next meeting.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:45

Your Full Name:

Robert Dolan

Email Address:

kdutoptian@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

HELENA

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision- making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Terry Nelson will also be hosting a virtual informational meeting on redistricting this Thursday,

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Doug Donough <dougdonough@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] no need to redistrict

No trust in the government any more the way the election was handled in the last election. I am not trusting any thing is being done fair and correct.

Doug Donough
2001 Mohr Ln
Park City , mt

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:18

Your Full Name:
William Douglass

Email Address:
wdoug5@protonmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Hungry Horse, MT

Your Comment/Input:
Let the voters decide, not the Commission. Follow The Constitution,. Honor your oath and do what's right.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 13:49

Your Full Name:
Edward Dickman

Email Address:
edward.dickman@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Kalispell MT

Your Comment/Input:

Do not allow large variations in district populations. The min to max population difference should be under 3%. And the max to mean or min to mean difference should be under 2%.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 13:29

Your Full Name:

Gail Duerre

Email Address:

gail.duerre@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Great Falls, MT

Your Comment/Input:

As long as the congressional boundaries are fair and equal (500,000 people in each district). No jerrymandering or cutting through towns or counties. The boundaries should follow county lines. Should be equal amount of dem and rep towns on each side of the map. Depending on amount of people in each county, I think the line should go diagonal from Kalispell to Billings (since most populated towns are in the west). Or horizontal across the middle of the state (again depending on population). As long as it's fair and no jerrymandering around counties to make your district better for a certain political party.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Keith Duncan <kduncan632@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20th Redistricting Meeting

Dear Redistricting Commission;

First, thank you for your service to our State in this important task. The decisions you make concerning redistricting are critically important for the people of Montana.

You are creating the rules for the Congressional and Legislative districts for the next ten years. It is critical that the Commission follow the direction given by the Constitution of Montana and the MCA. There is NO provision for “fair and competitive” districts found in either document. These are entirely subjective terms that MUST NOT be used in the determination of Congressional and Legislative boundaries. Rather the Commission should follow the guidance of the Montana Constitution and the MCA which clearly states, “Each district **SHALL** consist of compact and contiguous territory” and “**SHALL** be nearly equal in population as practicable.” (Article V, Sect 14 MT Constitution) (emphasis added) That is it! When making the rules, follow the rules! Going down the “fair and competitive,” rabbit hole is an invitation to gerrymandering and contention because it cannot be accurately defined!

Please keep districts as equal as possible when considering population. Using 1% deviation and with rare exceptions up to 3% will fulfill the constitutional requirement and reduce ‘stacking the deck’ to favor one particular political party over another.

In reviewing the agenda for the July 20th It appears that public comment will be accepted only AFTER all the decisions have been made. Hopefully this is a clerical error because if it isn’t it is an insult to the people of Montana! Open meetings and public participation is a rich tradition in Montana and anything less, especially concerning an issue as important as this one is unacceptable! Please change the agenda to allow comment from the public you are serving throughout the decision-making process.

Once again, thank you for your service. The people of Montana are depending on you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Cindy / Gary <gcdurfey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:46 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank-you,
Gary Durfey
Hobson, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: Pat Earnest <inhisarms@montana.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:41 PM
To: inhisarms@montana.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

As a resident and voter in Ravalli County, MT for the past 31 years, I am very concerned about how the new Congressional district is selected. I am asking you to not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

The districts should be as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. Fair and competitive are simply feel-good words, and they're not in the dictates of our Constitution or in our Montana Code. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the **VOTERS** to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank You,

Patricia A Earnest
309 11th St Apt 101A
Stevensville, MT 59870
406-360-2199

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:40

Your Full Name:
Patricia A Earnest

Email Address:
inhisarms@montana.com

City and State of Residence:
Stevensville

Your Comment/Input:

As a resident and voter in Ravalli County, MT for the past 31 years, I am very concerned about how the new Congressional district is selected. I am asking you to not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. The districts should be as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. Fair and competitive are simply feel-good words, and they're not in the dictates of our Constitution or in our Montana Code. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank You, Patricia A Earnest 309 11th St Apt 101A Stevensville, MT 59870 406-360-2199

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:32

Your Full Name:
Kathleen Eastman

Email Address:
eastsign@middrivers.com

City and State of Residence:
Lewistown, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:03

Your Full Name:

Jacob Eaton

Email Address:

eaton.jacob@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings, MT

Your Comment/Input:

The districts should be drawn fairly, based on population. The Democrat commission members plan to gerrymander districts with large population disparity in order to reach a predetermined political outcome is patently unfair and unethical.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Susan Ellingson <susanellingson@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Susan Ellingson; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

To the Commission Members:

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,
Susan and Jeff Ellingson
Kalispell, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:29

Your Full Name:
Emma Lou Elliott

Email Address:
emmalou.elliott@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Stevensville Montana

Your Comment/Input:
Do not restrict public comments. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Do not use Fair and Competitive Districts as mamditory or discretionary criteria or even as an aspirational goal.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 20:02

Your Full Name:

Cindia Ellis

Email Address:

cindia@midrivers.com

City and State of Residence:

Miles City, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 12:02

Your Full Name:

William Ellis

Email Address:

billellis58@aol.com

City and State of Residence:

Miles City, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:08

Your Full Name:

Terrence j falk

Email Address:

falkguy@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1 Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. The point of public comment should be to listen, right? If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. And this is crucial! Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Zachary Falk <zacharyfalk@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

My name is Zach Falk, and I live in Kalispell Montana. This commission needs to hear my input, please!

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. I want you to listen to my comments please before making the decision. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

--

Zach Falk

Sherley, Laura

From: Magdalena Falk <maggiemfalk@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:46 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

My name is Maggie Falk and I live in Kalispell Montana. This commission needs to hear my input, please!

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. I want you to listen to my comments please before the decision. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Maggie Falk

Sherley, Laura

From: Janelle Sara <janellefalk14@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:55 AM
To: dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; Districting; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov;
kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please hear me!

My name is Janelle Falk and I live in Kalispell Montana. This commission needs to hear my input, please!

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. I want you to listen to my comments please before the decision. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Janelle Falk

--

Janelle Falk

Sherley, Laura

From: terry <falkguy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:17 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

My name is Terrence j Falk and I live in Kalispell Montana. This commission needs to hear my input, please!

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. I want you to listen to my comments please before the decision. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Terrence j Falk

Sherley, Laura

From: jeff farr <jeff@jeffarr.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:20 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting - Comments on Redistricting

As Montana prepares to add a new district to our state, the following guidelines should be followed.

- Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to manipulate or pack districts to favor a specific political party.
- Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th does not allow for public comments until after a decision is made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
- Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. DO NOT pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the voters to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Jeff Farr
Columbia Falls, MT
435-225-6775

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 13:45

Your Full Name:

Freda Faust

Email Address:

bill4char2@live.com

City and State of Residence:

Havre, MT 59501

Your Comment/Input:

Redistricting our state for a second congressional seat should be considered by the 1-3% statutory rule not "competitive" or "fairness" terms whatever they mean. We in rural Montana have to continually fight the big cities to maintain our way of life and receive "fair"/proper representation. We achieve that representation at the ballot box. Let's set aside politics for once and do what will represent the best course for Montana citizens.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: William Ferst <constitutionferst@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Please,

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Regards, William Ferst - Bigfork, MT.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:35

Your Full Name:
TOM FIEBER

Email Address:
tfieber@bresnan.net

City and State of Residence:
Polson

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:36

Your Full Name:

TOM FIEBER

Email Address:

tfieber@bresnan.net

City and State of Residence:

Polson

Your Comment/Input:

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:34

Your Full Name:

TOM FIEBER

Email Address:

tfieber@bresnan.net

City and State of Residence:

Polson

Your Comment/Input:

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tom Finkle <jabsog002@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Hello Please take the following points into consideration:

- 1. Do not restrict public comments.** The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
- 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population.** Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
- 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria,** or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Finkle
Kalispell, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 13:45

Your Full Name:

Tom Finkle

Email Address:

jabsog002@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell

Your Comment/Input:

Hello Please take the following points into consideration: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you for your consideration. Tom Finkle Kalispell, Montana

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 11:21

Your Full Name:

Marvin Flaten

Email Address:

mflaten@jmgrain.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Perhaps a single district for both representatives.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Cameo Flood <cflood@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:23 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana redistricting comments

Montanans are only going to believe the redistricting process is legitimate if it is transparent and fair. The current path excludes public comment before the decision is made, and redistricts in consideration of particular political parties in an attempt to appear “competitive”. This is no different than mandating equity based on outcome instead of equal access and opportunity.

Attempting to redistrict without making equal population one of the top factors is kind of ironic when you consider the fact that we are regaining a congressional seat because our population has grown and the country needs to redistribute representation so populations are equally represented. Montana should not make a mockery of this fortune by not using population and equal representation as a key factor. Basing the district on $\pm 1\%$ with rare exceptions of up to 3% is the only equitable way to draw boundaries.

“Fair and Competitive Districts” should be scrapped. There is no way to define these terms that will gain a vast majority of support. They are vague enough to be meaningless in such an important context. There is no way to incorporate these terms in any way without favoring a political party.

Lastly, I do not understand what you are thinking by excluding public comment until the decisions are made at the July 20th meeting. Maybe you are hoping to be able to tune out the wrath that will likely be heaped upon you for staying on this course which you would richly deserve. You must take the public comment earlier in the meeting, before deciding.

I live in Missoula County, where it is clear that redistricting is designed to guarantee a certain party maintains a majority (entirely dominated by city residents), which fairly well excludes my voice (and most of my neighborhood) from being heard in most county issues. The local option gas tax was a prime example.

Thank you for your time. Do the right thing.

Cameo Flood
cflood@bresnan.net
406.546.4980

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 15:13

Your Full Name:

Dave Forgatch

Email Address:

daveforgatch@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Victor,MT.

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20-doesn't allow for public comments until after your decisions are made. If this commission values transparency and public input in the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20 meeting. Thank you very much.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:49

Your Full Name:
Georgine Forgatch

Email Address:
lasolks@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Victor, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not use “Fair and Competitive Districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or or even as a aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission’s other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area’s partisan makeup. Allow the Voters to decide who will represent them, not this commission. Thank you

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Janice Fortney <bnjfortney@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District and Apportionment Meeting July 20th

DO NOT restrict public comments at the July 20th meeting. The agenda for the meeting does not allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Janice Fortney
Montana Resident and Voter

Sherley, Laura

From: Rick Franklin <rick@thefranklinhouse.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; 'Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public input to the re-districting meeting on July 20th

My input for the re-districting process taking place in Helena: I continue to hear from the Democrats, that they want “fair and competitive districts” as a criteria and even, as a goal. This is completely at odds with the Commissions criteria that “no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. You are in dereliction of your duty if you pick based on the area’s partisan makeup. VOTERS must decide who will represent them, NOT the commission.

You must keep the districts as equal in population as you possible can, using a 1 – 3% (at the most) . This will best fulfill the constitutional requirement and stop the gerrymandering or packing of districts to help a political party. It is not your place to pick the winners and looser, that is up to the voters NOT the commission.

The agenda for July 20th is backwards! You are only allowing for public comment AFTER a decision is made. If you value public input, and transparency, you must allow for comment before the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rick Franklin
518 S 4th St Hamilton MT 59840

406-363-7456

Sherley, Laura

From: patty@thefranklinhouse.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public input to the re-districting meeting on July 20th

My input for the re-districting process taking place in Helena: I continue to hear from the Democrats, that they want “fair and competitive districts” as a criteria and even, as a goal. This is completely at odds with the Commissions criteria that “no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. You are in dereliction of your duty if you pick based on the area’s partisan makeup. VOTERS must decide who will represent them, NOT the commission.

You must keep the districts as equal in population as you possible can, using a 1 – 3% (at the most) . This will best fulfill the constitutional requirement and stop the gerrymandering or packing of districts to help a political party. It is not your place to pick the winners and loser, that is up to the voters NOT the commission.

The agenda for July 20th is backwards! You are only allowing for public comment AFTER a decision is made. If you value public input, and transparency, you must allow for comment before the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patty Franklin
www.pattyfranklinmosaics.com [pattyfranklinmosaics.com]
patty@pattyfranklinmosaics.com
406-363-7456

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:51 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:50

Your Full Name:
Heidi Friedlander

Email Address:
heidialison6311@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena Montana

Your Comment/Input:
Please allow for public comment prior to decision. Thank you so much.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Steven Galloway <segdreams@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public hearing

Redistricting Commission,

MCA 5-1-115 is very clear as to how this process is to be done. I am sure you are familiar with how it clearly defines the process! We can see issues from the past with strange boundary settings and do not wish to see this repeated. The next sitting legislature will have its hand in approving or not approving your work. MCA 5-1-110

The constitution has plain language where “Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory”, and “shall be nearly equal in population as practicable.” (Article V, Sect 14 MT Con). These rules are critical, as you well know, and this process has to be transparent, participatory and inclusive. That is it! Period! And this is a short letter in respect of your time!

In looking at the next meeting for July 20th, your agenda just continues the work session on Legislative criteria, and it only allows for public comment at the very end, and for what looks like just 15 minutes.

If you have any hope of legitimacy with the voters in Montana, your next meeting is too important to continue without allowing for public comment before your actions on the Legislative criteria. MCA 5-1-108 Montana has a rich tradition of public participation and open meetings, and I urge you to change the agenda, to allow for public comment so as to hear from Montana citizens about the next set of boundaries you are proposing. I thank you for your work on this vital task, and your willingness to include the public all in your deliberations. Our Montana Constitution's preamble states, and request that you join in ensuring its intent “desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations” in the work you are doing. It will have a lasting effect!

Sincerely

Steven Galloway

202 Sun Prairie road

Great Falls, Mt. 59404

Sherley, Laura

From: Steven Galloway <segdreams@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] committee public hearing input

Redistricting Commission,

MCA 5-1-115 is very clear as to how this process is to be done. I am sure you are familiar with how it clearly defines the process! We can see issues from the past with strange boundary settings and do not wish to see this repeated. The next sitting legislature will have its hand in approving or not approving your work.MCA 5-1-110

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I thank you for your work on this vital task, and your willingness to include the public all in your deliberations. Our Montana Constitution's preamble states, and request that you join in ensuring its intent “desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations” in the work you are doing. It will have a lasting effect!

Sincerely

Steven Galloway

Great Falls Business owner

Sherley, Laura

From: steven Galloway <galloway4mt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Districting
Cc: jeff.essman@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to committee

Redistricting Commission,

MCA 5-1-115 is very clear as to how this process is to be done. I am sure you are familiar with how it clearly defines the process! We can see issues from the past with strange boundary settings and do not wish to see this repeated. The next sitting legislature will have its hand in approving or not approving your work.MCA 5-1-110

The constitution has plain language where “Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory”, and “shall be nearly equal in population as practicable.” (Article V, Sect 14 MT Con). These rules are critical, as you well know, and this process has to be transparent, participatory and inclusive. That is it! Period! And this is a short letter in respect of your time!

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I thank you for your work on this vital task, and your willingness to include the public all in your deliberations. Our Montana Constitution's preamble states, and request that you join in ensuring its intent “desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations” in the work you are doing. It will have a lasting effect!

Sincerely

Representative

Steven Galloway

HD24

Legislators are publicly elected officials.

Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business

may be subject 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 email contents, may be subject to public disclosure,
except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:56

Your Full Name:

Pauline Gary

Email Address:

senoragary1@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Corvallis, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please play fair. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Also do not choose people based on political affiliation and allow voters to decide who will represent them.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Stacey Gasta <staceygasta@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:59 AM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;
Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thomas T, Gasta's request for fair redistricting

To all concerned:

As a resident of Montana and a registered voter I feel very strongly about transparency and equality. Therefore, I am requesting that the following be adhered to:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until **AFTER** your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must **allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.**
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Regards,
Thomas T. Gasta
40 Westover Gulch Rd
PO Box 63
Jefferson City, MT 59638
(406)459-3625

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 12:48

Your Full Name:

Stacey Gasta

Email Address:

staceygasta@icloud.com

City and State of Residence:

Jefferson City, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

To all concerned: As a resident of Montana and a registered voter I feel very strongly about transparency and equality. Therefore, I am requesting that the following be adhered to: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Regards, Stacey Gasta 40 Westover Gulch Rd PO Box 63 Jefferson City, MT 59638

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Stacey Gasta <staceygasta@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:44 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Process

To all concerned:

As a resident of Montana and a registered voter I feel very strongly about transparency and equality. Therefore, I am requesting that the following be adhered to:

[1.Do \[1.do\]](#) not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Regards,

Stacey Gasta
40 Westover Gulch Rd
PO Box 63
Jefferson City, MT 59638

Sherley, Laura

From: Darin Gaub <daringaub@protonmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

To the Commission,

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank You,

Darin Gaub
Chairman, Lewis and Clark County Republican Central Committee
Director - Restore Liberty - 501(C)(4)
State Coordinator - Military Funeral Honors
Veteran Peer to Peer Coordinator - Together for the Good Inc.
Freedom Protection Project Board Member

By sending this email I do not allow for it to be duplicated, screen captured, have cc's added, or forwarded to any party other than the direct recipient. This rule applies in all situations in perpetuity unless my express permission is given.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 07:57

Your Full Name:
Steven Fred Geisser

Email Address:
fredg1955@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
townsend

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:34 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment

From: Robert Gilbreath <rggilbreath@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>; Kolman, Joe <jkolman@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment

Colleagues,

As a fellow American, it is my understanding that it is the intent of the U.S. Constitution that all citizens are equal and are to be treated as such. Political parties are not mentioned.

In an effort to make real this belief, I propose a degree of clean simplification to Montana's congressional redistricting and apportionment rules. There are but two.

1. Each district shall contain an equal number of voters
2. The total of all district border lengths shall be as small as possible

#1 Currently available data reveals the voting address of each voter and computers are able to pinpoint these locations on a map of the state.

#2 Consolidation can be achieved, and gerrymandering prevented, if the sum total of congressional district borders are as short as possible.

I have no illusions that this procedure will be adopted soon but please keep in mind these lines by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

Perfection is achieved,
not when there is nothing more to add,
but when there is
Nothing further to take away.

Respectfully,

Robert Gilbreath
Ronan

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:26

Your Full Name:

Franz Glaus

Email Address:

franz@rubyraymedia.org

City and State of Residence:

Bozeman

Your Comment/Input:

Stop the gerrymandering.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Steve Glow <sglow@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank You

Fairness should be your priority when drawing legislative boundaries. Districts should be competitive and unite rather than divide cities and rural areas.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 07:39

Your Full Name:
Carolyn Goldammer

Email Address:
4goldammers@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Missoula

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision- making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Carolyn Goldammer <4goldammers@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:43 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Carolyn Goldammer

Certified Teacher and Dyslexia Tutor,
Educational Consultant, SOI Practitioner

Building Thriving Minds, LLC

www.buildingthrivingminds.com [buildingthrivingminds.com]

Sherley, Laura

From: Jim and Allyson Gomolka <gomolkafamily6@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:42 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting comments

To the Redistricting Commissioners,

I think it is very important to bring to the discussion of redistricting that not offering zoom comments and setting the public comments section of the meeting at the meeting's end (after the policies have been decided on) is unfair and discriminatory to the citizens of Montana. We have a right to speak our piece and it is for you to serve the people of Montana with this opportunity to be on this commission and not to use the power that comes from we the people to further your own interests or those of your respective party.

Furthermore, coming up with your own redistricting criteria i.e. "fair and competitive districts" is a tacit violation of House bill 506 which already defines the criteria for redistricting. For your convenience I quote:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 5-1-115, MCA, is amended to read: "5-1-115. Redistricting criteria.

(1) Subject to federal law, legislative and congressional districts must be established on the basis of population.

(2) In the development of legislative districts, a plan is subject to the Voting Rights Act and must comply with the following criteria, in order of importance: **(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.** (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.**

(3) *A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress. The following data or information may not be considered in the development of a plan: (a) addresses of incumbent legislators or members of congress; (b) political affiliations of registered voters; (c) partisan political voter lists; or (d) previous election results, unless required as a remedy by a court.*

(4) In the development of congressional districts and under the authority granted to the legislature by Article I, section 4, of the United States constitution, a congressional districting plan is subject to the Voting Rights Act and must comply with the following criteria, in order of importance: (a) The districts must be as equal as practicable. (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 a 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."

---I have emphasised some of the salient portions---

The above is State Law. One cannot violate this without becoming a law breaker . Regardless of like or dislike, this bill governs how the redistricting needs to happen. Your job is relatively simple--follow the law.

As a resident of Montana I find myself having to request something that I should not have to--namely, that those in office follow the law. Some of the plans put forth so far and strongly supported by public comment constitute violations of state law or attempts to get around the Will Of We The People manifested by this law. Please stay legal with your rule making.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Gomolka

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:41

Your Full Name:

James Gomolka

Email Address:

realfoodwins-jim@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

PROCTOR

Your Comment/Input:

I would like to remind the commission about HB506. This bill was passed into law and it deals with rules for determining voting districts. I have heard the objection to this law as having been passed with last minute changes and no opportunity for public comment, however, it was passed and, therefore, it represents the will of the majority of Montanans. It seems that a vocal minority wishes to change this law by promoting re-districting rules which are contrary to this law. They aim to do this by overwhelming the public comment space allowed by the commission with suggestions for rules which violate the law. The law states that districts are created with populations deviating no more than 1% and that this is only excepted under one of two conditions: 1. When necessary to keep political subdivisions intact, and 2. when necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act. It also requires that districts be contiguous, compact, and not drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, among other conditions. I urge the commission to create re-districting rules which comply with Montana State Law. Even if the law is not desirable, it must be followed until it is changed. Nobody is above the law. I also request that the commission allow public comment in the beginning of the July 20th meeting rather than at the end when all decisions have already been made. Please allow ZOOM comments also. Lastly, the notion of "fair and competitive districts" must be discarded as a consideration. It is not clearly defined and threatens to favor a political party by making it easy to gerrymander. It is no justification for violating Montana law. Neither is a vocal minority expressing public opinion at a hearing. Thank you for hearing my opinions.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jim Gomolka <realfoodwins-jim@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:35 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-districting Rulemaking

To the commissioners,

I would like to remind the commission about HB506. This bill was passed into law and it deals with rules for determining voting districts. I have heard the objection to this law as having been passed with last minute changes and no opportunity for public comment, however, it **was** passed and, therefore, it represents the will of the majority of Montanans.

It seems that a vocal minority wishes to change this law by promoting re-districting rules which are contrary to this law. They aim to do this by overwhelming the public comment space allowed by the commission with suggestions for rules which violate the law.

The law states that districts are created with populations deviating no more than 1% and that this is only excepted under one of two conditions:

1. When necessary to keep political subdivisions intact, and
2. when necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

It also requires that districts be contiguous, compact, and not drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, among other conditions.

I urge the commission to create re-districting rules which comply with Montana State Law. Even if the law is not desirable, it must be followed until it is changed. Nobody is above the law.

I also request that the commission allow public comment in the beginning of the July 20th meeting rather than at the end when all decisions have already been made.

Lastly, the notion of "fair and competitive districts" must be discarded as a consideration. It is not clearly defined and threatens to favor a political party by making it easy to gerrymander. It is no justification for violating Montana law. Neither is a vocal minority expressing public opinion at a hearing.

Thank you for hearing my opinions.
James Gomolka

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:44

Your Full Name:

Jeremy Gomolka

Email Address:

Gomolkafamily6@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Proctor MT

Your Comment/Input:

To the Redistricting Commissioners, I think it is very important to bring to the discussion of redistricting that not offering zoom comments and setting the public comments section of the meeting at the meeting's end (after the policies have been decided on) is unfair and discriminatory to the citizens of Montana. We have a right to speak our piece and it is for you to serve the people of Montana with this opportunity to be on this commission and not to use the power that comes from we the people to further your own interests or those of your respective party. Furthermore, coming up with your own redistricting criteria i.e. "fair and competitive districts" is a tacit violation of House bill 506 which already defines the criteria for redistricting. For your convenience I quote: BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: Section 1. Section 5-1-115, MCA, is amended to read:"5-1-115. Redistricting criteria. (1) Subject to federal law, legislative and congressional districts must be established on the basis of population. (2) In the development of legislative districts, a plan is subject to the Voting Rights Act and must comply with the following criteria, in order of importance:(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.(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. (3) A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress. The following data or information may not be considered in the development of a plan:(a) addresses of incumbent legislators or members of congress;(b) political affiliations of registered voters;(c) partisan political voter lists; or(d) previous election results, unless required as a remedy by a court. (4) In the development of congressional districts and under the authority granted to the legislature by Article I, section 4, of the United States constitution, a congressional districting plan is subject to the Voting Rights Act and must comply with the following

criteria, in order of importance:(a) The districts must be as equal as practicable.(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 a 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."

---I have emphasised some of the salient portions--- The above is State Law. One cannot violate this without becoming a law breaker . Regardless of like or dislike, this bill governs how the redistricting needs to happen. Your job is relatively simple--follow the law. As a resident of Montana I find myself having to request something that I should not have to--namely, that those in office follow the law. Some of the plans put forth so far and strongly supported by public comment constitute violations of state law or attempts to get around the Will Of We The People manifested by this law. Please stay legal with your rule making.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Gomolka

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 9:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 11th July 2021 21:25

Your Full Name:
Douglas Grant

Email Address:
djgrant@mcn.net

City and State of Residence:
Butte Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I would like to suggest a relatively simple, but difficult politically, solution to the redistricting process. First start on delineating the new State Representative districts. They have to be contiguous and not have enclaves or exclaves. They also have to cover as equal amount of Montana residents as possible. City and County boundaries are not to be a consideration. This will probably take up more than 80-95% of the Commission's time. The rest is easy, maybe not so. You combine two adjoining new Representative districts to form a new State Senatorial district. As far as the new Congressional districts are concerned, half of the adjoining State Senatorial districts go to one and the other half go to the other. Again no incaves or exclaves. My big question is when is this Commission is going to establish a public web-site so Montana residents can follow the process in a transparent apolitical manner.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: bryon grueter <bgrueter1939@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

I am concerned with your decisions related to future redistricting. Please consider the following requests.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Regards,

Bryon Grueter

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

Sherley, Laura

From: Katrina Gunther <katrinagunther23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you.

Katrina Gunther

Sherley, Laura

From: Brooke Habener <brooke@homesciencetools.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Montana

Dear Districting Committee

A CALL TO INTEGRITY,

Please do the right thing and not the political thing. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Please use the method that dictates 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% that will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Also, please do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Basic integrity is so needed in government today. Please allow us to trust you to do the right thing.

Kind Regards,
Brooke Habener, 824 Howard Ave., Billings, MT 59101, 406-860-4982

Sherley, Laura

From: Larry Haber <haberlarry@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Districting; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I feel this is a very important as a life long Montana resident I feel my right to vote on any policy changing plan should not be suspended by any elected official. I want to be able to vote on this policy! 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Either party. The LAW stands now at 1%. HB 506 Sec1 Amend 5-1-115 MCA 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Follow the Law, do what is written in our MT. Constitution. Must be in one piece and may NOT have length 3x the width. This should NOT be a jigsaw puzzle, but following county and/or obvious geographical boundaries (continental divide). Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Districts are only drawn on population. Please allow public comment on the front end! Thank you,

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:48

Your Full Name:

Dr. William Nickolas Hagen

Email Address:

wnhagen@outlook.com

City and State of Residence:

Bigfork

Your Comment/Input:

Your plan for outcome based redistricting is wrong and political. Please do not include this. Also your consideration for a 5% variant is way to large. 1% is the best but you should at least stay with the 3% that was used last time. If 3% is used then a overall 1% mean needs to be used to be fair. You must be fair to avoid long court battles that may not come out in your favor, if the commission is not even handed. The state for Congressional districts should be straight east and west as it was is the past.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:18

Your Full Name:

Mark Halbur

Email Address:

mhalbur1965@icloud.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Mark Halbur <mhalbur1965@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:37 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,
Mark Halbur
Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 14:32

Your Full Name:

Edwin Halland

Email Address:

edhalland@reagan.com

City and State of Residence:

Bridger, Mt

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commission Members, Please conduct business in line with the following: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 17:15

Your Full Name:

Bill Hallinan

Email Address:

wjhallinan@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

For 7/8 meeting: Please consider drawing boundaries in such a way that communities, as defined by shared watershed and geography are in a single district, do not draw boundaries solely by county lines. For example, the communities of Helena, Montana City, East Helena, Townsend all share the water valley and watershed as defined by the Missouri river basin. Dividing these communities only by county line, creates an artificial division. Please consider drawing the congressional districts similar to when Montana had two house districts in the 1980.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Kristine Hamill <kmhamill525@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 16th meeting

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Sincerely,

Kristine Hamill

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 14:35

Your Full Name:

Sandra Hammer

Email Address:

sandie@sandiehammer.com

City and State of Residence:

Polson, MT

Your Comment/Input:

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule. It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Sandie Hammer <sandie@sandiehammer.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Apportionment Commission Meeting

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the *beginning* of your July 20th meeting.

It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule.

It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

Sincerely, Sandra Hammer 406-581-3033

678 Hawk Drive Polson, MT 59860

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy tablet
Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#) Sandie

Sherley, Laura

From: HEATHER HANDY <heatherhandy@protonmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Districting; maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Josh Letcher
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

We citizens of Montana deserve and **expect** fair districting. Not cherry picked squiggly shaped sections in order to benefit a certain parties agenda. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as as aspirational goal! This goes against the Commissions other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an areas partisan makeup. THE VOTERS should decide who will represent them not this Commission!

Heather Handy

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:12

Your Full Name:

Jerry Hanley

Email Address:

jerryhanley48@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Lewistown, MT

Your Comment/Input:

This very important redistricting issue warrants the maximum public participation possible. You must allow for that. "Fair and competitive districts," is a subjective term open to anyone's interpretation and implementation. Therefore, redistricting should be based on the 1% - 3% rule.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:02

Your Full Name:

David B. Hansen

Email Address:

diannedave2@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Fortine, MT

Your Comment/Input:

My name is David B. Hansen and I live in Fortine, MT, within Lincoln County. At our county Republican meeting more than a month ago, we learned a lot about the upcoming redistricting that will be voted upon this month. It is our concern that the public comments not be restricted - but be allowed before the July 20th meeting. All Montanans value transparency and fairness. Here in Lincoln County, we are especially concerned that the commission keep districts as equal as possible in population. Packing any districts to favor a political party wouldn't be proper for Montana. We should all be confident that our votes will count. Finally, please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. We in Lincoln County have a tremendous desire to be free, and we want to trust that the Commission will honor all Montanans, allowing us freedom to vote and be counted fully. Sincerely, David B. Hansen 406 882-4050 260 Forest Loop, Eureka, MT 59917 (mailing address)

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Dianne Hansen <diannedave2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

My name is Dianne Hansen and I live in Fortine, MT, within Lincoln County. At our county Republican meeting more than a month ago, we learned a lot about the upcoming redistricting that will be voted upon this month.

It is our concern that the public comments not be restricted - but be allowed *before* the July 20th meeting. All Montanans value transparency and fairness.

Here in Lincoln County, we are especially concerned that the commission keep districts as equal as possible in population. Packing any districts to favor a political party wouldn't be proper for Montana. We should all be confident that our votes will count.

Finally, please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. We in Lincoln County have a tremendous desire to be free, and we want to trust that the Commission will honor all Montanans, allowing us freedom to vote and be counted fully.

Sincerely,

Dianne Hansen
406 882-4050
260 Forest Loop, Eureka, MT 59917 (mailing address)

Sherley, Laura

From: Deborah Hanson <hans_deb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Districting; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistrict criteria for Leg. Districts

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

As a resident of Miles City since the Seventies, I have participated in many Redistricting sessions. Our Legislative District, HD38, has historically been drawn fairly close to the city boundaries to enable this unique district to serve its citizens. We are an economic, trade and medical hub for Southeastern Montana. We are surrounded by very rural districts. We would like to emphasize the consideration of community of interest and a need to allow the commissioners to have the leeway of a 5% deviation standard.

Regarding the overall criteria for all districts these are the following suggestions I support:

*Keep the legislative and congressional criteria and goals as similar as possible. It will help to limit confusion for the public while they engage in the process and allow the Commission to apply equitable standards to both plans.

*Allow the Commission the chance to deal with potential undercounts from the pandemic by adopting a 5% deviation standard.

*Make sure that you adopt strong criteria mandating a fair map that doesn't unduly advantage either party in addition to considering competitive districts where possible.

Thank you for your consideration of these criteria.

Sincerely,

Deborah Hanson
PO Box 578
Miles City MT 59301
406/232-2134

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:08

Your Full Name:

Kate Hardman

Email Address:

kkhardman@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Thompson Falls, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 13:11

Your Full Name:
Harold Harper

Email Address:
hjharper@mt.net

City and State of Residence:
Helena, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

July 8, 2021 Dear Commissioners: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important process. I support the “traditional districting principles” that are common to many states, and oppose any radical change, but would like to highlight one which can help address a deepening concern: Please do not discount the effects your commission decisions will have on the negative political polarity currently gripping our state and nation. The Montana experience repeatedly has shown that our finest Constitutional and legislative achievements come when a perceptible and actual balance of ideological representation exists. I favor use of this principle wherever it does not unduly interfere or negate these other traditional principles, and it: • Helps force candidates to actively campaign in the district • Encourages genuine issue stance sharing with the district before elections • Gives every resident voter a reason to become involved with district election out comes • Helps reduce what can often be negative effects of poor primary turnout where the general election is meaningless, leaving district voters not properly represented • Helps provide a legislature and statewide officials that more fully represent the entire population of Montana. The very best to you and your able staff, Hal Harper, Helena

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 16:48

Your Full Name:

Holly Hart

Email Address:

hdeeh5@protonmaill.com

City and State of Residence:

Bozeman

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commission, I am contacting you to urge you to do what is right for Montana citizens as you take part in the Montana redistricting process. First of all, your agenda states that public comments will be taken AFTER your decisions have been made, This makes no sense. Please take time to listen and consider the opinions of Montanans BEFORE you make your decision. You should value public input and transparency in your decision making process and allow comment from the public to be places at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Secondly, I ask that you use the constitutional requirements as a guide as you redistrict, keeping districts as equal as possible in population. Using as close to 1% as possible will reduce the ability to pack districts to favor one party over another and will reduce the ability to gerrymander. Please make it your aim to uphold integrity in your decisions and redistricting so that the voters will ultimately get to decide who gets to represent them, not this commission. Sincerely, Holly Hart

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 09:33

Your Full Name:

Fred Hasskamp

Email Address:

fredflys@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Hamilton, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Re-districting must be kept fair and based on population.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:54

Your Full Name:

Carol Havig

Email Address:

carol.havig@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

MT

Your Comment/Input:

- Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. - Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. - Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:33 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 07:33

Your Full Name:

Brian Heck

Email Address:

bheckers77@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Bozeman, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comments on July 20th meeting. Decisions on redistricting should be made with public input.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Micah Heil <heilmicah7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:37 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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Sincerely,

Micah Heil

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 22:34

Your Full Name:

Micah Heil

Email Address:

heilmicah7@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Sincerely, Micah heil

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

Sherley, Laura

From: pat h <patisonotoday@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,

Pat Heil

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 20:12

Your Full Name:

Pay Heil

Email Address:

patisontoday@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell. MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Sincerely, Pat Heil

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Janice Heil <janiceheilison@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:44 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,
Janice Heil

Sherley, Laura

From: ghelt.1@netzero.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Districting; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; ghelt.1@netzero.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2020 MT. redistricting

As a Republican native of the solidly conservative state of MT., if the modern Democrat party still had ANY resemblance to the party of J.F.K. then fair and non-partisan redistricting would be a good thing. Montana conservatives, I only ask that you take a long look at the party of "peaceful protest"(with looting and arson openly condoned). Blatantly weaponized governmental power (if you're not "one of them"). And last but not least, Championing the use of K-college educational systems as an indoctrination tool for planting the seeds of Marxism's revolutionary theories in impressionable young peoples minds.(If we are so systemically oppressive of non-white people,why do they still want to come here?)

Why give politicians like this equal input on Montana's 2020 redistricting for State and Federal offices? Do the Democrats on the "Left" Coast play fair with their conservative citizens? What do you think will happen in Colorado now that they have taken over? Do you believe they will "play nice" if/when WE fall under the progressive's control?

My input on this subject can be boiled down to 1 sentence. Have you ever seen the movie " 300 "? Think of King Leonidas and the Spartans facing Xerxes' army of enslavement at the Battle of Thermopylae, "GIVE THEM NOTHING, BUT TAKE FROM THEM,- EVERYTHING!"

Perry Helt, Columbus

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 16:21

Your Full Name:
Cydney Henderson

Email Address:
squidneysu@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Victor, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please keep districts as equal as possible with regards to population numbers. By using 1% -2%, the constitutional requirements will be fulfilled while also reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Clyde Henneman <clydeh@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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,

Clyde Henneman

Veni Vidi Invenio

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:51

Your Full Name:

Joyce Heppner

Email Address:

godsinvitation@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Polson, MT

Your Comment/Input:

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule. It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

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

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the *beginning* of your July 20th meeting.

It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule.

It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:17 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 07:16

Your Full Name:

Heidi Hill

Email Address:

ehnhill@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Havre, MT

Your Comment/Input:

I am asking for comments from the public to be heard before the 7/20 meeting. Comments after decision is made does not allow the public's' wishes to be considered. The constitution is the law. Gerrymandering to pack districts to favor a party is not allowing the voters to decide - so do your job right. Fair and competitive districting is not that at all - it is looking at political bent of an area and dividing parties up when too heavy and lumping small clusters together to give more power. This is wrong.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: bhineba@midrivers.com
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:37 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

There are a few things I would like you to consider when you are working on Montana's redistricting.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you for your service,
Beth Hinebauch
Wibaux, Mt

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:41

Your Full Name:

Beth Hinebauch

Email Address:

bhineba@middrivers.com

City and State of Residence:

Wibaux, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission, There are a few things I would like you to consider when you are working on Montana's redistricting. 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you for your service, Beth Hinebauch Wibaux, MT

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

Sherley, Laura

From: stevehinebauch@midrivers.com
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov, Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov, Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov, Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov,
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Steve Hinebauch

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 6:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th July 2021 18:03

Your Full Name:

Kathy van Hook

Email Address:

kathyvanhook@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commissioners: I understand that the Montana's Districting and Apportionment Commission is gathering public comments on the "criteria" for redistricting.. Please give serious consideration to the following important factors when you make your decision: Strong compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Criteria to create fair districts that do not unduly favor any political part The creation of a reasonable number of legislative districts where candidates from either party can win. Thank you, Kathy van Hook

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Brandy Houlihan <brandyjane5@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:00 PM
To: Districting; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-Districting.

To the Re-Districting Committee Members,

I have followed this process for some months as it has unfolded. Our State has grown sufficiently enough to gain back a once lost Congressional seat. I believe that's the first time any state has ever done that. As such, it's incumbent upon you to make certain that this new district represents the Citizens of our wonderful state, and not just the interest of the political parties.

In my opinion, the New District should be based on the following:

1. It should be contiguous so neighbors and regions of the state with common apolitical interests are represented together.
2. Pay attention to State Laws, they matter.
3. Do not attempt to skew the political representation for the district.
4. Allow voters to select their choice for office, not the Commission.
5. The District should represent the most fair and unbiased solution possible.
6. Your duty is to this state, not the politics of the moment!

Thank you for your time. Please do YOUR BEST for my home. I love Montana! I never want to see Her hurt in any way.

Sincerely,

Brandy Houlihan.

Sent from ProtonMail for iOS

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 18:47

Your Full Name:

Jim Huff

Email Address:

rldjht@centurytel.net

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Hello, Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% rule, according to Montana constitutional requirements. Obey the law!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 18:52

Your Full Name:

Dorothy Huff

Email Address:

dchuff@centurytel.net

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Hello, Use the 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% rule, according to Montana constitutional requirements. Obey the law! Sincerely, Dorothy Huff

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jim & Dorothy Huff <rldjht@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:52 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Use the 1%-3% Rule Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting Obey the law!

Hello,

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% rule, according to Montana constitutional requirements. Obey the law!

Sincerely,
Jim Huff

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 18:52

Your Full Name:

Jim Huff

Email Address:

rldjht@centurytel.net

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Hello, Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% rule, according to Montana constitutional requirements. Obey the law!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Dorothy Huff <dchuff@centurytel.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:22 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Use the 1%-3% Rule Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting Obey the law!

Hello,

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% rule, according to Montana constitutional requirements. Obey the law!

Thank you,
Dorothy Huff

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 09:14

Your Full Name:

Richard Hulse

Email Address:

rthulse@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Hamilton, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Districting and Apportionment Commission Commissioners: The purpose of redistricting is to split a state into contiguous geo-economic areas of approximately the same size to promote representation of the various regions. Nothing in this purpose relates to "competitiveness" or promoting a political agenda. In fact, politicizing this process is antithetical to the purpose of grouping homogeneous regions into districts, resulting in additional strife and disunity. Districts are to be created to fairly represent the people based on common geo-economic positions, not to promote any particular political party or purpose. Eastern Montana represents a distinct difference from Western Montana in those geo-economic values. The most appropriate split is a north-south line based on geographical similarities producing equally populated areas without regard to political agendas. The homogeneous people of each district would then have the freedom to choose their own political agendas and priorities appropriate to their area and needs. Thank you for considering my comments and putting the needs of the people of Montana above any socio-political agenda.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:51

Your Full Name:

Ann Ingram, NP

Email Address:

anningram58@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commissioners, I am writing to request that the commissioners attempt to repeat what other commissions have achieved by creating respective districts with an accurate of as close to +/- 1% as possible. Ideas such as "considering competitiveness" would require looking a specific election data, which is to be discouraged. Also the consideration of such a lax standard of district creation of the +/- 5% level seems excessive. Please adhere as closely as possible to the current law, as written, to guide your decisions. Montana will be watching your actions. Make us proud of the result. Sincerely, Ann Ingram, NP

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 22:35

Your Full Name:

Shane Ivanish

Email Address:

shane.ivanish@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Miles City MT

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 19:53

Your Full Name:
Melissa M Jardstrom

Email Address:
meandwes@aol.com

City and State of Residence:
Bozeman

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Chuck Jarecki <skywagon49@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on redistricting

Committee members:

I have been a Montana voter for sixty years. I urge you to determine restricting boundaries based on fairness and not gerrymandering.

I make the following comments:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.
Charles Jarecki
Polson, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:56

Your Full Name:

Anne Jarshaw

Email Address:

Anne@jarshaw.xyz

City and State of Residence:

Joliet, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Members of the Redistricting Commission, In your upcoming meeting, it is vital that you allow public comment before the meeting. How can you take input from the public and discuss it at the meeting if you plan on only taking public comment AFTER the meeting, you can't. Don't be an unelected bureaucracy. Do not pack the districts! Keep them as equal in population as possible....and it is possible, unless you don't want to. But you don't have that option because you are beholden to Montana law as anyone. Remember your word...that no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Respectfully, Anne Jarshaw

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Patrick Jentz <ptjentz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting

My name is Patrick Jentz and I live in Kalispell Montana. This commission needs to hear my input, please!

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. I want you to listen to my comments please before the decision. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Patrick Jentz

Sherley, Laura

From: Meghan Johns <meghan.f.johns@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Districting; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting process

- **Dear Committee Members,**

-

- Thank you for the opportunity to provide into the redistricting and apportionment process. It is so important that these crucial decisions are informed by the public.

- **Please keep the legislative and congressional criteria and goals as similar as possible.** This will help limit confusion for Montanans while we engage in the process, and it will allow the Commission to apply equitable standards to both plans.

- **Please consider the existing Criteria requests** including a 5% deviation standard and criteria that provides for a fair map that does not unduly advantage either party.

-

- Thank you for reading this,--
Meghan

Sherley, Laura

From: Linda Johnson <ruslin8922@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting

To: the RE-Districting and Apportionment Commission Members:

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Linda and Russell Johnson
2615 Helena Flats Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:40

Your Full Name:

Dan Johnson

Email Address:

danjohnson1264@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Clancy

Your Comment/Input:

1. You need to here public comment on July 20th on issues of this importance. 2. The law and the State constitution needs to be followed during redistricting. 3. Montana congressional districts should not look like an ink blot to gerrymander districts. This is what sours citizens to our political processes. 4. Voters should determine their representatives at the polls. They must not be determined by a redistricting committee as stated in the state constitution. 5. We had a map of the second congressional district in Montana that made sense and would even still to this day equally distribute the population numbers within 2% and it includes boundaries that make sense. Anything but a east and west split will obviously be construed as political gerrymandering. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 11:48

Your Full Name:
Brittany Johnson

Email Address:
brittany.r.johnson2012@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Clancy, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:43

Your Full Name:

David Johnson

Email Address:

swansong@montanasky.us

City and State of Residence:

Bigfork MT

Your Comment/Input:

I urge you to follow existing MT law, especially using the 1% deviation criteria, and DO NOT use recent voting results as criteria for drawing district boundaries.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Cynthia Johnson <cyndij@3rivers.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Commission Meeting for Districting and Apportionment

Dear Commissioners,

Every 10 years we go through this - why don't we just follow the Montana Constitution for deviations from equally populated districts? "Fair and Competitive Districts" smacks of a blatant invitation to gerrymander by any political party. As a sensible decision making body, you should all embrace this opportunity to show all voters in Montana that you've set aside your political "war shield" and just stick to the rules, as they are written.

Sparsely populated counties such as the one I live in (Pondera) have always been an afterthought when it comes to this process. I understand, in the effort to keep the numbers as equal as possible, you need to "divide" up these small counties. At the very least, might we continue to have the representation of a single Senator for our entire county? Right now, we have one Senator and two Representatives and the little county seat is divided in half. We have very much in common with the other counties who share our Senator and it works well.

We would appreciate that very much. When it comes to dividing our State for a second Congressional District, again, don't play games just use good common sense and create as equal a division as possible between the East and the West. I say East and West because our economies are pretty different when it comes to agriculture and the Eastern part of the state deserves to have their voices heard.

The last issue on my mind is the function of public comment. There are many people with something to say and by placing the public comment period AFTER the decision making functions of your meetings, you are limiting their opportunity to truly have a place at the table and let you know how they feel about the issues you intend to decide. Be the best commission you can be. Let the people be heard.

Thank you for your service and willingness to consider my comments.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Johnson
Pondera County Resident

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:37

Your Full Name:

Noelle Johnson

Email Address:

noellemjohnson@outlook.com

City and State of Residence:

Great Falls, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Commissioners, Thank you for serving Montana in this capacity. How exciting that you are serving in a role where you get to directly use Montana Law. With all that has been going on in the world, I have started to get more involved. I have learned so much this past year about the Montana Constitution and the Montana Code Annotated, even though I've been a teacher in Montana for 18 years--including quite a few years teaching about Montana history & government in 4th grade. (In my years of teaching 4th grade and out Montana unit, I don't think I'd ever even heard of the Montana Code Annotated.) Both the Montana Constitution and MCA have provided you with the tools for the districting process. Article 5 Section 14 Part 1 gives this wording, "...Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable." These same 3 criteria--compact, contiguous, and nearly equal in population--are explained further in the MCA. In MCA 5-1-115 part 2, gives more detail on compact, and contiguous, and it adds the percentage of 1% relative deviation from the ideal population. From my understanding of past Montana commissions, they have used both 3% or 5%. This is not inline with Montana law. It also explains in part 3 of MCA 5-1-115 what "...data MAY NOT be considered in the development of a plan:"--including political affiliations of registered voters, partisan political voter lists, OR previous election results. There is current verbiage in the criteria your commission agreed upon in early July of "competitiveness of districts". How can this be achieved without using data that would violate the law in MCA 5-1-115 part 3. This language of "competitive" is not in alignment with the law. I am very excited to watch your committee of 5 upholds your obligation as a public servants to follow the Montana Constitution and the law. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Andy Johnson <eandyj007@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Cc: Mary McLaughlin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My comments on redistricting directions.

To All:

Please keep this in mind, in the Montana 2020 election the POPULAR VOTE for federal and state offices was roughly 55% Republican and 45% Democrat. THE COUNTY VOTE WAS 85% REPUBLICAN AND 15% DEMOCRAT. So before you people get all weak-kneed before a crowd of democrats demanding more IDEALISTIC NONSENSE remember that Montana is a CONSERVATIVE state, with CONSERVATIVE VALUES, and not attuned to listening to "fair and competitive" IDEALISTIC NONSENSE. Who defines those anyway? Another "Critical Race Theory" mindset? So please do what's right. After 16 years of democrat governors, the intent of Montanans is strongly CONSERVATIVE, ie. REPUBLICAN.

Sherley, Laura

From: Dan Johnson <danjohnson1264@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thanks,

Dan Johnson
Jefferson County, MT
406-570-2101

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 12th July 2021 11:19

Your Full Name:
Mary Lou Johnson

Email Address:
nox2663@blackfoot.net

City and State of Residence:
Noxon, Montana

Your Comment/Input:
MCA 5-1-115, clearly states 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. My husband and I support the plan that follows the law.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:41 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 11:40

Your Full Name:

Elizabeth Judd

Email Address:

betzcj@comcast.net

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, MT 59802

Your Comment/Input:

Please consider that federal law requiring on vote, one person must be upheld. The Montana state constitution requires districts be compact and contiguous. As well the Montana statute that preserves subdivisions, forbids the use of partisan data and prohibits favoring or disfavoring a party or candidate. Montana needs this process to be open, transparent and with little bias. It is important to me, as a voter and resident, that this process is nonpartisan. Thank you for your time.

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

Public Comment of

Aleks Kajstura
Legal Director

&

Ginger Jackson-Gleich
Policy Counsel
Prison Policy Initiative

Submitted to the
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
regarding
Avoiding Prison Gerrymandering in Montana

June 8, 2021

Thank you, Presiding Officer Smith and members of the Commission for providing the opportunity to submit further public comment on the upcoming Montana redistricting process. This comment specifically elaborates upon a few aspects of the problem known as “prison gerrymandering” and the solutions that are available to fix it.

As you are already aware, prison gerrymandering arises from the Census Bureau’s practice of crediting incarcerated people to census blocks that contain prisons, rather than to the census blocks that contain their home addresses. This results in a significant increase in representation in districts with prisons, and consequently a dilution of representation for the residents of all other districts.

We are the Legal Director of and Policy Counsel for the Massachusetts-based Prison Policy Initiative. For nearly two decades, our organization has been leading the national effort to urge the Census Bureau to count incarcerated people as residents of their legal home addresses, rather than as residents of the correctional facilities where they are detained. At the same time, we work closely with state and local governments to develop interim solutions to the harmful distortion of democracy caused by the Census Bureau’s current approach to counting incarcerated people.

We wrote to the Redistricting Commission in May—addressing the problem of prison gerrymandering generally—and we now write to supplement and provide more information on issues and questions that have been raised since then.

Timing considerations:
Use reallocated population data for *state legislative* districts

We understand that—with redistricting deadlines drawing closer—the Commission is still searching for a suitable vendor to handle the technical aspects of reallocating incarcerated people to their home addresses. We believe the Commission now has several leads for this work, but nevertheless timing is getting tight for drawing Congressional districts. We therefore suggest a two-pronged approach for this redistricting cycle: if necessary, use the unadjusted PL 94-171 data for drawing the state’s *Congressional* lines and then use the adjusted PL 94-171 data to draw *state legislative* lines (and make that data available to local governments for their own redistricting efforts). Many states, including Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, now take this “split” approach to redistricting.

Given the vast populations of congressional districts, the prison populations in Montana will have no practical impact on representational equality among districts. However, in contrast to its effect on *congressional* districts, prison gerrymandering has a significant impact on *state legislative* districts in Montana. For example, state House District 78 is 17% incarcerated, while two other districts (House Districts 18 and 49) are both more than 5% incarcerated.

Luckily, your timeline for redistricting the state legislative districts is much more relaxed and would allow you plenty of time to adjust the data to count incarcerated people at home.

Thus, if—once the Commission gets a better sense of the timeframes proposed by the data vendors—the Commission concludes that there is not enough time to have the data prepared before the Congressional lines need to be drawn, then the Commission should still reallocate incarcerated people for the state legislative districts.

Do what you can now, and then plan for the future

Our recommendations boil down to: Do best you can in 2020, and start preparing for 2030 now.

It is important to note that home address datasets produced by the Department of Corrections may be incomplete or imperfect (this may be especially likely in Montana, where Native American populations are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and may be less likely to report having a specific street address prior to becoming incarcerated). However, missing home address data should not foreclose adjustment of the Census data, and indeed all states that have adopted the reallocation approach have home address datasets in which addresses are missing for some percentage of people incarcerated in those states.

Thus, even if Montana can reallocate only a relatively low percent of incarcerated people this redistricting cycle, counting at least some people at home is better than counting everyone in the wrong place.

All the state can do right now is work with the data it has, but there is plenty of time to ensure that the state will be in an even better position to solve prison gerrymandering in 2030. Now is the time to start working with the Department of Corrections to make sure they start keeping better, more complete, and more comprehensive address records for all people in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Ideally, the data collected by the Department of Corrections should include:

- (i) a unique identifier, not including the name, or SID (state offender ID) number, for each incarcerated person subject to the jurisdiction of the department on the date for which the decennial census reports population. The unique identifier should permit the Commission to address inquiries about specific address records to the Department of Corrections, without making it possible for anyone outside of the Department of Corrections to identify the inmate to whom the address record pertains;
- (ii) the street address of the correctional facility in which such person was incarcerated at the time of such report;
- (iii) the last known address of such person prior to incarceration or other legal residence (if known);
- (iv) the person's race, whether the person is of Hispanic or Latino origin, and whether the person is over the age of 18 (if known);

This information should *not* include the name of any incarcerated person or allow for the identification of any such person therefrom, except by the Department of Corrections. The information should be treated as confidential, and should not be disclosed by the Redistricting Commission except as redistricting data aggregated by census block.

Very few of the people incarcerated in Montana's prisons today will be incarcerated during the next Census; instead the population will have turned over

almost completely. Thus, if the Department of Corrections begins to acquire complete and accurate address records during intake now, and keeps that process going forward, it will have a comprehensive and usable dataset at the time of the 2030 Census.

Funding is not affected

We have heard concerns about the fact that prisons have some fiscal impact on the towns where they are located and therefore that those towns deserve to benefit from prison gerrymandering. These concerns usually center around increased traffic on local roads, and the needs for fire and ambulance services are often mentioned. To be sure, to whatever extent these towns are burdened by the state's correctional facilities, they should be compensated through PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) funds, other funding schemes, or state aid.

However, it makes no sense to say that the state's use of land in the town should somehow translate to additional clout in the legislature. A prison does not warrant additional representation any more than the State Capitol or other government buildings do. All state facilities impose *some* impact on their surrounding communities, but that is a completely separate issue from redistricting – which is based on populations, not buildings. And of course, the people who are incarcerated in prison buildings remain legal residents of their home addresses. (*See Montana Annotated Code § 13-1-112(2).*)

With that in mind, adjusting redistricting data to count incarcerated people at their home address does not impact funding formulas. The procedures under consideration would result in the creation of a new dataset for use in state redistricting. Such a solution would simply ensure that the state's definition of residence for representative purposes lines up with where people are counted in redistricting. This adjusted redistricting dataset would not affect the distribution of federal or state funds simply because there is no federal or state funding formula that is distributed on the basis of redistricting data.

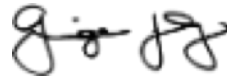
Conclusion

We hope that the Redistricting Commission will choose to count incarcerated people at home in redistricting – ensuring equal representation for Montanans.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can answer any questions or provide you with additional resources. We thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



Aleks Kajstura
Legal Director
Prison Policy Initiative
69 Garfield Ave Floor 1
Easthampton, MA 01027
413-203-9790
akajstura@prisonpolicy.org



Ginger Jackson-Gleich
Policy Counsel
Prison Policy Initiative
69 Garfield Ave Floor 1
Easthampton, MA 01027
413-527-0845, ext. 310
gingerjg@prisonpolicy.org

Sherley, Laura

From: Aleks Kajstura <akajstura@prisonpolicy.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 8:09 AM
To: Districting; Weiss, Rachel
Cc: Ginger Jackson-Gleich
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written comments of Prison Policy Initiative regarding prison gerrymandering
Attachments: PPI_mt_testimony-Redistricting-Commission-2021-July_8.pdf

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Please find attached comments of the Prison Policy Initiative regarding ending prison gerrymandering in Montana.

We wrote to the Redistricting Commission in May—addressing the problem of prison gerrymandering generally—and we now write to supplement and provide more information on issues and questions that have been raised since then.

I am also registered to testify via zoom today and will be happy to answer any further questions at that time or as they may arise in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Aleks Kajstura

Legal Director
Prison Policy Initiative
www.prisonpolicy.org [prisonpolicy.org]
www.prisonersofthecensus.org/ [prisonersofthecensus.org]

Sherley, Laura

From: Stacy Kandel <stacykandel@protonmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:14 AM
To: Districting; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Montana Re-Districting Committee,

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you!

Stacy Kandel
Trout Creek, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 6:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 06:51

Your Full Name:

Karla

Email Address:

karladjohnson54@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Absarokee

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 12th July 2021 09:41

Your Full Name:

Calvin Kaufman

Email Address:

calkauf@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings Mt.

Your Comment/Input:

Districts should be set by population not by voter party preference. Countys and towns should not be split up in congressal districts.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 11:07

Your Full Name:
Patti Prinkki Keebler

Email Address:
pjk1254@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Roberts

Your Comment/Input:

I sincerely hope the Commission adopts guiding values that are fair and competitive and represent the rich diversity of Montana, including compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. We all have a responsibility to turn away from the ugly divisiveness in today's politics. Civic duty, civil dialogue and a wide range of views make better policy. Thank you for considering my views.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Kristin Kerr <tomandkristinkerr@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:26 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Please, do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Please, keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Please, do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

--

Kristin Kerr
406-502-1513

*"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
I Thessalonians 5:18*

Sherley, Laura

From: Agatha Kerry <Light4c@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:49 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment: Redistricting in Montana.

Dear Honorable Representatives of Montana:

Please consider the following when making your decision Redistricting as it relates to Elections.

Do not restrict public comments.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts.

Do not use “Fair and Competitive Districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal.

Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area’s partisan makeup.

Allow the Voters to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you

Agatha B. Kerry
Light4c@aol.com

740 Northwoods Dr.
Whitefish, Mt 59937

Sherley, Laura

From: o <krkerry@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:34 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting

As a Montana resident, I strongly oppose any action by the legislature prior to public comment. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Concerned Montana Citizen,
Kim Kerry

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 7:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 19:35

Your Full Name:
Kimberly Richard Kerry

Email Address:
krkerry@aol.com

City and State of Residence:
Whitefish, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

As a Montana resident, I strongly oppose any action by the Commission prior to public comment. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Concerned Montana Citizen, Kim Kerry

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 17:25

Your Full Name:

Agatha Kerry

Email Address:

light4c@aol.com

City and State of Residence:

Whitefish

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Terry Nelson will also be hosting a virtual information

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 09:45

Your Full Name:

Shelly Kessler

Email Address:

shelly_k_7@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Avon

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Show us that the Montana democrats are all about fair elections - OF the people, FOR the people and BY the people - not stealing elections FROM the people.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Becky Kimmet <rakimmet@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

To the Honorable members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I am submitting this request to please be considered before any decision will be made on drawing redistricting lines in the state of Montana. In good conscience, you must allow public comment before a decision is finalized, not listen to taxpayers' input after you have decided. For all fairness, districting lines should not be considered for or against a certain political party. Please assure the districts are as equal as possible in population and not partisan affiliated. All taxpaying, voting citizens deserve this treatment. The voters should decide this issue, not a lone commission.

Thank you for your consideration on this very serious matter.

Becky Kimmet
Cut Bank, MT



July 16, 2021

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

Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

The apportionment of a second seat in the U.S. House of Representatives to our state for the first time in thirty years is an historic opportunity. Recently, the national political discourse has ignored or been outright hostile toward rural states like Montana. An additional congressional representative is a good start toward righting those wrongs. This makes your duty to properly draw new political boundaries as important for our state as it has ever been.

During the July 8, 2021 hearing on Mandatory and Discretionary Criteria for Redistricting, many who gave public comment testified in support of a guaranteed number of seats and/or a guaranteed number of “competitive seats.” The commission should not go down this path. The boundaries of congressional and legislative districts must not be based on predetermined political outcomes. Forcing these criteria into redistricting would inappropriately politicize and undermine Montanans’ faith in what should be a nonpartisan process.

The districts you draw should be contiguous and compact, with the division of towns, cities, counties, and reservations minimized to the greatest extent possible. Geographic boundaries such as mountain ridges or other barriers that prevent transportation by maintained roads should also be respected.

Likewise, communities of interest should remain intact. For example, Montanans who live in rural areas of Gallatin, Missoula, or Yellowstone counties often have different interests than those in the cores of Bozeman, Missoula, and Billings. Allowing each of these communities of interest to elect their own state representatives and senators will better ensure each has adequate representation in the legislature.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Sanders
PO Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

(406) 444-2026
Contactdoj@mt.gov
mtdoj.gov

AUSTIN KNUDSEN



STATE OF MONTANA

The results of November’s elections were described by the media as a “red wave” and “political realignment.” The Republican victories statewide – many of which were well into the double digits – led MTN News Chief Political Reporter Mike Dennison to note, “Democrats may have a long road back to competitiveness in Montana politics.” The criteria pushed during the July 8 hearing appears to be nothing more than a political Hail Mary to speed down this “long road back to competitiveness.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Austin Knudsen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Austin Knudsen
Montana Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Sanders
PO Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

(406) 444-2026
Contactdoj@mt.gov
mtdoj.gov

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:07

Your Full Name:

Eric Knutson

Email Address:

ericknutson007@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Dayton

Your Comment/Input:

Stick to established law on redistricting

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 13:21

Your Full Name:
Margaret Koenig

Email Address:
margaret.k.koenig@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena MT

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Mark Korwald <korwald.mark@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank You

Keep variations within 5%. Keep state & federal districts as close as possible.
I don't want political interests selecting voters. I want fair elections in Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: Terry Kramer <t.kramer@kramerdesignscorp.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Position on Districting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Terry Kramer



Terry Kramer
Kramer Designs Corp
6 Aspen Lane
Clancy, MT 59634-9508
406-933-8658
www.kramerdesignscorp.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Biohacking Truth: Unleash Your Potential <coachjerryhlc@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

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

From: **Mail Delivery Subsystem** <mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 at 15:34
Subject: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)
To: <coachjerryhlc@gmail.com>

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

From: "Biohacking Truth: Unleash Your Potential" <coachjerryhlc@gmail.com>
To: districing@mt.gov, maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov, jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov, Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov,
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov, Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Thu, 15 Jul 2021 16:35:02 -0700
Subject: July 20 public meeting
----- Message truncated -----

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Jerry Kuykendall
Missoula Resident since October 2007

--

Biohacking Truth

Longevity, Max Fulfillment, Pain Free, Look Great Naked

Biohackingtruth.com [biohackingtruth.com]

FB group, Instagram, Tik Tok, YouTube: Biohacking Truth

"The information in this electronic mail ("e-mail") message may contain information that is confidential and/or privileged, or may otherwise be protected by work product or other legal rules. It is solely for the use of the individual(s) or the entity(ies) originally intended. Access to this electronic mail message by anyone else is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that any unauthorized review, disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this information, or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it, is prohibited and may be unlawful. Please notify the sender immediately if you have received this electronic message by mistake, and destroy all copies of the original message."

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:28

Your Full Name:
Gerald Lee Kuykendall

Email Address:
jerryLKuykendall@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Missoula, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:09

Your Full Name:

Terri Lackey

Email Address:

tlackey0505@protonmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Stevensville Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this commission values transparency and public input in the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20 meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favored different parties. Do not Use "fair and competitive districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission..

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:12

Your Full Name:

Charla Lake

Email Address:

charlalake@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Polson

Your Comment/Input:

1 Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 2. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:10

Your Full Name:

Susan Lake

Email Address:

susanlakemt@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Ronan

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. 4. I live in a gerrymandered district. Our house representation comes from the Blackfoot Reservation. I live on the Flathead Reservation. The representatives do not come to our updates or participate in our forums. I do not want to see the same gerrymandering of the congressional house seat.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:15

Your Full Name:

Katie Lake

Email Address:

katers_2003@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Polson Montana

Your Comment/Input:

It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule. It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:11

Your Full Name:

Debra Lamm

Email Address:

dlamm@nellus.com

City and State of Residence:

Livingston, MT

Your Comment/Input:

I urge the Commission to provide the opportunity for public comments before making criteria decisions. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 14:52

Your Full Name:

Lorna Lang

Email Address:

llang@itstriangle.com

City and State of Residence:

Malta, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Redistricting and Apportionment Commission: Please consider the points: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Sincerely, Lorna Lang, Malta, MT 406-654-7238

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

July 16, 2021

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Election Integrity is at the forefront of voters all across the country and especially in MT. In poll after poll, regardless of party affiliation, voters by a wide margin of 75-80% want to be able to trust election results. We are very concerned by the efforts of some in Montana to achieve the unlawful practice of gerrymandering. To avoid this and the tainting of MT elections, it is imperative that you take the following measures for the July 20th meeting:

1. **Do not restrict public comments.** At present, the agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. **Keep districts as equal as possible in population.** Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Remember, life changes; nothing remains the same. The underhanded practice of gerrymandering can one day bite you right back!
3. **Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal.** *This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission*

Sincerely,
Sanford and Nancy Langager
5 Cooney Rd
Roberts, MT 59070

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 14:42

Your Full Name:

Mike Lang

Email Address:

nasml@itstriangle.com

City and State of Residence:

Malta, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Redistricting and Apportionment Commission: Please consider the points: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter. Gratefully, Mike Lang, Malta MT 406 654 7357 Phillips County Committeeman, nasml@itstriangle.com Senator MT SD 17 7-14-2021

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

Sherley, Laura

From: larkwick <larkwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Maylinn Smith; Jeff Essmann; Joe Lamson; Dan Stusek; Kendra Miller; Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Districting

Montana's population, as of 2021, the only fair and equitable solution is either;

1. North/South District, which utilizes current county lines: 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 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%

I 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.



Virus-free. www.avast.com [avast.com]

[\[avast.com\]](http://avast.com)

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 22:16

Your Full Name:

Marc L

Email Address:

mlsabin@alum.mit.edu

City and State of Residence:

Corvallis, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Members of the 2020 Districting and Apportionment Commission, As a citizen concerned that this process be executed in a way faithful to the Constitution and Laws of Montana, I hereby submit the following three recommendations to you for your consideration in fulfilling the tremendous responsibility you bear to ensure just and honest elections during the coming decade. 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:41 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 07:40

Your Full Name:

Vickie Le Blanc

Email Address:

liondogzleblanc@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Vickie Le Blanc <liondogzleblanc@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Districting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: Nancy Leifer <nancleifer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Commission July 20 meeting

Dear Commission Staff:

Below is public comment from Nancy Leifer on behalf of the League of Women Voters.

Thank you,
Nancy Leifer

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

Public Comment to Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission July 20, 2021
Submitted by Nancy Leifer on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Montana

In response to Commissioner Essmann's question about metrics to use in considering communities of interest and also regarding political neutrality

Communities of Interest Metrics

Open-source map-drawing software for public use incorporates census data from the census block level that includes demographic data relevant to communities of interest. Districtr can also contain some data from the American Community Survey, including age, homeownership, household income and broadband access that could help measure communities of interest.

All of the data from the census except the count of household units and the population count for the nation and states is variant and subject to the Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS) injection of "noise" to prevent database reconstruction. Database reconstruction is using the published census Decennial tables to match with an outside commercial data set that would allow someone to identify individuals even though the Census tables have protected respondents' identities. Especially in small geographies based on land size or small population groupings based on characteristics important to redistricting (race, ethnicity, and age), the DAS system alters the accuracy of the reported data. The effect of DAS can be countered by allowing a 3-5% discrepancy in the population of the legislative districts in order to sufficiently represent the populations.

Political Neutrality:

Research ^[1] has shown that redistricting without taking party considerations into account results in unintentional gerrymandering. Election data must be used in the redistricting process to ensure equal protection to both parties. Analysis of the likely political impact of a proposed map requires mathematical analysis that is within the capability of staff resources already available to the Commission through the

Montana Census and Economic Information Center. Proposed maps can be analyzed by using precinct data from past elections and the DAS PPFM file at the 19.61 Epsilon which will be available in September: (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/bulletins/2e5e8a6> [content.govdelivery.com]).

There are three commonly used measurements of potential partisan bias. **The efficiency gap** assesses the degree to which each party “wasted” votes, i.e., accumulated more than the bare minimum of votes a candidate needed to win (50% plus 1) plus votes for losing candidates. A map with partisan symmetry would result in the number of wasted votes for both parties being the same. **The seats to votes curve** compares the historical average of votes won by each party to the projected outcome under the new maps. **The mean-median district vote share** compares two ways of computing the average of the data. In a neutral outcome, the numbers would be the same. The degree to which the two measures differ identifies potential skewing of the map to favor one party. A more complete description of these measures when used to analyze past Congressional districts can be found on page four of the Brennan Center Report “Extreme Maps”: https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Report_Extreme%20Maps%205.16_0.pdf [brennancenter.org]

^[1] www-personal.umich.edu” Jowei Chen, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, 5700 Haven Hall, 505 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045, USA; and Jonathan Rodden, Department of Political Science and Hoover Institution, Stanford University, Encina Hall West, Suite 100, Stanford, CA 94305-6044, USA; published in *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2013, 8: 239–269

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:04

Your Full Name:
Cheryl Lenhardt

Email Address:
cherlenhardt@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Billings, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Please, Do NOT restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you MUST allow for public comment at the BEGINNING of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states: No plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do NOT pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jeanne Liebelt <jmliebelt39@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legislative Redistricting Commission

I was reading in the Great Falls Tribune the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission will be meeting to draw maps with the 2020 Census data. I am requesting that you change the Legislative voting district of The Town of Fort Peck and the Lakeside cabin area to the Valley County voting district. Several years ago we voted in the Valley County district and then it was changed to the current district's of Hill and Roosevelt County. When I asked why, I was told so Rocky Boy (200 miles west) and Wolf Point (60 miles east) reservations could be connected. Is this common with other reservations being connected? When I have tried to contact Jonathan Windy Boy, or Bridgett Smith, neither bothered to get back to me. It would be nice to have a legislator closer that cares. The Tribune said each district shall be contiguous, meaning a district must be in one piece. Areas that meet only at points of adjoining corners shall not be considered contiguous. This part is found in the Montana Constitution. I hope you will do what is right and remove Fort Peck and put it back in the district that it was in when my family moved here in December 1970. Thank you for your consideration regarding this important issue to me. Sincerely, Jeanne Liebelt

Sherley, Laura

From: Matt Linn <mattlinn5243@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:38 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

I am writing regarding the upcoming districting and apportionment commission meeting.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup.

Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,
Matt Linn
406-253-5542

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 22:40

Your Full Name:

Matt Linn

Email Address:

mattlinn5243@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT

Your Comment/Input:

I am writing regarding districting and apportionment. 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision- making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Sincerely, Matt Linn

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Warren Little <dite3little@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:42 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

From: Warren Little
PO Box 8127
Missoula, MT 59807-8127
406-317-1018

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
To: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
Subject: Submission from Redistricting
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2020 3:23:30 PM

Submit Information to the Redistricting Commission

Date: 22nd August 2020 15:23

Your Full Name:

Laurie Little Dog

Email Address:

laurielittledog@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Concerns about incarcerated Native Americans, not having their specific tribal names reported by DOC in 2020 US Census

Your Comment:

I am writing to share my concerns and objection to a situation that might impact redistricting in the state of Montana. In this 2020 census. I was alarmed to learn that the Montana Department of corrections did not appropriately account for the race of individuals in their custody. What happened, is that on April 28, 2020 prison officials used their database to extract information and send to the Census. This information was taken from the Dept of Correction's Offender Management Information System (OMIS). Montana's Offender Management Information System (OMIS) does not specifically retrieve nor store tribal identifiers (such as tribal names or enrollments) for Incarcerated Native Americans in DOC custody. This OMIS data is not thorough enough or intentional enough for Corrections administrators to pull data from, for the purpose of US Census reporting. That Internal database serves a different purpose and did not accurately and intentionally gather representative information for Native inmates upon booking. Inmates we never told that shoddy prison data would be used for the census. Nor were they ever given an opportunity to correct bad information in their files so that the census would be accurate. Inmates need to be given paper forms so that they can self identify who they are. For tribal members especially, it is more than just being classified in a pool of generic Native Americans, it's critical to have equally thorough rights to declare the depth of their identity by writing in the name of their tribe. It does matter. The nature of being in prison itself, takes away a person's freedom, severs ties to their communities and destroys families. A correctional institution has no right to lessen a tribal member's right to in-depth indigenous identity or diminish aspects of their personhood for purposes of the Census. In many ways, the Census is the only time Native Americans are "counted" as fully human, and not just a "faceless Indian" with an assigned prison number. For criminal justice especially, having evidence of the over representation of native people in Montana prisons is critical. It determines access to appropriate cultural programming while incarcerated, Protections and rights to religious and spiritual Practice while incarcerated, The right to be exempt from punitive use-of-force haircutting within the

prison system, It also determines their access to resources when they return home on reentry. The tribes need to know how many of their people are incarcerated! The state needs to know how many people are incarcerated who are Native American, and from what tribes these people belong. It is critical. In terms of redistricting, I worry that the illusion of increased population in locations where there is a correctional institution like Deer Lodge, Shelby, etc could be given “credit” for having a stronger conservative presence that it actually does. I would hate to learn that a place like Deer Lodge Montana could possibly be gaining a more than appropriate “strength” based on having a non-voting prison population in their city. if this is indeed the circumstance at hand, I would like this considered as a form of gerrymandering of sorts. I suggest that this redistricting and apportionment commission please explore how the lack of accuracy in the appropriately reporting of race for MT prison populations to the Census inaccurately assumes a Republican majority in locations with correctional institutions, (which are usual rural) rather than looking at the preference of the actual bodies being exploited for redistributing purposes. I am unsure if this is the situation at hand. But I did want to offer up that information to incite a discussion about the outcomes if this is happening. I appreciate your support in making sure that all Montanans counts equally. Even incarcerated Natives still have rights! Laurie Little Dog Bozeman, MT

Sent via leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/public-comment/

Sherley, Laura

From: Amy Livesay <amy@ultramaxsports.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting on Tuesday

Good afternoon,

This message is for the Redistricting Commission. I want to express my written opinion and then hopefully also be there in person on Tuesday.

It has come to my attention that you will be voting on redistricting in Missoula on Tuesday and that Public Comments will not be allowed until after the vote. I am not sure what the point of that is? If you are voting on something that relates to the people of Missoula county, then you need to hear what the people have to say BEFORE you vote so you can not vote on your own agenda but on what the PEOPLE want.

Furthermore, in your vote, you must keep districts as equal as possible in population with 1% as the standard. Moving populations around based on voter count to benefit one side of an issue or another is amoral. Please do the right thing.

Finally, do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as an aspiration. This goes against your own criteria that says you will not redistrict in any way that favors one party over another.

Please follow the guidelines that are in place, not your feelings or the political movement you believe in. We have a constitution, federal, state and county guidelines for a reason and it seems that no one is paying any attention to what has kept this nation afloat for so long. America has stayed free because the basic, fundamental principles as outlined in our Constitution and other governing documents both federally and locally have for the most part been followed. This protects us from the whim and fancy of people's moods and agendas. I ask you to continue in this tradition.

Sincerely,
Amy Livesay
Resident, Missoula Montana.

Amy Livesay

Owner, Ultramax Sports

573-268-4709

Follow my blog at Treelinewife.com [treelinewife.com]

If you are a hunter, follow my husband at TreelinePursuits.com [treelinepursuits.com] or @Treeline_Pursuits on Instagram

"Be Strong and Courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:59

Your Full Name:

Robert Lopp

Email Address:

glacierbobby@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

It is fantastic that our home state will again be able to send a second congressman to Washington D.C. It is obviously helpful to have more Montanans fighting for our state and hopefully our legislators will continue the long tradition of our delegation working together on behalf of our state whenever possible. One thing we know is that at a minimum, they all understand what the words "Butte, America" mean, why Cat/Griz matters and most importantly, the holy nature of the coronation of the King and Queen of the Whitefish Winter Carnival. If they ever struggle to put partisanship aside, hopefully a beer and a discussion of stream access will remind them of our (and hopefully, their) important shared values. When the current redistricting process was instituted after the 1972 Constitutional Convention, the main concern was to have fair (or as fair as possible) redistricting, that would minimize partisanship. The solution that was implemented was to have the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate each select one commissioner and then for those four commissioners to jointly select a fifth commissioner to serve as chair. If they found themselves unable to agree on a chair within twenty days, the Montana Supreme Court selects the fifth commissioner/chair. Given this background, and our newly minted need to create a second congressional district, I would like to point out that there is no such thing as a non-partisan, let alone a non-partisan commission. The court appointed chair will have always lean one way or the other because they are human. So, instead, lets create a mechanism the eliminates this inherent bias. I propose creating four maps that divide the state evenly in population. North to South from Canada to the Wyoming/Idaho Border- wherever halfway would happen to fall. East to West from North or South Dakota to Idaho, again wherever the population would be evenly divided. And third and fourth options that bisect the state diagonally (NE/SW, NW/SE). THEN, (and here's the fun part), let's have an NBA like lottery every ten years that draws balls representing each map in a big made-for-TV and internet broadcast with the winning map setting the district boundaries. In this model, neither political side is held hostage by virtue of who controls the supreme court, by definition it will fairly and evenly divide the population of the state and meet the contiguous requirement AND it virtually eliminates the possibility of majority bullying. Once again, it would demonstrate our fair minded common-sense commitment to work with each other and it would give us another special MONTANA innovation to unite us over a beer! Further, obviously both parties (and independents, greens etc.) all try to game the redistricting process. My hope is that in the interest of fairness, neither a 1% margin of total vote deviation nor a 5% number makes sense. At the end of the day, there is nothing magic about 1% or 1.2% or 3.4% etc. It is about common sense. Generally, I believe that citizens to the best of our self-governing ability should be represented as evenly as possible, and that voting districts of about 10,000 people should have a sensible plus/minus ratio based on geographic area and governance structures somewhere

in the 3% range. It has served us reasonably so far, my personal view is that it is best not to have an alternative solution searching for a problem that doesn't exist. Thank you for your consideration!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Robert Lunnie <rlunnie@live.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Comments on Redistricting:

- Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting; not after.
- Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
- Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: SHELLEY LUSTMAN <shelleypip@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:32

Your Full Name:

Mary Lynn

Email Address:

juel72268@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I am asking you to follow the Constitution and the law by setting the congressional districts using the same format as for legislative districts. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Montana voters should have a fair process without congressional and legislative manipulation of the districts. Let the voters choose their representation.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 11th July 2021 15:46

Your Full Name:
Margaret MacDonald

Email Address:
macmargaret@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Billings, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I am Margie MacDonald, from Billings. I served 8 years in the Montana House of Representatives and 4 in the Montana Senate. My emphasis today is to lift up the importance of competitive districts, where they are possible. Research has shown that competitive districts deliver better government and better services to constituents. I know this from a personal perspective. During my legislative career most of my races were closely contested. In fact, I have been through not one, but two recounts! I have always needed to work very hard - to go the extra mile - to win my seat, and, once in office, work very hard to keep the seat. The area of Billings that makes up Senate District 26 has long been competitive: In 2000 it was held by Republican Sen. Cory Stapleton for 2 terms. Democratic Sen. Gary Branae was elected for 1 term in 2008, Republican Sen. Elsie Arntzen for 1 term in 2012. In 2016, I was elected for a 4-year term. In 2020, the seat went to Republican. Competitive districts deliver to the public significant value. Among these benefits are: ONE, Competition results in better constituent services. Research indicates elected lawmakers in these Districts are more likely to go the extra mile and to help people out when they encounter problems with public services, state agencies and bureaucracies. TWO, Competition results in greater voter access to their candidates and to their elected representatives: Candidates necessarily have to knock the doors and talk to their constituents if they hope to win their votes. During my campaigns for the House and Senate I often made the rounds in my district 4 times in a single election cycle, hoping to catch folks at home. It meant that when someone had an idea for a law or a bill, they knew me and were comfortable giving a call or sending an email, because we had stood and chatted on their porch or front yard. THREE, Competition brings a heightened level of accountability to elected office holders that simply doesn't exist in districts where a person will win simply because there is an R or a D after their name. When lawmakers don't need to worry about reaching out and serving all citizens in their district - when all they need to do is stay on the right side of the power structure in one or the other political party, their constituents and their communities are the lesser for it. FOUR, Competitive Districts mitigate against hyper-partisanship. During the 1980's and 1990's I worked for non-profits that did business with the Legislature. I saw significantly less partisanship around issues, whether it was environment, energy and natural resource policy; or education, social welfare, health care and criminal justice. In today's hyped up politics, it is getting increasingly difficult for lawmakers of good will to come together across party lines. There's too much: "If those folks across the aisle are for it, then I'm against it." The public and the constituents and our Montana communities lose out when that happens. Competitiveness is a valuable criterion for which there is precedent and research upholding its validity. It will help Montanans to have more lawmakers who can work together for the greater good, who can be held accountable by their constituents and who feel compelled to work to win their voters support.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Craig Madsen <craigm@montana.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting Montana

Members of the districting committee:

Please allow me to share my concerns regarding the redistricting of Montana.

To have a transparent and equitable redistricting process I would like to encourage you to consider the following:

1. Public comments should be heard prior to your vote, not afterwards.
2. Please keep districts as equal as possible taking into consideration population and using the 1% variance as stated in HB 506, (signed by our governor on May 14, 2021).
3. A simple North/South boundary should be used, using the Continental Divide as a guide, as has been used in the past, not the "Fair and competitive" criteria proposed by some.
4. Please let the people of Montana determine who our representatives are.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Linda Madsen

lmadsen613@gmail.com

146 Sun River Road
Great Falls, MT 59404

Sherley, Laura

From: June Malson <MontanaFun@tuscor.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:32 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting

Hello,

I understand that the Commission is planning to use "fair and competitive districts" in the redistricting process instead of the statutory 1% - 3% rule. So very contrary to Montana's laws. How some members of the commission plan to totally disregard state laws is appalling to me! And why some elected people do not even try to follow what the folks who voted for them want. When election time comes around again I, for one, will remember who followed the law and who didn't. You elected officials are honor bound to do what the citizens of Montana expect and to follow state laws. Please use the statutory rule in the redistricting process!!! ~ ~

June Malson (registered voter)

Sherley, Laura

From: Cynthia Marble <cynthiamarble@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REDISTRICTING SUGGESTIONS

To the Redistricting Committee,

Thanks for the work you are taking on. I would urge you in your work to honor the people of Montana in the process: do not hold public comment AFTER you've held your meeting on July 20th and made decisions. Please listen to the people. Allow the districts to have a more natural, geographic bordering rather than skewing the draw-up to reflect a preference of representation for one party or another; please steer clear of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as your criteria. This will likely lead to the favoring of one party over the other, just as skewing the lines in the drawing up of the districts.

Thank you.

~Cynthia Marble

Red Lodge

Sherley, Laura

From: gmarble <gmarble@bresnan.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Regarding the Redistricting meeting slated for July 20th at 10 am: Montana Open Meeting Laws require public input BEFORE a final decision is made. Please use the statutory 1%-3% rule for redistricting. Do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria.

Karen Marble
Helena, MT

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sherley, Laura

From: Grumpy <xfirstsergeant@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting guidelines

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Kenneth C. Matthiesen
Plains, MT 59859

Sherley, Laura

From: Robin Maupin <r.maupin11@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 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. You also are governed by our Constitution and the laws within.

Sincerely,

Robin Maupin

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 16:32

Your Full Name:
V Brenna Maurer

Email Address:
brenna.maurer.bm@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Bigfork MT

Your Comment/Input:

I am writing regarding the re-districting process and decision to be made by the Commission. As Commission members it is the hope of the citizens of Montana that you follow all of the criteria listed in 5-1-115. Redistricting criteria. (1) Subject to federal law, legislative and congressional districts must be established on the basis of population. (2) In the development of legislative districts, a plan is subject to the Voting Rights Act and must comply with the following criteria, in order of importance: (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. (3) A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress. The following data or information may not be considered in the development of a plan: (a) addresses of incumbent legislators or members of congress; (b) political affiliations of registered voters; (c) partisan political voter lists; or (d) previous election results, unless required as a remedy by a court. Sincerely, V Brenna Maurer

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

Sherley, Laura

From: kurt mccauley <kurt_mccauley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

Sherley, Laura

From: kurt mccauley <kurt_mccauley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov;
Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

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[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:46

Your Full Name:

Terah McClain

Email Address:

drterah@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Michael McClain <drmccclain77@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting:

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Dr. Michael McClain
VITAL ENERGY CHIROPRACTIC
Creating amazing health so you can live an amazing life!
1300 Aspen St. Suite A
Helena, MT 59601
www.VitalEnergyChiropractic.com [vitalenergychiropractic.com]
406-443-8060

Sherley, Laura

From: Terah McClain <drterah@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] districting and apportionment commission meeting

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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-Terah McClain

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 23:46

Your Full Name:
Ronald McClellan

Email Address:
mcclellan@montanasky.net

City and State of Residence:
Polson

Your Comment/Input:

Re: Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting, July 20 Agenda: It is important that you allow public commentary prior to the decision making process being completed and your agenda does not currently do so. To do otherwise is dishonest and pointless, the opposite of openness and transparency. I strongly suggest that you would better serve all the citizens of Montana by altering your agenda to schedule public commentary at the beginning of the meeting. Districts: You have a Constitutional mandate and obligation to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Following the "1% or as close as possible" standard will best serve that mandate while minimizing any sort of gerrymandering or segregation of voters and provide a more correct and accurate model of the voters' intent. "Fair and Competitive Districts" or any other sort of aspirational "feelgood-ism" run directly counter to the Commission's mandate and mission and are not appropriate criteria. Do the right thing, and the people will know, understand and approve. This issue might even stay out of the hands of the Judiciary if handled properly.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: James McCluskey <jmc@bresnan.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:01 AM
To: Districting; 'Cc:': Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-Districting and Apportionment for Montana

Dear Commission Members; As a concerned citizen I request the following:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

I implore each of you to Follow the Law as stated in our constitution in Article V, Section 14. Follow HB 506 5.14.21 Section 1 5-1-115MCA, and the new Section 4, 5-1-115. You must be transparent and follow the law that guides you. If you value our laws, you must follow existing MT laws, as written in the MT constitution and allow public comment.

James McCluskey
Montana City, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: James McCluskey <jmc@bresnan.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Districting; 'Cc:': Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Re-Districting and Apportionment for Montana

Dear Commissioners of the District and Apportionment Committee,

As a resident of Jefferson County in Montana City, I believe in fair and equal hearings when the public you serve is going to be impacted by the decisions you make.

It is imperative that you Do Not restrict public comments in such a matter as the redistricting and apportionment within our county.

Your agenda for the July 20, 2021 commission meeting does not allow for any public comment until after your committee has held your meeting. After you have discussed your reasonings, you do not allow for your constituents to ask questions nor explain their thoughts on redistricting and apportionments and how it will affect them individually. If you, as the Commission on this matter, value the people who elected you and value transparency, you must not sweep our opinions under the rug. You must hear what we, as the residents of this county, value as well. Therefore, you must not restrict public comments whether they are submitted electronically, via mail or in person.

Next, it my opinion that you need to keep the districts as fair as possible in the population as it stands now and only using the 1%, with rare exceptions up to a possible 3%, to best fulfill our constitutional requirements while reducing your ability to gerrymander or pack districts that would favor different political parties and not the will of your constituents.

You must not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as your aspirational goals. This certainly goes against the Commission's other criteria that states 'no plan will favor or disfavor a political party'.

By picking winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup, you are not acting favorably on behalf of all of your constituents in a fair manner.

You must allow the voters of this county to decide who will represent them, not your Commission.

I am not in favor of redistricting our rural county unless due process is done in a full education campaign of mailers, etc., to go out to every Jefferson County resident which gives, over a period of several months to a year minimum from this hearing date, the public to openly attend meetings held over several months and give input to the Commission.

I feel you are 'railroading' us to your feather your own political agenda which is not in the best interest of me nor my fellow county residents. Please table this until fair public hearings that allow public comments are held before you make your decision based on the 5 commission members alone where you have not allowed public comments.

Respectfully,

Marlene McCluskey
15 Big Dipper
Clancy, MT
jmc@bresnan.net

From: James McCluskey [mailto:jmc@bresnan.net]

Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:01 AM

To: 'districting@mt.gov' <districting@mt.gov>; 'Cc:' <Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov>; 'Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov' <Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov>; 'Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov' <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>; 'Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov' <Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov>; 'Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov' <Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov>

Subject: Re-Districting and Apportionment for Montana

Dear Commission Members; As a concerned citizen I request the following:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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I implore each of you to Follow the Law as stated in our constitution in Article V, Section 14. Follow HB 506 5.14.21 Section 1 5-1-115MCA, and the new Section 4, 5-1-115. You must be transparent and follow the law that guides you. If you value our laws, you must follow existing MT laws, as written in the MT constitution and allow public comment.

James McCluskey
Montana City, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: Marlene <mmcc@bresnan.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:14 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting July 20, 2021

>
>
> Dear Commissioners of the District and Apportionment Committee,
>
> As a resident of Jefferson County in Montana City, I believe in fair and equal hearings when the public you serve is going to be impacted by the decisions you make.
> It is imperative that you Do Not restrict public comments in such a matter as the redistricting and apportionment within our county.
> Your agenda for the July 20, 2021 commission meeting does not allow for any public comment until after your committee has held your meeting. After you have discussed your reasonings, you do not allow for your constituents to ask questions nor explain their thoughts on redistricting and apportionments and how it will affect them individually.
> If you, as the Commission on this matter, value the people who elected you and value transparency, you must not sweep our opinions under the rug. You must hear what we, as the residents of this county, value as well.
> Therefore, you must not restrict public comments whether they are submitted electronically, via mail or in person.
>
> Next, it is my opinion that you need to keep the districts as fair as possible in the population as it stands now and only using the 1%, with rare exceptions up to a possible 3%, to best fulfill our constitutional requirements while reducing your ability to gerrymander or pack districts that would favor different political parties and not the will of your constituents.
>
> You must not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as your aspirational goals. This certainly goes against the Commission's other criteria that states 'no plan will favor or disfavor a political party'.
> By picking winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup, you are not acting favorably on behalf of all of your constituents in a fair manner.
> You must allow the voters of this county to decide who will represent them, not your Commission.
>
> I am not in favor of redistricting our rural county unless due process is done in a full education campaign of mailers, etc., to go out to every Jefferson County resident which gives, over a period of several months to a year minimum from this hearing date, the public to openly attend meetings held over several months and give input to the Commission.
>
> I feel you are 'railroading' us to your feather your own political agenda which is not in the best interest of me nor my fellow county residents. Please table this until fair public hearings that allow public comments are held before you make your decision based on the 5 commission members alone where you have not allowed public comments.

Respectfully,

MarleneMcCluskey
15 Big Dipper
Clancy, MT

mmcc@bresnan.net

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Sherley, Laura

From: Marlene <mmcc@bresnan.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20, 2021 public meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your [July 20th \[x-apple-data-detectors\]](#) meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

MarleneMcCluskey

431-5617

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:36

Your Full Name:
Susan McCreary

Email Address:
geripick2020@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Stevensville, MT

Your Comment/Input:
Do not restrict comments. Keep districts at 1%. Do not use fair abs competitive as comparative. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 10:13

Your Full Name:
Linda McCulloch

Email Address:
lindamcc406@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Missoula, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Montana Districting Commission: As a Montana elected official for 22 years, holding the offices of State Legislator, State Superintendent and Secretary of State I have a unique perspective on the Redistricting of Montana Voters. 1. The Commission needs to adhere to a strong compliance with the Voting Rights Act, as have the last five redistricting commissions. 2. It is of utmost importance that criteria to create fair districts that do not favor any political party. Give all candidates an equal chance of winning. The legislative district I won in the 1994 election had long been held by republicans. Through my efforts, I did win this district. 3. And lastly, create a reasonable number of legislative districts where candidates from either party can win. Montana deserves no less. Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments. ***Linda McCulloch Former Secretary of State 2009-2017

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Beth McDonald <mtpeaks14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:44 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REDISTRICTING MONTANA

To the Re-Districting Committee Members,

I have followed this process for some months as it has unfolded. Our State has grown sufficiently enough to gain back a once lost Congressional seat. I believe that's the first time any state has ever done that. As such, it's incumbent upon you to make certain that this new district represents the Citizens of our wonderful state, and not just the interest of the political parties.

In my opinion, the New District should be based on the following:

1. It should be contiguous so neighbors and regions of the state with common apolitical interests are represented together.
2. Pay attention to State Laws, they matter.
3. Do not attempt to skew the political representation for the district.
4. Allow voters to select their choice for office, not the Commission.
5. The District should represent the most fair and unbiased solution possible.
6. Your duty is to this state, not the politics of the moment!

Sherley, Laura

From: Beth McDonald <mtpeaks14@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: REDISTRICTING MONTANA

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

From: Beth McDonald <mtpeaks14@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 15, 2021 at 11:44 AM
Subject: REDISTRICTING MONTANA
To: <districting@mt.gov>
Cc: <Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov>, <Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov>, <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>, <Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov>, <Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov>

To the Re-Districting Committee Members,

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1. It should be contiguous so neighbors and regions of the state with common apolitical interests are represented together.
2. Pay attention to State Laws, they matter.
3. Do not attempt to skew the political representation for the district.
4. Allow voters to select their choice for office, not the Commission.
5. The District should represent the most fair and unbiased solution possible.
6. Your duty is to this state, not the politics of the moment!

Thank you for your attention to this importatnt matter.

Respectfully,

Mary E. McDonald
St. Ignatius, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 09:34

Your Full Name:
Mary E McDonald

Email Address:
MTpeaks14@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
St. Ignatius, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 08:47

Your Full Name:
Mary E McDonald

Email Address:
MTpeaks14@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
St Ignatius, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tom McGillvray <tvmcgillvray@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

Committee:

I am writing to urge a fair and transparent process for the redistricting committee. I would like to see the following:

1. Keep districts as contiguous and as equally populated as practicable, plus or minus 1%, consistent with MCA 5-1-115 (2a-c).
2. The districts should be compact, where the length and width of the districts are as equal as possible. This has been blatantly ignored with past district boundaries. (MCA 5-1-115 (2d)). Deviations of this law, if any, should be transparent, and hold up to public scrutiny and the MCA code.
2. Public input and transparency at every stage. Please release proposed boundaries before final decisions are made, allowing for public input.
3. No plan should favor any political party or legislator. I have seen sitting legislators redistricted out of their districts by drawing boundary lines across the street from sitting legislators. (MCA 5-1-115 (3a-d)).

Thank you for your work on Montana's districting and apportionment commission.

Sincerely,

Tom McGillvray

--

Sen. Tom McGillvray

SD 23-Billings

<https://www.tommcgillvray.com/> [tommcgillvray.com]

<https://www.facebook.com/tvmcgillvray/> [facebook.com]

<https://www.usdebtclock.org/> [usdebtclock.org]

Sherley, Laura

From: Tamara L. McGlynn <tamaram@farmersebank.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:00 PM
To: Districting
Cc: 'Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov'; 'Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov'; 'Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov';
'Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov'; 'Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov'
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

BELIEVE IT CAN BE DONE



Tamara McGlynn

NMLS#700250

AVP/ CONSUMER LENDER OFFICER

Farmers State Bank Helena Branch

2125 Last Chance Gulch

tamaram@farmersebank.com

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This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 23:16

Your Full Name:

Amy McKerrow

Email Address:

jamckerrow@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Somers, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 23:12

Your Full Name:

Justin McKerrow

Email Address:

mckerrowja@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Somers, Mt

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Justin McKerrow <mckerrowja@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:25 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission members,

Please consider the following points:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,

Justin McKerrow
Somers, Mt
Mckerrowja@yahoo.com
Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: Sherry McLauchlan <swmclauchlan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Continue your good work

Thank you for your continuing effort to produce a fair and equitable redistricting for the State of Montana. Although you have not completed the work for both state and Congressional districts, it would seem that using the same criteria for both would be the most understandable and supported by most voters.

In addition, although numbers are important in achieving equal representation, numbers alone should not override other important criteria such as communities of interest, common political boundaries, and recognized geographic features. Having once been affected by an arbitrary boundary change to achieve a certain percentage even though the actual numbers were relatively small, I can attest this makes little sense to voters living “on the edge.”

Most of all, this commission needs to avoid even the appearance of raw partisanship in its decisions.

Sherry McLauchlan

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 11:35

Your Full Name:
Michelle McLaughlin

Email Address:
ellehcim1111@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Marion, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Commissioners, Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Respectfully, Thomas Millett

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Susie McNatt <susie.mcnatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:22 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: Hunn.mehaffie <hunn.mehaffie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Restricting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Nancy Mehaffie
Bruce Hunn
Thompson Falls, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:02

Your Full Name:
Desma Meissner

Email Address:
desma.meissner@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
Great Falls

Your Comment/Input:
I request the commission open public comment at the BEGINNING of their next meeting, Tuesday July 20th.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:57 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 08:57

Your Full Name:
Desma Meissner

Email Address:
desma.meissner@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
Great Falls, MT

Your Comment/Input:
Please leave the line where it was originally when we had two representatives.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:17

Your Full Name:

Susan Menge

Email Address:

gsmenge@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Lewistown, MT

Your Comment/Input:

I do not want this state to be redistricted

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:57

Your Full Name:

Gregg Menge

Email Address:

mtrack@midrivers.com

City and State of Residence:

Lewistown

Your Comment/Input:

Stop the runaway! I and other associated friends are vehemently opposed to a conflicting overreach stunt to restrict future public comment input under the guise of "fair".

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Bob Kathe Mensik <bkmensik@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20th redistricting meeting

July 16, 2021

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Election Integrity is at the forefront of voters all across the country and especially in MT. In poll after poll, regardless of party affiliation, voters by a wide margin of 75-80% want to be able to trust election results. We are very concerned by the efforts of some in Montana to achieve the unlawful practice of gerrymandering. To avoid this and the tainting of MT elections, it is imperative that you take the following measures for the July 20th meeting:

1. **Do not restrict public comments.** At present, the agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. **Keep districts as equal as possible in population.** Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Remember, life changes; nothing remains the same. The underhanded practice of gerrymandering can one day bite you right back!
3. **Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal.** *This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission*

Sincerely,
Bob and Kathe Mensik
70 Horseshoe Trail
Fox MT 59070

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 6:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 06:47

Your Full Name:

Hillary Mescall

Email Address:

mescall.hillary04@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Bozeman. MT

Your Comment/Input:

Public comment should always be included in any decision made in MT. We can not decide winners and losers by partisanship . Allow the citizens to decide not a commissions whose motives may not always be pure. Voters need, more than ever, to be part of the process and decision making. In this current climate we need to know we have a REAL voice in what happened in our great state of MT.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 08:39

Your Full Name:

Rich Middleton

Email Address:

richm5102@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Saint Ignatius

Your Comment/Input:

ail: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov, Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov, Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov, Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov, Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov I DO NOT APPROVE of the REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL for Montana voting districts!! VOTE NO!! It is another attempt by democrats and deep state to STEAL our Elections!!!S

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:32 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 08:32

Your Full Name:

Rich Middleton

Email Address:

richm5102@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Saint Ignatius, MT

Your Comment/Input:

I DO NOT APPROVE of the REDISTRICTING PROPOSAL for voting districts in Montana. It is Another attempt by democrats and deep state to STEAL OUR ELECTIONS!!!! Do NOT Approve it!!!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:12

Your Full Name:

Georgia Miller

Email Address:

blessingsflow@mt.net

City and State of Residence:

Great Falls, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Hello, We are citizens of Cascade county, It is very important to us that the redistricting of voting districts after the 2020 census is fair and done according to Montana state Law MCA 5-11-115. The voting districts should not be based on political affiliation at all but be set up based on the census and geographic data alone. I request the following: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep the districts as equal as possible plus or minus 1%: Montana law states: 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. 3. Please do not ignore the rule that districts must be continuous and compact – where the length of the district should be equal to the width of the district. Also please do not ignore the rule that districts should be made up of communities with things in common. For example a district should not be made up of parts of a city and also include rural areas. The Montana code reads: (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. 4. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that no states plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. While deciding on districts Please allow VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you for your service to the voters of Montana. Blessings! Georgia and Ken Miller 41 Wexford Lane, Great Falls, MT 59404 406-781-1830 blessingsflow@mt.net

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 11:36

Your Full Name:

Thomas Millett

Email Address:

tmillett@montanagmxtech.com

City and State of Residence:

Marion, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Commissioners, Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Respectfully, Thomas Millett

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Thomas Millett <simplytom65@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting - Keep It Fair and By the Law

Commissioners,

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Respectfully,
Thomas Millett

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 11:34

Your Full Name:
Thomas Millett

Email Address:
simplytom65@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
Marion, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Commissioners, Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Respectfully, Thomas Millett

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Julie Moffitt <juliemoffitt@reagan.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Why are the deadlines always on a Friday ? ? ?
Please consider the following points. . .

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

From: Julie Moffitt
14096 Rainbow Drive
Bigfork, MT. 59911

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 18:37

Your Full Name:
Carole Monrean

Email Address:
xmasgirl1950@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Florence, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please consider having public comment at the beginning of the July 20th meeting on voter redistricting, I believe that is the only way to be transparent for the voters. I also hope you keep the districts as equal in population as you are able, this will help to reduce the ability to gerrymander or pack the districts. Thank you, I know you will do the right thing for our state and the country.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:24

Your Full Name:

David J Moore

Email Address:

mooreformontana@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Missoula

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision- making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:12

Your Full Name:

Debra Morgan

Email Address:

hagunnd@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Hamilton

Your Comment/Input:

Attention MT Districting and Apportionment Commission: "Commissioners: "The purpose of redistricting is to split a state into contiguous geo-economic areas of approximately the same size to promote representation of the various regions. Nothing in this purpose relates to "competitiveness" or promoting a political agenda. In fact, politicizing this process is antithetical to the purpose of grouping homogeneous regions into districts, resulting in additional strife and disunity. Districts are to be created to fairly represent the people based on common geo-economic positions, not to promote any particular political party or purpose. Eastern Montana represents a distinct difference from Western Montana in those geo-economic values. The most appropriate split is a north-south line based on geographical similarities producing equally populated areas without regard to political agendas. The homogeneous people of each district would then have the freedom to choose their own political agendas and priorities appropriate to their area and needs. "Thank you for considering my comments and putting the needs of the people of Montana above any socio-political agenda."

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

Sherley, Laura

From: KMuller <KarmyMueller@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission

Do not use “Fair and Competitive Districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission’s other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area’s partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

K Muller

Sherley, Laura

From: KMuller <KarmyMueller@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:01 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

K Muller

Sherley, Laura

From: Chad Murphy <murph1400@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th ppdoesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thanks,
Chad Murphy

Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

Sherley, Laura

From: Hannah Nash <hannah.nash@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments:

Dear Commission Members,

I am approaching the committee today to urge the commission to adopt a fair and unbiased map that will serve Montana voters for the next decade. The map should not favor one political party over the other.

Additionally, keeping the criteria as parallel as possible to the legislative criteria both prevents confusion for the public as well as honoring our legislative leaders' charge in this process.

A competitive map ensures that the best candidate will prevail. Montana voters deserve a fair and competitive campaign map.

Thank you for your service to Montana's citizens and for your consideration.

Best regards,

Hannah Nash
407 S Lake Ave
Miles City, MT 59301
Mobile: 406-951-0560

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 14:12

Your Full Name:

Hannah L Nash

Email Address:

hannahnash@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

MILES CITY, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Honorable Commission Members: Thank you for your commitment to the redistricting charge of 2021. I strongly encourage the Commission to place bipartisanship at the forefront of your decision-making. A map that favors Democrats over Republicans, or Republicans over Democrats does not serve the Montana voter. When districts are not balanced, voters do not have accurate political representation. The goal should always be to serve the Montana voter, regardless of political party. When party politics are placed above common sense, voters become disenfranchised. Keep the Montana Constitution close at hand when making these decisions, and re-read the Free Elections Clause often: "All elections shall be free and open". Gerrymandering a district in favor of one political party over the other violates this principle. I urge this body to make decisions above partisan politics and to stand firm on our State Constitution and our Montana values. Thank you for your time and your service to Montanans. Most sincerely, Hannah Nash Miles City, MT

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 17:41

Your Full Name:

Terry Nelson

Email Address:

terryndar@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Hamilton

Your Comment/Input:

-Following the hearing today, I see a big trend to make sure there is a 5% variation and that they are "fair" and "competitive". If the Commission adopts fair and competitive, I would like a guarantee from Commissioner Lamson (and the rest of the board) that he will equally squeeze together overpopulated Democrat districts in Missoula and Gallatin AND make more "competitive" districts for Republicans in those areas. For some reason I don't think that is what he or the people supporting his criteria are thinking of. Please remember that this is a zero sum game. To make one district MORE competitive, you MUST make another district LESS competitive. Please come to a consensus like the first 3 commissions were able to do before Commissioner Lamson got involved.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 7:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 07:39

Your Full Name:

Terry Nelson

Email Address:

terryndar@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Hamilton

Your Comment/Input:

I tried to sign on to participate electronically but got no response email. Therefore I will need to use this less effective tool and write some of my comments. I hope this gets through to the committee. First off, I was happy to see in several articles that Chairman Smith wants to reach consensus with the commission and not be a tie-breaker. 1. FAIR is a word that will be used by every side. Without very specific criteria, fair is too subjective. The 1974, 1980 and 1990 commissions had nearly unanimous decisions. The Lamson years, 2000 and 2010 were dominated by the Democrats with 3-2 decisions. A true FAIR decision would be one of full consensus by all members of the commission. 2. I would like to see 1% variance. We now have the technology to do so easily. Commission Lamson offered an extremely gerrymandered map in 2010 with 1% so it can be done. Just make sure it is not gerrymandered. 3. Must address prison reallocation – Citizens should count in community they reside in OUTSIDE of being incarcerated. 4. Contiguous should mean you can stay in your district while driving. It makes no common sense that you need to fly like a bird to stay in your district. 5. Political Subdivisions and Federal Reservations need to be mandatory. Gerrymandering occurs when you combine several city and county combined districts (Missoula Spokes) rather than keep city people together and county people together. “Communities of interest” is very subjective, based on Commissioner Miller’s discussion on criteria last month, and that definition can change from person to person, therefore is not objective enough to even be a criteria. Keeping political subdivisions as a criteria will help our Election Offices. “Competitive Districts” is the purest definition of gerrymandering as that requires that the districts are created based on political party biases. This goes completely against criteria both sides have put forth.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:56

Your Full Name:
Raye Newmeyer

Email Address:
obernew1@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commission, As regards redistricting Montana please consider the redistricting process plays a critical role in determining representation for Montana voters. We expect a fair and nonpartisan process. In order to have a transparent and equitable redistricting process, it is imperative that our voices are heard! Do not restrict public comments. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Follow the law outlining how this process is already outlined in the state constitution and MCA. Thank you, Raye Newmeyer Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov, Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov, Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov, Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov, Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 18:35

Your Full Name:
Elizabeth Newsom

Email Address:
wijim.7@juno.com

City and State of Residence:
Missoula, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 does NOT allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. In the interest of transparency and public input in the decision-making process, this Commission must allow for public comment at the BEGINNING of your July 20 meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The VOTERS decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Elizabeth Newsom <wijim.7@juno.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:31 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20, 2021 Districting & Apportionment Commission Meeting

As a concerned Montana voter, I respectfully request the Commission:

- 1.) Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th does not allow for public comments until *AFTER* your decisions are made. In the interest of transparency and public input in the decision-making process, this Commission must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
- 2.) Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
- 3.) Do not use *Fair and Competitive Districts* as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes *against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party*. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the *VOTERS* to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.
Elizabeth Newsom
Missoula MT 59808

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 19:40

Your Full Name:

john s nissley

Email Address:

bighornsg@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Hardin

Your Comment/Input:

Please stay strong against the Democrat's to stop gerrymandering and give us fair elections.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:38

Your Full Name:

Joy Novota

Email Address:

joyofmusic66@q.com

City and State of Residence:

East Helena

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:41

Your Full Name:

Gary Novota

Email Address:

novotag@excite.com

City and State of Residence:

East Helena

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Joy Novota <joyofmusic66@q.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Commissioners,

FOLLOW THE LAW ...

Regarding the Redistricting meeting -- Montana Open Meeting Laws require public input BEFORE a final decision is made. Please use the statutory 1%-3% rule for redistricting. Do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Yours truly,

Joy Novota

Sherley, Laura

From: Joy Novota <joyofmusic66@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:06 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments - urgent

After numerous attempts of sending details via the "districting website"/legislative site, your emails were shared with me by Rachel Weiss. Both my husband & I have used different computers & emails trying to reach you on the 'official site' to no avail.

~**~

July 8, 2021

Dear Commissioners of Redistricting of Montana,

Please, please be aware of the monumental differences in life-styles, income levels, population bases, school districts, aspects of living --- especially between rural areas & urban areas. Montana has become a haven for new residents coming from major cities, & they are bringing their expectations of their former lives with them, many of them expecting to change Montana. Montana helps feed the nation & the world with our agricultural output, & urban residents have no clue what that life is about. They go to the grocery store to get their food products, having no knowledge of how the food was brought to them. The distance of values between rural & urban residents in our state is growing broader, wider & more problematic...keep our rural areas intact with representation they need. Thank you for your dedication & for making wise decisions which will affect us for years to come.

Joy Novota
3883 Daisy Street
East Helena, MT 59635
406-227-6961
Joyofmusic66@q.com

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:50

Your Full Name:

Vicky O'Hara

Email Address:

VICKYOHARA63@HOTMAIL.COM

City and State of Residence:

Fort Benton

Your Comment/Input:

#1. do not leave public comments for the end of the meeting AFTER you have already decided. This is not transparency. Do you due diligence with respect and honor not for your party. #2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population not party. #3. Make no plan to favor or disfavor a political party. Allow us the voters to decide who will represent us not your commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Kathleen Oja <kathleenoja@logan.org>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:57 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting:

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:16

Your Full Name:
Michelle Olbert

Email Address:
solbert44@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Kalispell, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1) Regarding the democrats decision to put public commenting at the end of the redistricting meeting is unfair and goes against working responsibly and within the expectations of what you were rightfully elected to fulfill. It's obvious to the public, the plan is to have pertinent plans and decisions finalized before allowing the citizens to be heard. This is wrong, you all know it, and please do what is right, be transparent and play fair - the citizens of Montana deserve to be heard.
2) Packing districts and/or changing boundaries in order to favor one party or the other should not be tolerated. Again, you all know what playing fair means - please choose to do so. It is your obligation. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 10th July 2021 14:43

Your Full Name:

Mark Oliver

Email Address:

mao132001@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I believe the redistricting should be done in a manner that has two districts with close to the same population. I do not think any lines should be drawn in a manner that attempts predetermine the election success of one party over another.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Roylene Olson <chiko.olson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Please listen to all the requests mating for adding all of you position thank you.
Chiko olson

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:55

Your Full Name:

Stormy Olvera

Email Address:

pari24us@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:55

Your Full Name:
Anthony Olvera

Email Address:
antolvera75@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: sephrie <Sephrie@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Follow the Law and The Constitution when Redistricting

Greetings,

I sent you all the email below on July 5, 2021. I am resending it because the reports that I am reading indicate that some members of this Commission have not considered the points that I made in that email. I fear that some of you wish to make law instead of following the law. This is unacceptable. Please follow the law as laid out in MCA 5-1-115. You owe that to the people of Montana. You owe that to show your commitment to the Rule of Law!

Regards,

Joe O'Rourke

From: sephrie [mailto:Sephrie@protonmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 1:39 PM
To: districting@mt.gov
Subject: Follow the Law and The Constitution when Redistricting

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Dana Paikowsky <DPaikowsky@campaignlegalcenter.org>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 9:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Campaign Legal Center - Written Testimony
Attachments: FINAL_CLC Written Testimony - Montana Prison Gerrymandering .pdf

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached please find Campaign Legal Center's written testimony in support of ending prison gerrymandering through reallocation in Montana.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if we could be of any further assistance.

Best,

Dana Paikowsky



Testimony to the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission in Support of Ending Prison Gerrymandering Using Reallocation

July 9, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important topic today. My name is Dana Paikowsky, and I am testifying on behalf of the Campaign Legal Center in support of this Commission’s efforts to end prison gerrymandering in Montana using a reallocation approach.

Campaign Legal Center is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening the democratic process through the practice of law. CLC has participated in major redistricting and voting rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and federal and state courts across the country. CLC has also leveraged its expertise in these two areas to build a nationally recognized practice focusing on protecting the democratic rights of justice-involved individuals and justice-impacted communities nationwide.

Prison gerrymandering distorts our democracy by counting incarcerated individuals as residents of their prisons rather than as part of their home communities for the purposes of redistricting. Under electoral maps that engage in prison gerrymandering, elected officials in jurisdictions that house prisons “represent” large populations of people who have no connection to the area, who cannot vote there, who have no shared history or common political community there, and who have no friends, family, or community of interest that can advocate on their behalf. Because Native Americans are overrepresented in Montana’s prisons, prison gerrymandering disproportionately erodes the political power of Native voters in Montana and their communities.¹

Reallocation is the most effective method for correcting the harms of prison gerrymandering, and we believe it is well within reach for this decade’s state legislative redistricting process.

Because some of the Commission’s implementation concerns are logistical or technical in nature, it is worthwhile to spell out what the process of reallocation looks like in real terms. At a high level, reallocation proceeds in three parts. First, a state must marshal data that identifies where incarcerated people were counted by the Census Bureau and their pre-incarceration addresses. Next, these pre-incarceration addresses must be “geo-coded,” allowing them to be mapped and entered into the software used in redistricting. Finally, once the geo-coded data is prepared, the state must make the necessary adjustments to the redistricting data it receives from the Census Bureau—subtracting population count from places where there are prisons and reallocating incarcerated people back to

¹ Arren Kimbel-Sannit, *Prison gerrymandering could impact Indian Country voters in Montana*, Great Falls Tribune (June 17, 2021) <https://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2021/06/17/prison-gerrymandering-could-impact-indian-country-voters-montana/7729338002/>.

their home jurisdictions. After the process is complete, the corrected dataset is loaded into redistricting software and maps can be built on top of it that do not include prison distortions.

It is not necessary (and often not possible) for states to implement a “complete” reallocation, where 100% of the prison population is reassigned to their pre-incarceration home communities. This is because the pre-incarceration address data can be incomplete, incompatible with census data, or otherwise imperfect for the purpose of geo-coding. This problem, though, is not disqualifying. Both Maryland and New York—the only two states to undertake reallocation in 2010—encountered these issues, utilized different methods to address geocoding issues, and achieved a final reallocation rate between 70-80%.² And both of these reallocation schemes have since withstood legal challenge.³

Ending prison gerrymandering through reallocation also has support in law. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, for example, has noted that “[i]f the State knows that the census data is underrepresentative, it can, and should, utilize noncensus data in addition to the official count in its redistricting process.” *Senate of State of Cal. v. Mosbacher*, 968 F.2d 974, 979 (9th Cir. 1992). In *Fletcher v Lamone*—a case evaluating the constitutionality of Maryland’s reallocation method—the court held that a state could “choose to adjust the census data, so long as those adjustments are thoroughly documented and applied in a nonarbitrary fashion.” 831 F. Supp. 2d 887, 894-95 (D. Md. 2011), *aff’d*, 567 U.S. 930 (2012).

Rather than focusing on the need for technical perfection in reallocation, Montana can and should focus on the easier task of developing the standardized, clear process for data correction that the Constitution demands. The resources to develop a constitutionally compliant correction process are readily available. Since 2010, New York, Maryland, and many other states have developed new infrastructure to implement their reallocation schemes, which has created a wealth of information and approaches for Montana to draw from.⁴ Virginia has undertaken to implement its reallocation scheme in a span of just 30 days. Va. Code § 24.2-314. Non-profit organizations and others are also increasingly making resources and trainings available to individuals with core competencies to ensure they are ready to undertake this process for the first time.

The task of implementing reallocation becomes all the more feasible if the Commission focuses its efforts on reallocation for the purposes of drawing the state legislative maps, rather than trying to perfect it in time for federal congressional redistricting. This approach is sensible not only because the state legislative maps are those most affected by prison distortions, but also because the longer timeline for state legislative redistricting will allow the state more time to resolve any challenges that may arise.

The time to act is now. Even if its process does not yield a perfect or even preferable reallocation rate, Montana can and should implement this reform for this cycle’s state legislative redistricting. By doing so, Montana will not only correct for at least some prison-based distortions, it will also lay a foundation for better representation that it can build upon in 2030 and beyond.

² Erica L. Wood, *Implementing Reform: How Maryland & New York Ended Prison Gerrymandering*, Demos (2014) <https://www.demos.org/sites/default/files/publications/implementingreform.pdf>.

³ *Fletcher v. Lamone*, 831 F. Supp. 2d 887, 894–95 (D. Md. 2011), *aff’d*, 567 U.S. 930 (2012);

⁴ The Editorial Board, *You’ve Heard About Gerrymandering. What Happens When It Involves Prisons?*, New York Times (April 11, 2021) <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/11/opinion/prison-gerrymandering-census.html>.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 10:05

Your Full Name:
Thomas D. Palmer

Email Address:
palmers79@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Montana Districting Commission: Thank you for taking on this important task. I hope your deliberations will be in full compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. I urge you to choose criteria to create fair districts that do not favor any political party over another. It is of vital importance that your work results in the creation of a reasonable number of legislative districts where candidates from either party can win. Thank you again for your work on behalf of all Montana!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:15 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 11:14

Your Full Name:
Gordon Parsons

Email Address:
montanaparsons@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please allow public comment at the beginning of the July 20th meeting. Otherwise it seems like a dictatorship. Public comment prior is an absolute necessity. Keep districts as equal as possible and they must make sense unlike some past districting decisions.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 11:03

Your Full Name:
Georgia Parsons

Email Address:
g2parsons@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:
KALISPELL

Your Comment/Input:

Please allow public comment at the beginning of the July 20th Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting. Public comment is necessary for the commission to make educated decisions. I believe the districts should be as equal as possible in population. No plan should favor or disfavor a political party. Allow the voters to decide who will represent them - not the commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Dick Pence <rapence45@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:45 AM
To: Dan Stusek; Districting; Jeff Essmann; Jeff Essmann; Joe Lamson; Kendra Miller; Maylinn Smith
Cc: Dick & Nancy Pence; Dick Pence
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Decisions

Importance: High

A CALL TO INTEGRITY,

Please do the right thing and not the political thing. **Keep districts as equal as possible in population.** Please use the method that **dictates 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%** that will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Also, please **do not restrict public comments.** The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Basic integrity is so needed in government today. Please allow us to trust you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Dick & Nancy Pence – 4307 Palisades Park Dr., Billings 59106 Cell 406-672-9207

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 7:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th July 2021 07:38

Your Full Name:

Susan Penner

Email Address:

susangpenner60@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Bozeman, MT

Your Comment/Input:

I support the formation of fair and competitive legislative and congressional districts. I would like to have to seriously consider each candidate, regardless of party in districts that create this competition, so the best for the state will shine. Please work hard to make this fair and competitive scenario possible.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: william peterman <wpeterman23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:39 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting - Concerns With Seemingly Partisan Decision Making

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:47

Your Full Name:

Paul Petersdorf

Email Address:

paul_petersdorf@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:47

Your Full Name:

Paul Petersdorf

Email Address:

paul_petersdorf@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Paul Petersdorf <paul_petersdorf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:21

Your Full Name:

Tom Petersen

Email Address:

tom.j.petersen@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Bonner, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:20

Your Full Name:
Camilla Juhl Petersen

Email Address:
camilla.j.petersen@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Bonner, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th July 2021 10:24

Your Full Name:
Bruce H Peterson

Email Address:
34petewp@nemont.net

City and State of Residence:
Fort Peck

Your Comment/Input:

Previous commissions have had excellent results- please closely follow their footsteps. Please, impossible but, get as close as possible to create districts that show: equal numbers, contiguous, areas of similar interest, recognize county/city boundaries, acknowledged center, and not gerrymandered. Best congressional representation will come by dividing state into west and east districts. You have chance to start the road back to where solving problems and compromise takes precedence over fear of losing elections by daring to disagree with your party and or working with other party. Sadly, I fear outside pressure and winning elections will rule the commission, which means Montana joins the parade of polarization that grips our country. To wit- actions, discussions in recent months about doing away with present Redistricting Commission. Commission has tough, but not impossible, job and appreciate your willingness to serve.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 18:43

Your Full Name:

Mary Pham

Email Address:

mary.phammmmm@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Bozeman, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: william phillips <phillips.mtcpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:02 PM
To: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov;
Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Districting; jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Subject: Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Bill phillips
137 Riverview Dr
Kalispell, Mt 59001

--

William Phillips
137 Riverview Dr
Kalispell, MT 59901
406/261-3104

phillips.mtcpa@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 23:31

Your Full Name:

Bill Phillips

Email Address:

phillips.mtcpa@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, mt

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 13:49

Your Full Name:

Mollie Phipps

Email Address:

molliehipps@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Powderville, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 13:48

Your Full Name:

Aaron Phipps

Email Address:

aphipps@rangeweb.net

City and State of Residence:

Powderville

Your Comment/Input:

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:49

Your Full Name:

Lacee Pickett

Email Address:

laceepickett@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

East Helena, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 15:59

Your Full Name:

Robert Pierson

Email Address:

rdpier@protonmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Trout Creek

Your Comment/Input:

1. Public comments MUST be on the July 20 agenda. No decisions without public input. 2. Districts must be populated within 1%, without choosing lines for gerrymandering. Let the people choose their representatives. 3. No 'Fair and Competitive districts' criteria. We want an unbiased vote to hear from the voters, not a partisan redistricting to push an agenda.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Renee Pirtz <rpirtz7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:22 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. **If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.**

2. *Keep districts as equal as possible in population.* Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Either party.

The LAW stands now at 1%. HB 506 Sec1 Amend 5-1-115 MCA

3. **Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party.**

Follow the Law, do what is written in our MT. Constitution.

Must be in one piece and may NOT have length 3x the width. This should NOT be a jigsaw puzzle, but following county and/or obvious geographical boundaries (continental divide).

Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Districts only drawn on population.

Please allow public comment on the front end!



Virus-free. www.avg.com [avg.com]

[\[avg.com\]](http://avg.com)

Sherley, Laura

From: Renee Pirtz <rpirtz7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Redistricting

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

From: **Renee Pirtz** <rpirtz7@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 1:21 PM
Subject: Redistricting
To: <districting@mt.gov>, <Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov>, <Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov>, <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>, <Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov>, <Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov>

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. **If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.**

2. *Keep districts as equal as possible in population.* Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Either party.

The LAW stands now at 1%. HB 506 Sec1 Amend 5-1-115 MCA

3. **Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party.**

Follow the Law, do what is written in our MT. Constitution.

Must be in one piece and may NOT have length 3x the width. This should NOT be a jigsaw puzzle, but following county and/or obvious geographical boundaries (continental divide).

Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Districts only drawn on population.

Please allow public comment on the front end!

**Thank you,
Renee Pirtz
Prairie County
Terry, MT.**

406-635-5475



Virus-free. www.avg.com [avg.com]

[\[avg.com\]](http://avg.com)

Sherley, Laura

From: Teresa Pirtz <pirtz517@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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

Letter:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Either party.

The LAW stands now at 1%. HB 506 Sec1 Amend 5-1-115 MCA

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party.

Follow the Law, do what is written in our MT. Constitution.

Must be in one piece and may NOT have length 3x the width. This should NOT be a jigsaw puzzle, but following county and/or obvious geographical boundaries (continental divide).

Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Districts are only drawn on population.

Please allow public comment on the front end!

Thank you,

Sherley, Laura

From: Megan Pirtz <megan@corderland.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:02 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REDISTRICTING

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them.

Megan Pirtz
Corder and Associates
(406)939-3806

Sherley, Laura

From: Pat Plowman <partplowman@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Seth Berglee; Dave Howard
Subject: [EXTERNAL] What happened to our redistricting meeting in Billings? Quit hiding in Helena.

Resending.

"Hatred stirs old quarrels, but love overlooks insults." Proverb 10:12

Net news: <http://www.worldnetdaily.com> [worldnetdaily.com]

Remember: JUDGE GREER's campaign received funds from Michael SCHIAVO & lawyer FELOS of assisted suicide fame. Terri was starved to death by them & our courts.

Blessings from our house to yours. If you feel you are being spammed, please reply with "remove" in the subject.

From: Pat Plowman
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Redistricting@mtgov.gov <Redistricting@mtgov.gov>
Cc: Seth Berglee <rep.seth.berglee@gmail.com>; Dave Howard <sendavidhoward@gmail.com>
Subject: What happened to our redistricting meeting in Billings? Quit hiding in Helena.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Did you forget God is watching?
God loves you (John 3:16)

Pat Plowman
P. O. Box 173
Boyd, MT 59013
962 3383

"Hatred stirs old quarrels, but love overlooks insults." Proverb 10:12

Net news: <http://www.worldnetdaily.com> [worldnetdaily.com]

Remember: JUDGE GREER's campaign received funds from Michael SCHIAVO & lawyer FELOS of assisted suicide fame. Terri was starved to death by them & our courts.

Blessings from our house to yours. If you feel you are being spammed, please reply with "remove" in the subject.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:34

Your Full Name:

Jim Polk

Email Address:

jdpolk@bresnan.net

City and State of Residence:

Missoula

Your Comment/Input:

Doing it by county: East/West: east border of Toole; west of Chouteau; west of Cascade; west of Meagher; west of Gallatin. East would have the following cities: Billings, Bozeman and Great Falls. West would have: Kalispell, Missoula, and Helena. Doing it North/South: Start with south border of Missoula County; south of Powell; North of Lewis and Clark; south of Judith Basin; south of Ferguson; south of Petroleum; south of Garfield; north of Prairie; south of Wibaux. North District would have the following cities: Kalispell, Missoula, and Great Falls. South District: Bozeman, Billings, and Helena. Of course the committee could arrange this as they see fit but it would create fewer questions of favoritism.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:58

Your Full Name:

Jim Polk

Email Address:

jdpolk@bresnan.net

City and State of Residence:

Missoula

Your Comment/Input:

This process needs to be fair and transparent. Maybe the counties should become the districts. Divide them north /south or east/west whichever comes out fairest.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: DERRELL W POOLE <onenger@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FAIR and Balanced Redistricting

Our government is based on fair representation of several majorities (groups of interest). The largest and most important group is WE THE PEOPLE. I demand representation in this State be made without partisanship! Redistrict so that each individual is fairly represented in Congress by their representative. To bias the districts so that one party is favored over another is MORALLY wrong! To do so reveals how full of actual hatred you are!

It is also Morally wrong for you to make a decision before public comments. You are at the heart of our Republic where the government of democracy depends upon our equal and fair input. You took an oath to uphold and defend both the State and Federal Constitutions. KEEP YOUR WORD!

Derrell Poole
320Grove Street
Hamilton MT 59840

Sherley, Laura

From: Sonya Quackenbush <sonyaquack@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 6:58 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.com;
dan.stusek@mtleg.com; kendra.miller@mtleg.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow the Law

Dear Members of the Montana Redistricting Commission;

HB 506 was passed in the last legislative session and signed into law by the Governor. Please follow it - it is the law.

Please do your duty to redistrict the state in a fair manner, keeping districts contiguous, rural areas together, urban areas together, and keeping each district as equal as possible in population.

Regarding the July 20 meeting and public comment - pray tell what value is public comment AFTER you have made your decisions? The time for public comment is BEFORE you begin your discussions and ultimately make your final decisions. These districts are about the future of the Montana people - let them speak and be heard!

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Sonya Quackenbush
Missoula

Sherley, Laura

From: Kelly Quick <drquick34@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:14 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legislative districting criteria

All,

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider districting criteria. I am writing to plead that all criteria be unbiased and fair to candidates and voters. I'm hoping you will agree on criteria that keeps the legislative districts comparable to the congressional districts in terms of criteria for said districts. It is not a stretch to say gerrymandering of legislative districts around the country has not helped us as a nation feel like we are always represented fairly. Thus, if we can make our small corner of the world fair, not favoring one political party over another, I would hope we would take advantage of the opportunity.

Thank you for all the work you are doing on this front.

Dr. Kelly Quick

Sherley, Laura

From: Ruth Raish <ruth.raish@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:00 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you. Ruth Raish

Sherley, Laura

From: Ruth Raish <ruth.raish@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 7:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow the law 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,

Ruth Raish

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 16:56

Your Full Name:

David Raney

Email Address:

davidcraney@comcast.net

City and State of Residence:

Clancy, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Ladies and Gentlemen: Your District and Apportionment Committee meeting agenda for July 20, 2021 puts public comments after you have already made your decisions about redistricting. In order for you to fully receive and duly consider public input, it is critically important that you move public comment up in your agenda, so it takes place before your deliberations. Please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% to 3% rule (1% being a rare exception), to fulfill constitutional requirements and prevent gerrymandering or district-packing to favor a particular political party. Please do not use "fair and competitive districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This would be inconsistent with other Commission criteria that do not favor or disadvantage a particular political party. It's important that voters decide who will represent them, not the Commission. Thank you for your service to our state. Sincerely, David C. Raney

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Pamela Raney <pamelaraney@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:10 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting July 20, 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your District and Apportionment Committee meeting agenda for July 20, 2021 puts public comments **after** you have already made your decisions about redistricting.

In order for you to fully receive and duly consider public input, it is critically important that you move public comment up in your agenda, so it takes place **before** your deliberations.

Please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% to 3% rule (1% being a rare exception), to fulfill constitutional requirements and prevent gerrymandering or district-packing to favor a particular political party.

Please do not use “fair and competitive districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This would be inconsistent with other Commission criteria that do not favor or disadvantage a particular political party.

It’s important that voters decide who will represent them, not the Commission.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Pamela Raney
1 Monarch Court
Clancy, MT 59634

(253) 225-2285

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:10

Your Full Name:

Pamela Raney

Email Address:

pamelaraney@me.com

City and State of Residence:

Clancy, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Ladies and Gentlemen: Your District and Apportionment Committee meeting agenda for July 20, 2021 puts public comments after you have already made your decisions about redistricting. In order for you to fully receive and duly consider public input, it is critically important that you move public comment up in your agenda, so it takes place before your deliberations. Please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% to 3% rule (1% being a rare exception), to fulfill constitutional requirements and prevent gerrymandering or district-packing to favor a particular political party. Please do not use "fair and competitive districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This would be inconsistent with other Commission criteria that do not favor or disadvantage a particular political party. It's important that voters decide who will represent them, not the Commission. Thank you for your service to our state. Sincerely, Pamela Raney 1 Monarch Court Clancy, MT 59634 (253) 225-2285

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

Sherley, Laura

From: David Raney <davidcraney@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:54 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Committee Meeting July 20, 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your District and Apportionment Committee meeting agenda for July 20, 2021 puts public comments after you have already made your decisions about redistricting.

In order for you to fully receive and duly consider public input, it is critically important that you move public comment up in your agenda, so it takes place before your deliberations.

Please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Use the 1% to 3% rule (1% being a rare exception), to fulfill constitutional requirements and prevent gerrymandering or district-packing to favor a particular political party.

Please do not use “fair and competitive districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This would be inconsistent with other Commission criteria that do not favor or disadvantage a particular political party.

It’s important that voters decide who will represent them, not the Commission.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

David C. Raney

1 Monarch Court
Clancy, MT 59634
(360) 509-5660

Sherley, Laura

From: Tony Rausch <rauschk@bresnan.net>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:41 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

1- Please stay open to public comment [before](#) you make your decisions.

2- Please follow the criteria that states no plan should favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers base on an area's partisan makeup. Voters should always be the decision makers.

3- Keep districts as equal as possible in population with no gerrymandering.

Thanks You,

Tony & Karen Rausch

608 Beth Dr.
Great Falls, MT 59405

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:09

Your Full Name:
Tony & Karen Rausch

Email Address:
rauschk@bresnan.net

City and State of Residence:
GREAT FALLS

Your Comment/Input:

1- Please stay open to public comment before you make your decisions. 2- Please follow the criteria that states no plan should favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers base on an area's partisan makeup. Voters should always be the decision makers. 3- Keep districts as equal as possible in population with no gerrymandering. Thanks You, Tony & Karen Rausch 608 Beth Dr. Great Falls, MT 59405

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jeanette Rawls <nilessedno@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Jefferson County

My name is Jeanette Rawls

I would like to be able to comment on your redistricting plan and would like thus submitted before your meeting.

I am a senior citizen and love Montana City the way it is and would not like any changes to this.

Please leave it rural.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: Jeanette Rawls <nilesedno@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Maylinn.Smith@Mtleg.gov,Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov,Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov,Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov,
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Jeanette Rawls
Concerned citizen
Montana City

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:53

Your Full Name:

Niles Rawls

Email Address:

nilessedno@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Montana City, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 13:11

Your Full Name:

Jeanette Rawls

Email Address:

nilessedno@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Montana City,MT

Your Comment/Input:

We have moved to Montana City because it is rural and mountainous area which we enjoy. We would like to keep this rural and not to be subjected to a bigger city. This would mean higher taxes for us and that would be very detrimental as we are senior citizens. I am asking that this commission hear the citizens of Jefferson County Montana to leave it as it should be.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 14:12

Your Full Name:

Mary Reed

Email Address:

hossyreed@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Trout Creek

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:12

Your Full Name:

Amy Reed

Email Address:

Amyreed89@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Trout Creek

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 20:48

Your Full Name:

Melinda Reed

Email Address:

melindajoy96@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Trout Creek MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Mary Reed <hossyreed@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gerrymandering

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for [July 20th \[x-apple-data-detectors\]](#) doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your [July 20th \[x-apple-data-detectors\]](#) meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sent from my iPad

Sherley, Laura

From: Julie Reffner <jmreffner@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.
4. The proposed redistricting violates Montana's Constitution - it is your duty to follow the laws as outlined in our Constitution!

Thank you
Julie Reffner

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 13:10

Your Full Name:

Edward Regan

Email Address:

edregan@rytimber.com

City and State of Residence:

Townsend

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jolene Regier <regierjolene@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

1. If the purpose for public comments is to have input in your decision, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jolene Regier
1078 Stillwater Road
Kalispell, MT. 59901
406-756-6141

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:29

Your Full Name:

Jolene Regier

Email Address:

regierjolene@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, MT. 59901

Your Comment/Input:

If the purpose for public comments is to have input in your decision, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of the July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions will best fulfill constitutional requirements. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not the Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:31

Your Full Name:

TERRY J RIEHL

Email Address:

tjmariehl@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Linda Reksten <reksten4mthouse@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20 Meeting

Commissioners:

Do not restrict public comments especially AFTER you have already made decisions. This is inappropriate and does not conform to the right of the public to comment. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting in keeping with MCA 5-1-115.

Additionally, I am requesting that you keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties again in keeping with MCA 5-1-115.

Please do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission again in keeping with MCA 5-1-115.

Linda Reksten

Representative

HD 12 Polson

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 15:46

Your Full Name:
Stuart Reynolds

Email Address:
stuinmt@mtintouch.net

City and State of Residence:
Havre

Your Comment/Input:

"Fair and Complete" as a criterion is nonspecific, vague, prone to political manipulation and inappropriate for discussion such as this. Ditch it and find something concrete. the 1-3% rule should be preserved to avoid disparate populations in the districts, and to minimize the use of the Gerrymander. The new district, if any should be as close, geographically to the current districts, as possible. This is a public meeting. Public comments should be heard first, not last, and used in the deliberations. Putting the public comments last is a Dictat, not a public meeting. Ideally, in my opinion, the process should us a computer program, census data to draw districts of comparable population with the smallest circumference possible for each district. hat would be cleaner.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 21:42

Your Full Name:

Patsy Rice

Email Address:

kdutopian@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

HELENA

Your Comment/Input:

I ask the Redistricting Commission to use the to open public comment at the beginning of their next meeting.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tracy Rickel <jntrickel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Districting; Jay and Tracy Rickel
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Issue

As a 25 year resident of Montana, business woman and concerned citizen, I ask you to not restrict public comments on this subject. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Sherley, Laura

From: Renee & Mike Rieken <riekens3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:45 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the *beginning* of your July 20th meeting.

It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule.

It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

Renee Rieken
32788 Snyder Hill Ln
Ronan, MT. 59864
Lake County resident

Sherley, Laura

From: Dennison Rivera <drivera@lccyrmt.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Montana Young Republicans, we humbly request the following:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,

Dennison Rivera - Chairman of the Montana Young Republicans

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:17

Your Full Name:

Dale Rodwick

Email Address:

femurdude@protonmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Fraudulent elections and redistricting are taking away our rights to be heard. At what point have we had enough! We stand against the tyranny that is being forced on us by radical leftist groups seeking to destroy this great nation. Please stand with us for Montana by rejecting this hostile takeover of our God given rights.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 13:40

Your Full Name:

Rob Romsa

Email Address:

rob_romsa@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Gentlemen and Ladies, As the last election clearly showed, this is still a conservative state. We as citizens demand FAIR elections and expect this process to be Open with full transparency. 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Rob Romsa <rob@rss-pos.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting
Importance: High

Gentlemen and Ladies,

As the last election clearly showed, this is still a conservative state. We as citizens demand FAIR elections and expect this process to be Open with full transparency.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Rob Romsa
Billings, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 19:29

Your Full Name:
michael ronning

Email Address:
ronning9@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena, mt

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission

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

Sherley, Laura

From: J R <kd7hkf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:20 PM
To: Districting
Cc: mauling.smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.esmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@myleg.gov; Dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.miller@myleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input into the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting; not after.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use FAIR AND COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow voters to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you,
John Ross

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 12:08

Your Full Name:

John Ross

Email Address:

kd7hkf@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Great Falls, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input into the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting; not after. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use FAIR AND COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow voters to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you, John Ross

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

Sherley, Laura

From: William Ross <William_Ross101@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:26 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

To Whom It May Concern:

With the redistricting of our Great State of Montana, steps must be taken to ensure it is done in a fair and impartial manner. The political machination of one party cannot be allowed to decide what district can vote where. To do so would destroy the confidence of the Montana People in their government. Therefore, as a loyal Montanan, I demand the following:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting; not after.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Understand that the Montana People will be watching this commission closely.

William Ross

Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

Sherley, Laura

From: PAUL ROSSIGNOL <fshnwalli@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Commissioners

I understand that the commission is considering fair and competitive processes for districting. I would ask that you not use that process as it will make districts partisan. The best way is to make districts equal in population as that fits the constitutional requirements and reduce gerrymandering. Very importantly will not create districts that will enhance a particular party.

Thanks for considering my comments as this is an important issue and needs to be fair to both parties.

Paul Rossignol

Lolo MT

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sherley, Laura

From: Karen Round <roundkk@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on redistricting

To the members of the Redistricting Committee:

In this upcoming redistricting meeting, it is crucial that it be done right. What occurs could give an advantage to one party over another for years to come. To prevent this and give transparency, please allow for public comments BEFORE you make a decision at the meeting. We electors, whom you represent, deserve that.

Secondly, use a variance of as close to 1% as possible to prevent gerrymandering or packing certain districts. Otherwise, one party always benefits over time. It's simple math.

The goal is not to be "Fair" or "Competitive"; it is to be honest and constitutional.

Respectfully,
Karen K. Round
5565 Whitetail Ln.
Florence, MT 59833
roundkk@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Tom Round <tround70@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:52 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Members of the Commission:

The proposed agenda for the upcoming decision on redistricting does not provide for public comment prior to your decisions. I am sure as a Commission you value transparency and want to do what is the right thing; thus, I would expect that you will allow public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting prior to your decisions on this very important issue.

As a citizen and registered voter of the wonderful State of Montana, I not only expect, but have the right to expect the districts to be as equal as possible in population. Therefore, using a 1% difference, but certainly, with good reason, more than 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor specific parties. The results of your decisions should definitely not favor or disfavor a political party. It is not your responsibility to pick winners or losers. The VOTERS are to decide who will represent them, not the Commission.

Respectfully,

Tom Round

Florence, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 10:11

Your Full Name:

Lindsey Rowe

Email Address:

linzrax@yahoo.com

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Shelly Rummel <tskkee94@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:22 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My opinion on Re-districting

Please consider our opinion on your decisions regarding this issue:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you & Sincerely,

Tom & Shelly Rummel

Plains, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: Jay Russell <jstuartruss1805@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:41 AM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essman@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20 Redistricting Commission Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

Re: your July 20 meeting:

Please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability for gerrymandering or pack districts to favor different parties.

Please DO NOT use “fair and competitive districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal! This opposes the commission’s other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please don’t pick winners and losers based on an area’s partisan makeup. Allow the voters to decide who will represent them, not this commission!

Finally, please do not restrict public comments! The agenda for the July 20 meeting does not allow for public comment until after your decisions are made! If this commission values TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC INPUT in the decision making process, you absolutely must allow public comment at the BEGINNING of your July 20 meeting.

Thank you for listening to me. I trust that you will do the right thing.

Jay Russell

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:20 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 08:19

Your Full Name:

Keren Ruthardt

Email Address:

keren.barndt_94@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I believe that as you look to redistribute the historical voting patterns of an area are irrelevant. Montana is a straightforward place. We don't care about the relative nature of fairness. We don't want our cities and counties cut up into little pieces to help one party get a more even playing field. We want our cities to be represented as a whole and that can only be done by keeping the districts straightforward and not based on voting data. If you want fair and just elections, then don't make crazy, illogical voting blocks. Make them geographically based and move on. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 08:48

Your Full Name:

Helen Sabin

Email Address:

hsabin1@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Corvallis, MT

Your Comment/Input:

To the members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission: Maylinn Smith, Jeff Essman, Joe Lamson, Dan Stusek, Kendra Miller: Citizens throughout the state of MT, regardless of party affiliation, will be best served by a Districting and Apportionment process that is transparent and is faithful to the law and the Constitution of Montana. My comments below are submitted with that goal in mind: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: J Douglas Sangster <1jdsangs@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:03 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I, James Douglas Sangster, am a 20 yr resident of Gallatin Co., MT. As you consider redistricting, please keep "fairness" front and center. Counties and reservations should not be split. The 2 US House seats should be allowed to differ by as much as 5% in voter population. In other words, NO GERRYMANDERING!

I have studied various redistricting scenarios, and believe that an East/West split that is very similar to how MT used to be split is the most equitable and defensible. The split that made the most sense to me gives the Eastern area a higher voter population right now, however, since the Western area is much faster growing, the population difference is likely to be reversed by the next census. Based on 2020 US House votes, Republicans hold the edge in both areas, but both could be competitive depending on the candidates and local concerns.

Thank you for your logical and educated attention to this important task!
Doug Sangster

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 12:31

Your Full Name:

William Sauer

Email Address:

dcrwls@inetmt.com

City and State of Residence:

Dayton Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Any restriction to public comments regarding redistricting prior to the committee's decision-making process can only be evidence of bias on the part of the committee. It is your obligation to act in the best interest of ALL citizens, not a particular part or constituency. Gerrymandering is a violation of the public trust and adds to the distrust of the election process that is currently rampant in the U.S. Do not add Montana to the long list of questionable locales with regard to the election process.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: linda@lastchancepatriots.org
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

You have been chosen to fill a critical role in determining representation for Montana voters. As a Montana voter, I expect a fair, transparent and nonpartisan process. Districts must be as equal as possible in population. I personally saw the effects of gerrymandering in California prior to moving to Montana in 1992. Gerrymandering created an overwhelming distrust of our sacred election process in CA and I would hate to see that happen in Montana. You have been chosen to represent ALL of the citizens of Montana in your role on this committee. You are not representing your own party or your own constituency but ALL citizens. Don't let your fellow citizens down!

Linda Sauer
Dayton, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 12:27

Your Full Name:

Linda J Sauer

Email Address:

dcrwls@inetmt.com

City and State of Residence:

Dayton

Your Comment/Input:

The redistricting process must be completed in a manner that does not favor or disfavor a political party or a particular constituency. We have enough trouble in our country right now with distrust of the election process without throwing gerrymandering into the mix. Prior to moving to Montana in 1992, I saw the unAmerican effects of gerrymandering in California. This must not be allowed to happen in Montana. Any restriction on public comments before the committee makes its decision is an affront to all citizens.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:26 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 07:25

Your Full Name:
Rebecca Schaer

Email Address:
Rschaer626@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Whitefish, mt

Your Comment/Input:

PLEASE 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you MUST allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. AND PLEASE, Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. AND PLEASE 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow US, the VOTERS, to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. PLEASE!!!!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Becky Schaer <rschaer626@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:50 AM
To: Districting; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting and July 20 meeting

PLEASE

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the BEGINNING of your July 20th meeting.

PLEASE

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will BEST fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

AND

3. Do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, OR even as an aspirational goal. This goes AGAINST the Commission's other criteria that states NO plan will favor or disfavor a political party!

PLEASE do NOT pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow WE, the VOTERS, to decide who will represent them, NOT this Commission.

PLEASE

and

Thank you !

Sherley, Laura

From: mschauf51@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana State Redistricting
Importance: High

Do not restrict public comments! I have heard that the agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting and not some time in the future! Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. I ask that you do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Respectfully

Mike Schauf
CAPT USN Ret

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."
Edmond Burke



Mike Schauf
406-274-1911

Sherley, Laura

From: Melisa Schelvan <mbschelvan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:54 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

July 17, 2021

Members of the Redistricting Commission,

Please consider this written response to the redistricting vote that is to take place on Tuesday, July 20th. Further, it is my desire to attend in person or at the least attend virtually.

It has come to my attention that public comment for redistricting in Missoula will not be allowed until after the vote. I ask you to clarify the reasoning for this as it makes no logical sense. Are you interested in what Missoulians have to say or not? I am certainly interested in having my voice heard BEFORE votes that will affect me take place.

To that end, in your vote, you must keep districts as equal as possible in population, with 1% as the standard. Moving populations around based on voter count to benefit one side of an issue or another is amoral. Please do the right thing.

Finally, do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as an aspiration. This goes against your own criteria that says you will not redistrict in any way that favors one party over another.

Please follow the guidelines that are in place, not your feelings or the political movement you believe in. We have a constitution, federal, state, and county guidelines for a reason. We are a country of free people because the basic, fundamental principles as outlined in our Constitution and other governing documents both federally and locally have for the most part been followed. This protects us from the whim and fancy of people's moods and agendas. I ask you to continue in this tradition.

Sincerely,
Melisa Schelvan

Sherley, Laura

From: j8960@midrivers.com
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comment until after the July 20th meeting. Many are traveling great distances to be heard.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population, using 1% with rare exceptions 3% variance will help prevent gerrymandering.
3. Do not use fair and competitive districts criteria. This commission should not be picking winners and losers.

Thank you,

Jerry Schillinger

Circle Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:10

Your Full Name:
Richard Schneider

Email Address:
rjschneiderjr@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Ronan Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Committee Members, as you approach your meeting on July 20th, I ask that you take the following ideas and suggestions and implement them in your meeting agenda and goal setting for the outcome of the districting process. First, please allow public comments prior to your final decision on this matter. By making a decision and then allowing comments on the decision already made, it appears that you are following an agenda that you have laid out with little regard for those who you are representing and who will ultimately be affected by this (re)districting process. In my honest opinion, formed over decades of being a voter and participating in various capacities in the election process, you will gain much more support for your efforts by allowing the constituents to comment and be participants in the process of (re)districting, and your transparency in the decision making process will show that you do value those who live in and constitute the districts. Secondly, each district or proposed district really should be made up of equal numbers of voters, as near as possible, regardless of party affiliation or really, any other factor. Any deviation from this standard would indicate a partisan bias on the part of the committee, and as mentioned above, would not aid in transparency of motives, and would indicate to the public that you do not value their input or their voices in the administration of their state and its government. Just to reiterate again, please do not make any decisions based on partisanship. I believe you have stated elsewhere that you will propose or implement no plan which will favor, or disfavor, one political party over another. If you (re)district the state by anything other than population, such as by "fair and competitive districts", you will violate your other criteria, as well as leaving the voters of this state without a clear and audible voice in the matters of government which belongs to them and deserves to be heard. I pray that you will take my suggestions seriously, and wish you well as you deliberate and make decisions that will affect the wellbeing of the state of Montana for the future. RS

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Rick Schneider <rjschneiderjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Dear Committee Members,

as you approach your meeting on July 20th, I ask that you take the following ideas and suggestions and implement them in your meeting agenda and goal setting for the outcome of the districting process.

First, please allow public comments prior to your final decision on this matter. By making a decision and then allowing comments on the decision already made, it appears that you are following an agenda that you have laid out with little regard for those who you are representing and who will ultimately be affected by this (re)districting process. In my honest opinion, formed over decades of being a voter and participating in various capacities in the election process, you will gain much more support for your efforts by allowing the constituents to comment and be participants in the process of (re)districting, and your transparency in the decision making process will show that you do value those who live in and constitute the districts.

Secondly, each district or proposed district really should be made up of equal numbers of voters, as near as possible, regardless of party affiliation or really, any other factor. Any deviation from this standard would indicate a partisan bias on the part of the committee, and as mentioned above, would not aid in transparency of motives, and would indicate to the public that you do not value their input or their voices in the administration of their state and its government.

Just to reiterate again, please do not make any decisions based on partisanship. I believe you have stated elsewhere that you will propose or implement no plan which will favor, or disfavor, one political party over another. If you (re)district the state by anything other than population, such as by "fair and competitive districts", you will violate your other criteria, as well as leaving the voters of this state without a clear and audible voice in the matters of government which belongs to them and deserves to be heard.

I pray that you will take my suggestions seriously, and wish you well as you deliberate and make decisions that will affect the wellbeing of the state of Montana for the future.

Rick Schneider
(864) 915-4056

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 14:32

Your Full Name:

Alicia Schreibeis

Email Address:

alicia_caz13@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Leo Schuman <lschuman1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Districting; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank You

Dear Public Servants,

First, thank you for graciously receiving public input on this vital process.

I sincerely hope the processes you design are consistent and straightforward, to limit public confusion. Please allow for reasonable (eg, 5%) deviation.

Our state and national are already terribly divided. Please help bring us back to a day when we would do the work to find common ground, because we knew we had to. That's the Montana where I was born.

Leo Schuman
Helena, MT

--

Leo Schuman
+1.503.750.7505

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:51

Your Full Name:

Jeanna Seymour

Email Address:

jr7seymour@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Joliet MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Districting Committee, Please act with INTEGRITY in your districting decisions: Keep districts as equal as possible in population! Please use the method that dictates that populations of districts vary only by 1%, with rare exceptions of up to 3%. That will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Also, please do not restrict public comments. The agenda for your July 20th meeting doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Basic integrity is so needed in government today. Please act in this manner in such a way as to allow us to trust you to do the right thing. Respectfully, Doug and Jeanna Seymour 9405 US Hwy 212 Joliet, MT 59041

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jeanna Seymour <jr7seymour@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Districting; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Districting Committee,

Please act with **INTEGRITY** in your districting decisions: **Keep districts as equal as possible in population!** Please use the method that **dictates that populations of districts vary only by 1%, with rare exceptions of up to 3%.** That will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Also, please **do not restrict public comments.** The agenda for your July 20th meeting doesn't allow for public comments until **AFTER** your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Basic integrity is so needed in government today. Please act in this manner in such a way as to allow us to trust you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Doug and Jeanna Seymour

9405 US Hwy 212

Joliet, MT 59041

Sent from i phone

Sherley, Laura

From: Amy & Lou Seymour <lamontan2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:29 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting: Act with INTEGRITY and keep districts' populations within a 1-3% margin!

Dear Districting Committee,

Please act with **INTEGRITY** in your districting decisions: **Keep districts as equal as possible in population!** Please use the method that **dictates that populations of districts vary only by 1%, with rare exceptions of up to 3%.** That will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Also, please **do not restrict public comments.** The agenda for your July 20th meeting doesn't allow for public comments until **AFTER** your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Basic integrity is so needed in government today. Please act in this manner in such a way as to allow us to trust you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Louis and Amy Seymour
27 Gibson Rd.,
Joliet, MT 59041

Sherley, Laura

From: Cinda Renouard <safetyschoolhouse@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Please do NOT stack the deck for your own political party! See below Comments on Redistricting.

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Cinda Seys
Butte, MT
safetyschoolhouse@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Tracy Sharp <theknowbetters@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Redistricting Committee Members,

I have noticed that the agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the **beginning** of your July 20th meeting.

It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule.

It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

Thank you,

Tracy Sharp,

(406) 407-2197

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 14th July 2021 14:27

Your Full Name:

Tracy Sharp

Email Address:

theknowbetters@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Polson, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule. It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:17

Your Full Name:

Susan Shinn

Email Address:

susangraceshinn@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Laurel, MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Pat Simmons <psimmons100@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:12 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting - make it fair for all Montanans

You need to set up a very fair districting system that does not favor any party, religion, business, etc. to make equal and fair access for all Montanans. No gerrymandering allowed. Maximum 5% deviation is better. Better for us voters to keep legislative and congressional elections with similar criteria and goals.

Thank you,

Patricia Simmons, psimmons100@gmail.com, Bozeman

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:41 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 12th July 2021 09:41

Your Full Name:

Bill Skaughter

Email Address:

oldsheriff38@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Hall, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please change the district that represents Granite County! Because our district takes in the West side of Anaconda, we always get a Democrat representative. We are mostly AG. Conservative folks that get NO representation in the Legislature. We never see our so called representative and they don't give a damn about us because they are busy taking care of the liberals in Anaconda. We are not happy with our government because they don't even know where Granite County is!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:46

Your Full Name:

Derek Skees

Email Address:

derekskees@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Kalispell

Your Comment/Input:

Dear members of the Redistricting Commission, The decisions made in your July 8th and 9th meeting have left me quite concerned. It is unfortunate that in a few meeting prior, the Democrat members talked about “fair and competitive” criteria when drawing the next legislative districts. Then, without fail in this meeting over 40 activist participated in public comment echoing those same ideas, upon which Commissioner Miller declared that there was overwhelming desire in the electorate to have “fair and competitive” districts. The illusion was presented that they were just “listening to the voters” in Montana, when we all saw what happened prior. The Montana Constitution and MCA are quite clear, these definitions are not supported, and for good reason. Fair is an entirely subjective criteria, allowing for a near infinite amount of flexibility when designing these new seats. Competitive has almost as much ambiguity, and the only way a district can be competitively drawn, is to consider party affiliation and group to near equal totals of Republicans and Democrats. The constitution has plain language where “Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory”, and “shall be nearly equal in population as practicable.” (Article V, Sect 14 MT Con). That is it. Period. There is no support in the law nor the Montana Constitution to support such discretionary and arbitrary criteria, no clear way you can even establish a conclusive meaning to either and have totally excluded the third party Libertarians and Independents in these mechanisms. Yet you voted in the affirmative to establish these two parameters. In looking at the next meeting for July 20th, your agenda just continues the work session on Legislative criteria, and only allows for public comment at the very end, and for what looks like just 15 minutes. This is unacceptable, and apparent that you do not want to hear from your constituents about the actions you have just done, and will not seek comment on the actions for an entirely new section of your duties: the state legislative seats. Montana has a rich tradition of public participation and open meetings, and I urge you to change the agenda, to allow for public comment to hear from Montana citizens about the second set of criteria you are proposing. These rules are critical, as you well know, and this process has to be transparent, participatory and inclusive, if you have any hope of legitimacy for the voters in Montana. Your next meeting is too important to continue to ramrod through on this path, and I ask you to allow for public comment before your actions on the Legislative criteria. Thank you for your dedication to this vital task, and your willingness to include us all in your deliberations. I leave you with a vital part of our Montana Constitutions preamble, and ask that you join us in “desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations” in the work you are doing.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 20:46

Your Full Name:

Tashina Smith

Email Address:

smitht2507@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

West Yellowstone, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Commission members, I implore you to not restrict public comment. Public comment must be allowed before your decisions are made if you value public comment and input. Please allow public comment at the beginning of the July 20th meeting. Districts must be kept equal in population and must not be packed to favor parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or as an aspirational goal. This would go against criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan composition. The VOTERS of Montana must decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Respectfully, Tashina Smith

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:09

Your Full Name:

Susan E Smith

Email Address:

Susbosmith@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena

Your Comment/Input:

I respectfully ask the democratic committee members to STOP GERRYMANDERING THE DISTRICTS and create straightforward districts that are fair to BOTH SIDES! STOP THE DEMOCRAT PARTISANSHIP!!

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

July 15, 2021

Commission for Redistricting
State of Montana

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of the State of Montana, I would like my input included in your consideration as you engage in the redistricting of Montana. I would like this recorded as public record for the following:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th does not allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Respectfully submitted

Gail M. Smith

Name:



Gail Smith
127 McClellan Creek Rd.
Clancy, MT 59634

Email:

Address:

Sherley, Laura

From: T Smith <smitht2507@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:54 PM
To: Districting
Cc: kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov;
joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Commission,

I implore you to not restrict public comment. Public comment must be allowed before your decisions are made if you value public comment and input. Please allow public comment at the beginning of the July 20th meeting.

Districts must be kept equal in population and must not be packed to favor parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or as an aspirational goal. This would go against criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan composition.

The VOTERS of Montana must decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Respectfully,
Tashina Smith

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:30

Your Full Name:

Edward Snider

Email Address:

evcm@itstriangle.com

City and State of Residence:

Harlem, Mt

Your Comment/Input:

1. DO NOT restrict public comments in making this decision. You MUST allow for public comments at the beginning of your meeting NOT after. 2. Keep districts equal as possible in population 3. DO NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as an aspirational goal. PLEASE do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow VOTERS to decide who will represent them, NOT this commission!!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:18

Your Full Name:

Vicki Snider

Email Address:

vjs1945@hmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Harlem,Mt

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. If the commission values transparency & public input in the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of you meeting July 20th. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements. 3. DO NOT use "Fair & Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as an aspirational goal. Please DO NOT pick winners or losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow VOTERS to decide who will represent them, NOT this commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:44 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 07:43

Your Full Name:

Jane Sours

Email Address:

skeetr5@live.com

City and State of Residence:

Red Lodge, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I am opposed to Re Districting. I am in favor of Statutory 1 to 3% Rule.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 07:46

Your Full Name:

Jane Sours

Email Address:

skeetr5@live.com

City and State of Residence:

Red Lodge, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Allow Voters to decide who represents them NOT this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 07:56

Your Full Name:

Jane Sours

Email Address:

skeetr5@live.com

City and State of Residence:

Red Lodge, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I believe that public comments should be at the beginning of the meet NOT at the end of the meeting! Thank you .

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jane Gerber <skeetr5@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re Disgrictinh

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

I am opposed to Re Dustricting. I support original statutory 1 to 3% ruling.

Thank you.

Jane Sours

Red Lodge, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: Keith Stark <singlemember@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 6:48 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-Districting and Apportionment for Montana

Subject: Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

To: <districting@mt.gov>

Cc: <Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov>, <Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov>, <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>, <Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov>, <Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov>

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

I implore each of you to Follow the Law as stated in our constitution in Article V, Section 14. Follow HB 506 5.14.21 Section 1 5-1-115MCA, and the new Section 4, 5-1-115. You must be transparent and follow the law that guides you. If you value our laws, you must follow existing MT laws, as written in the MT constitution and allow public comment.

Keith Stark
Montana City, MT

--

Sherley, Laura

From: James Stegmeier <stegsjj@itstriangle.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:21 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

TO: The Districting and Apportionment Commission

I understand that you have scheduled a meeting next Tuesday, July 20th at 10:00 am in State Capitol Room 102 and your agenda does not allow for public comments until after your decisions are made. What would be your purpose in requesting or allowing public comments if public input would have no affect on the resulting decisions? It may equate to restricting immigration now after much damage has already been done by poor decisions made by this administration without having previously sought public input.

You should keep existing districts as equal as possible with regard to population. Using 1% and with rare exceptions of up to 3% will fulfill constitutional requirements and still reduce the ability to manipulate boundaries of (an electoral constituent) or pack the districts to favor one party over another.

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. PLEASE do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, NOT THIS COMMISSION!

James C. Stegmeier
[P.O.Box \[p.o.box\]](#) 664
Chinook,Mt.59523

Sherley, Laura

From: Scott Stencil <sstencil@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Districting and Apportionment Commission Members,

The choices before you are clear:

1. To take a common sense approach to redistricting based on MCA
2. To take a partisan gerrymandering approach

The first approach sounds good and right and *is* good and right.
The second approach sounds bad and wrong and *is* bad and wrong.

Please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

With regard to "Fair and Competitive Districts", that is clearly political speak for drawing districts with the intention of favoring a political party--something expressly forbidden by Montana law.

Thus, I would encourage you to not include this phrase or concept in your criteria.

Again, please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

Allow the voters to decide who will represent them, not this commission.

Sincerely,

Scott Stencil

Sherley, Laura

From: Shiela Stencil <sheshemt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Comment

Districting and Apportionment Commission Members,

The choices before you are clear:

1. To take a common sense approach to redistricting based on MCA
2. To take a partisan gerrymandering approach

The first approach sounds good and right and **is** good and right. The second approach sounds bad and wrong and **is** bad and wrong.

Please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

With regard to "Fair and Competitive Districts", that is clearly political speak for drawing districts with the intention of favoring a political party--something expressly forbidden by Montana law. Thus, I would encourage you to not include this phrase or concept in your criteria.

Again, please choose to do what is good and right with each decision you make and each line you draw.

Sincerely,
Shiela Stencil

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 15:15

Your Full Name:

Kandi J Stoebe

Email Address:

kandibelieves@hotmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Great Falls

Your Comment/Input:

Dear Committee members. Please do not vote on redistricting in Montana on July 20th, until you have listened to the Montana citizens who also have the right to vote and make public comment on this very critical issue. We need to be heard before your committee members make a decision that will have a huge affect on all of us, the people. Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Kandi Stoebe

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:26

Your Full Name:

Luke Stovall

Email Address:

stovall468@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Roberts Montana

Your Comment/Input:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: mtskiing@montana.com
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:45 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Dale Stovall
406-360-8998



Virus-free. www.avg.com [avg.com]

avg.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Debbie Street <debbiekaystreet@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:21 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylin@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mt.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voting Districts

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,

Debbie Street

Kalispell, MT



[\[avast.com\]](https://www.avast.com)

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com [\[avast.com\]](https://www.avast.com)

Sherley, Laura

From: john stricker <johnwstricker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Commission Members:

Your support on the following comments would be appreciated.

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Stricker

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 09:44

Your Full Name:

Pamela Strong

Email Address:

pstrong3@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please do not restrict public comments before your July 20th meeting. Please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Please do not use "fair and competitive districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria that says no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. The VOTERS are the ones to decide who will represent them, not the commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 20:42

Your Full Name:

Larry Sundheim

Email Address:

larrysundheim@msn.com

City and State of Residence:

Billings Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. Why would you not want to value public comment and transparency in your decision making?

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 13th July 2021 23:15

Your Full Name:

Dave Swaim

Email Address:

IsNoMore@protonmail.ch

City and State of Residence:

Evergreen, MT

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 and Contiguous Territory Less than 1% difference in population I also insist that you set the congressional districts using the same criteria as for legislative districts. Regards, Dave Swaim

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Vicki Swank <vswank@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting July 20, 2021

Dear Commissioners of the District and Apportionment Committee,

As a resident of Jefferson County in Montana City, I believe in fair and equal hearings when the public you serve is going to be impacted by the decisions you make.

It is imperative that you Do Not restrict public comments in such a matter as the redistricting and apportionment within our county.

Your agenda for the July 20, 2021 commission meeting does not allow for any public comment until after your committee has held your meeting. After you have discussed your reasonings, you do not allow for your constituents to ask questions nor explain their thoughts on redistricting and apportionments and how it will affect them individually. If you, as the Commission on this matter, value the people who elected you and value transparency, you must not sweep our opinions under the rug. You must hear what we, as the residents of this county, value as well. Therefore, you must not restrict public comments whether they are submitted electronically, via mail or in person.

Next, it is my opinion that you need to keep the districts as fair as possible in the population as it stands now and only using the 1%, with rare exceptions up to a possible 3%, to best fulfill our constitutional requirements while reducing your ability to gerrymander or pack districts that would favor different political parties and not the will of your constituents.

You must not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as your aspirational goals. This certainly goes against the Commission's other criteria that states 'no plan will favor or disfavor a political party'.

By picking winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup, you are not acting favorably on behalf of all of your constituents in a fair manner.

You must allow the voters of this county to decide who will represent them, not your Commission.

I am not in favor of redistricting our rural county unless due process is done in a full education campaign of mailers, etc., to go out to every Jefferson County resident which gives, over a period of several months to a year minimum from this hearing date, the public to openly attend meetings held over several months and give input to the Commission.

I feel you are 'railroading' us to your feather your own political agenda which is not in the best interest of me nor my fellow county residents. Please table this until fair public hearings that allow public comments are held before you make your decision based on the 5 commission members alone where you have not allowed public comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Swank
13 Big Dipper Drive
Montana City, MT 59634
vswank@gmail.com

--

Sherley, Laura

From: Douglas Syme <douglas.syme@symeusa.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] new district boundaries

Districting Commission et al:

1. please allow the public comments before any decision making process.
2. keep the new district in population as equal as possible. You know MCA laws state prohibitive gerrymandering by political groups.
3. "Fair" is too nebulous, stick to the 1% deviation mandate. Given the 10year census status, left the present day situation speak for itself.

Douglas Syme
Bigfork MT

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 11:13

Your Full Name:

doug syme

Email Address:

douglas.syme@symeusa.com

City and State of Residence:

Bigfork MT

Your Comment/Input:

1. keep public comments open before decision making 2. keep to 1% deviation 3. "Fair" is too nebulous Given the 10year legacy of the census, let the present day stats speak for itself.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Marylee Syme <marylee.syme@symeusa.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:09 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Comments

Please see below comments on redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Marylee R. Syme
PO Box 2470
Bigfork, MT 59911
TEL: 406 837 4363
CELL: 406 249 1196

Sherley, Laura

From: Stan Taylor <TaylorS@milesc.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 5:58 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-districting

*Keep the legislative and congressional criteria and goals as similar as possible. It will help to limit confusion for the public while they engage in the process and allow the Commission to apply equitable standards to both plans.

*Allow the Commission the chance to deal with potential undercounts from the pandemic by adopting a 5% deviation standard. (The Republicans want only a 1% deviation.) *Make sure that you adopt strong criteria mandating a fair map that doesn't unduly advantage either party in addition to considering competitive districts where possible.

Stanley Taylor

66 Sprandel Lane

Miles City, Montana 59301

406-853-5410

Sherley, Laura

From: Sandra Thatcher <applethatch@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sincerely,

Sandra A Thatcher

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: Bob Thoft <bobthoft@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting

I support Montana lol by strictly following house bill 506. Please know gerrymandering.

Bob & Susie Thoft
St Ignatius, MT

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: Bob Thoft <bobthoft@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting

I support the Commission strictly following MT law as outlined in HB 506.

No gerrymandering!

Bob & Susie Thoft

St Ignatius, MT

The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until after the decisions are made. Restricting public comments to a time that follows the decision-making is a manipulative tactic and not an honest attempt to know the thoughts and concerns of the voters. If these are to be open and transparent public hearings, you must not restrict public comments by employing this tactic. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the process, you must allow for public comment at the **beginning** of your July 20th meeting.

It is obligatory on this commission to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Here in Lake County, a significant portion of our people are not represented by a House District representative because of gerrymandering. Citizens live, work, and die here in Lake County, but their representation in the Montana House is chosen by the people of Glacier County and, in particular, the Blackfoot Reservation. This is not right and merely ensures a large portion of the public from Lake County is not represented at all. Doing this again but on a larger scale through "redistricting" will make things worse. The commission must keep districts equal using the 1% rule.

It is entirely inappropriate for the commission to use the notion of “Fair and Competitive Districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes squarely against the Commission’s other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. A contrary effort ensures this matter will eventually end up in the hands of the Judiciary. Redistricting is a role of the legislative branch, and it can and should stay there—but that can only be accomplished through fairness. The Commission has no right to pick winners and losers based on an area’s partisan makeup. The voters must decide who will represent them—not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: Trevor Thomas <trevorrthomas94@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:57 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting

- Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting; not after.
- Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
- Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: mary thompson <tmtakids@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Districting
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Dear Commissioners of the District and Apportionment Committee,

As a resident of **Jefferson** County residing in **Montana City**, I believe in fair and equal hearings when the public you serve is going to be impacted by the decisions you make.

It is imperative that you Do Not restrict public comments in such a matter as the redistricting and apportionment within our county.

Your agenda for the July 20, 2021 commission meeting does not allow for any public comment until after your committee has held your meeting. After you have discussed your reasonings, you do not allow for your constituents to ask questions nor explain their thoughts on redistricting and apportionments and how it will affect them individually.

If you, as the Commission on this matter, value the people who elected you and value transparency, you must not sweep our opinions under the rug. You must hear what we, as the residents of this county, value as well.

Therefore, you must not restrict public comments whether they are submitted electronically, via mail or in person.

Next, it is my opinion that you need to keep the districts as fair as possible in the population as it stands now and only using the 1%, with rare exceptions up to a possible 3%, to best fulfill our constitutional requirements while reducing your ability to gerrymander or pack districts that would favor different political parties and not the will of your constituents.

You must not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria or even as your aspirational goals. This certainly goes against the Commission's other criteria that states 'no plan will favor or disfavor a political party'.

By picking winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup, you are not acting favorably on behalf of all of your constituents in a fair manner.

You must allow the voters of this county to decide who will represent them, not your Commission.

I am not in favor of redistricting our rural county unless due process is done in a full education campaign of mailers, etc., to go out to every Jefferson County resident which gives, over a period of several months to a year minimum from this hearing date, the public to openly attend meetings held over several months and give input to the Commission.

I feel you are 'railroading' us to your feather your own political agenda which is not in the best interest of me nor my fellow county residents. Please table this until fair public hearings that allow public comments are held before you make your decision based on the 5 commission members alone where you have not allowed public comments.

Respectfully,

Mary Thompson
30 Sidewinder Loop
Mt City, MT
59634

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:38 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 07:37

Your Full Name:

Patricia Toney

Email Address:

keelee314@aol.com

City and State of Residence:

East Helena Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you, Patricia Toney

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 13:17

Your Full Name:
Sidney Armstrong

Email Address:
sidarmstrong@msn.com

City and State of Residence:
Helena, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Montana has had fair and just redistricting in the past and it is more important now than ever. We deserve an opportunity for fair representation at the legislature. It is critical to comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights act. I also support: Criteria to create fair districts that do not unduly favor any political part The creation of a reasonable number of legislative districts where candidates from either party can win.

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

Sherley, Laura

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

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 16:29

Your Full Name:

Brad Tschida

Email Address:

brad.tschida@mtleg.gov

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, MT

Your Comment/Input:

As I stated before the most recent meeting, and reiterate here, there are 3 criterion offered by the MT Constitution pertaining to drawing district lines: "Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable". Nowhere do the words "Fair" and "Competitive" emerge. While perhaps challenging to attain, the ground rules are simple: Follow the MT Constitution. If fairness and competitiveness are to be used, then perhaps the current makeup of the MT House and Senate could be used as a yardstick. Or perhaps the current representation on the land board is another option. As "Fair" and "Competitive" are words that allow liberties to be taken, following the dictates of the MT Constitution are the only criteria allowable in the decision before you. Anything else potentially weaponizes the 3:2 make up of the Commission, an egregious mistake that can easily be avoided. Making this decision a political one, rather than one that follows the established rules, subjects the outcome to likely litigation, which should be avoided at all costs. I challenge all members of the Commission to use the objective criteria set forth by the MT constitution - "Compact", "Contiguous" and equal in population (not more than a 1% difference) as the 3-pronged basis for your determination. Make the right decision so that the voters in Montana have full confidence in the objectivity of the districts makeup. A challenge - yes. But also a sacred obligation.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 8th July 2021 13:13

Your Full Name:

Brad Tschida

Email Address:

brad.tschida@mtleg.gov

City and State of Residence:

Missoula, MT

Your Comment/Input:

Given the need to make this decision one that is based on Constitutional requirements (1%+/- population, Compact, Contiguous), the decision of the Apportionment Committee needs to be unanimous or the public perception will be that the decision was partisan in nature, which would be a poor outcome. Also, since the Apportionment Committee Chair was of that same mind, I would request that nothing short of a unanimous decision would be acceptable.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:10

Your Full Name:

Sally Tucker

Email Address:

kickingasparagus@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Black Eagle Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please please please resist the notion that that ideology and 'community' are in any way enshrined in the Montana State Constitutional parameters for this redistricting process. Population is the essential criteria, and must be the first and most important consideration. To make this process Constitutionally sound and litigation-proof, please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Accordingly, using a standard of 1%, with rare exceptions of up to 3%, will best fulfill constitutional requirements, while reducing the threat of legal challenges to all your hard work as biased and unfair. Thank you for honoring the People's trust in your efforts, and avoiding the pitfalls of litigation over gerrymandering.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:28

Your Full Name:

Sally Tucker

Email Address:

kickingasparagus@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Black Eagle Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Please do NOT use “Fair and Competitive Districts” as mandatory or discretionary criteria, even as a feel-good goal. This specifically violates the Commission’s other criterium, which states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Again, these terms open doors to litigation, and are Constitutionally unsound criteria. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the People! We are counting on you!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Sally Tucker <kickingasparagus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] July 20, 2021 Redistricting hearing comment

Greetings to all working so diligently for the People, to draw these districts according to the Montana State Constitutional mandate. Thank you for all your efforts!

As a citizen and resident of Black Eagle, Montana, I offer these comments on this critical process to ensure equitable, Constitutional representation:

According to the 20Jul Agenda, public comments are restricted to AFTER your decision is made.

This is unacceptable! To ensure public participation and transparency, Montana citizen comments must be considered in your decision process.

Please ensure citizen public comments are heard BEFORE your vote. It is only fair to the voters of our State. Do not ignore the People who have granted you the power to draw district lines, according to Montana Constitutional parameters.

Thank you for your efforts and consideration of the People's input.

Please please please resist the notion that that ideology and 'community' are in any way enshrined in the Montana State Constitutional parameters for this redistricting process. Population is the essential criterium, and must be the first and most important consideration.

To make this process Constitutionally sound and litigation-proof, please keep districts as equal as possible in population. Accordingly, using a standard of 1%, with rare exceptions of up to 3%, will best fulfill constitutional requirements, while reducing the threat of legal challenges to all your hard work as biased and unfair.

Thank you for honoring the People's trust in your efforts, and avoiding the pitfalls of litigation over gerrymandering.

Please do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, even as a feel-good goal. This specifically violates the Commission's other criterium, which states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Again, these terms open doors to litigation, and are Constitutionally unsound criteria.

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the People! We are counting on you to make our votes count.

Respectfully,
Sally Tucker
1915 Montana Ave
Black Eagle MT
59414
406.899.8342

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 13:39

Your Full Name:

Sally Tucker

Email Address:

kickingasparagus@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Black Eagle Montana

Your Comment/Input:

According to the 20Jul Agenda, public comments are restricted to AFTER your decision is made. This is unacceptable! To ensure public participation and transparency, Montana citizen comments must be considered in your decision process. Please ensure citizen public comments are heard BEFORE your vote. It is only fair to the voters of our State. Do not ignore the People who have granted you the power to draw district lines, according to Montana Constitutional parameters. Thank you for your efforts and consideration of the People's input.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Bruce Tutvedt <brucetutvedt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 8:36 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistrict comments

Commissioners

I was a State Senator from Flathead county. Flathead county and Lake county both had multiple house and senate districts that crossed county lines. The cross county lines make it much more difficult to find quality candidates. The redistricting commission should have a goal to minimize senate and house districts that cross county lines especially in large counties. This will lead to more qualified candidates with more competition.

Bruce Tutvedt
1333 Church Dr, Kalispell, MT 59901
406-253-9732

Sherley, Laura

From: SAVenrick@outlook.com
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:28 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Please do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup.
4. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Please remember that our Country is built on "We the people." It is not based on "We the Commission". Maintaining our voting rights in the United States is key to our Republic.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Stephanie Venrick
Rollins, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 12:29

Your Full Name:
Stephanie Ann Venrick

Email Address:
slicu62@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:
Rollins, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Comments on Redistricting: 1. Please do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. 2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. 3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as a goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. 4. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Please remember that our Country is built on "We the people." It is not based on "We the Commission". Maintaining our voting rights in the United States is key to our Republic. Thank you for considering my comments,

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jack Venrick <jacksranch@freedomforallseasons.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Jack Venrick

Wild Horse Ranch Road

Rollins, Montana 59931

www.freedomforallseasons.org [freedomforallseasons.org]

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 10:34

Your Full Name:
Steven Vinnedge

Email Address:
stevenvinnedge@msn.com

City and State of Residence:
Great Falls, MT

Your Comment/Input:

The purpose of redistricting is to provide for representation of the people who share a common geography and economy. Redistricting is not supposed to provide competitiveness. The greatest injustice of the 2012 redistricting is exemplified by S.D. 8 which ran in a diagonal strip from the Canadian border north of Cut Bank across two wilderness areas and vast tracts of uninhabited National Forest to the town of Dixon below Kerr Dam. Surely the people of Glacier County and Lake County could be better served by a representative of each of their communities. Further, 5% variance in population is an unfair method of dividing districts. We possess the ability to drill down into each of these districts to make them equal. To create a 10% between districts (+5% in one district and -5% in another is patently unfair to Montana's citizens.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Voorhees, Heather <heather.voorhees@mso.umt.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:12 PM
To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank You

Districting & Apportionment Commission,

Thank you for your work last Friday to fairly re-district Montana. I appreciate that you continue creating space and opportunities for citizens to provide input into the redistricting and apportionment process! Many other states are not as transparent about their processes, but I believe that the public needs to have updates and insight into this very important work, so THANK YOU for allowing that!

Along with others, I encourage you to keep the legislative and congressional criteria and goals as similar as possible. This will limit confusion for everyone while we engage in the process, and it will allow the Commission to apply equitable standards to both plans. As a friendly reminder, the Fair Maps Montana group has requested criteria for a 5% deviation standard, and parameters that provide for a fair map that does not unduly advantage either party. Based on your openness so far, I trust that you will seriously consider these ideas and do your best to make the ultimate product as equitable and effective as possible.

Thank you again, and please keep up the good work!
-Heather Voorhees
Missoula, MT.

Sherley, Laura

From: troylibbyjbs <troylibbyjbs@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 8:12 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Response to Criteria and Goals document



Troy Libby Chapter

Dear Commissioners

We observed the public meetings last week regarding the redistricting of Montana and have read the Mandatory Criteria and Goals for Congressional Districts document that was published by you on or about July 9th. We are alarmed and extremely disappointed by the exclusion of section 5-1-115, 2 (a) in your version of the Redistricting Criteria.

Montanans voted in November and Montana now has a Republican state government trifecta, with a conservative Governor and both chambers with a Republican majority. To which they wrote and passed into law;

TITLE 5. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, CHAPTER 1. CONGRESSIONAL, SENATORIAL, AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS, Part 1. Districting and Apportionment Commission, 5-1-115 Redistricting Criteria.

This is the current law in the State of Montana. As private citizens, we must follow the law and as an appointed board, you to must follow the law. We do not understand why the Mandatory Criteria document, developed by this board, does not include all elements of section 5-1-115 of Montana Codes Annotated.

Personally, I have spent years as a public servant in law enforcement, we have other members who professionally worked with Federal and State regulations, others as attorneys. My point is that the elected politicians write the laws that the governed must abide by.

We strongly believe that;

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...

This section must be included in the Mandatory Criteria when developing the redistricting of Montana. The Troy Libby John Birch Society Chapter was able to meet this state law when we provided you Congressional District maps on June 29th. Any deviation beyond the plus or minus 1% would clearly be gerrymandering by this commission for political purposes.

The citizens spoke loud and clear that we want conservative law-abiding Montanans running our state, yet this commission's intent is to operate outside of Montana State Laws based on your current criteria, which is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Mitchell Walters

Troy Libby JBS Chapter Leader

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

July 8, 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 677 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.

Susan	Leaverton	Absorkee	59001
Tom	Pruitt	Alder	59710
Trey	Henrikson	Anaconda	59711
Todd	Pressdee	Anaconda	59711
William	Clark	Anaconda	59711
Donna	Dickson	Anaconda	59711
Leia	Pate-Terry	Anaconda	59711
Tara	Rothwell	Arlee	59821
Sara	Walsh	Augusta	59410
Wade	Sikorski	Baker	59313
Bryher	Herak	Basin	59631
Karen	Kroemer Spiess	Belgrade	59714
David	Patenaude	Belgrade	59714
Shari	Sutherland	Belgrade	59714
Pamela	Chiang	Belgrade	59714
Matthew	Kennedy	Belgrade	59714

Hayden	Stribley	Belgrade	59714
Sas	Weber	Belgrade	59714
Amy	Olson	Belt	59412
Martina	Morris	Belt	59412
Michael	Grauer	Big Fork	59911
Kathy	Kinzfogel	Big Fork	59911
martin	chamberlin	Big Fork	59911
Robin	Vogler	Big Fork	59911
Catherine	Haug	Big Fork	59911
Sheri	Burden	Big Fork	59911
Littlebird	Parks	Big Fork	59911
Brian	Parks	Big Fork	59911
Mary	Shaw	Big Fork	59911
Lora L	Watt	Big Horn County	59022
Blossom	Old Bull	Big Horn County	59022
Alecia	LaRue	Big Timber	59011
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
Kelsey	Doll	Billings	59101
Lisa	Bessasparis	Billings	59101
Jennifer	Scanlon	Billings	59101

Peggy	Schram	Billings	59101
Zoe	Unruh	Billings	59101
Carolyn	Sevier	Billings	59101
Douglas	Modrow	Billings	59101
Hans	Abbey	Billings	59101
Lita	Pepion	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
Matt	Schatzke	Billings	59102
Matthew	Anthony	Billings	59102
Barbara	Gulick	Billings	59102
Bethany	Schatzke	Billings	59102
Tami	Haaland	Billings	59102
Melodie	Snyder	Billings	59102
Kristi	Drake	Billings	59102
Bernard	Rose	Billings	59102
Dan	Boschert	Billings	59104

Doug	Gledhill	Billings	59105
Twila	Moon	Billings	59105
Vicki	Dickinson	Billings	59105
SHERMAN	E OLAND	Billings	59105
Carol	Beam	Billings	59105
Devin	Steffen	Billings	59105
Mary	Schelle	Billings	59105
Patrick	Schelle	Billings	59105
Marcus	Powers	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
Emma	Cunningham	Billings	59106
John	York	Billings	59106
Pamela	Kloote	Bonner	59823
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
Avela	Grenier	Bozeman	59715
Sarah	Tidd	Bozeman	59715
Gary	Leinen	Bozeman	59715
Michael	Brody	Bozeman	59715

Andrew	Maritan	Bozeman	59715
Kailash	Moore	Bozeman	59715
Neal	Coberly	Bozeman	59715
Katie	Distin	Bozeman	59715
Nathan	Fusselman	Bozeman	59715
Breeann	Johnson	Bozeman	59715
Alex	Adams	Bozeman	59715
Carrie	French	Bozeman	59715
Blair	Bodie	Bozeman	59715
Ross	Lesslie	Bozeman	59715
Robyn	Lauster	Bozeman	59715
Jesse	Gentner	Bozeman	59715
Nick	Benoit	Bozeman	59715
Cara	Wilder	Bozeman	59715
Emily	Allison	Bozeman	59715
Susan	Sheard	Bozeman	59715
Daniel	Jochem	Bozeman	59715
June	Safford	Bozeman	59715
Wayne	Mortimer	Bozeman	59715
Kathy	Francisco	Bozeman	59715
Stacey	Haugland	Bozeman	59715
Trista	Fery	Bozeman	59715
Kimberly	Schlenker	Bozeman	59715
Phyllis	Wells	Bozeman	59715
Elizabeth	Madden	Bozeman	59715
Keith	Nykerk	Bozeman	59715
Anne	Millbrooke	Bozeman	59715
Pamela	Bryan	Bozeman	59715
Alex	Lussier	Bozeman	59715
William	Bryan	Bozeman	59715
Patricia	Bauchman	Bozeman	59716
Careen	Little	Bozeman	59716

Katie	Scherfig	Bozeman	59716
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
PATRICIA	SIMMONS	Bozeman	59718
Lisa	Curry	Bozeman	59718
Stasia	Owen	Bozeman	59718
Megan	Maier	Bozeman	59718
Morgan	Balabanoff	Bozeman	59718
Patrick	Lupton	Bozeman	59718
Jeanette	Hall	Bozeman	59718
Martin	Hensel	Bozeman	59718
Sarah	Anderson	Bozeman	59718
Madeline	Carroll	Bozeman	59718
Louis	Stevens	Bozeman	59718
Matthew	Trebella	Bozeman	59718
Rylee	Donaldson	Bozeman	59718
Isaac	Helvey	Bozeman	59718
Robert	Barrows	Bozeman	59718
Carol	Scott-Fowler	Bozeman	59718
Rebecca	Murray	Bozeman	59718
ELIZABETH	REEVE	Bozeman	59718

Charles	Doolittle	Bozeman	59718
Derrick	Elliott	Bozeman	59718
Kip	Giddings	Bozeman	59718
Jan	Strout	Bozeman	59718
Jessica	Lahr	Bozeman	59718
Rebecca	Ritter	Bozeman	59718
Madison	Ambrose Hall	Bozeman	59718
Connie	Rhoads	Bozeman	59718
Roxanna	Mclaughlin	Bozeman	59719
Ross	Bullington	Bozeman	59758
Kristine	Ellingsen	Bozeman	59771
Timothy	Hills	Bozeman	59771
Barbara	Brown	Bozeman	59771
Mark	Collins	Bozeman	59772
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
Lynn	Ferguson	Butte	59701
Christelle	Shields	Butte	59701
Mike	Sullivan	Butte	59701
Debra	Pascua	Butte	59701
W Miles	Finlen	Butte	59701
Paul	Shefelbine	Butte	59701
Matthew	Larson	Butte	59701
Marlene	Miller	Butte	59702
Karen W	Porter	Butte	59703
Angela	Geisel	Choteau	59422
Rick	Kerr	Choteau	59422

Heather	McCartney-Duty	Choteau	59422
Mary	Milodragovich	Clinton	59825
shane	chapman	Clinton	59825
Brian	Peck	Columbia Falls	59912
Peter	Newbury	Columbia Falls	59912
Catherine	Olsen	Columbia Falls	59912
William	King	Columbia Falls	59912
Laura	Strong	Columbia Falls	59912
ben	schwartz	Columbia Falls	59912
Diana	Sourbeer	Columbia Falls	59912
Rochelle	Gravance	Columbus	59019
Jessica	Bond	Columbus	59019
Kathleen	Ralph	Columbus	59019
Kathleen	Koors	Condon	59826
Anne	Dahl	Condon	59826
Sharon	Lamar	Condon	59826
Lydia	Sanders	Conrad	59425
Gil	Jordan	Coram	59913
Debo	Powers	Coram	59928
Terry	Hanson	Custer County	59301
Deborah	Hanson	Custer County	59301
barbara	guran-eubank	Cut Bank	59427
Deborah	Rogala	Darby	59829
Sue	Schmidt	Darby	59829
O. Alan	Weltzien	Dillon	59725
Anisa	Ricci	Dillon	59725
Joel	Weltzien	Dillon	59725
Joseph	Cleary	Divide	59727
Mark	Faroni	Dixon	59831
Nancy	Rockwell	Dixon	59831
Steve	Glow	Dixon	59831
c	king	Dixon	59831

Alexander	Gladstone	East Glacier Park	59434
John	Schmid	East Glacier Park	59434
Linda	Remmick	Edgar	59041
Jennifer	Macy	Emigrant	59027
Rush	Hardin	Ennis	59729
Teresa	Olson	Fergus County	59457
peter	mickelsen	Fergus County	59457
Karen	Myers	Frenchtown	59834
Rachel	Corley	Frenchtown	59834
Susan	Rabatin	Gallatin Gateway	59730
Kristime	Hammond	Gallatin Gateway	59730
Margaret	Jarrett	Gallatin Gateway	59730
kathleen	quinn	Gardiner	59030
Sarah	Stewart	Gardiner	59030
Kelly	Wicks	Glendive	59330
Lori	Reierson	Glendive	59330
gayle	gregovich	Great Falls	59401
Gordon	Whirry	Great Falls	59401
Randy	Gray	Great Falls	59401
Denise	Boggs	Great Falls	59401
Mary	Brouard	Great Falls	59401
Christiane	Faechner	Great Falls	59401
Judy	Larson	Great Falls	59401
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
Barbara	Gwynn	Great Falls	59404
Grayce	Holzheimer	Great Falls	59404
Rebecca	Sanne	Great Falls	59404
Jo Ann	Wright	Great Falls	59404
KENNETH	BANACH	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
Peter	Johnson	Great Falls	59405
Jan	Wenaas	Great Falls	59405
Donetta	Klein	Hamilton	59840
Dylan	Flather	Hamilton	59840
Dale	Broszeit	Hamilton	59840
Judith	Fraser	Hamilton	59840
Claudia	Howard	Havre	59501
Brandi	Willians	Havre	59501
Terry	Brockie	Hays	59527
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
Jaret	Retterath	Helena	59601
Thomas	Golnar	Helena	59601

Roxann	Lincoln	Helena	59601
Bo	Turnbow	Helena	59601
Patricia	Kemp	Helena	59601
Ida	Rex	Helena	59601
Tyler	Smith	Helena	59601
kent	mollohan	Helena	59601
Sara	Nelsen	Helena	59601
Hallie	Swain	Helena	59601
Leo	Schuman	Helena	59601
Wendy	Marsh	Helena	59601
Hannah	Paton	Helena	59601
Lydia	Bailey	Helena	59601
Randall	Pebbles	Helena	59601
Linda	Beischel	Helena	59601
Kris	Larson	Helena	59601
Patricia	Pierson	Helena	59601
Whitner	Chase	Helena	59601
Mindy	McCarthy	Helena	59601
Lee	Travis	Helena	59601
Sandra	Micken	Helena	59601
Beverly	Magley	Helena	59601
Marlene	Mickey	Helena	59601
Rose	Filteau	Helena	59601
Diana	Hammer	Helena	59601
Megan	Peters	Helena	59601
Molly	McKinney	Helena	59601
Gene	Huntington	Helena	59601
Michele	Herrington	Helena	59601
Sue	Jackson	Helena	59601
Becky	Piske	Helena	59601
John	Ilgenfritz	Helena	59601
Jens	MacAller	Helena	59601

Emily	Sedgwick	Helena	59601
Mary	Musil	Helena	59601
Vladimir	Canales	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
Jason	Schmidt	Helena	59602
Tracy	Donaldson	Helena	59602
Olivia	Huber	Helena	59602
JoLynn	Yenne	Helena	59901
Eric	Feaver	Helena	59601
Colleen	Hinds	Heron	59844
Shelley	Eisenrich	Hot Springs	59845
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
Elizabeth	Burns	Jefferson County	59634
Henry	Hudson	Jefferson County	59634
Rebecca	Johnson	Jefferson County	59634

Janice	Frisch	Jefferson County	59634
Ken	Clark	Jefferson County	59635
Kelsen	Young	Jefferson County	59635
Lorri J	Brown	Jefferson County	59635
Bob	Ronan	Jefferson County	59635
Jan	Williams	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
John	Andenoro, M.D.	Kalispell	59901
Steve	Martinez	Kalispell	59901
Peter	Saunders	Kalispell	59901
Joan	Gates	Kalispell	59901
Mitch	Eddy	Kalispell	59901

Sandy	Schott	Kalispell	59901
Sue	LeFebvre	Kalispell	59901
Jerald	Cogswell	Kalispell	59901
Joan	Schmidt	Kalispell	59901
Jessica	Jacobson	Kalispell	59901
Duane	Day	Lakeside	59922
Gage	Hull	Laurel	59044
Charles	Evans	Libby	59923
Kit	Clark	Libby	59923
Karen	Carter	Lincoln County	59917
Tammi	Corchero	Lincoln County	59917
Bud	Lavery	Lincoln County	59917
John	Feckanin	Livingston	59047
Abbie	Bandstra	Livingston	59047
Mary	Grandy	Livingston	59047
Daniel	Sullivan	Livingston	59047
Margarita	McLarty	Livingston	59047
Jane	Jarrett	Livingston	59047
Paul	Chalfant	Livingston	59047
Cynthia	Di Francesco	Livingston	59047
Melynda	Harrison	Livingston	59047
Gail	Waldby	Livingston	59047
Linda	Kenoyer	Livingston	59047
Toni	Semple	Livingston	59047
deborah	a monaghan	Livingston	59047
John	Feckanin	Livingston	59047
Rande	Mack	Manhattan	59741
Alicia	Ochs	Manhattan	59741
Mark	Haroldson	Manhattan	59741
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
Renata	Birkenbuel	Missoula	59801
Sherry	chase	Missoula	59801
Danny	Lochridge	Missoula	59801
Valan	Anthos	Missoula	59801
Rita	Cheek	Missoula	59801
Cathy	fischer	Missoula	59801
Diane	Savage Connor	Missoula	59801
Alexandria	Smith	Missoula	59801

Mark	Lannen	Missoula	59801
Hannah	Kosel	Missoula	59801
Jeff	Stickney	Missoula	59801
Errin	Koehler	Missoula	59801
Ava	Cline	Missoula	59801
Philip	Dahl	Missoula	59801
Jack	Crocifisso	Missoula	59801
Joshua	Daidone	Missoula	59801
Ginny	Therriault	Missoula	59801
Sadie	Russell	Missoula	59801
David	Wall	Missoula	59801
Madison	Morgan	Missoula	59801
Amy	Hetzler	Missoula	59801
Jess	Walter	Missoula	59801
Ann	Karp	Missoula	59801
Barry	Maxwell	Missoula	59801
Patricia	Hogan	Missoula	59801
Meghan	Johns	Missoula	59801
Nathaniel	Brown	Missoula	59801
Kathy	Paxton	Missoula	59801
Robin	Abeshaus	Missoula	59801
Barbara	Riley	Missoula	59801
Carol	Thomas	Missoula	59801
Pamela	English	Missoula	59801
Nicole	Gomez	Missoula	59801
Rachael	Mintkeski	Missoula	59801
Keith	Losing	Missoula	59801
Erin	Clark	Missoula	59801
Annalese	Warner	Missoula	59801
Sherry	McLauchlan	Missoula	59801
Grace	Benasutti	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
Kat	Werner	Missoula	59802
Brent	Hildebrand	Missoula	59802
Kara	Hanson	Missoula	59802
Liz	Ametsbichler	Missoula	59802
Jill	Dahl	Missoula	59802
Thomas	Garrett	Missoula	59802
Courtney	Murphy	Missoula	59802
Gabrielle	Sather-Olson	Missoula	59802
Pat	Kujawa	Missoula	59803
Loy	Koch	Missoula	59803
Dianna	Schmid	Missoula	59803
Catherine	Nolan	Missoula	59803
Pat	Sjodt	Missoula	59803
BERT	CHESSIN	Missoula	59803
Inge	Goetz-Cordova	Missoula	59803
Michael	Wood	Missoula	59803

T Weber	Greiser	Missoula	59803
Phill	Guay	Missoula	59803
Nicholas	Maya	Missoula	59803
Barbara	Holmes-Smith	Missoula	59803
Smai	Fullerton	Missoula	59803
Colleen	Piluso	Missoula	59803
Karen	Buley	Missoula	59803
Debra	Taylor-Cragg	Missoula	59803
Tom	Hagan	Missoula	59804
Alicia	Walters	Missoula	59804
Betty	Blocker	Missoula	59804
Mercer	Pickens	Missoula	59804
Devi	Cole	Missoula	59804
EDWARD	BROWN	Missoula	59806
Kay	Izlar	Missoula	59807
Heather	Voorhees	Missoula	59808
Hannah	Reagan	Missoula	59808
Kim	Hawkins	Missoula	59808
Sarah	Lester	Missoula	59808
Kirt	Weishaar	Missoula	59808
Luanna	Weishaar	Missoula	59808
Carla	Bonetti	Missoula	59808
Anna	Martin Eddins Campbell	Missoula	59808
Lorraine	Gates	Missoula	59808
Karen	Johnson	Missoula	59808
Marsha	Katz	Missoula	59808
Erin	Nuzzo	Missoula	59808
William	Geer	Missoula	59847
Robin	Butcher	Nye	59061
Matthew	Smith	Olive	59343
Randy	Crawford	Park City	59063

Cynthia	Harrison	Polaris	59746
Charles	Bertsch	Polson	59860
Jeff	Tuttle	Polson	59860
Leslie	Dalbey	Polson	59860
Sue	Yurosko	Polson	59860
Renaë	Lattin	Power	59468
Ruby	Kikkert	Ravalli County	59828
Mark	Polakoff	Red Lodge	59068
catherine	schmidt	Red Lodge	59068
Grant	Barnard	Red Lodge	59068
Jody	Ronning	Red Lodge	59068
Patti	Keebler	Roberts	59070
Robin	Pleninger	Ronan	59864
Elizabeth	Avila	Ronan	59864
Bill	Milton	Roundup	59072
Sally	Lydon	Sand Coulee	59472
Susan	Strand	Sanders County	59874
jan	lombardi	Seeley Lake	59868
Jeanne	Koester	Seeley Lake	59868
Tara	Ashmore	Seeley Lake	59868
Curtis	Kruer	Sheridan	59749
Paulette	Hardy	Sheridan	59749
Susan	Nienstедt	Sheridan	59749
Sally	Behr Schendel	Sheridan	59749
Susan	How	Somers	59932
Lauren	Casey	Somers	59932
Sally	Brown	Springdale	59082
Chris	Jackson	Stevensville	59870
John	Woodland	Superior	59872
Julie	Wood	Teton County	59436

John	Maxwell	Thompson Falls	59873
mary	dunn	Thompson Falls	59873
Gaagii	Lammers	Three Forks	59752
Stephanie	Morton	Three Forks	59752
Susan	Kimmet	Toole County	59482
Michelle	Sonetti	Townsend	59644
Diane	Hernon	Trout Creek	59874
Leslie	Adams	Twin Bridges	59754
Juanita	Polston	Ulm	59485
Larry	Leonard	Virginia City	59755
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
Patricia	Phillips-Sullivan	Whitefish	59937
Mary	Greenup	Whitefish	59937
Angel	Dominguez	Whitefish	59937
Alice	Padgham	Whitefish	59937
Dennis	Heinzig	Whitefish	59937
Eli	Watts	Whitefish	59937
Amy	Chisholm	Whitefish	59937

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 19:49

Your Full Name:
Christopher White

Email Address:
cjw000@mac.com

City and State of Residence:
Roberts

Your Comment/Input:

Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: kathy whitman <mika59802@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:30 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments Allow voters to decide

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20 th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 16th July 2021 14:50

Your Full Name:

Ellen Wicklund

Email Address:

ewicklundgop@gmail.com

City and State of Residence:

Ronan, Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Ladies and gentlemen of the redistricting committee, Redistricting must be done using empirical data and not by biased or partisan preference. This event is occurring simply because of the change in Montana's census numbers, and taking advantage of this opportunity to try to transform the voting tendencies of the vast majority of Montanans is unseeingly and underhanded. Please comply with following:

- Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting; not after.
- Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
- Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank you for your consideration, and we as Montanans will remember and hold you accountable for what you do.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Gwen Williams <gwilliams@ccmclending.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.



Gwen Williams

Loan Officer

NMLS # 700257

Licensed States: MT

Email: gwilliams@ccmclending.com

Office: 406-461-3741

Direct: 406-461-3741

55 Lincoln Rd

Helena, MT 59602

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Sherley, Laura

From: Jorene Williams <josue7williams@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 7:10 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] districting in Montana

From: Jorene Williams
#1,

725 Liberty St.
Kalispell, MT. 59901

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Sherley, Laura

From: Deborah Wilson <dmwilson@acwei.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Allow Public Comment At The BEGINNING of the meeting - Keep Districts Equal In Population - Create Fair and Competitive Districts According to the Constitution

Commission Membership:

Please....

- 1) Do NOT restrict public comment. The agenda for July 20th does not allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
- 2) Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
- 3) Do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do NOT pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Your actions on this Commission will affect the lives of the voters of Montana for a long time. We are watching your actions.

Deborah M. Wilson

Kila, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 17:48

Your Full Name:

Alan Wilson

Email Address:

acwilson@acwei.com

City and State of Residence:

Kila

Your Comment/Input:

If you truly value public input and transparency. You must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Using 1% or less will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Alan Wilson <acwilson@acwei.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:49 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Redistricting

If you truly value public input and transparency. You must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.

Using 1% or less will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.

Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

--

Best Regards,

Al Wilson
Kila, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Submission from Redistricting Input Form

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 15th July 2021 11:53

Your Full Name:

Deborah Wilson

Email Address:

dmwilson@acwei.com

City and State of Residence:

Kila Montana

Your Comment/Input:

Do NOT restrict public comment. The agenda for July 20th does not allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do NOT use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do NOT pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tiffani Grob <tgrob3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
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Respectfully,

Tiffani Woldstad

Tiffani Woldstad, RN, BSN, CCM

*Nurse Case Manager
SCS- Stevenson Consulting Services
PO Box 8893
Kalispell, MT 59904
Phone: 406-758-7854
Fax: 406-756-7531*

logan.org [logan.org]

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Sherley, Laura

From: Julie Wolf <juliemwolf52@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:58 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not restrict public comments at the upcoming meeting. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing the ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the voters to decide who will represent them, not this Commission. Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Julie and Jeff Wolf
920 Northview Ave.
Great Falls, MT 59404

Sherley, Laura

From: Michael Wood <mwood3211@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;
Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fair Districting

Dear Commissioners,

I first want to thank you for offering this space to provide input into the redistricting and apportionment process. This is not an opportunity afforded to many in other states, and it is so important that these crucial decisions are informed by the public.

I encourage you all to keep the legislative and congressional criteria and goals as similar as possible. This will help limit confusion for Montanans while we engage in the process, and it will allow the Commission to apply equitable standards to both plans. I also support the existing criteria requests from Fair Maps Montana, including a 5% deviation standard and criteria that provides for a fair map that does not unduly advantage either party.

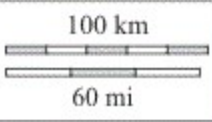
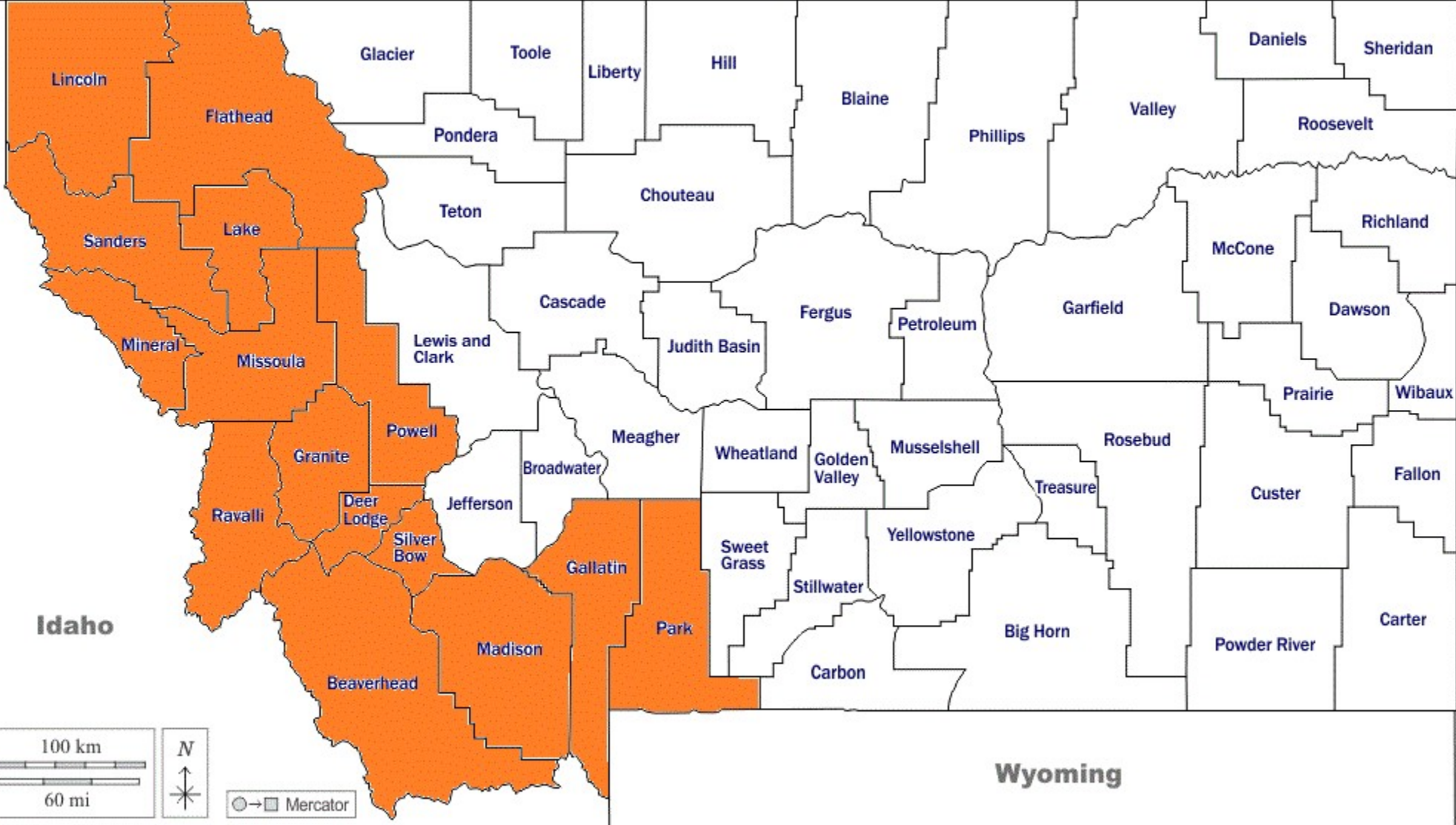
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike Wood
Missoula, MT

--

Mike Wood (he, him, his)
(928) 607-6356

CANADA



○→□ Mercator

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: Montana Congressional Map Proposal
Attachments: montana18.gif

From: j w <jwright68@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 11:36 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Montana Congressional Map Proposal

Correction:

The deviation numbers are +0.595% for the West district and -0.595% for the East district for an overall deviation of 1.2%

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

From: [j w](#)
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 11:13 PM
To: rweiss@mt.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: Montana Congressional Map Proposal

Hello,

Key:
West district is orange
East District is white

Here is my Congressional map proposal:

1. Lewis and Clark county is put into the Eastern District to promote competitiveness and to allow Cascade county and Jefferson county to be in the same district.
2. Park county is put in the Western district since it is a competitive county and it has ties with Gallatin county.
3. The federal reservations and counties are intact with this proposal.
4. The total population according to the county numbers is 1,068,787 with the ideal number per district being 534,394
5. The West District has 537,577 (+0.30%) and the East District has 531,210 (-0.30%)
6. The overall deviation is .60%, which is below 1%.

Thank you,
John Wright
Westby, MT

County Populations:

Missoula 119600, Yellowstone 161309, Gallatin 114434, Flathead 103806, Lewis & Clark 69432, Cascade 81366, Ravalli 43806, Hill 16484, Silver Bow 34915, Glacier 13753, Lake 30458, Big Horn 13319, Lincoln 19980, Custer 11402, Park 16606, Fergus 11050, Jefferson 12221, Richland 10803, Sanders 12113, Roosevelt 11004, Beaverhead 9453, Carbon 10725, Deer Lodge 9140, Stillwater 9642, Madison 8600, Rosebud 8937, Powell 6890, Dawson 8613, Broadwater 6237, Valley 7396, Teton 6147, Blaine 6681, Pondera 5911, Choteau 5635, Mineral 4397, Toole 4736, Granite 3379, Musselshell 4633, Phillips 3954, Sweet Grass 3737, Sheridan 3309, Fallon 2846, Liberty 2337, Wheatland 2126, Judith Basin 2007, Meagher 1862, Daniels 1690, Powder River 1682, McCone 1664, Garfield 1258, Carter 1252, Prairie 1077, Wibaux 969, Golden Valley 821, Treasure 696, Petroleum 487

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2021 11:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: Montana Congressional Map Proposal
Attachments: montana18.gif

From: j w <jwright68@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 11:13 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
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Westby, MT

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

Sherley, Laura

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

Submit Your Input Regarding Redistricting in Montana

Date: 9th July 2021 09:18

Your Full Name:

Karen Zackheim

Email Address:

kzackheim@mac.com

City and State of Residence:

Helena Montana

Your Comment/Input:

I have lived in the same neighborhood for over 35 years and have never understood why my voting precinct changed from #1 to #13. It has been difficult to keep track of who my representative or senator is because the maps keep changing and mostly don't make sense to me. Voting precincts should be established based on appropriate and sensible neighborhoods, not on political preferences or the perception of political strengths or the ability to win an election. Once properly established, these districts should not change substantially over time. Please establish appropriate criteria for determining districts and then implement them so that districts make sense (no more elongated areas that run down the middle of neighboring districts). Focus on geographical regions, areas and streets that make sense and then stick to them. This process should not be about creating special districts that are more winnable for one party of the other, it needs to be about creating a long-term viable map of districts that make sense to the people who live in them. That will make voting processes easier for everyone from county clerks to the individual voter in a neighborhood. It will also comply with the Voting Rights Act so that everyone is treated fairly and equitably when it comes to voting. Every eligible voter should have easy access to a place to vote. Please make a new districting map that makes sense to the public rather than to the politicians who want to make it easier to win and don't care if the districts don't make sense. Thank you for your work on this important issue.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Lewis Zanto <lewis@pmicrop.onmicrosoft.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:04 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

The Montana Redistricting process plays a critical role in determining representation for Montana. As a Montana voter I expect a fair and nonpartisan process and will work toward that outcome. Redrawing districts to favor ones personal political views should not be allowed.

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. **Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.**



Lewis F. Zanto

Sherley, Laura

From: Deb Zee <DZ579@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Districting
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Hello,

Please know we, the people you serve, are very concerned about the content and potentially harmful outcome of this issue. Know that many of us have these same concerns:

1. We do not want you to restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting. You serve the people, you are not intended to control the people.
2. We would like you to keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Finally, do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Thank you for doing and voting as your constituents want and need, rather than following any political agenda.

Sincerely,

Jack and Deborah Zastrow
Columbia Falls, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: Jill Zemke <jzemke@logan.org>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 11:06 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting and appointment committee meeting

Please consider the concerns of myself and my fellow constituents regarding a decision you may soon be asked to make

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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Sherley, Laura

From: Jill Zemke <jzemke@logan.org>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:17 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Subject: Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting

Dear Commissioners

Please consider my requests regarding this very important matter to myself and my fellow constituents.

Comments on Redistricting:

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

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Sherley, Laura

From: Joel Zinne <joel@zinnes.com>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My name is Joel L Zinne and I live in Kalispell Montana. This commission needs to hear my input, please!

1. Do not restrict public comments. The agenda for July 20th doesn't allow for public comments until AFTER your decisions are made. I want you to listen to my comments please before the decision. If this Commission values transparency and public input in the decision-making process, you must allow for public comment at the beginning of your July 20th meeting.
2. Keep districts as equal as possible in population. Using 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3% will best fulfill constitutional requirements while reducing ability to gerrymander or pack districts to favor different parties.
3. Do not use "Fair and Competitive Districts" as mandatory or discretionary criteria, or even as an aspirational goal. This goes against the Commission's other criteria that states no plan will favor or disfavor a political party. Please do not pick winners and losers based on an area's partisan makeup. Allow the VOTERS to decide who will represent them, not this Commission.

Joel L Zinne

Sent from my iPhone