

Public Comments: A - L

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 11:59 p.m. on October 18, 2021, and 5 p.m.
on October 20

Distributed electronically October 20, 2021

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Karen C Armstrong
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:31:09 PM

From: Karen C Armstrong karmstrong248@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Map #1 would certainly be my preference! We don't need to draw lines based on partisan numbers. I'm a fierce independent, and dividing the state using the straightest line possible to achieve numerical equity is the best option.

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

From: [Dave Chadwick](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on redistricting proposals
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12:32:26 PM

Dear Commissioners:

As you endeavor to create Montana's two congressional districts, I urge you to consider the following comments. I have no partisan preference; as a Montana voter I simply want districts that provide the most opportunity for competition.

1. Congressional districts are about voters not geography. Some people are really focused on whether maps look "pretty" or whether they neatly slice the state down traditional geographic lines. That really shouldn't matter. Congressional districts are based on providing fair representation to the state's voters, not the state's dirt. As you draw the lines, focus on voters and how they can be empowered to participate in competitive elections. Because...
2. Competitive elections provide better representation. You should be doing everything you can to provide at least one district that is winnable by either major political party. When Democrats and Republicans have to fight for votes, they are more accountable to the people. Districts that are reliably locked up for one party or the other eventually mean the voters get taken for granted. I realize it is not possible to make both districts competitive, but please endeavor to produce at least one district that maximizes competitiveness and gives voters the most power to hold our politicians accountable.

Dave Chadwick
1325 Flowerree St
Helena, MT 59601

From: barnardmechanic@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ben Barnard](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully 2
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:10:28 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.seems like the only wise choice.

Sincerely,
Ben Barnard
2302 Rd 12 N Worden, MT 59088
barnardmechanic@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kara Basko
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:22:52 PM

From: Kara Basko familybrusko@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

I've lived in western Montana my whole life, and I believe that redistricting has a chance to bring balance back to Montana politics by not unduly favoring a political party.

I support the redistricting demonstrated in maps 6 and 9, as these maps best represent the minimization of political party advantage in redistricting.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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

From: asiaticlily@gmail.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Competitive maps
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:40:31 AM

I support Map#2 which has competitive districts and follows county lines. Montanans should have elections that give real choices to voters so that we all stay involved in our democratic government. This is a special place and we all want to preserve it.

If not map #2, then any map that will result in competitive elections.

Thank you for your consideration,
Carole Baumann
Billings

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Steven Benson
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:40:31 PM

From: Steven Benson srbjb2@netscape.net
Residence: Eureka

Message:

I have lived in various parts of both western and eastern Montana since 1975. My last position before retirement was in Libby (south Lincoln County). Now I reside in north Lincoln County, near Fortine/Eureka.

I strongly support not favoring one political party, as I have seen how greater balance leads to greater political health in a jurisdiction. Competitive districts often aid in that process, encouraging politicians to remain responsive to their whole constituency. I also wish to guard against diminishing the voice of a community of interest by dividing them between districts.

In order to best achieve the aforementioned goals, I support either map 6 or map 9. Maps 6 and 9 both do a good job of keeping reservations intact and maintaining some sense of balance. I think that having the entire northern border in one district is a plus in that communities along that border share some common economic and environmental interests and their voice would be better heard. Also, the economic interests of the Southwest quadrant are different from other parts of the state and would benefit from a stronger voice. Although no map can be drawn perfectly, I would give a preference to Map 9, with Map 6 being a close second.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions and concerns. I wish the Commission well as they carry out their tasks with due diligence and consideration. All the best!

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Scott Bischke
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:28:39 PM

From: Scott Bischke scott@scottbischke.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

My name is Scott Bischke and I've lived in Montana most of a lifetime.

It is important that we have free and fair elections. I am appalled at the thought process that promotes the Big Lie, and that is now working to circumvent voting rights. To avoid these two detriments to our country's very democracy, you must follow the 4 goals that I believe the Commission already agreed to: not unduly favoring a political party; minimizing splitting counties, towns, & reservations; keeping communities of interest intact; and competitive districts.

I support the adaption of maps 6 and 9 as best meeting the Commission's 4 goals. These two maps do the best job of not splitting communities or interests, of not gerrymandering our state's voting districts.

Thanks for you time and efforts. Please help Montana be a beacon of sanity, instead of a bastion of the Big Lie insanity, by your actions on setting voting districts as a symbol — and actual part — of assuring equal voting rights and access for all Montanans.

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

From: [Deb Bond](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mt.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Comments for Federal Congressional Seats
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:49:33 AM

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your time and consideration on this most important decision. Below are my comments for your sincere consideration:

I strongly support Map 8 for the following reasons:

*This map provides the best representation for our Native American Tribal Members who deserve a voice in the national governing bodies. If we have learned anything in recent years it is that we must allow a diversity of people to contribute to governing our nation to attempt to have social justice for our citizens.

*This map is the most competitive in regards to the attention that elected officials must pay to their constituents. Unfortunately after the last election our single US representative completely ignores half of his constituents. In fact he insults and ignores them. By creating a district that is truly competitive the elected officials will hopefully be inclined to make compromises and reach decisions for all Montanans.

*In general tribal members do not support maps 1,3,5,7 so please do not enact any of these and leave their voices unheard.

*Maps 1,3,5,7 may look pretty and straight lined but they cut through communities, especially in Gallatin County please do not enact any of these maps.

Please do the right thing for our state and let all voices be heard.

Sincerely,

Debra Bond
161 Moonridge Drive
Whitefish, Mt

From: [Arleen Boyd](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:59:25 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am Arleen Boyd. I grew up in Montana, worked in several areas of the country and have lived in Fishtail for approximately 30 years.

My biggest priority is minimizing splitting counties, towns, and reservations;

I support maps 4, 6, 8, and 9

Thank you.

Regards,
Arleen Boyd
3 Deer Tree Trl
Fishtail, MT 59028

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carolyn J Boyd
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:16:18 PM

From: Carolyn J Boyd boyd.berg@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:
Map #2 seems that it would be the fairest. Please consider it.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Bradley
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:38:33 PM

From: Patricia Bradley patbradley368@gmail.com

Residence: Twin Bridges

Message:

No redistricting apportionment should allow politics.

Maps 1-3-5-7 provide nakedly partisan tactics, favoring one party.

The word "competative" is propagandized fear it use or meaning. Don't allow.

Three people threatened lawsuits if you don't find 1-3-5-7 successful.

There is no geographic requirement, therefore calls of gerrymandering are null.

Maps 2-4-6-8-9 offer equality and opportunity.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nancy Dunne Byington
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:53:40 AM

From: Nancy Dunne Byington dunnebyington@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I typically start all communications with elected officials with a sincere thanks for your service; I extend that gratitude and respect today for the Democrats on this committee. I am not feeling either generous, respectful or patient with the current majority leadership in Montana at this time, however, and cannot authentically extend well wishes until such time as some sanity is demonstrated by members of the Republican party in Montana. The illegal machinations we are aware of, never mind what is still obscured, is an appalling shame. That we need to JUSTIFY or EXPLAIN why ALL MONTANAS DESERVE REPRESENTATION, the fact we cannot trust our elected officials to provide for fair representation without vehement instruction, is frankly disgusting. What follows are the comments made by former legislator Kimberly Dudik, because these represent my priorities as well:

"I'm here today to advocate that this Commission adopt Proposal 6, as I think that it's the fairest plan and represents critical communities of interest. This is one of the essential factors this Commission should consider. Districting is not about geography, as many of the maps are drawn. Instead Proposal 6 unites the Flathead Reservation with urban communities in Southwestern Montana to create one of the districts in the plan. This unites a vital community of interest. These communities have shared economic, social, health, and educational interests. They should be able to elect an official who will advocate for their shared interests.

When I was in the Montana House, I represented a district that included portions of the Flathead Reservation and Missoula. My election in 2015 was so competitive that it almost came down to a recount. This House District is still in effect today.

This map ensures that both districts have at least one whole reservation, which forces both Representatives to form a government-to-government relationship with our tribal nations. We need elected officials who will represent all individuals and communities in their districts, including the tribal nations. Proposal 6 encourages this.

Data from the Census Bureau shows that more than one in twenty workers in Lake County actually commute to work in Missoula County, and Proposal 6 unites this vital community of interest. It should not be split as other proposals split it.

District 2 in Proposal 6 would also be majority rural, giving Montana farmers and ranchers a real seat at the table in Congressional negotiations over critical issues like the Farm Bill. Their voice needs to be heard.

The nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures, an organization that provides government and legislatures on best practices important issues, released an article on 7/16/2021 that discussed criteria to be considered for redistricting, best practices, and supports the criteria you have adopted as criteria for redistricting.

The criteria to be considered favors Proposal 6.

*It is compact.

*All parts of the district are contiguous.

*It preserves counties and other political subdivisions.

*It preserves communities of interest – the Flathead Indian Reservation and rural communities

uniting farmers, ranchers, and those living in rural areas who have needs very different from urban areas at times.

*It is not drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent, candidate or party.

*It is not based on partisan data,

*And, it is competitive. This is one of the factors that the NCSL recommends using.

For all of those reasons, I urge you to adopt Proposal 6."

I urge adoption of Proposal #6

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gina Carolan
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:55:23 PM

From: Gina Carolan carolangina@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I reside in Bozeman and love the community of people who help one another, care for the environment, and have an active participation in the arts.

All of these are matters of extreme importance as they are what enriches the community in which one lives.

I support maps 6 and 9. These maps keep communities of interest together and do not favor a political party.

The Commission has a daunting task ahead, and I appreciate you gathering input from all, and honoring the majority's wishes.

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

From: MDAC
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sandra Carpenter
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:05:43 PM

From: Sandra Carpenter sanzmt3@gmail.com
Residence: Glasgow, MT

Message:

While some of the maps look funky, when considering counties, the large area, population centers along with demographics, map 6 and map 8 look to be the best in balancing out the state. We're so used to East/West mentality that it's difficult to wrap my mind around how goofy it looks but in all fairness, map 8 makes the most sense. Can't believe someone from NE MT could be in the same district as someone in SW MT. I mean Hamilton/Darby are about far apart as we can get from us in this corner! BUT, sports teams in Montana travel like that all the time to compete so in a weird way, it makes the most sense. Thank you.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov]
<https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!-BN8wByTofhcOFk0_dQJldKS5vOqnoN3z7ZEPk2o4HFxg2jxHs6AdWj6BR318ve1kAS>)

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tom Arvidson
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:46:12 PM

From: Tom Arvidson tom.forzleysales@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Tom Arvidson, I live in Missoula and have been in Montana for 72 years.

The one thing the commission should do is make sure they do not favor one political party or the other. Gerrymandering is happening all over the country and is a very undemocratic thing to do.

I believe map 6 and 9 do this the best. I believe 6 and 9 would create competitive districts.

Thank you for reviewing my comments.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lauren Casey
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:53:21 AM

From: Lauren Casey laurenacasey@gmail.com
Residence: Somers, MT

Message:

Thank you for your work to serve Montanans and to define Congressional Districts that will best serve a balanced democratic process. I support map #8 and believe it is the best representation of the goals of the commission, to support the right of every Montanan to be heard. The districts in Map #8 are equal in population. They also both include a mix of urban and rural communities, growing economies, and racial demographics. This map would give the best chance for independent minded Montanans to make a decision based on the best candidate, not strictly partisan politics. It would also mean that both members of congress would be responsible to diverse constituencies, and therefore more accountable to making sure that federal policy is serving all Montanans. I think Map #2 is another reasonable alternative that is more compact and contiguous, and doesn't split counties.

--

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

From: chisholm.carol47@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Carol Chisholm](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:23:03 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Hello Committee Members: I am submitting for your consideration Map # CP2 as you decide which of these maps move forward for consideration in redistricting. The boundaries laid out in this map appears to keep the population density equal as well as keeping communities intact. It seems a fair and non politically biased distribution that will fairly represent the Montana voter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carol Chisholm
618 N Davis St Helena, MT 59601-3736
chisholm.carol47@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debbie churchill
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 3:22:58 PM

From: Debbie churchill debbie.churchillmt@gmail.com
Residence: Montana city MT

Message:

Chair Smith and commissioners, I would like to reiterate the point I was trying to make yesterday. It appears that the Democrats have proposed maps that are only considering one (new) district. However, the Commission is creating two (new) districts. The old district which is comprised of the entire state of Montana will be gone. Accordingly, the criteria used to select a map should be applied to both (new) districts. Clearly, the maps proposed by the Democrats do not apply the criteria to both (new) districts and must be rejected. Thank you for your consideration.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lisa Coligan
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:14:38 AM

From: Lisa Coligan lisacoligan@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

I support at least one highly competitive district and would like the population of each district to be close to equal. I am not opposed to some dividing of counties but do not support a district that splits a town or city. I encourage the Commission to incorporate input from tribal nations and balance tribal populations between the two districts.

I do not think both districts should be required to border Canada.

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

From: [John Harrison](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CSKT Resolution (10-19-21)
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:22:13 PM
Attachments: [Resolution 22-009.pdf](#)

Commissioners and Staff,

Please accept the attached Resolution of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, in support of Maps CP 4 and CP 8. The CSKT would like this resolution submitted into the record of today's Commission meeting.

If you have any questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

John Harrison, Staff Attorney
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Pablo, Montana
406-675-2700 ext. 1185
John.Harrison@cskt.org

**RESOLUTION
OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI
TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD RESERVATION**

**SUPPORTING MONTANA DISTRICTING and APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL MAPS CP 4 and CP 8 AS THEY BOTH CREATE
COMPETITIVE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS THAT BEST REPRESENT MONTANA
INDIAN VOTERS AND ISSUES**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND
KOOTENAI TRIBES THAT:**

**WHEREAS, as a result of the 2020 Census, Montana will have two Representatives in the U.S.
House of Representatives beginning with the 2022 election;**

**WHEREAS, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission (Commission) is tasked
with drawing the two new Congressional districts for the State;**

**WHEREAS, the Commission has received hundreds of maps that propose boundaries for the two
new Congressional districts;**

**WHEREAS, many of these maps do not create a competitive Congressional district, and many
place all Native American communities in a non-competitive district or include only one Native
American community in a competitive district;**

**WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes place a high value on competitiveness
in Congressional maps. Competitive congressional districts mean that politicians need to engage
with us and other Tribal Nations to secure our votes;**

**WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes believe that competition leads to a
healthier democracy and more favorable outcomes for our people. A competitive district would
mean more engagement by candidates and politicians, which means that the issues that matter for
our community are more likely to be addressed;**

**WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes believe that the competitive district
should include as many Native American communities as possible. Native Americans in the
State of Montana will be best served with the most number of Native American communities in a
competitive district, as issues important to us will be elevated across the State;**

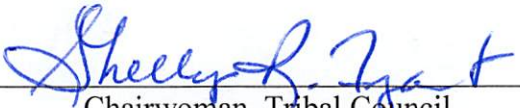
**WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes strongly oppose any map that does
not include any Native American community in a competitive district, as this will lead to the
exclusion of Native American voices and even less engagement by politicians.**

WHEREAS, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes believe that Commission proposed maps CP 4 and CP 8 are the only maps proposed that include multiple Native American communities in a competitive district and meet the mandatory criteria and goals adopted by the Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes call upon the Commission to adopt map CP 4 or CP 8, as they both create a new competitive Congressional district with significant representation of Montana Indian voters and issues.

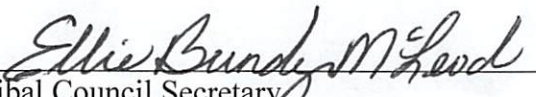
CERTIFICATON

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on October 19, 2021, with a vote of 6 for, 0 opposed, and 2 not voting, pursuant to the authority vested in it by Article VI, Section 1 (a) and (u) of the Tribes' Constitution and Bylaws; said Constitution adopted and approved under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934, (48 Stat. 984), as amended.



Chairwoman, Tribal Council

ATTEST:



Tribal Council Secretary

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Diane Conner
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:15:30 AM

From: Diane Conner cdianeconner@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Diane Conner. I have lived in Missoula County for over 36 years.

It is important that the redistricting not favor a political party and that it forms competitive districts, so that all Montanans have a voice and a stake in the House of Representatives.

I support Map 6 to provide competitive districts. As a second choice, I support May 9 for that reason as well, but I do not like splitting Missoula County. Map 6 does not unduly favor a political party, minimizes splitting of counties, towns and reservations and provides competitive districts. While Map 9 has some advantages over other proposals, in not unduly favoring a political party, it is my second choice because it splits Missoula County.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important issue.

--

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

From: [Jeanette Copeland](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:12:23 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Jeanette Copeland, I have lived in Missoula for 50 years but was born and raised in Hamilton.

My biggest priority is minimizing splitting counties, towns, and reservations;

I support map proposal 4

Thanks.

Regards,
Jeanette Copeland
1832 Montana St
Missoula, MT 59801

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan DeBacker
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:24:14 PM

From: Susan DeBacker suedebacker@gmail.com
Residence: Babb

Message:

I am Susan DeBacker. I moved to Montana 14 years ago to work as an RN on the Blackfeet reservation.

I am a Democrat and feel like I have no voice in this state.

I support maps 6 and 9. I feel that this would not unduly favor just one party.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: dfive@1791.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:48:55 PM

Hello,

My name is Carly Delsigne. I attended this morning's session but was not able to share my comments before I had to leave for work.

I am from Clancy in Jefferson County and a member of MEA-MFT. As a public servant who cares deeply for the communities I serve, these last two years have been very challenging. My communities have experienced, in a deep and destructive way, the fear, the misguided political policies, and the loss (not only in businesses, jobs, but also from families moving away where they could make a living and in lives lost to suicide). This destruction and division pits neighbor against neighbor and bring out the very worst in people.

I am asking you to rise above politics and be the leaders we need to carry us through and out of this. Our national and state constitutions as well as our legislature have made it crystal clear--our districts must be created based on population and as logically compact and contiguous as possible (meaning that you shouldn't have to leave the district in order to get to another part of the district!). To create based on any other criteria is manipulative--gerrymandering and corruption that leads Montanans into further distrust and division. That is why I am asking you to vote FOR Commission Proposal #1 or second choice #3. Those two maps are the most straightforward, unbiased, and legal.

If the Commission rises above politics by honoring the law and the will of the people's legislature and constitution---you will have done a great deal to heal, reunite, and set Montana on a solid path into the future.

Please be part of the solution! Please vote in favor of CP 1 or CP 3!
Thank you for your service,
Carly

From: [Sue Devlin](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:12:45 AM

#8 sure seems to be the best choice. Population and competitive Please consider this one seriously for the best for Montana

Thank you

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

From: kcdirnberger@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Dirnberger Kasey](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:38:40 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Kasey Dirnberger and I am a teacher from Missoula. I personally prefer Map# CP2. I don't think we should split any counties ever! I also believe we need both urban and rural representation in the House of Representatives. Map 2 is the obvious choice to meet all the needs of Montana and give us balanced representation.

Sincerely,
Dirnberger Kasey
601 South Ave W Missoula, MT 59801-8012
kcdirnberger@aol.com

From: misseyd@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Missey Dore](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Thank you for your hard, historic and fair work
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:35:22 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commission Members,

I appreciate the work you have put into this important process of redistricting. In looking at these 9 maps, I prefer maps 2 and 4. Map 2 does not split a single county but Map 4 keeps reservations whole and concentrates one of the two districts in high tourism areas. That seems important to address economic concerns inherent in the district. As a Gallatin County resident, I do not favor maps that split my county. Furthermore, preserving the historic urban and rural seats makes sense as the interests in those communities would be better served if there were split. I very much support competitive districts. Gerrymandering has done so much damage to our democratic process and political engagement of the citizenry. Thanks so much for reading and considering public input for this important decision. I appreciate the commission bipartisan make-up and that the tie-breaking vote is a non-partisan representative. Aloha, Missey Dore, Bozeman

Sincerely,
Missey Dore
64 Hitching Post Rd Bozeman, MT 59715-9241
misseyd@q.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kimberley Dudik
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:40:11 PM

From: Kimberley Dudik kimberly.dudik@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Thank you Madame Chair and thank you all for your service on the Districting and Apportionment Commission. Your work is deeply appreciated by Montanans.

I am an attorney and small business owner based in Missoula, MT. I have served the people of Montana as a Deputy County Attorney, Assistant Attorney General, and as an elected representative in the House of Representatives for 8 years from 2013-2020. I am originally from Frenchtown, one of the rural areas I represented in the Legislature. I currently serve on nonprofit boards, including as a Director of Providence St. Patrick Hospital that has service areas in both Missoula County and Lake County, both of which are in Proposal 6.

I'm here today to advocate that this Commission adopt Proposal 6, as I think that it's the fairest plan and represents critical communities of interest. This is one of the essential factors this Commission should consider. Districting is not about geography, as many of the maps are drawn. Instead, Proposal 6 unites the Flathead Reservation with urban communities in Southwestern Montana to create one of the districts in the plan. This unites a vital community of interest. These communities have shared economic, social, health, and educational interests. They should be able to elect an official who will advocate for their shared interests.

When I was in the Montana House, I represented a district that included portions of the Flathead Reservation and Missoula. My election in 2015 was so competitive that it almost came down to a recount. This House District is still in effect today.

This map ensures that both districts have at least one whole reservation, which forces both Representatives to form a government-to-government relationship with our tribal nations. We need elected officials who will represent all individuals and communities in their districts, including the tribal nations. Proposal 6 encourages this.

Data from the Census Bureau shows that more than one in twenty workers in Lake County actually commute to work in Missoula County, and Proposal 6 unites this vital community of interest. It should not be split as other proposals split it.

District 2 in Proposal 6 would also be majority rural, giving Montana farmers and ranchers a real seat at the table in Congressional negotiations over critical issues like the Farm Bill. Their voice needs to be heard.

The nonpartisan National Conference of State Legislatures, an organization that provides government and legislatures on best practices important issues, released an article on July 16/2021 that discussed criteria to be considered for redistricting, best practices, and supports the criteria you have adopted as criteria for redistricting.

The criteria to be considered favors Proposal 6.

*It is compact.

- *All parts of the district are contiguous.
- *It preserves counties and other political subdivisions.
- *It preserves communities of interest – the Flathead Indian Reservation and rural communities uniting farmers, ranchers, and those living in rural areas who have needs very different from urban areas at times.
- *It is not drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent, candidate or party.
- *It is not based on partisan data,
- *And, it is competitive. This is one of the factors that the NCSL recommends using.

For all of those reasons, I urge you to adopt Proposal 6.

Thank you again for your service.

--

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

From: [Kathryn Eklund](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 7:52:21 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Kathryn Eklund, I am originally from Wyoming but have lived in Montana for almost 5 years. I just bought a house in Livingston and am very much interested in seeing Montana prosper.

My biggest priority is ensuring competitive districts.

I support maps 4, 6, 8 and 9.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to provide comment.

Regards,
Kathryn Eklund
124 S 10th St
Livingston, MT 59047

From: [Charles Evans](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] map for new district
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:57:53 PM

I have reviewed the maps being considered for the new district, and it appears to me that these maps are the ones that most resemble the criteria for setting up a new district: 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9. Personally, I don't have a preference for just one. Any one would do as long as it met the criteria. Redistricting is a very partisan issue and I highly encourage you to avoid partisanship and follow the guidelines that have been given. Best wishes to you and our great state.

Charles Evans

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Larry evans
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:38:41 AM

From: Larry evans fungus@fungajungal.org
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Larry Evans director of the 501(c)3 Western Montana Mycological Association Montana's oldest boldest mushroom hunters from the last best place with thousands of followers and members from every demographic in Montana

The political use of redistricting divides community. Arbitrary and opaque process should be replaced with open universal algorithms viewable by the public.

I support the 6 and 9 options I'm super skeptical of this process. This should not be a partisan exercise.

Keep up the good work

--

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

From: [Susan Ewing](#)
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 maps
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:59:31 AM

Dear Committee: First, thank you for your service to this very important and complex issue. This will shape the future of our communities.

I believe Map #8 does the best job of keeping the districts in fair competition. The other maps divide Bozeman, Big Sky, Gallatin River Ranch, or Gallatin Gateway, which does not meet the goal of keeping communities of interest intact. I believe Map #8 is also endorsed by Tribal communities.

Please support Map #8.

Thank you,
Susan Ewing

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Fay
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:17:41 AM

From: James Fay jamesmfay@msn.com
Residence: Butte

Message:

I have lived in the Butte, Anaconda and Deer Lodge for the past fifty years. My name is Jim Fay, I have been employed by the State of MT in various social service positions. I have personally known every governor over those years and worked on various projects with them including both of the major parties.

I believe in keeping community in tact as that is how we organize resources and meet local need. I also believe the native community has a right to vote in districts where their vote is undiluted, after all they lived here before the rest of us did. I believe competitive districts keep government from being weighted too far one way or the other and in the end when there is bipartisan cooperation we are the strongest, such as our university system, our K-12 education and the revision of our constitution in the 70's. Also such tasks as delivery of services to our citizens, formation of laws and representation of all our citizens.

I support the adoption of either map 6 or 9 as creating fair and competitive districts Both 6 and 9 are compact and contiguous, they represent similar numbers of constituents and do not unduly favor one party over another. They geographically represent west and east as well as agriculture vs timber and mining. They represent areas that naturally form communities of interest. They are competitive in and match interests similar to our former districts one and two, but are not hardbound by particular north south lines that arbitrarily represent the Continental Divide as a simple geographical difference that excludes Helena and Bozeman from natural ties to communities such as Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Butte and Missoula that have similar working class roots, industrial interests and a shared culture and history. The districts are as distinct as the art of Edgar Paxson and Charlie Russell. Both very culturally Montanan, but one reflecting the western mountains and the other the eastern plains.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the structure of these districts in serving all the people of the greatest state in the Union, the Last Best Place, M O N T A N A

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Donna W. Ferdinand
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:50:01 PM

From: Donna W. Ferdinand keystonebookstore@hotmail.com
Residence: lewistown

Message:

Please chose the map that most closely matches this criteria: divided into East/West districts, as nearly as possible equal in land mass and population, as compact as possible, according the constitution of 1972, and laws that pertain, without any gerrymandering. This is the general pattern of the districting we had before our population fell below the mark needed to allow two representatives, and it worked well. Political party distribution should not be considered at all. This is the only righteous way to do it.

I have voted in Montana for about 50 years and was a polling place judge for many years. I always want my party to win, but not by underhanded practices. This is a democratic republic and should be governed according to law and fair play.

Thank you for serving on the commission, and may God direct your decision.

--

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

From: awfurshong@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Anna Furshong](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]#2-Map
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:46:15 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.This map seems to be more equitable

Sincerely,
Anna Furshong
938 Highland St Helena, MT 59601-5118
awfurshong@me.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Representative Steven Galloway
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12:21:54 PM

From: Representative Steven Galloway galloway4mt@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls Montana

Message:

I Encourage the commission to make districts equal in criteria. East is so different from west makes it the most sensible solution.

Not the lopsided, making one competitive the other one not!

With current technology you can keep a 1 person difference in population easily!

Consider the four fastest growing, highest populated counties split;

Kalispell and Missoula

Bozeman and Billings

This is best for the future balance of population in the next 10 years!

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Arthur Frederick Gidel
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 3:15:57 PM

From: Arthur Frederick Gidel artgidel@msn.com
Residence: MISSOULA, MT

Message:

I encourage the commission to adopt district boundaries that provide for competitive races in both districts. This should encourage more moderate candidates from both parties, and I believe this would be good for Montana and the nation.

I would like to be able vote for a moderate conservative who has a chance of winning. All the districts proposed by Democrat commissioners would make this less likely considering I live in Missoula.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Art Gidel

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marcia Gray
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:25:04 PM

From: Marcia Gray jambat@3riversdbs.net
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Choose among maps 1, 3, 5, 7.

Why not choose the closest to what Montana had previously when we had two districts instead of one?

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Natalia Rogers
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:49:39 AM

From: Natalia Rogers rogers9597@earthlink.net
Residence: East Helena, Montana

Message:

Please take competitiveness into account when choosing a map. We need to balance the voices of all Montanans, not just one part or the other. I firmly believe most of us are in the middle and have more in common. We need districts that represent everyone. If they are set so one part has an advantage over the other, that isn't right for anyone.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Richard Haberkern
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:03:44 PM

From: Richard Haberkern rghntrpz@aol.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

My name is Richard Haberkern and I have lived in Montana for over 20 years after living in many other states. I am a retired engineer.

In redistricting I firmly believe that the populace must be evenly represented without presuming political preference. People chose a place to live based on where they feel comfortable so communities of interest should be kept intact. For ease of conducting elections municipalities should also be kept intact.

I feel that maps 6 and 9 are the best options. Maps 6 and 9 offer the best alternatives to achieving the goals I believe are important and minimize the potential for redistricting based on political advantage.

I thank you for your consideration and hope that you as representatives of Montanans as a whole will put current politics aside and make a fair decision. Also, as defenders of all the democracy means, which in my mind is simply that every individual has the right to freely vote, that those votes be valued equally and that the majority opinion decides on the general course of action for all, that you chose either map 6 or 9.

--

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

From: dnahalverson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Ann Halverson](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:03:19 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.I feel CP#4 is my choice.

Ann Halverson

Sincerely,
Ann Halverson
13800 Hampton Dr Clinton, MT 59825-9735
dnahalverson@gmail.com

From: dnahalverson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Don Halverson](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:39:32 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Dear Sirs/Madams: I believe either Map CP#4 or CP#8 would be the fairest way to draw the new Congressional map for Montana. My first choice would be CP#4.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Halverson

Sincerely,
Don Halverson
13800 Hampton Dr Clinton, MT 59825-9735
dnahalverson@gmail.com

From: [Jon Haufler](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:33:57 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Jon Haufler and I have been a resident of Seeley Lake, MT for the last 21 years.

My biggest priority is ensuring competitive districts

I support maps 4,6,8, and 9 as these best meet the criteria established for this process.

Thanks for considering this input.

Regards,
Jon Haufler
300 Borderlands
Seeley Lake, MT 59868

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Chris Hunter
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:59:20 AM

From: Chris Hunter chbabahunter00@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

Good Morning

I am one of thousands of Montana democrats. We currently have no representation in Congress. Our current representative has no interest or incentive to listen to or acknowledge the views of a large percentage of the state's population. For these reasons I fully support creating a new district that is competitive. Candidates and the person elected in such a district would have to listen to and represent all views in such a district. I support map 9.

Thank you for your service.

Chris Hunter
610 Dearborn Ave
Helena, MT

--

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

From: [Ryan Hunter](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 7:49:40 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I'm Ryan Hunter. I live in Kalispell and have been a resident of the Flathead Valley for over 12 years.

My biggest priority in redistricting is not unduly favoring a political party. For this reason, I support maps 4, 6, 8 and 9.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Regards,
Ryan Hunter
911 3rd Ave E
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: SUE JANSSEN
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:16:21 AM

From: SUE JANSSEN outyaak@gmail.com

Residence: Troy

Message:

My name is Sue Janssen. I fell in love with and moved to Montana in 1980 and to Yaak in 1983 where I continue to live with my husband of 38 years. We raised our 2 children here, are now retired and enjoy spending time (hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing) on the Kootenai National Forest.

It's important to me that districts are competitive and do not favor one political party over another. Community is important – we need to avoid splitting counties, towns and reservations as much as possible. This state (and the country) need to work on coming together to get back to a functioning democracy.

I support maps 6 and 9. Maps 6 and 9 would be the most likely to minimize dividing counties, towns, and reservations – keeping communities intact and not favoring any one party over another.

I'd like to thank the commission for working on this issue and considering my comment.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cheryl Jenni
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:00:04 PM

From: Cheryl Jenni cjfrommt@aol.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I would like to see at least the possibility of competitiveness in our new legislative districts, despite the current Republican majority statewide. I support Map 2. Barring that, Maps 4 and 8 seem reasonable.

Thank you.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kelsey Stamm Jimenez
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:35:56 PM

From: Kelsey Stamm Jimenez kelsey.stamm@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I am writing to submit comments in support of maps 4 and 8. Montana has a tradition and value of independence and citizen participation. Maps that guarantee or even shift the outcome in one direction is against our value of fierce independence and antithetical to democracy in general, a violation of one person, one vote. Maps 4 and 8 uphold the integrity of our democracy while also ensuring fairness to Indian Country, who historically have been treated, at best, unfairly. Let's ensure full and fair participation of all.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nicole Jimenez
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:58:29 AM

From: Nicole Jimenez nicki.g.jimenez@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Greetings Redistricting Commission. My name is Nicki Jimenez and I live in Bozeman, MT. I have lived here for 3 years and prior to that, I lived in Ronan and Polson, MT for 5 years. While I may not have been born and raised here, I have spent the entirety of my career serving those communities through education and helping grow the next generation of Montana leaders.

There are several factors that are very important to me in the redistricting process. First, districts should not unduly favor one political party. Gerrymandered districts undermine our democracy by effectively silencing portions of the electorate. Every voter deserves to have their voice heard. This brings me to the second important factor, that the districts should be competitive. This leaves room for substantive debate which produces better public policy solutions. It also encourages participation in the political process. Finally, it is very important to me for communities of interest to be kept intact and to have adequate representation. In particular, it is critical that we ensure Montanas Native communities get the representation they deserve as the original stewards of this land.

I support the following maps, in order of preference: 8, 4, and 6. Maps 8 and 4 do not unduly favor one party and create competitive districts. Maps 8 and 4 also keep communities of interest intact. By including at least two Native nations in each district, these maps meet Western Native Voice's criteria for representation of Montana's American Indian people.

Map 6 is a more compact districts that minimize splitting of counties, but it do not rank as my top choice maps because it does not give Native Montanans adequate representation in each proposed district.

I oppose maps 1, 3, and 7 because they split Gallatin County and do not create competitive districts. I oppose map 2 and 9 because they lump all Native communities into one district, giving the other districts representative a free pass on engaging with Native issues. I oppose map 5 because it is unbalanced in population.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nels Johnson
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12:11:15 PM

From: Nels Johnson nelscjohnson1@tnc.org
Residence: Bozeman

Message:
Nels C Johnson
108 Nash Creek Lane
Bozeman, MT. 59715

The most important redistricting principles for me are minimizing splitting counties and towns, keeping communities of interest intact, and ensuring competitive districts

I support maps 6 and 9 as the best to meet the Commissions criteria. Maps 6 and 9 keep Montanas 3rd largest city and county intact and do not unfairly favor one party.

Thank you for your consideration and your time in making a decision to ensure the voices of all Montanans are heard in Congress.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nels C Johnson
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:15:08 PM

From: Nels C Johnson nelsejohnson1@gmail.com

Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I oppose the submitted maps that divide Bozeman between the two new Congressional districts. This violates the guidelines that cities should stay intact. It also clearly and unambiguously favors one political party over the other. Nels Johnson

--

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

From: [wendy & rick johnson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] congressional district map
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:22:56 AM

I have to agree that what makes common sense would be that the congressional districts both have the same number of constituents.

Wendy Johnson
Blgs

From: [Patti Prinkki Keebler](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map preference
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:21:05 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I support Map 8. Thank you for considering my views.

Patti Prinkki Keebler
PO Box 35
Roberts, Montana
406-431-1554

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nancy Krekeler
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 10:23:10 AM

From: Nancy Krekeler nancykrekeler@yahoo.com
Residence: Red Lodge

Message:

My name is Nancy Krekeler, and I have lived in Red Lodge, MT for the last 39 years.

The goal that matters most to me is that redistricting not unduly favor a political party. That helps ensure a fair election.

I support maps 6 and 9. They dont appear to unduly favor a political party. They minimize splitting counties, towns, and reservations. They keep communities of interest intact. They are competitive districts.

Thank you for considering my comments.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kevin Kromarek
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:29:29 PM

From: Kevin Kromarek kevin.kromarek@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

I'm Kevin Kromarek and I live in Helena, MT. I've lived in this state my whole life, and would love to see fair and honest decisions made in redistricting my beloved state.

Making sure that our districts do not favor any particular party is exceptionally important to me.

I favor map number nine over all the others. Map number nine allows reservations voices to be heard fairly, and maintains 1 competitive district.

Thank you so much for working for the people of Montana to ensure that we maintain the fairness that has always been apparent in our roots. Montana is a special place where even when we don't agree, we respect and help our neighbors. I would love to see this value reflected in the final redistricting map.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Megan Leach
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:47:15 PM

From: Megan Leach megan.leach@yahoo.com
Residence: Libby

Message:

My name is Megan and I have a small produce and cut-flower farm just outside Libby. I moved to Montana four years ago to grow food for my community, create a place of welcome for friends from all over, and teach others the wonders and joy of our wild places. I grew up in the Northern Rockies and now I would return to set down roots and help build communities that share my values of respect and gratitude for the land, forests, and other-than human inhabitants we share this land with.

Living in the NW part of the state where residents are deeply divided politically, not unduly favoring a political party is of extreme importance. As the far right gets more and more violent, the far left prepares for the possibility of defending itself and its values with everyone else being caught between. The new influx of land owners that have come in the last 2 years are adding to this stress as they buy up land, raising prices and cost of living, and potentially reducing access to our precious public lands. Current residents are unsure of which side these new settlers will be on. Not favoring a political party is a small step towards unbiased elections, a cornerstone of a democratic republic.

I support maps 6 and 9. Maps 6 and 9 don't favor a political party and are best at keeping communities of interest intact, and minimizes splitting of counties, towns, and reservations. Honestly, because the main difference between the two is which district the Flathead Reservation goes into, that should be the decision of their sovereign nations and I hope their input is taken into extremely strong consideration.

Thank you for your consideration!

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Barbara Leaphart
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:24:42 AM

From: Barbara Leaphart Leaphart5@gmail.com
Residence: Helena,MT

Message:

My preferences for the division of our state into 2 represented districts are maps #2,4,and 6. I base my preference on a desire to keep counties and cities in the same districts and to keep reservations intact and represented in each district. Population for district should be roughly equal and the interests of both cities and rural areas should be weighed. I think maps8 and 9 also deserve consideration, Thank you. Barbara Leaphart

--

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

From: mtjumbofruit@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Susan Leaphart](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Congressional Map #CP2, CP4 and CP6
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:17:18 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

In reviewing the proposed maps, my choices would be #, CP2, CP4 or CP6, with a strong preference for CP2. I think having Missoula, Gallatin and Cascade County together would result in a competitive district. I think representatives from more competitive districts are probably going to be more responsive to constituents and thus provide better service to the electors. I don't like the idea of splitting a county, so the idea that these three counties could be grouped together in this new district is appealing. Also like the idea of the allowance of one rural and one urban seat.

Sincerely,
Susan Leaphart
2502 Rattlesnake Dr Missoula, MT 59802-3237
mtjumbofruit@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kristi Lindsey
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:36:41 AM

From: Kristi Lindsey klindsey_4@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Kristi Lindsey

I live in Bozeman, MT and have been a resident of Montana since 1960

I definately am in favor of not favoring any party! In fact I wish a vote no matter when a vote is cast it is as equal to the next and that there is no Gerry mandering or electoral college.

I support maps 6 and 9. These maps would be best in not favoring a party and minimize splitting counties and keeping communities of interest intact.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: [Beth Lo](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 10:44:54 AM

Hello,

I am a 50 year resident of Montana and I would like to submit my opinion on the redistricting question. I support a redistricting that is competitive, and one that insures Native American representation in both districts.

Thank you for your attention

Elizabeth Lo
408 Village Place
Missoula, MT 59802

From: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: Submission from Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:30:30 PM

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov <leg-noreply@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: Submission from Redistricting

Submit Information to the Redistricting Commission

Date: 19th October 2021 16:27

Your Full Name:
Denley M Loge

Email Address:
Denleylogehd14@gmail.com

Subject Line:
redistricting maps

Your Comment:
I would favor maps 1,3,5,7 to fulfill the legal obligation.

Upload Information:
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Sent via uat.leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/public-comment/

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Clary Loisel
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:57:16 AM

From: Clary Loisel cloisel@aol.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:
Clary Loisel

644 S. 2nd St. W.
Missoula, MT 59801

Professor at the University of Montana

Keeping communities of interest intact.

This is the logical first step.

I support maps 6 and 9. Minimize splitting of counties, towns, and reservations.

Thank you for reviewing my comment.

Dear commissioners,

We are writing to support proposed Congressional Proposal map #2 (CP#2). This map is the most desirable as it will provide a competitive district, along with non-competitive district. This combination is, for the foreseeable future, the best way to represent the Montana population. Montana is, as a whole, conservative. Creating one district that is non-competitive and conservative is both unavoidable and realistic. However, Montanans who are not both fiscally and socially conservative deserve to have an opportunity to be represented in the US House of Representatives. Montanans should have a realistic shot at electing a representative who can adequately represent their interests and values. CP#2 would provide that opportunity for Montanans of all political stripes. It would create one district in which competing values and ideas could be debated, with the very real and desirable consequence of the electorate choosing their preferred representative. This will be a district where a real choice would be viable, as opposed to the non-competitive district.

CP#2 has the advantage of creating districts along county boundaries, which are a natural political divisions, ones that people are familiar with and have honored for generations.

CP#2 has districts with relatively equal populations, which is clearly preferable to non-equal populations. We understand the issue of changes in population over the decade, but predicting those changes is a fool's errand...notwithstanding that we do it all the time. Montana is more likely to have "equal representation" throughout most of the decade by choosing equal populations now, rather than trying to predict where the population will change.

So, in sum, CP#2 has the advantage of 1) a competitive district, 2) county boundaries, and 3) equal population. We support CP#2 as the redistricting map for Montana for the next decade.

Finally, we believe it would be highly unethical to choose any of the maps that create two non-competitive districts. This is undemocratic (small d) in the extreme. In state-wide elections in 2020, between 40 and 45 percent of Montanans voted for Democrats. If both of our two districts are non-competitive, or "marginally" competitive, then we will be purposefully disenfranchising that very significant proportion of Montanans. There is no way to justify that other than pure and punitive political domination. We are willing to support the other maps with a competitive district, maps CP#6 or CP#8, although we prefer CP#2. All three of these maps create one highly competitive district and one non-competitive district. The other maps, #1, #3, #4, #5, #7 and #9 are not acceptable in any actual process that attempts to perpetuate a legitimate democracy.

Thank you for considering our input to this vital decision.

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

From: [mar2low](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districts should each look like Montana
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12:35:13 AM

I was not going to provide input but after hearing the political parties input to this process today, I was very upset with both proposals. Both districts should be representative of Montana containing rural areas of all types, cities and communities of all types, Indian reservations, colleges, recreational and tourist areas, mountains and prairie, forest, farming and mining activities for examples. Perhaps a diagonal line across the state would do this far better than the proposals presented on TV news.

Margaret Low
67 Trumble Creek Loop
Kalispell.

Sent from ProtonMail for iOS