

# Public Comments: A - M

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between noon and midnight on October 29, 2021

Distributed electronically October 30, 2021

**From:** [Ginny Arnold](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] This is to show my favor for proposal 11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:23:31 PM

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Virginia Arnold  
3095 Sourdough rd  
Bozeman mt 59715

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Lawrence Ashmore  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:36:27 PM

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From: John Lawrence Ashmore [lash@blackfoot.net](mailto:lash@blackfoot.net)  
Residence: Seeley Lake, Montana

Message:

At various times through out my voting life I have favored candidates from each of the two major parties. I firmly believe that districts should be created that are competitive and do not favor any party. It is only then that we are truly represented.

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

October 24, 2021

We support Proposal 11, because we feel that Lewis and Clark County needs to be in the west district. Our interests and problems will be better represented when included with the area in west, where cities, counties, and people have similar identities. Yes we do support making the district as competitive as possible, it will let the voters voices be heard and promote democracy. Having good representation in Congress is very important to people of Lewis and Clark County, and being put in East ( as Proposal 10 does) will put us in a district that is predominantly rural and Ag based, which does not represent the majority of the population in our county.

Sincerely



Elizabeth Bacon  
1050 Sierra Rd. West  
Helena, Mt. 59602

**From:** [Bonita Ball](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 10:58:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [Redistricting.docx](#)

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Please find my testimony regarding Redistricting Proposal 11.

In advance I would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonita Ball

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

October 29, 2021

Dear Redistricting and Apportionment Commission,

As an enrolled member of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, with much consideration, I am in support of the new Democratic Redistricting Congressional Proposal 11.

I believe this will support our Native vote by not splitting Gallatin County which has an eligible voting population of over approximately 800 Native American students who are eligible voters.

Every redistricting plan will affect each individual Native vote and their households directly and indirectly, which includes existing and onboarding students for the next decade, but Congressional Proposal 11 is the better.

In closing, I strongly believe in Congressional Proposal 11 because splitting Gallatin County will ultimately cause disparity in treatment and racial injustice.

Respectfully,

Bonita Ball

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sally Baskett  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:34:24 PM

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From: Sally Baskett sbaskett@blackfoot.net  
Residence: Dixon MT

Message:

This is ridiculous that the commission is putting out last minute changes in these maps. How on earth is a person supposed to do a thoughtful assessment given that many of us found out too late to even comment. This is helpful to no one, and makes the openness of this process much in question.

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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: Mark Baumberger  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:38:56 PM

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From: Mark Baumberger [m\\_baumberger@bresnan.net](mailto:m_baumberger@bresnan.net)  
Residence: Philipsburg Montana

Message:

You need to make sure Republicans don't gerrymander the districts. They have already done enough damage to our state already.

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



**From:** [Carolyn Beecher](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov);  
[Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Vote for Proposal 11 or 13  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 8:48:17 PM

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To the Honorable Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Please vote to support redistricting proposal 11 or proposal 13, and oppose redistricting proposal 10 and proposal 12. I feel that options 11 and 13 are much more fair and thus would ensure that the majority of Montanans are represented in Congress. A fair division of our state is important so that everyone feels that their vote matters.

Thank you,

~ Carolyn Beecher

***Montana Maps***

33112 North Crow Road

Ronan, MT 59864

**From:** [Patsy Betcher](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting in Montana  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:06:39 PM

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To the Committee:

I am in favor of Proposal 11 and I oppose Proposal 10.

Sincerely  
Patricia Betcher  
926 9th Ave NW  
Choteau, Mt.  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android \[go.onelink.me\]](#)

**From:** [Gael Bissell](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Combo CP10/11 new map best yet  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:52:57 PM

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Dear Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for painstaking efforts to create a new fair congressional district in MT. It is never good to split towns or counties to meet fairness criteria, but alas, it seems impossible to follow county boundaries to create a fair new district. I prefer the latest CP10/11 map because it does not split Native American reservations in western MT and it keeps Flathead Co. intact. It does split Gallatin and Lewis & Clark counties, and they will complain; however, these splits to make things fair are at least in eastern MT (as defined by watersheds) and not splitting a western MT county. There is clearly no way to please everyone so I hope you can stick to your principals and choose a map that is fair, makes geographical sense, and does not split Reservations even if it splits some other communities. Choose the latest CP10/11 of the existing 4 maps. Thank you for your efforts.

Gael Bissell  
Kalispell, MT

**From:** [Mary Brennan](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Districting Proposals  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:23:07 PM

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Among the four current proposals. my preferred choice is CP11. Like Shelly Flynn, chair of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, I prefer a competitive Western District with one reservation rather than an uncompetitive WD with two.

Mary Brennan

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

**From:** Mary Brennan <mkbrennanmt@yahoo.com>  
**To:** [districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov) <[districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021, 06:55:55 PM MDT  
**Subject:** Districting proposals

My preferred choice is CP6, but I also consider CP2 and CP8 to be acceptable options. These three proposals appear to be the only choices among the nine that one could even remotely consider truly competitive. That is, at least one of the districts does not lean either red or blue. It is painfully obvious that in all of the other options both proposed districts lean red. This is about fairness...or at least it should be.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debra Bullington  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:08:26 PM

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From: Debra Bullington 3debrab@gmail.com  
Residence: HELENA

Message:

Please support CP 11 and oppose CP 10. CP11 keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, making sure that most commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace. This map keeps the union towns of Helena and Butte together, as every redistricting plan in Montana has previously done. This map keeps all of the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line intact, where agriculture remains such a vital part of the local economy. Rural interests are an important part of Montana's diversity and heritage that should be kept together for a stronger voice in Congress. Native voters are empowered under this plan, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, meaning that every candidate has to rely on Native votes to win the district. Non-competitive districts don't elevate voices and ensure accountability in the same way.

CP 11 creates two Republican districts, which unduly favors one party. With two congressional districts now instead of one, a fair map includes one competitive district that either party can win.

Thank you for your time.

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

**From:** [Sandy Burch](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Vote for CP #11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:12:28 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

Thank you very much for your time and dedication to the complicated task of redistricting in Montana.

I am writing you to ask you to vote for CP #11. I think it is the best map for Montana. Unlike it's alternative, it is in the competitive range, allowing both dominant political parties in our country to run competitive races in these districts. I think this is very important.

I do not identify strongly with either party, but I know how crucial it is that both are present and strong in our state, and that candidates from both have a chance to represent us to the nation. I think it is important for Montanans to be able to hear different ideas and choose a political candidate who speaks best for them. To maintain the presence of competitive ideas, political goals, and solutions - really, to maintain democracy at all- we have to have choice. CP #11 ensures that Montanans have a choice.

I was born and raised in Kalispell and still live in western Montana. I believe the way this map divides Flathead county is reasonable and acceptable.

Please vote for CP #11.

Thank you!

- Sandra Burch

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: BARBARA BURKLAND  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 6:52:35 PM

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From: BARBARA BURKLAND [bbnjburkland@bresnan.net](mailto:bbnjburkland@bresnan.net)

Residence: Helena

Message:

I do not want the City of Helena lumped in with Eastern Montana. Helena is a City which supports public lands and has a more liberal view on many topics than Eastern Montana. If Helena is lumped in with Eastern Montana, my vote will not mean anything.

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

**From:** [Jenna Caplette](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 12:38:22 PM

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Both maps have issues but as a resident of Gallatin County, and Bozeman, I appreciate the relative coherence Map 11 gives to my home communities and that it pairs up communities with similar viewpoints vs. dropping Gallatin County in to the Eastern part of the state when values here do not align with those.

Virginia Caplette, 50 year resident, Bozeman



**From:** [Gary Carlson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:17:17 PM

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To Commission Chair Smith and Commissioners;

Competiveness in Montana politics is a “pendulum” swinging between party and philosophy. History shows that Montana was most certainly considered Democratic in the era of Mansfield and Metcalf, as well as other more recent periods; now recently swings Republican during a Trump era.

History does not consistently and may not predict the future, even for the next ten years. Political competitive bias should not unduly influence the current districting process. Moving geographic areas dramatically should not be relevant overall, balancing by population is a mandate to provide the opportunity for representation.

I believe there is a voting public who are of independent mind, thought and perspective.

The consistent independent voters, and third party candidates, may approximate one third of the voters in Montana, with possibly the other two thirds being divided disproportionately between the dominant political parties - Democrats and Republicans. [I have no statistical study to support this, simply a citizens gut feeling]. This middle group will be the electorate that likely decides some critical and hard fought philosophical political battles.

I believe there are moderate Republicans [not leaning far right and ultra conservative] and moderate Democrats [not leaning far left and ultra progressive] who can and do discern between candidates, who will serve the best interests of themselves and a majority of Montanans, who consistently cross party lines on a given ballot.

This is my personal observation during 50+ years of voting, that elections are essentially a “moment in time” when the voters turning out determine the winners. Immediate past election results do not conclusively predict the immediate or later future, within the upcoming ten year period.

I encourage Commissioner's to consider these thoughts and place the emotional "competiveness" aside and place Montana's geographical attributes sensibly at the forefront of the decision choice.

Madam Chair, the prospects are, you most likely will be required break the Commission's party deadlock. I hope you will consider these comments; as you consider your "party independent" decision.

Thank you.

Gary B. Carlson  
27 Mountain View Rd  
Clancy 59634-9502

Disclosure - An Independent, moderate, leaning fiscally conservative.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Deborah Carter-Drain  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:55:21 PM

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From: Deborah Carter-Drain [deborahdrain@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahdrain@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Absarokee

Message:

My name is Deborah Carter-Drain and I live near Absarokee. I first moved to MT In 1973. I attended MSU from 1982-1985 and graduated with a degree in Soil Science. I then worked for the MT Ag Extension Laboratory and the MT Dept of Agriculture laboratory. After graduating with a MS from MSU, my husband a native of Columbus, MT worked for a small firm in Bozeman which closed due to financial issues. We had no desire to leave Montana, but in the late 80s the economy of MT was challenging at best. Due to a pre-existing medical condition it was critical that employment include health insurance, which precipitated our relocation from MT. Although we landed in UT, we always considered MT our home and we maintained our MT ties through our families and traveled extensively between MT and UT until we could retire and move back to MT permanently. MT is and has always been special to me because of its landscape, the access it provides to public lands and recreational opportunities and its clean air and water. Regardless of my economic status my free time was spent hiking and camping. A pair of hiking boots and a backpack are a cheap investment, even when financial resources were quite limited.

I support Map 11 because of the two maps it best meets the evaluation goals of minimizing the splitting of counties, towns, and reservations; keeping communities of interest intact; developing competitiveness, and not unduly favoring a political party.

- 1) Although Map 11 divides one county, Flathead, it does the best job of not splitting communities within the County.
- 2) Map 11 does the best job of keeping communities of interest intact. It places Lewis and Clark County in the western district, which respects and keeps intact the shared history and interests of our mining communities, i.e., Butte, Helena, and Jefferson City. Additionally, Pondera County, an agricultural community is within the Eastern District, which reflects the agriculture communities shared values.
- 3) Map 11 provides for at least one competitive district, meeting the competitiveness goal. It allows for true competition between both political parties. Unlike the demographics of District 2, which strongly support the Republican Party, under Map 11 each party has equal opportunity in District 1.
- 4) Map 11 does not unduly favor one political party over another as the District 1 map, as drawn, is inherently competitive. Each party has equal opportunity.

After reviewing both new maps, 10 and 11, I have found that map 10 is deficient in relation to the goals unanimously set forth by the commission of minimizing splitting of counties, cities, and reservations; keeping communities of interest intact, competitiveness; and not duly favoring a political party.

1) Splitting Counties, Towns, and Reservations. Although both maps divide one county, Gallatin (Map 10) and Flathead (Map 11), Map 10 splits multiple communities within Gallatin County, including Big Sky, Bozeman and Gallatin Gateway. The overall conclusion I have drawn is that Map 10 was drawn to specifically divide Gallatin countys associated communities in an attempt to eliminate competitiveness which is inconsistent with the aforementioned goal and 2 of the other 3 goals.

2) Keeping Communities of Interest Intact. Map 10 does not keep communities of interest intact. It places Lewis and Clark County in the eastern district and Pondera County in the western district. These placements ignore the shared culture and history of Butte, Helena, and Jefferson City. In addition, it isolates Pondera County from other agricultural counties in Montanas Golden Triangle and eastern MT, which is inconsistent with the aforementioned goal.

3) Competitive Districts. Map 10 blatantly ignores the goal of competitiveness. It can not be ignored that the principal factor associated with Map 10 alignment is to eliminate competitiveness and to provide undue favor in both Districts 1 and 2 to one political party.

4) Unduly Favoring One Political Party. The alignment of Map 10 and the manner in which Gallatin County is divided specifically favors one political party, which is inconsistent with the aforementioned goal.

Thank you for review and consideration of my comment. I appreciate your hard work and the objectivity and fairness that this effort requires.

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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: Donna Caruso-Hirst  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:31:08 PM

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From: Donna Caruso-Hirst [badger@3riversdbs.net](mailto:badger@3riversdbs.net)  
Residence: Valier

Message:

Greetings Commissioners! My name is Donna Caruso-Hirst. I live on the Blackfeet Reservation in Glacier County. I am a retired school teacher. My husband and I raised our family on a small ranch here.

I support Map 11. I am particularly interested in the criteria of keeping communities of interest intact. Native Americans are a minority in Montana. Map 11 does the best job of keeping their voice strong and intact.

Map 10 doesn't do as good a job of keeping communities of interest intact as it splits up the reservations between the 2 districts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comment.

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

**From:** [Audrey Clark](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:43:08 PM

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I am in favor of the Concensus 10-11 plan for redistricting in Montana. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.  
Audrey Clark, Red Lodge.

**From:** [Claudia Clifford](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed map 11 is best for Montana  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:02:11 PM

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My name is Claudia Clifford. As a resident of Lewis and Clark County for 37 years, I do not in any way think the residents in my county will be well represented in the eastern congressional district reflected in Map 10 which is a district predominated by farming, ranching and resource extraction of oil and gas. Our concerns around affordable housing, town infrastructure, use of public lands, access to health care and more are much the same as other counties in western Montana so map 11 is the only option that serves my area well. I can't think of a logical reason to lump Lewis and Clark County in an eastern Montana district - there's just not enough common ground.

Although there are pros and cons of both remaining maps, Map 11 does provide for one competitive district while Map 10 does not which is a vitally important distinction. No matter your political leaning, if you live in a competitive district your elected official is more likely to listen to your opinion. Montana has a long and proud history of electing people who listen to constituents, try to reach compromise, and look for fair solutions. Map 11 reflects the Montana value of independent thinking, weighing issues from various points of view and coming to a workable solution.

You have a tough job, but foremost, you have the job of determining districts that best serve the people of Montana and that's boiled down to Map 11.

Thanks for considering my comments,

Claudia Clifford  
Helena, MT 59601

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Barb Cline](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:05:42 PM

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I support CP #11. Make the districts fair and equitable in regards to political affiliation.

Thank you,  
Barb Cline

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Joyce Connors](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:02:12 PM

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I support Plan 11. I do not support Plan 10.

If there is a new plan from the Democrats today, with equal populations, I would support that plan, too.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joyce Connors](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:03:55 PM

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I forgot to sign my earlier email.

I support plan 11. I do not support plan 10.

Joyce Connors  
Dillon, MT

Sent from my iPhone

Greetings Commissioners,

I am a lifelong Montana resident living in Primarily Lewis and Clark, but also Beaverhead, and now Broadwater County. I was 5 years old the last time that Montana had two districts. I have grown up along with Montana over the past 30 years, and I strongly believe that Lewis and Clark, Gallatin, and Park counties should be a part of the Western District of Montana. The terrain, outdoor activities, and economic interests are more aligned with each other, and with the western half of the state.

Both of the proposals submitted meet the criteria necessary to be passed, however in my opinion, Proposal 11 is more aligned with the interests of the diverse of such a large state as Montana. Certainly, it is not perfect. I agree that Flathead County economically, is very dependent on the same kinds of tourist activities as Gallatin County. However, for Proposal 10 to include Whitefish, but not Big Sky shows that neither map is perfect. Proposal 11 is more representative of economic alignment while maintaining the standards necessary to meet the burden of constitutionality.

Please vote for Proposal 11.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Conroy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brandon Conroy

**From:** [Diana Cornelius](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Montana  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 6:35:41 PM

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Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I strongly support Congressional Proposal 11 for redistricting Montana. It is more fair than Congressional Proposal 10 and follows the guidelines for creating districts much more closely. Below I list several reasons why CP11 is the better choice for redistricting Montana.

CP11 moves just two counties to reach population equality!

The strong economic connection between Livingston and Bozeman is respected under Proposal 11, ensuring district lines don't divide the flows of workers, innovation, and dollars between the two communities.

The CP 11 proposal keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, ensuring that most commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace.

As every Montana districting map has previously done, CP 11 keeps the union towns of Helena and Butte together.

This map also keeps all of the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line intact, where agriculture remains such a vital part of the local economy. Rural interests are an important part of Montana's diversity and heritage that should be kept together for a stronger voice in Congress.

Under CP 11, areas that rely on ski tourism to support the local economy are kept in one district thereby forcing a Congressperson to pay attention to the needs of areas that rely on outdoor recreation for their economy.

In the name of fairness, I urge you to choose Congressional Proposal 11 and reject Congressional Proposal 10 to create a Montanan's new congressional seat.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diana Cornelius  
Polson, MT

**From:** [Colette Daigle-Berg](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Congressional District proposal CP-11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 8:59:00 PM

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Dear Commissioners~Thank you so much for doing this important and challenging work. I am from Gardiner. I urge you to adopt CP-11. You've heard the arguments supporting and opposing both proposals. I am particularly disturbed by the thought of splitting communities in Gallatin County and not including Gallatin and Park Counties in the same district. I urge you to follow your consciences and approve the map you feel will truly enable all Montanans to have equal and fair representation. Thank you again~

Colette Daigle-Berg  
Gardiner, Montana

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sally Daubert  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:16:59 PM

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From: Sally Daubert [sallylandsrud@gmail.com](mailto:sallylandsrud@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

My name is Sally Daubert and I live in Helena, Montana. I was born and raised in Great Falls and have been in Helena since 1972

I support Map #11 Map #11 does not favor a political party, keeps Gallatin County intact and keeps Lewis and Clark County in Western district, where it belongs. Counties are not split up in Map#11.

I do not support #10. We are located in the western part of the state and the map should reflect that and remain the same as it has been.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

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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: Priscilla Dolan  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 6:31:03 PM

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From: Priscilla Dolan [smdola@aol.com](mailto:smdola@aol.com)  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:  
Gallatin County resident for 40 years

Use Map 11 Do not split Gallatin County

Do not split Gallatin County

Thank you

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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 Donovan  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:24:09 PM

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From: Patricia Donovan donovan@blackfoot.net  
Residence: Superior, MT

Message:  
I vote for map 11

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



**From:** [Colleen Drake](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on proposed districting maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 12:45:27 PM

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After consideration, I would like option 11 as the choice that best represents Montana.

Thanks.

**From:** [Joan Vetter Ehrenberg](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Map 11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 6:43:34 PM

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Greetings Redistricting Commissioners,

What a job you have done, and continue to do. Thank you for your service to Montana.

I would like to express my support of Map #11.

As I have lived in Whitefish for 30 years, I do not really see a problem with our community being separate then the rest of Flathead County. We really think and operate differently here in our resort town than the rest of the Flathead, and for this reason, I support Map #11.

Also,

This plan closely follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach perfect population equality.

- Areas that heavily rely on ski tourism to support the local economy are kept in one district, forcing a Congressperson to pay attention to the needs of areas that use the winter outdoor recreation to drive economic growth.
- As has always been the case when Montana had two congressional districts, the deep economic connection between Livingston and Bozeman is respected under Proposal 11, ensuring district lines don't divide the flows of workers, innovation, and dollars between the two communities.
- This map keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, making sure that most commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace.
- This map keeps the union towns of Helena and Butte together, as every redistricting plan in Montana has previously done.
- This map keeps all of the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line intact, where agriculture remains such a vital part of the local economy. Rural interests are an important part of Montana's diversity and heritage that should be kept together for a stronger voice in Congress.
- Native voters are empowered under this plan, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, meaning that every candidate has to rely on Native votes to win the district. Non-competitive districts don't elevate voices and ensure accountability in the same way.

Thank you again for your time and consideration,

*Joan*

**Joan Vetter Ehrenberg**  
**744 Hidden Valley**  
**Whitefish, Montana 59937**

406-270-4184

[JVE2000@gmail.com](mailto:JVE2000@gmail.com)

**From:** dallas@dj-erickson.com  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:17:36 PM

---

We support the Republican Districting map. It should be chosen no matter what comments you receive since traditionally the Party that has the majority in the Senate and House make that decision. It is the fairest as well.

Thank you,

Dallas and Jenny Erickson

4479 Store Lane

Stevensville MT 59870

(406)240-5277

(406)777-5862

dallas@dj-erickson.com <<mailto:dallas@dj-erickson.com>>

jenny@dj-erickson.com

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: KAREN FAIRBROTHER  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 8:19:26 PM

---

From: KAREN FAIRBROTHER [skincaprev@gmail.com](mailto:skincaprev@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

Hello, my name is Karen Fairbrother and I live in Helena, MT

I believe map 11 meets represents my area better when this line is drawn. This map will keep the districts competitive and keep our communities of interest intact. It will also not favor one party.

This map moves me to the east. I don't believe this will allow fair representation for me or my family.

Thank you for listening to me and considering my family and my point of view!

--

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

**From:** [Lannie](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov);  
[Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:05:57 PM

---

I have reviewed the most recent map proposed by the Democratic legislators. It seems to be the best map I have seen so far, and I have been following this process all along. No counties are divided. I like that the Blackfeet reservation is included along with the Salish-Kootenai reservation and the whole of Flathead county, since it seems logical to group them together. If any of the residents of the reservations, especially the Blackfeet, need medical care or a major shopping trip etc. they usually go to the Flathead, so that area should be grouped together. In addition, I like that no cities are divided. It makes sense to group the two university towns of Missoula and Bozeman together, since they have common interests.

So I strongly support this latest proposed map by the Democratic legislators. Both maps 10 and 11 have some glaring problems.

Lannie Fehlberg  
Eureka, MT

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shira Fleming  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 11:27:58 PM

---

From: Shira Fleming shiraselena@yahoo.com  
Residence: Somers, MT

Message:  
I support map #10

--

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

**From:** [Lance Four Star](#)  
**To:** [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov);  
[Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support Congressional Proposal 13  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:16:04 PM

---

Please support Congressional Proposal 13!!!

Lance Fourstar  
Vice Chairman  
Fort Peck Tribal Committee



**From:** [Jkfrisch@bresnan.net](mailto:Jkfrisch@bresnan.net)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essman@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essman@mtleg.gov); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting. Choice of Map 11 is critical  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:39:40 PM

---

Please.

Protect the people as best possible for the next decade.

It is critical to keep like groups of people together so they can work together in having their voices, their thoughts heard together. Please don't weaken them.

I live in clancy. I live and participate and think of the tricounty area. This is the essence of our being and has been for decades.

My family roots are in agriculture. Keep them together as much as possible as they learn and support their political needs.

We seem to have ignored the Tribal nation request.

Let's not ignore the request of others who want to be together.

This is about the political health of our people and state for a decade...not the political health of a political party or a few politicians.

All the people want to be represented equally.

Only map 11 does this.

With the protect of voters and their ability to be heard map 11 is the better choice.

Thank you from a montana born elder

Janice Frisch

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debra Gale  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:11:14 PM

---

From: Debra Gale galemt@cybernet1.com  
Residence: Corvallis

Message:

Hi Folks, I am Gilbert Gale. Resident of Montana for the last 34 years. I have worked in Montana in the land management field for my entire time here. I am an avid outdoorsman, hunter, hiker and involved with several natural resource focused boards and organizations, including a board member with the Ravalli County Noxious Weed Board.

I support map #11 because it conforms with the stated selection criteria of enhancing competitive and fair elections by keeping Gallatin County and other locations intact and consistent with the resident communities of interest. Map #11 as stated earlier best meets the selection commission criteria of minimizing built-in partisan advantage, keeping congressional elections fair and competitive as a true democracy should operate. It keeps Gallatin County, other entities and Native American reservations more intact than the alternative map. The commission has an obligation to walk the talk and make their decision based on the the stated publicized criteria. Map #11 best meets those criteria.

Map #10 is obviously designed to enhance the partisan Republican influence in Montana and dilute and diminish fair and competitive policy and program based elections. For example, splitting Gallatin County into two congressional districts violates the agreed upon criteria of enhancing competitiveness in elections, keeping communities of interest intact and minimizing unequal unfair institutionalized partisan advantage.

I appreciate the time the commission has invested in this paramount task. Please adhere objectively to the selection criteria that guides your decision.

--

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

**From:** [Dawn Gandalf](#)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting public comment  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:21:33 PM

---

I support CP 13 the 10/11 compromise.

Dawn Gandalf

32 Dagny Court

Trout Creek, Mt. 59874

[I got confused with your numbering system which is why I resubmitted]

Thank you for all your efforts in this matter.

**From:** [Dawn Gandalf](#)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting public comment  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:12:57 PM

---

I support 10/11 compromise.

It appears to be the most equitable and fair map of all presented. I appreciate all the efforts this board has put into create a partnership and is non-partiasan. Thank you.

Dawn Gandalf  
32 Dagny Court  
Trout Creek Mt.  
59874

**From:** [Dawn Gandalf](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting public comment  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:10:23 PM

---

I support 10/11 compromise.

Dawn Gandalf  
32 Dagny Court  
Trout Creek, Montana, 59874

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



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[\[avast.com\]](#)

October 26, 2021

Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Commission:

I SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL # 10 that is on the table right now  
for public comment until October 30, 2021

Thank You,



Kim Gartner  
1918 7<sup>th</sup> ST W APT 2  
Billings, MT 59102  
406-256-0370

406-256-0370

1918 7<sup>th</sup> ST W APT 2

Billings, MT 59102

406-256-0370

**From:** [Gary Gerth](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:15:35 PM

---

Hello all,

I favor the compromise version received from jacob@montana Democrats on 10/29/2021; as an alternative, then Option 11 which does not split like-communities of relatively larger populations.

I'm sure everyone wants an alternative that splits current population accurately, but if you must move in any one direction, how about look at the population difference between East & West that will be likely 10 years hence, based upon what has been the trend for the last 10 years.

Thanks,  
Gary Gerth  
203 Sweetwater Estates Dr. Dillon, MT 59725  
406-925-3703

**From:** [Steve Glow](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:54:03 PM

---

Of the two new maps, I think the Miller/Lampson proposal is the fairest distribution of voters and does the best job of keeping communities of interest together. Thanks for your consideration, Steve Glow, Dixon, MT



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dennis and Connie Gomez  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 9:39:28 PM

---

From: Dennis and Connie Gomez [petspluskalispell@gmail.com](mailto:petspluskalispell@gmail.com)  
Residence: 2116 Merganser Dr., Kalispell, MT

Message:

Please select map CP-1 which best adheres to redistricting laws. Throw out P-10 and CP-11 which are bad attempts to carve out specific party districts!

--

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

**From:** [Connie Gomez](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 9:36:43 PM

---

We urge you to throw out the two new maps and select map CP-1 as it's the best map and adheres to the law. CP-10 and CP-11 are terrible maps, based on trying to carve out specific party districts and do NOT comply with Montana statutes nor constitution!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dennis and Connie Gomez  
2116 Merganser Dr, Kalispell 59901  
[petspluskalispell@gmail.com](mailto:petspluskalispell@gmail.com)

--

**Pets Plus Pet & Home Sitting**  
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406.257.7155

"We stay when you're away!"

**From:** [Jen Grace](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I support Congressional Proposal 11.  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:30:30 PM

---

I support Congressional Proposal 11 because it is fair and constitutional

Congressional Proposal 10 is gerrymander that pushes Helena to the East, cracking Democrats and ensuring two Republican districts. The other, Congressional Proposal 11 ensures fair competition.

Jen Grace  
Writer, Director, Producer  
BS Biology; MFA Science and Natural History Filmmaking  
<https://vimeo.com/jengraceproductions> [[vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com)]

**From:** [judith gregory](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support Consensus Map 10-11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:20:25 PM

---

Thank you for asking for a compromise proposal. Please support Consensus Map 10-11. It is important to keep two native American reservations in one map, to give voice to their concerns. This is a good compromise proposal!

Judith Gregory 406-446-1669 Box 525 Red Lodge MT 59068

**From:** [Edwin Halland](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 9:26:27 PM

---

Dear Redistricting Committee Members,

We've been through this before. NO Gerrymandering!!!

The criteria is:

- Maps should not favor one political party over another
  - The Commission needs to minimize the splitting of counties, as stated in the Commission's goals. The Democrat Commission members map splits three counties total, while the Republican map only splits one.
  - Lewis and Clark County, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties should be kept in the East. They are in the Missouri River drainage, which flows in the east. Like Eastern Montana, these three counties also rely on agriculture.
  - Park County should also be put in the Eastern district. The county is located in the Yellowstone drainage, which also goes East.
- Between the two maps, it is clear CP12 is the best choice.***

Respectfully,

Edwin Halland,

Bridger Montana

[edhalland@reagan.com](mailto:edhalland@reagan.com)

**From:** [Ruth Anderson Hammill](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Districting Proposals - Comment  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:40:53 PM

---

Like Shelly Fyant, chair of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, I prefer a competitive Western District with one reservation rather than an uncompetitive WD with two.

Among the four current proposals, my preferred choice is CP11.

Thank you.

--

Ruth Anderson Hammill  
Missoula

**From:** [Krista Harrison](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 9:51:01 PM

---

Chair Smith and Commissioners,

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are terrible maps as they are based on trying to carve out specific party districts and do not comply with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

Please throw out these two new maps and select map CP-1 as it's the best map that adheres to the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Krista and Ben Harrison  
1395 Lake Blaine Rd., Kalispell  
(406) 229-8975  
[Kharrison@protonmail.com](mailto:Kharrison@protonmail.com)

Sent from ProtonMail for iOS

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: NANCY HATFIELD  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:36:31 PM

---

From: NANCY HATFIELD nancy59715@gmail.com

Residence: Bozeman

Message:

As a resident of Gallatin County, I strongly favor keeping counties intact. In doing so there may be a small amount on inequality in population, but meets the guidance for "as nearly as practicable". Map 11 seems to offer the best option.

--

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: Jonathan Haufler  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:40:30 PM

---

From: Jonathan Haufler [jon\\_haufler@emri.org](mailto:jon_haufler@emri.org)  
Residence: Seeley Lake

Message:

I prefer map 10/11. I think it provides a more balanced representation. Thank you.

--

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: Robert Hawks  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:52:37 PM

---

From: Robert Hawks [hawksrobert1635@gmail.com](mailto:hawksrobert1635@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Map option #11 satisfies many of the undesirable attributes of former chases.  
A rumored compromise of #10-#11 has not had public scrutiny and seems to compromise considerable county line integrity and engages in a purposeful carve out of Lewis and Clark, all which leaves competitiveness in question.

--

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: Mary Ellen Helmer  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:01:54 PM

---

From: Mary Ellen Helmer [maryellenhelmer@gmail.com](mailto:maryellenhelmer@gmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:  
I support map 10/11.

--

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

**From:** [kathryn and neal](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:57:08 PM

---

Greetings and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Montana redistricting map proposals.

My husband I wrote to all of you on October 17, 2021.

We feel the need to reiterate our first sentence from that letter.

"If you are trying to promote participation in our democracy, the districts should be drawn to make them as competitive as possible, split the population as equally as possible, keep communities in the same district and have geographic cohesion."  
On that day, we liked Maps 6 and 9.

Then there were maps 10 and 11.

We like things about both of them. We prefer to see counties kept together--Flathead County and Gallatin County. Mostly, we appreciated seeing both the Flathead and Blackfeet nations kept whole and feel that that is more important even, than keeping counties together. We also liked that the Flathead and Blackfeet Reservations were both in the western district.

Now we have looked at the two new maps. We do not have a problem with splitting Pondera County because that keeps the Blackfeet Reservation in tact.

The rest of both maps--once again--have pros and cons for us.

Our opinion is that Helena should be in the west, but lament that in one map, the rest of the county is in the east, but perhaps that keeps the ranch/farm areas together and city folk together?

And we have mixed feeling about Gallatin County being split between Bozeman and the down stream trio of Belgrade, Manhattan and Three Forks. BUT, we would like to see Park County in the western district.

Yes, once upon a time, all of those Gallatin County towns along interstate 90 were farm towns. Bozeman has definitely changed over the last 40 years and the down stream trio less so, BUT people from Bozeman are indeed spilling over into all three towns.

In a perfect map scenario we think that keeping those 4 interstate 90 towns together may be more important than including Park County in the western district. Perhaps Livingston could be in the western district and split the rest of the County off to the eastern district. Of course, the numbers of people in both districts should be equal.....

So many permutations and so little time to come up with the truly perfect map.

We do not envy your job of drawing fair, competitive, cohesive, community contiguous, equal people maps for this state's new district.

We hope that all of you can look objectively at all options and come up with the map that fits the parameters set forth in your list of objectives for a good map.

All the best in wisdom to you.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Hiestand  
Neal Miller

**From:** [Julie Holzer](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Comment Support Consensus Map 10-11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:02:26 PM

---

Greetings,

My name is Julie Holzer. I reside in Red Lodge. Your redistricting decision is vital to our democracy. Proposed Consensus Map 10-11 best represents a fair and balanced division of the state.

I hope your decision is not political. Gerrymandering a district is purely political benefiting just a certain segment of voters rather than every voter in the district.

Please give thoughtful consideration of my remarks.

Julie Holzer

PO Box 2152

Red Lodge, MT 59068

801-201-1512

**From:** [Nikki Fox](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: [URGENT] Redistricting Update  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:58:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

---

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

**From:** Sue Dailey <[sdailey8469@gmail.com](mailto:sdailey8469@gmail.com)>  
**To:** Nikki Fox <[nikkifox3699@yahoo.com](mailto:nikkifox3699@yahoo.com)>; Susan Thomas <[thomassus@hotmail.com](mailto:thomassus@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2021, 11:51:52 AM MDT  
**Subject:** Fwd: [URGENT] Redistricting Update

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

From: **Sue Dailey** <[sdailey8469@gmail.com](mailto:sdailey8469@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, Oct 29, 2021 at 11:50 AM  
Subject: Fwd: [URGENT] Redistricting Update  
To: Joan Brownell <[jlbrownell@nemont.net](mailto:jlbrownell@nemont.net)>

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

From: **Jacob Hopkins** <[jacob@montanademocrats.org](mailto:jacob@montanademocrats.org)>  
Date: Fri, Oct 29, 2021 at 11:32 AM  
Subject: Re: [URGENT] Redistricting Update  
To: Blue Bench Action Reports <[blue-bench-action@montanademocrats.org](mailto:blue-bench-action@montanademocrats.org)>

Hi Everyone,

Just to bump Commissioner emails:

[districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov)

[Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)

[Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov)

[Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov)

[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov)

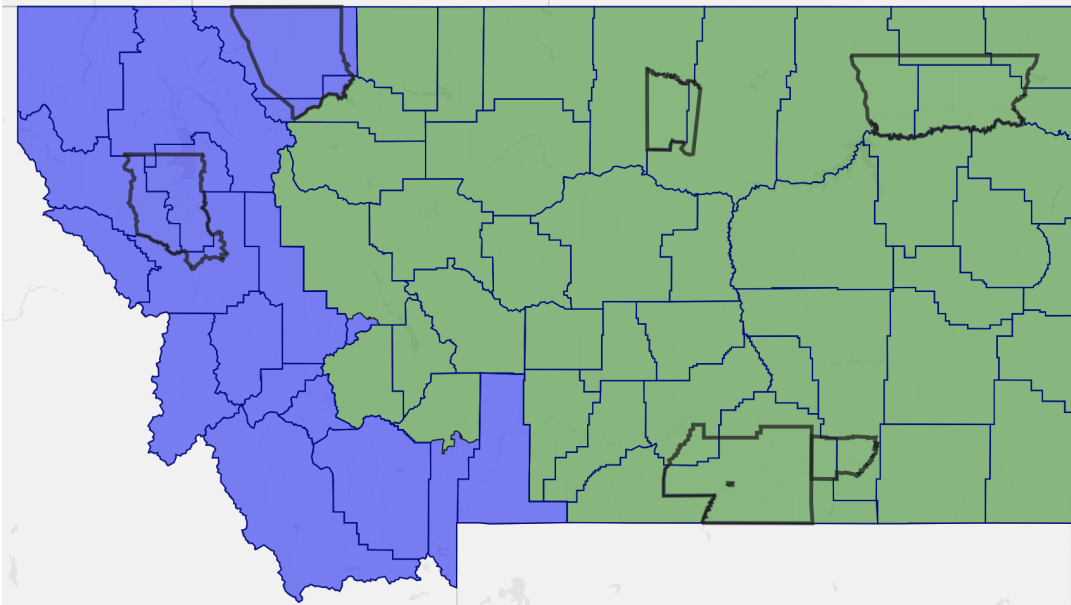
[Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)

Jacob Hopkins  
Data Director  
(501) 944-9864

On Fri, Oct 29, 2021 at 9:35 AM Jacob Hopkins <[jacob@montanademocrats.org](mailto:jacob@montanademocrats.org)> wrote:

Hello Democrats,

I have a major redistricting update for you before tomorrow's hearing. The Democratic Commissioners, in an attempt to reach consensus with the Republicans have introduced a new plan, which you can find below. An interactive map can also be found [here \[davesredistricting.org\]](https://davesredistricting.org). It is equally as competitive as Proposal 11.



At the hearing tomorrow. and in comments sent in today, you can advocate for either proposal. Here are some talking points for the new plan below.

- This plan is population equal, with only a one person difference between the two districts.
- This plan includes the Flathead and Blackfoot Reservations in a competitive district, meaning that any candidate who runs for the seat on either side of the aisle must win over Native voters in order to win.
- This plan does not unduly favor any political party because it establishes a truly competitive district.
- This plan keeps Flathead County whole, and is a major move toward consensus, which has taken a lot of give and take on both sides.
- This plan follows the historical precedent of the 1980's congressional map, keeping intact as many historical communities of interest as possible while achieving perfect population equality that acknowledges where Montanans live today.



- This plan recognizes the importance of county lines, city limits, and communities of interest. It splits no cities or towns and achieves population equality by acknowledging community of interest concerns in Lewis & Clark and Gallatin Counties.
- The tourism economies centered around Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks are both included in the western district, keeping a bipartisanly recognized community of interest intact.
- The Canadian interface has representation in both districts, which addresses a concern raised by citizens along the border.
- Both districts include sections of the Empire Builder Amtrak line, meaning both Representatives will have to advocate for funding for the train line.
- This plan ensures District 2 has strong rural voices. Of the major cities in Montana, only Great Falls and Billings are in District 2, ensuring one seat where rural voices will be a majority.
- This plan keeps the union towns of Helena, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, and Butte in the same district.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Best,

Jacob Hopkins  
Data Director  
(501) 944-9864

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Blue Bench Action Reports" group.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: deborah johnson horne  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:02:34 PM

---

From: deborah johnson horne canyonferry@aol.com

Residence: Helena

Message:

The new congressional map should be CP11

--

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: Kathryn Hyde  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 6:26:04 PM

---

From: Kathryn Hyde pethyde@hotmail.com  
Residence: Kalispell Mt

Message:  
I am voting for Map 11.

--

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: Laura Jackson  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:21:00 PM

---

From: Laura Jackson [lmj@copper.net](mailto:lmj@copper.net)  
Residence: Hamilton

Message:

I write to you from the Bitterroot Valley as the great granddaughter of a traditional Montana ranch family who homesteaded here, about 5 miles from my present home of over 40 years.

I support map #1. Map #11 maintains the integrity of the Flathead reservation and the division of very large Flathead Co seems preferable to deciding smaller Gallatin Co. Putting Lewis and Clark Co in the same district as Missoula and Gallatin keeps minority communities of shared interest in the state together and avoids unduly favoring the current majority. political party.

Both final maps show splitting of one country, so this does not appear to be a relevant deciding criteria in itself, however, the division of very large Flathead Co. seems to make more sense than splitting Gallatin Co. and the Map #11 division of Flathead Co. serves to Keep the Flathead Reservation intact which was also a given criteria for the Commission. This latter fact should remove map #10 from consideration. #10 may also unfairly favor the Republican Party by separating out Lewis and Clark county from Missoula and Gallatin Counties.

Thank you for your time and attention to my views.

--

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: Jane Jacoby  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:13:46 PM

---

From: Jane Jacoby [janerjacoby@gmail.com](mailto:janerjacoby@gmail.com)  
Residence: New Haven

Message:

Hi, I'm Jane Jacoby, and I'm a Montana resident and voter currently living out of state while I go to school.

I support map 11. While this map is not perfect, it does a better job of keeping communities intact, and does not unfairly favor any given party.

Contrary to the goals of the commission, map 10 unduly favors a political party, unnecessarily splits communities in Gallatin county, and divides Helena from its historically connected communities in Butte and Jefferson County.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. This process is important, and I'm grateful you are including citizen voices.

--

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

<

**From:** [Karen Jarussi](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:59:42 PM

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Dear Chairwoman Smith, Commissioner Stusek, Commissioner Lamson, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Essmann,

I appreciate your efforts at coming up with a redistricting plan for the State of Montana. After considering the various possibilities, I encourage you to accept the most recent plan devised by Commissioners Miller and Lamson (October 29, 2021). It not only creates a genuinely competitive redistricting plan (which Commissioner Essmann's and Commissioner Stusek's maps do not) but best meets the other requirements for redistricting.

Thank you for your service,

Karen Jarussi

Billings, MT

406-861-2314

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Roger Jenkins  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:10:34 PM

---

From: Roger Jenkins aerosoldoc@hotmail.com  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Thanks for your hard work on this effort. I know that it must be a challenge. I have looked at the maps offered, including the newly released one. I like Map 11 the best, but also be OK with the new Pondera Split map. The reason for my liking is that neither of these maps split up the county in which I live. We live just north of Bozeman, and currently, in our own subdivision. State Representative district lines run right thru our part of the subdivision. Effectively, across the street is a different district.

We identify strongly with the county in which we live and feel like splitting the county up between north and south might give too much weight to folks who have changed their full time residences to Big Sky. A short drive to the south would take us into a different congressional district. Please keep Gallatin County whole.

Thanks so much for your time and effort.

--

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: Mark Johnson  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 12:35:06 PM

---

From: Mark Johnson [mjohnson7@mac.com](mailto:mjohnson7@mac.com)  
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on the districting maps for the additional congressional seat we now have in Montana. I am writing these comments as a concerned citizen and as the current sitting Mayor of Kalispell. I have reviewed both of the legislative maps which have been offered for comment and ultimate decision and offer the comments below.

Map 11 – In my opinion this map has been manipulated by carving up my county, Flathead county, to effect an outcome by loading the heaviest concentration of democratic voters into the western district along with the two cities housing the two universities in Montana, which have traditionally been democratic leaning. By doing this a majority of Flathead county is put into the eastern district to be represented by a member of congress who will be more inclined to represent the interests of eastern Montana which has economic and cultural interests vastly different from those of us in the Flathead. This will make our representation in Congress for our county disjointed and less effective in the halls of congress. This map is a blatant partisan map that should be rejected immediately for what it is – a sham that will leave the majority of Flathead Valley citizens underrepresented in the eastern district.

Map 10 – This map is slightly better than #11 but it too has created the same issue with Gallatin county being carved up like the sacrificial lamb which will leave its citizens underrepresented. Gallatin county may have more in common with the counties in eastern Montana than us up in the Flathead and the western edge counties but there are distinct differences. The fact that Gallatin county has been cut into two pieces is ridiculous as well and is a blatant effort to load the west with the two universities and their democratic leaning base.

I would implore the commission to consider my comments and all of the comments submitted. I would also ask the commission to look to the past when we did have two congressional delegates in the US House of Representatives and how the districts worked historically. It makes absolutely no sense to merge the eastern parts of the state with western parts as our economies and our interests are different. Eastern Montana is largely agricultural and energy dependent and those industries carries certain interests, risks, and needs versus what we have in the west. Western Montana has traditionally been reliant on timber and we need to reclaim that industry. Additionally, western Montana has a diverse economy but is heavily reliant on tourism that is centered on the beauty of our mountains the welcoming nature of our people. These interests alone are enough to justify a representative for each area just based on economic concerns and pressures. I urge the commission to consider this and plan accordingly.

CP-1 seems to be most representative map as we look at the population and the underlying economies in the two different halves of the state. I would urge the Commission to do their job and take the political gamesmanship out of this important decision and address the unique issues we face in the two halves of Montana.



Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mark Johnson  
Mayor, Kalispell MT

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

**From:** [Jessica Karjala](#)  
**To:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:35:17 PM

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Dear Commissioners, in my haste I inadvertently mixed up Commissioners Lamson and Stusek. Gentlemen, please forgive my gaffe and disregard it. This was a terrible oversight since I know both of you and offer my sincerest apologies!!

## Jessica L. Karjala

Phone: 406.672.8681

On Fri, Oct 29, 2021 at 1:13 PM Jessica Karjala <[jessica.karjala@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.karjala@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Chair Smith, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Essmann, Commissioner Stusek and Commissioner Lamson,

Thank you all for your work to create competitive, compact, and contiguous congressional districts for the state of Montana. I write to advocate on behalf of the most recent congressional map created by Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Stusek (as of October 29, 2021). Not only does this new district fall within the requirements named above, it also keeps Montana's Native lands intact along with the more urban areas of the state.

Though Commissioner Essmann and Commissioner Lamson have submitted several maps, I do not believe their proposals meet Montana's primary criteria for congressional district, which is to be competitive. Every one of their proposals tips the scale heavily in favor of their own party, a far cry from the requirement of being competitive.

By contrast, every single proposal submitted by Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Stusek has been competitive, giving neither party an unfair advantage. All their submissions have also met the requirements of contiguity and compactness.

The deciding factor for me to decide to support the most recent submission of Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Stusek has been that this most recent map keeps tribal lands intact while also meeting all the other required components of a Montana congressional district.

My support for a competitive district not only comes from the need to support a district that falls within Montana's districting requirements, it also stems from the fact that competitive districts make for mutual accountability between the parties. When neither party gains a significant advantage, they must answer to each other

for their actions like we have seen in the past when we have had balanced representation.

My support for competitive districts also stems from my own experience running and serving. In order to win a competitive district, I know it takes a lot of work contacting and listening to voters whom I will represent. If we are to truly create and maintain a government of the people, by the people and for the people, this is a vital level of accountability I hope the commission will keep foremost in their minds when casting a final vote for the new congressional district.

When a candidate can win a general election simply by placing one letter of the alphabet behind their name on the ballot versus another, they do not have to work very hard to earn their constituents' votes and trust, thus, they are not held accountable for the votes they may or may not take while representing them. As someone who was raised in Montana with far reaching Montana roots, I cannot express to you the level of pride - and responsibility I felt to work on behalf of all my constituents - to represent a seat that I fought so hard to win. We should want all our candidates to enter office with that same feeling of accomplishment and more importantly, of responsibility to their voters.

Again, thank you all for your time and effort to create Montana's new congressional district.

Kindest Regards,

**From:** [Jessica Karjala](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:21:14 PM

---

Dear Chair Smith, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Essmann, Commissioner Stusek and Commissioner Lamson,

Thank you all for your work to create competitive, compact, and contiguous congressional districts for the state of Montana. I write to advocate on behalf of the most recent congressional map created by Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Stusek (as of October 29, 2021). Not only does this new district fall within the requirements named above, it also keeps Montana's Native lands intact along with the more urban areas of the state.

Though Commissioner Essmann and Commissioner Lamson have submitted several maps, I do not believe their proposals meet Montana's primary criteria for congressional district, which is to be competitive. Every one of their proposals tips the scale heavily in favor of their own party, a far cry from the requirement of being competitive.

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The deciding factor for me to decide to support the most recent submission of Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Stusek has been that this most recent map keeps tribal lands intact while also meeting all the other required components of a Montana congressional district.

My support for a competitive district not only comes from the need to support a district that falls within Montana's districting requirements, it also stems from the fact that competitive districts make for mutual accountability between the parties. When neither party gains a significant advantage, they must answer to each other for their actions like we have seen in the past when we have had balanced representation.

My support for competitive districts also stems from my own experience running and serving. In order to win a competitive district, I know it takes a lot of work contacting and listening to voters whom I will represent. If we are to truly create and maintain a government of the people, by the people and for the people, this is a vital level of accountability I hope the commission will keep foremost in their minds when casting a final vote for the new congressional district.

When a candidate can win a general election simply by placing one letter of the alphabet behind their name on the ballot versus another, they do not have to work very hard to earn their constituents' votes and trust, thus, they are not held accountable for the votes they may or may not take while representing them. As someone who was raised in Montana with far reaching Montana roots, I cannot express to you the level of pride - and responsibility I felt to work on behalf of all my constituents - to represent a seat that I fought so hard to win. We should want all our candidates to enter office with that same feeling of accomplishment and more importantly, of responsibility to their voters.

Again, thank you all for your time and effort to create Montana's new congressional district.

Kindest Regards,



**Jessica Karjala**

**Jessica L. Karjala**

Phone: 406.672.8681

**From:** [Katy Kern](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:59:34 PM

---

Please support the 10-11 map.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Kern  
Red Lodge  
1 S Broadway  
Oh 4064268915

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kristeen Keup  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:47:53 PM

---

From: Kristeen Keup [kristeen.keup@fulbrightmail.org](mailto:kristeen.keup@fulbrightmail.org)  
Residence: Billings MT

Message:

I already sent a comment, but wanted to add that if the new maps override Maps 10 vs 11, I feel that the consensus 10/11 map is fairer of the two new proposals.

--

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

**From:** [Margaret Kingsland](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Montana Districting and Apportionment preference  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 10:45:15 PM

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To the Honorable members of the Commission: Maylinn Smith, Chair:

Dear Redistricting and Apportionment Commission Members:

Thank you for your important work in service to all Montanans, and to the most important principles of our democracy. In order to reflect the interests and concerns of the varieties of our citizens I urge you to support proposal Number 11.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Margaret C. Kingsland  
655 Evans Ave.  
Missoula, MT 59801



**From:** [Ella Kobelt](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support Map #11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:17:28 PM

---

Dear Commission,

My name is Ella Kobelt and I live at 141 Waverly Place, Whitefish, MT 59937. I have lived in Whitefish for 25 years.

I am urging you to choose Map # 11 because it does not favor a political party and makes a competitive district. I have pasted my support and reasoning below for # 11 and also outlined why I oppose # 10. Thanks for all your hard work on this matter and for your consideration of citizen input.

Best,

Ella Kobelt

406. 314. 0771

- This plan closely follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach perfect population equality.
- Areas that heavily rely on ski tourism to support the local economy are kept in one district, forcing a Congressperson to pay attention to the needs of areas that use the winter outdoor recreation to drive economic growth.
- As has always been the case when Montana had two congressional districts, the deep economic connection between Livingston and Bozeman is respected under Proposal 11, ensuring district lines don't divide the flows of workers, innovation, and dollars between the two communities.
- This map keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, making sure that most commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace.
- This map keeps the union towns of Helena and Butte together, as every redistricting plan in Montana has previously done.
- This map keeps all of the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line intact, where agriculture remains such a vital part of the local economy. Rural interests are an important part of Montana's diversity and heritage that should be kept together for a stronger voice in Congress.
- Native voters are empowered under this plan, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, meaning that every candidate has to rely on Native votes to win the district. Non-competitive districts don't elevate voices and ensure accountability in the

same way.

## **Oppose Map #10**

- This plan breaks with the Historical precedent in Montana by separating the towns of Helena and Butte, diluting union strength and breaking apart a community of interest that's existed for over a century.
- This plan creates two Republican districts, which unduly favors one party. With two congressional districts now instead of one, a fair map includes one competitive district that either party can win.
- This plan dilutes the power of Montana farmers and ranchers by breaking up the Golden Triangle and critical grain and cattle producing regions in Montana. This is cracking the farm and ranch vote pure and simple.
- This plan separates commuters that live in Jefferson county from the place where so many of them work in Helena. This is clearly breaking apart a community of interest.
- This plan splits the towns of Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway even though there is no clear reason to do so since Gallatin county could have been split in such a way to keep them together. This is a partisan cut of Gallatin County designed to crack apart Democratic votes and splitting two small towns for no reason violates your criteria on minimizing the unnecessary division of towns.
- This plan separates Park and Gallatin County from one another, cutting apart an area with vital economic connections and shared interests. Plan 11 better acknowledges this community of interest.

--

**Ella Kobelt**

406.314.0771

[ella.kobelt2@gmail.com](mailto:ella.kobelt2@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ronald Mark Korwald  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:07:54 PM

---

From: Ronald Mark Korwald korwald.mark@gmail.com  
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

After narrowing down the maps to two you have opened the map considerations up for more nominations. This is confusing at best and can cause many to wonder what you are up to – changing criteria, submitting to special interest groups or just trying to appease everyone. If you are re-opening a process that had been narrowed down you, at least, need to be open and transparent about your motives and reasoning.

--

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

**From:** [Mike Kosorok](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Compromise  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:25:14 PM

---

Do not be an advocate of diminishing voter rights or increasing challenges for minorities to reach the polls. I sincerely remind you that we need to re-establish the greatest DEMOCRACY in the world. Remember?

I advocate Consensus 10-11

Mike Kosorok  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carolyn Laceky  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:43:29 PM

---

From: Carolyn Laceky [cdottiel@hotmail.com](mailto:cdottiel@hotmail.com)  
Residence: Helena, Mt

Message:  
Map 11 best represents Montana voters.

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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: Arnold Larsen  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:10:56 PM

---

From: Arnold Larsen [aklarsen688@yahoo.com](mailto:aklarsen688@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Whitefish

Message:

My name is Karen Larsen. I live in Whitefish, MT.

I support Map #11. Map #10 supports the "community of interest" criteria. No towns would be split.

I object to Map #10. In splitting Gallatin County and in moving Helena to district #2, it would effectively gerrymander the state

Thank you for the time and effort you have dedicated to this and for considering my comment.

--

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

**From:** [Marcia Lauzon](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting choice  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:11:18 PM

---

Dear Districting Commission members:

After reading what I can find on the redistricting option, I ask you to support CP-11, and not CP-10.

Please do the best for our state in choosing CP11.

Thank you for your service.

Marcia Lauzon

--

Rev Marcia Lauzon, FVGEC  
Deacon, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
Great Falls, Montana

**From:** [David Lehnherr](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:26:12 PM

---

Dear Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for your work. Please support the Consensus 10-11 Map, which is the fairest map proposed. Our democracy is in a fragile state, and your work to implement a robust and stable redistricting plan is vital. Thank you.

David Lehnherr, MD  
Red Lodge, MT



**From:** [Raymond Lien](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Consensus 10-11 Map  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:34:55 PM

---

Redistricting Commission:

PIASE ADOPT THE CONSENSUS 10-11 MAP. IT LOOKS TO BE THE BEST COMPETITIVE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS FOR US HOUSE REPRESENTATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF MONTANA

THANK YOU,

Raymond G. Lien  
48 Stillwater Drive  
Absarokee, MT 59001

**From:** [Steve Loken](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:59:53 PM

---

I vote for map 11 as the fairest for the state!  
Thank you,  
Steve Loken

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jennifer Lyman](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistributing  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:54:33 PM

---

Please know that I support the 10-11 map redistricting plan and I hope you do also

**From:** [Anne MacIntyre](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:26:34 PM

---

**From:** [Anne MacIntyre](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:13 PM  
**To:** [disticting@mt.gov](mailto:disticting@mt.gov) ; [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** maps

I write in support of Proposal 11. Of the two proposed maps, I believe #11 does a much better job of keeping communities of interest intact. For example, Helena has no community of interest with most of eastern Montana, yet Proposal 10 assigns Helena to a district which is mostly the eastern part of the state. Thank you for your consideration. Anne MacIntyre

**From:** [DonnaLee](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [maylinn.smith@mt.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mt.gov); [jeffessmann@gmail.com](mailto:jeffessmann@gmail.com); [Kendra Miller](#); [dan.stusek@mt.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mt.gov); [joe.lamson@mt.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mt.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: I support Map 11; I actually like the newest map better  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 2:49:20 PM

---

I just learned that there is a third map that is under consideration that would put the Blackfeet and Flathead Reservations together in a Western District and would keep Flathead County whole and in the West. I understand that it would divide Gallatin County north of Bozeman, but would keep the smaller communities that were previously divided on Map 10 whole and Park County would be in the same district as Bozeman. Also, that it provides for at least one competitive district while keeping an even population split.

I think those changes might even enhance the points I made originally. I like that there would now be at least two Reservations in each district as requested by Tribal organizations. I still feel it would be better to separate distinct communities of Whitefish and Kalispell than to actually divide smaller communities in southern Gallatin County, but I also realize that the residents of Kalispell consider themselves part of Western Montana. What I don't know is how the north/south split of Gallatin would affect the communities north of Bozeman. What I most want is for the final map be as fair as possible.

With that in mind, I personally prefer the newest map that keeps Northwest Montana in tact. However, I can still strongly support Map 11 if that appears to be the more fair overall. For me, the most important consideration is that at least one of Montana's two Congressional Districts is competitive so that Montanans of all persuasions have the possibility of feeling heard and believing their vote can make a difference.

Again, I thank you for all of your hard work!

Sincerely,  
Donna Martin  
Libby

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

---

**From:** [DonnaLee](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 5:07 PM  
**To:** [districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov); [maylinn.smith@mt.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mt.gov); [jeffessmann@gmail.com](mailto:jeffessmann@gmail.com); [Kendra Miller](#); [dan.stusek@mt.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mt.gov); [joe.lamson@mt.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mt.gov)  
**Subject:** I support Map 11

First, I want to thank all of you for all the hard work you have put into this. And, I realize that when this has been decided, you still have to deal with the Montana Legislative Districts. Serving on the Redistricting Commission is by no means an easy task.

I have written comments on both of the pin maps, although I mistook Map 10 for Map 11 to begin with. I will briefly re-iterate my comments here. I support Map 11 because I believe it makes the most sense and is fairest to the most people. In these times of divisiveness NO map is going to be perfect or make everyone happy – thus the hard work. I have 3 main points:

1. Map 11 allows for at least one competitive district in which either major party might win elections, thus giving non-Republicans the opportunity to be heard and to have their votes matter. Map 10 creates two non-competitive districts thus meeting the gerrymandering criteria of drawing maps that unduly favor one political party.
2. Both maps split at least one county. Although I live in Libby now, I have also lived in Bozeman, Helena, and Kalispell. It makes much more sense to separate the two distinct cities even though they are close than to divide much smaller communities; at least one of less than 300 people. In addition, although undoubtedly there is commuting for work between Whitefish and Kalispell, the bulk of jobs for residents of Park and Jefferson Counties are located in Gallatin and Lewis and Clark counties respectively. They form much stronger communities of interest for working families.
3. It is to the benefit of all 7 Tribal Nations to have at least one competitive district. Although Map 11 encompasses only the Flathead Reservation of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, it is considered competitive. Having the remaining 6 Tribal Nations in the other district gives tribal people a stronger voice and potential influence is the second non-competitive district.

Congressional Districts mostly matter when it comes to voting in elections. In actuality, we are all Montanans, and once elected our Congressional Delegation represents all of us in our diversity and independent natures. It is important that every Montanan feels he or she has the opportunity to be heard. Map 11 is the only option that offers that possibility. Please make it the final map.

Again, thank you all for your dedicated public service.

Sincerely,

Donna Martin  
294 Dawson Street  
Libby, MT 59923  
(406) 291-1187

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

**From:** [Bob Kathe Mensik](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map 12 far better than Map 13  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 10:12:08 PM

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As you are hearing from other Montanans, Map 12 is far better than Map 13 for the reasons below.

We urge you to follow the Montana Constitution and keep these points in mind when you vote. Keep Montana "the last best place" in everything, including law-abiding politics.

Sincerely,  
Kathe and Bob Mensik  
Red Lodge MT

- Maps should not favor one political party over another*
- The Commission needs to minimize the splitting of counties, as stated in the Commission's goals. The Democrat Commission members map splits three counties total, while the Republican map only splits one.*
- Lewis and Clark County, Jefferson, and Broadwater Counties should be kept in the East. They are in the Missouri River drainage, which flows in the east. Like Eastern Montana, these three counties also rely on agriculture.*
- Park County should also be put in the Eastern district. The county is located in the Yellowstone drainage, which also goes East.*
- Between the two maps, it is clear CP12 is the best choice.*

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Margaret Mikelson  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:25:10 PM

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From: Margaret Mikelson njmikel@midrivers.com  
Residence: Miles City

Message:

I believe in as fair redistricting as possible and because of that I feel that the map chosen by the Democrats indicates a more fair distribution of voters. The demographics of our state will change with time as well as the dominance of a particular political group. It is important to keep that into consideration so that both districts will do their best to elect representatives who consider all the citizens of the state.

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



**From:** [Nancy Milewski](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] District 2  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 1:51:01 PM

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I am writing in favor of Proposal 11, due to the inclusion of the Blackfeet reservation, and because this map appears to make elections more competitive.

Thank you,  
Nancy Milewski  
PO Box 186  
Choteau, MT

**From:** [Leslie Millar](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please vote Map #11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 3:40:30 PM

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>> Please vote for Map #11 for redistricting  
>>  
>> Leslie Millar  
>> PO BOX 387  
>> Arlee MT  
>> 59821  
>> 406-726-5044  
>>  
>> Sent from my iPad

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Anne Millbrooke.  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:28:38 PM

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From: Anne Millbrooke. anne27m@yahoo.com  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

With the additional maps through #13 – 12 and 13 added so late as to escape comments? – I still think that #11 looks to be fairest.

#10 splits the Bozeman vote, Bozeman population, and Bozeman economically and social ties with Livingston. Such an attach on any population center is not acceptable!

#11 has Indigenous peoples and their concerns in both districts, keeping the labor axis of Butte–Helena connected, keeping the mountain resort communities together (common interests and common environmental concerns), keeping the economically linked Bozeman–Livingston together, splitting no major population center. #11 holds people who identify with the Mountain West together, albeit the Front ranges going with the Front plains to the east.

#13 splits Pondera, Lewis and Clark, and Gallatin Counties, including the greater Bozeman population center, and looks gerrymanded.

#12 severs the labor vote of Butte and Helena and severs the economically and socially tied Livingston and Bozeman; two reservations in the West strengthens the Indigenous influence in that district and balances Indigenous issues across the two districts.

Ranked: favored #11, next #12, unacceptable #10 and #13.

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

**From:** [Anne Millbrooke](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] in favor of #11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:56:45 PM

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Dear Commissioners:

With the additional maps through #13 - 12 and 13 added so late as to escape comments? particularly given the 5 pm deadline on the day we get the notice, as if politics were our day job rather than what we do outside of employment! Nonetheless, I still think that #11 looks to be fairest option.

#10 splits the Bozeman vote, Bozeman population, and Bozeman economically and social ties with Livingston. Such an attach on any population center is not acceptable!

#11 has Indigenous peoples and their concerns in both districts, keeping the labor axis of Butte–Helena connected, keeping the mountain resort communities together (common interests and common environmental concerns), keeping the economically linked Bozeman–Livingston together, splitting no major population center. #11 holds people who identify with the Mountain West together, albeit the Front ranges going with the Front plains to the east.

#13 splits Pondera, Lewis and Clark, and Gallatin Counties, including the greater Bozeman population center, and looks gerrymanded.

#12 severs the labor vote of Butte and Helena and severs the economically and socially tied Livingston and Bozeman; two reservations in the West strengthens the Indigenous influence in that district and balances Indigenous issues across the two districts.

Ranked: favored #11, next #12, unacceptable #10 and #13.

Sincerely,  
Anne Millbrooke

280 W Kagy Blvd D-248, Bozeman, MT 59715  
[anne27m@yahoo.com](mailto:anne27m@yahoo.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jennifer Mish  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 4:35:39 PM

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From: Jennifer Mish [jennymish@yahoo.com](mailto:jennymish@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I am concerned that our Montana state redistricting must be fair and competitive, and must not favor any one political party. Last minute changes have made it confusing and unclear that public comments are really being considered. I am in favor of the 10/11 consensus map, which I understand to be the most competitive and least partisan option. If that map is not an option, I would support option number 11, which provides more equity for our state's Indigenous people than option 10.

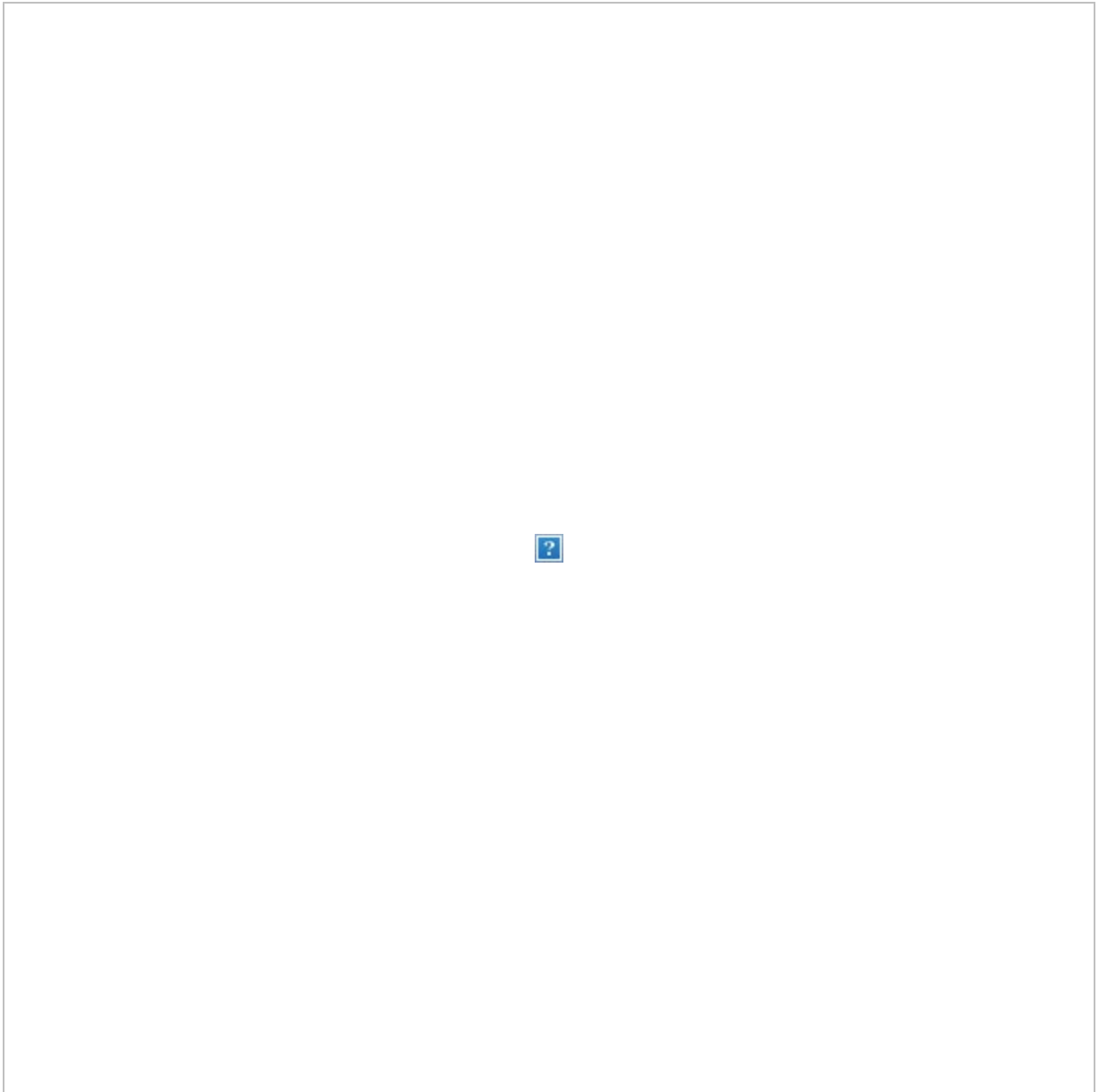
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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [[mtredistricting.gov](https://mtredistricting.gov)])

**From:** [General Info](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: District Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:04:33 PM

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Actually, it sounds like map #10 has been revised and is now a good, fair map. I support 10 over 11 assuming the latest update to it stands. This is what I have for the current map #10.



On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 04:10:28 PM MDT, General Info <flatheadream@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Montana Redistricting Committee,

Thank you for the time you have spent on this endeavor. I would like to voice my support for Map #11. It seems like the best, fairest map. Map #10 clearly shows favoritism to one party and that is not what any of us want here in Montana.

Thanks again for working on this!

M. Murphy

Kalispell, MT

**From:** [Deborah Summer Muth](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote for Redistricting 10/11  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:36:44 PM

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*Please adopt redistricting 10/11.*

*Thank you, Deborah Muth*

*Red Lodge, MT 59068*