

Public Comments: F - J

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5 p.m. on October 27 and Noon on October
29, 2021

Distributed electronically October 29, 2021

From: [SHELLY FAGENSTROM](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistributing
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:27:55 PM

Please select CP 11.

ShellyFagenstrom

Sent from my iPad

From: [Mary Ann Farias](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] vote on districting in Montana
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:37:15 AM

Please vote in favor of Proposal 11 and in opposition to Proposal 10. Give both political parties a more equal playing field. Thank you. MaryAnn Farias

From: [Farmer Kathleen](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTRING PLAN
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:45:16 PM

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN

I support the proposal #11 for the following reasons:

This proposal maintains the precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts.

This proposal keeps much of the agriculture areas of Montana together.

Native American voters will have competitive districts within their reservations.

Proposal #11 is most equitable for all concerned.

Kathleen Farmer

PO Box 1537 Polson, MT 59860

Farmerpolson@gmail.com

From: [Mike Farmer](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map #11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 5:25:13 PM

I'm supporting re-districting map #11 because it seems to best way represent the "two" Montanas: one that's agricultural and one who's major" industry" is tourism. Living in Polson, I know that my county has a fair amount of agriculture (cattle, "hay" and potatoes) but all recent growth has been recreation (primarily related to Flathead Lake), retirement homes, and second homes. As someone whose home is now on a small part of a former cattle ranch that overlooks Polson Bay, the Mission Mountains and several cattle ranches, I'm well acquainted with the differences of the "two" Montanas. Map #11 will allow each district to be as homogeneous as possible.

Mike Farmer
PO Box 1537
Polson MT
59860

From: [Jessie Farnes](#)
To: Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov;
[Districting](#); joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Districts
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:26:57 PM

Dear Commission,

My name is Jessie Farnes and I live in Whitefish, MT. I graduated high school in Whitefish but was born in Bozeman and have lived in Belgrade, Great Falls, Polson, Kalispell, and Bigfork. My mother's great grandparents settled on what came to be the family ranch outside of Fort Benton. Montana is my home; I love every part of this state. 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.

Sincerely,

Jessie Farnes

Support Map #11

- 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.

--

Jessie Farnes

Café Coordinator

Montana Coffee Traders

roasting coffee since 1981

110 central avenue whitefish, mt 59937

cell: [831.345.6970](tel:831.345.6970)

coordinator@coffeetraders.com

web: www.coffeetraders.com [coffeetraders.com]

From: MDAC
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joslin Fields
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:04:26 PM

From: Joslin Fields joslinhfields@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

My name is Joslin Fields. I have lived in the Gallatin Valley since 1991. I have never been so enthusiastic about a place that felt so much like home as when I first moved here.

I believe Map ELEVEN is the only map that represents a fair outcome to future elections. Let's not allow any one political party to gain an unfair advantage by chopping up our counties, towns and reservations with bizarre and blatant CREATIVE redistricting. Let our communities remain intact.

I sure do hope that our commission supports our ability to comment. Each of our voices need to be heard and we thank you for taking the time to consider all opinions. Please stand behind those of us who want to discourage power hungry and wealthy individuals from unfair advantage.

This town was once a very friendly where people could share their ideas and opinions with one another. Chopping up the map to favor one party will have dire and ugly consequences.

Thank you.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])
<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mtredistricting.gov_!!GaaboA!9ysvi4235HxTWjCaMTqjmlH50H4SexElyXng9HjYRkiVaPq5_7mhJ0OUniRvveYNVA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mtredistricting.gov_!!GaaboA!9ysvi4235HxTWjCaMTqjmlH50H4SexElyXng9HjYRkiVaPq5_7mhJ0OUniRvveYNVA$)>

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carolyn Fifer
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:57:30 AM

From: Carolyn Fifer catfifer@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Dear Commissioners,

I live within the city limits of Bozeman. Prior to that I lived in Bridger Canyon for many years and consider Gallatin County my home.

I strongly believe map 11 is the only rational decision. Map 11 keeps the voice of Gallatin County, and the community intact so we will be truly represented in Congress.

Gallatin County has a community "feel" to it. There are times we disagree but more often than not, we share similar philosophies and way of life. Splitting Gallatin County for the sake of splitting our vote is contrary to your commitment to allow us to elect a US Representative who shares our vision for Gallatin County.

Splitting the county smacks of gerrymandering and it becomes obvious it is being considered simply to favor one political party over another.

It would be feeding the split our nation is currently enduring and would do nothing to heal the divide. It is vital to retain Gallatin County as a whole. Please do so.

It surely has not been easy for you to generate several different maps for our consideration. I truly appreciate the time and effort you have expended on behalf of all Montanans. Thank you.

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

From: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: Submission from Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:53:09 PM

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov <leg-noreply@mt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:36 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: Submission from Redistricting

Submit Information to the Redistricting Commission

Date: 27th October 2021 19:35

Your Full Name:

Carol Fischer

Email Address:

carolfischermt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Reapportionment

Your Comment:

I am supportive of the redistricting alternative that includes Bozeman and Whitefish in the Western District. This seems to be the fairest alternative to be competitive.

Upload Information:

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

From: MDAC
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Fletcher
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:32:12 PM

From: John Fletcher fletcher@montana.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

19 Western Counties, 37 Eastern Counties

A North-to-South division which places Glacier, Teton, Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Gallatin counties in the Western District... as well as all the counties lying to the west of these five: Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Granite, Powell, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Jefferson, Beaverhead, and Madison.

Advantages:

- Simplicity: counties remain intact, dividing line is only slightly skewed from a direct north-south boundary, and no apparent gaps or salients;
- Two of the state's reservations are in the Western District;
- Visually, displays an absence of gerrymandering;
- Some degree of "competitiveness" in that three of the 19 Western Counties tilt left a bit, but overall this Western District appears right-of-center...as does the state as a whole;
- Conversely, on a socio-cultural level, the many "red" counties in this proposed Western District have several generations of experience accommodating the few "blue" counties, so no surprises.

Disadvantages:

- I've not checked population balance for this proposal, but it may not survive the next census in that one or more of the "border counties" might have to shift into the Eastern District to achieve a population balance in 2031. This, to me, matters; I wouldn't wish a 2031 Commission to have as much difficulty as you've had to face.

Which leads me to conclude this comment with sincere gratitude for the time and effort the Commission and its staff have invested in its mission these past several months.

Thankfully,

John

John Fletcher
PO Box 8381
Missoula, MT 59807
406-721-4269
fletcher@montana.com

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<[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://mtredistricting.gov/!!GaaboA!9NSIONYb1n2MDO0R5x9NMm0IEgFx8ZiZSvSjqs9UDYVUJ-x5Vl-v9vcPOLobi3szqO\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://mtredistricting.gov/!!GaaboA!9NSIONYb1n2MDO0R5x9NMm0IEgFx8ZiZSvSjqs9UDYVUJ-x5Vl-v9vcPOLobi3szqO$)>)

From: [Bob Fletcher](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting preference
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:14:22 PM

I reside and vote in Thompson Falls, Sanders County. At this point I doubt it is necessary to repeat the various arguments for and against proposals 10 and 11.

However, having reviewed the proposals, I see that Proposal 11 is closer to 10 in the original constitutional intent of the redistricting process, and that that Proposal 10 would combine constituencies with very disparate interests for no apparant purpose other than to advantage Republican candidates.

I therefore urge the Commission to adopt Proposal 11.

Robert Fletcher

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Linda Flynn
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:42:11 AM

From: Linda Flynn lindabob@3rivers.net
Residence: Twin Bridges

Message:

CP11 is the better choice. Gallatin County, the fastest growing county in the state, should not be split. CP11 has less variation from standard deviations.

Thanks for considering these comments.

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

From: rbf3@bresnan.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:43:14 PM

I am in favor of Proposal 10 and against Proposal 11.
Bev Follinglo

From: [Cathy](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:49:53 PM

I am a voter residing in Troy, MT and I favor Map CP 10.

Cathy Foote
Sent from my iPhone

From: [judy ford](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MT Redistricting Commission
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:19:44 PM

Thank you for asking for public comments on this important topic. We are Phil and Judy Ford from Bigfork, MT, and we have lived here for 25 years. We were both born & raised in Montana, and previously lived in Cut Bank and Havre.

Since the Commission has narrowed the map choices down to two, we support Map 11, which does not favor one party over another, but makes a competitive district. This plan closely follows the precedent of the 1980's Congressional districts, moving only 2 counties to achieve population equality, and Native voters are empowered as there is a competitive district with a reservation, so that every candidate needs those votes to win the district.

Thank you for your public service and for considering our comments.

From: [Devon Forrest](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana's new Congressional District
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:07:02 PM

According to Merriam-Webster; democracy is a form of government in which people choose leaders by voting. I was unable to find a term for a form of government where the leaders pick their voters by adjusting geographic districts until they are assured to have their desired outcome. Since no term seems to exist for this yet, i'll just call it 'election fuckery'. I have recently become aware of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Committee considering adoption of proposed Map 10, which exemplifies 'election fuckery'. This is a disgraceful turn of events and so I must vehemently object to adopting such an unrepresentative choice for Montana.

Thank you,

-Devon Forrest

395 Flagstone Ave.
Helena, MT 59602

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Brian Friess
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:55:33 PM

From: Brian Friess shilohfriess@yahoo.com
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

Some of these maps were obvious created by people who don't live here and didn't even bother to take a look at a geography map. Please pay attention to natural boundaries, such as the continental divide that runs north/south through Montana. Don't put half of Flathead County conjoined with Eastern Montana, such as in Map CP11. This map is ridiculous. It puts the city of Whitefish in a whole other district than Kalispell and Columbia Falls? Really? Please, please have someone who has a least a little bearing on the culture and community to look over a map before approving it.

--

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

From: [Stephanie J. Frostad](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map # CP 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:57:06 PM

Greetings Redistricting Commissioners.

I appreciate the efforts you have made to map out the district for Montana's second Representative to the US Congress.

Of the two maps under consideration now, I view CP #11 as the one that provides the greatest competitiveness for that Congressional seat. It equally divides Montana's populace as well.

This map may not be ideal, but I support CP #11 for the current redistricting.

Thanks you for your work,

Stephanie J. Frostad

Artist

www.stephaniefrostad.com [stephaniefrostad.com]

From: [Sue Furey](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote for Proposal 10
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 4:20:10 AM

I urge you to vote for Proposal 10 of the redistricting maps

From: [devon](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:25:02 PM

Dear Commissioners,

In regards to the two proposed Montana districting and apportionment maps, CP11 is the only one that does not unduly favor a single political party. In Montana, our leaders have never been allowed to pick their voters, and they should be chosen by a fair and equal representation of the the people who live here in our state.

Thank you,

Devon Gainer
Bozeman, MT

From: [Dawn Gandalf](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting CP #11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:15:20 AM

I support map # 11.
Dawn Gandalf
Trout Creek

Thank you for your service in this project.
Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows



Virus-free. www.avast.com [[avast.com](#)]
[\[avast.com\]](#)

From: [Christine Gandel](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Voicing Support for District Map 11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:21:00 AM

From: [George J](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP-11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:47:36 PM

Please use the CP-11 MAP for our redistricting on the second house representative and keep it fair

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

From: [George J](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Adopt CP-11, keep it fair
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 12:55:50 AM

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

From: [Ann Gilkey](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:40:01 PM

I urge your support of Proposal/Map 11.

Thanks -

Ann Gilkey
Helena

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Coreen Glen
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:02:25 PM

From: Coreen Glen mtmojo636@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:
Return to the same districts as they had in 1980

--

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: Lucinda Glock
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:49:20 PM

From: Lucinda Glock info@neildrywall.com
Residence: Billings

Message:

Hello. I am Lucinda Michele Glock. I am registered to vote in Billings, MT. I was born and raised here in Billings.

I would prefer map 8 because it is closer to me for representation. I believe this map is more competitive.

The map fails to represent me, a female and widow. The map fails to represent the native community and wildlife.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Good
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:49:46 PM

From: Mark Good mgood91700@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls

Message:
Members of the Redistricting Committee,

Thank you so much for your service on the Commission. I appreciate your efforts to involve the public in this important process which will shape our politics, policies, and democratic form of government for the next decade.

I have lived, worked and owned a home in Great Falls for almost 40 years. Along with my wife, we also own a house in Ulm, which is also located in Cascade County.

As a resident of Montana, I have participated in this process from the beginning, and after reviewing both maps, I will admit that neither one is my preferred map. But I also recognize the need to compromise and honor the well thought out criteria the committee adopted.

My primary objection to map 10 is that neither district is competitive. Republican members of the committee have apparently decided not to incorporate competitiveness into their map. And though it is an optional part of the criteria, the absence of a competitive district will most certainly unduly favor the Republican Party. That is good for the Republican Party but not for the health of our democracy.

Ideally both districts would be competitive, but where the eastern half of the state leans more Republican, it would be difficult to draw district boundaries that would be truly competitive while still honoring the criteria adopted by the committee. By contrast, the western part of the state, where most of the larger population centers exist, is more evenly divided. A congressional map should recognize these larger population centers as communities of interest with their more diverse economies, flagship universities, and the issues that come with more densely populated communities.

A state unduly dominated by one party, with the interests of a large minority dispersed, will not be effectively represented. This is not good for democracy or our government.

In states unduly dominated by one party, elections are more likely to be determined in primaries instead of general elections, and that generally leads to more extreme candidates. Moreover, when voters feel they have no real voice, participation is depressed. By contrast, competitive districts make candidates more accountable and responsive. Map 11 doesn't favor the Democratic party; it just makes it competitive and would require candidates from both parties to appeal to a broad base of voters to win. An effective democracy needs congressional representatives who will represent the needs and interests of everyone.

Another flaw with Map 10 is that it separates workers living in Jefferson and Broadwater Counties from Helena, where many work.

My preference is map 11. More than the other proposed map, it best balances the need to keep

counties and communities of interest together. It splits the population more evenly than map 10, and follows the precedent of the 1980s Congressional map that only moved two counties to reach population equality. It is compact, and does not split counties.

Importantly, map 11 would provide political parity in at least one district. Rural residents will be well represented in both districts and the large minority party will be better represented in the western district. As much as I would like Cascade County to be in the western district, it is more connected to the communities along the Rocky Mountain Front and Glacier National Park, as well much of the Hi-Line and the Rocky Boy and Fort Belknap Reservations. Even Flathead County, which may seem far from Great Falls, it is closer than most eastern Montana communities, and it shares a connection with many Front communities to recreation economy associated with Glacier National Park and the national forest lands to the south.

I appreciate your consideration and thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and desires related to this important redistricting process.

--

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

From: kgotts1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Autumn Gottschlich](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Congressional District Map Choice
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:15:14 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Please choose proposed map #11 for our state's new district. I read about the pros and cons of all of the maps, and then again for these two finalists, and I strongly feel that between these two choices, map #11 would provide the fairest opportunity for all citizens of our state to have an opportunity for equal representation in Congress. I read an article that mentioned that the head of the commission felt it would be difficult for this not to be a political decision. Please give FAIRNESS your utmost consideration while making this decision.

Thank you,
Autumn Gottschlich
Teacher - Kalispell Middle School
Flathead homeowner since 2003
Co-owner of Cherry Ridge Construction

Sincerely,
Autumn Gottschlich
380 Yodelin Ridge Rd Kalispell, MT 59901-3323
kgotts1@gmail.com

From: [Lynda Grande](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:25:06 PM

I support CP 10. This would keep the western tribes in the same voting district. Although it does split Gallatin county, there is already a distinct political split within Gallatin county and this division reflects that. Lastly this district looks as if it will remain more even in future years. Putting all of Gallatin, Park and parts of Flathead together in a district known for its fast growing population in recent years will only lead to having to repeat this contentious process in a short period of time.

I support CP 10.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [C Granrud](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Citizen commenting on Redistricting Maps
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:36:43 PM
Attachments: [Community is a unified group of individuals with common interests living in a particular area.docx](#)

My name is Christina Granrud, and I live at 535 East California Street, in Kalispell.

The following is my testimony to the Redistricting Commission regarding the remaining two maps under consideration.

I have added my testimony as an attachment.

Christina Granrud

Please let me know if you do not receive it.

From: [Gayle Gransbery](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:15:58 AM

I am in favor of Proposal 11. Gayle Gransbery

From: [Kathleen Grant](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reapportionment Commission
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:00:07 PM

I am writing in strong support for proposal 11 and in opposition to proposal 10.
This option is the only one that will create the possibility of 1 competitive district.

From: [Mary Graybeal](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Congressional District.
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:00:40 AM

Please vote yes to proposal # 11 for the RE districting.
Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

From: [Nikki Graybeal](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:23:23 AM

I support proposal eleven (11) and am opposed to proposal ten (10) Sincerely, Nikki Graybeal

From: [Paul Grove](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] #11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 5:18:35 PM

I am writing the Districting and Apportionment Commission to state that I am in favor of Proposal 11, and fully oppose Proposal 10.

Paul M. Grove
Eureka, MT 59917

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dana Grove
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:18:56 AM

From: Dana Grove groved@whitefishschools.org
Residence: Whitefish

Message:
I support Map 1.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: kathleen hadley
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:04:14 PM

From: kathleen hadley kathyh1016@gmail.com
Residence: Deer Lodge

Message:

My name is Kathy Hadley. I live in a rural area in the Upper Clark Fork River valley between Anaconda and Deer Lodge.

I support map 11. Map 11 only splits one county and doesn't split any cities or towns. It is more competitive than Map 10 and it keeps communities of interest intact.

I don't like map 10 because it splits more communities than map 11 and it favors the Republicans and is not competitive.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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

From: [Mary Hall](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 8:18:34 AM

I support Proposal 11 as the most equitable choice.

Mary

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Hall
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:57:32 AM

From: Robert Hall rhall@impressguest.com
Residence: Columbia Falls, Montana

Message:

I'm writing in support of CP 10. Flathead County is comprised of a very interconnected trade and cultural region. The businesses and people of the County are interrelated and depend heavily on one another, be it retail, manufacturing, tourism, or health care. Separating out a segment of our valley has the potential to fracture the efforts each city has put forth in growing our economy and communities.

--

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

From: [Ann Halverson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support Map CP-11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:03:56 PM

This (Map CP-11) is the map that does not favor any political party. I vote for Map CP-11.
Respectfully submitted,

Ann Halverson

From: [Jane Hammett](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: I'm in favor of Map #11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:31:50 PM

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

Hello,

I'm a native Montanan born and raised in Kalispell, graduated from Carroll College and have lived in Missoula for 18 years.

Please support map #11 as I do. It gives the Native voter's a voice and it also doesn't support one political party. It's what is best for our entire state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Jane Hammett

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

From: [Porter Hammitt](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:55:00 AM

Honorable Chairwoman Smith & Districting Committee,

I thank you for your work on this very important matter. Reports suggest that it's been challenging (to say the least), but looking at the 2 most recent and final proposed maps, it does appear as though there is some convergence on a general division line. As a longtime homeowner, father of two, and business owner with 12 employees, all in the great state of Montana, I'd like to offer my thoughts:

I do generally agree with a division line that runs roughly north/south. Montana is east and west in many ways, and I think we can all agree on that, although it's not the final word, as we are all Montanans in the end. I also think we agree that county lines are important, though they may be outweighed in certain situations.

In addition, I know we all agree that all voices should have a chance to be heard and represented. As that translates to districting the state, I do believe that strong consideration should be given to making at least one district competitive. And that only seems fair.

I find myself more agreeable to Congressional Proposal 11. It appears to meet federal and state constitutional requirements. It only cuts one county, but does divide any town or city, at least that I can tell. And most importantly, it does not appear to unduly favor one party, only to seek some balance between the two. That seems like a pretty good solution to me.

Recent comments were reported in the news about trends. Certain urban areas are growing fast, and perhaps that is likely to continue. However, with regard to the political leanings of our state as a whole, one election does make a trend. Up until the last election, we were a purple state. I hope you'll do what you can to encourage and preserve some balance. I think we can also all agree that when diverse voices and ideas are heard, we are all the better for it.

Thanks for your time.

James Hammitt
Missoula, MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tenney C Hammond
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:03:54 PM

From: Tenney C Hammond tenneyh@aol.com
Residence: Butte, MT

Message:
I think map 11 is the fairer choice.

--

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

From: [Kent Hanawalt](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Neither
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 6:44:16 PM

I identify as a republican. But to divide Gallatin county is ludicrous.

However. Neither do I like the idea of my Park County being a part of the Western District. Likewise, I'm sure the residents of Pondera and Glacier counties to want to be in a western district - any more than the residents of Flathead want to be eastern,

Surely the law isn't so strict as to require exact vote counts now. Those vote counts will change as the years pass. Then what?

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bill Harris
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:11:33 PM

From: Bill Harris harrisbill50@gmail.com
Residence: Circle, MT

Message:

Dear Districting Commission,

In regards to the current maps submission for the new House Seat;

Neither map conforms to any level of common sense. A line running as straight down from North to South with equal populations on both sides would be the only true legal and constitutional districts that could logically be considered. Please do this process legally and constitutional. Anything else is pure dirty politics.

--

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 Harrison
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:45:28 PM

From: Robert Harrison harrison_home@yahoo.com
Residence: Polaris

Message:

Dear Commission members,

My name is Robert Harrison. I live at 169A Old Canyon Rd. In Polaris, MT. I am a Montana native who grew up in Beaverhead County.

I support Map 11 because because it is more competitive. While Map 11 splits Flathead Co., Gallatin Co. is much more populated and minimizes splitting towns within the County. There are no reservations being split as far as I can see on the map. I think this map keeps the districts competitive.

I do not support Map 10. I dont think splitting populated Gallatin County is a wise decision. Its not within a competitive range.

Thank you for this consideration.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Melissa Hartman
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:15:59 AM

From: Melissa Hartman m_nutant@hotmail.com
Residence: Whitefish, MT

Message:

I support map proposal #11 as it is fairly drawn and unlike the other proposal, it allows for and meets the criteria of competitive races. Please support map #11!

--

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

From: [Katie Hartnett](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:18:20 PM

Hi there! I live in Whitefish and urge you to support CP#11.

Thank you!

Katie Hartnett (she/her/hers)
katiehartnett7@gmail.com

From: MDAC
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Albert Hathy
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:29:24 PM

From: Albert Hathy ahathy53@bresnan.net
Residence: Helena

Message:

My name is Albert Hathy. I moved to Helena 39 years ago for employment and quickly fell in love with the state and the area primarily because of the beautiful, natural surroundings, outdoor opportunities and people.

I believe that Map 11 most closely aligns with the mandatory criteria adopted by the Commission, primarily by not showing political favoritism for either party, and also keeping my county (L&C) in the group of culturally-linked western counties, and avoids dividing one of the most populous, Gallatin. Again, I believe Map 11 does the best job of creating healthy competitiveness and minimizing the splitting up of towns, counties and reservations that have been traditionally linked by culture and interests.

Of the maps offered for consideration, I believe map 10 does not meet the criteria established for the reapportionment process. Competitiveness of districts is a huge deal for our state, and not only for MT, but also for the entire country and the effectiveness, even the future, of democracy itself. It is commonly recognized that a lack of competitiveness through Gerrymandered districts leads to campaigns and elected leaders ignoring large portions of the electorate, sometimes even a majority portion, and is a cancer within any democratic system. It is your responsibility to assure, as much as possible, that this does not happen in MT.

Thank you for taking my comments under consideration.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov]
<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!9-sUPI8-YmdrM8SGyHcoYNk6xCQyqNofHy2TiNI2WW9mRU8XsPk-487p0IN7TpeTDw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!9-sUPI8-YmdrM8SGyHcoYNk6xCQyqNofHy2TiNI2WW9mRU8XsPk-487p0IN7TpeTDw$>)>)

From: [Patti Haugen](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:02:41 PM

My fellow Montanans,

I am an independent voter. I urge you to be judiciously fair and use Proposal 11 for the new map of congressional districts.

Dick Haugen
Forsyth

From: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Congressional Maps
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:08:55 AM

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

From: Rick Hays <mthays2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:04 PM
To: Districting <districting@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Congressional Maps

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Thank you for your efforts in this most important matter. It's an extremely important issue to the future growth and representation of our state which will be reflected in federal funding and priorities and numerous other federal issues for at least the next decade.

Briefly, after our review of the two proposed maps for the Congressional districts support Map No. 11. As residents of Lewis & Clark County for the past 25 years, we feel there is much more common interest of issues, culture, educational priorities, business growth aligning us with the western district.

We have limited agriculture activity compared to the extensive amount in the eastern district. Our college, Helena College is affiliated with the University of Montana which provides many natural affinities between Helena and Missoula.

We feel strongly that Lewis and Clark County will be much better represented by a western representative than an eastern representative.

We hope you'll support Map No. 11 as your final choice!

Thank you again for your time!

Rick & Jane Hays
504 Dearborn
Helena, MT 59601
mthays2@gmail.com <<mailto:mthays2@gmail.com>>

From: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: Submission from Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:53:15 PM

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov <leg-noreply@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: Submission from Redistricting

Submit Information to the Redistricting Commission

Date: 28th October 2021 14:52

Your Full Name:
Kristin Heilman

Email Address:
kristiheilman@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Mt redistricting

Your Comment:
I would like to support option 11 redistricting proposal

Upload Information:
—

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

From: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: Submission from Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:43:03 PM

From: leg-noreply@mt.gov <leg-noreply@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:42 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: Submission from Redistricting

Submit Information to the Redistricting Commission

Date: 28th October 2021 13:42

Your Full Name:

Ron Heilman

Email Address:

rjheilman@yahoo.com

Subject Line:

Mt Redistricting

Your Comment:

I support MT redistricting option #11.

Upload Information:

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

From: [John Hein](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT PROPOSAL 11 FOR MONTANA'S NEW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:33:56 AM

To the Districting and Apportionment Commission members:

On Saturday October 30th, your Commission will select a final tentative map. Proposal 11 creates a competitive district for Montana whereas Proposal 10 would gerrymander the state, creating two safe seats for Republicans. Please do the right thing.

SUPPORT Proposal 11 and OPPOSE Proposal 10.

Thanks for listening to this Montana registered voter's strong opinion regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

John Hein
Helena, MT
Johnhein@q.com

From: [Robin Hein](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT PROPOSAL 11 FOR MONTANA'S NEW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:34:43 AM

To the Districting and Apportionment Commission members:

On Saturday October 30th, your Commission will select a final tentative map. Proposal 11 creates a competitive district for Montana whereas Proposal 10 would gerrymander the state, creating two safe seats for Republicans. Please do the right thing.

SUPPORT Proposal 11 and OPPOSE Proposal 10.

Thanks for listening to this Montana registered voter's strong opinion regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Hein
Helena, MT
robinhein@q.com

From: davehmontana@gmail.com
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Cc: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Map 10 and Map 11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:10:12 PM

Commissioner Smith,

Do the proposed Maps 10 and 11 meet the mandatory criteria and advance the Commission's goals for the creation of two Congressional districts? Technical measurements for contiguity and population equality, within the set parameters, are clear and understandable. There is, however, no required weighting to readily measure the other criteria or goals, hence the Commission has significant discretion in adopting either map. The question you have before is therefore which map, in your judgment, promises the best and fairest overall result to serve the needs of the voters of Montana.

Either map might be interpreted to comply in varying degrees with the criteria and goals, taken separately. Protection of minority voting rights, the absence of suppression of voting aimed at members of racial or language minority groups, functional compactness, lack of unnecessary and excessive electoral advantage of one party over another, undue division of jurisdictions and communities of interest, and partisan competition shall or may be considered. You are in the process of so considering.

It is my hope that you will adopt Map 11, as it is superior and sets a higher standard for two objectives I highly value, namely maintaining my community of interest and fairly drawing at least one possible competitive district.

It is damaging to separate Gallatin County and Lewis and Clark County apart from southwestern Montana, as they historically have a relationship in employment, commerce, healthcare, education, recreation, and culture with neighboring counties. A Congressional representative primarily elected by more eastern and central Montana voters might be less able to consider the unique attributes of my area, such as rapidly expanding employment in a technology-based economy, regulation of hard rock mining and forest production, communities that are most committed to social justice and, most importantly, the mitigation of the frightening deterioration of our climate that threatens my sons, grandsons and their families. Gallatin County and Lewis and Clark County voters must be allowed to maximize this progress in our area when determining Congressional representation.

I am an independent, neither a Democratic nor a Republican strait ticket voter. I vote for the candidate who will represent my values and interests. As such, I support your selection of a map that does not favor either of the two major political parties and that results in a district that is truly competitive for either party's candidate. Map 10 favors Republican candidates in both the districts. Map 11, while still weighted toward Republican candidates in the southwest, is less so and will increase party competition in response to the unique values of a

majority of voters.

In my opinion, Map 11 is therefore the best of the two proposals.

Lastly, and sadly to say, I am disturbed and appalled by comments threatening judicial challenge to the Commission's choice, fairly made. These are nothing less than the continuation by some in the destruction of our guaranteed American rights to fair participation in the electoral process. The militance of these threats must be answered with the strongest defense of our democracy.

I wish you well in your decision process and admire your courage to make the fairest choice.

David Hemion
59 Ruby Mountain
Montana City, MT 59634
(206) 719-3016
[GET YOUR SHOTS - WEAR A MASK! \[cdc.gov\]](https://www.cdc.gov)
[Helena Thanks Healthcare Workers! \[facebook.com\]](https://www.facebook.com)

From: tonyaheike@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Tonya Henry](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:38:27 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

To the Montana Districting and Appointment Commission,

I am writing in support of adopting Map #CP11. It does not favor one political party as #CP10 does. We as Montanans want fair representation in all of our elections, regardless where we lie on the political spectrum.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tonya Henry

Sincerely,
Tonya Henry
PO Box 36 Red Lodge, MT 59068-0036
tonyaheike@msn.com

From: [Jeff Herbert](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Cc: Marilynn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal for Redistricting Montana's Congressional Boundaries
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:18:43 PM

Chairwoman Smith & Members of the Commission,

I would like to commend the Commission for your work to date on the proposed congressional redistricting. Obviously, it is no easy task. These types of efforts are inherently political but the citizens of this state will benefit the most when all their voices can be heard. With that said, I offer my support for Proposal 11. Thanks for the opportunity to provide this input.

Jeff Herbert
Helena, MT

Sent from my iPad

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David Hergesheimer
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:21:53 AM

From: David Hergesheimer dherge@js-cpa.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

In regards to the redistricting map I am in support of CP10. It makes no sense to divide Flathead County into east & west. Flathead County should all be contained in the West as your map shows in CP10.

--

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

From: MDAC
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: M joan Hess-Homeier
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:01:14 AM

From: M joan Hess-Homeier jheshomeier@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is joan hess-Homeier and I live In Missoula, MT.

I support map # 11. The requirement that both districts do not favor either party unduly will make any districting option untenable in Montana unless the requirement of having the districts be noncontiguous is dropped. Though #11 suggests one district which is certainly Republican, the second district has more of a democratic leaning. This would be a fairer choice ,as the Republicans are assured of their spokesperson from the eastern district, but the democrats also have a more reasonable chance of being represented by someone who champions their interests in the west. There is no way to make both districts even between republicans and democrats without breaking the guideline that the districts have to be contiguous, so the only fair way to district would be to have one definitely Republican district and one district that leans towards democrats.

Although map #10 would seem to fit the criteria, it splits up a county. Further it ends up with two districts which favor Republican candidates . No wonder the republicans forwarded this choice.

Thank you for taking the time to work on this arduous process. And thank you for reviewing my opinion.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])
<https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__!GaaboA!_vA2lRtEi0taxqW7H_oJuInWCPBgSkh0n9Tl5WF2xJwnqcjJSs7ge-XEtTiywHOQYOS>)

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dennis W. Hicks
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:07:02 PM

From: Dennis W. Hicks dhicks@lightwaveart.com
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:
Mandatory Criteria for Congressional Districts

- Protection of minority voting rights are guaranteed in Article II, Section 4 of the Montana Constitution and through compliance with the Voting Rights Act. No district, plan, or proposal for a plan is acceptable if it affords members of a racial or language minority group “less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.” (42 U.S.C. 1973)

- Each district shall consist of compact territory. (Article 5, Section 14 of the Montana Constitution). The Commission shall consider the district’s functional compactness in terms of travel and transportation, communication, and geography.
— From <https://leg.mt.gov/content/Districting/2020/Topics/Criteria/>

“Republicans have, by and large, taken the position that the fairness goal is best served by drawing a map without paying particular concern to the political makeup of the resulting districts.”

“Miller, one of the Democratic commissioners, presented an analysis Thursday based on historic election data from 20 races for statewide office held in Montana since 2014.”

“Republican commissioner Stusek said Thursday that he doesn’t dispute Miller’s figures, but that he believes it’s misguided for the commission to put too much emphasis on the map’s partisan consequences as opposed to focusing on population balance and geographic compactness.”

“A state statute technically bans the Montana districting commission from considering political information such as historic election results while drawing congressional and legislative districts, but, in part because that law may be unconstitutional, commissioners have chosen to ignore it.”

— by Eric Dietrich, Montana Free Press, October 22, 2021

Congressional Districting must be an apolitical effort. CP 11 appears to be an attempt at gerrymandering. To craft any districting map based on previous election data is a violation of the Mandatory Criteria. The unequal distribution of Indian Reservations in CP 11 is also questionable.

While the task of redistricting is impossible to please everyone, the goal is not pleasing anyone, but rather to equitably distribute the population into districts that comply with all the Mandatory Criteria.

Ignoring a potentially litigated, but currently in-force law is, on its face, illegal.

Lady Justice is blind, just so, the Commissioners must be blind to political party preferences.

--

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

From: [Diana Hicks](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Suggested Congressional Redistricting Map's
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:43:08 AM

In Taking the time to look at congressional maps proposals, I am for 10-CP10. We are Western Montana, and need to keep Kalispell and Bid Fork as part of the Western Montana.

We truly rely on Kalispell for serious medical care and shopping, Industrial services not to mention the Airport and highway services. We are a community with shared experiences in many ways.

What happens here deeply affects each one of us in the west. Please take this into consideration, and not the politics. We need to have a say in what happens here, It will affect our daily lives in a real way.

Thank you so much for your time, and all you do.

Diana Hicks
102 W. Balsam #4
Libby, Mt 59923

From: [Robert Hicks](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting map options
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:52:21 AM
Attachments: [Mt. redistricting comment 2021.wps](#)
[Mt.redistricting comment.doc](#)

I have included the same document in two different formats in the event you have difficulty opening one or the other.

Bob Hicks

October 28, 2021

Robert (Bob) Hicks
2509 Garland Dr.
Missoula, MT 59803
(406) 370-8610

Members of Montana Redistricting and Apportionment Commission:

After reviewing the two semi-final map options as shown in the Missoulian of Oct. 27, I think it's fairly obvious that both options reflect a bit of bias in an attempt to, whether knowingly or not, assume certain communities are going to vote primarily in one direction, liberal or conservative. I firmly believe that this further divides already divided factions based on presumption. Fingers could be extended from any section of the map with the objective of including any number of communities based on an assumption of how each will likely vote. This would result in map looking more like an ink blot than a purposeful and responsible redistricting effort.

This is why I am more in favor of what was referred to as the "republican" option. While it too shows a peculiar western boundary, I believe it to be better than the "democratic" option that stretches the western boundary in a somewhat contorted way to include particular communities based again on presumption. Based on the exploding growth in some communities, any assumption of expected voting trends could prove to be embarrassingly misguided due to the changing and more diverse demographics.

Your decision is bound to make one group of folks happy and the other group--not so much. I strongly urge you to apply some good old common sense and keep the map as simple and straightforward as possible and let the chips (votes) fall where they may.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Hicks
Missoula, MT: olebob4664@gmail.com

From: [Dave Hill](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Redistricting Map #11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 6:41:53 PM

I support Map CP 11 as it ensures 1 competitive district in the state. Populations of the 2 districts are evenly split on this map and most important to me is that Gallatin and Park counties remain undivided and within the same district.

I oppose Map CP 10 because this map creates 2 Republican districts which unduly favors 1 party. With 2 congressional districts instead of 1, a fair map should include one competitive district that either party could win.

These maps will be the future of Montana for the next 10 years and ideally it would benefit our state to have 2 competitive districts, however creating 1 competitive district is the least we should expect.

Dave Hill
Livingston, MT 59047

From: samhines629@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Sam Hines](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:14:25 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello,

My name is Sam Hines, I am a teacher in Missoula. For the sake of my students, and for future Montanans I hope you choose a map that will keep Montana politics more moderate and less polarizing. Many of my students lose interest in politics and issues that affect them because they see the extreme rhetoric on both sides.

Choosing map #CP11 would most closely fulfill the goals of your commission, and ensure that the districts do not unduly favor one party, as well as keep one district competitive.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this very important task.

Sincerely,
Sam Hines
434 N 1st St W Missoula, MT 59802-2926
samhines629@gmail.com

From: [Kay Hoag](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] map
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 8:17:41 AM

I support Map 11. I believe this is the map that has the most balance in terms of rural and urban areas, population, and the type of economic income.

Thank you for your work,

Mary Kay Hoag

From: [Joan Hoedel](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Political Representation in Mt - New Map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:48:24 PM

Dear Apportionment Commission,

I am asking you to please move forward with **Map #11**. It is the only possible way for every member of our state to have a voice in leadership and representation.

Sincerely,

Joan M Hoedel

From: [John Hoeglund](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:47:55 PM

I write in support of map 11 and in opposition to map 10. Helena clearly does not belong in District 2!

From: [Sonja Hoeglund](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting Proposal
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:33:35 AM

Commission,

I stand in support for Proposal 11.
I oppose Proposal 10.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sonja Hoeglund

From: joanhoff1@aol.com
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:52:45 PM

I live in Big Sky and support CP# 11. Joan Hoff

From: marcialhogan@aol.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Commission
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:13:18 PM

I urge you to select Proposal 11 because it most closely resembles the past when perhaps we were playing fewer games with boundaries. Or perhaps not, in which case I'd say Proposal 11 keeps more communities and counties intact and they deserve to be treated as a whole congressionally like they are in so many other matters. Thank you.

From: [Patricia Hogan](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final Congressional map CP11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:37:02 AM

Good day, Commissioners -- I write to support the **option #CP11** as being the more fair and competitive choice between the two revised MT redistricting map options.

As I indicated in my map comments on Saturday, Map CP11 is preferable to Map CP10, because it gives a competitive result, while maintaining roughly equal population splits. Only CP11 has a district which does not unduly favor one party over the other.

Thank you for your service.

Patricia A. Hogan | 1650 South 12th West | Missoula MT 59801
406.543.5509 -h | reckless50@gmail.com

"Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana."

From: [phoenixladyrising](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map Comment update
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:06:51 AM

Dear folks:

My apologies for not including the link to Tonya Dyas' maps referenced in my previous email.

<https://districtr.org/plan/45763> [[districtr.org](#)]

Thank you for your hard work on this project!

Theresa Holmes
Manhattan, Montana

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) [[protonmail.com](#)] Secure Email.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Erin Howard
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:56:14 PM

From: Erin Howard ehoward7123@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade, Montana

Message:

I oppose Map 10. It is unacceptable to split Gallatin County.

--

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

From: [Robert D Hughes](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support CP 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:08:18 PM

I ask that you support CP 11 because it would be a competitive district which either party could win. CP 11 keeps communities with common economic interests intact: Bozeman, Livingston and Paradise Valley are together as are Billings and Kalispell. These areas have voters of similar interests and culture. Helena and Butte belong together in the same district for these reasons as well. Likewise, CP11 (unlike CP 10) keeps Gallatin County intact and it keeps Gallatin County and Park County together, with the two counties' extensive economic interconnections. MSU and U of M would be together. It keeps the Highline intact and the heavily agricultural areas undivided. The parts of the state dependent on tourism and skiing would be undivided. Population split is equal. CP 11 best meets the criteria of competitiveness, economic cohesiveness and fair representation for Montana citizens.

Regards,

Robert Hughes
Livingston, MT

From: [Sally Hughes](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on CP10 and CP11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:39:52 PM

Dear Districting Commissioners

Of the two options on the table, I prefer CP11. This plan keeps Park and Gallatin counties united. The communities of Bozeman, Livingston, Paradise Valley, Belgrade and Gallatin Gateway have inseparable common interests. Dividing them into separate districts would be a blow to the economic and cultural health of the region.

CP11 also keeps other communities with common economic interests intact: Billings and Kalispell, Helena and Butte, MSU and U of M. The Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle and Hi Line, all heavily agricultural areas, would remain intact. Areas of Montana dependent on tourism and skiing would be undivided.

I strongly oppose CP10 because it divides so many communities of common interest into separate districts and would be detrimental to these areas as well as to the entire State. CP10 also would create two non-competitive districts unduly favoring one party.

Sincerely

Sarah G. Hughes

Livingston MT 59047

From: jessehunt@tds.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 10
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 5:40:02 AM
Attachments: [Redistricting Letter.doc](#)

Thank you for considering my concerns with the redistricting process.

Jesse Hunt
311 Mineral
Libby, Mt 59923

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406-293-1900

To: The Congressional Redistricting Commission
From: Jesse Hunt / 311 Mineral Ave, Libby, Mt

I without a doubt favor Map CP 10 because Kalispell and Bigfork share common interest with all of Flathead County and Lincoln County. Kalispell is the common center for our region concerning air travel and medical services. Kalispell is a major source of employment for my business which is based out of Libby. Placing Kalispell in the eastern district doesn't make sense. In addition, I believe all of Flathead and Lincoln Counties should be in the western district.

Sincerely,

Jesse Hunt

From: MDAC
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Ilgenfritz
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:50:19 AM

From: John Ilgenfritz jilgenfritz@msn.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

My original choice was #4. However, the powers that be could not agree on one of the nine. So now our choices are between two new maps, 10 and 11.

My choice is 11 for reasons you no doubt have heard, it does not divide communities or counties with common economic interests.

Also, it keeps Lewis & Clark County in the Western District, which I believe has more in common with counties situated there than with those in the Eastern District.

I do believe that we are best served when there is healthy debate by those running for office. Better candidates will emerge in both parties, if the minority party and the majority party believe that each has to go before the voters to secure a victory and that each has a reasonable chance of winning or losing.

And supporters of each party will believe that their support (financial and volunteer) is worth the effort.

Surely this is not too much to ask for. If it is too much to ask for, then we are surely doomed.

--

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

<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mtredistricting.gov_!!GaaboA!_vi68mkxVPQmw_Ap4vjFK9l_zy3mVZgN5jZ8xSkqjqldY10d_pKW55HhZq9SuHi0dg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mtredistricting.gov_!!GaaboA!_vi68mkxVPQmw_Ap4vjFK9l_zy3mVZgN5jZ8xSkqjqldY10d_pKW55HhZq9SuHi0dg$)>

From: [Jack](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:31:18 PM

I believe that Proposal 11 is the best choice for Montana

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Candace jerke](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposal11
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:14:29 PM

Proposal 11 makes more sense and does not divide up Lewis & Clark county which belongs together.

Candace Jerke

From: [Brad Johnson](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cp#11 iis the one that doesn't favor any particular party.
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:08:40 PM

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

From: [Rebecca Johnson](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting Congressional Map Selection Comment
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:09:02 AM

As I live in Montana City and do all of my work and shopping in Helena, I favor Map 11 as it acknowledges the strong community ties between Jefferson County and Lewis & Clark County by providing a competitive district where me and my neighbor's voices will be more likely heard by our congressional representative unlike Map 10. I believe Native voices will resonate more within a competitive western district as well. I would favor a new map that looks for a balance as the populations of Flathead and Gallatin counties grow over the next 10 years.

I support Map 11.

Rebecca Johnson
Montana City

From: [Jasen and Sandy Johnson](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:17:18 PM

Please ensure MT can be proud to have let MT voters truly be represented and that we believe in free and fair elections. I urge to you vote FOR PROPOSAL 11 and AGAINST PROPOSAL 10. <https://app.mydistricting.com/legdistricting/comments/plan/30/23> [app.mydistricting.com]. This is clearly the unbiased choice. Thank you. Sandra Johnson, Billings

From: [Sandra Johnson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:45:23 PM

I support map CP11. Even tho I live in Flathead county which would be split, I feel my county is split with its voting so would be better represented this way. Thank you.

Sandy Johnson
121 Shelter View Ct.
Kalispell

From: [Lisa Jones McClellan](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on redistricting
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:44:48 AM

Dear Commission,

My name is Lisa Jones and I live at 314 Blanchard Hollow, Whitefish, MT 59937. I have lived in Whitefish for 32 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.

My Best, LJ

--

Lisa Jones

406.261.9020

ljsnowbunny@gmail.com

Support Map #11

- 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.

From: [Don Judge](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional reapportionment
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:05:22 PM

I'd like to add my voice to Montanans supporting option number 11 and opposing option number 10 for congressional reapportionment. The district lines in option number 11 seem to provide consistently in communities impacted much better than the lines drawn for option number 10. In addition, it's obvious that option number 10 would create two districts in which republican candidates would have an inherent advantage over the Democratic candidates.

Respectfully submitted, Don Judge, 601 Peosta, Helena MT 59601

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE Droid