

Public Comments: A - E

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5 p.m. on October 16, 2021,
and 11:59 p.m. on October 18

Distributed electronically October 19, 2021

From: barda.in.montana@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Barda Allen](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Consider Montana's Congressional Map Carefully and Choose Wisely.
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 1:45:53 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Hi,

I'm Barda Allen and I was born in Roundup, MT. I spent 15 years living in different parts of the USA, and then 33 years ago, I moved back to Montana, raising a family here in Helena. I consider myself independent, as I lean toward democratic and also lean as a libertarian.

Having looked over all nine maps, I believe that number 8 will create the best representation for all people. Representing the Crow nation and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead, will bring diverse views to the table, along with all. He folks in tween.

This is my 2 cents, use it wisely.

Thank you,
Barda Allen

Sincerely,
Barda Allen
315 State St Helena, MT 59601-5788
barda.in.montana@gmail.com

From: lmaltizer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lynn Altizer](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Map #CP2 is my top choice
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:18:33 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I believe two districts that do not favor one political party over others, are relatively equal in population, and and that recognize areas that share similar interests and needs will serve the voters of Montana best. The fact that #CP2 doesn't split any counties or cities is also important, because I think it will cause less confusion at the local and state level elections. Population in the cities of Montana is steadily increasing, even though we are still considered a rural state. Allowing one urban and one rural seat will represent more people and thereby encourage more voters to be involved in our government are all levels.

Governments that favor one group/party over others are not successful. Favoritism is discrimination.

Sincerely,
Lynn Campbell Altizer
Proud Voter

Sincerely,
Lynn Altizer
152 Stone Fly Dr Bozeman, MT 59718-7778
lmaltizer@gmail.com

From: danderson1070@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Diane Anderson](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 6:04:33 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commisioners,

I have reviewed the proposals and believe that CP2 and CP8 most closely reflect my expectations of a representative, competitive district. I am opposed to splitting counties, cities and reservations as it can be very confusing to MT residents if they move within districts. MT residents need to be engaged in the representative process and it needs to be a simple, clear designation.

Sincerely,

Diane Anderson

516 22nd Ave NE Great Falls, MT 59404-1610

danderson1070@gmail.com

From: seeyalateralligator@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Joan Anderson](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Montana's Congressional Map
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:24:22 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Joan Anderson. I live and work in Helena. The most reasonable map for congressional districts is #8 because it puts Indian reservations in both districts and avoids splitting counties. All candidates should be making more effort to involve Montana's Indians in the democratic process, and having reservation in both districts makes that more likely to happen. I also favor the maps that avoid splitting counties except as needed to preserve the boundaries of reservations within one district, including #1, 4, 6, and 9. We should reject maps #1, 3, 5 and 7, which provide unequal population splits and which split multiple counties and even cities/towns. I believe those maps don't comply with the rules set by the committee for equal representation, and splitting counties and/or towns adds unnecessary cost, effort and confusion to elections. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joan Anderson
3217 Argenta Dr Helena, MT 59602-8558
seeyalateralligator@yahoo.com

From: ande973@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Joyce Anderson](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]CP2Choose Montana"s Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 4:52:03 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I would like to see map CP2 chosen for congressional districting. I feel this map best represents the points the commission selected as goals. This map also allows for 1 seat each from urban and rural areas so both would be represented. No community or township is divided by this map which allows for community continuity. We have enough areas of division let's not perpetuate more divisions by splitting communities.

Sincerely,
Joyce Anderson
102 Teton Ave Bozeman, MT 59718-6237
ande973@msn.com

From: 211katz@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Janet Andrew](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 11:35:59 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I have lived in Montana for 67 years. It is important to me that the re-drawing of districts are fair to every voter not just one side or the other. I support the following maps: two, eight and nine. I think they are fairly drawn and competitive.

thank you for excepting my comments.

Janet Andrew

Sincerely,

Janet Andrew

210 Pine St Helena, MT 59601-5756

211katz@gmail.com

From: andrewsde1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [DAVID ANDREWS](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Unite the Griz and the Cats
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 10:49:55 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

The major divide in Montana is not between the Griz and the Bobcats. The major divide is between areas where agricultural issues dominate, and areas where the development of technology jobs is of importance. The latter areas include Gallatin and Missoula Counties, and to some extent Ravalli county. This area of common purpose and of Montana's greatest growth deserves a Congressional District. The agricultural interests are assured of representation. Maps #CP2 and #CP9 seem to do the best job of achieving this with a compact footprint.

Go Griz. Go 'Cats.

Sincerely,
DAVID ANDREWS
630 Big Flat Rd Missoula, MT 59804-9210
andrewsde1@aol.com

From: arens.ma.h@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Hiltrud Arens](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 2:17:59 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commissioners,

I support the Map # 2, Map # 6 or Map # 8, and would be okay with each of one, if one of these were chosen, because I appreciate the way they look at issues of equal population, protection of minority rights and representation of Indian reservations in the state, they do not favor one political party, and allow urban and rural representation while try to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts, and therefore attempt to keeping communities of interest intact and remain competitive as districts.

Sincerely,

Hiltrud Arens
resident of Missoula County

Sincerely,
Hiltrud Arens
415 W Central Ave Missoula, MT 59801-6813
arens.ma.h@gmail.com

From: [Doris Baker-Ryen](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 3:03:31 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I've already given you my name. I've lived in Madison and Gallatin counties for 75 years

My biggest priority is not unduly favoring a political party

I don't see any maps on my screen

Thanks

Regards,
Doris Baker-Ryen
1505 Driftwood Dr
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: jrbanta27@gmail.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MapCP2
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 6:47:48 PM

This map seems most fair with regards to population and competitiveness. By also following county lines, constituents know where to vote.

Please use this.

John Banta
Gallatin County

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kristen Sims Barbaree](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana congressional district map
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:41:54 PM

Hello,
I support the proposed congressional district map #8.
Sincerely,
Kristen Barbaree
Columbia Falls, MT

From: [URI N BARNEA](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional districts maps for MT
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 10:36:35 PM

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

I prefer maps # 2 or 4 or 6 or 8 or 9.

Thank you
Uri Barnea
Billings, MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joyce Bateman
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 5:13:51 PM

From: Joyce Bateman 494evr@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

I am Joyce Bateman, living in Helena. I was born and raised in Montana. I left the state for 30 years, and returned 10 years ago. Montana and its place in America has always been important to me. It shaped me as a youth and the state called me back here to experience my retirement years.

The goal that matters to me the most is not unduly favoring a political party. All Montanans should share the goal of fair districts. That relies on keeping communities of interest intact and not dividing residents on basis of party affiliation.

I support maps 6 and 9.

Map 6 divides Sanders County to follow the boundaries of the Flathead Reservation. However, it also cuts out small parts of Flathead and Lake Counties. This is not ideal, as keeping counties intact was a redistricting goal; however, it still results in a good compromise and results in a "competitive district".

Map 9 divides Missoula County to keep the Flathead Indian Reservation intact. This seems like an even-handed compromise that still creates a "competitive district".

Thank you for your attention to input from residents.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Battaglia
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 8:00:45 PM

From: John Battaglia johnbattaglia0@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Based on my examination of the proposed redistricting maps, I think that maps six or nine would be the fairest.

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

From: [Peggy](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed maps
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 10:27:58 PM

I prefer map 6 or map 8. I want competitive and cities not divided. As alternatives map 2 or map 4.

Thank you for listening. I appreciate the work that has gone into this.

Sincerely,
Peggy H Bebb
Kalispell, Mt 59901

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joanie Bechtle](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:35:54 PM

I would choose map 2, 4 or 8 as best most fair options for redistricting.

From: [Joanie Bechtle](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:26:40 PM

I recommend map #2 for redistricting. It appears to be the only option that gives each political party a fair chance.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sean Becker
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:52:36 PM

From: Sean Becker beckersean@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

As a Helena resident and parents of 5th generation daughters, it is our hope that the redistricting process works to bring our great state together. Unity and compromise – these are essential values and necessary to get things done in Montana.

Please keep our communities and our counties intact. In addition, the Native American voice should not be diluted.

Congressional Map #9 does the best at balancing political ideologies and high growth communities on NW and SW MT. As well, #9 does not dilute the Native American voice. #9 keeps communities with shared interest together, empowers rural communities by including the fast growing, conservative values of the Flathead and keeps the Native American communities intact.

Thank you for your work on the redistricting. This is a difficult choice with no clear winner on the table. Thank you for not dividing our communities at the local level.

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

From: rgbeland@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Rodney Beland](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Map # CP8 is my choice
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 4:22:11 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Dear Commission Members

My reasons for picking number 8 are the population is equal. It is competitive which insures equal representative in congress. It includes Indian reservations in both districts.

Sincerely,
Rodney Beland
209 Arbor Dr Livingston, MT 59047-9251
rgbeland@yahoo.com

From: [Jean Belangie-Nye](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:14:30 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Jean Belangie-Nye, I have lived in Lolo for 32 years and in Montana for 60 years. I am a 5th generation Montanan.

My biggest priority is not unduly favoring a political party

Basically, I am not impressed with any of the maps. I could live with 4 and 8. But to be honest, it will be what the commission decides.

Good luck! Do your fairest for all the citizens of Montana and not the political parties! Thank you and take care.

Regards,
Jean Belangie-Nye
321 Oconnell Dr
Lolo, MT 59847

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Daniel Bennett
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 3:50:22 PM

From: Daniel Bennett djbennett4444@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

I am a resident of Cascade County. I believe it would be detrimental to the interests of county residents if the county is "split". I urge the commission to keep the county "whole" in the redistricting plan that is chosen. Thank you.

I have lived in Great Falls, Cascade Co. Since 1985. It is vitally important that the interests of the county residents are not diluted by splitting the county!

To split Cascade Co. Would dilute the residents ability to support agriculture, Maelstrom AFB, and existing recreational assets.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Peter Bennett
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:22:08 PM

From: Peter Bennett pbennettbz@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Hello my name is Peter Bennett and I live in Bozeman Montana. I have lived in Montana for 45 years.

I strongly believe in keeping an even balance between the Democrat and Republican party. I feel especially strong that Gallatin county should not be split into two different congressional districts because it has a cohesive, vibrant community of people

I support map 9 which puts like minded people in the southern and western parts of the state together. I believe map 9 will give Democratic candidates a fair and competitive chance to win the south western congressional seat. Other maps tend to favor the Republican party too heavily.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

--

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

From: rberg7867@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Raymond Berg](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:48:45 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Please give your vote to map 4. Thank you.
Respectfully,
Raymond Berg

Sincerely,
Raymond Berg
PO Box 786 East Helena, MT 59635-0786
rberg7867@icloud.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Erika Berglund
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:43:09 PM

From: Erika Berglund erikafairb@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Erika Berglund. I am 28 and live in Missoula. I've lived here for the last 5 years. In that time, I got my Masters at the University of Montana, served as an AmeriCorps member, learned to hunt and garden, and worked/volunteered for a number of local conservation and food-related non-profits. I also serve on the Missoula City-County Food Policy Advisory Board.

Of the four stated goals of the commission, my number one concern is not unduly favoring a political party. It is crucial that all Montanans are able to voice their opinion and needs fairly and that our political system is defined by key issues that are important to Montanans, not by party politics.

I support maps CP6 and CP8. I support 6 because of the even population split and 8 because it is highly competitive while keeping the Flathead Reservation intact. I believe CP6 and CP8 support the four goals of the Commission

Thank you for your consideration.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Aubrey Bertram
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:45:29 PM

From: Aubrey Bertram abertram@wildmontana.org
Residence: Billings

Message:

My name is Aubrey (she/her) and I live at 440 1/2 Yellowstone Ave in Billings. I'm a lawyer and I work in the nonprofit sector. I moved to Billings for a job about five and a half years ago after finishing school and am very invested in the Billings community, as well as southeastern Montana more broadly.

I think all four of the Commission's goals – not unduly favoring a political party; minimizing splitting counties, towns, & reservations; keeping communities of interest intact; and competitive districts – are critically important. But I think the best way to achieve these goals of competitive, nonbias districts is to keep relevant communities – like counties, cities, and reservations – together. I think respecting the already-existing political and often community borders will help make these new districts approachable and understandable to Montanans.

I think maps 6 and 9 do the best job of fulfilling the Commission's goals. These two maps make at least one of our congressional seats competitive and also split our reservation communities the least. No map is perfect, but these two strike the best balance between the competing needs of Montanans in our political representation.

Thank you for your work in this process. We only get to do this once and it's important to do it right.

--

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: Patricia Betcher
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:38:33 PM

From: Patricia Betcher tpatsyb@yahoo.com
Residence: Fairfield

Message:
To: Montana Congressional Redistricting Commission
From: Patricia Betcher

I am a 48 year resident of Montana and I am exercising my civic duty to participate in deciding the U.S. congressional districts in our State.

I am aware of the goals of the Commission and I strongly agree with each of these goals and appreciate the vision of the Commission and your efforts to establish a fair process.

I support Maps 2, 6 and 8. All things considered, my main reason for supporting Maps 2, 6 & 8 are because i think they are the only maps that reflect the competitiveness of the district.

Thank you.

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

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Big Horn County | bhc@bighorncountymt.gov

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
Email: districting@mt.gov

RE: Congressional Redistricting

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in support of Congressional District Commission Proposal 8 – CP8 [hereinafter referred to as Proposal.

The proposal shows that there is only a one person vote difference in the size of the two proposed Districts. This certainly fits in with the concept of "one person"; "one vote"

The "Southern" District has parts of at least three Indian Reservations and the "Northern" District has parts of at least four Indian Reservations.

The "Southern" District contains most of I-90 as it crosses the State, the "Northern" District contains most of I-94 and I-15 runs through both Districts giving both Congressional Districts good transportation.

It is respectfully requested that you give serious consideration to the Proposal.

Sincerely,



Larry Vandersloot
Chairman



Sidney Fitzpatrick
Member



George Real Bird III
Member

Po Box 908, Hardin, MT 59034

Office: (406) 665-9700 | bighorncountymt.gov

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Norman Bishop
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:23:39 PM

From: Norman Bishop nabishop@q.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I'm Norman A. Bishop, from Bozeman. I have been a resident here since 1997.

I support the first goal. Fairness is essential.

I support maps 6 and 9, because they best meet the criteria listed by the commission. Those maps best demonstrate the goals you listed.

Thanks for accepting my comments. Thanks for your work.

--

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

From: blakesleej26@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Julie Blakeslee](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 4:57:48 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello,

In regard to the new congressional districts, #CP8 & #CP9 are the best choices. We need to choose districts that are competitive between parties. We are tired of partisan politics with little being accomplished. These districts would help. I appreciate that the Indian reservations are not split and that only Missoula county is split for the reason of population equality. Please avoid splitting reservations/counties/towns for no apparent reason. I also extremely appreciate the fact that CP9 allows for both a rural and urban seat for the best representation of Montana in Congress. Most of the proposed maps don't meet the criteria I mentioned and should not be supported. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julie Blakeslee
Billings, MT

Sincerely,
Julie Blakeslee
2410 Hoover Ave Billings, MT 59102-2334
blakesleej26@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tammi Boe
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:45:23 AM

From: Tammi Boe sunshineboe66@gmail.com
Residence: Billings MT

Message:

I think you should choose map 8. It seems like the most fair and balanced way to divide the state. I've lived in Billings all my life and I want to make sure that our community gets good representation in Washington DC. Billings has the most residents, the biggest economy, and provides the most tax dollars. That's why both people in Congress should be an advocate for us. Thank you.

--

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

From: [Carla Bonetti](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Maps
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 1:37:43 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am a registered Montana voter and I want to voice my opinion regarding the redistricting maps.

I feel that the districts should:

- Be as close to equal in population as possible;
- Be compact and contiguous while minimizing dividing communities of interest, cities, towns, counties, and reservation;s
- Comply with the Voter Rights Act;
- Not unduly favor a political party and take into account competitiveness, ensuring candidates need to work for our votes.

Therefore I support Map CP6 or CP8.

Thank you,
Carla Bonetti

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Boschert
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:29:10 PM

From: John Boschert bosche66@yahoo.com

Residence: Billings

Message:

My name is John Boschert, I live in Billings MT.

I have lived in Billings for 63 years, my whole life, and I care about our state. And natural resources that we have.

Not unduly favoring a political party

I support maps 6 and 9. just what I care about

Thank you for your consideration on this subject.

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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: Cheryl Bourguignon
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:38:31 PM

From: Cheryl Bourguignon cheryl.bourguignon@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Cheryl Bourguignon

3102 Cummins Way, Missoula, MT 59802

I'm a concerned homeowner in Missoula, MT and want the redistricting to be fair to all political parties.

Not unduly favoring a political party is most important because all persons in Montana should have a fair vote in all elections. If the maps favor one political party more than another, then this does not happen. Rather the political party that is favored, benefits unduly compared to the other party.

I support maps 6 and 9. These maps do not unduly favor a political party, they minimize splitting counties, towns, and reservations, and they keep communities of interest intact.

Thank you for your consideration in this important issue.

--

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: Pamela Boyd
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:14:09 PM

From: Pamela Boyd pamboyd123@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula Montan

Message:

The districts need to be competitive. I The maps I believe are best in descending order are:
8,6,2,9,4.

--

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

From: mjo.bremner@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Mary Jo Bremner](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Montana Congressional Map
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 6:00:01 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.please choose 2or4 for congressional maps. I like each to be equal to give both parties a chance and independents a chance.

Sincerely,
Mary Jo Bremner
213 4th Ave NE Browning, MT 59417-5066
mjo.bremner@gmail.com

From: [Mary Brennan](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting proposals
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:56:03 PM

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:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: rchaelbriggs@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Rachael Briggs](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map #CP8
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 10:15:34 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Thank you for considering my viewpoint about MT Redistricting maps. I looked carefully at the competitiveness and fairness of the nine MT maps, and it seems like having at least one of the districts able to run a highly competitive candidate is most important. Map #CP8 seems to meet this criteria best. It gives the Republicans a hefty leaning in one district for sure, and the remaining district is highly competitive for a win from either party. Maps #CP2 or #CP6 are designed for a highly competitive candidate as well, so I could accept either. Please choose so all of our voices will have a platform to be heard. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rachael Briggs

Sincerely,
Rachael Briggs
1713 S Black Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-5703
rchaelbriggs@icloud.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Douglas Broadie
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:50:41 PM

From: Douglas Broadie dbroadie@isomedia.com
Residence: Mcallister

Message:

I am Douglas Broadie and I have lived in Montana for about 8 years. I live in Mc Allister now, but was living in Miles City previously. I have been coming to Montana to fish and hike since 1976 and love the state.

I do not believe in partisan politics as I am an independent and to have voting set up by two parties that do not like each other because of power politics. We need to keep this away from them.

I like maps 6 & 9 the best. They do not favor a political party.

Thank you for putting in this hard work as it is a thankless job.

--

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

From: [James Brown](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:06:04 AM

I've looked at all the 9 proposals. Living in Missoula and having the minority political opinion in the state, neither the current Republican Senator or House of Representative pay any attention to my comments. I am completely ignored because of the lack of competitiveness in the state. Therefore, I would like to see districts drawn that at least give my viewpoint a chance so that during the elected officials tenure, they will at least pay some attention to my point of view. Thus, I prefer maps 2 and 9 - they seem compact and don't divide up similar entities. I hope that the commission realizes the importance of representation for those in the minority. Thank you. Susan Brown, 1504 Woods Gulch Road, Missoula, MT 59802, 406-549-8052 brownjs2@bresnan.net

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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.avg.com___:!!GaaboA!-eHM4B_LD4qSLwAliCwS-GgGGvDYqGUaJ-dtfj-Xkgq0so4KjcEsh9zf7R0kCHvJOW\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://www.avg.com___:!!GaaboA!-eHM4B_LD4qSLwAliCwS-GgGGvDYqGUaJ-dtfj-Xkgq0so4KjcEsh9zf7R0kCHvJOW$)

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Raymond Brown
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:53:53 PM

From: Raymond Brown rqyb003@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Greetings, I am Raymond D. Brown, an Episcopal Priest and former Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral in Helena. A marine Corps Veteran, (Korea, 1953, S/Sgt)

I have lived in Montana since 1963 and Helena since 1966. I retired from the Montana Department of Transportation after 26 years with the state in 1997.

We must be extremely careful that redistricting does not become politized giving either party an unfair advantage in our democratic elections.

I support maps 6 and 9. The maps I have chosen best represent the goals of the commission.

Yours is a difficult task. Thank you for you time and honest consideration.

Raymond D. Brown
6162 Lazy Man Gulch
Helena, MT 59601

--

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: Mary Bruen
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:38:33 PM

From: Mary Bruen mtbruen@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I am Mary Bruen. I live in Missoula, Montana. Originally from Maine, I came to Montana to attend college and haven't looked back since. From adventures in the Bob Marshall Wilderness to bird watching at Blue Mountain to car rides peering at the expansive big sky, I am so grateful to call Montana home.

Not unduly favoring a political party and competitive districting helps to maintain elections that reflect widely held values, encourages collaboration and discussion. I think ultimately this is the Montana way.

I support maps 6 and 9. Maps 6 and 9 create one competitive district whereas Maps 1,3,5 and 7 create none. No maps create 2 districts. Maps 6 and 9 also split counties and reservations the least.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Buchanan-Hess
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:52:19 PM

From: Susan Buchanan-Hess hess59019@gmail.com
Residence: Columbus

Message:

My name is Susan Buchanan-Hess, I live in Columbus MT

I am most interested in minimizing the favoring of a political party.

I support maps 1, 3, and 5

Map 1 I like this map because

it allows for two reservations to be included within the western district, allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes in the new western district. This map splits the fastest growing 4 counties evenly between the east and west districts, allowing for the best reflection of population growth over the decade.

Map 3 I like this map because

it has all the characteristics of the CP-1 map, with a slightly larger population deviation at -560 (-0.1%). The only difference is the southern part of Gallatin around West Yellowstone and Hebgen Lake Estates will be in the western drawn map. Slight changes in the western parts of the county as well, but the cities of Great Falls and Bozeman remain intact and in the east and it does not favor a political party. Either district could be won by Republican or Democrat.

Map 5 I like this map because

it is an attempt to get three tribes in the western district as its primary goal, and falls just under the requirement of .75%, with 7551 population deviation (.7%). It could be argued to fall just under our requirements for compact and contiguous in the effort to get three tribes in the west, splitting the Rocky Boy Reservation components in Hill and Choteau counties off and it also closely resembles the historical divide Montana had for 80 years when we had two districts before, adjusting for population and tribe inclusion.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sara Buley
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:38:36 PM

From: Sara Buley sarabuley@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

Hello,

My name is Sara Buley. I live and have lived in Great Falls for 30 years. I taught high school Spanish at C M Russell High School for 27 years and recently retired. I also have often hiked in the Rocky Mountain Front and Little Belts over the years and snowshoed and cross country skied. I love the people here and the state.

The most important goal I feel is to not unduly favor a political party. We have become so partisan in the last few decades and I believe that no one party should have a "shoo-in". Our representatives should represent all of Montanans, not just their own party members.

I support maps 6 and 9. Maps 6 and 9 split counties and reservations the least. They both also create one competitive district. This means that they are more likely to represent all Montanans.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my comments. I appreciate the difficult work you are undertaking.

--

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: John Bundy
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:41:19 PM

From: John Bundy bundyj@gmail.com
Residence: Hamilton

Message:

I am an independent, non-affiliated voter who wants to see my state continue to be diverse in its political views. I believe that compromise allows reasonable perspectives to be shared and considered.

I believe the goal of competitive districts outweighs the other three criteria. Without competitive districts only one political perspective will have a vote. I recognize the value of the other goals but without competitive districts, they would be silenced.

Map 1 is not good for Montana, it provides no competitive districts and, although it protects communities of interest, it splits two counties.

I slightly favor map 2 because it meets the criteria of competitive districts and keeping counties whole. Although it splits off a portion of the Flathead Reservation, it is a small area. I favor competitive districts most because it allows multiple perspectives to have a voice and a vote. This is how Montana has been politically for several years and is allows for compromise on numerous issues.

Map 3 is not good for our state. It does not favor competition, plus it divides two counties.

Map 4 is a fair compromise and allows for competition but it divides Flathead County.

Map 5 is a poor choice. There would be no competition and three counties would be split.

Map 6 is acceptable because it allows for competition and it keeps the Flathead Reservation whole but it splits three counties to make it work.

Map 7 is another poor choice because the competitive district goal is lost.

Map 8 fails because it does not allow for competitive districts. It also splits counties and the states largest city.

I favor map 9 the most. It allows for competitive districts and accommodates communities of interest. One county is split but that still appears to be the best choice of the nine options available.

This will be one of the most important issues facing Montana for several years. Thank you for allowing public input and for considering the many perspectives.

--

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: Roxy Burpey
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 2:44:10 PM

From: Roxy Burpey r_burley@live.com
Residence: Billings Montana

Message:

I am commenting in support of map #8. Out of the 9 maps submitted, if we are still in a democracy in this country, map # 8 is the only one that gives the Democrats a shot at winning. No other map is competitive. It is my understanding that any other choice would be subject to a court challenge. Any other choice, fails the constitutional test to compactness. Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: [Karol Cady](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essman@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 4:10:57 PM

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to voice our support for proposed House district maps 8 and 6. Both maps are compact, equal in population, and politically competitive.

Having lived in this state for 35 to 60 years, we have always been proud of Montana's independent purple political streak, notwithstanding the last election results. These maps clearly show that half the state's western district's population leans blue and half red. Each half deserves a chance to elect a representative who aligns with their priorities and values. For example: In the last election, voters in map 8's western district voted 48.7% for Biden and 48.6% for Trump. None of the other maps' western districts had such competitive election results.

Although map 8 divides Missoula County, where 3 of us happen to live, we believe the county is already divided politically and each sector's citizens deserve to be aligned with like-minded voters and to be represented by like-minded politicians.

Proposed district map 6 does not divide counties and also had competitive results in the 2020 presidential election: 49.3% for Trump and 48% for Biden.

Proposed maps 1, 3, 5 and 7 do not take into consideration half of western Montanans' priorities and values. The 2020 presidential election results in these maps' western districts went 54.9 - 55.4% to Trump.

Setting the western House district map to align with just half of its citizens' priorities and values is partisan and unjust. And I don't believe we need more of that. Democracy requires all citizens a fair chance to be represented - even those one disagrees with. These maps seem to best assure that desired result.

Thank you for your consideration and for your hard work,
Karol Cady
620 Longstaff
Missoula, MT 59801

David Wilkinson
1331 Bulwer Str,
Missoula, MT 59802

Katherine Bossler
P.O. Box 337
Polson, MT 59860

John Wilkinson
2 South Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59602

Jessica Chiovaro
3035 Rustler Dr.
Missoula, MT 59808

From: gracie229@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Rachael Caldwell](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Keep Montana's Congressional Map Bipartisan
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 10:20:32 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Please choose map #CP 6 in order to keep reservations whole (it is often already too difficult for Native Americans to vote, and this would make voting more streamlined for them), keep our elections fair and competitive, and allow for better representation across both rural and urban MT in our elections. This is so integral to a true democracy, and I believe map #CP 6 will help keep democracy alive in Montana, even as we see it faltering elsewhere.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Rachael Caldwell
523 N 2nd St W Missoula, MT 59802-2919
gracie229@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: JERRY w CALVERT
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:22:51 AM

From: JERRY w CALVERT jcalvert42@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Past commissions have done a first rate job of avoiding obvious attempts to gerrymander legislative districts. Now, that the commission has for the first time in many years to create two Congressional districts. As you know, Supreme Court case law is clear. A deviation of more than one percent from perfect population equality among Congressional districts is unacceptable. Given that, we have the other criteria such as making Congressional districts not look like creatures from the black lagoon. Given that, community of interest is also a legitimate standard. Hence my point is this. Splitting Gallatin County between two districts and putting several Bozeman area precincts in the east seems to be an obvious attempt that divides the Bozeman metro area for partisan reasons that should be obvious. When we had two Congressional districts in the past Gallatin County was in the western district. So it should and must remain.

--

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

From: [Colette Campbell](#)
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 Maps
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 11:20:14 AM

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Please make your choice for this very monumental decision from Maps 2,4,6,8, and 9.

These maps support compliance with the Voting Rights Act in considering district boundaries.

Please support political fairness ensuring candidates have to earn the votes of Montanans in their districts.

Please ensure there is flexibility to balance the unique needs of each district and be responsive to public feedback. Ranking criteria prematurely will tie the commission's hands.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very important matter,

Colette Campbell
Belgrade, MT.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: robert campbell
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:30:50 PM

From: robert campbell rcampbell505@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Robert Campbell. I moved to Montana in 2012 to attend graduate school at UM, where I earned a PhD in Forestry and Conservation Science. I spend my free time recreating on public lands and I care deeply about maintaining access to public lands and protecting the environment.

I think that maintaining competitiveness and not unduly favoring a political party are the most important of the Commission's goals because there are a wide range of political views in Montana and it essential that all viewpoints have a realistic opportunity of being represented through elections.

I support maps 6 and 9. Maps 6 and 9 do the best job of maintaining competitiveness and not favoring a political party, and they also meet the criteria of minimizing splitting of cities, counties, and reservations, and keeping communities intact.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

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

From: wfteacher@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Gary Carmichael](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Some thoughts from a lifelong Montanan
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:22:37 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

After looking over the different proposals for the two congressional districts two stand out for me as the best options. Having lived in Phillips, Cascade, Missoula and now Flathead counties I think there is a real need for our states two districts to reflect our urban and rural areas. Options 9 and 2 seem to best serve all the people of Montana. With such little representation in the House of Representatives Montana's two representatives need to be laser focused in getting things done for the people of Montana. My family came to Montana before statehood so I've always been a student of our states history. Its because of that background that I looked at the map options with a critical eye based upon the commissions goals and 2 and 9 seem the best options. The others looked like shenanigans.

Sincerely,
Gary Carmichael
221 Peregrine Ln Whitefish, MT 59937-8173
wfteacher@hotmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gary Carter
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 11:26:45 PM

From: Gary Carter garyecarter@hotmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT.

Message:

I support this CP8 map 100% it does not unduly favor one political party over the other. I think splitting Billings is a very good thing to do! Billings is expanding in all directions. Thank you for reading my comment.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Donna Caruso-Hirst
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:38:25 PM

From: Donna Caruso-Hirst badger@3riversdbs.net
Residence: Valier

Message:

My name is Donna Caruso-Hirst and I live on the Blackfeet Reservation. This is where I raised my family and live my life.

First of all I would like to thank you for the work that you have done as a commission. I appreciate and support all the discretionary criteria that you have selected but with my connection to the Blackfeet Tribe I am particularly interested in keeping communities of interest in tact. I want to support a strong native voice.

I support map 9. I feel that Map 9 best meets all the discretionary criteria and it provides the best opportunity for a stronger voice than map 6 which I was also considering.

Again thank you for the work that you've done and for considering my choice of a redistricting map.

--

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

From: rmhikinggurl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Robin Childers](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please choose redistricting map 2, 6, or 8
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 5:19:05 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Map #2 is my preferred choice, but maps 6 and 8 also meet the Committee's criteria and provide Montanans with equitable distribution. Maps 4 & 9 are also reasonable options, but are less competitive.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 are partisan. None of us needs that.

Please support Map #2. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Robin Childers
98 Lacota Dr Missoula, MT 59803-1259
rmhikinggurl@gmail.com

From: [Vickie Christie](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on redistricting
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 8:02:26 PM

Hello,

I am a native Montanan who was born in Butte and has lived in Billings many years. I now live in Missoula. I also have roots in a family ranch outside of Hardin.

I favor proposal 9 as the most fair. My second choice is proposal 6.

The maps are not unduly favoring either political party and both maps create competitive districts.

Thank you for listening to citizens.

Vickie Christie

From: montana.cleary@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kevin Cleary](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Montana Congressional Maps
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:47:24 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Greetings, Montana Districting Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to share feedback about Montana's need for congressional district lines. I have review the commission goals for selecting a final map; it seems clear that Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are the only ones that meet both the population equity and competitive standards. Regarding protection of minority rights, though, I think Map 8 stands out among the rest--it is competitive in the north and south of the state while include reservations in both districts.

I appreciate your work on this commission and look forward to hearing about your decision. Thank you again for serving our state and listening to voter feedback.

Sincerely,
Kevin Cleary
715 Breckenridge St Helena, MT 59601-4355
montana.cleary@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marisa Cleary
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:38:00 PM

From: Marisa Cleary griffith.marisa@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Hello, my name is Marisa Cleary and am a resident of Bozeman, Montana. I am a fourth generation Montana, born and raised in central Montana.

I support the Congressional District Commission Proposal maps 6 and 9. I support these maps because I feel they are the best at not unduly favoring a political party. Keeping maps competitive helps increase collaboration, reduce polarization, and maintain elections that reflect widely shared values.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: ddawnc@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Darci Coffman](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:40:58 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello, and congratulations on your decision-making authority for this important task. Looking at the available options for the two congressional districts, my preference is number eight. As I understand it, this proposed map makes both districts equal and population as well as competitive politically. This particular split also puts one or more Indian reservations in both districts, which I believe is important, as is the fact that both districts represent urban and rural areas of our state. Finally, no towns are divided unnecessarily. Thank you for your consideration, and best wishes for your decision making.

Sincerely,
Darci Coffman
21119 Handley Loop Clinton, MT 59825-9670
ddawnc@msn.com

From: joecohenour@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Joe Cohenour](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Map #1 & #9 are best Choice for MT!
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 11:11:20 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello members of the District and Appointment Commission,
You have a tough decision ahead of you!

I think Montana wants a competitive district that keeps counties and school districts whole. They prefer a district that is compact and easy to distinguish from one another. Not a district that your next door neighbor is in another district.

I believe #9 is the best choices. It keeps both keep counties and school districts whole, thus no confusion who your representative in Washington is. It is both compact and competitive in nature.

Next choice would be #1. It keeps the reservations whole, again no splitting of the representation in Washington. It does split Missoula county, but otherwise it keeps all the other political subdivisions whole.

Good luck, ~~joe cohenour, East Helena MT

Sincerely,
Joe Cohenour
2610 Colt Dr East Helena, MT 59635-3442
joecohenour@gmail.com

From: [Sam Collins](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Cc: Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Yes to maps #CP 4 and 8
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 7:58:58 PM

Hello Districting Commission,

I strongly urge you to vote for maps #CP 4 and 8. These maps are population equal and competitive. This means that there is a fair chance of either party winning a Congressional district. These competitive maps will encourage candidates to show up in the communities they're running to represent. These maps also represent Tribal Nations the best out of all the proposed maps. Maps #CP 4 and/or 8 contain fair and equitable districts.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Beth Cooper
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:24:09 PM

From: Beth Cooper cooperb38@hotmail.com
Residence: Great Falls MT

Message:

Dear Commissioners: I would like to comment on map preference. Map 1 is my pick, because it's evenly split, historically correct, more competitive, stronger voice for the tribes, and population deviation is just one citizen. Map 7 is my 2nd choice because it is similar to 1 in almost every aspect. Map 3 is my 3rd choice because it similar to maps 1 and 2, but has a larger deviation. The other maps have too much gerrymandering and do not represent the rules very well. Thank you. Please do your duty, and choose the map that makes it fair for all!

--

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

From: [Jim Cooper](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 4:48:18 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

This is Dr. Jim Cooper, I live in the Big Snowy Mts south of Lewistown, Mt. I have been a Montana Resident for 17 years and a 5th Generation Westerner all my life.

My biggest priority is to not unduly favoring a political party.

After examining the proposed maps, I favor maps 4, 6, 8, and 9.

Thank you for this opportunity to have input to the redistricting process.

Regards,
Jim Cooper
64 Toboggan Slide Ln
Lewistown, MT 59457

From: [Margaret Corcoran](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional mapping
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 2:32:51 PM

Dear Committee members

Reviewing the proposed maps I am most drawn to #4. It fulfills the mandates to make districts equal in population and competitive politically. As a native of western Montana I also like the contiguous regionality of it.

Maps # 3 & 5 are neither; rejecting them seems a no brainer.

I strongly urge you to follow the guidelines for formation for of this map; that it be equal in population, competitive, compact. We deserve to feel like we are being heard.

Thank you for your hard work on this matter, i know it is not easy.

Margaret Corcoran

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Margaret Cordell
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 2:22:03 PM

From: Margaret Cordell peggycordell56@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Margaret Cordell. I have lived in Missoula for 46 years.

I believe we should have at least one competitive district in our state. I choose to live in a more liberal-leaning city; but am always disappointed in election results statewide because there are just so many conservative voters in the rest of the state. Basically, my vote gets cancelled about three-fold each election.

I support maps 2 and 6, respectively. Map 2 (in addition to keeping counties together) would create a very competitive election district, as would map 6. Map 8 would as well, but it appears contrived.

Thanks for your consideration of my opinion in make your districting decision.

--

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: George and Lynda Corn
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:13:11 PM

From: George and Lynda Corn gcornmt@gmail.com
Residence: Hamilton

Message:

Thanks for your work on this critical endeavor. We have been Montana residents since 1980 and residents of Hamilton since 1981.

We support either of the following redistricting maps: 4,6,8 and 9.

Thanks you again for your work.

--

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: Daniel Cottrell
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:20:26 PM

From: Daniel Cottrell cottrell07@yahoo.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Greetings! My name is Dan, I work as a wildland firefighter in Missoula Montana, and also farm 160 acres of wheat and barley.

I think re-districting should not favor a political party and keep districts competitive.

I believe of the maps as proposed, maps 6 and 9 best serve the needs and best interests of Montanans and the values I hold close. I hope the commission agrees to either of these options as they in my opinion, don't favor a political party and will keep elections fair and competitive.

Thanks for your time and efforts!

--

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

From: beckycrane51@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Rebecca Crane](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Consider Montana's Congressional Districts Carefully
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 1:33:35 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Rebecca Crane and I am a middle school teacher, parent & concerned Montanan. When choosing Montana's new congressional districts, please keep the needs of ALL Montanans in mind. Given the current map choices, I strongly encourage you to use Map #2. It is vitally important that we keep populations equal in the two districts, ensure that they are competitive, and do not spilt counties. Additionally, it makes sense in Montana to create what is essentially one urban and one risk I district. Montanans deserve fair representation in Congress.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Crane
15 Velva Dr Kalispell, MT 59901-6327
beckycrane51@gmail.com

From: crawdads04@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Kristi Crawford](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 6:00:16 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am supporting the choice for map 4 or 8. They seem to be the most equitable and fair.
Thank you, Kristi

Sincerely,
Kristi Crawford
218 Lindley Pl Bozeman, MT 59715-4833
crawdads04@msn.com

From: [Susan Cushman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed district #2
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 10:55:07 PM

I have looked at all 9 current proposals and I think #8 would be the most fair and equitable. Please strongly consider this one.

Thank you,
Susan H Cushman, 355 Cushman Lane, Swan Valley, MT, 59826.
Email: cushman@blackfoot.net

Sent from my iPad. Sue

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lisa Davey
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:40:28 PM

From: Lisa Davey ladavey25@gmail.com
Residence: Clinton

Message:

My name is Lisa Davey. I live in Clinton, MT. I've lived here my entire life and am a 5th generation Montanan.

It is important to me to have the boundaries drawn with political fairness and keeping communities intact.

I believe maps 2, 6, and 8 meet these goals the best. These are competitive districts that make sense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathie Daviau
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 7:53:46 PM

From: Kathie Daviau daviauk@gmail.com
Residence: Billings

Message:

I am Kathie Daviau. I live in Billings and I am a fourth generation Montanan. My grandchildren are sixth generation Montanans.

It is my opinion the Commission should not favor any political party. The long term history would show that Montana does not favor a particular party. Please do not split communities, reservations, or counties. But, most importantly, do not play politics.

I think maps 6 and 9 best meet the criteria. Maps 6 and 9 best meet the goals of not favoring a political party, minimizes the splitting of towns, counties, and reservations. These maps also create competitive districts, which creates a healthy political atmosphere.

Thank you for time.

--

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

From: [Duane Day](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MT districting map
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 8:04:57 PM

Hello districting team. Thanks for your efforts on this important task. I am favor of one of these maps:

2

4

6

Any one of these provide the key items: competitive, equal population and (I believe) follows county lines.. Please carry one of these three map (#2, 4 or 6) forward.

thanks

duane day

150 Adams St Unit #6

Lakeside, MT 59922

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marilyn hood dayhuff
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 11:35:16 PM

From: Marilyn hood dayhuff mimihood@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Mt.

Message:

I hope I am not too late to put in my vote for #2, #4 and #8 as preferred maps for redistricting .
Thank you for your work in this !

--

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

From: [Cynthia DiFrancesco](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting maps, I am in favor of #9
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:38:37 AM

To the Montana Districting and Appointment Commission,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I continue to work with severely ill Covid patients, mostly unvaccinated. Our Governor's lack of a mask mandate or even respect for the humanitarian healthcare (not political) crisis we are dealing with makes me realize once again that we need leadership that listens to and responds to the people *as problems arise, rather than someone who arrives with his ears and eyes blindfolded by his own political will.*

After reviewing the fairness guidelines proposed by various groups for our redistricting map, it seems that only maps number 6 and 9 meet the criteria. Importantly, they both keep all our Native American Indian Reservations intact and in one voting bloc to assure solidarity and effectiveness in representation.

Further, I am in favor of map number 9 as it keeps Gallatin and Park counties together. For two very important reasons we must be able to vote with solidarity with our Gallatin county neighbors:

1. The Greater Yellowstone ecosystem is within the boundaries of both counties. By voting together we can help drive critical management policies that positively affect biodiversity, climate change, tourism, and recreation in this unique natural area surrounding us. Quite simply, If we blow it it's gone forever. We need a representative that understands the science behind irreversible climate changes that occur with oil and gas drilling, and mining and who will stand up to the industry to change where the jobs are generated in our state. We have plenty of opportunity in Montana to develop jobs in alternative energy, sustainable agriculture and forestry, jobs in trades and tech, and rural healthcare jobs if we can work together to transition to them.

2. Gallatin and Park counties together form a regional healthcare service area, and we are both greatly impacted by the seasonal influx of tourism and a recent surge in immigration (and currently COVID) into our towns and small hospitals. We interact on a daily basis with hospitals and clinics in both counties, and are desperate for representation that will provide leadership and bring state and federal guidelines and funding for our healthcare needs. If we had a current representative to convince Governor Gianforte that just like every other state that has provided funding for their current short term staffing shortage, that we in Park County Montana need a representative who recognizes the urgent need for that funding, we would not be in such critical daily healthcare crisis. Instead he has denied us funding, and we are told we should find it elsewhere. This kind of absurdity is purely political and not serving the healthcare needs of any Montanans—Republicans or Democrats.

It is absolutely imperative that we return to logic and facts and find a balance in our state for the good of everyone. Fair Representation and districting is the only way to accomplish that. Please don't let political will sway your vote; please be a "profile in courage" in the works of JFK, and vote for what is best for the people of Montana. This is what the people are asking for. I am asking for map number 9 to be accepted and implemented.

Thank you kindly,

Dr Cynthia Di Francesco
Livingston, Montana

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Dixon
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 2:04:08 PM

From: Mark Dixon bongophoto@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Mark Dixon, Missoula: have lived and worked in MT for over 30 years. My roots are as deep as any pine tree.

2. Minimizing communities.

I support 2 maps: #'s 6 & 9. Both maps adhere to the commission's 4 stated goals, the only ones to do so. The choice is obvious.

Thanks for your time & consideration.

--

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

From: dorrence@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Michelle Dorrence](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Map #CP2
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 6:10:37 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Map #CP@ has the best representation of all Montanans.
It is competitive, split between urban & rural, and communities & counties aren't split.
This meets the goals of equal representation.
It is not gerrymandered like 1, 3, 5, & 7.

Sincerely,
Michelle Dorrence
4061 Carbon St Bozeman, MT 59718-6294
dorrence@hotmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dawn Doyle
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:46:48 AM

From: Dawn Doyle deltadawn999@icloud.com
Residence: Billings MT

Message:

Map 8 is best in my opinion because it gives the people in Billings a vote in both districts. We have twice as many people in Yellowstone County than anywhere else in the state. So we should have twice as much representation, right? That seems like a fair deal to me! I also like map 8 because it keeps most of Billings united with the small ag communities across eastern MT that do so much business in Billings. That's why I think map 8 is the best choice for Montana!

--

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: Kip Drobish
Date: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:14:36 PM

From: Kip Drobish
Residence: Kila, MT

Message:
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking time from you lives to work on fair apportionment of electors. It makes such common sense that representative democracies catch all the community colors and flavors of electors across the state. Their are many different voices to be represented and district boundaries that cut through and intentionally dissect those communities vastly impair the full function of democracy. What is the point of a democracy if every representative agrees and there is not debate and discussion. A dictatorship and the absence of dissent may be the most efficient form of governance, but would you like to live in that kind of a political system?

Montana has a rich history of independent voting or voting both sides of the ballot. Thou shalt not abuse thy power and try to confound democracy as was done so obviously in 1812 by Elbridge Gerry in Massachusetts.

Wikipedia "The term gerrymandering is named after American politician Elbridge Gerry (pronounced with a hard "g"; "Gherry").[6] Vice President of the United States at the time of his death, who, as Governor of Massachusetts in 1812, signed a bill that created a partisan district in the Boston area that was compared to the shape of a mythological salamander. The term has negative connotations and gerrymandering is almost always considered a corruption of the democratic process. The resulting district is known as a gerrymander (/ˈdʒeri,mændər, ˈgeri-/). The word is also a verb for the process.[7][8]"

If you decided for example to divide the Blackfoot nation to get a Republican vote outcome, shame will be upon you. Be fair and encourage a healthy democracy. The voters are watching!

Thanks,
Kip Drobish

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov]
<https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mtredistricting.gov_!!GaaboA!9uDT4C2r26uvrB_kfFlxPfOx45UVXnigWGNgJILM914lr9hxfmCe2lvfuCS6MRDGgS>
)

From: jdunbar60@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jean Dunbar](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:07:29 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

. Please use congressional maps that meet the commission's goals. We want this to be fair and equal for everyone.

Sincerely,
Jean Dunbar
322 Blackhawk Ln Belgrade, MT 59714-8299
jdunbar60@gmail.com

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map CP1
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:58:07 PM

I support Map CP1 for the following reasons, noting it meets both the criteria and goals of the Commission as adopted in July 2021:

- Population is close with 1 person difference.
- Indian Reservations are fairly represented
- Each district is compact, providing for practical travel and communication.
- Each district is contiguous.
- Fair for both political parties—
 - Noting UM is one district and MSU is in the other.
- Minimizes dividing cities, towns, counties, and federal reservations between two districts.
 - Splits 2 counties (Cascade, Gallatin) but keeps major cities there intact—Great Falls and Bozeman
- Keeps communities of interest intact.

Also, it puts the two fastest growing cities/counties (Flathead and Gallatin) in two separate districts, meeting population growth and fairness in next 10 years.

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP2
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:38:02 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I left previous comments on this map, but as I continue to study the maps, I see that this map does not have both districts sharing the MT/Canada border. Nor does it appear to be compact—lots of travel space from the NW corner to the SE corner.

As I previously noted, while this map meets certain criteria and goals of the Commission, I don't see this map as being politically competitive when it puts the 4 most Democrat/Liberal cities of Montana in one district—Missoula, Belgrade, Bozeman, Helena—and also Butte. I would like to see more political competitiveness. This map is labeled as competitive, but I don't see it as being that.

I do not favor this map for the above reasons.

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP2
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 10:02:51 PM

While this map meets certain criteria and goals of the Commission, I don't see this map as being politically competitive when it puts the 4 most Democrat/Liberal cities of Montana in one district—Missoula, Belgrade, Bozeman, Helena—and also Butte. I would like to see more political competitiveness.

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 3
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:48:31 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Map CP 3

This map appears to be very similar to CP 1 with perhaps the biggest difference being that it does not split the population evenly.

I noted the following points for CP 1 and will list them as it appears to me that they apply:

- Indian Reservations are fairly represented
- Each district is compact, providing for practical travel and communication.
- Each district is contiguous.
- Fair for both political parties—
 - Noting UM is one district and MSU is in the other.
- Minimizes dividing cities, towns, counties, and federal reservations between two districts.
 - Splits 2 counties (Cascade, Gallatin) but keeps major cities there intact—Great Falls and Bozeman
- Keeps communities of interest intact.

Also, it puts the two fastest growing cities/counties (Kalispell/Flathead and Bozeman/Gallatin) in two separate districts, meeting population growth and fairness in next 10 years.

This map is marked as “not competitive,” but it appears to be competitive to me in that it doesn’t favor one political party over another.

While I prefer CP 1 because of the population equality, this map seems very similar.

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 4
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:53:44 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Map CP 4

This map is labeled “competitive” but it does not appear to be politically balanced to me. It puts both UM and MSU in the same district, which also brings Missoula, Bozeman, Butte, and Helena into the same district.

While I have voted for both Democrats and Republicans, I prefer to see a division that is more politically balanced between both parties.

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 5
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:58:15 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Map CP 5

My primary reason for not preferring this map's division is that it splits Havre. I think this is confusing for city residents. Also, it is easier and more compact for candidates to campaign within the same city, not sections of the city.

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 6
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:05:34 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Map CP 6

I do not prefer this map for the following reasons:

- Both districts do not share the MT/Canada border
- It is not compact—lots of travel distance in one district
- Not politically balanced/competitive:
 - Both UM and MSU are in the same district
 - Missoula, Bozeman, Butte, Helena—primarily Democrat in one district

While I have voted for both Democrats and Republicans, I prefer to see the districts more politically balanced. I am not sure why this map is labeled as “competitive.”

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 7
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:12:02 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Map CP 7

I see this map as being very similar to CP 1 and meeting much of the criteria as set forth by the Commission. (I noted that I favor Map CP 1 for these reasons.)

I like that this map keeps counties intact, except for Gallatin—and here it splits Bozeman. It does put UM in the Western district and MSU in the Eastern district, and I think this helps with political balance. However, I prefer to not see cities split because I think that I confusing to residents—for this reason, I prefer CP 1 over this map.

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 8
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:18:06 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Map CP 8

I do not prefer this map for the following reasons:

- Both districts do not share MT/Canada border
- Puts the 2 fastest growing cities in the same district (Kalispell, Bozeman)
- Puts both UM and MSU in the same district
- Not politically balanced/competitive
- Splits the city of Billings

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [Donna Eakman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP 9
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:24:25 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Re: Map CP 9

I do not prefer this map for the following reasons:

- No Indian tribes represented in this SW District
- Only one district has the MT/Canada border
- Not Compact—one district covers too many miles!
- Both UM and MSU are in the same district
- Not politically balanced/competitive in that it leans very Democratic in this SW division

While I have voted both Democrat and Republican, I prefer to see divisions that are more politically balanced.

Sincerely,
Donna Eakman

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Eric Gustaf Edlund
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 7:53:30 PM

From: Eric Gustaf Edlund eric.g.edlund@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Dividing the state into Eastern and Western districts seems the most natural and objectively fair, but none of the Commission's proposals #1, #3, #5 or #7 makes that East-West split in a fair or natural way—instead, all of those maps consciously bias the boundary selection to split up presumed Democratic voters, i.e. to gerrymander the state.

Among major population centers, Billings and Great Falls are clearly located in the "Eastern" portion of Montana, while Missoula, Kalispell, Butte, Helena, and Bozeman are clearly "Western" in their popular identification within the state.

It turns out that it's relatively easy to draw a natural line that divides East and West with approximately equal populations, and that doesn't split any of those population centers between the two districts.

One fair delineation would look somewhat similar to the Commission's Map #7, except that map arbitrarily splits up Gallatin County and Bozeman to disfavor Democrats. Instead, a fair and natural map could allocate to the Eastern District the northern portion of Gallatin County (generally north of I-90), along with all of Broadwater County, and the northern portion of Lewis & Clark County. Helena and Bozeman would be allocated to the Western District.

Straight lines are not a clear indication of map "fairness" in a mountainous state with major river drainages. For example, the dividing lines in Maps #1 and #3 are artificially straight and as a result they are actually geographically unbalanced—the two regions don't have clear identities. However, without making the dividing line too convoluted, it is possible to maintain the integrity and identity of populated places, and I hope your final map will accomplish that end.

--

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

From: [Mae Nan Ellingson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional districts
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 6:26:07 PM

> Dear Commission Members,

>

> Thank you for your hard work and commitment of service to the Montana Reapportionment Committee . I continue to believe it is one of the most important provisions of the 1972 Constitution and vital to our democracy. It is exciting that Montana is regaining a second Congressional seat and the work of the Commission this year is more important than ever as questions arise about electoral integrity.

>

> I applaud your adoption of the goal that districts be equal in population and competitive. There are several proposed maps that achieve those goals. I favor Map 2 because it meets those objectives and in addition it is compact and does not divide county boundaries.

> I urge you to approve Map 2.

> Sincerely, Mae Nan Robinson Ellingson , 10055 Grant Creek Rd., Missoula, Mt. Delegate to 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Elliott
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:29:30 PM

From: Susan Elliott elli@startmail.com
Residence: Red Lodge

Message:

As you decide on a district map for Montana's congressional seats for the next decade, I hope you will hold the value of competitiveness as extremely important in your decision.

Competitive districts create a strong incentive for elected representatives to listen and be responsive to all of the constituents. I hope you will select one of the maps that not only includes equal numbers of constituents and avoids splitting communities but also provides for fair competition in the electoral process.

I support maps CP4 and CP8 as the best options. CP2, CP6, and CP9 would also be acceptable.

I oppose maps that do not meet the goal of competitiveness: CP 1, CP3, CP5, and CP7. I note that CP3 and CP5 also do not have equal populations and should be disqualified.

Thank you for your painstaking work.

--

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

From: [Janet Ellis](#)
To: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Congressional redistricting maps
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 3:57:38 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support maps that comply closest to all the commission's identified criteria (equal population between districts; compact districts; protection of minority rights guaranteed under Montana's constitution (which in my mind means keeping Indian reservations intact); minimal splitting of communities, counties, and/or Indian reservations; complying with the Voter Rights Act; and not unduly favoring one political party (which means at least one district is competitive in elections)). Because I agree with the commission's identified criteria, I support maps #CP 2, #CP 4, #CP 6, #CP 8, and #CP 9.

Ultimately, I think it is more important to keep communities and reservations whole, then it is to keep counties whole. I believe this because I live in Lewis & Clark County, which is large and diverse, including rural and more urban; people who live in Helena and the Helena Valley (essentially those individuals who rely on the city of Helena for their livelihood) have more in common with other people that live in Helena and the Helena Valley, then they have with people who live in, for example, Augusta or other rural communities located within the county. Although I realize proposed maps do not split Lewis & Clark County, my personal experience leads me to prefer maps that, to the maximum extent practicable, keep communities and Indian reservations together, not counties.

I personally think Livingston and Bozeman should be in the same district because they are so intertwined economically.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please contact me if you need additional information.
- Janet Ellis, 703 Breckenridge, Helena, MT 59601

From: thryn1carl@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Cathryn English-Straub](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please be Thoughtful in your selection of Congressional Map for Montana
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 11:21:07 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.I would like to advocate for Map CP 8. I like the north/south configuration rather than east west. I think the more we have to work on listening to each other and to find our common interests is healthier fir Democracy in the long run. I also think this redistribution would pull us more into Moderate representation hopefully. I appreciate your time and efforts, Thank you, Cathryn English-Straub

Sincerely,
Cathryn English-Straub
1600 Winne Ave Helena, MT 59601-5227
thryn1carl@aol.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carl Esbjornson
Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:49:29 PM

From: Carl Esbjornson carl.esbjornson@aol.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I most favor Proposals 6 and 9 for redistricting as they seem the most fair, balanced and competitive proposals. However, I oppose any attempts to split cities or counties, preferring to leave them intact.

Thank you.

--

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

From: [Ralph Esposito](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Redistricting Maps
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 4:03:55 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Ralph Esposito. I have lived in Montana since 1978 and taught at Carroll College for over 40 years.

My biggest priority is ensuring competitive districts

I support maps 4, 6, 8 and 9.

Thanks for your time, consideration and public service.

Regards,
Ralph Esposito
425 Russell Ln
Helena, MT 59602

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Chris Essmyer
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:38:26 PM

From: Chris Essmyer essmyerc@gmail.com
Residence: Anaconda

Message:
Chris Essmyer
205 Fairmont Rd
Trlr 2
Anaconda, MT. 59711

My mother was born in Montana Native on Flathead Reservation 1927.
I love Montana and so did my wife of 35 years, she passed away August 26 2020. I moved her to Montana May 2000 we lived in Butte until 2018 moved to Anaconda.

Keeping communities intact (Reservations)!
So we can get together and keeping our Constitution tract.

I support with Wild Montana in the belief of maps 6-9 meeting criteria. Don't try to fix something that's not broken.

Thank goodness for you all!

--

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

From: bcevanger@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Brad Evanger](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Select Map #CP 9
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 6:49:05 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of Map #CP 9 because it meets the tenets of the Commission's unanimously agreed upon goals of creating a map that supports equal population, protects Montana Constitutional guaranteed minority rights, contiguous districts, does not unduly favor a political party, attempts to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts, and consider competitiveness of districts.

Map #CP 9 meets these requirements by keeping the population distribution equal across the state, splits one county for population equality and ensures no reservations are split and allows for one urban seat and one rural seat. while keeping the districts competitive. The map meets all the requirements the Commission looked at when they convened and created the criteria. Montana is at a crucial point in our history and we need to ensure that all voters are given an equal voice, an equal opportunity to vote and make sure our voices are heard.

Thank you for your consideration,
Brad Evanger

Sincerely,
Brad Evanger
1520 Renaissance Dr Missoula, MT 59802-9612
bcevanger@msn.com

From: czevanger@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Carol Evanger](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Use the Commission's Unanimously Agreed Upon Goals
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2021 6:45:13 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of Map #CP 9 because it meets the tenets of the Commission's unanimously agreed upon goals of creating a map that supports equal population, protects Montana Constitutional guaranteed minority rights, contiguous districts, does not unduly favor a political party, attempts to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts, and consider competitiveness of districts.

Map #CP 9 meets these requirements by keeping the population distribution equal across the state, splits one county for population equality and ensures no reservations are split and allows for one urban seat and one rural seat. while keeping the districts competitive. The map meets all the requirements the Commission looked at when they convened and created the criteria. Montana is at a crucial point in our history and we need to ensure that all voters are given an equal voice, an equal opportunity to vote and make sure our voices are heard.

Thank you for your consideration,
Carol Z. Evanger

Sincerely,
Carol Evanger
1520 Renaissance Dr Missoula, MT 59802-9612
czevanger@gmail.com