

# Public Comments: S - Z

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between 11:59 p.m. on October 4, 2021,  
and 5 p.m. on October 16

Distributed electronically October 16, 2021

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Saint-Louis  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 8:27:46 PM

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From: Robert Saint-Louis rsaintlouis47@yahoo.vom  
Residence: Polson

Message:

My name is Robert Saint-Louis, Im a retired Critical Care Respiratory Practitioner with home in Polson for the past 46 yrs.

During this time , I have served as a volunteer in leadership roles on numerous state boards In community health as in historical preservations .

It is imperative that the new congressional district is fair to all political parties.

I support maps 6 and 9 to be reasonable choices that will be fair to all Montanans. My basic concern is this selection represent fairness to all political interests and if possible not to create a division among municipalities and cultural communities which I believe would be detrimental to their unique identities.

Folks,I want thank you for your work and personal time your putting in on this commission .

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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: H. John Sandford  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 10:44:11 AM

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From: H. John Sandford  
Residence: Butte, MT

Message:  
I recommend Proposal 2 for the congressional districts.

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

**From:** [J Douglas Sangster](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana redistricting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 7:33:24 AM

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One of the criteria that apparently governs the redistricting process is equal populations in the 2 new districts. This ignores a basic fact! Likely Missoula and Bozeman will end up in the Western district. These are the 2 fastest growing areas of the state. The redistricting process is for 10 years, so if you make the districts equal in population in 2021, then for most of the next 10 years, the western district will have a significantly higher population than the eastern district.

A very logical map looks a lot like the former district maps when MT had 2 districts. Doing this, the western district would have around 3-4% smaller population than the eastern district. Because of the growth trends, this difference would be wiped out in a few short years.

Please reconsider your strict reliance on population equality.

James Douglas Sangster  
Bozeman, MT

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carol Savage  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:01:05 AM

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From: Carol Savage  
Residence: East Glacier Park, MT 59434

Message:

Please choose a fair and honest representation of Montana. Support one competitive district.  
No gerrymandering in Montana. Set a standard and do the right thing.

Thanks so much for all your hard work.

carol Savage

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gracie P. Scher  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:36:20 PM

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From: Gracie P. Scher [g.scher@yahoo.com](mailto:g.scher@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Livingston, Mt

Message:  
Please don't allow redistricting.

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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: Alex Schillinger  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 1:10:27 PM

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From: Alex Schillinger [alschillinger21@gmail.com](mailto:alschillinger21@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please create a district that fulfills your constitutional mandate and creates a district that has a representative that's most accessible to the constituents of the district. A district that spans from the eastern border to the western border of Montana makes no sense. CP1, 3, or 5 are the best choices.

Thank you,  
Alex

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jerry Schillinger  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 2:30:57 PM

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From: Jerry Schillinger j8960@midrivers.com  
Residence: Circle

Message:

It is your responsibility as a commission to follow your Constitutional mandated role. The most important, especially in a state as vast as Montana, is to create districts that are as compact as possible, helping to ensure citizen access to their representatives. Maps CP 1,3 or 5 achieve these goals. As a State Representative that serves a vast district, I know that the citizens are not best served as the geographic size of the district increases. Creating any districts that span from the Western border to the Eastern border of Montana, ill serves the people of that district. Thank you, Representative Jerry Schillinger HD 37

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



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Paul Schmaltz  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 4:39:30 PM

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From: Paul Schmaltz smutz1952@gmail.com  
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

I really am in favor of MAP 1. I believe this is the most fair map for each party. I also like how it split the four fastest growing counties with two in the east and two in the west. Furthermore, keeping the cities of Great Falls and Bozeman intact in the east makes a lot of sense.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Darlene Schmid  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 8:57:30 AM

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From: Darlene Schmid dar@bigsky.net

Residence: Missoula MT

Message:

I think the #4 redistricting map does a good job breaking the state in two with the Rocky Mountains in the west and the Plains in the east. It keeps Native populations in both and I think it allows for many common interests to be maintained in each.

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

**From:** [Hal Schmid](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] districting map comments - hschmid  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:35:59 PM

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Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Commissioners and Commission Presiding Officer:

To begin with, I admit that I find none of the forwarded nine maps completely satisfactory. No surprise. This is not an easy chore. I completely respect the efforts and discussions carried on by the five commissioners and as well as meeting management by Sheila Stearns and Maylinn Smith over the past several years. Thank you for your work on behalf of Montanans present, past, and future. And thank you for making the meetings available over the internet as well.

The map submitted by Western Native Voice comes close to addressing my concerns. I believe this is represented as the proposed Map 4. But it is still problematic, with the division of Flathead County—even though the division of one or more counties will certainly be required. However, counties are arbitrary political designations. The Rocky Mountain front is a very real boundary—impacting human communities environmentally, socially, economically, and thus politically as well.

Therefore, a map created in the past week or so by Blake Ciliwick comes a bit closer for me. Like Map 4, Ciliwick's map focuses, I believe, on the issues/concerns/criteria most pertinent to me while still addressing the required criteria that have been imposed—population balance, contiguous districts, and competitiveness. While the first two of these criteria are rather matter of fact, the last criterion becomes rather subjective and argumentative.

Still, the purpose of congressional districts is representation in Washington, DC. So my greatest concern is for honoring the representation of community voices in the districting process. In brief, I believe that the Blackfeet Reservation and the Flathead Reservation both need to be joined in the western district, and I believe that communities experiencing similar rapid growth and housing issues in the Rocky Mountains should have the ear of a single representative congressional representative—whether that be a republican, a democrat, a libertarian, a green party candidate, or an independent such as myself.

In the case of the drawing of congressional districts, it is the competitiveness in the context of the issues that matters to me. Voices and long-term concerns need to be represented in this process. And those issues in the more controversial drawing of the current western district boundary are:

1. Available and affordable housing, which is most central to Bozeman, Missoula, and Whitefish (and Kalispell, in turn); and
2. Indigenous (Blackfeet and CSKT) concerns with human, wildlife, and natural resource management in the Northern Rockies ecosystem with which they have traditionally and inherently been tasked with stewarding.

On top of this, broader community-voice issues include Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, wildlife management, watershed management, forest management and wildfire concerns, and continued population growth. The next census will undoubtedly find the western portion of the state has continued to increase in population over the eastern portion.

As for my background, I was raised by very politically engaged and active parents in Missoula County. But I began my shift to an independent and non-partisan stand early on—November 4, 1964 while still in grade school. I am proud that Montana does not require partisan affiliation/registration in order to vote in primaries. For me, the issues and the candidates matter, not party loyalty.

I began voting in the 1970s, and the last Montana congressional district map—1982 to 1990—still holds as my ideal map. The Eastern Front of the Northern Rocky Mountains forms a physical as well as social and economic and political division in the state. I liked that boundary that included Blackfeet and Park County under the purview of the Western District congress person. I clearly felt that congressmen from the 1960s to 1990s had a clear constituency in Eastern Montana and Western Montana, with their constituents shared very clear concerns—whether the viewpoints were conservative or liberal. Thus, the issues could be fairly debated and addressed. In Montana, that made the seats competitive to me.

Clearly, with continued growth in Western Montana, the 1990 map is no longer suitable. We've watched the district line move increasingly to the west from 1960, and it will likely continue to do so as the Western Montana grows in population in the future.

I sincerely hope that the commission finds a way to include the Blackfeet nation and the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes together, a way to link Bozeman and Missoula and Whitefish, and a way to ensure that common community-of-interests are clearly represented in the new districting map—not divided so that their voices are diluted by being placed with others competing for the ear of a congress person.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate and be heard.

Hal Schmid, Ed.D.

Arlee, MT 59806

[hschmid@montana.com](mailto:hschmid@montana.com)

mailing address: PO Box 3603, Missoula, MT 59806

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Schmid  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:22:09 PM

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From: John Schmid [jpsmtoh@gmail.com](mailto:jpsmtoh@gmail.com)  
Residence: East Glacier Park Village

Message:

Greetings,

I'm John Schmid and I've been a school teacher and counselor for about twenty-five years on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. What I've learned to love about Montana is the reality that historically we have tried to be an inclusive state that gave a voice to everyone.

I believe that gerrymandering has been harmful to the country. It's disturbing to see both parties gerrymander their states. As you well know this leaves out the voice of the minority party. I feel creating competitive districts is of the utmost importance for our state and country.

With this in mind I feel either map 6 or 9 best represent all of the voters of Montana. These maps clearly give the best opportunity to make competitive districts. I strongly believe competitive districts throughout the country could help eliminate the extreme right and left in our country which could help us become the country we deserve. We as Montana's can set an example and do it right. Hopefully other states could follow our example.

Thanks for all the time you have put into this difficult process and considering what is best for Montanans and the nation.

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

**From:** [Emma Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8:39:06 PM

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Dear Districting and & Apportionment Commission Members,

**I would like to advocate for maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9.** Here are my reasons why:

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together. It is important for congressional representatives to have similar populations, so they can advocate for a group with similar interests in Washington.

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are contiguous and compact with equal populations.

Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

**I would like maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 to be removed from consideration.** Here are my reasons why:

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party (republicans).

Thank you for your time working on this committee. This is important work in shaping Montana's political landscape for the next ten years. Please choose a map that gives Montanans the best chance at fair representation in Washington DC.

Sincerely,

Emma Schmidt

**From:** [Kathy Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:49:45 PM

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I am a resident of Missoula. I support Map #CP2.  
Thank you,  
Kathryn Schmidt



**From:** [Linda Schmitt](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** Test  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 8:36:24 AM

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Sent from my iPad  
[Linda Schmitt](#)  
[202-641-0033](#)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rachel Schmidt  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:05:46 AM

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From: Rachel Schmidt [rachelv1978@gmail.com](mailto:rachelv1978@gmail.com)  
Residence: Whitefish MT

Message:  
Map 6 and 9 seem the best options.  
Thank you!

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sue Schmidt  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:25:31 PM

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From: Sue Schmidt [idahochocolatequeen@hotmail.com](mailto:idahochocolatequeen@hotmail.com)  
Residence: Darby

Message:

My name is Sue Schmidt, I have lived in Darby, MT since 2016 and have owned my property here since 1994.

I want districts to not split reservations or towns at all and minimize splitting counties. I have seen what splitting counties and towns does in the state where my family lives. I also want districts to not favor political parties – having lived in a place where my vote was ridiculed for not counting is frustrating.

I support map 6 as my first choice and map 9 as my second. Map 6 is competitive and splits one county – following the Flathead reservation and a couple tiny areas of 2 others. Map 9 is competitive and splits one county to keep the Flathead reservation intact. I prefer 6 to 9 because 9 puts all the reservations into one district.

Thanks for your time.

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

**From:** [Sue Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:20:57 AM

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I support map #2. It is easily divided and fair to all.

Sue Schmidt  
Darby Mt

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Linda Schmitt  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 8:47:35 AM

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From: Linda Schmitt [linda@schmittleslie.com](mailto:linda@schmittleslie.com)  
Residence: Corvallis, MT

Message:

I and my family are residents of Ravalli County. We support Proposal 8. It comes closest to ensuring all voters have a voice in elections. Proposals 1,3,5 and 7 would disenfranchise Democrat voters for years to come. This is antithetical to the Montana's history of balance and common sense. Montanans seek solutions that respect others' opinions; they don't try to stifle opposition or crowd out fellow citizens. Everyone in Montana should have a voice, not just those who vote red.

Moreover, Proposal 8 would avoid rural Ravalli County from being swallowed up in urban Missoula's dominant population.

Please choose balance, not oppression.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gail Schontzler  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:02:13 PM

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From: Gail Schontzler [gschontzler17@gmail.com](mailto:gschontzler17@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

I strongly object to maps that would unfairly and unnecessarily split Bozeman or Gallatin County (maps 1, 3, 5 & 7).

I strongly support maps that would keep Bozeman in the same district with Missoula, with which we have far more interests, problems & values in common (eg. universities, growth & pro- environmental attitudes) than with Billings & eastern MT (pro-coal, oil & gas development). Please support map 2, 4, 6 or 9.

I feel 8 looks like gerrymandering.

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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: Alicia Schreibeis  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 11:46:24 AM

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From: Alicia Schreibeis  
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

Please consider Proposal 1 or 5 as your top choices for the redistricting maps. Thank you.

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

**From:** [m.pat.scre](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting proposal  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:27:37 PM

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I support Map #4. Thank you. Mary Srenar, Bozeman



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Curtis Settergren  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 4:46:30 PM

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From: Curtis Settergren [crsettergren@gmail.com](mailto:crsettergren@gmail.com)  
Residence: Billings

Message:

My name is Curtis Settergren. I have lived in Billings,MT for the last 30 years.

I am happy that MT is getting another representative and I feel it is very important to keep the districts competitive so that candidates feel compelled to listen to everyone in their district, not just their party members.

Of the options presented I think map 6 will fulfill that criteria the best. Map 9 also a reasonable option as compared to others that look to offer one party dominance.

I thank the Commission for being a bipartisan group and will adhere to a spirit of fair, competitive district mapping.

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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: Mary Sexton  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 12:13:47 PM

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From: Mary Sexton [msexton@3rivers.net](mailto:msexton@3rivers.net)  
Residence: Choteau Montana

Message:

Although Teton County will most likely be in the “eastern” district, I strongly urge the committee to follow the criteria and goals you have outlined – keep communities of interest together, keep districts compact, encourage competitiveness. I believe maps 6 and 9 meet much of the criteria. Thank you.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Janet Shapan  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 1:30:53 PM

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From: Janet Shapan [jkshapan@gmail.com](mailto:jkshapan@gmail.com)  
Residence: Belgrade/Bozeman, MT

Message:

Please register my comment regarding me and my family wanting Commission Proposal CP1 to be implemented.

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

**From:** [Tracy Sharp](#)  
**To:** [Dan Stusek](#); [Jeff Essmann](#); [Joe Lamson](#); [Kendra Miller](#); [Maylinn Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Congressional District Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 5:52:35 PM

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Madam Chairman and Commission Members,

I respectfully request my comments below be made a part of the official record of the Commission and be considered during your deliberations.

I am concerned that the effort to railroad through an unjust gerrymandering of Montana to achieve a particular political objective is now well underway. It is the duty of this Commission to protect the electoral process and avoid a contemptuous situation where the winners of elections are determined by **who is the best cheater**. I prefer a reasonable decision based on the cold-blooded facts of the census, and that the officials of this Commission resolve redistricting to the satisfaction of all **without inviting litigation**. I believe it is your duty to do so.

With regard to the maps, it is clear that Map CP-1 (<https://leg.mt.gov/content/Districting/2020/Maps/Congressional/Commission-Proposals/cp1-congressional-october-19.pdf>) is the most appropriate choice. It meets the requirements written into law by House Bill 506 ([https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/HB0599/HB0506\\_X.pdf](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/HB0599/HB0506_X.pdf)) and passed by Montana's Legislature. If the members of the Commission ignore the law, this will ensure a long series of ramifications to include tiresome litigation which, in my mind, signifies **failure** this Commission to perform its assigned task. Instead it will have **punted its duty to the judiciary**; something that happens far too often in politics today.

Map CP-1 meets the goals/requirements for compactness. It keeps the difference in populations between the two districts (plus or minus one) to a minimum, and it is the least destructive in terms of splitting counties. CP-1 is the map that most closely follows the intent of HB 506--a **law** determined and established by the citizens of Montana as expressed through their elected legislators. If HB 506 is willfully circumvented or ignored, one can only wonder which laws the citizens will decide for themselves are and are not applicable to them. The commission surely will have established such a precedent.

The **people are not fooled** by what is going on in Helena with this commission. It is clear for all to see that there is an attempt to ignore the law and gerrymander the boundaries of the two Congressional districts to win through shenanigans and political clerking what cannot be won at the ballot box through open debate, policy discussions, and winning votes. As I said when I testified earlier, this is the **Tonya Harding approach to Montana politics**; when you can't beat the runaway winner, you bust out the hammer and cripple them by smacking them on the kneecap. That is exactly what this kind of "gerrymandering to win" is all about, and we've seen it in other states--like California. The **people will not be fooled** by these tactics.

Map CP-1 is the runaway winner when it comes to the maps, and it clearly best

satisfies the criteria set out in law by HB506, Section 1. For the good of all Montanans wishing to keep faith with their state government and its officials in this very challenging time here and across the country, I recommend the commission adopt the boundaries specified in Map CP-1. I recommend you keep faith with the laws of Montana as established by our legislature and honor the obligations entrusted to you. In doing your duty, you will gain the respect of all the citizens of the state and prevent them from surmising that open lawlessness and the picking and choosing of which laws to follow is an acceptable way forward.

Thank you for your efforts.

Tracy Sharp

PO Box 548

Polson, Montana 59860

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

(406) 407-2197

**From:** [Tracy Sharp](#)  
**To:** [Dan Stusek](#); [Jeff Essmann](#); [Joe Lamson](#); [Kendra Miller](#); [Maylinn Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Congressional District Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 5:52:35 PM

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Madam Chairman and Commission Members,

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satisfies the criteria set out in law by HB506, Section 1. For the good of all Montanans wishing to keep faith with their state government and its officials in this very challenging time here and across the country, I recommend the commission adopt the boundaries specified in Map CP-1. I recommend you keep faith with the laws of Montana as established by our legislature and honor the obligations entrusted to you. In doing your duty, you will gain the respect of all the citizens of the state and prevent them from surmising that open lawlessness and the picking and choosing of which laws to follow is an acceptable way forward.

Thank you for your efforts.

Tracy Sharp

PO Box 548

Polson, Montana 59860

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

(406) 407-2197

**From:** [Andy Sherman](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districting Maps  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 11:11:59 AM

---

To paraphrase Occam's Razor, "sometimes the simplest solution is the best one." In looking at the 9 proposed districting maps for our new congressional seat, it appears as if CP-1 is by far the most equitable choice in terms of simplicity of boundary line as well as equality of population. I ask the commission to please consider voting for this mapping.

Sincerely,

Andy Sherman

3006 Westridge Dr.

Bozeman, MT 59715

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



**From:** [Norma Sherman](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Proposals - a question  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:24:35 AM

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I would like some census information in regard to population for the western and eastern districts for proposals number one and number five.

A comparison would be very helpful. Where may I ascertain this information?

Per articles I have read to date, I would be supportive of either Proposal number one or Proposal number five

Thank you for your assistance with my question,

Norma J Sherman

Glendive, Montana

shermannj@msn.com

**From:** [Kendra Lynne Shirley](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map 2  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:51:00 AM

---

Map two makes the most sense. As someone who has run for state legislature, district bounds are extremely hard to understand for a long of people. Making the map follow county lines will help a lot with this understanding!

Thank you for your time.

K Shirley  
HD4 voter

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jerry C. Shively  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 3:10:34 PM

---

From: Jerry C. Shively  
Residence: Thompson Falls, Mt

Message:

After careful examination of the maps submitted there is only one that even comes close to meeting the criteria for redistricting, as set by HB-506 & that is map CP-1. There be no question as to which map should be used, as all the other maps are just a law suit waiting to happen if they are even considered. Apply the KISS principal, and avoid any possibility of having your decision overturned by the court.

Jerry C. Shively

--

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: Sandra Shumaker  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:36:49 AM

---

From: Sandra Shumaker sandymt65@gmail.com  
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:  
CP 1 map is my choice. It appears to be the most fair and equitable

CP 1

--

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

**From:** [Nancy Siegel](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 11:53:15 AM

---

**To whom it may concern,**

**Please take note of my thoughts and concerns related to the proposed redistricting maps. I do not support Maps 1, 3, 5 and 7.**

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party.

**I propose maps 2, 4, 6, 9 and 9 as the best redistricting options (for the following reasons).**

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together.

Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

Thank you for your time,

Nancy Siegel  
2512 Sycamore Street  
Missoula, MT 59802  
206-450-9886

**From:** [Wade Sikorski](#)  
**To:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**Subject:** [spam]Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 6:25:26 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I live in Fallon County, Montana, on a ranch that has been owned by my family for over a century.

My biggest priority is ensuring competitive districts

I support maps 4,6,8, and 9.

Thanks for considering my comment.

Regards,  
Wade Sikorski  
19 Wicklow Ln  
Baker, MT 59313

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathy Simonsen  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 3:43:01 PM

---

From: Kathy Simonsen [kathysimonsen1953@gmail.com](mailto:kathysimonsen1953@gmail.com)  
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

Kathy Simonsen, Ive lived in Montana my entire life and am proactive in Political interests.

Minimizing the split in counties, towns and reservations

I support map 6 To preserve our land

Thank you

--

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

**From:** [Crean Bean](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maps Representing Montanans in Washington  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 6:26:30 AM

---

Dear Commissioners,

Please draw a map that represents citizens, not parties. The most reasonable map of the nine at this point is number one. It follows a line that loosely, clearly and fairly represents population density and common goals/needs of that population. Anyone who has lived here all their life would draw the line in this general way.

These two districts would most effectively be able to elect representation that does - represents the will of the people who live and work in the district. It is also the most clear for residents of the state to understand, one improvement to be that the lines follow county lines for better clarity.

I also believe that under current and longstanding cultural conditions Bozeman residents consider themselves Western Montanans, not Eastern ones. It is a fair declaration based on geography, culture, and mindset (which I understand does not necessarily consider political affiliation). If anyone on the commission has the goal of unifying a population, this is an important factor.

I admittedly am not aware of rules regarding existing voter district considerations that effect ballot creation and voting locations for the counties of the state. Clarity and simplicity in voting and ballot creation should be a priority, regardless of which party has skin in the game. After all, we all have skin in the game.

Please remember that most Montanans don't care what your party preference is and would prefer to vote split ticket. Unified voices are strongest - Montana needs a strong voice in Washington, so let her choose without unnecessarily fracturing the community.

Thank you,

Corinna Sinclair  
Big Sandy native, Billings resident



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joan Smith  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 6:21:26 PM

---

From: Joan Smith  
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I am writing to you and watching to see that you ensure that we have a fair map for the next decade. The plans numbered 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are the most fair plans. Please reject plans 1, 3, 5, and 7.

--

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: Margaret T Smith  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:28:03 PM

---

From: Margaret T Smith [mtsteach26@yahoo.com](mailto:mtsteach26@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

Please avoid gerrymandering. Keep our districts competitive.

--

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: Rhett Smith  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 6:40:02 PM

---

From: Rhett Smith rmsmith1234@gmail.com  
Residence: Red Lodge

Message:

Greetings from Red Lodge. I am retired, first began seasonal visiting Red Lodge in 2012, bought home here in 2018, enjoy day hiking off trail in backcountry and classic cross country skiing, an active volunteer (e.g. foodbank, mentoring high schooler), and appreciative of those who lead, respect and work with others of different perspectives.

I am most concerned about unduly favoring a political party. The harsh division nationwide, here in MT is evident. It's growing here in Red Lodge. One aspect is individual rights superseding community rights. There is a balance. Now, individuals and groups appear to choose individual/community rights when harshly and somewhat condescendingly press their point of view. Kindness and respect for ourselves and others is waning. Political party divide is one such manifestation.

I support option 9, because 1) Missoula and Bozeman, major Universities, are kept together (similar interest), 2) #9 is only one keeping Indian Reservations together (similar interest for our largest minority), 3) Gallatin and Park are together (similar interest), 4) Rural and urban areas kept together (similar interest), 5) only 1 county was split (#7 was another map but Missoula and Bozeman Universities were separated).

Another factor I chose #9 is that town splitting appeared minimal.

Unfortunately, I did not have access to political party data.

Thanks to all of you for your perseverance, dedication, energy and taking time away from loved ones for the greater interest of all Montanans.

--

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

**From:** [Sandi Smith](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] House districts  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 10:11:24 AM

---

After reading about each of the nine maps I find proposal two to be the most valid. It is easy for voters to know their district and has equity with parties. Option six follows close behind. I found the other maps to be attempts to create difficult convoluted jigsaw puzzle pieces of our state in order to find the most Republican voters in each district. Please be sensible and make this decision simple not partisan.

Sent from Sandi Smith's iPhone

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tashina Smith  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 2:29:32 PM

---

From: Tashina Smith [smitht2507@gmail.com](mailto:smitht2507@gmail.com)  
Residence: West Yellowstone

Message:

I am recommending that the Commission adopt Commission Proposal Map CP-1 as it follows precedent with an east/west division and divides the least amount of counties.

--

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

**From:** [Elaine Snyder](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comments on Mt. redistricting  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:08:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [Mt. Redistricting Commission.docx](#)

---

Attached are my comments on the Maps. Thank you for allowing us to comment and your service to finding the best one. Elaine Snyder

To: Montana Redistricting Commission  
Helena, Mt.

From: Elaine F. Snyder  
540 Country Way South  
Kalispell, Mt. 59901

Please accept my comments on the redistricting maps for 2020.

The map I find the fairest and most competitive is Map 8. It includes 3 reservations, even if it splits a few counties. I feel it will properly balance for population count and our current state of diverse interests for this 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional seat to represent.

I also like Maps 6 and 9. They each balance the goals of the Commission fairly well.

I do not support Maps 1, 3, 5 or 7 at all. Map 5 has a voter gap. May 7 splits Bozeman.

I am from Kalispell where historical we were in the Western district. I do not feel Montana can be divided along those historic lines this time.

Thank You for listening to our comments. Namaste.

**From:** [Melodie Snyder](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fair districting maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 10:01:01 AM

---

Hello,

Please make sure the map that is chosen is fair, equal population and is competitive! We did not fight to redistrict just to have unfair maps. We should not be making districts for specific political parties to have the upper hand. In order to have fair voting, we must have fair districts that include everyone. It makes no sense to have different populations that are biased. Please make the right choice so Montanans can have fair and equal voting opportunities.

Thank you,

Melodie Snyder



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: I. Edward Sondeno  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 12:06:36 PM

---

From: I. Edward Sondeno  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Dear Commission:

Of the 9 proposals I see submitted (per the Helena IR article), most are too focused on the Continental Divide and an 'east-west' division. The Continental Divide is a geographical feature that should have nothing to do with equal representation of the citizenry/voters of MT. We already have too much of a developing 'east-west' division in MT and that should not be encouraged further. For these reasons, proposal #8 is the best of the lot (#2 might be OK, but promotes unnecessary divisions again).

It would be better to split the districts along more of a north-south bifurcation so as to reduce the growing 'east-west', plains/mountains division that is steadily growing.

The goal should be BALANCED representation for Montana's voters/citizens, not to try and advantage the 'R' or 'D' party (which is an obvious influence in too many of these proposals as well).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

--

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: Annette M Sontag  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 7:40:31 PM

---

From: Annette M Sontag [amsontag@gmail.com](mailto:amsontag@gmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I am writing to document my input about redistricting in Montana and the recently proposed maps from the Commission. These maps will be the basis for our political representation for the next decade and it's important that the maps fairly reflect our communities. Please approve Proposal 2 as the final Congressional district map.

First, I understand the Commission shall attempt to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts when possible. Proposal 1 and Proposal 3 would split Cascade and Gallatin Counties. Proposal 7 would split Gallatin County. Proposal 9 would split Missoula County. I don't think any of these proposals should be the final Congressional district map.

Second, the Commission may consider keeping communities of interest intact. While Native Americans are a minority of the Montana population, combining all the tribal reservations in one district would enhance the influence of Native peoples. Only Proposal 2 and Proposal 9 would do this.

Third, the Commission shall consider the district's functional compactness in terms of travel and transportation, communication, and geography. Proposal 8 creates a western district that is a long, thin map stretching from Lake County to Rosebud County. Clearly this would be the least compact district which has been proposed.

Finally, the Commission may consider the competitiveness of districts when drawing plans. Proposal 1, Proposal 3, and Proposal 5 create eastern and western districts which would be dominated by Republicans and would never be competitive.

I believe the next district lines should be drawn in a manner that adequately reflects and fairly represents my community's interests. Please approve Proposal 2, my favored alternative, as the final Congressional district map.

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment.

Annette Sontag  
3825 Trails End Rd., Missoula, MT 59803

--

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: Jenny Sowell  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 11:28:41 AM

---

From: Jenny Sowell  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I would prefer map 4 or 8. Gallatin County (where I live) doesn't need to be split up in a gerrymander. Democrats in the State of Montana deserve representation. We live and work here, too. Extreme gerrymandering to assure a total Republican outcome is not Democratic – not American.

--

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

**From:** [Sheri Sprigg](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reject CP-1, 3, 5, and 7.  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:38:27 PM

---

Please **reject** Commission Proposals 1, 3, 5, and 7, as they do not provide a fair opportunity for competitive elections, and would disenfranchise many voters completely. I urge you to adopt CP-8 as the fairest of all of them. Thank you. Sheri Sprigg, Helena, MT

**From:** [Sheri Sprigg](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on map proposals  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:34:21 PM

---

I urge the Commission to adopt CP-8. It appears to be the fairest map and keeps much of the I-90 corridor and the Highway 2 Hi-Line corridors intact. Thank you. Sheri Sprigg, Helena, MT

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Squires  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:44:41 AM

---

From: John Squires [mtsquires@gmail.com](mailto:mtsquires@gmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Thank you for considering my request. I think that fair-minded districting is fundamental to our democracy. It is important that districts are competitive so that all Montana voices are heard. Therefore, I suggest you support plans 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 in your upcoming deliberations. Thank you, John Squires

--

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: Paul Stafford  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 3:33:39 PM

---

From: Paul Stafford ps@deaglo.com  
Residence: Huson

Message:

I live in Huson. Montana and have been here for the last 20 years.

The most important goal for me is that neither political party is favored.

I believe map #9 is the optimal map. Map #9 fairly distributes populations, doesn't favor either party, and is the least gerrymandered in terms of a tortured outline.

Thank you for your work on this very important task which will determine how voters will have a fair and equal chance to give their inputs to elections. Thank you for considering my inputs.

--

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: Joan Stanley  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:40:24 AM

---

From: Joan Stanley joan@startmail.com

Residence: Three Forks, MT 59752

Message:

Recommend Commission Proposal Map CP-1 as it follows precedent with an east/west division and divides the least amount of counties.

--

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: Justin Starin  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 7:48:26 PM

---

From: Justin Starin  
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Please adopt plan 2,4,6,8, or 9. It is important to have a competitive congressional district.

--

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

**From:** [handyzandy16@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:handyzandy16@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alexandra Startin](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Montana's Congressional Map Matters!!!  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 11:53:38 AM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

A Letter To the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

Dear Commissioners:

Please make sure that the map you select ON BEHALF OF ALL MONTANANS meets all of the goals that were unanimously selected. Of the maps to choose from, this includes only maps CP2, CP4, CP6, CP8, and CP9.

In particular, I believe that CP2 is the best choice to meet the goals set forth.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a voice in this process.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Startin  
1905 Meadowview Ct Missoula, MT 59802-9651  
[handyzandy16@gmail.com](mailto:handyzandy16@gmail.com)

**From:** [del.steiner@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:del.steiner@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Del Steiner](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Advantage of plan #4  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 1:58:10 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am old enough to remember that the 1980's map of the congressional districts seemed to work well. It accepted the fact that the West was liberal and the East was conservative. I would propose that your comission select plan #CP4 which apporximates the old divide and minimizes splitting of counties. Plan #CP4 has similar population counts in each district. Please select pproposal CP4.

Sincerely,  
Del Steiner  
595 Revolution Ave Billings, MT 59105-1521  
[del.steiner@gmail.com](mailto:del.steiner@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David Steinmuller  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 1:35:36 PM

---

From: David Steinmuller  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Gallatin County is a rapidly growing part of Western Montana that deserves to be kept whole and not have its voice diluted.

Gallatin County is now the second largest county in the state, and just like Yellowstone County, should anchor its own congressional district.

Many maps submitted to the Commission split Gallatin County to ensure there would be no competitive district.

Counties should only be split to better achieve other goals adopted by the Commission, not to ensure that districts will be noncompetitive and favor one party.

The Districting and Apportionment Commission must remain independent as our Constitution intended. This means that partisan maps submitted by the with intent to split Gallatin should be off the table for consideration.

I've lived in Gallatin County for 30 years, 24 in Gallatin Gateway and 6 in Bozeman. I don't want partisan politics to take over.

This county should not be split for partisan political interests

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

**From:** [Patti Steinmuller](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting Comments  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 11:42:51 PM

---

Redistricting Commission – comments for Oct 19 meeting

I have lived in in Gallatin County for 30 years, most of the time in a rural area of the county. I favor maps 8, 6, and 9 because these maps do not split Gallatin County and map 8 is drawn to include some tribal communities. It's desirable to have tribal representatives in both districts as in map 8 to enhance their voice and gain consideration from their representative. Maps 8, 6, and 9 place Missoula and Bozeman, with large college-age and young professionals, in the same district would best serve the common interests of the young voters in these areas of the state. Maps 8, 6 & 9 are competitive politically which is desirable for constituents and encourages candidates to communicate with and listen to the views of constituents as they consider the ways to best serve the interests of within their constituents. Candidates in competitive districts are benefited by exposure to a diversity of viewpoints and perspectives. Election is likely to depend on the ability of candidates in competitive districts to best serve the interests of the entire district. Competitive districts encourage voters to critically consider candidates and candidates to consider the interests of the constituents they represent.

I urge you not to choose any of the maps (1, 3, 5 & 7) that divide various sections of Gallatin County into two districts. These maps are inappropriate for the final map since Gallatin County is one of the largest counties in population and county residents have one county government and share many common interests. Also, the way these maps have been split, they are noncompetitive politically. I favor having at least one district where legislators need to pay attention to their constituents to earn their seat in Congress. Since political parties should not be given preference by the final map, I urge the commission to dismiss consideration of the maps that split Gallatin County.

Patti Steinmuller

Pronouns: she, her, hers

952 Knolls Drive  
Bozeman, MT 59715-7430  
406-219-2315

**From:** [Patti Steinmuller](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** Montana Redistricting Comments  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 11:42:17 PM

---

Redistricting Commission – comments for Oct 19 meeting

I have lived in in Gallatin County for 30 years, most of the time in a rural area of the county. I favor maps 8, 6, and 9 because these maps do not split Gallatin County and map 8 is drawn to include some tribal communities. It's desirable to have tribal representatives in both districts as in map 8 to enhance their voice and gain consideration from their representative. Maps 8, 6, and 9 place Missoula and Bozeman, with large college-age and young professionals, in the same district would best serve the common interests of the young voters in these areas of the state. Maps 8, 6 & 9 are competitive politically which is desirable for constituents and encourages candidates to communicate with and listen to the views of constituents as they consider the ways to best serve the interests of within their constituents. Candidates in competitive districts are benefited by exposure to a diversity of viewpoints and perspectives. Election is likely to depend on the ability of candidates in competitive districts to best serve the interests of the entire district. Competitive districts encourage voters to critically consider candidates and candidates to consider the interests of the constituents they represent.

I urge you not to choose any of the maps (1, 3, 5 & 7) that divide various sections of Gallatin County into two districts. These maps are inappropriate for the final map since Gallatin County is one of the largest counties in population and county residents have one county government and share many common interests. Also, the way these maps have been split, they are noncompetitive politically. I favor having at least one district where legislators need to pay attention to their constituents to earn their seat in Congress. Since political parties should not be given preference by the final map, I urge the commission to dismiss consideration of the maps that split Gallatin County.

Patti Steinmuller

Pronouns: she, her, hers

952 Knolls Drive  
Bozeman, MT 59715-7430  
406-219-2315

**From:** [diane.stenslandbickers@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:diane.stenslandbickers@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Diane Stensland-Bickers](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 10:42:46 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.I believe map CP2 meets the needs of Montana's people regarding congressional districting. I think it is the most equitable map.

Sincerely,  
Diane Stensland-Bickers  
2101 Dearborn Ave Unit 17 Missoula, MT 59801-7515  
[diane.stenslandbickers@gmail.com](mailto:diane.stenslandbickers@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mickey Steward](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistributing  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 11:15:38 AM

---

Please consider  
I live on the Crow Reservation and I favor Proposal 8. It is the only way our voices will ever be heard.

Conveyed with greetings from Mickey Steward



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jon Stewart  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:52:08 AM

---

From: Jon Stewart [jonathonstewart@yahoo.com](mailto:jonathonstewart@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Bozeman,MT

Message:

The redistricting process makes no mention of keeping competition between opposing parties. It should represent the people of Montana regardless of political affiliation. The fairest way to split is the simplest way between east and west with a simple north south division line. This will allow the Rocky Mountain cities and the plains cities equal voice as our topography defines much of our day to day life and our beliefs . If we allow overtly political gerrymandering to define us we will in essence cancel both our votes in the house out.

--

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

**From:** [Eric Stimson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [estimson](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment from Eric Stimson  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 7:27:00 AM

---

Dear Redistricting members:

In order to achieve maximum fairness in Montana's representation in the US House of Representatives, Montana should be represented by one Republican and one Democrat.

In the 2020 presidential election, 41% of Montana voters voted for the Democrat Biden and 57% voted for the Republican Trump. If Montana ends up with two Republican congressmen, 41% of Montana voters will have no voice in Congress. If Montana ends up with one Democrat and one Republican, only 7% of Montana voters (the 7% who voted Republican above the 50% that would be perfectly reflected if Montana were evenly split between Republicans and Democrats) would be "under-represented". The most fair split for the most Montana voters would be one Democrat and one Republican in Congress.

I realize that the Commission cannot and should not gerrymander our two Congressional districts to ensure any particular outcome. The Commission should, however, ensure that the 41% of Montana voters who voted Democratic in 2020 have a fair chance at representation by making at least one of the seats competitive.

Eric Stimson  
6123 Moondance Road  
Helena. MT 59601

406 202 0637

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Christopher J Stockwell  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 10:26:11 AM

---

From: Christopher J Stockwell [cjstockwell@gmail.com](mailto:cjstockwell@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

Dear Commissioner for Districting and Apportionment,

Redistricting to favor Republican candidates is a clear violation of freedom for American citizens and a power grab that can only damage American freedom through Republican political overreach. Republicans already control half the federal electorate and 30 state governments. The domination of the political process is almost at the point of despotic rule. The fake crisis created by Republicans concerning the accuracy of the recent federal and state elections has been blamed on Democrats by Republican habit. This is while the results argue than any cheating if it existed benefited Republicans mostly. Fairness is better long-term policy for the Republican Party that is already overreaching its welcome among voters and for the success of America. The overreach will only lead to future losses to Democrats or to free institutions. Democratic government is not bad as Republicans say continually. Good government is difficult, which is why we need a balance of power between parties over time. Imagine if Ronald Reagan came to your door and said, I from the government and I am here to help you by installing one man rule. Instead, God bless you efforts and your souls.

--

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: peter stone  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:01:02 AM

---

From: peter stone fibertiger@yahoo.com  
Residence: Polson, MT

Message:

Dear Sir, We voters in Montana will now have two seats in Congress. Lets make at least one of them competitive. Please chose proposed map 2,6, or 8.

--

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

**From:** [Chapin Storrar](#)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:34:39 PM

---

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission Members,  
I have reviewed the 9 proposed redistricting maps, and I am writing today, to advocate for maps 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9, and for removing maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 from consideration.

In accordance with the criteria and goals agreed to by the committee, the following arguments are made for maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9.

1. Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal, in accordance with the criteria.
2. Map 2 adheres to county lines, is population equal, keeps communities of interest together, is contiguous and compact. This map is one of three most competitive maps (2, 6, and 8).
3. Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.
4. As mentioned, Maps 2, 6, and 8 (and to a lesser extent 4 and 9) are competitive. This is incredibly important because it gives the people of Montana fair representation and power in electing officials that will work for them, rather than someone who can cater only to a narrow portion of the electorate and still win an election. Candidates in the districts represented by these maps would have to campaign and get to know their constituents, and ultimately could be held accountable if they fail to adequately represent their constituents. With uncompetitive maps this is not possible.

Again, in accordance with the criteria and goals, the following issues are seen with maps 1, 3, 5, and 7.

1. Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal
2. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county, which is against the stated goals, and with flagship universities in Missoula and Bozeman, those communities have similar interests. These maps aim to separate communities with similar needs.
3. Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 would unduly favor one party and the districts are uncompetitive, which is also against the stated goals.

Thank you for your consideration and for the important work you are doing for the residents of Montana.

Sincerely,

Chapin Storrar

Helena, MT

**From:** [Keif Storarr](mailto:Keif.Storarr)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Write today! Script, talking points, and updated email addresses  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:35:28 AM

---

Dear Redistricting Committee Members:

As a citizen of Montana I would like to advocate for maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 and I would like maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 to be removed from consideration.

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. There are seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs. Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party (republicans).

Compare this to the other maps, 2, 4, 6 8 and 9:

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together. Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations. Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't. Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

This committee agreed to the following criteria in selecting a map:

- equal populations in each district
- compliance with the voting rights act
- districts that were compact and contiguous

This committee also had the following goals about the map:

- it cannot favor one party unduly
- it must minimize dividing towns, counties, and federal reservations
- it keeps communities of interest together
- and it is competitive (i.e. elected officials have to actually have to campaign and aren't just a shoe in).

Maps 2, 6, and 8 are the most competitive maps. One of these maps should be selected as it meets the goals of the committee and is the most fair to everyone. By selecting highly partisan maps this committee downplays the role of democracy by not believing in the fact that all votes matter. When maps are highly polarized it can suppress voter turnout from both parties because they think their vote doesn't matter anyway because they live in a red or blue district and it won't matter if they vote. Competitive maps promote transparency and the fundamental principals of democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keif Storrar  
Helena, Montana resident

**From:** [Alisa Storrar](#)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** Districting maps  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:10:12 PM

---

Dear Districting and & Apportionment Commission Members,

**I would like to advocate for maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 for these reasons:**

1. Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together.
2. Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.
3. Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.
4. Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

**I would like maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 to be removed from consideration for these reasons:**

1. Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.
2. Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.
3. Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party (republicans).

Sincerely,

Alisa Storrar



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Clifford Stout  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 9:06:54 PM

---

From: Clifford Stout  
Residence: Dillon, MT

Message:

I like proposal 8 with a more south/central feel. I think it makes sense to have a competitive house race and I think this map makes one competitive race. I think it would encourage dialogue.

--

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: Doug Stange  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:14:33 PM

---

From: Doug Stange [dstange@midrivers.com](mailto:dstange@midrivers.com)  
Residence: Ekalaka

Message:

I, Doug Stange, am a bison rancher in Carter County. [dstange@midrivers.com](mailto:dstange@midrivers.com)

Minimize splitting counties, towns, and reservations.  
I believe communities need to remain cohesive and neighborly. County lines, town/city limits, reservation boundaries accomplish that.

I support Map 9. I feel that Map 9 achieves the goals with which I most concerned: community, cohesiveness, Neighborhood.

Thank you for permitting me to share my opinion.

--

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

**From:** [Pete Strazdas](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] maps comments  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 2:10:16 PM

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Dear Members:

My preference for the 2 Congressional Districts is an east-west split along the mountain front. Of the 9 options presented, I find options 7 and 9 to be least manipulated. My only objection to #7 is that Gallatin county is split. it would be best to not split counties. #9 is nice and compact w/o obvious manipulation.

Thank you for your efforts and time.

Pete Strazdas  
608 Logan  
Helena MT 59601

**From:** [Debbie Street](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districts  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 10:19:11 AM

---

Dear Members of the Districting Commission:

I am a citizen of the state of Montana and I am submitting this email as my written testimony to express my opinion regarding the upcoming decision to be made by the Commission concerning the proposed Congressional Districts. I respectfully request it be made a part of the official record of the Commission and be considered during your deliberations. I have reviewed the various maps and believe that Map CP-1 (<https://leg.mt.gov/content/Districting/2020/Maps/Congressional/Commission-Proposals/cp1-congressional-october-19.pdf>) is the most appropriate choice for Montana in that it follows the law established in House Bill 506 ([https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/HB0599/HB0506\\_X.pdf](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/HB0599/HB0506_X.pdf)) passed during the most recent session of our Legislature.

Map CP-1 has the best configuration for compactness where the width and length of both districts are most equal. It has the minimal difference in populations between the two districts (plus or minus one). It divides the fewest number of counties (2). CP-1 is the only map that best follows the intent of HB 506, which is the express will of the citizens of Montana. I believe that our Congressional districts must be formulated in accordance with HB 506.

There is an attempt by members of the Commission to ignore the law and gerrymander the boundaries of the two Congressional districts. Map CP-1 best meets the criteria set out in law by HB506 Section 1, as noted above. Of the nine (9) maps submitted/created, five clearly violate HB 506 and favor the Democrats and disadvantage Republicans. This is blatant partisan gerrymandering and completely unacceptable. These maps are offensive to all Montanan's who believe in fair play and the rule of law.

In light of the foregoing, I most strongly urge you to adopt the boundaries for our proposed Congressional Districts as outlined in Map CP-1 and in accordance with the existing laws of Montana. Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Best Regards,

**Debbie Street**

*Supervising Broker*

**Wrangler Real Estate**

1400 Rose Crossing

Kalispell, MT 59901

Cell: : [406-253-8639](tel:406-253-8639)

Email: [debbie@wranglerrealestate.com](mailto:debbie@wranglerrealestate.com)

Website: [www.wranglerrealestate.com](http://www.wranglerrealestate.com) [[wranglerrealestate.com](http://wranglerrealestate.com)]



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

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com) [\[avast.com\]](http://avast.com)

**From:** [strongmcc@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:strongmcc@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Laura Strong](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 9:35:26 AM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to give you my feedback on our new Congressional redistricting maps. I've looked over all the options laid out by you and I see there are some major differences in some of the proposed districts. Your commission has adopted really great guidelines for redistricting and some of the maps follow all of your guidelines, but some do not. I would like to see the Commission adopt a redistricting map that follows all of your guidelines, that is why I support map number four. It seems the most fair and competitive to me. Based on this map the new districts would keep all reservations whole, would keep our highest tourist traffic areas in one district, keep it evenly distributed by population, and minimally split counties.

My second choice would be map number 8, it has reservations in both districts, which could possibly benefit our tribes, it splits the urban and rural populations, so both districts will have a diverse representative population. Overall I really think map four is our best representation of fairness for the state, please adopt map number four.

Thank you for hearing my comments.

Sincerely,  
Laura Strong  
7312 US Highway 2 E Columbia Falls, MT 59912-8711  
[strongmcc@gmail.com](mailto:strongmcc@gmail.com)

**From:** [Carol Sugarman](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map # 6  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 2:59:52 PM

---

This looks like a fair representation of Montana voters. Thanks Carol Sugarman  
101 rainbow drive Kalispell Montana

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Carol Sugarman](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map #8  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:00:51 PM

---

This looks like a fair representation of Montana voters. Carol Sugarman 101 rainbow drive Kalispell Montana.

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Carol Sugarman](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map #2  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 2:58:04 PM

---

This looks like a fair representation of Montana voters. Thanks Carol Sugarman  
101 Rainbow Drive Kalispell , mT

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [lisasundquist@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lisasundquist@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Lisa M Sundquist](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]I support Congressional Map CP-2  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:45:29 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello,

My name is Lisa Sundquist and I am a middle school band director in Great Falls. I am writing to encourage you to select CP #2 for the congressional map that best represents Montanans. Your choice on October 19th is important to your constituents, all of whom deserve the fair division represented by CP #2.

Thank you for your time,  
Lisa Sundquist

Sincerely,  
Lisa M Sundquist  
1605 6th Ave NW Great Falls, MT 59404-2161  
[lisasundquist@live.com](mailto:lisasundquist@live.com)

**From:** [Elizabeth Swartz](#)  
**To:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**Subject:** [spam]Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:01:38 AM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello, I'm Betsy Swartz, and I've lived in Gallatin County for 28 years. We've raised 3 kids who all went through the Bozeman public school system. I'm active in our community and I care deeply about redistricting in that it is a fair process. I want the new district to appropriately reflect the voters of Montana. I am concerned that partisan politics is getting involved in this decision and that efforts are being made to gerrymander the state in favor of one party.

My biggest priority is ensuring competitive districts AND to take into account which maps are supported by our Tribal members, as they are often overlooked and underrepresented.

I personally ranked the maps in the order of competitiveness, AND factored in the Tribal communities support. Since the Tribal communities as well as Western Native Voice support maps 8 and 4, I choose Map #8 as my top favorite. It's a highly competitive map, which seems the most fair, and is backed by the Tribal communities.

Thank you so much for your time and for upholding the criteria involved in making this selection. I appreciate your hard work and attention to this very important matter.

Regards,  
Elizabeth Swartz  
310 Comfort Ln  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lori Swartz  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 4:55:56 PM

---

From: Lori Swartz skyline5503@gmail.com  
Residence: Missoula MT

Message:  
Hello!

I'm writing to register support for map number 4. As a member of the Salish tribe I think it's important that the reservation communities have strong representation in Congress. The Flathead and Blackfeet reservation have shared representation in the State Senate for 20 years so its only right they should both be included in the same Congressional district. Thank you for your time.

--

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: Jamie E Swecker  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 11:03:31 AM

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From: Jamie E Swecker  
Residence: Park City

Message:  
Proposal #1

--

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

**From:** [ruthannaswenson@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ruthannaswenson@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Ruth Swenson](#)  
**To:** [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Feedback on Proposed Maps  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:03:14 PM

---

Dear Joe Lamson,

My name is Ruth Swenson and I reside at 11 Willow Ave., Helena, Montana.

I am writing in regards to the redistricting in Montana and the recently proposed maps from the commission. It's important that the maps fairly reflect our communities.

First, while there are many interests that unite my community, one important shared interest is creating a sustainable environment by reversing climate change.

Another public policy concern of my community is having representatives that work for the benefit of the whole population.

Lastly, the local geographic boundaries that should inform our district lines are ones that keep community representation intact and not reflect the interests of a particular political party.

I believe the next district lines should be drawn in a manner that adequately reflects and fairly represents my community's interests.

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Swenson  
Helena, MT 59602  
[ruthannaswenson@gmail.com](mailto:ruthannaswenson@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mark Syverson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 2:47:06 PM

---

Please accept maps 2,6, and 8. They're the best.

Mark Syverson  
Butte,MT.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Amy Talcott  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 1:29:13 PM

---

From: Amy Talcott amyktalcott@gmail.com  
Residence: Livingston, MT

Message:  
Hello,

I am writing to voice my support of congressional map CP8. This map has the benefit of:

- Grouping together communities along I90 and the southern rail line, which are linked economically and logistically
- Including our 3 large university towns in one group (Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings) to ensure Montana's educational centers have a voice in Congress
- Keeping large agricultural producing counties together
- Including 3 of 7 of Montana's reservations, ensuring our indigenous populations will be represented by both members of Congress

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,  
Amy Talcott  
Livingston, MT

--

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



**From:** [Paul Tatarka](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 2:01:08 PM

---

Regardless of how the districts are divided Republicans are going to claim voter fraud even if they win.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ashley Taylor  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:24:40 PM

---

From: Ashley Taylor [ashleyb\\_007@yahoo.com](mailto:ashleyb_007@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Judith Gap, MT

Message:  
I prefer proposal 3.

--

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: Russ Tempel  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 5:20:21 PM

---

From: Russ Tempel [russtempel@gmail.com](mailto:russtempel@gmail.com)  
Residence: Chester Montana

Message:  
Map #1 and #3 are the only districts I can support

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Templeton  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 10:55:31 AM

---

From: Mark Templeton  
Residence: Red Lodge, MT

Message:  
I favor using map #5 for redistricting.

--

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: Rev. Dr. Timothy W Tharp  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 7:31:31 AM

---

From: Rev. Dr. Timothy W Tharp  
Residence: Savage, MT

Message:

I think maps 1 and 3 are the best with 7 being acceptable. Maps 2, 4, 5, and 6 are not acceptable at all. Maps 8 & 9 are an embarrassment and I can not believe that the commission actually put these forward for consideration. The state should be divided geographically with NO attempts to gerrymander to make districts homogeneous, competitive, or any other argument that might be put forth.

Basic east & west, use either map 1 or map 3.

--

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

**From:** [Martha Thayer](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My opinions on the proposed congressional districts maps  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:37:14 PM

---

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive, which gives the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. With these districts, candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't. Please choose one of these maps!

Maps 1,3, 5 and 7 do not meet the criteria for fair redistricting and should be thrown out. Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal; being population equal was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin County and aim to separate communities with similar needs. Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party.

Thanks for this chance to weigh in on an important decision!

Martha Thayer  
120 Beverly Ave.  
Missoula

**From:** [Annie](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:53:55 PM

---

Good Day.

Thank you for the time you've dedicated to this process.

I want our fine state of Montana to have fair and competitive districts. A number of maps disregard these points.

Maps should be competitive, equal ( or close) in populations. None must split towns, reservations nor communities either. Communities with similar interests and even a shared environment is important. Map 8 covers this and I hope that this will be your decision.

In addition, viewing the maps. I find that Maps 2, 4 6, 8 are highly competitive and therefore will see our candidates work hard for us. We must have candidates who get to know their constituents and answer to them.

Please do not consider 1, 3, 5, nor 7. These maps either have unequal populations, cut through communities, and/or are not competitive. We want our legislators to work for and to answer to us and these maps do not offer that competitive edge. We do not want our college towns split either. These towns are very similar interests and should not be divided.

Please consider Map 8.

Thank you.

Annie Thomas  
McLeod, MT

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Antoinette Thomas  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:40:30 AM

---

From: Antoinette Thomas [angathomas@gmail.com](mailto:angathomas@gmail.com)

Residence: Stevensville

Message:

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to give this feedback.

My number one choice is Proposal 2. My second priority would be Proposal 6.

Antoinette Thomas

--

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: Anne Thomas  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 7:45:48 PM

---

From: Anne Thomas [annethomasx50@gmail.com](mailto:annethomasx50@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:  
I favor map 8.

--

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

**From:** [Cara](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 12:36:17 PM

---

I vote for Map #8. We need a balanced & diverse representation here in Montana.  
Thank you  
Cara Torgrimson

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sara Toubman  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 4:26:18 PM

---

From: Sara Toubman [cedronjones@gmail.com](mailto:cedronjones@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

Sara Toubman, I live in Helena and love the wilds, public lands, open space and lack of people in our beautiful state. Every time I leave our state, I'm so relieved to return the abundance of natural beauty.

I'm impressed with the 4 goals the Commission agreed upon. I really feel that it's important not to favor a political party and to draw competitive districts.

I support maps 6 and 9 as best meeting your criteria. These maps do not favor a political party and offer competitive districts.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

--

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

**From:** [Brad Tschida](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map choices for new Congressional Seat.  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:13:44 PM

---

Commissioners:

Your task, as a commission, is to determine a proper map of the 2 districts for our Congressional Representatives. The 3 requirements are: Compact, Contiguous and equal in population. No where in the law is competitiveness a goal.

Several of the maps, (CP 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9) are good examples of what not to do in establishing districts. Their apparent sole intent is to gerrymander lines so that 1 of the 2 districts favors Democrat candidates. That is grossly wrong and uncalled for.

Maps CP-1, 7 and 3, in that order, are far and away the best examples of meeting the law in Montana. Natural boundaries are maintained, population is equal, both have a border with Canada, Urban/Rural splits are reasonable and political parties are not considered. These 3 maps are the quintessential examples of how to draw the lines according to the law, especially HB 506 from the 2021 Session.

Your choices for maps is self-evident. Maps CP-1, 7 or 3.

Respectfully,

Rep. Brad Tschida

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cathern-Therese Tucker  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 6:51:04 PM

---

From: Cathern-Therese Tucker Residence: Helena,MT

Message:

Please don't gerrymander districts. Each map should have a transparent explanation of how it is competitive and not gerrymandered.

--

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: Jim Tucker  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 6:06:37 PM

---

From: Jim Tucker  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:  
CP-2 is the only redistricting map that should be used.

--

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

**From:** [karenumbaugh@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:karenumbaugh@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Karen Umbaugh](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Montana Congressional Map  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 11:56:07 AM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commissioners,

I am a retired math teacher, and I am writing in support of either Map 6 or Map 8. Both maps ensure equal populations where both representatives will need to listen to diverse voices. I have been advised by people who are invested in the process that maps 6 and 8 are the most fair representation of our state.

Thank you for your efforts.

Karen Umbaugh

Sincerely,

Karen Umbaugh

5216 Pryor Mountain Ct Missoula, MT 59803-2478

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

**From:** [mkulib@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mkulib@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Marla Unruh](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 5:13:05 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My choice is map CP8 because it is competitive and equal and insures that representatives will have to listen to diverse voices

I do NOT like map CP4 because it keeps tourism in one district. That revenue should be evenly divided.

Marla Unruh  
The web page will not let me type below this box.

Sincerely,  
Marla Unruh  
1130 Cannon St # 1 Helena, MT 59601-2147  
[mkulib@gmail.com](mailto:mkulib@gmail.com)



**From:** [jurbach68@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:jurbach68@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [jennifer\\_urbach](mailto:jennifer_urbach)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:29:17 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hi,

My name is Jennifer Urbach and I am a school teacher in Flathead Valley. Please consider carefully the zoning and apportionment because it will greatly impact how our public schools and other entities can provide the best services and supports.

Also, we need this commission to adopt a fair and competitive map that meets all commission goals and doesn't unduly favor either political party.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Urbach

Sincerely,

jennifer\_urbach

259 Lion Trl Whitefish, MT 59937-8436

[jurbach68@gmail.com](mailto:jurbach68@gmail.com)

**From:** [Ted Valentiner](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 3:07:08 PM

---

SUBJECT: Proposed Congressional District Maps

Dear Members of the Districting Commission:

I am a citizen of the state of Montana and I am submitting this email as my written testimony to express my opinion regarding the upcoming decision to be made by the Commission concerning the proposed Congressional Districts. I respectfully request it be made a part of the official record of the Commission and be considered during your deliberations. I have reviewed the various maps and believe that Map CP-1 <https://leg.mt.gov/content/Districting/2020/Maps/Congressional/Commission-Proposals/cp1-congressional-october-19.pdf> [[na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](http://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com)] is the most appropriate choice for Montana in that it follows the law established in House Bill 506 [https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/HB0599/HB0506\\_X.pdf](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/HB0599/HB0506_X.pdf) [[na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](http://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com)] passed during the most recent session of our Legislature.

Map CP-1 has the best configuration for compactness where the width and length of both districts are most equal. It has the minimal difference in populations between the two districts (plus or minus one). It divides the fewest number of counties (2).

CP-1 is the only map that best follows the intent of HB 506, which is the express will of the citizens of Montana. I believe that our Congressional districts must be formulated in accordance with HB 506.

There is an attempt by members of the Commission to ignore the law and gerrymander the boundaries of the two Congressional districts. Map CP-1 best meets the criteria set out in law by HB506 Section 1, as noted above. Of the nine (9) maps submitted/created, five clearly violate HB 506 and favor the Democrats and disadvantage Republicans. This is blatant partisan gerrymandering and completely unacceptable. These maps are offensive to all Montanans who believe in fair play and the rule of law.

In light of the foregoing, I most strongly urge you to adopt the boundaries for our proposed Congressional Districts as outlined in Map CP-1 and in accordance with the existing laws of Montana. Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Ted D Valentiner, Jr

704E 13<sup>th</sup> St #425, Whitefish, MT 59937

Traildrive@Hotmail.com

(406) 862-4750

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

**From:** [rick.valore@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:rick.valore@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Richard Valore](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:04:25 AM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I like map #5 - That seems balanced to me. Giving either side an opportunity to win a seat.

Sincerely,  
Richard Valore  
2442 Ferguson Ave Bozeman, MT 59718-8052  
[rick.valore@gmail.com](mailto:rick.valore@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dwight Van Brunt  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 8:20:07 AM

---

From: Dwight Van Brunt  
Residence: Kalispell, Montana

Message:

Respectfully, Montana citizens deserve more than a gerrymandering congressional district map that somehow manages to keep Missoula and Bozeman together for political reasons. Just draw the line east/west based on population and be done with it.

I moved here nearly 30 years ago in order to live in a conservative environment with small government and amongst people who keep to themselves. This was the last best place. Don't force me into a congressional district that is all but certain to have liberal representation. There is no where else to go...

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mary Vandebosch  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 5:12:24 PM

---

From: Mary Vandebosch mbvandebosch@icloud.com  
Residence: Helena

Message:

My name is Mary Vandebosch. I've lived in Helena for 27 years.

All of the Commission goals are important; however, my top priorities are 1) creating a competitive district and 2) minimizing the splitting of cities. Montanans value their independence and freedom to choose to vote for a candidate for either party. That's why we have open primaries and voters have chosen officials from both parties to lead and represent the state. A competitive district provides an opportunity for the candidate who best represents the district's constituents to win. While it's important to minimize splitting jurisdictions between two districts, it is imperative that cities not be split. Splitting cities between two districts would create inefficiencies for both local elected officials and Montana's representatives in Congress. It would also diminish the collective voice of voters in split cities. It would certainly create unnecessary confusion for residents.

I support maps 9, 2, and 6. I prefer Map 9. Map 9 creates a competitive district. Of the maps that create a competitive district, Map 9 is by far the most compact. It does split Missoula County, but it does not split any cities. (All of the maps split some jurisdiction.) I also support Map 6 and 2. Both maps create a competitive district. They are not as compact as Map 9. Both maps 6 and 2 split jurisdictions, but they do not split cities.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I thank each of you for your thoughtfulness and dedication to serving Montanans in the development of this redistricting plan.

--

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

**From:** [Paul Vang](#)  
**To:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**Subject:** [spam]Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 12:17:01 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hi! I'm Paul Vang, and I live in Butte, where my wife and I have lived since 1988. Years earlier, we lived in Miles City for several years. I was able to retire in 1995 from a long career with the Federal government, and at the time there was no question about moving somewhere else. We love Butte and we love Montana.

My biggest priority is not unduly favoring a political party

I support maps 4, 6, 8 and 9.

Thank you for your important service in this historic opportunity when Montana again will have two representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. The work you do this year will be of importance to the people of Montana and the nation.

Regards,  
Paul Vang  
2828 Goodwin St  
Butte, MT 59701

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Erin Vang  
**Date:** Friday, October 8, 2021 9:10:19 AM

---

From: Erin Vang  
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Only map CP-2 upholds the spirit of democracy and ensures that both parties must nominate their best possible representatives. The others are craven gerrymandering and would be a shame on Montana.

--

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

**From:** [Jack Venrick](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I Vote For Map CP1  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 12:29:36 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

Dear Montana Redistricting Commission:

My vote is for Map CP1 and is the only map which fully meets the legislative intent of HB506.

- It has a difference of only 1 person and divides only 2 counties and is the most compact of the proposed 9 maps.

- <https://mtflg.org/blog/montana-redistricting-for-new-us-house-seat>  
[\[mtflg.org\]](https://mtflg.org)

I am against the following maps.

CP2 is not compact because one district extends across the northern portion of Montana and the other district is configured in a C shape in the SW corner of Montana. Also has a difference of 77 persons.

CP4 divides 3 counties and does not meet the compactness test because one district has an extension very far to the west creating a 7 configuration with the districts not equal in length and width.

CP6 splits 3 counties and fails the compactness test the most. One district is in a C shape in SW Montana and the other extending the northern length of Montana curling around the western edge of SW Montana.

CP9 fails to meet the compactness test as one district extends along the total northern width of Montana and other district is a block in the SW corner of Montana so length and width of two is very unequal.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs Jack R. Venrick

20561 Wild Horse Ranch Road

Rollins, Montana 59931



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Francisco Virella  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 10:06:57 PM

---

From: Francisco Virella  
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I like #2. It seems less gerrymandered and seems to have the least impact in separating counties into two congressional districts (no need for that). And even though I'm a Republican, it sets up the west for a hearty election in the general rather than just in the primary. Call me a softie but I like my elections to be better fought in the general instead of in the primary. It feels more representative of all the people rather than just part of them.

--

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

**From:** [traceyvivar@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:traceyvivar@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Tracey Vivar](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:16:39 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

If my opinion counts, I would choose either #CP8 or #CP2. Both seem to be fair to the whole population w/o splitting counties.

Sincerely,  
Tracey Vivar  
313 Meade St East Glacier Park, MT 59434  
[traceyvivar@gmail.com](mailto:traceyvivar@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: joe vranizan  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 3:32:02 PM

---

From: joe vranizan jvranizan@yahoo.com  
Residence: Hamilton

Message:

Hello my name is joe vranizan. i have been a montana resident for thirty three years. i live in hamilton.

i dont want to unduly favor either political party, being as though they seem to look out for their own intrests and not for the fairness of everyone. i believe in multiple use, however resource management needs to be kept in check

i support maps 6 and 9 i feel those maps to be fair for the people of the state of montana

thank you for your time and consideration for reviewing my views

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Audrey Wagner  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 9:01:50 PM

---

From: Audrey Wagner  
Residence: Billings

Message:

Please let us stick together as a state and work together. We need two viable districts in our state. Gerrymandering helps no one and hurts everyone. Please vote for option 2,4,6,8 or 9.

--

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: Whitney Walker  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:40:17 PM

---

From: Whitney Walker whitneyricewalker@gmail.com  
Residence: Helena

Message:  
CP1

--

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

**From:** [Caroline Wallace](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Favor of Maps 2,4,6,8 and 9  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 9:19:48 AM

---

Hello. My name is Caroline and I am a 12-year resident of Helena.

I am writing today to advocate for maps 2,4,6,8 and 9. I would like to oppose maps 1,3,5 and 7.

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party.

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together.

Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

Please use maps 2,6 and 8.

Kindly,  
Caroline Wallace  
Helena, MT resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Michael Wallace  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:04:29 PM

---

From: Michael Wallace [mbw4971@gmail.com](mailto:mbw4971@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bigfork, MT 59911

Message:

Redistricting should have three goals:

- (1) simple boundary line dividing the state into eastern and western districts;
- (2) be blind with respect to party preference/voting history;
- (3) if not blind about party preference/voting history, split the state into two parts so that the minority party can win elections proportional to its voting strength; for example, if the party split is 60-40, the minority party should win seats 40% of the time (40% of the seats).

--

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

**From:** [walljw28@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:walljw28@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Janet Wall](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:28:35 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I would prefer the population equal maps. In particular CP4, the prior districts breakdown. My second choice would be CP2, since the district keeps all counties intact, and easier for the county election clerks in their processing

Sincerely,  
Janet Wall  
7071 Garden Valley Dr Helena, MT 59602-8299  
[walljw28@gmail.com](mailto:walljw28@gmail.com)



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joseph Wargo  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 1:56:30 PM

---

From: Joseph Wargo [joewargo59@gmail.com](mailto:joewargo59@gmail.com)  
Residence: Columbia Falls, MT

Message:

I like map CP 7. Seems to me it should be split along the continental divide and natural boundaries. The needs of people on the west side of the divide is different than the needs on the east side. The district lines we had in previous years would work also. No matter what, it should be an east/west division

--

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

**From:** [Caroline Warne](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: MAPS  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 6:54:43 AM

---

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

From: **Caroline Warne** <[carolinerissswarne@gmail.com](mailto:carolinerissswarne@gmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, Oct 15, 2021 at 6:41 AM  
Subject: MAPS  
To: <[dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov)>, <[jeff.essman@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essman@mtleg.gov)>, <[joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)>, <[kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)>, <[maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov)>

Hello. My name is Caroline Warne.

I am writing today to advocate for maps 2,4,6,8 and 9. I would like to oppose maps 1,3,5 and 7.

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party.

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together.

Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

Please use maps 2,6 and 8.

Kindly, Caroline warne  
Resident of helena MT

|

**From:** [Roxie Warne](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: MAPS  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 12:40:42 PM

---

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

Hello. My name is Roxanne Warne.

I am writing today to advocate for maps 2,4,6,8 and 9. I would like to oppose maps 1,3,5 and 7.

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party.

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together.

Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

Please use maps 2,6 and 8.

Kindly, Roxanne Warne  
Resident of Billings MT

|

**From:** [Adam Warren](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Commission Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 3:16:39 PM

---

Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I'm writing to express my support for the following proposed congressional districts:

- CP-1
- CP-3
- CP-5
- CP-7

These proposed districts reflect a common-sense and rational division of the state into two congressional districts. As you all know, Montana's western and eastern portions are similar in the character of their residents, but differ much in the issues they face on any given year. Splitting the state into east/west districts simply makes sense and is unquestionably the least controversial.

The following districts - CP-2, CP-4, CP-6, CP-8, and CP-9 - lack any semblance of impartiality, reason, or common sense. For example, CP-2 includes Sweet Grass County and Missoula County – two counties which could not be more different either socially, economically, or in the issues they face. Likewise, CP-2 also includes Carter County and Lincoln County – two counties which physically could not be further apart. This simply doesn't comport with the notion these districts should be as compact and contiguous as possible. Likewise, CP-4 can only be described as partisan product, with the city of Kalispell singly handedly carved out to be included in the same district as Ekalaka. CP-6, CP-8, and CP-9 suffers from the same partisan flaws.

I would strongly urge the Commission to adopt either CP-1, 3, 5, or 7. A simple east/west split from north to south simply makes sense for Montana, is the least controversial, and actually accounts for the different issues and concerns which residents of eastern and western Montana face. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Regards,

**Adam Warren**

MOULTON BELLINGHAM PC  
27 North 27th Street, Suite 1900  
PO Box 2559  
Billings, MT 59103-2559  
*Telephone:* (406) 248-7731  
*Direct Office Phone:* (406) 238-1574

[vCard](#) | [Bio](#) | [Website](#)  
[\[moultonbellingham.com\]](#) | [\[moultonbellingham.com\]](#) | [\[moultonbellingham.com\]](#)

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**From:** [Rich Wassall](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposals for Congressional Districts  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 9:33:42 PM

---

Of the 9 proposals, Proposals 1, 3, and 7 are preferred by us. It is a toss up between Proposals 1 and 7 for us, with both having a slight edge over Proposal 3. The other proposals seem to be flawed by gerrymandering and they don't cohesively reflect either the natural cultural or geographic divisions of the state.

- Rich Wassall  
- Alyce B. Wassall  
436 S. Idaho St.  
Dillon, MT 59725-2544

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Penny wastcoat  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:53:05 AM

---

From: Penny wastcoat [pandtwastcoat@gmail.com](mailto:pandtwastcoat@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman,MT

Message:  
Please choose CP 1 for the new redistricting map. Thank you.  
Penny Wastcoat

--

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: Norman F. Weeden  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:30:18 PM

---

From: Norman F. Weeden [nfweeden@gmail.com](mailto:nfweeden@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

My primary concern is to group subpopulations/geographical regions according to similar interests so that individuals can feel that their issues are actually represented in Congress. Splitting a region of relatively high population density for the sake of equalizing population between two districts is unacceptable to me. Thus, proposals that split relatively small but populous counties (e.g. CP-3 or CP-7) should be discarded. The most fundamental division of interests in the state is between the east and west. The east has a more arid, rigorous climate, a primary focus on dryland agriculture (except along the Yellowstone and Missouri) and shares many interests with the Dakotas. In contrast, the west is more focused on tourism, slightly different crops (including potatoes, apples and lumber), and share interests such as snowpack maintenance, fire management, and recreation with Idaho and Wyoming. Most of the district map alternatives reflect this natural division, but those that do not (e.g. CP-8) should not be considered further. Based on my own experience in Gallatin County, I prefer maps CP-6, CP-2, and CP-4 in that order. Gallatin County should be grouped with other counties in southwestern Montana. There are good reasons for placing Park County in this group, but the line has to be drawn somewhere and the reasonable choices are between Gallatin and Park or Park and Sweet Grass counties. Unfortunately choice CP-4 splits Flathead County and isolates it from nearby counties in order to get a populous and fast-growing region in the eastern district. Again, I would argue that the north/south line be drawn to keep Flathead County included in the same district as its neighbors.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

--

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



**From:** [Roxane Weikel](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov);  
[Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** MT Districting  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 9:38:22 PM

---

I support the goals selected by the commission and believe you should select the maps that best meet them. The maps should establish competitive districts so that candidates will have to work to pay attention to voters to earn their support.

Please consider the following maps : #8, #6, #2, #9 and #4.

Thank you for your work!

Roxane Weikel  
207 Takima Dr.  
Missoula, MT 59803  
406-542-2900

**From:** [Roxane Weikel](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov);  
[Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MT Districting  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 9:38:56 PM

---

I support the goals selected by the commission and believe you should select the maps that best meet them. The maps should establish competitive districts so that candidates will have to work to pay attention to voters to earn their support.

Please consider the following maps : #8, #6, #2, #9 and #4.

Thank you for your work!

Roxane Weikel  
207 Takima Dr.  
Missoula, MT 59803  
406-542-2900

**From:** [matthew.wenger85@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:matthew.wenger85@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Matthew Wenger](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Fair logical maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:10:09 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commission,

Just do the right thing. Make the districts competitive and bake them logical. Don't split cities. Don't gerrymander. This isn't hard. Maps 2 and 4 look good to me. Though any of the maps that are competitive are better than gerrymandering to make the outcomes predetermined. Do the right thing. Make it a map where democracy can decide the representatives, not the lines themselves.

Thank you.

Matt Wenger

Sincerely,  
Matthew Wenger  
604 N Tracy Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-2810  
[matthew.wenger85@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.wenger85@gmail.com)

**From:** [Karrie West](#)  
**To:** [mavlinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:mavlinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** I strongly support Map #8  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 7:10:03 PM

---

I strongly support Map 8 as it has 1 competitive district.- as opposed to gerrymandered maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 in which the same party is heavily favored in both districts. Ideally, Montana would have 2 competitive districts. I also like that Map 8 is divided into equal populations and isn't West versus East.

As a resident of Park County, I think it is important for Park County to be kept with Gallatin County as their county impacts ours a great deal.

Karrie West  
406 N Yellowstone St  
Livingston, MT 59047

**From:** [Kim West](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana's Redistricting Map #8 is my preference  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 3:21:18 PM

---

Map #8 is my preference. Population numbers are nearly equal, it creates a competitive district, districts are contiguous and compact, communities of interest remain mostly together, and county lines are followed.

Maps 1, 3, 5 and 7 are not of equal populations or divided so as to not be competitive.

Kim West  
103 W Montana St.  
Livingston, MT 59047

**From:** [Julie Wester](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Creating Our new Congressional District  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 9:01:35 AM

---

Hello Members of the Commission,

Throughout history, Montana has been well served by many public servants who love the beauty of our state. This includes citizens of both political parties who have worked to preserve and protect this precious land that we share.

Having reviewed the proposals for apportioning our new congressional seat, it appears that some options will allow for a competitive district and some will leave one party in control for a generation. You are deciding whether there will be a real conversation every 2 years to choose the best person to represent us. If we elect a representative who values profits over caring for our land, will they remain essentially unchallenged for a generation?

I'm writing today to encourage you to step back and think about what our children and grandchildren will ask us about the decisions we are making on their behalf today. How will we answer them when they ask us: What did you do when the preservation of our irreplaceable lands was at stake?

May your deliberations be blessed with wisdom,  
Sincerely yours,  
Julie Wester

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: myrt westphal  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 3:34:55 PM

---

From: myrt westphal myrt.westphal@gmail.com  
Residence: Missoula

Message:  
I live in the city of Montana and have for 8 years

all are equal

I would first like to see all the reservations in one district to give our "minority" residents a larger voice. Otherwise I like 6 and 9 due to the support of Montana Wilderness. see previous answer

Thanks for reach out to the public.

--

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

**From:** [saswesty@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:saswesty@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Scott Wetzel](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Adopt Map 9 (or Map 6) for Montana's New Congressional Districts  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 1:30:22 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am writing to comment on the choice of congressional district boundaries that have been put forth. In looking at the boundaries, Maps 6 and 9 stand out as the best options and are the ones that best meet the criteria set up for this process (equal representation, keep communities together, competitive). Map 9, which is my personal preference, keeps the Flathead Reservation in tact in 1 district. There is only one county that is split (Missoula county, which is the county I reside in).

While Montana is a very large and diverse place, different regions have different priorities. The more rural and eastern part of the state is dominated by agriculture and resource extraction, while more urbanized areas in the western part of the state are more reliant on technology, higher education, medical facilities, and tourism for their livelihoods. It is my opinion that that dichotomy of interests should be reflected by the congressional map to allow Montana's residents to be well represented in congress and our representatives to be responsive to our needs. Map 9 allows for the establishment of a more urban district and a more rural district and is the best choice.

Map #6 also meets those same criteria and is also a very good choice.

Several maps that have been proposed fail to create a competitive district (1, 3, 5, 7) and several cut counties, and even cities, into separate pieces. This is not acceptable.

Sincerely,  
Scott Wetzel  
4663 Calistoga Ln Missoula, MT 59808-8698  
[saswesty@gmail.com](mailto:saswesty@gmail.com)



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Harry B. Whidden  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 3:05:20 PM

---

From: Harry B. Whidden heavybarrel20@charter.net  
Residence: Kalispell, Mt

Message:  
Please use CP 1 map for redistributing

Harry Whidden  
654 Corporate Dr  
Kalispell, mt 59901

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Doug White  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 12:56:59 PM

---

From: Doug White [dug2@mail.com](mailto:dug2@mail.com)  
Residence: Billings

Message:

Please just redistrict the state in either map #1 or 3. No fancy stuff.

--

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 White  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:39:43 AM

---

From: Robert White [bltwhite@icloud.com](mailto:bltwhite@icloud.com)  
Residence: Whitefish, MT

Message:

As a life-long Montanan, I feel it is important to re-establish election districts that represent our people, geography and our history of a balanced government.

I recommend re-establishing the prior congressional districts that existed when Montana last held two house seats. It would reflect some geographic sense and retain historical boundaries that previously existed, without gerrymandering a new line for any particular party.

Sincerely,  
Robert White

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Thomas R. White  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 1:39:15 PM

---

From: Thomas R. White witeswater@yahoo.com  
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

Maps 1 and 3 are the best ones.....a simple East/West division as in the past is less politically biased...which is the entire purpose of elections. Thank you

--

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

**From:** [Debra Wilke](#)  
**To:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**Subject:** [spam]Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 8:11:31 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Debra F Wilke , I've lived at my current address in Kalispell for past 16 years.

My biggest priority is not unduly favoring a political party.

I support maps 4,6, 8, and 9.

Thanks for being involved in public service.

Regards,  
Debra Wilke  
209 Terrace Rd  
Kalispell, MT 59901

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Wilke  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 11:54:03 AM

---

From: Robert Wilke  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Splitting GALLATIN county is a bad idea. Especially if it is politically motivated and um against the Montana Constitution! Come on folks do the right thing !

I have served as an independent business person to help businesses grow here and internationally. I live in Bozeman. I love the healthy lifestyle that is valued by most of our community.

Everything I just said above. Did I mention gerrymandering should be a crime as it undermines democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

**From:** [Ashley Williams](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 7:36:21 AM

---

Hello. My name is Ashley Williams.

I am writing today to advocate for maps 2,4,6,8 and 9. I would like to oppose maps 1,3,5 and 7.

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party.

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together.

Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

Please use maps 2,6 and 8.

Kindly, Ashley Williams  
Resident of Helena, MT

**From:** [Burt Williams](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Proposals  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 1:40:27 PM

---

Dear Commission:

I believe there has been entirely too much manipulation of interests in most of the proposed maps redistricting Montana for the second House of Representatives seat.

Several maps that I found initially intriguing have presented issues that I find antithetical to the stated goals of the redistricting to make the two districts competitive and relatively equal in population.

Several of the maps while maybe not meeting the formal definition of gerrymandering, certainly are tortured in their boundaries.

Having gone over the criteria and the resulting maps innumerable times, I am left with Proposal 9. It is compact, competitive, equal in population and pretty much keeps county boundaries within a single district. I think this choice is the best one to meet all criteria with the least exceptions. I particularly think that splitting counties should be thrown out immediately; splitting these political entities will mean an endless stream of mailings and general botheration of the counties' inhabitants as candidates do the easy thing and mail to all residents of the split counties.

Please select Proposal 9 as the best choice for setting fair and equable boundaries for the two resulting districts.

Burt Williams  
PO Box 600  
Fishtail MT 59028



**From:** [Dave Williams](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maps  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 8:41:23 PM

---

Hello. My name is David Williams.

I am writing today to advocate for maps 2,4,6,8 and 9. I would like to oppose maps 1,3,5 and 7.

Maps 3 and 5 are not population equal and should be thrown out. We have seven maps that are population equal and that was a main criteria selected by the commission in selecting a map.

Maps that slice through populous counties and divide communities should be thrown out. Missoula and Bozeman contain the flagship universities for the state and have similar interests. Maps 1 and 7 divide up Gallatin county and aim to separate communities with similar needs.

Maps 1, 3, 5, and 7 favor one party unduly, as both districts are deemed uncompetitive and are disproportionately likely to elect the same party.

Map 2 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together.

Maps 2, 4, 6, and 9 are compact and contiguous with equal populations.

Maps 2, 6, 8, and to a lesser extent 4 and 9 are competitive and give the people of Montana true power in electing officials that will work for them. These candidates will have to campaign and get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

Maps 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all population equal.

Please use maps 2,6 and 8.

Kindly, David Williams  
Resident of Helena, MT

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jorene Williams  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 5:40:12 PM

---

From: Jorene Williams [josue7williams@gmail.com](mailto:josue7williams@gmail.com)  
Residence: Kalsipell

Message:

My vote is for redistricting map 5-CP 5. It seems the best and fairest for Flathead county.

--

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

**From:** [unsoacabill@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:unsoacabill@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Sandra Williams](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:41:50 PM

---

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I believe these maps would provide quality maps CP2, CP4, CP6, CP8, and CP9. We know that this is a better way. Thank You.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Williams  
54 5Th Avenue West N Kalispell, MT 59901-3802  
[unsoacabill@yahoo.com](mailto:unsoacabill@yahoo.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lucinda K Willis  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 9:08:31 PM

---

From: Lucinda K Willis  
Residence: Polson MT

Message:

Gerrymandering mocks the concept of being represented – whether Democrats or Republicans are the ones who are skewing district lines.

Redistricting is hard business – I appreciate that. But please be the kind of person who respects voting rights.

--

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: Bryan Wilson  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 1:42:12 PM

---

From: Bryan Wilson  
Residence: Billings MT

Message:

I support Democrats, but I would still like to see two more competitive districts even if they both lean Republican right now. As a Billings resident, I don't want to live in a district represented by a hard-right Republican for the foreseeable future. My choice is #7.

--

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: Ryan Wison  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 5:12:57 PM

---

From: Ryan Wison [rwilson2244@gmail.com](mailto:rwilson2244@gmail.com)  
Residence: Big Sky, MT

Message:

Please favor maps 2,4,6,8,9 when redistricting our state. It's important that Montana create these lines with integrity and without agenda from either party. Having competitive districts is important to maintain our non-partisan libertarian history.

--

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

**From:** [jwoessner@bigsky.net](mailto:jwoessner@bigsky.net)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional election districts for Montana  
**Date:** Saturday, October 9, 2021 2:46:46 PM

---

Dear Members of the Districting Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for CP-2 (<https://leg.mt.gov/content/Districting/2020/Maps/Congressional/Commission-Proposals/cp2-congressional-october-19.pdf>) for Montana's two congressional districts.

This plan is the only one to allow for the possibility of competitive districts, while maintaining equal population and county boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Jean W. Woessner  
Missoula, MT.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shana Wood  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:43:06 PM

---

From: Shana Wood shanawood@q.com  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I favor the second, fourth or eighth redistricting map. These maps would allow a modicum of competition between democratic and republican candidates for the new MT House congressional seat. And if a Democrat should win the new seat there would be equal representation in the overall MT delegation to Congress. And this kind of balance might help Montanans understand that working together for all of Montana is the best way forward.

--

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



**From:** [Brad Wright](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Commission Comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 6, 2021 2:10:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [Future Redistricting Map.PNG](#)

---

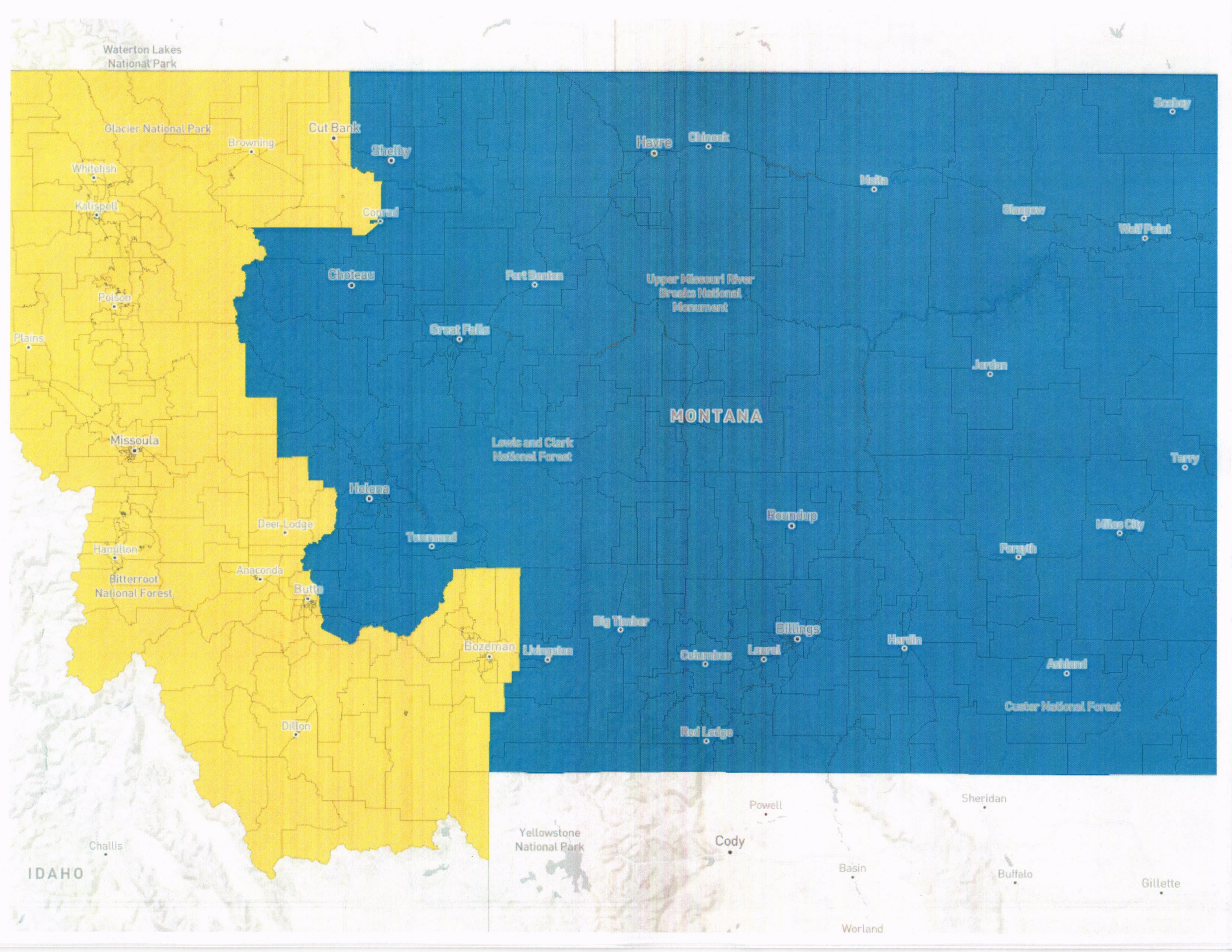
To Whom It May Concern,

I am in favor of Congressional District Commission Proposal 7 (CP7). CP7 is very similar to Montana's historical congressional districts, follows natural geographical features affecting communication and transportation networks, keeps the criteria for communities of interest intact as much as possible, is non-discriminatory, and does not appear to unduly favor any political party.

If possible, one suggestion would be to try to move the boundary further west of Bozeman's city limits, even if that involved splitting a state legislative district or increased the population disparity between the congressional districts.

In addition, with Montana's population shifting to the west over time, it will be logical to include the western portion of Gallatin County and Broadwater County in the eastern district at some point in the future. See attached map.

Thank you,  
Brad Wright



Waterton Lakes National Park

Glacier National Park

Browning

Cut Bank

Shelby

Hayre

Chisok

Sorby

Whitefish

Kalispell

Conrad

Malin

Glasgow

Wolf Point

Polson

Choteau

Fort Benton

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

Plains

Great Falls

Jordan

MONTANA

Missoula

Lewis and Clark National Forest

Terry

Helena

Deer Lodge

Townsend

Roundup

Millon City

Hamilton

Bitterroot National Forest

Anaconda

Butte

Forsyth

Dillon

Bozeman

Livingston

Big Timber

Columbus

Laurel

Billings

Hardin

Ashland

Custer National Forest

Red Lodge

IDAHO

Yellowstone National Park

Powell

Sheridan

Cody

Basin

Buffalo

Gillette

Worland

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Darryl Wrona  
**Date:** Monday, October 11, 2021 10:20:58 PM

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From: Darryl Wrona  
Residence: Billings

Message:

Please remember YOUR AN AMERICAN, BE FAIR, COUNTRY COMES BEFORE PARTY.

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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: Michael Young  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 3:43:49 PM

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From: Michael Young brothermel721@gmail.com  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Mike Young and I live in Missoula, MT, where I enjoy all the outdoor activities that available locally and regionally.

Of the goals the Commission has agreed upon, I'm most concerned that the districts chosen include at least one that's competitive. I'm an advocate for wilderness and wild landscapes and will be very disappointed if neither of the districts chosen offers a realistic chance of a competitive race (it appears that the eastern district is unlikely to be competitive in any case, and I'm hoping that the western district, which includes most of the wild mountainous landscape in the state, will be competitive)

I am most supportive of maps 6 and 9. According to the Dave's Redistricting website, maps 6 and 9 would both create a competitive western district that includes the cities of Helena, Butte, Bozeman and Missoula, all of which are home to a substantial number of wilderness advocates.

Thanks for considering my comments and for your efforts in this complex undertaking.

--

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**From:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Drawing the Line  
**Date:** Friday, October 15, 2021 1:37:11 PM

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

From: Stephen Zabawa <saz.ctr@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 1:08 PM  
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>  
Cc: Bert Arnlund <bertarnlund1943@me.com>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Drawing the Line

Rachel,

Please divide the line down the middle of the State and split the population into an even half.

Anything else would be considering rigging the vote to either side. Not cool.

Best regards,

Steve Zabawa  
Concerned Citizens Voter  
406-670-8100

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [jean zankner](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 1:59:23 PM

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Dear Commission members, In my opinion Proposal #5 would be acceptable. Thank you,  
Jean Zankner

**From:** [lenzee75@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lenzee75@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Lena Zeeck](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:40:01 PM

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Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Please choose map PC 9. It is fair and competitive and our senators will be chosen from both a rural and urban areas.

Thank you  
Lena Zeeck

Sincerely,  
Lena Zeeck  
8555 N Montana Ave Helena, MT 59602-8320  
[lenzee75@gmail.com](mailto:lenzee75@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dana Zier  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 10:11:58 AM

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From: Dana Zier  
Residence: Bridger, MT

Message:

Dear Districting Commission,

I am strongly for the Maps, CP5 and CP7, where only one county is split, and the economic/social characteristics stay intact for each county. I am strongly for keeping the integrity of the state of Montana, where we value our communities and have fair and free elections.

Number 5 is my top choice – and I urge you to choose this map for the redistricting.

Sincerely  
Dana Zier

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John ZINNE  
**Date:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 4:35:24 PM

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From: John ZINNE BUCKLEMAKER59067@YAHOO.COM  
Residence: Rapelje Montana

Message:

Map#1 is as close to what our state had before we lost a representative , if it was accepted then why change.

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