

Public Comments: P - R

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5 p.m. on October 20 and 5 p.m. on October
27, 2021

Distributed electronically October 27, 2021

October 18, 2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Honorable Commission Chair and Members,

Thank you all for your service on this important Commission. I have listened with interest to the broadcasts of the hearings you have held and appreciate the challenging work that has gone into creating nine options to consider in developing two new Congressional districts.

After reviewing each of the maps, as well as the legal criteria and non-mandatory goals that the Commission is to follow, I have concerns that none of the nine proposed maps truly creates two competitive districts state-wide. It appears that the maps that have been drawn continue to politically divide this state, instead of finding a way to represent the interests and common goals of all its citizens equitably and fairly, regardless of political party. Montana has been an independent state that has valued voices from all sides. The proposed nine maps however, in my view, continue to deepen the political divide instead of bringing us all together.

Instead of a vertical and traditional "boundary" where there is a western district and an eastern district, I would like the Commission to consider another option: that of a "north" district and a "south" district. My reasoning for this is that both districts would then equitably encompass urban and rural interests, timber, agriculture, recreation, tribal, mining, education, water rights, wildfire threats, etc. Our two new representatives need to represent what is important to the entire state - and all these communities of interest are a part of who we all are - not just a "west" side nor an "east" side. I am just as concerned about my neighbors in Malta, Fort Peck, Billings and Bozeman as I am about my neighbors in Missoula, Pablo, Libby, and Kalispell. The issues facing this state touch all of us - and I would like to see two districts created in such a way that neither political party has an "edge" or advantage over another - we need to use this process to bring us together, not further divide our beloved state.

Please consider and evaluate this new option against national and state Constitutional requirements as well as the non-mandatory goals the Commission has adopted. I do not know if it truly would "equalize" the competing interests between the two political parties

and be more representative of the people - however, the current proposed maps I believe do not create the fairness in the political process I would want this Commission to achieve.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joni Packard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joni Packard
PO Box 1716
Lolo, MT 59847

From: mtnsong@blackfoot.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Two Final Proposed Districting Maps
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 2:47:53 PM
Attachments: [MT Redistricting and Apportionment Comments #2 - 10-23-21.docx](#)

Hello,

Please see attached comments. Hard, signed copy will also be sent via regular mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback, and again, a huge thank you to the Chair and all Commission Members for your hard work on this effort.

Sincerely,

Joni Packard

October 23, 2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Honorable Commission Chair and Commission Members,

Again, I would like to thank you all for your service on this important Commission. It was interesting to hear both the in-person public comments as well as the Zoom public comments on the nine proposed maps. I appreciate each of you again listening and valuing feedback from the public, and I especially appreciate you Madam Chair, for ensuring all voices were heard.

After reviewing the two maps that the Commission has narrowed down, I am in favor of Map Proposal 11 - CP1. While neither map really is "compact" in terms of district size, unless Montana, the fourth largest state in the nation, was divided into 4 or 6 districts of equal size and population, both of our new Congressional representatives will have a lot of travel time, regardless of which map is used, to meet with and listen to their constituents. That is the physical nature of our state, and while large in geographic scope (which both maps are), Map 11 - CP1 I believe is reasonable and doable.

Map Proposal 11 - CP1 I believe best keeps key communities of interest together including our two major universities/research centers as part of the new western district (I would hope that regardless of political party, both of our new representatives will work together to advocate for our university system - and our seventeen tribal colleges). Map 11 - CP1 keeps the urban communities of Bozeman, Butte, Missoula, and Helena together, who have comparable constituent interests and are experiencing similar growth and housing challenges while attracting similar kinds of new businesses. Under Map 11 - CP1, the communities of Billings and Great Falls can be viewed as similar communities of interest as well, where they are more closely tied to the agricultural and oil/gas influenced industries common in the eastern side of the state. Map 11 - CP1 ensures at least one Tribal Nation/Indian reservation is located in each district; it also ensures two national recreation/tourist destinations, Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park (both local and regional economic drivers) are located respectively in each district, and Map 11 - CP1 keeps major forested lands (private and public) together in one (western) congressional district while major agricultural and grazing lands (private and public) are kept together in the other (eastern) district.

I was intrigued by one public comment (the garlic farmer out of Kalispell) who shared that the Flathead valley has more in common with the Hi Line and its agricultural/rail line emphasis due to the Flathead's double digit agricultural growth than with Bozeman, where agriculture is in decline. He had a good point and keeping Flathead County as part of the eastern district with its agricultural interest as Map 11 - CP1 proposes makes sense.

When I think of forest related issues, following the rough geographic/topographic contours of major forest lands where timber harvest is vital, as this map does, also makes sense - issues will be similar (though not exactly the same due to forest type) for all the communities in the new western district re: forest health, timber harvest, landscape restoration, wildfire/fire suppression, and WUI (wildland urban interface).

The recreation communities of interest, including outfitting/guiding, hunting, and fishing, hiking, camping, motorized use, etc., are by their own nature, geographically disperse and spread throughout the state. Montana's outdoor recreation industry, which, per the Montana Department of Commerce, accounts for \$7.1 Billion in consumer spending and more than 71,000 jobs, is the second largest sector of the state's economy. The two districts as created by Map 11 - CP1 ensures this exceptionally large community of interest is evenly represented throughout both the western and eastern district as proposed (though again, I would hope our two new representatives, regardless of party, would work and advocate together on outdoor and public lands related issues).

As you each weigh public comments on these final two maps, I would ask the Commission to try to come to consensus - we are so split right now, as a state and as a nation, along lines and positions that really do not have to be all that "hard." I grew up in a family where one parent was a staunch Republican, and one parent was a staunch Democrat. Differing political perspectives made for some interesting discussions for sure - yet we were still one family, with a deep love for one another. All voices, whether Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Green, or Independent, want to be valued and heard. While we are a constitutional republic, we are also a representative democracy. Ensuring that we are fair, equitable, honest, and competitive to the best degree we can be, honors both of those foundational pillars of our wonderful country, and this state we all love called Montana.

Thank you again for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joni Packard

Joni Packard
PO Box 1716
Lolo, MT 59847

From: [Jeffery Padgett](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote for CP # 11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:10:06 PM

It's the only map remaining that is competitive and is not biased by political party.

From: jparker3095@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Julie Parker](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]CDCP11 CP 11 support
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 4:44:06 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

As multi generational Montanans, we have witnessed the loss of moderate party members on both sides and the toxic outcome in politics, communities, and families. Our great state needs to return to fair competition in elections as we pick our representatives so we can, once again, work together to bring civility back to our home lands. We need to elect moderates and not radicals of either party.

CP 11 gives us our last best chance to return to politics that work for ALL Montanans.

Please support CDCP11 CP 11.
Thank you,
Julie and Keith Parker

Sincerely,
Julie Parker
3095 Duncan Dr Missoula, MT 59802-3273
jparker3095@yahoo.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark D. Parker
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 5:56:13 AM

From: Mark D. Parker markdavidparker@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

Perhaps my suggestion is impossible, but here it is. Ask a computer programmer to devise a program that would divide the state into two districts. The criteria would be a). No counties would be split. b). The populations would be as equal as possible c) the border between the two would be the shortest possible.

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

From: [MARY PICKETT Owner](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:05:49 AM

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am a life long Montanan, currently living in Billings. With the exception of about four years working out of state, I've voted in every state and local election since 1970. I support Proposal # 11, which will keep my birth county, Gallatin County, in tact.

Thank you for your hard work on this difficult project during a difficult time.

Sincerely,

Mary Pickett Parker
2333 Bonnevue Square
Billings, MT 59102

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Stephen Parker
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:31:38 PM

From: Stephen Parker swebe16@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I feel strongly that CP 11 is the correct map to balance the vote in Montana.

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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: Suzi Kimzey Parsons
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:07:46 PM

From: Suzi Kimzey Parsons suzi@parsonsponies.com
Residence: Florence

Message:
Montana resident for 27 years
retired teacher
small business owner

I support map 11. Billings and Great Falls are together, while Missoula, Bozeman, and Helena are together. The population is relatively equal, and the political leanings are similar to others in each district. Map 11 keeps communities of interest intact.

Flathead should be moved to the eastern district

Thanks to the hardworking members of the commission.

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

From: pascoe2mt@aol.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:54:24 AM

I support Proposal #11. It is important to have at least one district that is competitive. Montana is currently roughly 55% Republican and 45% Democratic. It makes no sense to have 100% of our House members by Republican. Also, if we have a split delegation, Montana will always have one House member in the majority party.

Bill Pascoe
Absarokee, MT

From: pascoe2mt@aol.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:54:05 AM

I support Proposal #11. It is important to have at least one district that is competitive. Montana is currently roughly 55% Republican and 45% Democratic. It makes no sense to have 100% of our House members by Republican. Also, if we have a split delegation, Montana will always have one House member in the majority party.

Janet Pascoe
Absarokee, MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Duncan Patten
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 4:55:09 PM

From: Duncan Patten dpatten@mcn.net
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Of the two final proposed districting maps for Montana, one better brings common groups or land owners together. The best of the two final maps is Proposal 11-CP 11. This map keeps Gallatin County together allowing a county that votes together to be included as one unit. My personal interest in this is that we have property in two parts of Gallatin County that would be split with Proposal CP 10 but will be included together in Proposal CP 11. Thus I recommend that the districting commission select Proposal 11 – CP 11 as the final division of the state of Montana.

Thank you.

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

From: [paul](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP 10 offers the most accurate split. Considering Flathead County as eastern Montana is ridiculous.
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:21:36 AM

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

From: [I consider myself an Independent voter. I support the democratic proposal for dividing the districts. This will be more bipartisan and give each party a chance to have a representative.](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:47:01 PM

I am no longer a Republican. I consider myself an Independent voter. We need ideas from both political parties as well as independents. I support the democratic proposal for dividing the state because we need to give both parties a fair chance to get a person elected to represent our state in Congress. Fairness is essential to good governing which is unfortunately not happening today. Things are out of balance and certainly not bipartisan. The present legislature is “way out of bounds” and railroading our state unfairly. The Republican legislature just “simply overturned” an election law without even considering public opinion or voting again. Is that even legal?? Lets move back to respect for one another, listening to each other, and governing fairly with the whole state in mind.

Mary Paulson
Missoula, MT

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



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

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com [\[avast.com\]](http://www.avast.com)

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Payne
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5:44:14 PM

From: Mark Payne markg.payne@yahoo.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Currently (as of October 26, 2021) the map option preferred by the Democrats on the commission leaves Gallatin County intact as well as Flathead County (remains in the Eastern District). This seems to be a logical compromise. All in all I support the proposed districts as drawn by the Democrats on the commission. Thank you all for your hard work!!

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

From: [Amy Pearson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please support CP 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:30:04 PM

I am writing to urge you to support Map # CP 11 for the most fair Congressional Districts. CP 11 ensures population equality and does not split any major towns (which is a criteria).

Unlike CP 10, Map #CP 11 keeps the Hi Line, Golden Triangle, and Rocky Mtn Front intact to ensure that agricultural communities are being heard. Same for native communities.

Please vote for CP 11.

Thank you,
Amy Pearson

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Pearson
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5:49:48 PM

From: Mark Pearson geologic_time@yahoo.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

There are two redistricting maps that I have reviewed: CP-10 and CP-11. I am in favor of redistricting in accordance with map CP-11.

I am aware that this splits several, low population counties and keeps the higher population counties whole, with exception to Flathead County. I would be in favor of keeping Flathead County intact, without splitting it. I am not in favor of splitting Gallatin County.

Thank you.

Mark Pearson

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

From: billpentrode@bresnan.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] district maps
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 6:58:30 PM

I prefer the Republican map as it is cleaner and easier to understand.

From: [Laura Perry](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2020 Districting and Apportionment Commission
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:24:09 PM

After a review of the proposed re-districting, the approach being taken is absolutely tone-deaf. Map 11 creates a political and economic divide while exacerbating the tribal communities' challenges. Is it your INTENT to isolate one tribal community from the others, reducing the power of the tribes in their representation? The segregated tribe will end up with NO representation of their interests or by their constituents. For the first time ever in Montana history, this map splits a county West of the Continental Divide (Flathead) and puts it in an Eastern District. Flathead County has zero political, economic or cultural ties with the vast number of counties in the Eastern District, and while both districts include the Canada Interface, Map CP-11 separates the Canada Interface which brings Canadian tourists to Flathead and Blackfeet tourism spots.

This Map 11 is designed to harm communities of interest, such as forestry and tourism for Flathead Valley. It creates a District with communities that share no interests between Western Montana and Eastern Montana.

Map 11 is a blatant partisan attempt to split the Flathead along political lines evidenced by the vast expanse covered by the Eastern District. How could a representative be in touch or part of a community so far away from their base?

Map 10 is the only choice of the available maps. The other 9 that were thrown out would have been preferable to Map 11. Stop trying to destroy this state with your partisan nonsense. We are watching. We are voting people. We will not sit idly by and allow the destruction of the Flathead Valley with your manipulation.

Laura Perry
Montana Resident

From: [MARGARET PERRYMAN](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final map choices
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 2:50:25 PM

Good afternoon,

I would like to see the Commission choose CP11 as the final map for drawing MT Congressional maps. This map scores a 5 on the Cooks competitive scoring method and will provide Montana citizens with the most appropriate congressional representation for the next decade.

Margaret Perryman

From: [D Peters](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map 11 please
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 7:26:53 PM

I support Map 11. Gallatin County needs to remain intact in the western district. Most importantly, Montana needs a competitive district.

Deborah Peters
Bozeman

Sent from my iPad

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joni L. Petersen
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:50:34 PM

From: Joni L. Petersen jlpetersen@montanasky.net
Residence: Kila, Montana

Message:

I have reviewed the 2 redistricting maps submitted by democrats and republicans, that appear to be the final maps for consideration. Being from Flathead county, I respectfully dismiss any idea that Flathead county be split up. Being from Kila, I would be placed in the eastern district. I do not consider myself a part of the eastern part of the state in any way, shape, or form. It is ludicrous to believe otherwise. Gallatin county however, does encompass the eastern side of the continental divide. Therefore, should be districted in part or in whole on the eastern side.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lindsey Peterson
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:35:50 PM

From: Lindsey Peterson lindsey.torgerson@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:

Please keep future elections fair by not drawing the map to favor GOP candidates. I am a moderate who votes based on the candidate I believe will work the hardest for MT. If your reasoning for this is to try to group votes to ensure GOP gets the numbers it wants, this is a tragedy for our state and our country. You should play fair and work in other ways to get your votes...work harder to appease to voters to get your votes, not by playing the system and laws. Please.

--

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

From: [Suzanne Peterson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting map
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:02:25 AM

I prefer the Congressional Districting map 11 as the way our two districts will be divided.

Suzanne Peterson

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Best,
Suzanne

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kim Peterson
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:03:19 AM

From: Kim Peterson kdp2277@outlook.com
Residence: Kalispell mt

Message:
I would like to to decide on map 1

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

From: [Bob Phalen](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting maps
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:08:34 PM

Ladies and gentleman,

I am emailing you because of the comprise that is being proposed. To me it is a shame that you seem to have a time following not only the law, but also the constitution. You all know what the law holds in store, so I don't know why you just can't follow both. CP1 of the first batch is the only one that is designed as the constitution says it should be. A map should not be drawn as to favor any political party, and for gosh sakes do not comprise just to get this process over with.

Representative Bob Phalen HD36

From: [Caroline Pharr](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on New Redistricting Maps
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 8:21:52 PM

Dear Commission,

I am writing to advocate for the newly proposed map 11. This map is population equal and keeps communities of interest together. The map is competitive and does not unduly favor one party. It also gives a strong voice to our tribal nations by keeping the CSKT and the Blackfeet reservations together in one competitive district. Keeping MSU and U of M together gives education a strong voice and allows for the unique needs of those communities to be met. Lastly, and most importantly, it allows every voter in district one to have a vote that truly matters. Representatives will have to campaign and will be held accountable. Please do what is right and what is fair and select map 11. Best,

Caroline Pharr

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Phillips-Sullivan
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:06:07 PM

From: Patricia Phillips-Sullivan velvet59937@yahoo.com
Residence: Whitefish

Message:

Hello,

I am a 4th generation Montanan. My ancestors homesteaded on Flathead Lake in the 1890s and later moved up around Columbia Falls. I was raised in a railroad family in Whitefish and was taught to be independent politically and that it was important to vote for the person who would care for Montana and its citizens rather than aligning myself with a party. It is very worrisome that certain politicians follow the party line rather than do what is best for Montanans. This is why creating fair, unbiased districts is so important to me.

I believe map 11 best meets the Commission's four agreed-upon criteria:

It does not unduly favor a political party/consider the competitiveness of districts

Map 11 minimizes dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts when possible.

Map 11 succeeds in keeping communities of interest intact. Though neither map is perfect, Map 11 does a better job of not unduly favoring either political party, which in my opinion is the most important criteria. Another important factor for selecting Map 11 is that it does a better job of keeping communities of interest intact.

I am not in favor of Map 10 because, in looking at the map 10 I see it splits up Gallatin County and the City of Big Sky. I also see it splits up areas that have been linked by common economies and ways of life since before our statehood. I also feel that Map 10 is biased more to create advantage for the Republican party and the way the Republicans are behaving right now I certainly don't want them to have an unfair advantage in elections.

I do appreciate all of the time and consideration that has gone into creating the maps. I also am very grateful that we have one of the healthiest bipartisan processes in the the country. It has been a long time since we had two districts and we need the same kind of map that creates a fair and equal opportunity for bipartisan support of Montanans
Thank you again for allowing public comment.

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

From: [Ben Phinney](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Favor Map CP#11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:28:10 AM

I am a resident of Gallatin County. I am an independent voter and I care about keeping fair voting opportunities for all residents of Montana. I am contacting you to urge you to adopt the Map CP #11 option to level the playing field for everyone.

Thanks for your service on behalf of this state.

Ben Phinney

Ben Phinney
2018 Knaab Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715
617-699-7515 - cell
phinneyben@me.com
www.benphinney.com [benphinney.com]

From: [Mercer Pickens](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP #11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 12:46:35 PM

Hello,

I am a fifth generation Montanan writing to you today in support of Map CP #11. Please choose this map in the interest of all Montanans.

Thank You,

Mercer Pickens

From: [Donald Pickering](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:34:21 PM

VOTE FOR MAP 11. THE ALTERNATIVE IS NOT FAIR!

From: [Wendy Pierce](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting public comment
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 3:17:39 PM

I would like to voice my support of proposed map #11. I support this map for many reasons, but foremost, those residing in this proposed map (including me) share similar values and economic priorities. Bozeman, Missoula and Whitefish belong in the same district and deserve someone that will represent their interest. All these communities focus on recreation and tech. Missoula, Bozeman, Helena and Butte also share large academic communities. The communities in this part of the state are quite different from Eastern Montana where ranching and agriculture are still the main focus. It is a disservice to those living in the Gallatin Valley (where I live) to be lumped in with communities that do not share the same priorities.

From: [Bob Pierson](#)
To: [Districting](#); Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:03:21 PM

CP-1 is the ONLY map that is not partisan, and complies with the statutes and the new laws. CP-10 and 11 are trying to carve out districts by party and are therefore illegal.

Please throw out the two maps known as cp-10 and cp-11, they are inappropriate and do not meet the law.

I am asking you to do the right thing!

Robert Pierson
58 Elk Run Ln
Trout Creek, MT 59874
406 827-1112

God Bless, Bob

We are *not* a nation of laws! We never have been and we never will be. We are a nation of **POLITICAL WILL**. We always have been and we always will be.

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

From: [Carolyn Pierson](#)
To: [Districting](#); Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:13:50 PM

I respectfully request that you reconsider and choose CP-1.

We both know that cp-10 and cp-11 do NOT meet the letter of the law, they are designed to break up areas into political zones and as such should NOT be under consideration.

I am surely surprised that you invite people across the state to take their time to attend a meeting to express their concerns, and then throw that all out and give us other options, neither of which are appropriate.

Carolyn Pierson
58 Elk Run Ln
Trout Creek, MT 59874
406 827-1112
cap46@protonmail.com

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Pierson
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:46:28 AM

From: Robert Pierson rdpier@protonmail.com
Residence: Trout Creek

Message:

Map 10 please, if you must replace the only map that meets the LAW, which was MAP 1!
I believe that you people are incompetent! You call a hearing to which many people
responded, drove from all over the state, then you discard ALL the maps originally published,
and tell us to consider two others, neither of which totally meet the requirements of the law!
You just wasted our time! Thanks for concern!

--

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

From: [Carolyn Pierson](#)
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 5:50:21 PM

CHOOSE CP-1

You know that it is the only one that meets the letter of the law.

10 and 11 are partisan and do not meet the law as written.

Carolyn Pierson

Trout Creek, MT

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

From: [Desiree Pihl](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUPPORT MAP 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:17:51 AM

I strongly support Map 11 in deciding how our state's redistricting will be done in a fair and competitive manner.

The impact of CP 10 (one of the final proposed maps) would be detrimental for Montana. This plan splits the towns of Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway in half, violating the criteria to minimize unnecessary divisions of towns. Additionally, this plan separates Park and Gallatin County from one another, cutting apart an area with vital economic connections and shared interests. **But most importantly, CP 10 is not competitive** -- creating two Republican districts, which unduly favors one party. In Montana, voters get to pick our leaders, not the other way around.

Please choose Map 11!!

Thank you.

Desiree Pihl

PO Box 83

Pray, MT 59065

From: [Colleen Piluso](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP 11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:29:19 PM

Please move forward with CP 11 as it is the best option of the two maps.

Thank you,
Colleen Piluso, MPA
Missoula, Montana
colleenpiluso@gmail.com

From: [Clara SJ Pincus](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support for Map 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:18:50 AM

I concur with the evaluation of the editorial board of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle (10/26/21 edition):

Taken together, it seems the commission could opt to keep counties intact, which most Montanans would likely prefer, while allowing for a small amount of inequality in population between the two congressional districts. Map 11, as outlined on the commission's web site (<https://mtredistricting.gov/congressional-maps-proposed-by-the-commission/> [mtredistricting.gov]) seems to offer the best option for that by merely including all of Flathead County in the eastern district.

Cordially, Clara Pincus

Clara SJ Pincus
2010 Spring Creek Dr.
Bozeman MT 59715
cell 303/815-6966
landline 406/582-8206

From: ppipal@charter.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Montana US House re-districting
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 4:27:06 PM

Proposal 11 appears to divide Flathead County. It doesn't seem logical to split a county, therefore Proposal 10 should be favored.

Pam Pipal
610 Indian Trl
Billings, MT 59105

From: ppipal@charter.net
To: "districting@mt.gov"
Cc:
Sent: Wednesday October 13 2021 4:21:40PM
Subject: Montana US House re-districting

-- It doesn't seem right to divide counties, or cities. For that reason Proposal 3, 8, and 9 which would divide either a county or a city, should be rejected.

-- Including Kalispell in Proposal 4 goes against the guideline of "compactness".

-- In general, any proposal that extremely favors 1 political party over another should be disqualified (termed "gerrymandering" in the guidelines for re-districting).

Thank You for the opportunity to comment!

Pam Pipal
610 Indian Trl
Billings, MT 59105

From: [Becky Piske](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP #11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 11:50:25 AM

Dear Commission,

I request you support map CP#11, allowing fair voting competitive races. Please.

Sincerely,

Becky J. Piske

303 State Street
Helena, MT 59601-5788
406.443.7730 home
406.431.5624 cell
beckyjpiske@gmail.com

From: leeapittenger@gmail.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Congressional Map
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 8:31:03 AM

I am in support of Proposal 11 as it likely provides a more fair distribution of votes for the Western half of our state. Please strongly consider Proposal 11.

Lea Pittenger
Missoula, MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Robin Pleninger](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting input - yes to Map 11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:13:06 AM

Hello,

I am writing in support of Map 11 because it ensures competitive elections. I oppose Map 10 because it creates two Republican districts.

Thank you,

Robin Pleninger
Ronan, Montana

From: [Juanita Polston](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map CP #11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:58:44 PM

I urge your support for Map CP #11. Let's keep the playing field equal for all parties for TRUE representation of the people. Let the 'win' be on the merits not party lines.

Thank you,
Juanita Polston
PO Box 190
Ulm, MT 59485

Sent from my iPad

From: [Trudy](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] map
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:37:22 AM

Sirs:

Please, reconsider splitting counties. How unfair. The people who vote in the counties you are considering splitting will vote their beliefs. Yea, gads! What are you thinking. It is similar to splitting a family.

Gertrude Pratt

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Preston
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:11:10 PM

From: John Preston jpreston345@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Hi ,

John Preston, longtime resident of Bozeman, lived in MT since 1981.

I feel that the map proposed by the Democrats (11) will provide more balanced representation across the state. I want districts to remain competitive and not give an unfair advantage to a particular party.

I do not support the proposal that splits Gallatin Co, I feel it should stay in the same district to lessen potential confusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important task before you.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jacob Price
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:44:49 AM

From: Jacob Price jslrp216@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I am for map CP10. It takes into account populations of East-West districts and not the competitiveness like state Democrats want. We need equal districts to represent the majority of Montanans values.

--

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

From: jjprice2013@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jeanette Price](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Choose Map #CP11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:23:27 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Dear Districting and Apportionment Committee,

My name is Jeanette Price and I am a resident of Flathead County. In my opinion Map #CP11 fairly divides the state and fairly divides Flathead County. Flathead County is equitably distributed and towns are kept whole. The population is kept equal and both districts will not favor a specific political party.

We need to have real democracy and to have that I urge you to adopt Map #CP11.

Please REJECT CP10! It splits two major towns- Gallatin Gateway and Big Sky. CP10 also strongly favors one specific political party. Elections should be competitive for Montana voters.

I urge you to vote to adopt Map #CP11.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Price
911 Jensen Rd Columbia Falls, MT 59912-9197
jjprice2013@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Purvis
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:54:42 PM

From: Patricia Purvis wichitapurvis@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

I appreciate that the commission has made an effort to provide two new maps for consideration. In looking both over, it appears that Map 11 is one that at least approaches establishing one competitive district, but still does not reach the fair map criteria of 5%. In the past the value of having at least one competitive district might not have been so critical as a knowledgeable and qualified candidate might receive votes from either party, however, politics has become so partisan that that is no longer the case. Candidates from non-competitive districts don't seem to have to answer to a good percentage of their constituents. This governing does not appear to support a government "by the people". The carving up of Gallatin County would clearly split so many communities of interest as well as causing complications, disruption and confusion for businesses, elections and the citizens as a whole. It would seem that the repercussions related to Federal Funding for many projects would also be disrupted. I support map 11 with some additional adjusting for the request brought by Western Native Voice to have 2 reservations in each district. They also supported at least one competitive district.

--

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

From: paulputz@mt.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For Proposal 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:33:51 AM

In politics, as in business, competition overrides stagnation and encourages innovation. Give both parties a chance. Support Proposal 11.

Paul Putz
Townsend

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Charles L Pyle
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:25:14 AM

From: Charles L Pyle clpyle@hotmail.com
Residence: Bigfork, MT

Message:

If the only choices are between Maps 10 and 11, Map 10 makes a lot more sense. Please approve Map 10 and soundly reject Map 11.

--

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

From: [Sandy Rahrer](#)
To: [Districting](#); [maylinn smith](#); [jeff essmann](#); [Joe Lamson](#); [dan stusek](#); [kendra miller](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] maps
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:08:34 PM

Please endorse maps CP #11 as the two new Congressional districts or Montana. It seems to be the most fair for all Montana voters not just one political party.

Thank You.

Sandra Rahrer
Colstrip Montana

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sandra Rahrer
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:46:53 AM

From: Sandra Rahrer srahrer@q.com
Residence: Colstrip, Montana

Message:
I favor map #11.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Delvin Eugene Rambo
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 7:17:25 AM

From: Delvin Eugene Rambo delrambo@yahoo.com
Residence: Kalispell Mt. 59903

Message:
Redistrict east of the divide, leave the Flathead County alone. Period!

--

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

From: simia@me.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Proposal 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:41:16 AM

Hello,

I am a lifelong Gallatin county constituent and support Proposal 11 and Oppose proposal 10 for the following reasons:

Thank you, Simia Ranieri

Proposal 11 Talking Points: Support Map #11

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

Proposal 10 Talking Points: Oppose Map #10

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kristen Rasmussen
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 1:27:26 PM

From: Kristen Rasmussen krisrasmussen23@gmail.com
Residence: Kila, Montana

Message:

Clearly, Flathead county is on the western side of the state. To divide this county and make it a part of eastern Montana doesn't make any sense, especially geographically. Living in Kila, next to Kalispell, I do not consider myself or my family a part of Eastern Montana whatsoever. If you are going to divide a county, it would make more sense to divide Gallatin County, as they are far closer to the eastern side of the state than Flathead Co. Keep the entire Flathead County in the western region please!!

--

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

From: traci@hschiro.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support Map 11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:39:59 AM

For congressional re-districting. It is much more true to prior re-districting efforts.

Traci Rasmusson
Missoula, MT



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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Ray
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:32:11 PM

From: James Ray heyheyjray@yahoo.com
Residence: Bozeman Montana

Message:

I fully support the redistricting map that keeps Gallatin County whole. Splitting Gallatin County and putting Bozeman in an Eastern District Screams of gerrymandering and is designed to nullify the voice of Gallatin County. Please go with the map that keeps Gallatin County whole.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Anne Ready
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:42:44 PM

From: Anne Ready anne.ready640@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I live just south of Bozeman, in Gallatin County. I am very concerned that Map 10 splits up our community and separates me from the community of Bozeman. I live within a few minutes drive from Bozeman proper. I am very involved with many issues concerning the city of Bozeman and serve on committees and non-profits centered in Bozeman. I feel strongly that my voice and concerns and the voice of many in our Bozeman community would not be heard if we were separated from our community and combined with eastern Montana – who has very different concerns than my community of Bozeman. Therefore, please chose Map 11 and keep all who live in the Bozeman community together. Thank you.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Richard Ready
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:55:05 AM

From: Richard Ready richard.c.ready@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I live five minutes south of Bozeman. I work for MSU. I live in the Bozeman School District. My taxes support the Bozeman Library and the Bozeman Senior Center. I take my trash to the Bozeman Convenience Site. I can see the lights from the stadium when the Bobcats have a home game. Proposed Map 10 would put me in a different congressional district from Bozeman. The issues that affect Bozeman – growth, tourism, affordable housing, forest fires – are the issues that affect me, and are the same issues that affect much of western Montana. I want a congressional representative who is focused on the issues that are important to me. If Map 10 is adopted, my congressional representative will be focused on the issues that affect eastern Montana. I strongly urge you to reject Map 10 and choose Map 11.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Catherine H Ream
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:45:43 AM

From: Catherine H Ream fidos@bresnan.net
Residence: msla, MT

Message:

I am in favor of the democratic districting map. Cathy Ream Ph.D.

--

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

From: jamesrichardreavis@yahoo.com
To: [Districting](#)
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; [Joe Lamson](#); dan.stusek@mtleg.gov;
kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Public Comment on Maps CP10 & CP11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:08:41 PM

Redistricting Commission,

I will be unavailable to provide public comment at the next hearing, so thank you for taking these written comments into your consideration.

I am a resident of Billings and have been a prior resident of Helena, Missoula, and Butte. CP 10 & CP 11 are both good compromise maps, however, I prefer CP 11, which creates one mildly competitive district and keeps communities of interest together. The western district keeps the college towns and urban communities of Bozeman, Helena, and Missoula intact. Indian reservations are kept whole, and only one county is split. Kalispell is connected to the Hi-line and it is reasonable for Kalispell to be a part of the same district with those communities.

I do not prefer map CP 10. As a new Billings resident who just moved to the city from Helena, I can assure you that Helena and Billings are nothing alike and are not communities of interest with each other. They have different populations, different climate and geography, different approaches to government policy, and are not connected by a common road or waterway. They do not belong in the same district.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James Reavis
Billings, MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Doreen Rech
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:28:54 PM

From: Doreen Rech rere@midrivers.com
Residence: Roundup MT

Message:
In favor of CP10

--

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

From: [Michael Redburn](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Districting Map #11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:43:32 PM

To the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I am in strong support of a districting and apportionment map #11 that respects the guidelines suggested by the Montana Constitution. The adopted map must recognize existing political subdivisions such as county lines. The population variations that might result are of less concern when considering the need to keep communities of interest together and avoid voter confusion and disenfranchisement.

Thank you.

Mike

Michael Redburn
Bozeman, Montana
Cell: 406-600-4677
Home: 406-522-0861

From: marvieredmond@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Marvie Redmond](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefull
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:23:21 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.please support Map CP11
Thank you

Sincerely,
Marvie Redmond
3321 Old Pond Rd Missoula, MT 59802-3250
marvieredmond@gmail.com

From: [Reed](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Flathead Gerrymandering
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:03:45 PM

Please do not do something as silly as splitting Flathead and putting it with Ekakaka, 11 hours away. This is so contrived and dishonest.

Get [TypeApp for Android \[typeapp.com\]](https://typeapp.com)

From: [Ann Rehbein](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional districting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:57:09 AM

My husband & I strongly support Congressional proposal #10. It has historical, cultural & community continuity, gives Native Americans in the western district more representation, and does not create a “newcomer to Montana” advantage for either party.
Ann & Dwayne Rehbein

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bonnie](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposals 10 and 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:27:20 AM

I support CP 11 as it follows the historical precedent of the 1980's Congressional districts. This allows Montana's two Congressional representatives to better represent parts of Montana that will typically have similar interests whereas CP 10 unduly favors one party. This map also does a better job of keeping whole counties together within the districts as well as empowering Native voters.

Bonita Reishus
14 Country Rd
Noxon, MT 59853
406-847-0109

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sherilyn Renner
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:37:08 AM

From: Sherilyn Renner sherilyn.renner@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

I have followed the redistributing effort, and want to thank all of you for your public service!
What a job!

I would like to vote for splitting Flathead Co rather than Gallatin Co. We visit Flathead area often and it seems to be more community driven (Polson, Big Fork) rather than Gallatin Co. There really are not the diverse communities in Gallatin Comthan there are in Flathead Co.

Please split Flathead Co rather than Gallatin Co. And again, THANKS!

--

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

From: [Peter Reynolds](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map 11, Opposition for Map 10
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 5:00:08 PM

Dear Commissioners,

We support the adoption of Map 11 for the new congressional district in Montana.

We feel plan 11 is in line with the historical precedent when Montana had two congressional districts.

Plan 11 creates two districts almost equal in population.

Winter sports areas are kept together, which gives that industry more voice in the Congress. Agricultural areas are kept together, which is beneficial to farmers and ranchers for the same reason.

Both parties would have to turn out to get the Native American vote under this plan, which is a good thing.

Plan 10 is drawn in a way that will automatically have two Republican districts in Montana, rather than one with a second election in play. Please consider the importance of balance, fairness and representation of diverse interests when making a final decision in this matter.

We support plan 11.

Sincerely,

Peter and Judith Reynolds
465 Weber Heights, Corvallis, MT 59828
406 381-4829

From: envirogail@q.com
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments for Map 11 and against Map 10
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 12:18:44 PM

Thank you for your hard work in putting together these 2 maps for the redistricting of MT to include 2 congressional districts. We have lived, worked and recreated in MT for over 40 years and care deeply about our state's future. We remember our 2 congressional districts and how they reflected MT's diversity, communities of interest and gave all voters an equal chance to make their wishes known. We are indeed a lucky state because we have a redistricting commission and not a partisan legislative process that gives unfair advantages to one party over another.

We support Map 11 for the following reasons:

It moves only 2 counties for population equality and keeps within historical precedent.

Bozeman and Livingston remain together as a community of interests which they obviously are, for commuters and economic vitality.

Winter recreation is huge in MT and we participate! Keeping the ski towns of Big Sky and Whitefish together makes perfect sense as a community of interest. It gives them more clout!

Native voters are given an essential and deserved voice in competitive districts.

The union towns of Butte and Helena which have so much in common are kept together as a community of interest.

So many commuters who work in Helena live in Broadwater or Jefferson counties and this map keeps them all together.

Agriculture and rural interests are enhanced by the High Line, Rocky Mountain Front and the Golden Triangle staying together.

We oppose Map 10 for the following reasons:

It breaks historical precedent by separating the 2 union towns of Helena and Butte, which have a community of interest.

It separates Gallatin and Park Counties which have a strong community of interest.

It unduly favors 1 party over another by creating 2 GOP districts.

It splits Helena from Broadwater and Jefferson Counties negating their community of interest.

It dilutes the rural farm and ranch vote.

It splits Big Sky from Gallatin Gateway in a partisan way and is an unnecessary division of towns

We expect a fair map in which either party can win because all voters must have an equal voice. We hope you will do the right thing by selecting Map 11.

Thank you for listening!

Sincerely,

Gail and John Richardson
5263 Cimmeron Drive

Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Donna Ridgeway](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:53:01 AM

The two maps submitted by Democrats and Republicans and the related article show the expected political nature of this endeavor. I'd like to see this balanced with an historic and cultural view of our districts and proposed districts.

We had an East/ West division for years that served the state well. It was not simply geographical but represented the desires, way of life, and values of people who chose to live there or who were generational inhabitants. Of course there were political pockets...more since 2010 but the state's Western identity remains. When I moved here 45 years ago, I was fully able to engage with our representation. It seems as though that ability has been lost and at worst, corrupted by interests other than those of Western Montana.

The Republican desire to snatch both the Lewis and Clark area and the Gallatin area (including Park county) defies a sense of fairness and deprives a sense of cultural unity and historical Western identity. The argument that it is justified because "Montana is trending Republican" makes no sense. In fact the states population is trending toward urban areas, and these areas have mostly trended toward more diversity. It also makes little sense to carve out small pieces of counties to satisfy politics. Understandably population numbers matter.

In a more amiable and less partisan time, this might not be so difficult. I appreciate the difficult task ahead of the fifth member of the commission, but I hope our Western district history and culture are considered as truly valid measures.

Thank you for your consideration

Donna Ridgeway

From: [Josie Ridgeway](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting maps
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:26:53 AM

Dear Chair Smith:

I write encouraging a vote for Map 11 because it provides distribution of the state without unevenly empowering either political party.

Districting should be nonpartisan. Map 11 may not be a perfect solution; however, of the two options Map 11 is the least partisan and most evenly balanced of the two choices.

Mary Jo Ridgeway

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jean Kelly Rigg
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:45:44 AM

From: Jean Kelly Rigg jean@jeanrigg.com
Residence: Polson Montana

Message:

Please keep Flathead County in the western district as it complies with Montana law and the Constitution.

--

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

From: [Marie Roach](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Adoption of Congressional Proposal 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:58:14 PM

I urge adoption of Congressional Proposal 11. Montana is a very large state and has different faces, democrat, independent and republican, depending on where you look. Certainly all voters should be represented in Congress, not just those of a single party.

Regards,
Marie Roach
5539 York Rd.
Helena, Montana

From: [Terri](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:03:24 PM

I am in favor of proposed Redistricting Map 11 for Montana's two Congressional districts. It appears to be the most equitable and balanced of the maps offered. Your consideration of my opinion is appreciated.

A long time registered voter in Montana,
Teresa Roach
1583 Fox Field Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kent & Mickey](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ekalaka being a part of Flathead County District
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:37:56 AM

This makes no sense. What is the reasoning behind this? What benefit will this serve the eastern part of the state that have more conservative values to be heard?

I am against this proposal.

Thanks for your consideration,

Mickey Roberts

Sent from my iPad

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sherri Roberts
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:31:13 PM

From: Sherri Roberts rmtnest@yahoo.com
Residence: Helena

Message:
Sherri Roberts
335 Griffin Road
Helena, MT 59602

I was born in Billings MT (my parents move me out of state for about 4 years). But when they returned, they settled in Helena. I went to public schools in Helena & graduated from the local HS in Helena (HHS) in 1965. I have lived in Helena all this time, married a US Navy sailor who was also raised in Helena & we have raised our children in Helena (I am now 74 1/2 yrs old). Long time in one town. My husband & family have camped in Helena since 1968 & have many friends who camp with us from Butte and the surround areas of Helena.

I fully & totally support Map 11. It meets the needs & interests of the Helena Community.

It keeps the interests of Western MT intact with other communities in Western MT & Map 11 keeps the voting districts competitive.

Map 10 does not support the best interest of families & voters in Helena. I divides us from our neighbors in the Jefferson County community, Butte community & the I-15 corridor which affects everybody in this part of the state, which all have similar needs & interests (as the Helena Community). Eastern MT does not care about protecting the Ghost Towns & recreation areas of Western MT. We have nothing in common with the farming communities of Eastern MT, with whom you are trying to split us with.

Voters in Eastern MT do NOT any idea concerning the public lands or needs of Western Montana. With Map 10 you are dividing communities with similar interests, such as Whitefish from Columbia Falls (which is LESS THAN 10 miles apart & Kalispell (which is LESS THAN 15 miles from Whitefish & 16 miles from Columbia Falls). All their interests are common interests for their communities. What are you thinking????? What does Columbia Falls & Kalispell have in common with a farmer in Yellowstone County????

We needs a representative that represents our interests, not the interests of a farmer in the Yellowstone, Fergus or Sweet Grass County.

Map 11 does NOT unduly favor a political party & keeps communities with similar interests intact (such as Rocky Mtn. area & Flathead) . It puts communities like those in Pondera County with other communities with similar interests, such as agriculture, together.

Quit gerrymandering the voters of Montana & pick Map #11. Map 11 best supports the goals of the Commission to keep from gerrymandering the state.

Thank you so much for taking time to review my concerns & interests in keeping Montanans rights intact. Your consideration in this dire matter is greatly appreciated.

Sherri Roberts

--

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: Steven Roberts
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:21:46 PM

From: Steven Roberts steven_roberts@hotmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

A fair redistricting will give both parties a fair chance to win one of Montana's two congressional seats. The democratic proposal accomplishes this, and I encourage you to support that map.

--

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

From: [Bruce and Kay Robertson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:10:57 AM

Chair Smith and Commissioners

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Robertson
545 Windsor Drive
Bigfork, Mt. 59911

530-524-1403

Homerfolk@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Amy Robinson](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:03:17 PM

Dear Maylinn and redistricting committee,

First I wanted to extend my sincere thanks for your hard work and service on this important matter. I am writing to express my support for map 11. I support this approach because the plan very nearly follows past districts, including keeping Helena and Butte together as well as Livingston and Bozeman. It makes sense to keep these closely linked towns together. I also appreciate that native voters have an empowered voice in map 11. In the end, I think it's important to give the underdogs, the democrats, a fighting and fair chance.

Many thanks for your time and efforts.

Amy

--

Amy Robinson
Columbia Falls, MT
arobinson200@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dave Rockafellow
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:09:10 AM

From: Dave Rockafellow dave.rockafellow@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:
Please adopt a map that does NOT split Gallatin County.

--

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: Rachel Rockafellow
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:31:20 AM

From: Rachel Rockafellow dave.rach13@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT 59715

Message:

I do not want to see the Gallatin county split on the map, and I do NOT want to be lumped with the eastern half of the state. Please keep our voting district intact. Ideally I want Bozeman to be in the same 1/2 of the state including Missoula, otherwise we stand no change of competitive races. Having a totally republican state has been a disaster for us in relation to COVID-19. As a nurse, I take this very personally. We need intelligent, science based decision making on important issues for our state!!

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dale Rodwick
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:31:54 AM

From: Dale Rodwick femurdude@icloud.com
Residence: Kalispell MT

Message:

For what it's worth map 10 gets my vote, it leaves Flathead County intact and adheres to our Constitution more than the other, tough process, do not envy anyone involved in dicing up this huge state!

--

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

From: [Brian Rogers](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps #CP 10 vs #CP 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:13:01 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Thanks heaven that our Constitution mandates that redistricting for Montana's second Congressional seat be politically neutral. In light of this, I favor #CP-11 since it is more competitive.

Thanks,

Brian Rogers
Townsend, MT

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

From: [Douglas Rohn](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP#11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 7:48:29 AM

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for your efforts to fairly establish congressional districts for Montana. To that end, please support map CP#11.

Best regards,

Doug Rohn
lymfatic@me.com
(406)551-0508

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Roitz
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:35:42 PM

From: John Roitz roitz@yahoo.com

Residence: Butte

Message:

I am in favor of using map CP 11 for drawing the new congressional districts. It splits just one county, so it is geographically quite coherent. It is also the best of the two maps left in allowing for a balance in representation between the two major parties.

Thank You.

--

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

From: [Jeff](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Competitive districts
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:16:38 PM

Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Please support Congressional Proposal 11 to ensure at least one competitive district. Competition helps Montana to elect leaders that are responsible to listen to all of their constituents. Competition encourages small “D” democratic processes with more participation in voting and in who runs for the federal representative position. If Congressional Proposal 10 is approved and two Republican districts are assured, people are less likely to vote and this affects down ballot races that require strong voter turn-out. These effects of gerrymandering are well documented and are not supportive of a healthy democracy.

Congressional Proposal 10 divides communities (the union towns of Helena and Butte, Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway, The Golden Triangle which represents Montana farmers and ranchers, Helena and their close outlying rural communities, and tourism communities of Park and Gallatin Counties for example) with shared economic interests unnecessarily. This division of communities illustrated in Congressional Proposal 10 is done solely to create less competitive districts. Congressional Proposal 10 violates the criteria on minimizing the unnecessary division of towns.

Finally, supporting Congressional Proposal 11 ensures that all voices are represented in congress and shows that Montana is not a monolith of opinion. All voices deserve to be heard and deserve a leader that will represent their opinions at the federal level. Especially now with the country so divided, all people need to be able to trust the electoral process and fair districting encourages such trust. Differences of opinions are vital to a healthy democracy and Congressional Proposal 11 ensures a healthy, thoughtful public debate on all potential issues facing Montanans going forward. Thank you for considering my comments in your decision making.

Sincerely,
Jeff Rolston-Clemmer

habitare design studio, inc.

jeff rolston-clemmer (he/him/his)
2727 queen street
missoula, mt 59801

406 396-0580

From: [Emily Rolston](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting - CP11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:42:39 AM

Hello,

My name is Emily Rolston and I live in Missoula, Montana. I am writing to express my support for Congressional Proposal 11 for the following reasons:

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

I encourage you to also support Congressional proposal 11 over proposal 10.

Thank you for your consideration,

Emily Rolston

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Garnett Rope
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 9:11:29 AM

From: Garnett Rope rope@3rivers.net
Residence: Vaughn

Message:

Enjoyed meeting/seeing this commission on the 19th of October. I was there listening to all testimony. I am hoping and praying that you will be very wise and choose an historic approach to the district map. My favorite choice is number one, but would settle for the other 3 that are very similar to it. I live outside of Vaughn, so map 1 would split our area a bit. This does not bother me at all.

God bless and take care

--

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: marion rosa
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:49:51 PM

From: marion rosa mhrosa@centurylink.net

Residence: Polson

Message:

Redistricting map most fair to all, for the present & future generations, is Map 11, clearly!
One Man (Woman), One Vote is necessary to insure our democracy...

--

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

From: judy.rosenfeld@bresnan.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] support of map 11 for redistricting
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:10:49 PM

I support Map 11 because it maintains a "Community of Interest" by combining the major ski industry areas which is big business for our state.

Thank you,
Judy Rosenfeld-Cox
501 4th Ave, East
Kalispell

From: [Patricia Rosenleaf](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map 11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 9:22:04 PM

Dear Commissioners:

While I am disappointed that Map 1 was eliminated, it seems to me, now, that only Map 11 is balanced politically and does not give either party an advantage as the other choice seems to. Please consider Map 11 for re-districting.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Rosenleaf

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tom Ross
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:49:11 PM

From: Tom Ross tom.ross51@gmail.com
Residence: Gallatin Gateway

Message:

I'm Tom Ross. My wife and I are retired and have lived in Gallatin Gateway for the last 13 years. We hope to spend our remaining years here, where we are active as volunteers in community organizations.

I support Map 11 as being the best choice of the two maps now available for consideration. Map 11 avoids the wholly inappropriate splitting of historically and geographically linked Gallatin County communities, and the separation of Bozeman from Park County and Livingston, as envisioned by Map 10 and detailed below. This is a key attribute of Map 11.

Map 11 also appropriately recognizes the common interests of Butte, Helena and Jefferson County by including them in the western district while placing the more agricultural Pondera County in the eastern district.

Placing Whitefish in the western district is supported by its shared interests with many other communities west of the divide, namely an economy strongly dependent on tourism and recreation based largely on National Forest lands. Map 11 does not split any reservations and would not unduly favor any political party.

Map 10 is unacceptable for several reasons, including because it splits the well-connected community of interest represented by the entirety of Gallatin County and Park County. These two communities share strongly connected economic, social and cultural interests and concerns, such as jobs, affordable housing, gateway access to Yellowstone Park, transportation corridors, recreation opportunities and natural resource management issues.

More locally, Map 10 also divides the four communities of West Yellowstone, Big Sky, Gallatin Gateway and Bozeman. These four communities are inextricably linked by a confining geography (the Madison and Gallatin Ranges and the Gallatin River and Canyon); transportation services (highway 191, bus service, and Bozeman airport); employment and workforce housing; shopping and commerce; access to shared secondary and college educational resources; recreational interests; and, as gateways to Yellowstone National Park. My community of Gallatin Gateway was named appropriately, as it is the historical gateway for access to the Canyon, West Yellowstone and the Park. We are linked by long history of settlement, commerce and tourism. We should not be separated from each other or from Bozeman by separate districts.

Map 10 also segregates the shared community interests of Butte, Helena and Jefferson County while inappropriately including agricultural Pondera County in District 1.

Map 10 would also create a second non-competitive district, further alienating Montana voters in the western part of our state and suppressing the emergence of new candidates and new ideas of governance.

Let's push for a more representative democracy in Montana by not creating another district that favors one political party and divides many communities of common interest. Map 11 is the best choice for redistricting.

Thank you for considering my input and for your very important work on this Commission.

--

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: Kim Rott
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:07:28 PM

From: Kim Rott krott64@msn.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Dear Members of the Redistricting Committee,
First, thank you for the time and effort you have given to this process. I would like to encourage you to select Map 11 for several reasons. It ensures there is equal population in both districts, it is closest to the map in the 1980's, and it is competitive.
Thanks for your consideration, Kim Rott

--

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

From: [Tom Round](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional districts.
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:49:21 PM

Members of the Commission,

I have been following the process of the Commission and have reviewed the two potential maps you are considering for our Congressional districts in Montana. In that regard, it is pretty clear to me that map 10 provides the most logical division and fair representation in Congress for Montanans. It appears to be pretty evenly balanced, unlike map 11, which doesn't seem very logical, and to some extent appears to be gerrymandering. Thank you for your efforts and thank you for considering my input.

Tom Round
Florence, Montana

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Deniece Rout
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:40:55 PM

From: Deniece Rout dhrou@yahoo.com
Residence: Bigfork, Montana

Message:

Map 10 keeps Flathead in the Western District, which is important. this map includes both the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the Western District. The tribes will have a stronger voice in map 10's district. Also Map 10 allows shared medical communities of Logan Health Medical Center (Kalispell and Whitefish) together, which provides medical services for the entire Blackfeet Reservation.

--

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

From: [Amit Roy](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In favor of Proposal 11 and in opposition to Proposal 10
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5:52:21 PM

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission members,

I like Map #11 and dislike this Map #10. Map #11 keeps Missoula and Gallatin counties together and intact. These counties are the homes of the universities and the future of Montana's economy, which should be kept together and intact to continue the technological growth of Montana. The biotech hub in Ravalli county can benefit from cohesive policies among the three counties to employ Montana university graduates in world-class biotech research and industry facilities. By breaking the Gallatin county, map #10 will hinder uniform policymaking between the three counties and, consequently, Montana's future growth.

Regards,
Dr. Amitava Roy

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lou Rudolf
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 6:54:31 PM

From: Lou Rudolf lou.rudolf@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

MDAC:

As an independent, I favor the Republican congressional map semi finalist. Flathead County should be in the West district based on its regional interests and needs.

Thank you.
Lou Rudolf

--

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

From: [katrina.ruhmland](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Proposal 11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 5:28:52 AM

In favor of proposal 11. Against proposal 10.

Katrina Ruhmland
34384 St Ignatius Airport Rd
St Ignatius, MT 59865
attakat@gmail.com
406-210-9996

From: [Marcia Rundle](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional Districts
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 4:42:55 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I'm proud of the fact that Montana is one of only 15 states that have an independent redistricting commission. I wish other states would follow our lead...your lead. Thank you, each of you, for your service on this important commission. You certainly had a lot of interesting proposals to evaluate: East/West, North/South, Urban/Rural. I wasn't too surprised that the final two proposals are basically a modification of the "traditional" East/West districts.

While it's clear that the old Eastern/Western Congressional Districts boundary line will have to move west to reflect the increased population in our urban areas, nothing else is so clear. It can be argued that each of the final two options meet the four criteria you were tasked to meet. I appreciate that no Native American reservations were divided in either of the remaining choices.

I am from NE Montana now making my home in the Bitterroot. From a lifetime of observing Montana politics, I believe that the Montana Congressional delegation came together more often and did a better job of serving all of Montana back when we generally had one Republican and one Democrat representing us. It felt like all sides were listened to with more respect and compromise was not a dirty word.

After reading a lot of commentary on this redistricting, I believe that "competitiveness" should be taken into consideration. Too much concentration of power in one party seems to reduce the need or the willingness to compromise. For this reason, I support Map 11 because it would seem more likely to produce competitive races and, hopefully, encourage a return to civility in our politics. If you have the opportunity to take some of the heat out of political rhetoric and, perhaps even some of the abuses.....I urge you to take it.

With respect and appreciation for your work,

Marcia Rundle
581 Xcalibur Court
Florence, MT 59833

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gretchen Rupp
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:55:40 PM

From: Gretchen Rupp beesgr@yahoo.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

My name is Gretchen Rupp. I'm a 35-year resident of Bozeman, keenly interested in keeping Montana the Last Best Place despite rapid change.

Now that you are down to two maps, one is clearly superior – Map 11. This is the one that maintains the integrity of Gallatin County communities, so that elections stay competitive. This is the one that is not a jerrymander.

No Congressional district boundaries should split communities (like mine) or overtly favor one political party over another.

I very much appreciate the time and attention the Commission is giving to this vital task, to sustain our democracy!

--

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

From: [Sally Cameron-Russell](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for CP 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:58:05 AM

We have lived and worked in Flathead County for 48 years. Even though CP 11 would split the county, we are writing in support of this map configuration, as it does not unduly favor one political party over the other and results in a competitive election. Please vote for CP11. Thank you for considering comments and your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Sally Cameron-Russell
Michael Russell
595 Howard DR
Kalispell

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lori Ryan
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:19:36 PM

From: Lori Ryan loribredemeyer@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

Thank you for your work on these maps. I hope you'll consider fine-tuning Map 11 to bring the balance for each district to a 5% or less advantage for Republicans, helping make them more competitive districts for all voters.

Thank you,
Lori Ryan

--

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

From: kiki.rydell
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] our comments on redistricting maps 10 and 11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 9:35:39 PM

Dear Members of Montana's Redistricting Commission:

We are writing to address the final two redistricting maps you are considering. Fairness and competitiveness seem to be words that have been cropping up in your discussions and we urge you to consider fairness and competitiveness when you compare maps 10 and 11, especially in the case of how they treat Gallatin County.

Map 10 is unfair and does not lead to competitive districts. Splitting portions of the county from Bozeman and then severing Bozeman from Park County is nothing more or less than a Zoro-like move, a swashbuckling strike that effectively severs residents of Park and Gallatin Counties although they share, often on a daily basis, the I-90 corridor economy. In slashing Bozeman from parts of Gallatin County, it divides another community of economic and social interests. Fair? Hardly. Competitive? Hardly. The map is clearly drawn to result in two districts that favor one party.

Map 11 keeps Gallatin County intact and recognizes that its residents share a community of interest (not to mention the I-90 corridor) with residents of Park County. Drawing the north/south line farther to the east to conjoin Gallatin and Park Counties makes perfect sense and makes for a much fairer and also competitive new western district. It also allows communities with the same economic interests to share a district.

Respectfully yours,
Carol and Robert Rydell

From: [Tom Rygg](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My choice
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:49:36 AM

I don't remember the map number, but I support the map that puts Helena in the western district. I believe that is the one put forth by the Democrat members.

I think that Helena and Bozeman should be part of the western district.

Tom Rygg
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