

Public Comments: U - Z

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

From: [Matt Uland](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:24:59 PM

Thank you for taking public comment regarding the districting of Montana.

I am neither a Republican nor a Democratic so I consider myself rather impartial in terms of the map. I care about fairness and relevancy however so I will give my opinion.

It seems to me that Helena, Kalispell, and Whitefish have more in common with Western Montana than Eastern Montana in terms of economy, terrain, weather, and location.

Since neither map option seems group all three in the West, I think you should choose the one that comes the closest. I think that is Congressional Proposal 11.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jeanne Underhill
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:29:05 PM

From: Jeanne Underhill junderhill31@gmail.com

Residence: HELENA

Message:

I would support Congressional Proposal 11 which appears to be the most fair.

Thank you

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

From: [Jane Urbaska](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map Proposals
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:58:45 AM

Hello Friends,
I urge you to select Map Proposal 11.
Thankyou!
Jane Urbaska
Billings, MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Doreen Vaira-Herbert
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:03:02 AM

From: Doreen Vaira-Herbert herberts@nemont.net
Residence: Glasgow

Message:

My vote is for Congressional Proposal 10. The people of Eastern Montana do not want to include liberal Kalispell area into our district. Thank you.

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

From: [Kristi chester vance](#)
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 maps - support for map 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:22:35 PM

Dear commission,
Thank you for your tireless service in support of our state, our country, and our democratic process.

I am writing to express my strong support for Map #11 and opposition to Map #12.

Under Map #11, Native voters are empowered 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. Additionally Map 11 closely follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach population equality. Map 11 respects the deep economic connection between Bozeman and Livingston, as well as allows areas that heavily on ski tourism to stay in the same district, ensuring their congressperson prioritizes their needs and economic success, both of which are essential to our state's economy. Map 11 does the same for Helena and Butte, as well as keeps together 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.

Thank you, Kristi Chester Vance

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Emily Van der Lande
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:28:37 PM

From: Emily Van der Lande emilyvanderlande@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Good day,

As a relative newcomer to MT I moved here for many reasons. I'd like to see Montana remain the best state in the country with safe towns, kind people, and moderate views. I think Maps 1 & 7 are the most fairly drawn. Congressional districts need to remain fair to the population and the values of a region.

Thanks for your work on this issue.

Best,
Emily

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carol Van Keuren
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:34:30 AM

From: Carol Van Keuren 41mcvk@gmail.com
Residence: Billings MT 59102

Message:

The Democrats are so transparently setting the district to favor their candidates. Why can't they ever do what benefits citizens instead of their party?

Please adopt the Republican proposal! (It isn't great either, but it is better than the one proposed by un-Democrats.)

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

From: [Trevor Vannoy](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on congressional maps CP10 and CP11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:49:53 AM

Dear commissioners,

I'm Trevor Vannoy, a resident in Gallatin county.

I urge you to support map CP11, for the following reasons:

- Map CP11 doesn't split Gallatin county. As Bozeman continues to grow and the cost of housing increases, more people are commuting to Bozeman from surrounding communities like Belgrade, Livingston, and Gallatin Gateway. The communities in the Gallatin and Park counties form a tight economic unit. Map CP11 ensures that these communities remain intact and are not split by a district line.
- Map CP11 doesn't split any towns
- Map CP11 closely follows the precedent of the 1980's congressional districts, and achieves population equality
- MAP CP11 is **competitive** and does not unduly favor any political party

Map CP10, on the other hand, has the following problems:

- Map CP10 is **not competitive**. CP10 creates two Republican districts, which unduly favors one party. This violates one of the goals for congressional districts.
- Map CP10 splits Gallatin Gateway and Big sky in half, violating the criteria to minimize unnecessary town divisions
- Map CP10 splits Gallatin county, an area with strong economic connections and shared interests

Map CP11 is the most competitive map and violates the least number of goals for congressional districts. I strongly urge you to support Map CP11 to ensure a fair future for all Montanans.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Trevor Vannoy

From: [Carol Van Tuinen](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:53:19 AM

I want to emphasize that drawing the lines so Democrats have a competitive chance to elect a representative at the national level is fair and democratic. Drawing the lines that practically guarantee only Republican representatives is not. It would disenfranchise the minority of Montana citizens who align with the Democratic Party, possibly for decades. Also, having at least one district be competitive increases the chances that the elected rep will win based on the political and personal merits that person represents rather than solely because of the party they are aligned with. I support proposal 11.

Thank you for serving Montana,
Carol Van Tuinen
Billings, MT
406-670-6396

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Fred Van Valkenburg
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:37:22 PM

From: Fred Van Valkenburg fvanvalkenburg@bresnan.net
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

If the Commission members are limiting themselves to a choice between CP 10 and CP 11, the clear choice should be in favor of CP 11. CP 11 ensures that District 1 will be a competitive district, Gallatin County will not be split and Lewis and Clark County will remain in District 1 where it obviously has a community of interest with the bulk of western Montana.

If the Commission is inclined to add the Blackfeet Reservation (including the entirety of Glacier and Pondera Counties) to District 1 on CP 11 and thereby keeping that district competitive, it can do so by moving Broadwater and Jefferson Counties to District 2 and making some slight changes to add certain precincts in Flathead County to District 1 in order to establish contiguity with Glacier County. See the map at the following link:

<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::51cf4b03-3dd0-419f-91d5-602e4e3acbb5>
[\[davesredistricting.org\]](https://davesredistricting.org)

No doubt some will complain about the "visual appearance" of this map. "Visual appearance" is one of the last things the Commission should consider in adopting a map dividing our state into two Congressional districts. Obviously population equality is the most important criteria the Commission should consider. However, the Commission has adopted other criteria that provide for keeping communities of interest intact and considering competitiveness when drawing districts. If CP 11 is amended to basically follow the dividing lines in my proposed map, the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservation communities of interest will be united in one competitive district.

The only things besides population equality that the Commission should be focused on in adopting a map are compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and whether the proposed map will withstand any legal challenge. I believe my proposed map will meet those tests.

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

From: svelaski@aol.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] congressional district comment
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:06:07 PM

Dear committee,

We are residents of Helena. We moved to Helena about 7 years ago because we enjoy the mountains and the small town, more liberal leaning environment found in the downtown area of Helena. We think Lewis and Clark county identifies more with western Montana than eastern when it comes to environmental and political issues and believe it should be included in the western congressional region, I believe map 11. Thank you.

Steven Velaski\Gayle Grana

From: [Apyll Verboven](#)
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"s Congressional districts
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 3:09:01 PM

Hello,

I am writing today in regards to the new congressional redistricting maps. My understating is it has been narrowed down to 2 options Map #10 and Map #11. I am putting my support behind Map #11, and urge you to do the same. This district will shape MT over the next decade, let's make it a fair and competitive! I was born in Whitefish and have lived most of my life in western MT, I'm now asking my daughter here, and want to see MT and it's citizens succeed. Map 10 will lead to more divisive and partisan politics, no thank you!! I strongly believe that all Montanans benefit when our elected officials, are running in competitive races, they have to remain accountable for their actions and voting history.

Thank you,
April Verboven
Condon MT 59826

From: [Dan Vermillion](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Support Map CP11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:05:34 AM

Dear Re-Districting Commissioners,

My name is Dan Vermillion. I grew up in Billings and now live in Livingston. I have, unsuccessfully, run for the state legislature 2 different times here in Park County. As a long-time Montanan, I remember when MT was represented by Pat Williams and Ron Marlenee. Montanans are very fortunate that we now have an opportunity to be represented by a second person in the US Congress.

As you deliberate, I would encourage you to focus on keeping communities intact to the best of your ability. In some cases, communities are defined by cities or counties, and, in other cases, communities can span different counties. Park and Gallatin County are just such a place where the two counties are inextricably linked to the extent where there are several thousand people commuting between Bozeman and Livingston. While, as a Billings person, I would like to see our people travel to Billings, it is undeniable that Livingston is essentially a suburb of Bozeman and their future growth is inextricably linked. Sort of like Belgrade and Bozeman.

As was always the case when Montana had two congressional districts, the deep economic connection between Livingston and Bozeman is respected under CP 11. It ensures district lines don't divide the flows of workers, innovation, and dollars between the two communities. They are experiencing the same rates of growth, and their economies are one in the same with significant numbers of workers residing in Livingston while working in Bozeman. Similarly, in our local schools, where I am a school board member, we have numerous teachers and staff that live in Bzn but work in Livingston.

As a person who has run in two very uncompetitive districts, HD60 and SD30, I would suggest that democracy and effective government is well served by creating districts where both of the major parties have an equal opportunity to succeed. Districts that are carved out to promote one party over another are destructive to our democracy and deeply limit the number of voices represented in our representational democracy.

Montana has always done things the MT way. Our re-districting commission is designed to thwart partisan districts in an effort to create districts that encourage citizen involvement as candidates and voters. CP 11 falls under the guidelines set forward by the commission: it creates a competitive seat that does not unduly favor one party over another, and it reflects communities in a way that partisan gerrymandering cannot.

Please support CP11. Thank you for your service.

Dan Vermillion
Sweetwater Travel Company
PO Box 668
Livingston, MT 59047
(406)222-0624 (O)
(406)223-0066 (C)
dan@sweetwatertravel.com

From: [tracey Vivar](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-districting maps.
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 6:51:44 PM

I would choose Map #11. It seems to be most fair in its' distribution.

--

Tracey Vivar

From: [Ellen Vogelsang](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:34:00 AM

Dear Commission,

I am voicing my opinion that Map 11 be chosen for the State of Montana. I believe this to be the most equitable and fair for all of the citizens of our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ellen Vogelsang

From: [Robin Vogler](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fair map
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 2:27:51 PM

Please support CP #11
Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Brenda Wahler
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:46:40 PM

From: Brenda Wahler wahlerlaw@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I urge the commission to adopt Congressional Proposal 11. As a resident of Lewis and Clark County, and as a lifetime Montanan, I must note that Helena has always identified and aligned with “western” Montana. When we last had two districts, it was also in the western district. It makes no sense to gerrymander the state capitol city out of its historic alignment. Thank you

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

From: [Gail Waldby](#)
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 MAP CP #11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 11:53:15 AM

I support MAP CP #11, because it is population equal and within the competitive range (Cook PVI: R+5).

Gail Waldby
Livingston MT

From: [JSW](#)
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: Monday, October 25, 2021 8:46:25 AM

Hello Redistricting Team,

I am writing to urge you to accept redistricting Map 11 and oppose Map 10. Map 11 achieves a balanced approach to two representative districts without unduly advantaging either political party. To achieve the balance, there is some splitting of Flathead County, but the grouping of the communities in each district is logical as the map links communalities of interests.

Map 10, on the other hand, splits Gallatin County which separates areas with communalities of interest.

I think Map 11 is fair and balanced and request that you adopt this map for redistricting.

regards,
Jeffrey Waldo
13631 Rainbow Drive
Bigfork, Montana
59911

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Connor Walker
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:07:41 PM

From: Connor Walker connor.walker@protonmail.com
Residence: KALISPELL, MT

Message:

Flathead County needs to stay in the Western district. Flathead County is, by culture and geography, part of Western Montana. The Commission is supposed to consider keeping communities of interest intact, and separating Flathead County from Lake and Lincoln counties would do just that. Flathead, Whitefish, and Swan mountain ranges physically separate the county from the east. The plan to split the county fails to adequately consider these factors, and splitting off Whitefish gives rise to the appearance of unduly favoring one political party over a neutral consideration of the Commission's stated criteria.

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

From: [Mike Wankel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] gerrymandering
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:32:49 PM

I support Map 11 for the new districting. Michael R Wankel Raymond Montana.

From: [Mike Wankel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] new district. I support CP11. Michael R Wankel, Raymond MT
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:42:35 PM

From: dward451@comcast.net
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Map 11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 3:10:33 PM

Subject: Map 11

My wife and I are voters in Hamilton. We strongly in favor of redistricting proposal Map 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

Thank you and please choose Map 11.

Regards

David Ward
715 S 3rd Street
Hamilton, MT 59840

406 241 3903

From: [Billie Warford](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Proposal 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:39:27 AM

We do not need any more divisions in this state or country. Proposal 11 is much more even!

From: [Caroline Warne](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:28:15 PM

Hello.

I am writing in support of Map 11. Map 10 again splits Gallatin county and is not competitive. Map 11 is population equal, keeps communities of interest together, and is competitive. It makes sure every vote matters. Please pass map 11.

Kindly caroline warne
Helena MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rich & Alyce Wassall
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:29:02 PM

From: Rich & Alyce Wassall anoldredsox@me.com
Residence: Dillon, MT 59725-2534

Message:

Neither CP-10 or CP-11 are as good as three of the prior proposed maps. They both represent a step backwards. However, the best of the worst is CP-10 in our opinion. CP-10 does not pass the geographic gerrymandering smell test, particularly with reference to Flathead County.

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

From: [vi](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on proposed Redistricting Maps for Montana
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 7:12:08 PM

Dear members of the Montana legislature's redistricting committee:

Thank you for your service to Montana and for the opportunity to comment on proposed maps for Montana Congressional districts.

The following arguments have convinced me to **support Map #11**:

1..Map 11 better follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to achieve population equality.

2.. Native voters are more empowered under Map 11, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, so that every candidate in that district must earn Native votes to win.

3...Map 11 better keeps together groups with strong economic connections, strengthening their voices:

- Map 11 keeps together the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line, giving these rural agricultural communities a stronger voice.
- Map 11 keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, so most commuters are in the same district as their workplace.
- Map 11 keeps together the union towns of Helena and Butte as all past plans have.
- Areas that rely on ski tourism economy are kept in one district, so their representative will pay attention to the needs of areas with that economic base.
- The deep economic connection between Livingston and Bozeman is respected by Map 11, ensuring district lines don't divide the flows of workers, innovation, and dollars between the two communities.

I oppose Map #10 for many of the above reasons since it does the opposite:

- Map 10 breaks with historical precedent by separating the towns of Helena and Butte, breaking apart a community of interest that's existed for over a century.
- Map 10 dilutes the power of Montana farmers and ranchers by breaking up the Golden Triangle and critical grain and cattle producing regions in Montana.

- Map 10 separates commuters that live in Jefferson county from the place where so many of them work in Helena.
- Map 10 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.
- Map 10 creates two Republican districts, which favors one party. With two congressional districts now instead of one, a fair map must include at least one competitive district that either party can win.

Based on the above, I urge you to adopt Map #11.

Once again thank you for your service in this critical effort shaping the future of our state

Sincerely,

Vicki Watson, resident of Missoula, MT

From: [Lynn Webber](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:39:56 PM

I would encourage commission members to support proposal 11.

I am opposed to proposal 10.

Lynn Webber
405 5th Ave. E.
PO Box 164
Ryegate, MT 59074

Sent from my iPhone

From: [jwdisciple](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:27:32 AM

Dear Chair Smith and Commissioners,
Please reject the newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) as they do not comply with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements. In addition these two maps are based on trying to split out specific party districts, which is an underhanded and shameful attempt to misrepresent the Montanan voting population.

Therefore, PLEASE trash CP-10 and CP-11 and SELECT MAP CP-1 as it is the best map that complies with the law.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Jim Weber
227 Rhodes Draw
Kalispell, MT 59901
720-301-4723

From: [Sas Weber](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 3:45:09 PM

Dear Commission,

I am writing to let you know of my support of CP#11. From what I can tell, CP #11 is the only map that doesn't unduly favor one political party.

Let's not allow our leaders to pick their voters. Please.

Thank you,

Sas Weber
Belgrade MT
59714

From: [kathy.wehrly](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] congressional map
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 6:53:30 PM

I am strongly in favor of the map proposed by the Democrats on the State Districting and Apportionment Committee. If Montana is ever going to show any bipartisanship--and to rid ourselves of the current polarization, this new district must have some chance of making that possible. The Republican proposed map will **not** do that!

Kathryn Wehrly
Hamilton, MT

From: [Ralph Weickel](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional District
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 7:53:07 PM

Good morning Commissioners,

While the two maps presented both have their issues, I understand the delicate political balance. Subsequently I ask you to vote for Map #11. This one is as neutral as possible and does not clearly favor one party.

I appreciate all your hard work and the delicate balance you are walking - thank you for your service.

Have a super day!

ralph

"When you cannot make up your mind which of two evenly balanced courses of action you should take - choose the bolder." - W.J. Slim

Ralph Weickel

Corporation for Positive Change - President

Corporation for Positive Change Europe - Principal

Performance Management - Principal

www.positivechange.org [positivechange.org]

www.linkedin.com/in/ralphweickel/ [[linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)]

www.positivechangeeurope.com [positivechangeeurope.com]

info@ralphweickel.com

Office: +1-859-536-2488

From: jlweigand@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jennifer Weigand](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:03:31 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Hi. My name is Jennifer Weigand and I am a resident of Helena, MT. I'm asking that the commission vote to accept map #CP11. This map keeps the most numbers of counties whole and does not split any towns and keeps Helena in the Western District. #CP10 is not an equitable map. It places Helena in the Eastern District, it splits several towns and favors a political party. Please vote for map #CP11.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Weigand
592 Cypress Rd Helena, MT 59602-9442
jlweigand@yahoo.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Weinert, Clarann
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:45:58 PM

From: Weinert, Clarann cweinert@montana.edu
Residence: Bozeman

Message:
Map 11 is a must.

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

From: [Angela Mallon](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on redistricting maps
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:33:09 AM

Dear Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I am writing to voice my support for the selection of Congressional Proposal 11. This proposal most closely aligns with the pre-1990s Western District and is least likely to be perceived as gerrymandered for the interests of one party or another.

Montanans deserve a representative government, and one critical element of this is a second district which is truly competitive. The desire to overturn historic precedent in favor of a heavy partisan advantage is antithetical to our nation's foundational principles of democracy.

Respectfully,
Angela Wells
Huson, Montana

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Eleanor Wend
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:29:12 PM

From: Eleanor Wend bluemoonopp@yahoo.com
Residence: Livingston Montana

Message:

As a resident of Livingston since 1999 and formerly a resident of Bozeman since 1965, I feel strongly it would not serve either community to be in separate congressional districts.

Therefore I urge the commission to choose Map 11 which keeps us in the same district. Our economic, social, geographic and environmental welfare are completely tied to one another. Thank you for supporting Map 11. Eleanor Wend

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cliff Wenzek
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:56:10 PM

From: Cliff Wenzek cwenzek3@gmail.com
Residence: Whitefish, MT

Message:

I strongly urge the Commission to support the Congressional District Commission Proposal 10 – CP 10 for the political boundaries for the two seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 150 legislators. It most fairly represents the division of the state.

--

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

From: [Carol Werner](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Congressional District
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:05:31 PM

I prefer option 11 as it keeps certain towns intact and is more even and balanced

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Katharina Werner](#)
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 CP11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:01:03 PM

To the members of the Redistricting Committee-

I am reaching out asking you to support the map that ensures equal population and compliance with the Voter Rights Act but most importantly a map that is NOT gerrymandered giving one party an unfair and unethical advantage in deciding who our representatives will be. And that map is CP11.

I appreciate your time and effort and ensuring that MT doesn't turn into Arizona or Texas or Florida that are heavily gerrymandered thus impacting our democratic values. Please don't let that happen!

Thank you,
Katharina Werner

From: [Tammy Wert](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Proposal/Map #11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:02:16 AM

As a Montana resident, I'm requesting the Redistricting Commission select Proposal & Map #11 for the new congressional districts. Map #11 will provide a balanced opportunity for all Montanan's votes to count. Please be accountable to the residents of this state by keeping our elections fair and competitive.

Thank you,
Tammy Wert

From: [Leslie Kay West](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Unacceptable Redistricting Maps Commentary
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:59:43 PM

The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission completely failed when putting together the two potential maps to be considered for Montana's two congressional districts. The proposed redistricting maps are entirely unacceptable and DO NOT comply with MCA 5-1-115. (The link is listed below for your reference and convenience.

Map 11, put forward by the Democrat Commission members, splits Flathead County and puts most of it in the Eastern District with Ekalaka--which is nearly 11 hours away! Splitting the Flathead County in conjunction with Ekalaka is unconscionable! Again, they are fully 11 hours away with completely different infrastructure, economy population growth and livelihoods.

I am a fourth generation native to the Flathead Valley. My children and grandchildren are fifth and sixth generations to the Flathead, and my family has lived in the great State of Montana itself for a full eight generations. I have seen the massive changes taking place and this move by the Democrat Commission members takes the cake. I have friends and family across the state and breaking up Cascade County is just as bad!

I will do whatever it takes to stop this from happening, including ensuring that every single available person stands against it at the State Capitol on Helena on October 30th at 9am in support of common sense congressional districts and to demand that our voices are heard. Montanans deserve fair representation in Congress and transparency in the redistricting process, and you can surely see that this politically motivated move stands against everything that native Montanans believe in and represent.

I realize that this is likely my last opportunity to speak up on this important process and I say NO. Absolutely NOT. This move will completely silence far too many voices in our state for at least the next ten years! PLEASE use some common sense and upon review of our MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED, do what is right, rather than what is divisive.

This move will completely and unfairly silence far too many voices in our state for at least the next ten years!

https://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0050/chapter_0010/part_0010/section_0150/0050-0010-0010-0150.html

Sincerely,

Leslie Kay West
PO Box 484
Kalispell, MT 59903-0484
FLATHEAD COUNTY RESIDENT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: myrt westphal
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:45:31 PM

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

Message:

I have live in Missoula for over 8 years and have participated in all the elections. I have generally voted by mail asI am a senior citizen.

I prefer Option 11 where the districts are generally more evenly divided as relating to political parties. I hope this solution will also give more voice to the Native American constituents.

thank you for listening, myrt westphal

I believe that Map 11 best serves the state so more varied voices can be represented in Congress. Citizens have a better chance of being heard with this option, Map 11.

I want represntatives of both parties to make an effort to listen to and act in favor of both parties and not have this be a uni-party state.

Democracy requires participation and by asking for our input you are furthering this goal.
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: Michael Whaley
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:33:51 PM

From: Michael Whaley michael.whaley@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman Montana

Message:

Map #1 is my map of choice. It gives equal representation and doesn't allow for one side of the state to have more say, more sway than the other side of the state. #7 is second best.

--

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: Niki WHEARTY
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 4:08:59 PM

From: Niki WHEARTY nwhearty@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I support Map # 11 because it does not divide Gallatin County in two. I also support Map #11 because it places Lewis and Clark County in the Western District where it logically belongs.

--

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: Chris Whelan
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:52:05 PM

From: Chris Whelan cjwhelancj@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:
My vote goes to Map #11. Thanks

--

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

From: [Ed White](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of redistricting map 11 proposal
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 9:26:20 AM

I support this proposal, not because it favors one party over another. I prefer it because it doesn't split as many municipalities or entities of economic interest. As an independent voter, I vote for issues, not parties. If a party wants my vote, they will advance the issues and the candidates I can support.

Thank you so much for being so considerate,
Ed White

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cathy Whitlock
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:59:08 AM

From: Cathy Whitlock cathy.whitlock53@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

Please support the map submitted by our Democratic representatives that does not divide Gallatin County. It keeps the districts more competitive, which is important for our future.

--

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: Rick Whitman
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:59:26 PM

From: Rick Whitman whitmanrr@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston MT

Message:

As I understand it, we are down to two choices: Proposals 11-CP11 and 10-CP10.

10-CP10 apparently splits Gallatin County in two.

11-CP 11 apparently splits Flathead county in two.

Tough to choose. It's unfortunate all counties could not remain undivided.

So, because I live in Park County, which shares much with neighboring Gallatin County, I favor keeping Gallatin County whole and Park county with it. Proposal 11-CP11 does that.

I urge you to adopt Proposal 11-CP11.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

Rick Whitman
Livingston, Mt

--

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: William Whitsitt
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:56:42 PM

From: William Whitsitt wfwhitsitt@aol.com
Residence: BIGFORK, MT

Message:

Having reviewed the two map options most recently put forward by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission Chair, I have a comment that I would respectfully ask be considered. It is based on both my being a resident of Flathead County, and my past experience as a legislative assistant to Congressman-then-Senator John Melcher, and then as Administrative Assistant (or Chief of Staff) to Montana Senator Paul Hatfield after having grown up in Great Falls and begun my career there — and voting in the Eastern Congressional District when we had two districts.

My comment is essentially that there is no good reason I can see for placing my county, Flathead, in the potential Eastern Congressional District. Much has been made of recognizing communities of interest, which Map 11 would seem to throw out the window with respect to Flathead County. In my work on behalf of Montana as a congressional staff member, it was always clear that to varying degrees, including often quite dramatically, many priorities in the Western District and Eastern District were quite different despite some over-arching commonalities. Types of federal lands and their management needs were often very different. Types of business, agricultural and environmental issues were often quite different. As a citizen and voter in Flathead County, I see very much the same today. To now propose to slot Flathead County into an Eastern District makes no common sense to me.

I hope and request that the Flathead County carve-out to the Eastern District in Map CP 11 will be rejected.

While I would prefer no splitting of counties, at least the CP 10 division of Gallatin County appears to this non-expert to have some logic to it, based on more-and-less urban areas being proposed to be in Western and Eastern Districts respectively, perhaps doing a much better job of recognizing communities of interest.

Thank you for considering my views.

Bill Whitsitt, Bigfork, Montana

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carolyn Widman
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:06:46 PM

From: Carolyn Widman widmanc@vt.edu
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I am a retired engineer who chose to live in Gallatin County because it has all of the things that support my lifestyle – backpacking, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, camping, photography, music, the arts and a great community.

I support map 11! We've got to have a cohesive county to be able to address the challenges the massive growth Gallatin County has experienced

I don't support the map that splits Gallatin County. I do not see what characteristics Gallatin has that merits this division. We have 5 towns and surrounding agriculture lands that have similar features and offer similar amenities. The whole county experienced massive growth in the last decade. We need to be a cohesive county so that we can all work together in strategic and tactical planning to keep this place great.

Thank you so much for your consideration and hard work on a difficult project. Please think of the communities effected first when deciding the new districts.

--

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

From: [Louisa Willcox](#)
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 Congressional District Map Options
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 12:40:22 PM

Dear Sirs,

Please choose Map 11 for Montana's congressional districting. As a Montana voter, I am concerned about a fair and competitive elections process, and this option would best serve that purpose.

Thank you,

Louisa Willcox

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: ARLENE WILLIAMS
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:47:34 AM

From: ARLENE WILLIAMS aswilliams@bresnan.net
Residence: Dillon MT

Message:
Commissioners,

I am favor of the Republican map. It appears to be the most fair to both parties.

Thank you for all your work.

--

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] Map selection
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:26:30 PM

Hello.

I am writing in support of Map 11. Map 10 again splits Gallatin County and is not competitive. Map 11 is population equal, keeps communities of interest together, and is competitive. It makes sure every vote matters. Please pass map 11.

Kindly,

Ashley Williams
Helena, MT

From: [Brock Williams](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legislative districts comments
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:05:12 PM

Please choose Proposal 11. I think it is imperative that the districts are competitive. If we start off with districts that are not at all competitive, what's the point of even having elections? By no means is a district that favors the Republican Party by 5% somehow "unfair to the Republicans" as they are saying.

Sincerely,
Brock Williams
Laurel, MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David Williams
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:27:38 AM

From: David Williams doobmont@bresnan.net
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

On the matter of congressional districts, I tend to favor the creation of a more competitive western district. Montana voters, as a whole, lean conservative as evidenced by the Republican sweep of state offices in 2020. That said, there are still a substantial number of moderate independent and Democratic voters who reside here. These voters should feel they have at least a fighting chance to be represented in Montana's congressional delegation.

Given the size of Montana and the distribution of more affluent, educated, and 'urban' voters in our scattered population centers, some consideration must be given to political demographics. Failure to do so, for all intents and purposes, is simply to create one at large district with two representatives.

Respectfully,

David Williams

--

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

From: [Phil Williams](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please choose CP #11 as MT's most equitable map
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:23:24 PM

Dear Commission members,

Because CP #11 is the only map that doesn't unduly favor one political party, I strongly support CP #11 and urge you to do so as well.

In contrast, CP #10 is totally unacceptable in that it splits Gallatin County between two congressional districts and also splits the town of Big Sky in two.

Thank you for your consideration,
Philip Williams
Registered voter in Gallatin County

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: susan m williams
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:54:29 PM

From: susan m williams mtsuzq@gmail.com
Residence: Lewistown, MT 59457

Message:

Hello, as a Montana constituent, I feel Map #11 is the most fair and viable. Thank you.

--

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

From: [Tiffany Williams](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:32:48 PM

Hello! I would like to write in Opposition to Proposition 10 and in favor of Proposition 11 when it comes to redistricting.

Thank you,

Tiffany Williams

www.tiffanyphotographymt.com [[tiffanyphotographymt.com](http://www.tiffanyphotographymt.com)]

www.tiffanyshootsrealestate.com [[tiffanyshootsrealestate.com](http://www.tiffanyshootsrealestate.com)]

facebook: facebook.com/TiffanyWilliamsPhotography [[facebook.com](https://facebook.com/TiffanyWilliamsPhotography)]

phone: (406) 304-7259

From: [Virginia Williams](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map 8 is the map I choose for population and competitive
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:40:32 PM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ann Wilsnack](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:45:43 AM

Knowing these maps are very imperfect, I add my voice to Congressional proposal 11. I really wish Lewis and Clark county was in the Western part of the state however.

Sent by Ann Wilsnack

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sheena Wilson
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:42:09 AM

From: Sheena Wilson wiljan717@msn.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:
Commissioners:

I write in support of the "competitive" proposed map (CP-11) for Montana's new (1st) Congressional district. I thank you all for your careful, comprehensive and difficult work in getting the process this far.

I am very concerned about the threats to democracy popping up all over the country. Voter suppression is very real and so very dangerous. Creating a district that gives Montana voters of all stripes a chance at again having balanced representation in the U.S. Congress, is a necessary step in keeping voters engaged and getting them to cast an all important ballot.

Again thank you for your hard work these past months. You all deserve medals!

Sheena Wilson

--

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

From: [Nancy Winslow](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Enact Map 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:33:23 PM

I support map 11 because it does not unduly favor one political party and will create the most competitive district. Competitive districts mean that our elected officials have to listen to the majority of Montanans.

Thank you,
Nancy Winslow
5th Generation Montanan

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth wiome
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 6:58:35 PM

From: Elizabeth wiome beth_bauer@hotmail.com
Residence: Billings

Message:
I support map 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: Zachary Wirth
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:27:32 PM

From: Zachary Wirth patty@rockingz.com
Residence: Wolf Creek

Message:

Any map that bundles Bozeman in and Missoula in same CD is political gerrymander. I thought map number one was best I am okay with split counties like Cascade County

--

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

From: [Twila Wolfe](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional districts
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:54:28 PM

My belief is that the map should be drawn so that the populations are basically equal and favor Map 1.

Twila Wolfe
Missoula

From: [Michael Wood](#)
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 is the right choice
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:05:10 PM

Dear Committee,

Competition is the American way. It sharpens our arguments and forces us to consider what our competitor is doing. Without competition, we get lazy in our thinking and no longer strive for continuous improvement.

Competition is also the essence of strong democracy. Without competitive districts, winning candidates no longer need to consider alternatives to the current way of thinking, since there is no viable potential for candidates with opposing views to ever win the election. This condition opens the door to either complacency (the death nail of creativity and innovation), or to a system that seeks at all costs to defend itself against any change from the status quo. Neither of these outcomes is good for democracy or for America as a whole.

For these reasons, I am firmly in favor of MP CP#11, the only remaining map that encourages competition in at least part of our state. Please consider my views when making your final decision on districting in Montana. Thank you.

Mike

--

Mike Wood (he, him, his)
(928) 607-6356

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jeri Wright
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:00:35 PM

From: Jeri Wright jeri.wright@sbcglobal.net
Residence: Helena Montana

Message:

Honestly the fact I am having to write this email to ask this commission to do the right thing for Montana is disgusting. The gerrymandering and cheating that goes on to further political careers over duty is the norm now. Where is your love for this amazing country, state and its people. It's not your job to decide what party gets elected, ITS OURS. The commissions job is to make sure the voting the districts are as fair as possible. I honestly was floored at the maps the democrats submitted!! Are you serious!!! The fact that this commission can't play fair shows you have no pride or any honesty for the job you have been appointed to do. America is waking up and we will fight for our rights. Map 1,3 and 5 are divided equally which was obvious, but of course the democrats have to cheat to win. Your job should be easy, do the right thing. With that being said please prove me wrong.

--

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

From: [j w](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Modified C67 Map for consideration
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:19:26 AM

I would recommend only using the 2018 and 2020 Montana U.S. Senate race results to determine competitiveness of the proposed Districts since they had the strongest Democratic candidates.

Thank you
John Wright
Westby, MT

Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: j w
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:03:23 AM
To: districting@mt.gov <districting@mt.gov>
Subject: Modified C67 Map for consideration

Hello Presiding Officer and Commissioners,

I know this C67 modified map deviation is higher than the final maps but it keeps all communities of interest intact including Valier and Conrad. The counties are whole with the exception of Pondera because of the Blackfoot Reservation. The deviation from 0% can be justified by keeping communities of interest intact.

Link:

<https://app.districtbuilder.org/projects/68eaaa09-cd5f-4fc9-a633-5b0d0a676aec>
[\[app.districtbuilder.org\]](#)

Thank you,

John Wright
Westby, MT

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

From: [j.w](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Modified C67 Map for consideration
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:03:29 AM

Hello Presiding Officer and Commissioners,

I know this C67 modified map deviation is higher than the final maps but it keeps all communities of interest intact including Valier and Conrad. The counties are whole with the exception of Pondera because of the Blackfoot Reservation. The deviation from 0% can be justified by keeping communities of interest intact.

Link:

<https://app.districtbuilder.org/projects/68eaaa09-cd5f-4fc9-a633-5b0d0a676aec>
[\[app.districtbuilder.org\]](https://app.districtbuilder.org)

Thank you,

John Wright
Westby, MT

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

From: willmwright1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Will Wright](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]CP11 makes most sense
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 8:35:05 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commissioners:

I'm writing to express support for Congressional Map 11--it is the closest match to the 1980s map, doesn't split up Gallatin County where I live, and will lead to more competitive races.

With respect,

Will Wright

Sincerely,
Will Wright
110 Pebble Brook Ln Belgrade, MT 59714-9567
willmwright1@gmail.com

From: [Beverly Yelczyn](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylenn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mt.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on new Redistricting Maps for Montana
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 11:01:59 AM

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the new proposed maps for our Congressional districts.

I support Map #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.
- 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.
- 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.

I oppose Map #10 for the following reasons:

- 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.

I appreciate your time and attention to this very important effort for the future of our state.

Bev Yelczyn
Missoula, MT

October 27, 2021

I urge the Redistricting Commission to select Map #11.

Montana's system for redistricting was developed for the 1972 Montana State Constitution and was a model for other states. My father, Henry Siderius, was a delegate to the Montana Constitutional Convention. He accepted this supreme responsibility as a delegate and citizen of Montana. Changes that occurred in writing the constitution would mean the economy, power, diversity and last but not least, voting rights, of our citizens would provide opportunities and equalities for all Montana Citizens in the future.

When establishing our two new congressional districts at this time, Montana will again be able to meet the challenge of change that has occurred these last 50 years. The Commission you are serving on is a "living" piece of the 1972 Constitution and you are now accepting the supreme responsibility to provide opportunities and equalities...within our most sacred right VOTING. All Montana Citizens will welcome a true system that represents diversity and equality for the future. Please select Map #11.

Thank you for reading and considering this letter. My father's dedicated participation during the Montana Constitutional Convention of 1972 will prove to me, his mind and heart were in the correct place for the future of Montana.

Sincerely, JoLynn Siderius Yenne
364 Ponderosa St.
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bob Yokelson
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:28:44 AM

From: Bob Yokelson bob.yokelson@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Dear Commissioner Smith: Organized crime led by the Russian mob, the GOP, and fascists are trying to take over the world. The only hope for the survival of modern civilization is the destruction of these evil groups by patriots. I support CP11 favored by the Democrats. This is the one thing we can do in Montana to help prevent turning the US into Russia where there is no 1A, 2A, legal rights, or even indoor plumbing for much of the population. Thank you, Bob

--

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: Linda Young
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:58:05 AM

From: Linda Young lindayoung.ly@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Dear Madam Chair and Commissioners:

I write in support of Map CP 11.

It meets all of your mandatory criteria.

Additionally, it meets your goal of not favoring a political party, and minimizing division of counties.

Finally, it creates one competitive district. NOT to do so would be to disenfranchise the opposition party in our state, by creating districts that they could never win, and that is the definition of gerrymandering.

I appreciate your service.

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

From: [Ryan P. Young](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Map Comments
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 7:50:40 PM

Hello,

As a resident of Billings, I wanted to voice my support for the map that preserves a Republican stronghold in the east and allows a likely Republican—but somewhat competitive—district in the west. The map advanced by the Democrats on the Districting and Apportionment committee does just this.

It is foolish to arbitrarily split up Gallatin county to conceal the reality that while all of Montana has a Republican lean, that lean is significantly less pronounced in the western part of the state. I hope that the commissioner can rise above the partisanship of the times and will support a map that reflects the true political landscape of Montana: still Republican, just somewhat less so in the west.

Thank you,
Ryan P. Young

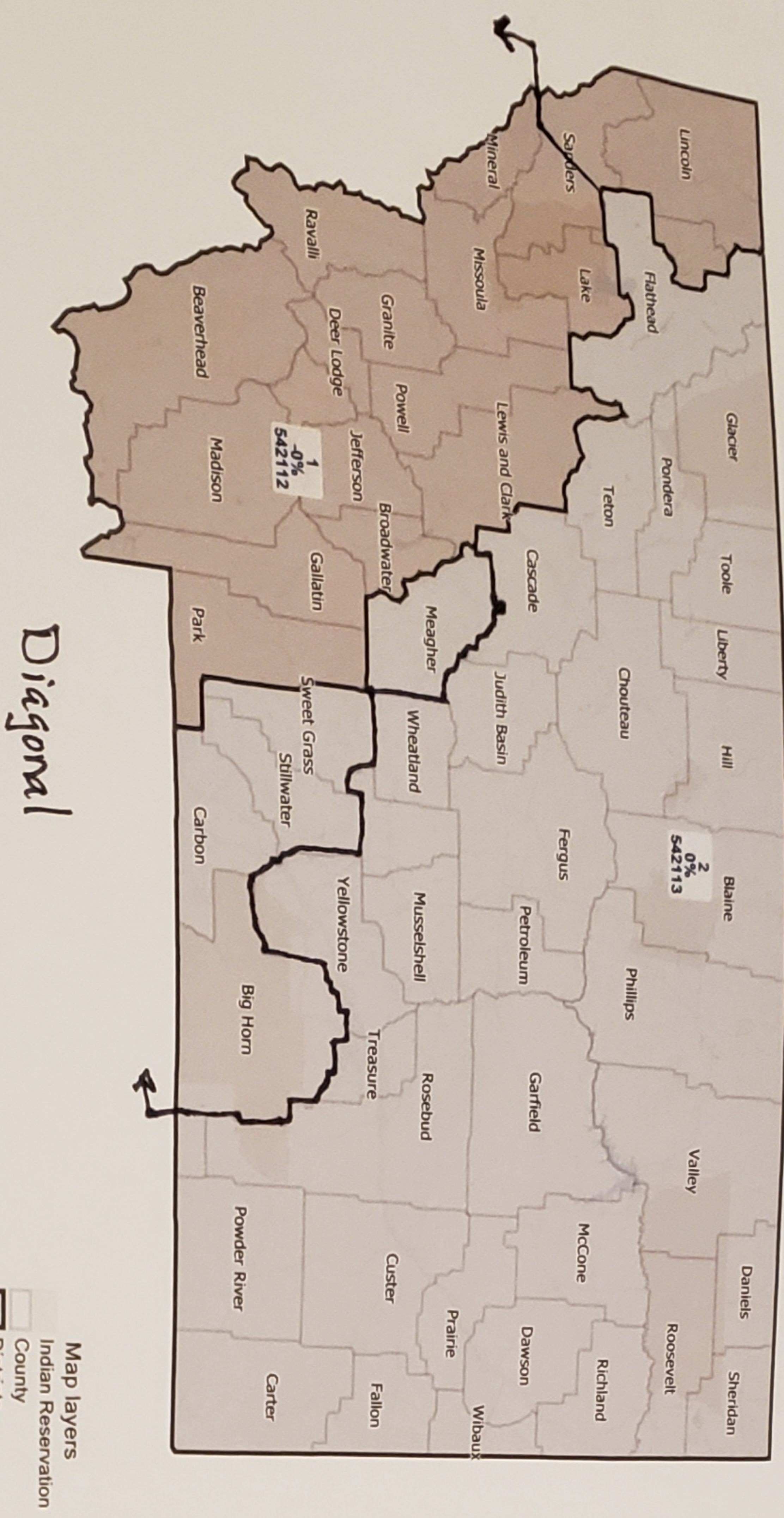
From: [gregzell406](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Possible Diagonal Districting
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:13:02 PM

Please review enclosed photo.
Sincerely,
Greg Zell

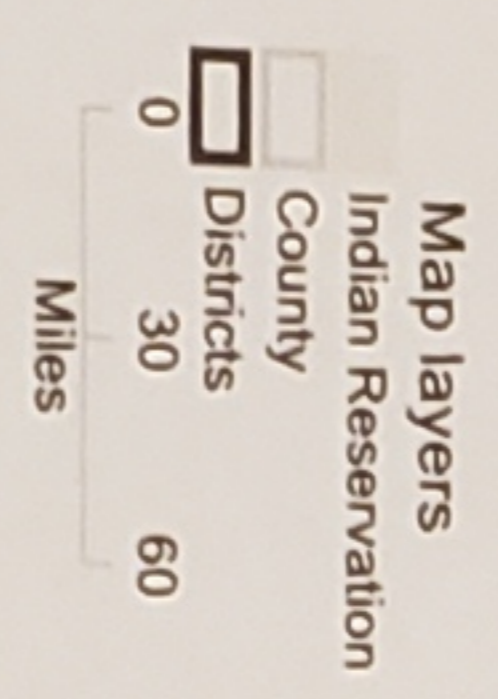
Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Congressional District Commission Proposal 11 - CP 11

For October 30, 2021, Public Hearing



Ideal district size for 2020 Congressional District is 542,113 people.

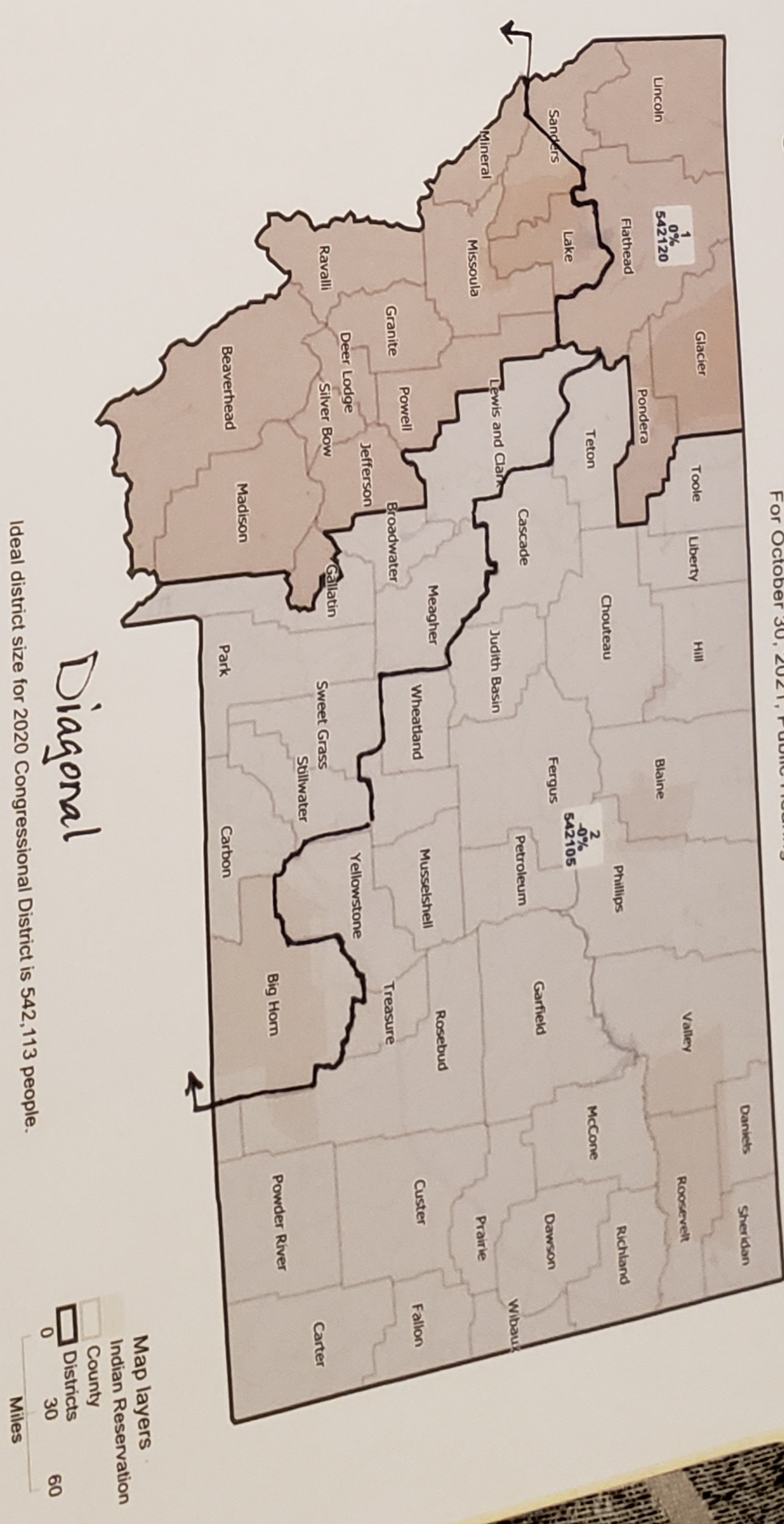


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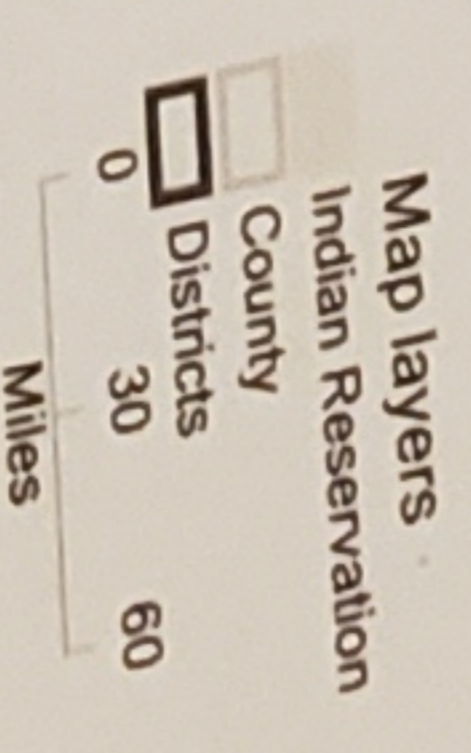
Have all Canadian boundary Counties in one district.
 Split either Sanders or Big Horn Counties or both to get population balance

Congressional District Commission Proposal 10 - CP 10

For October 30, 2021, Public Hearing



Ideal district size for 2020 Congressional District is 542,113 people.



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Have all Canadian boundary Counties in one district.
 Split either Sanders or Big Horn Counties or both to achieve population balance.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jill Zignego
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:09:35 AM

From: Jill Zignego zignego@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell, Montana

Message:

Please choose a map number 11 since it is a competitive district. It is the only fair thing to do.
Thanks so much for your time and attention to this matter.

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](#))