

# Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between 12 to 6 pm on November 3, 2021

Distributed electronically November 3, 2021

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debbie Adams  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:09:23 PM

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From: Debbie Adams [adams49dj@hotmail.com](mailto:adams49dj@hotmail.com)  
Residence: Livingston

Message:

I believe that map 10 is best. A state wide vote should really decide this matter, not a few people. Put both maps out and let the citizens decide.

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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: Beth Aimee  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:31:35 PM

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From: Beth Aimee bethaimee01@gmail.com

Residence: Livingston, Montana

Message:

CP 12 unfairly favors the Republican party because it creates a district where Republicans have won over 75% of statewide elections over the last 8 years in one district and 100% of elections over the last 8 years in the other district.

That's

not competitive and intentionally drawing both districts to heavily favor the Republican party violates this Commission's goal of not unduly favoring a political party.

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

**From:** [Matthew Albrecht](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fair Montana Congressional Map  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:25:31 PM

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My name is Matthew Albrecht and I am a government student studying at Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania. While Montana is a great distance away from the great state of PA, fair redistricting is a major area of interest to me. My home address is 2 Donnelly Drive, Wyoming PA 18644; Phone number is 5709915016; my school email is albrechm@misericordia.edu; and my personal email is matthewa.nepa@gmail.com.

Within this plan, the more moderate areas and democratic cities are represented and there is a solid red eastern and northern district. With this plan, Cascade county is the only county that is split; the population is almost exactly equal, and it can easily be made to be exact. The only splitting of a community would be the split of Great Falls along the Missouri River. In this plan, according to Dave's Redistricting, the 1st district is 48.9% Republican and 48.7% Democratic. This is an extremely competitive seat. The 2nd district is a solid red district. This competitive district is also more compact than either of the maps in consideration.

The goal of this map is to use the newly designated 2nd Montana Representative to create a district that is competitive to fairly represent the cities and moderate areas of the western part of the state.

Thank You for allowing for this open forum to allow for this discussion and opinions from all people.

I look forward to hearing from this commission!

Thank you once again,

Matthew Albrecht

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/4c90637b-5a66-4385-8188-840548b970f3>  
[\[davesredistricting.org\]](https://davesredistricting.org)

	<p>Fair Montana 2 <a href="https://davesredistricting.org">[davesredistricting.org]</a></p> <p>Redistricting Map</p> <p><a href="https://davesredistricting.org">davesredistricting.org</a> <a href="https://davesredistricting.org">[davesredistricting.org]</a></p>
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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: William Alexander  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:09:03 PM

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From: William Alexander [wlalex8@gmail.com](mailto:wlalex8@gmail.com)

Residence: Roberts

Message:

CP 12 seems best to me

The least gerrymandering.

Thanks

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

**From:** [Diane Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CP11  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:25:33 PM

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After reviewing the maps in detail, I find CP11 boundaries largely follow county lines, do not divide reservations and is more competitive than CP12. The later is a key factor in my support as it balances the scales to reflect the interests of all Montanans vs. party affiliations. Time to level the playing field.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marjorie Appelman  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:34:08 PM

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From: Marjorie Appelman mappel2409@hotmail.com  
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:

Please consider Proposal 13. This is the only chance for almost 50% of Montanans who have been ignored to once again have a representative in Congress who will meet with constituents , listen and reply to our concerns. We have not had that representation for many years.

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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: Tad Ballweber  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:27:47 PM

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From: Tad Ballweber [tad.ballweber@hotmail.com](mailto:tad.ballweber@hotmail.com)  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I am opposed to map # 12 in redistricting for the additional congressional seat in montana. Lewis and Clark County should be in the west. Thanks

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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: Tim C ballweberI  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:20:16 PM

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From: Tim C ballweberI tcb43@hotmail.com  
Residence: Helena

Message:

I am opposed to map #12 for the redistricting for the 2 congressional seats in montana. This places Lewis and Clark County and thus Helena in the east and it should be in the west. Thank you.

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

**From:** [Diane Bayuk](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The Best for Montana Voters  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:35:25 PM

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Dear Redistricting Committee,

Please vote for the only fair map that meets all the criteria for fair redistricting, CP 11.

In CP 11, the western district is drawn fairly, is competitive, and will ensure elected officials are responsive to voters!

The Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle and High-line remain intact, ensuring the rural population is heard. Native American voices will be heard fairly also. Connected areas of economic growth remain connected to support those segments.

Vote for CP 11.

Thank you,  
Diane W. Bayuk  
Helena, MT

**From:** [michael bayuk](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [diane bayuk](#); [michael bayuk](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:37:07 PM

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It is CP 11 that meets the criteria that must be the basis for the commission decision. This map keeps all the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle and Hiline intact allowing for that rural population to have a voice. Native American voices will be heard in a fair fashion. Connected areas of economic growth remain connected to support that areas views.

It is only CP 11 that provides a fair, balanced and reasonable approach to representation for all Montanans.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lee Boman  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:37:48 PM

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From: Lee Boman [lee.boman@icloud.com](mailto:lee.boman@icloud.com)  
Residence: Montana

Message:  
I prefer map 11.

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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: Lee Boman  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:40:00 PM

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From: Lee Boman [lee.boman@icloud.com](mailto:lee.boman@icloud.com)  
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I am opposed to map 12

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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: Gary Brooks  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:30:19 PM

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From: Gary Brooks [glbrooksie81@gmail.com](mailto:glbrooksie81@gmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

According to YOUR rules, maps 11 and 13 are objectively more competitive than the others. Either of those would better than the less competitive options.

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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: KARLA K BUCK  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:07:16 PM

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From: KARLA K BUCK [bpl@itstriangle.com](mailto:bpl@itstriangle.com)  
Residence: Chinook

Message:

I am in support of CP12 because it keeps Flathead County in the Western District. It only splits one county and it keeps Lewis and Clark, Flathead and Gallatin counties whole. In addition it includes both the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the Western District allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes in the new western district.

I do not support CP11 because it puts Flathead county in the east or CP13 because it splits too many counties.

--

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

**From:** [Anne Buckley](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting--please place Park County in the west  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:33:09 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

One of the four goals of establishing Montana's congressional district is to keep "communities of interest intact." Park County is much more aligned with western Montana than eastern Montana economically, environmentally, and socially both in our past and into the future. From our establishment in the 19th century, we have been and are an inextricable part of the Greater Gallatin Regional Economy as well as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. As a gateway community to Yellowstone National Park, we endure and enjoy the same pressures of environmental fragility, tourism and growth as does Gallatin County. As a beautiful yet easily accessible place, we must consider economic pressures related to shortages of affordable housing and service-industry labor, much more aligned to our neighbors to the west rather than the east or north. Our proximity to Gallatin County and its rapid growth places demands upon our infrastructure in ways that are not shared by our neighbors to the east or north. Moreover, just as in Gallatin County, we face political issues resulting from the tension between a traditional agricultural culture and economy and changes wrought by newcomers. In Park County, our "community of interest" is fully in the west.

On a broader note, as you consider questions of political equity, please keep in mind Montana overall is strongly Republican. The first stated goal for your commission is that "No plan may be drawn to unduly favor a political party." Map 13 not only keeps Park County in its western Community of Interest, it is also does not "unduly favor a political party."

Thank you very much for your time and work on this very difficult redistricting task. You all embody the finest in public service.

Sincerely,

Anne Buckley  
5 Fox Run  
Livingston, MT 59047  
406-224-5681



**From:** [Kay Burt](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urge you to Choose Map 12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:26:37 PM

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Once again, I favor Map 12, especially if the other option is Map 11. I would favor either 10 or 13 before 11. The logical dividing lines in the State--once equal population counts are achieved--is the continental divide. With Map 12, common interests, economies, issues, livelihood and cultures are considered. Attempting to tip the districting line to the advantage of one party or another makes no sense: similar geography and similar economic concerns make far more sense. This is the most reasonable of the maps presented: it includes Democratic strongholds in Missoula, Bozeman and Butte, but is tempered and moderated by the more conservative counties west of the continental divide. It is modeled closely after the dividing line that worked--without complaint and chaos--when Montana last had two representatives. Thank you.

Kathleen Burt  
commakaysie@yahoo.com  
(406) 270-0299

PS-Please be aware that your interactive map is not responding when comments are added!

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kim Carpenter  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:51:37 PM

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From: Kim Carpenter [kimberliecarpenter@gmail.com](mailto:kimberliecarpenter@gmail.com)  
Residence: Great Falls, Montana

Message:

I am writing to express my support for map 12. Map 12 unites Native American tribes, keeps counties together. Map 11 unfairly splits counties and makes it difficult for candidates to service their constituents.

Map 12 is a fair and legal map that avoids unnecessary lawsuits and allows Montanans to choose their own representatives equitably.

We ask that you protect the election integrity of our state!

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

**From:** [David Carr](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:16:21 PM

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Dear Chairman Smith and Committee,

I am writing in support of map CP11 for the boundaries of the new congressional district. It seems fair, balanced and keeps Helena (where I live) in the Western District where it has traditionally been when we have had two districts. This map reminds me of how our districts used to be divided when we had two seats. That worked out well for the citizens of the state which often has divided interests.

**I am absolutely opposed to map CP12**, which seems to have been suggested purely for political reasons so that one party can assure itself complete political dominance. Drawing Districts to specifically favor one party over another runs against the goal of the Commission. That's not the spirit of even handedness that I have seen in Montana for the last five decades that I have voted.

Thank you,

Dave Carr  
Helena, MT

**From:** [Jo Anne Church](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map #13  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:37:02 PM

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Map # 13 is the fairest for supporting Montana . Bob And JoAnne Church  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [CLEVELAND JUSTIN W](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CP-12 & CP-13  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:05:48 PM

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Chairperson Smith,  
Committee members,

The process of drawing the districts for Montana's 2 U.S. house districts is going to be decided shortly. Thanks You for your time and effort you have given in this process, what a great privilege that has been given.

I continue to encourage you to make the decision that follows the directives of the constitution. You will not please everyone, but in doing so, you have followed the oath you swore to uphold.

I would still like to see CP-1 as the map that is used. I still don't understand why it was tossed out.

With that being said if there is absolutely no way to have it brought back, then and only then would I support CP-12.

Thank you,  
Justin Cleveland  
Fairfield, Mt.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Brandon E Conroy  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:55:31 PM

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From: Brandon E Conroy [welltravelledshutin@gmail.com](mailto:welltravelledshutin@gmail.com)

Residence: Townsend

Message:

Please vote for proposal 13. Keep the economically tied areas of the state together.

--

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

**From:** [Susan Cottingham](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CP 11  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:17:18 PM

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Please do Not put Lewis and Clark county in the eastern district. I have lived in Helena for 40 years and believe we should be in the western district. I strongly support CP 11.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kate Cremer-Vogel  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:11:33 PM

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From: Kate Cremer-Vogel [kkcvmt@gmail.com](mailto:kkcvmt@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

The commission's goals for redistricting are most closely met by Map #11. In order to minimize divisiveness, a rational choosing of the option that most closely meets the commission's goals ensures the closest to a fair choice possible. Choosing Map #11 greatly reduces grounds for appeal and chances of repeal, saving we Montana taxpayers unnecessary expenditures. Thank you for your careful consideration.

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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: eddy a crowley  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:58:10 PM

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From: eddy a crowley [eddy.a.crowley@gmail.com](mailto:eddy.a.crowley@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena, Mt

Message:

Chair Smith:

Please stick to your own committees rules and observe your original deadline for map submission to be bipartisan and fair. Map # 11 is the most competitive as it follows your rules for map guidelines.

If you really allow a new deadline, changing the original rules, map #11 and #13 are still the most competitive, again following your rules for map boundaries. Map #12 is in violation of the rules for being competitive.

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kurt Crytzer  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:49:39 PM

---

From: Kurt Crytzer [sfbavariandad@aol.com](mailto:sfbavariandad@aol.com)  
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

I support Map CP12 because:

- it keeps Flathead County in the Western District
- It includes both the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the Western District, allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes in the new western district
- it keeps Lewis and Clark, Flathead and Gallatin counties whole
- it only splits 1 county
- I don't like cp11 because it puts most of Flathead county in the east.
- CP11 is not in the best interest of Montanans. I don't support it
- CP13 splits too many counties
- keep Lewis and Clark county whole

--

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

**From:** [Colette Daigle-Berg](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Map CP-11  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:12:11 PM

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Thank you again for your hard work Commissioners.

Once again I ask that you vote your consciences. If you agree that competitiveness is essential to democracy, please **accept Map 11** and **reject Map 12**. Map 11, with it's Cook PVI score of R+4.75, is the clear choice to ensure that all voices are heard and respected. **Please support Map 11.**

Colette Daigle-Berg  
Gardiner, Montana

(The link in the interactive map for comments is not working for me today so my comments did not make it to that comment forum.)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Fred G Dalbec  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:39:57 PM

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From: Fred G Dalbec fredhappy50@gmail.com  
Residence: Clancy, MT

Message:

I favor map 13 since it is an equitable solution for both Democrats and Republicans.

--

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

**From:** [Ione Daniels](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:14:27 PM

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I implore you to keep Missoula and Bozeman in the same district so that the redistricting will be fair to everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ione Daniels @ [ionedaniels4@gmail.com](mailto:ionedaniels4@gmail.com)

**From:** [dee anna](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Districting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:04:54 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request you vote for districting option number 11. I live in Jefferson County and often use businesses in Butte. We are retired but have worked in Butte and know many people there, Republicans and Democrats. We find them to be honest and generally seek the best candidate whichever party the current issues warrant. Option 12 would begin to pit us against each other not allowing for all voices to be heard.

Thank you for considering my request.

Dee Anna

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cindy depinto  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:55:09 PM

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From: Cindy depinto cindy.depinto@yahoo.com  
Residence: Kalispell, My

Message:

Please vote for Map 10. Keep whotefish on the western side.

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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: Cindy depinto  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:18:09 PM

---

From: Cindy depinto cindy.depinto@yahoo.com  
Residence: Kalispell My

Message:

My previous email...I asked for map 10... Please vote for map 12. Thank you.

--

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: Edward Dickman  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:53:41 PM

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From: Edward Dickman [edward.dickman@gmail.com](mailto:edward.dickman@gmail.com)  
Residence: Kalispell Montana

Message:

Choose a districting map that meets the mandatory criteria first, and prioritizes the "goals" in the order they're printed, with competitiveness last!

Maps such as CP11 and CP12 attempt to make one district more competitive and one district less competitive – this is the perfect example of unduly favoring one political party.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: sheila dozhier  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:34:40 PM

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From: sheila dozhier S\_wilson59105@yahoo.com  
Residence: billings MT

Message:

I am in favor of map 12. thank you

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Duncan  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:50:47 PM

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From: Susan Duncan montana4500@yahoo.com  
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:  
Please confirm Map# 11. Thank you

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Pat Earnest  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:20:04 PM

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From: Pat Earnest [inhisarms@montana.com](mailto:inhisarms@montana.com)  
Residence: Stevensville, MT

Message:

I support Map CP12 because:

- it keeps Flathead County in the Western District
- It includes both the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the Western District, allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes in the new western district
- it keeps Lewis and Clark, Flathead and Gallatin counties whole
- it only splits 1 county
- I don't like cp11 because it puts most of Flathead county in the east.
- CP11 is not in the best interest of Montanans. I don't support it
- CP13 splits too many counties
- keep Lewis and Clark county whole

--

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

**From:** [Joan Vetter Ehrenberg](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Support for Map 11  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:55:04 PM

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I still support Map 11, thank you for your work

***Joan***

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

**From:** **Joan Vetter Ehrenberg** <[jve2000@gmail.com](mailto:jve2000@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Fri, Oct 29, 2021 at 6:43 PM  
**Subject:** Support for Map 11  
**To:** <[districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov)>

Greetings Redistricting Commissioners,

What a job you have done, and continue to do. Thank you for your service to Montana.

I would like to express my support of Map #11.

As I have lived in Whitefish for 30 years, I do not really see a problem with our community being separate then the rest of Flathead County. We really think and operate differently here in our resort town than the rest of the Flathead, and for this reason, I support Map #11.

Also,

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 again for your time and consideration,

*Joan*

**Joan Vetter Ehrenberg**  
**744 Hidden Valley**  
**Whitefish, Montana 59937**

406-270-4184

[JVE2000@gmail.com](mailto:JVE2000@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elaine Eidum  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:07:01 PM

---

From: Elaine Eidum [eeidum@yahoo.com](mailto:eeidum@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Helena, MT 59601

Message:

I am in favor of map number 11. Please give it your strong consideration.

Thank you.

--

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

**From:** [Mindy Ferrell](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] "no" on CP 12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:43:31 PM

---

CP12 clearly locks in the Republican machine for the coming years. That is not representation for all citizens; that allows Representatives to ignore equitable weight to issues of concerns. One of the objectives of the Commission was to make as competitive of districts as possible. That would not be CP12. Vote "no" on this map.

*Mindy Ferrell  
21 Riverfront Dr.  
Trout Creek, Montana  
59874*

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, organized citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead*



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Maria Ferrini  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:30:15 PM

---

From: Maria Ferrini [mtmaria@gmail.com](mailto:mtmaria@gmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Dear Commission,

I would like to voice my support for the map 11 under consideration for the new 2nd congressional district in Montana. I believe keeping Missoula, Bozeman and Helena with their similar demographics as a district will provide better representation in the US congress. These communities all have large Universities within their boundaries which lend themselves to a representative being able to truly respond to these large populations in Montana. I do not believe that maps 10 or 12 will lead to proper representation of these communities. Thanks to you all for your hard work serving on this committee.

Sincerely,  
Maria Ferrini

--

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

**From:** [John Harrison](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony of CSKT Chairwoman Shelly Fyant  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:21:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [Redistricting Commission Chairwoman Fyant Testimony \(11-4-21 hearing\).docx](#)

---

Commissioners,

Please accept this document as the written testimony of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council Chairwoman Shelly Fyant. This testimony is submitted for the Commission's discussion of proposed congressional district maps at the November 4, 2021 public hearing.

Thank you,

John Harrison, Staff Attorney  
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Pablo, Montana  
406-675-2700 ext. 1185  
[John.Harrison@cskt.org](mailto:John.Harrison@cskt.org)

CSKT TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRWOMAN SHELLY FYANT

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING WRITTEN TESTIMONY

MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION HEARING ON  
PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL MAPS

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Please accept the following written testimony from Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council (CSKT). The CSKT has remained consistent in supporting the creation of a competitive district that contains as many tribes as possible. The CSKT understands that the Native American Rights Fund is submitting an analysis of the relative competitiveness of proposed maps CP 11, CP 12, and CP 13. The CSKT has relied on that analysis to make the following points:

- The CSKT is one of eight federally recognized Indian Nations in Montana. Like those other tribes, the CSKT has supported maps that keep as many tribes as possible in a competitive district.
- The CSKT continues to recognize and appreciate the Commission Chair's goal of having a map move forward that all the Commissioners agree upon and we sincerely hope you can reach a consensus.
- The CSKT has disfavored map proposals that place all Montana's Indian reservations in one district, or maps that keep the CSKT together with other tribes, but in a non-competitive district. If necessary, we would accept map CP 11. Part of the Flathead Reservation lies within Flathead County. Despite being one of the communities of interest affected by that map's split of Flathead County, the CSKT still favors being placed in a competitive district where Native voters will have to be considered by candidates and whoever eventually represents us in Congress.
- However, our strong preference is for map CP 13. This map is the most similar to the map the Tribes initially supported - CP 4. It places the Flathead and Blackfoot Reservations in a competitive district, while also addressing concerns about keeping Flathead County and other communities of interest intact. While no map is perfect, and no one will get everything they want from this redistricting process, the CSKT believes map CP 13 clearly provides Montana's Indian voters the best opportunity to be heard and considered during campaigns and in their congressional representation.

Thank you for your time, and for considering the input of the CSKT.

**From:** [Weiss, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [Jessica Glebke](#); [Spencer, Nadine](#)  
**Cc:** [ethan@montanademocrats.org](mailto:ethan@montanademocrats.org)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Map #12--Unable to post "Dislike"  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:21:32 PM

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Dear Ms. Glebke,

Thank you for sending these comments via email. I wanted to confirm they were received. They will be provided to the commissioners in a packet of comments that have been received since noon today. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rachel Weiss  
Legislative Research Analyst  
406-444-5367

**From:** Jessica Glebke <jglebke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:15 PM  
**To:** Districting <districting@mt.gov>  
**Cc:** Jessica Glebke <jglebke@gmail.com>; [ethan@montanademocrats.org](mailto:ethan@montanademocrats.org)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map #12--Unable to post "Dislike"

Good afternoon

While I have successfully commented on Maps 11 & 13 (in favor of both), I have made six total attempts between yesterday and today to post "Dislike" on Map 12 with no success. My comments are <50 words and I am attempting from the same desktop PC and browser I used before, using the same process of finding my address and dropping a pin to comment. Yesterday and today, the "Processing" button at the bottom of the completed "add Comment" pop up is highlighted but nothing else happens.

So.. please note that I am AGAINST Map #12, I live at 8150 W Riverside Dr in Missoula, I am a Montana native, I have lived both east and west of the divide and I pay my taxes and vote!

My comment:"I disagree with Map 12 as it divides Park and Gallatin Counties and excludes Lewis and Clark County from the Western District. These communities should be included with the Western district as they face similar challenges as other mountain communities facing explosive growth."

Thank you!  
Jessica Glebke

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gail H. Goheen  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:40:00 PM

---

From: Gail H. Goheen [gail@goheenlaw.com](mailto:gail@goheenlaw.com)  
Residence: Corvallis, MT

Message:

Please adopt Congressional District Commission Proposal 11 (CP 11). I strongly believe of all the proposals made, this one represents the most equitable and fairest proposal. It is important to maintain Montana's historical approach to being even handed and CP 11 best does that.

--

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: Stephen Goheen  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:41:22 PM

---

From: Stephen Goheen [ssgoheen@gmail.com](mailto:ssgoheen@gmail.com)  
Residence: Corvallis, MT

Message:  
I support map option 11

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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: Heidi Gold  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:56:23 PM

---

From: Heidi Gold [hgold99@charter.net](mailto:hgold99@charter.net)  
Residence: Helena MT

Message:  
I support maps 11 & 13 and oppose map 12.

--

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

**From:** [C Granrud](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] November 4 Redistricting meeting comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:08:37 PM  
**Attachments:** [Madame Chair and members of the Commission.docx](#)

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Madame Chairwoman and members of the Redistricting Commission

I am attaching my comments to this email to be considered in the decision concerning the drawing of Congressional District lines.

Christina Granrud



Madame Chair and members of the Commission,

The following are my feelings on Congressional map choices Map 12 and Map 13.

**Map 12 FAILS** the Congressional District goal that states that NO map may be drawn to unduly favor a political party. Map 12 is a gerrymandered map, and therefore should not be considered. Map 12 blatantly favors the Republican Party.

**Map 12 FAILS** the Congressional District goal of keeping communities of interest INTACT.

Map 12 deliberately divides Montana union voters. Map 12 separates the city of Butte from Jefferson County. Residents of Jefferson County commute to Butte every day – linking the two together as a community of interest. Similarly, it makes no sense to separate the city of Helena from Butte, Anaconda, and Deer Lodge. They are all union towns. I consider such a proposal against Montana values. Map 12 also proposes to split Park County from Gallatin County. The city of Livingston located in Park County is an integral part of the greater Gallatin regional economy, and therefore definitely an area of economic community interest. Placing Park County in District 2 would result in Park County's needs and interests being ignored. Shameful!

I believe that county splits should respect communities of Interest. Also, embedded within large counties, there are distinct communities of interest. These smaller, distinct communities of interest can be split more logically, thereby ensuring real representation for these communities of interest that lie within a county.

**Map 12** also prevents rural voices and needs from being heard and acted upon. Urban areas should NEVER overshadow and drown out the voices and needs of rural Montana.

**Map 13** better adheres to the Criteria and Goals of the Redistricting Commission.

**Map 13** includes both the Blackfoot and Flathead Reservations giving our Native indigenous tribes a strong voice in District 1, while including the remaining five reservations in District 2, which also gives those tribal members a strong voice.

**Map 13** does NOT unduly favor one political party over another.

**Map 13** keeps Flathead County whole. This is a major move toward consensus.

**Map 13** generally preserves county boundaries, which follows the 1980 historical congressional map.

**Map 13** keeps cities and towns together.

Most important to me, **Map 13** creates one semi-competitive district showing partisan FAIRNESS. Competitive fairness would necessitate all office seekers to listen to ALL Montanans, and work hard to earn all the votes that they receive. It would foster growth of ideas, and result in positive changes for ALL.

I conclude by saying that Montanans are better citizens than the divisive, ignorance inspired rhetoric that has been exhibited so far. I am thinking of Mike Mansfield, a Montanan who showed the very best of Montana – honest, moral, up-right, a man of his word. Mike cared about each and every Montanan, and worked for ALL Montana. I think his example should be followed.

**From:** [Kathleen Grant](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional districts  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:21:38 PM

---

I am writing to express **STRONG OPPOSITION** to map 12. Lewis and Clark county needs to be in the western district.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jeff D Griffin  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:42:35 PM

---

From: Jeff D Griffin [jeffreygriffin@live.com](mailto:jeffreygriffin@live.com)  
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

Reading the comment in 3 separate articles: “Commission Chair Maylinn Smith, who was appointed by the state’s Supreme Court, said she could not break the tie in favor of a proposal by Democrats or Republicans before receiving additional public comment on a new proposal submitted by the Republican members of the commission just two days before the meeting.” I’m a little bit mystified how a person chosen to be impartial and nonpartisan can come up with that suggestion without asking for comments from both sides in the light of the overwhelming support for map 11? If the comment was made to suggest republicans might come up with a better proposal, then it seemed that it is likely that purpose would have been made clear at the time. There are many of us that are very tired of bending the rules to support one group. Bipartisan support is what all of us should want if some of us don’t understand the purpose of democratic values.

--

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lily Haines  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:52:08 PM

---

From: Lily Haines [lily@clarkfork.org](mailto:lily@clarkfork.org)  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I strongly oppose redistricting proposal 12. It does not represent the rural communities I work closely with. These small communities lose their voice and their right to representation under proposal 12. This map appears to undermine the honest and competitive politics that is keeping Montana independent from the national flavor ( always our best characteristic )

I urge you to consider other options.

Thank you.

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rusty Harper  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:16:19 PM

---

From: Rusty Harper [rusmlbc@gmail.com](mailto:rusmlbc@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

Please elect maps 11 or 13 but not map 12. Putting Helena in the east is classic gerrymandering to benefit the Republican party. The West will be competitive under 11 or 13, while the East will be Republican under any plan. Support fair elections that give both parties a chance to make their cases to the people.

--

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

**From:** [Jacquie Helt](#)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Cc:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:57:14 PM

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Wednesday November 3, 2021

Commissioners,

I am a Helena resident and the Montana State Director for SEIU 775. I have been closely following the Congressional redistricting process, and I first wanted to state my appreciation for the work of the commission thus far. You have a difficult job to do.

After reviewing maps under the Commission's purview, I am writing today to voice my formal and strong opposition to proposals 10 and 12.

As a union member, I was dismayed to see proposals 10 and 12 separate heavily unionized communities (Helena, Boulder, Butte, Deer Lodge, and Anaconda) into two districts. This is particularly upsetting as previous proposals considered, and even adopted, by this commission have recognized and honored all the commonalities and shared interests of Montanans living in these communities. The commission has expressed a desire to honor the previous congressional map to the greatest extent possible, and this division seems arbitrary and indefensible considering the commission's stated goals.

I have listened to much of the testimony and rationale for CP 10 and 12, I have continued to hear the refrain that we "can't split counties." In reviewing this commission's criteria and goals, that is not the standard that was adopted. This commission instead has acknowledged the importance of "minimizing" the splits of political subdivisions, but that this is a balancing act with keeping communities of interest intact and ensuring that districts do not unduly favor one political party. CP 10 and 12 frankly fail to meet these other standards.

I have yet to see a positive argument for why Lewis and Clark and Jefferson County belong in the eastern district when previous proposals did not place them there. I have yet to see an argument for why the strong community of interest of those represented by a union, who commute to work in different counties, should be split into two districts. I have yet to hear a compelling argument for why CP 12 allows for a competitive district when one party has won the eastern district 100% of the time and have won the western district 75% of the time.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your service.

**Jacquie Helt**  
**Montana State Director**  
*She/Her/Hers*

406-544-9682



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Craig Herbert  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:17:51 PM

---

From: Craig Herbert [manager@norval.coop](mailto:manager@norval.coop)  
Residence: Glasgow, Montana

Message:  
Map 13

--

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



**From:** [Dave Hill](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Competitive districts is key.....  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:40:55 PM

---

The minimum Montanan's should be offered for the next 10 years is at least 1 competitive district. "A competitive district is one where no party is favored, meaning candidates have to appeal to a broad swath of voters - leading to more responsive leaders and a healthier democracy."

I believe that maps 11 and 13 are the only maps that even come close to offering competition.

As a resident of Livingston (Park County), I would also like to see a map that ensures Park and Gallatin counties are kept within the same district. Livingston plays a vital role in the greater Gallatin economy and would be best represented in Maps 11 and 13.

I oppose Map 12 which will not create ANY competitive districts, in fact it intentionally favors 1 political party, the Republican party for both districts.

Thank you,  
Dave Hill  
Livingston MT 59047  
406-222-3263

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carrey Hirt  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:55:55 PM

---

From: Carrey Hirt [carreyh21@yahoo.com](mailto:carreyh21@yahoo.com)

Residence: Whitefish MT

Message:

Considering we are not allowed to vote for the only legal Map- map 1, out of current choices I want to insist we stick with Map 12!

Thank you!

--

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: Kathleen Hunthausen  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:22:03 PM

---

From: Kathleen Hunthausen khunthausen@yahoo.com  
Residence: East Helena, Montana

Message:

Please adopt CP #11, as it is most fair for our state. #12 clearly favors one party over another, which violates the rules the committee adopted at the outset. #13 divides Lewis and Clark County that places Helena in one district and everyone in the surrounding area in the other. This is completely unacceptable. Thank you for your work.

--

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: Patricia Irish  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:08:32 PM

---

From: Patricia Irish [arpaacirish@ail.com](mailto:arpaacirish@ail.com)  
Residence: Roundup mT 59072

Message:

Please separate easy from west as used to be! The flathead and Kallispell are not eastern

Montana

--

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

**From:** [Justin Jennison](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New district line.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:26:38 PM

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I feel like no district lines should ever be drawn based on how the county votes. The line should divide the state as we know it, Western Montana and Eastern Montana. The line should be drawn down the continental divide.

Thank you  
Justin

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dan Johnson  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:48:53 PM

---

From: Dan Johnson danjohnson1264@gmail.com  
Residence: Montana City, Montana

Message:  
Redistricting Commission,

Looking at the 3 new maps I feel like we took a step backwards. I really liked all of the aspects of CP 1. It was the best divide for our State in all aspects. It also followed all of the rules and didn't look like it was gerrymandered. I can certainly see the motive behind CP 11 and CP 13 with the removal or divide of Flathead County and it is very politically motivated. The bottom line is any map that puts Flathead County in eastern Montana will be viewed poorly by Montanans and perceived as a politically motivated steal for the democrats. Voters should determine election results and not redistricting. CP 12 is the best of the 3 new maps but it is far inferior to CP 1 in every aspect. Selfishly being a resident in Jefferson County I believe I would be better represented in the eastern district but as I have stated before I don't think Montanans would view the divide in Montana quite like any of the new maps depict it. I do however understand that the west is growing at a higher rate than the east and that makes it more difficult to draw a demographic representative district map with population densities as disproportionate as they are. One aspect I do however like that I didn't originally see or think of is the inclusion of the State Capital in the eastern district which does promote unity amongst the State. I am not sure if that was intentional by the commission but it would be a very good selling point for this map since there is an inevitable perception of exclusion felt by many folks on the far eastern portion of the State.

There are positive aspects that I see in all the maps in that they all have more evenly distributed Tribal representation from prior maps. They all have a north/south line separating east and west although I would hardly call Flathead county eastern Montana and the population numbers are evenly apportioned. That being said I don't want to come off as disrespectful to all of the commission's efforts as I know this is a difficult task.

To summarize I would recommend you adopt CP1 out of all the maps and if it is determined by the commission to only go with the last three proposed maps I would recommend CP 12.

Thank you once again for your efforts on this commission and thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

--

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

**From:** [Richard Juntunen](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map C11 is best to meet goals.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:54:30 PM

---

Greetings, after examining the maps and supporting data I would support the selection of Map C11 for two reasons, one the population balance seems right and only one county would be split as opposed to other options that split more than one county. Thank you for your time and consideration. Judith Juntunen

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cathy Kendall  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:30:29 PM

---

From: Cathy Kendall [cathykendall@live.com](mailto:cathykendall@live.com)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

Please consider adopting map #11 as a fair and reasoned approach to assuring that all voters feel their voices are heard.

--

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



**From:** [Rick Kerr](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:44:06 PM

---

Dear Commission members,

I am very disappointed that two more proposals were added at the last minute. This raises suspicions of gerrymandering redistricting. I reiterate my very strong support for Proposal 11.

Map 11 is the only map under consideration that meets all the criteria and goals that the Commission has unanimously approved.

**Map 11:**

- Does not unduly favor a political party.
- Minimizes splitting of towns and counties.
- Considers communities of interest.
- Considers competitiveness.

Map 11 succeeds in not unduly favoring a political party. It splits only one county and does so in a way that does not split any communities or towns. It keeps all federal reservations whole. It keeps both Gallatin and Lewis and Clark counties in the Western District, in alignment with their cultural and economic interests.

Please follow your own approved guidelines for this process.

Trustingly, Rick Kerr

---

**From:** Rick Kerr

**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:23 AM

**To:** [districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov) <[districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov)>; [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov) <[Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)>; [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov) <[Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov)>; [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov) <[Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov)>; [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov) <[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov)>; [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov) <[Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Redistricting

To: Districting and Apportionment Commission

After reviewing Proposals 10 and 11, I strongly support Proposal 11.

Proposal 11 follows historic precedent of the 1980's Congressional districts. Only two counties

are moved to reach population equality while maintaining economic connections and empowering indigenous voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rick Kerr  
P.O. Box 1276  
Choteau, MT 59422

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kristine R King  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:38:49 PM

---

From: Kristine R King [kristinarey@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinarey@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Livingston

Message:

I strongly oppose map 12, it is straight-up gerrymandering and an attempt to suppress votes. What's Helena doing in the East, that is not where it is located! Please return to the drawing board to form naturally occurring, fair, and competitive districts. We see what you are doing and it is not ok!

--

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: Donald L Kinney  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:34:40 PM

---

From: Donald L Kinney [dlkinney65@gmail.com](mailto:dlkinney65@gmail.com)  
Residence: Red Lodge, MT

Message:  
I support either map 11 (eleven) or 13 (thirteen)

--

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: Jeff Kirksey  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:34:31 PM

---

From: Jeff Kirksey [jskirksey@gmail.com](mailto:jskirksey@gmail.com)  
Residence: Townsend, MT

Message:

I favor CP 12. It keeps equal population distribution and most counties in-tack with the exception of Pondera.

--

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**From:** [kevink@donk.com](mailto:kevink@donk.com)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] opinion for CP11 and CP12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:01:29 PM

---

Montana is about 586 miles wide. Marion, MT is about 64 miles away from Idaho. CP11 has Marion in the eastern district for the state of Montana. If that isn't gerrymandering, I don't know what is. The entirety of Flathead county should be in the western district because Flathead county is clearly in the western part of the state. CP12 is much more fair. Please go with CP12. Thank you.

Kevin Kaltschmidt  
150 W Emerald Drive  
Whitefish, MT  
59937

**From:** [Ken Knudson](#)  
**To:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:31:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [Please Adopt CP 11.docx](#)

---

Please accept my attached comments supporting CP 11 into the record. Thank  
You.  
Ken Knudson

November 3, 2021

Dear Chairperson Smith and commissioners:

Please reject CP 12, which splits my county in half, and therefore is certain to cause jurisdiction and institutional nightmares for county government; CP 12 also seems to be biased against fair, competitive elections. Instead, I urge you to select CP 11, which most resembles a logical division for the Congressional Districts.

Thank you for considering my comments, and for all of the work you have put into the process. We all live in a great state.

Ken Knudson

626 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

Helena, MT 59601



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ann Kuntzweiler  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:27:12 PM

---

From: Ann Kuntzweiler [akuntzweiler@gmail.com](mailto:akuntzweiler@gmail.com)  
Residence: 300 Lump Gulch Rd Clancy, Montana 59634

Message:

To the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission-  
Please make the districts competitive- if they are not I fear our democracy will suffer and voters will loose interest in the political process.

Thank you.

Ann Kuntzweiler

--

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

**From:** [Melissa Kwasny](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:04:43 PM

---

Dear Commissioners:

I live in Jefferson County, in the small town of Basin, only twenty-five miles from Butte. I object to Map 12, which splits us from Butte and also seems very uncompetitive. The best map, in my view, is Map 11. I don't understand why alternatives were presented after Map 10 and 11. Many people who were following this process are now hopelessly confused. Map 11 divides the state so that it potentially gives both parties a voice. It's about time!

Sincerely,

Melissa Kwasny  
Box 29  
Basin, MT 59631

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carla M. Lawrence  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:17:43 PM

---

From: Carla M. Lawrence [carla.at.the.ranch@gmail.com](mailto:carla.at.the.ranch@gmail.com)  
Residence: Roberts, Montana

Message:

I stand in support of CP-12 for the redistricting of Montana.

--

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

**From:** [Melinda Leas](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting - Yes for CP 11 & CP 13  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:26:45 PM

---

To Whom It May Concern,

I support either redistricting map CP11 or CP13. I am adamantly opposed to CP12 as it splits my city of Helena up. This CP 12 redistricting does not create a competitive environment that represents all the voice of Montana. Do the right thing and keep our elections competitive and representative of all the voices in our state.

Be Healthy and Fit,  
Melinda Leas  
Helena, MT  
406-261-1294

**From:** [Karole Lee](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map Proposals  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:07:01 PM

---

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to submit my opposition to the Proposed Map 12. I have lived in Clancy, Jefferson County, Montana for over 30 years and separating Butte and Jefferson County is just not acceptable.

The relationship between Butte and Jefferson County is strong and has been for a long, long time. Many of our Jefferson County residents are from Butte, they worked or are still working in Butte, still have families living in Butte, and many of us (me included) travel to Butte to shop or to visit doctors.

I urge you to please support Proposed Map 11. Map 11 correctly places Jefferson County.

Thank you for your anticipated thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karole Lee  
457 Lump Gulch  
Clancy, MT 59634  
406-933-5408

--

**Karole Lee**  
**457 Lump Gulch Road**  
**Clancy, Montana 59634**  
**406-933-5408**

**From:** [Jeanne Liebelt](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:42:33 PM

---

I support Map CP12 because it keeps Flathead County in the Western District and does not put most of the County in the East. CP11 does not have the best interest of the voters, and CP13 splits too many counties. Gerrymandering should not be involved as it does not provide a fair representation for such a crucial vote for all Montana's.z

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: J. Stephen Lodmell  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:43:30 PM

---

From: J. Stephen Lodmell [lodmell@bigsky.net](mailto:lodmell@bigsky.net)  
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I strongly support using apportionment map #11 or 13 for our new US congressional districts. It is vital that we give the possibility of true (and truly competitive) representation to the Western district, and the other maps would effectively dismiss the the will and views of effectively half of the population of the western part of the state.

Thank you for listening, please vote for 11 or 13.

--

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: Marcene & Steve Lynn  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:08:21 PM

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From: Marcene & Steve Lynn [smlynn@bresnan.net](mailto:smlynn@bresnan.net)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

We support using Map 11 which would keep Lewis & Clark County in the western district of our state. We think by adopting this map it provides more of a voice for all Montanans. Thank you.

--

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: carole mackin  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:32:17 PM

---

From: carole mackin mamackin@gmail.com  
Residence: HELENA

Message:

I am an active member of a political party. I need a map that is easy to understand and use. Map 11 is the easiest for me to understand. When legislative and precinct districts are draw on Map 11, I believe they will be logical and compact.

--

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

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# MACo Urban Counties Coalition

*Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis & Clark, Missoula, Ravalli, Yellowstone*

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November 3, 2021

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

Chair Smith and Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana on the Districting & Apportionment Commission. Your job is an important one, and we are encouraged by the work accomplished to date. Please accept this letter of comment from the Urban Counties Coalition of the Montana Association of Counties.

As you became familiar with your roles and responsibilities on the Commission you've been repeatedly directed to the provisions of Title 5, Chapter 1, Part 1. In summary, the districts must be proportional in population and should make good geographical sense. It appears your current versions honor the population parity but look to divide population centers. We request that you keep the population centers as whole as reasonably possible. Please do not divide our communities when other alternatives are available to honor the size and population requirements of redistricting.

Furthermore, please keep partisan politics out of your decision-making process. Montana Code Annotated provides clear direction and 5.5.115 (3) is the area on which our comment is focused:

- (3) *A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress. The following data or information may not be considered in the development of a plan:*
- (a) *addresses of incumbent legislators or members of congress;*
  - (b) *political affiliations of registered voters;*
  - (c) *partisan political voter lists; or*
  - (d) *previous election results, unless required as a remedy by a court.*

Montanans are excited to receive an additional U.S. House member, and Montanans take pride in our election system and representative democracy. We encourage you to follow the law in your final determination of the congressional district mapping process. Please leave politics out of the decision of where to draw the line between two congressional districts that are equal in population, and please do not divide communities.

Sincerely,

MACo Urban Counties  
Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis & Clark, Missoula, Ravalli, Yellowstone

**From:** [Shantil Siaperas](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments from MACo Urban Counties Coalition  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:13:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [Redistricting Comment - MACo Urban Counties Coalition.pdf](#)

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Chair Smith and Commissioners,

Attached you will find a letter providing comments for your consideration from MACo's Urban Counties Coalition.

Best Regards,

SHANTIL M. SIAPERAS  
Communications Director  
Montana Association of Counties  
(406) 449-4360 (Office)  
(406) 925-1134 (Mobile)  
[shantil@mtcounties.org](mailto:shantil@mtcounties.org)  
[www.mtcounties.org](http://www.mtcounties.org)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ronald Martin-Dent  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:38:31 PM

---

From: Ronald Martin-Dent [ronmartindent@yahoo.com](mailto:ronmartindent@yahoo.com)

Residence: Missoula Mt

Message:

I support plan/map 13 as being the most competitive and fair creation of our Second District.

--

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

**From:** [Kerri McCormick](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In favor of CP12, NOT CP11!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:33:54 PM

---

Map CP12 is the most sensible choice. It keeps Flathead County intact rather than pulling Whitefish, a Democrat stronghold, out and leaving it in District 1...a clear and blatant move to create a political divide within the state. CP12 favors economic interests, eg; tourism on the left side of the state vs. oil, ranching and farming on the right side. CP12 does not divide Gallatin County, either.

CP11 is absolutely ridiculous and should never have been proposed to begin with.

Kerrin McCormick  
15 Strawberry View Ln, Kalispell, MT 59901

**From:** [Audrey McCue](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essman@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essman@mtleg.gov); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Cc:** [Amy Reeves](#); [Spangenberg, Eric](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Lewis & Clark County Elections and GIS Concerns about Map CP13  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:27:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to express our concerns about map CP13.

Map CP13 places the Helena area in a western district and the rest of Lewis and Clark County in an eastern district.

Using city limits, versus the county boundary, makes administering the election more difficult and is more confusing to voters. County boundaries do not change, while city boundaries can change yearly or even more frequently.

In the screen shots below, you can see there are some areas included in Helena's city limits that were not included in the western congressional district on map CP13. One of these areas is a recent annexation, and likely a boundary adjustment your commission did not have while working on maps.

This presents one of our concerns in attempting to follow city limits – they change. Helena's city limits have changed in the time the Commission has been working on this project and will likely continue to change.

This means by the time the first vote happens, we will have voters who live in city limits, but do not live in the western district.

Though the map attempts to follow city limits, to be contiguous with the rest of the western district it necessarily includes areas outside of city limits. This will be confusing to voters and those administering the election.

Case in point, the Birdseye area (Birdseye Rd and Austin Rd). In our County, people say they live "in Birdseye." The proposed boundary is somewhat like the current boundary between House District 79 and House District 80. This boundary was not popular in the last redistricting because it splits the Birdseye community. With the existing boundary we have voters in HD 79 voting at the fairgrounds and voters in HD 80 voting in Canyon Creek. We received complaints from Birdseye voters that have a polling place in Canyon Creek. They were more accustomed to and would have preferred to drive into Helena to vote. They were frustrated that some people that "live in Birdseye" went into town when they did not. It is also confusing for the voter, as they may show up at the same polling place as their neighbor, but should have gone to a different polling place to cast their vote.

Similarly, many people in the Helena valley consider themselves living “in Helena,” even if they live outside city limits, because their address is “Helena.”

This week we conducted citywide elections. The number one question from voters was from people outside city limits wondering why they did not receive a ballot. They identify as “living in Helena,” even if they do not live in Helena’s city limits.

Because city boundaries will change, there will even be voters who live in Helena’s city limits but are not eligible to vote in the western district. Voters will question why their friends/family members are voting in a different district.

In addition to causing confusion to our voters, it will make the election more challenging to administer.

Unless the state house and senate district boundaries follow the same lines, we may have precincts where we need three different ballot styles. For example, when the legally required city government review question is next on the ballot, we would need a ballot for voters in and outside city limits. We’ll need a separate ballot for the voters in city limits in the western district and those voters in city limits in the eastern district. If the state legislative district boundaries also do not follow the same lines, a third ballot will be needed. And if a school district chooses to run an election on the same ballot, there could be yet another ballot style.

When there are more ballot styles in an election it is more complex and more costly to administer. Layout, proofing, printing, sorting, verifying, tabulating – all of these steps occur per ballot style. The more styles, the more expensive and complicated it is to administer the election.

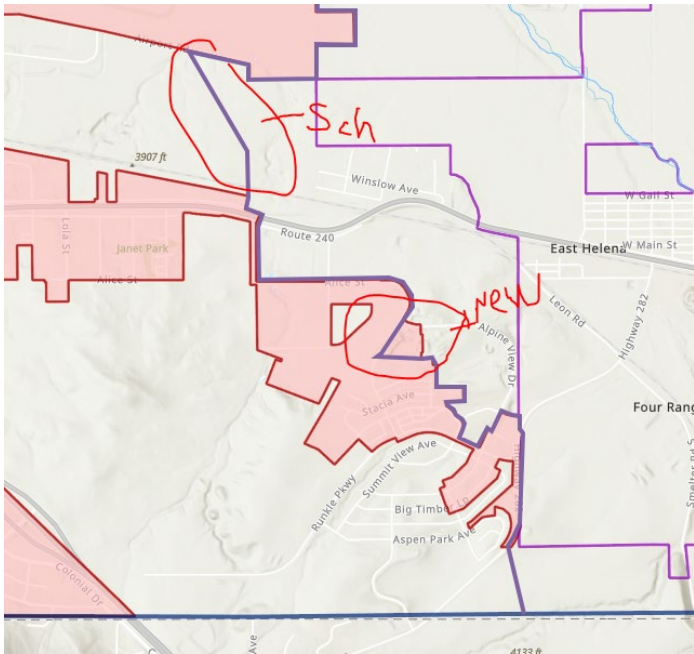
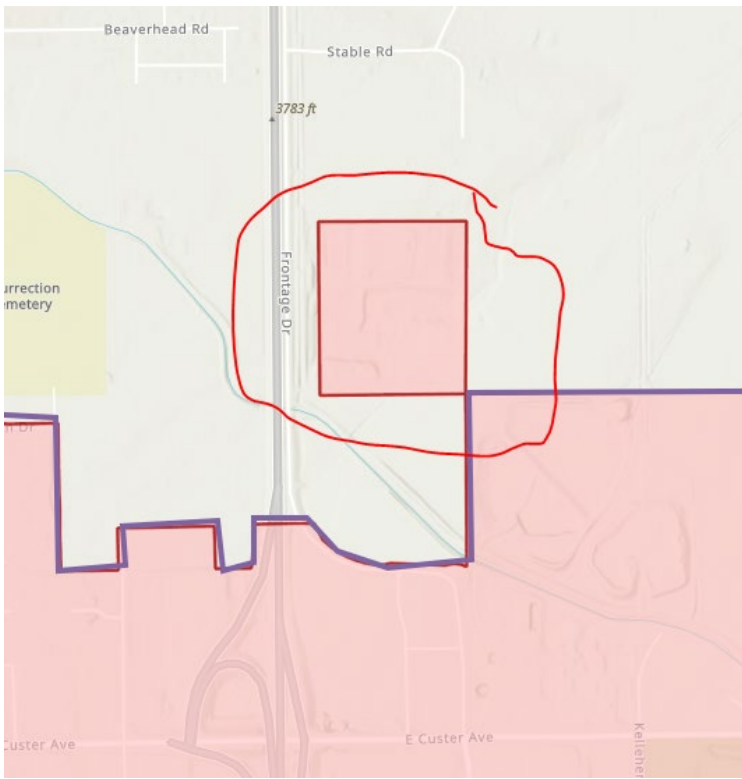
While city boundaries will certainly change, legislative boundaries may change, county boundaries likely will not. For this reason, we prefer keeping the county wholly within one district or another.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Amy Reeves  
Treasurer/Clerk and Recorder and Election Administrator  
Lewis and Clark County

Eric Spangenberg  
GIS Coordinator  
Lewis and Clark County

Audrey McCue  
Elections Supervisor  
Lewis and Clark County



Note: The sharp angle (sch) is a school district boundary (Helena / East Helena) and the (new) is a recent annexation and the Commission would not have that information to work with.



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Will McDowell  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:34:15 PM

---

From: Will McDowell [willymcdowell@yahoo.com](mailto:willymcdowell@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I believe we need districts that reflect the diversity of our state. Maps 11 and 13 are competitive (good Cook scores) and they reflect the very real economic-cultural distinction between the western part of our state which has a tradition of logging, tourism (skiing, fishing, national parks), higher education and, now information technology, and the eastern part which is primarily agriculture, oil and gas and small industry. We need Congressional representatives that truly understand each of these very different realities, because that's where they live, and who their neighbors are.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carter McGrath  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:15:00 PM

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From: Carter McGrath [ctm533@gmail.com](mailto:ctm533@gmail.com)  
Residence: Helena Valley North East, MT

Message:

I write in support of proposal 11 which keeps Helena and all of Lewis and Clark County in the western district where it belongs – geographically and politically. I am a registered independent but in recent years have voted more often for democratic candidates (for many, many reasons I won't get into here). As a L&C County resident, I'd like for there to at least be a chance that a representative I vote for might win an election and actually "represent" me rather than being stuck in the east where the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

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

**From:** [bullheadm@aol.com](mailto:bullheadm@aol.com)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed to 12, supporting 11  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:36:23 PM

---

Dear Commissioners,

As a person who lives in Jefferson County, I strongly oppose proposed map 12. I am opposed to separating Butte and Jefferson County as found in map 12.

Jefferson County has a long and historic relationship with Butte. Many Irish immigrants who came to Butte to work in the mines ended up settling in Jefferson County. That close relationship continues today, with many who live in Jefferson County working in Butte. My doctor is in Butte...our family ranch repairs vehicles and buys supplies in Butte.

Jefferson County and Butte share a state senator which has worked well since we are both communities with a long history of mining. We also share a history of unionization with Jefferson County, Butte and Helena working together on labor issues, particularly public employee issues.

I urge you to support and vote for map 11. It places Jefferson County correctly and is competitive as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terry Minow

502 Lower Valley Road

Boulder, MT 59632



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Leslie M Mulette  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:34:01 PM

---

From: Leslie M Mulette [mules2798@gmail.com](mailto:mules2798@gmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I have been closely following the process this commission has been following in deciding a new congressional map for Montana. I was impressed and optimistic that this commission unanimously adopted criterion and goals to assure that a "fair" map could be adopted. It seems that the only remaining maps that meet the criteria established are maps #CP11 and #CP13. The other 2 maps violate many of the criteria and goals established by the commission. A competitive district is one where no party is favored, meaning candidates have to appeal to a broad range of voters. It is my understanding that both Republicans and Democrats agree that any newly drawn district should have a Cook PVI score between D+5 and R+5. Both CP 10 and CP12 have Cook PVI scores that fall outside of the range of competitiveness. It is my opinion that Map #CP11 is the only one that addresses MOST of the criteria and goals originally established. As Montanans, we trust our public officials, including appointees to keep their word. I appeal to all members of the commission to revisit the goals and criteria established and vote for the map that most closely addresses these goals and criteria. All Montanans, both Republican and Democrats, should want a map that assures that all of Montana's citizens have equal representation. This leads to more responsive leaders and a healthier democracy. I appeal to all members of this commission to do the right thing and stand by the goals and criteria that were established in July of 2021.

Respectively submitted,  
Leslie Mulette

--

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: chelsey murphy  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:42:27 PM

---

From: chelsey murphy chelseyevans6415@gmail.com  
Residence: Livingston MT

Message:

I do not support the structure of the CP 12 map. It is designed to eliminate representation and voting rights of the people based on party lines. This would be a tragic misrepresentation of our democracy as well as its purpose to support the people and their right to be heard and represented. No thank you.

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dolores Newton  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:38:08 PM

---

From: Dolores Newton [go2adnewton@gmail.com](mailto:go2adnewton@gmail.com)  
Residence: Roundup, MT.

Message:

I support Map-CP-12 because it keeps Flathead County in the western district. Also, it keeps Lewis and Clark, Flathead and Gallatin counties whole. It only splits one county. So please choose Map-CP-12. Thank you for considering my choice of Map- CP-12.. Dolores Newton

--

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

**From:** [K. Newton](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support map#12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:00:25 PM

---

Please support map#12.

Map 12 is most equitable to the people of MT, including the tribal members who must be properly represented. Map 12 most closely meets districting criteria of our state constitution.

Thank you,  
Katrina Newton  
48664 US HWY 2  
LIBBY MT 59923

--



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rebecca Noell  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:29:04 PM

---

From: Rebecca Noell rebex.n@gmail.com  
Residence: Billings MT

Message:

I would like to voice my support for Congressional map 11. Thank you.

--

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

**From:** [Joy Novota](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments re: redistricting for Montana  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:23:36 PM

---

Dear Commissioners,

**I support Map CP12.**

Eastern Montana & Western Montana are two different regions of the state. Flathead County knows nothing about the eastern side so that county needs to remain in the Western District.

CP12 splits just 1 county. CP13 splits too many counties & their residents.

Thank you for your service.

Joy Novota  
3883 Daisy St  
East Helena, MT 59635

**From:** [Joy Novota](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:29:14 PM

---

**Dear Redistricting Commissioners,**

Coming from the farthest NE end of the State of Montana, the citizens of NE Montana are not part of any actions in the far NW part of Montana. Do NOT put these two areas together for representation. They are like two different states. Because of this vast difference, the CP12 map is the best alternative.

In addition, there are two Indian tribes on the western side, & they should be part of the western district. CP12 allows this.

Joy Novota  
PO Box 1880  
East Helena, MT 59635

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sean O'Callaghan  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:44:54 PM

---

From: Sean O'Callaghan [ocallaghan\\_sean@hotmail.com](mailto:ocallaghan_sean@hotmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I believe that map 11 best meets the diverse needs and interests of Montanans by grouping communities with similar issues into Western and Eastern Districts, while only dividing one county. I believe this option presents the best opportunity for voters to be appropriately represented in the House of Representatives.

--

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

**From:** [Oneill, Lauren](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Districting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:33:32 PM

---

After watching the end of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission on October 30, 2021 and observing Chair Maylinn Smith's discussion indicating a need for more comment on CP-12, I would like to enter my remarks for public comment. I would voice my support of the Chair considering CP-12 seriously as the Commission Proposal to be adopted for districting.

I am hesitant to support CP-10, as it divides Gallatin County. When examining the trends of Gallatin County over the past decade, it would appear that it should be apportioned into the Western District. Its growth, population demographics, and urban areas culturally would make more sense when grouped with cities like Missoula. When Art. V, § 14 of the Montana Constitution requires that each district shall consist of compact territory, and that one of the goals of this Commission shall attempt to "...minimize dividing cities, towns, and counties and federal reservations between two districts when possible" while also "keeping communities of interest intact", all of which would be contradicted by dividing Gallatin County.

Similarly, I am not quick to support CP-11, as it divides Flathead County in an odd, arguably misguided manner. Adding numbers to the Eastern District by relegating away the Blackfeet Reservation seems like a partisan disenfranchisement of indigenous voices and voters, which are consistently imperiled already. Additionally, for similar reasons outlined above, dividing the City of Whitefish and the City of Kalispell makes little sense, as they are areas that are connected economically and culturally in the Flathead.

CP-12 would allow a less arbitrary split of each of these communities. It keeps communities of interest together and does not arbitrarily divide counties up, while maintaining a population difference of merely one individual. Districting the state in this manner would allow for two competitive districts, and arguably could imply CP-12 would be less likely to be struck down in court for partisan gerrymandering (a success, in a hyper-partisan era of politics). This CP seems to represent Native American reservations the best (i.e., the Blackfeet in the West, the Crow, Fort Peck, etc. in the East), which would also help this Commission meet the Mandatory Criteria guideline stating that "protection of minority voting rights are guaranteed in Art. II, § 4 of the Montana Constitution...no district, plan, or proposal for a plain is acceptable if it affords members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice." (42 U.S.C. 1973) Interestingly, CP-12 also would group the superfund sites of Libby and Butte together in one district. I think the only obvious "con" with CP-12 comes from districting Lewis and Clark County in the East, along with Jefferson County, but this CP seems to do the best job at accomplishing the above goals, especially in not dividing counties and maintaining similar community and minority groups in the same districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

**LAUREN O'NEILL** (she/her)  
JURIS DOCTOR CANDIDATE, CLASS OF 2023

**ALEXANDER BLEWETT III SCHOOL OF LAW**

President, American Constitution Society

Core Collective, National Lawyers Guild

Staff, Montana Law Review

ASUM Senator

(619) 961-3286 | [lauren1.oneill@umontana.edu](mailto:lauren1.oneill@umontana.edu)

**From:** [Nancy Ostlie](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In favor of CP 11  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:27:51 PM

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I am strongly in favor of CP 11 and opposed to CP13. CP 13 splits three counties and does not do as good a job in keeping communities of interest intact.

Thank you.  
Nancy Ostlie  
Bozeman MT

**From:** [Tom Palmer](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Congressional Map Proposal 11 & 13  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:47:12 PM

---

Greetings Commissioners & thank you once more for your hard work.

We want to restate our support—and urge your support—for Map Proposal 11. Although, in the spirit of compromise and consensus, we would also support the more recent Map Proposal 13, which would place two Indian Reservations in the Western District.

We also want to state that we are strongly opposed to Map Proposal 12, an ill advised recent entry that would place Lewis & Clark County in the Eastern District. This is a preposterous proposal that would disenfranchise our vote and thousands of others.

Please support and approve Map Proposal 11 or 13.

Under no circumstances should Lewis & Clark County be excluded from the Western District, as Map Proposal 12 seeks to accomplish. We urge you to reject Map Proposal 12.

Sincerely,

Tom & Teri Palmer  
1913 Flowerree Street  
Helena, Montana 59601



**From:** [christine lester](#)  
**To:** [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](#); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](#); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](#); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](#); [Districting](#); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](#)  
**Cc:** [christine lester](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting map-Support CP-12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:27:35 PM

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Chair Smith and Commissioners,

I support map CP-12 because it will keep Flathead County in the Western District it also includes both CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the Western District, allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes in the new Western District. It will also keep Lewis and Clark, Flathead and Gallatin whole, splitting only 1 County.

Thank You for your consideration,  
Evets Peterson  
PO box 330  
Kila, Montana 59920  
406-755-9541

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

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android \[aka.ms\]](#)

**From:** [Linda](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CP12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:28:46 PM

---

Thank you for allowing me to comment. I support CP12.

Sincerely,  
Linda Picchioni  
Carbon County

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robin Pleninger](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:32:53 PM

---

I oppose map 12 because it does not meet the criteria for competitiveness set by the Commission. I support map 11 or 13.

Thank you,

Robin Pleninger  
Ronan, MT

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Edward Radtke  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:01:15 PM

---

From: Edward Radtke [emrmorgans@gmail.com](mailto:emrmorgans@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bigfork. Montana

Message:

Please use Map CP12 for redistricting Montana. This map will give Montana the fairest representation and will keep it equal. Please do not divide Flathead County.

Thank you.

Edward Radtke

--

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: Valerie Radtke  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:56:55 PM

---

From: Valerie Radtke [emrmorgans@gmail.com](mailto:emrmorgans@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bigfork, MT

Message:

Please keep Flathead County in the western district and do not divide our county. I support CP Map 12 as it will best represent our great state of Montana.

Thank you for making an informed decision.

Valerie Radtke

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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: Doyle Vernon Rater  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:10:37 PM

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From: Doyle Vernon Rater rater291182@att.net  
Residence: Helena

Message:

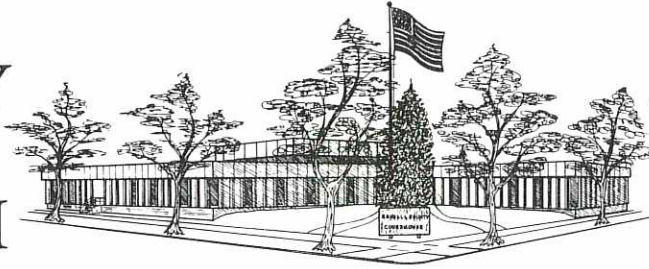
I urge the majority of commissioners to adopt CP12 for the following reasons:

- It keeps Flathead County in the Western District
- It includes both the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the western district allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes.
- It keeps Lewis and Clark, Flathead and Gallatin counties whole.
- It only splits 1 county.

--

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

# COUNTY OF RAVALLI



**Ravalli County Commissioners**  
215 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
406-375-6500 [commissioners@rc.mt.gov](mailto:commissioners@rc.mt.gov)

**To: Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission**

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

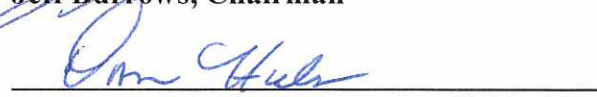
Dear Commissioners,


On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we held a public meeting to discuss the nine maps put forth by The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and sent you a letter. We determined at that time that Map CP1 most closely meets the constitutional requirements of population deviation and being compact & contiguous. We understand that you are now only considering two other maps, CP11 and CP12. As a county west of the Continental Divide, we deal with forest-related issues which different than the the eastern part of the state. Splitting a major partner of our forested counties like Kalispell out of the heart of Flathead County makes no sense to us and CP11 clearly appears to be drawn for a completely political purpose. While we still would like Map CP-1, of the two remaining CP12 appears to meet the criteria in the Constitution, State Law, and your own established goals better that CP11. It is our understanding that of the four past US House races, CP12 would have had 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans winning in the Western District. That certainly seems competitive to us.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed maps.

Ravalli County Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Burrows, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Huls, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Chilcott, Member

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debra L Ray  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:12:19 PM

---

From: Debra L Ray [dlay@midrivers.com](mailto:dlay@midrivers.com)  
Residence: Roundup MT

Message:  
I am in support of CP12.

--

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: Suart Reynolds  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:25:52 PM

---

From: Suart Reynolds [stuinmt@mtintouch.net](mailto:stuinmt@mtintouch.net)  
Residence: Havre

Message:

I support CP12 with reservations. The concern is the Gerrymandering Gallatin Co. into the western district, in light of the fact that the County is otherwise orientated to the East.

--

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: Barbara Ridgway  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:41:22 PM

---

From: Barbara Ridgway [baridgway@bresnan.net](mailto:baridgway@bresnan.net)  
Residence: Clancy, MT

Message:  
Chair Smith and Commission Members,

It is disappointing, to say the least, that the agreed upon process for redistributing has been amended at the 11th hour by the Chair.

The addition of two maps and the extension of the comment period violates the Chair's own stated process and deadline.

Further, Map 12 violates the committee's own guidelines stating maps should not favor a political party. Map 12 is clearly a blatant attempt to split union workers and diminish their ability to provide decent benefits, wages and working conditions for our friends and neighbors. Proposal/ map 12 creates a district where Republicans have won over 75% of statewide elections in the last 8 years. This is not a competitive district and clearly violates the Commission's stated goal of not favoring one political party.

As a third generation Montanan I know we can do better.

I urge you to support Map 11 which meets the Commission's own established protocols.

Respectfully,  
Barbara Ridgway

--

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: Wanda Rumley  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:07:51 PM

---

From: Wanda Rumley wrumley52@gmail.com  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please select Map 11 that keeps Lewis and Clark County in the same district.

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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: Kelli Schermerhorn  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:36:12 PM

---

From: Kelli Schermerhorn [kelli.schermerhorn@gmail.com](mailto:kelli.schermerhorn@gmail.com)

Residence: Butte, MT

Message:

I am in support of proposed maps 8 and 9. Montana is a changing place. The larger metropolitan areas in the SW of the state need continued representation rather than bifurcation if we are going to drive economic growth the in the state.

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mary Ellen Schnur  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:57:17 PM

---

From: Mary Ellen Schnur [schnur.family7@gmail.com](mailto:schnur.family7@gmail.com)  
Residence: Townsend, MT

Message:

I think it is important to have the Blackfeet and Flathead reservations in the same congressional district. They have previously been together in a legislative district. I cringe at the thought of dividing counties into different congressional districts. I therefore prefer proposal #12. The only county divided is Pondera County, which is not ideal; but at least it's mostly divided by the reservation boundary. Both reservations are in the same district. On a note closer to home, I am glad to see Jefferson County included in the same district as Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties, since many economic and social services are shared by these three counties.

Thank you very much for all your hard work and time spent on this complex issue!

--

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: Gary schwartz  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:24:39 PM

---

From: Gary schwartz flyboy5959@yahoo.com  
Residence: Missoula montana

Message:

Dividing counties smacks of gerrymandering. The fairest for all solution is to start at one of the four corners of montana and go up or down include whole counties and whole Indian reservation. When you get to the last county that tips the scales give that county to the east. The west is growing faster

--

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

**From:** [Dale Seifert](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CD12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:04:28 PM

---

I tried to load this on your interactive map but It was getting locked up on processing.

I am a County Commissioner in Pondera County.

CP12 looks like the best map for the division of the state, however, it does divide some of our local precincts between District 1 and 2 which would make it difficult for the clerk and recorder at election time.

This is my suggestion in order of preference.

- 1) Precinct 20 goes to District 1 and the remainder of Pondera County goes to District 2
- 2) Precinct 20 and 23 go to District 1 and the remainder of Pondera County goes to District 2
- 3) Precinct 20 and 35 go to District 1 and the remainder of Pondera County goes to District 2
- 4) Precincts 20, 23, and 35 go to District 1, and the remainder of Pondera County goes to District 2

Thank you for your difficult work.

Dale Seifert

2650 Bullhead Rd.

Conrad, Mt 59425

(406) 289-0337

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathy Serrat  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:00:49 PM

---

From: Kathy Serrat [edandkathyserrat@gmail.com](mailto:edandkathyserrat@gmail.com)  
Residence: Red Lodge

Message:  
Major Points:

I support Map CP12 because:

- it keeps Flathead County in the Western District
- It includes both the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the Western District, allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes in the new western district
- it keeps Lewis and Clark, Flathead and Gallatin counties whole
- it only splits 1 county
- I don't like cp11 because it puts most of Flathead county in the east.
- CP11 is not in the best interest of Montanans. I don't support it
- CP13 splits too many counties
- keep Lewis and Clark county whole

--

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



**From:** [Amber Sherrill](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Proposal 13  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:33:54 PM

---

I am writing to voice my support for the redistricting proposal number 13. This seems like a fair division of our more populous areas.

Thanks,  
Amber

**From:** [Trudy Skari](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:42:52 PM

---

In Montana we have a system that allows for a fair and balanced equally represented bi-partisan commission to draw up our districts.

We are lucky in that it is designed to give all voters an opportunity to live in a competitive district.

In that vein, I find that map 13 appears to be the most equitable representation of voter diversity.

This map is doing the job of setting districts up as competitive as the act to form the commission set out.

It is clear that the main focus of maps 11 and 13 are formulated to fair representation. No district is completely secure for any given party win.

Map 13 demonstrates the strength of at least having the input of two Reservations, representing four Tribes. Of a balance of Agriculture, forestry and urban and rural issues of concern of voters, higher education, and natural resources.

Please make your decisions based on what is best for Montana, not simply seeing this map as a way to gain a one party rule.

Please support Map 13. This state has a long history of people serving in elected positions who have come from both parties who have looked to what is best for the citizens of this state. We need to clear the way for the next generation of states-persons to do their best for this treasure we call Montana.

Lets move forward with a clear vision that there is room for allure and a competitive district is important to achieving the best representation we can.

Thank You  
Trudy

P.S. I want to report I am sickened to receive many social media prompts accusing the Democrats of Gerrymandering. Before the decision is even complete.

We need a clear mind, and long view vision in making this important decision, stirring up fear and letting that rule the discussion is not in the best interest of our state.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Justin Sliter  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:55:33 PM

---

From: Justin Sliter [JSliter@js-cpa.com](mailto:JSliter@js-cpa.com)  
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

CP 12 is the clear choice. It doesn't split any counties, except Pondera where the achieved goal is including the entire Blackfeet Reservation in the west.

--

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: Dal Smilie  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:44:04 PM

---

From: Dal Smilie [dalsmolie@sol.com](mailto:dalsmolie@sol.com)  
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

When MT had two congressional districts Helena was in the West. It fits better there and allows the chance of competition which best serves Montana and constituents in the end. It just seems to unduly gerrymander Montana to put Helena in the East where it does not culturally fit as well

--

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: Christian Arthur Smith  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:04:51 PM

---

From: Christian Arthur Smith [cldsmith@msn.com](mailto:cldsmith@msn.com)  
Residence: Helena

Message:

There is no rational basis for placing Helena in the eastern district other than a blatant attempt to gerrymander the two districts to favor the Republican Party in direct contravention to the Montana Constitution. Helena and the remainder of Lewis and Clark County are economically and socially tied to western Montana and belong in a district with the other western Montana counties. CP 11 is the only proposal that meets the legitimate requirements for districting and apportionment. Please adopt CP 11 as the final map.

--

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

**From:** [Thompson Smith](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: revised comment on redistricting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:05:01 PM

---

Dear Redistricting Commission,

I realize now that the comment I submitted on October 31 contained one error. I did not realize that Map 13 does in fact include Helena in the western district. That removes one of the few reservations I had about map 13 and only increases my support for it. I am including my full amended statement below. Again, I strongly support map 13.

Respectfully,

Thompson Smith  
53950 Marsh Creek Rd  
Charlo, MT 59824  
406-396-5479  
[thompsonsmith@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsmith@gmail.com)

Nov. 3, 2021

Dear Montana Redistricting Commission,

Since the Commission decided yesterday, October 30, to continue deliberations, I am submitting this revision of my previous comments. I believe there was some confusion due to the last-minute submission of new compromise maps from both Republican and Democratic members of the Commission.

First, I will reiterate my thanks to all of you for your service and your citizenship, and for this opportunity to submit comments.

I have been a resident of Lake County and the Flathead Indian Reservation for 38 years. I served as a governor-appointed member of the Flathead Basin Commission for 3 terms, 12 years, from 2005 to 2017, including several years as chair.

I am writing to urge you to support redistricting map 13. I believe it is the fairest of the options still under consideration and would best ensure proper representation of Montanans in Congress.

Many of the comments from participants in the hearing yesterday stressed the need of the Commission to follow the law in making your decision, but some were not acknowledging that part of the difficulty you face is that the laws call on you to draw the lines in consideration of a number of factors which can pull you in different directions.

There was little mention of one of the most important of those laws, even though it is noted on the website of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission: 42 USC 1973, which states that no district, plan, or proposal for a plan is acceptable if it affords members of a racial or language minority group “less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.” In addition, as your website also notes, the Commission must consider “communities of interest.”

In Montana, the “racial or language minority groups” of primary concern, acknowledged in our state Constitution, are our Indigenous citizens and communities. They are also groups that have historically been underrepresented. In the political process that non-Indians imposed upon Indigenous communities, they have been harmed more often than given voice over the past 132 years.

When we are drawing lines in regard to these provisions and mandates as they affect Indigenous people in Montana, it is therefore appropriate that we give careful consideration to the comments from representatives of those communities.

The sole Indigenous testimony, to my knowledge, at the October 30 hearing was from Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Due to time limits she was not able to complete her testimony, which would have clarified, as is stated in her full written testimony, that her preference is for map 13. (I will note here that while I am submitting my comments as a private citizen, I work as a historian and geographer for the CSKT.)

Ms. Fyant noted in particular that both of the districts should include at least two Tribal nations, something that is accomplished by map 13, which includes both the Blackfeet and Flathead Reservations.

It is worth noting that the CSKT and Blackfeet not only work closely together

on many issues, but have also been intermarried for many years, with many families now closely related. This was recently shown in powerful ways when our state mourned the passing of Blackfeet Chief Earl Old Person. One of his great-grandsons is Vance Homegun, who is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, one of the ablest young learners of the endangered Salish language, and a teacher at the Newsum Salish Immersion school in Arlee. When Chief Old Person's body was transported from the funeral home in St. Ignatius to Browning for the funeral services, many members of the CSKT showed their respect for the Blackfeet leader by standing in silent tribute along Highway 93 as the hearse — led by law enforcement vehicles of both the CSKT and Blackfeet — passed through St. Ignatius, Ronan, Pablo, and Polson. In a sense, the people of the CSKT were showing the same respect that Mr. Old Person had shown to the Salish community five years before, when renowned elder Louie Adams passed away and Mr. Old Person drove to Arlee to deliver a stirring eulogy in the jam-packed community center.

All of which reinforces our understanding that the Flathead and Blackfeet reservations indeed constitute a “community of interest,” and that both should be included in the western congressional district.

Map 13 also satisfies the two main concerns raised by many Flathead County residents at the hearing: that Flathead County not be split or attached to eastern Montana, and that the laws are followed.

As former chair of the Flathead Basin Commission, I would also note that map 13 has geographic coherence, as is also called for in Montana law, by encompassing the totality of the Flathead drainage system within Montana.

In fairness, we should all note that many aspects of our political and cultural geography straddle the Continental Divide, and this poses special challenges for the Commission. Every one of the maps crosses the divide, including map 13; but map 13 does so in way that accords with the strongly expressed wishes of many residents of Helena, who have noted their cultural and economic affinity with the communities just to the west, particularly Butte-Anaconda-Deer Lodge.

The same is true of Glacier County. It encompasses the east side of Glacier National Park, which for 111 years has defined and protected the “Crown of the Continent,” a world-renowned symbol of how both the environmental



and cultural identity of this part of the world span the Divide. Indeed, during my time on the Flathead Basin Commission, we expended considerable resources in working with the Blackfeet Nation to protect the Flathead Basin through the establishment in Browning of a check station for aquatic invasive species — a check station that guarded the eastern gate to the Flathead system.

For all these reasons, it is clear that map 13 makes sense, and is the best and fairest of the available options.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of my comments, and again for your dedicated service to Montana.

Respectfully,

Thompson Smith  
53950 Marsh Creek Rd  
Charlo, MT 59824  
406-396-5479  
[thompsonsmith@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsmith@gmail.com)

On Sun, Oct 31, 2021 at 4:40 PM Thompson Smith  
<[thompsonsmith@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsmith@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Montana Redistricting Commission,

Since the Commission decided yesterday, October 30, to continue deliberations, I am submitting this revision of my previous comments. I believe there was some confusion due to the last-minute submission of new compromise maps from both Republican and Democratic members of the Commission.

First, I will reiterate my thanks to all of you for your service and your citizenship, and for this opportunity to submit comments.

I have been a resident of Lake County and the Flathead Indian Reservation for 38 years. I served as a governor-appointed member of the Flathead Basin Commission for 3 terms, 12 years, from 2005 to 2017, including several years as chair.

I am writing to urge you to support redistricting map 13. I believe it is the

fairest of the options still under consideration and would best ensure proper representation of Montanans in Congress.

Many of the comments from participants in the hearing yesterday stressed the need of the Commission to follow the law in making your decision, but some were not acknowledging that part of the difficulty you face is that the laws call on you to draw the lines in consideration of a number of factors which can pull you in different directions.

There was little mention of one of the most important of those laws, even though it is noted on the website of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission: 42 USC 1973, which states that no district, plan, or proposal for a plan is acceptable if it affords members of a racial or language minority group “less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.” In addition, as your website also notes, the Commission must consider “communities of interest.”

In Montana, the “racial or language minority groups” of primary concern, acknowledged in our state Constitution, are our Indigenous citizens and communities. They are also groups that have historically been underrepresented. In the political process that non-Indians imposed upon Indigenous communities, they have been harmed more often than given voice over the past 132 years.

When we are drawing lines in regard to these provisions and mandates as they affect Indigenous people in Montana, it is therefore appropriate that we give careful consideration to the comments from representatives of those communities.

The sole Indigenous testimony, to my knowledge, at the October 30 hearing was from Shelly Fyant, Chairwoman of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Due to time limits she was not able to complete her testimony, which would have clarified, as is stated in her full written testimony, that her preference is for map 13. (I will note here that while I am submitting my comments as a private citizen, I work as a historian and geographer for the CSKT.)

Ms. Fyant noted in particular that both of the districts should include at least two Tribal nations, something that is accomplished by map 13, which includes both the Blackfeet and Flathead Reservations.

It is worth noting that the CSKT and Blackfeet not only work closely together on many issues, but have also been intermarried for many years, with many families now closely related. This was recently shown in powerful ways when our state mourned the passing of Blackfeet Chief Earl Old Person. One of his great-grandsons is Vance Homegun, who is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, one of the ablest young learners of the endangered Salish language, and a teacher at the Nkwusm Salish Immersion school in Arlee. When Chief Old Person's body was transported from the funeral home in St. Ignatius to Browning for the funeral services, many members of the CSKT showed their respect for the Blackfeet leader by standing in silent tribute along Highway 93 as the hearse — led by law enforcement vehicles of both the CSKT and Blackfeet — passed through St. Ignatius, Ronan, Pablo, and Polson. In a sense, the people of the CSKT were showing the same respect that Mr. Old Person had shown to the Salish community five years before, when renowned elder Louie Adams passed away and Mr. Old Person drove to Arlee to deliver a stirring eulogy in the jam-packed community center.

All of which reinforces our understanding that the Flathead and Blackfeet reservations indeed constitute a “community of interest,” and that both should be included in the western congressional district.

Map 13 also satisfies the two main concerns raised by many Flathead County residents at the hearing: that Flathead County not be split or attached to eastern Montana, and that the laws are followed.

As former chair of the Flathead Basin Commission, I would also note that map 13 has geographic coherence, as is also called for in Montana law, by encompassing the totality of the Flathead drainage system within Montana.

In fairness, we should all note that many aspects of our political and cultural geography straddle the Continental Divide, and this poses special challenges for the Commission. Every one of the maps has certain unfortunate lines in this respect, including map 13; as the testimony of many residents of Helena noted, their affinity is far more with Butte-Anaconda-Deer Lodge than with places to the east.

However, the same is true of Glacier County. It encompasses the east

side of Glacier National Park, which for 111 years has defined and protected the “Crown of the Continent,” a world-renowned symbol of how both the environmental and cultural identity of this part of the world span the Divide. Indeed, during my time on the Flathead Basin Commission, we expended considerable resources in working with the Blackfeet Nation to protect the Flathead Basin through the establishment in Browning of a check station for aquatic invasive species — a check station that guarded the eastern gate to the Flathead system.

For all these reasons, it is clear that map 13 makes sense, and is the best and fairest of the available options.

Thanks in advance for your consideration of my comments, and again for your dedicated service to Montana.

Respectfully,

Thompson Smith  
53950 Marsh Creek Rd  
Charlo, MT 59824  
406-396-5479  
[thompsonsmith@gmail.com](mailto:thompsonsmith@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Richard Smith  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:38:33 PM

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From: Richard Smith [richard@missoulapt.com](mailto:richard@missoulapt.com)  
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Hi. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

After reviewing many of the maps you have proposed over the past few weeks, if it comes down to choosing between map 11 and map 12, I support map 11. The primary difference I see is that, map 11 will provide at least some competitiveness in the Western district. Eastern district will always go conservative. The democrats need to have at least some chance of winning an election, and if a district is competitive, then there will be a good race, and the better candidate will win. Thanks, again.

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

**From:** [Tait Sougstad](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opinion on CP 12  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:06:35 PM

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Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

How strange that Whitehall and Cardwell would be in the eastern district, while Bozeman and Butte are in the western. The best district boundaries run through rural areas and center on the civic and economic hubs of the region. This district break is a result of the unfortunate shape of Jefferson County, which breaks along a ridgeline on one side, and then the river bottom on another, and artificially separates these small towns from their surrounding communities, where someone can work and shop in one congressional district and live in another.

If we are going to break a county line somewhere, this would be a place to do it, with plenty of rural country to run through, and natural ways to connect the southern portion with its regional hubs (Butte, Bozeman) and the northern with its own (Helena).

Best Regards,

Tait Sougstad  
Billings, Montana

Ps. I tried to submit this comment on the interactive map on 11/3/21 around noon, but after clicking "Add Comment", the button text changed to "Processing" and never resolved. I tried several times, but it never worked, and I never saw a new pin in the map, so I submitted it to this email address.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Amy Stadel  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:09:53 PM

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From: Amy Stadel haleesmom95@yahoo.com  
Residence: Columbus, MT

Message:  
Proposal 10 would be the best for 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: Kyle Stadel  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 2:07:39 PM

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From: Kyle Stadel [kstadel@yahoo.com](mailto:kstadel@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Columbus, Montana

Message:  
I believe proposal 10 makes the most sense. Thank you

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



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Scott Sweeney  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:54:09 PM

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From: Scott Sweeney [fcscotts@gmail.com](mailto:fcscotts@gmail.com)  
Residence: Lewistown Montana

Message:

Dear Commission members,

I believe it is most important to to keep the western congressional district competitive. I support map 13. It is competitive between our 2 political parties and it includes 2 reservations in the west.

Thank you,  
Scott Sweeney

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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: Adam Switalski  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:17:35 PM

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From: Adam Switalski [aswit@hotmail.com](mailto:aswit@hotmail.com)  
Residence: MISSOULA

Message:

I support version 11 and 13 which appear to be the most fair and competitive. These maps would group parts of the state that have similar economies and interests. Please put politics aside and choose districts that would better represent the people of 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:** [Kenneth Taylor](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Competitive Districts  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:52:18 PM

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Fair and free elections and representation require competitive Districts.

If there is not a way for equity in representation, conflict and animosity will increasingly define our politics.

There should never be a partisan guarantee when it comes to drawing districts. This is the definition of gerrymandering.

This axiomatic in any representative government. It is fundamental when talking about popular sovereignty.

Kenneth C. Taylor  
Helena, Montana

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lori Tuck  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:01:18 PM

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From: Lori Tuck [lori.tuck.15@gmail.com](mailto:lori.tuck.15@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Dear Commissioners,

I am in favor and want you to vote for redistricting Map 11. I have various reasons why, but mostly I think Park and Gallatin Counties should be in one district. The counties' economies are intertwined as many folks commute from Livingston to Bozeman for work. Having one representative for these two counties is just common sense.

Thank you,

Lori Tuck  
Bozeman

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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: Diedre Turner  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 1:18:39 PM

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From: Diedre Turner [djturner46@yahoo.com](mailto:djturner46@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please consider either map #11 or map #13 when deciding the as these are the most fair maps. It looks to me as though map #12 (thrown together as a compromise?) is not a compromise. It's as unfair as Map #10. Map #12 surely attempts to split unions voting rights, and we all know that unions make for better working conditions, wages, benefits and community for all workers. Further, map #12 separates Helena and Jefferson County from Butte. As a Helena resident, I've always considered these communities as one since we all share the same economic and cultural values. Maps #11 and #13 are far more equitable congressional districts. Please accept what is FAIR. Not what will divide this state further than it already is.

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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: Glen Wall  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:50:41 PM

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From: Glen Wall [gwall@bresnan.net](mailto:gwall@bresnan.net)

Residence: Helena

Message:

I support map 10. This is the map that would give all Montanas a voice in our government.

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

**From:** [Kim West](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov); [jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov); [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov); [dan.stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:dan.stusek@mtleg.gov); [kendra.miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:kendra.miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana deserves 2 competitive districts.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:40:51 PM

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The minimum Montanan's should be offered for the next 10 years is at least 1 competitive district. "A competitive district is one where no party is favored, meaning candidates have to appeal to a broad swath of voters - leading to more responsive leaders and a healthier democracy."

I believe that maps 11 and 13 are the only maps that even come close to offering competition.

As a resident of Livingston (Park County), I would also like to see a map that ensures Park and Gallatin counties are kept within the same district. Livingston plays a vital role in the greater Gallatin economy and would be best represented in Maps 11 and 13.

I oppose Map 12 which will not create ANY competitive districts, in fact it intentionally favors 1 political party, the Republican party for both districts.

Thank you,  
Kim West  
Livingston MT 59047  
406-222-3263

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Daniel P Wetstein  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:55:54 PM

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From: Daniel P Wetstein [dpwetstein@gmail.com](mailto:dpwetstein@gmail.com)  
Residence: BOZEMAN, MT

Message:

CP13 is really pretty rough on Lewis/Clark and Gallatin Counties. I'd still prefer CP11, but CP13 can be certainly more workable and representative than CP12. Given the compromise that has take place to move forward, I can support both CP11 and CP13 as options. Thank you for all your work on this issue ... so important for us as a state.

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