

Public Comments: S-Z

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between midnight on November 3, 2021, and 5 pm on
November 7

Distributed electronically November 7, 2021

From: [Scott Samuels](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 5:30:56 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I have lived, worked and raised a family in Missoula since 1990.

I support map 11, which is more competitive and does not favor either of the major political parties.

I really appreciate your time and effort serving our great state.

Regards,
Scott Samuels
510 Arbor St
Missoula, MT 59802

From: [Mark Savinski](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps Comments
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:24:50 AM

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

Please consider this email as voicing strong support for proposed redistricting maps #11 and/or #13. These proposed maps are the most fair and competitive of the four choices being currently considered. These maps keep with the Redistricting Commissions goals of not unduly favoring one political party over the other and establishing Congressional Districts that are competitive. Maps #10 and #12 DO NOT meet the aforementioned goals. Both maps #10 and #12 are biased and unfair, with Map #12 being the most egregious. My reasons for strongly opposing map #12 are as follows:

1. Map #12 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 is simply UNFAIR and NOT COMPETITIVE! Intentionally drawing both districts to heavily favor the Republican Party plainly violates the Commission's goal of not unduly favoring one political party over the other.
2. Republicans won every single statewide election in both of these districts on Map #12. There were 8 statewide races in 2020 and Republicans won all of them in both districts. This is clearly not meeting even a basic definition of competitiveness that the Commission adopted as a goal.
3. Map #12 separates Butte from Jefferson County. People commute from Jefferson County into Butte every single day, and it makes no sense at all to separate the two communities.
4. Map #12 also slices off Park County from Gallatin County. Livingston is a vital part of the greater Gallatin County regional economy, and their interests will be greatly diminished or ignored in this proposed version of District 2.
5. Map #12 splits a small rural county, ensuring that its voters will be pretty much ignored by both Congresspersons. County splits should respect communities of like interest and larger counties have distinct communities of interest within them that can be split more logically (if at all), so that real representation can be ensured for the communities divided within a county.
6. This plan intentionally splits the union vote in District 2 in Montana to separate workers who have joined together for more equitable workplace standards. Separating Helena union workers from their brothers and sisters in Butte, Anaconda, and Deer Lodge is again BLATANTLY UNFAIR and is simply BAD POLICY.
7. Map # 12 ensures that rural voices can never carry the day in either of the two Congressional Districts. Montana's largest urban areas are split between the two districts, meaning that rural Montanans can never elect a Congress person of their choice.

Thank you in advance for taking my comments into consideration. Again, I strongly support either maps #s 11 and 13 and strongly oppose maps #s 10 and 12. The overall objective and goal should be fairness and competitiveness, since the revised Congressional District maps will be in effect for the next 10 years!

Sincerely,

Mark T. Savinski
25 Sundowner Road, Sheridan, MT 59749
Phone: 406-843-5389.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bethany L Schatzke
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:36:13 AM

From: Bethany L Schatzke bethany.schatzke@gmail.com
Residence: BILLINGS

Message:

In July 2021, this Commission *unanimously* adopted criteria and goals that included adopting competitive districts when possible so as to not unduly favor a political party. Map 12 is NOT competitive. Let voters have the final say in their representation. It shouldn't be decided for us. Please do not select 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: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] please keep Helena and Butte together
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 10:37:22 AM

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

From: Hal Schmid <hschmid@montana.com>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Maylinn Smith <maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov>; Jeff Essman <jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov>; Joe Lamson <Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov>; Kendra Miller <kendra.miller@mtleg.gov>; Dan Stusek <dan.stusek@mtleg.gov>;
Districting <districting@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] please keep Helena and Butte together

Chairwoman Smith and Commissioners Essman, Lamson, Miller, and Stusek:

Xest skwekwst. Good morning.

As you work together to generate a final congressional district map, please try to find a way to keep Butte and Helena both in the west.

I want to thank you all so very much for your diligence and hard work. I remember being curious in the early 1970s as to why the state would need to form a constitutional convention in Helena. But over the years I have been so impressed with the product of that effort, our 1972 state constitution, and all it has done to support a healthy environment and promote excellence and social justice in our public schools. Witnessing the creation and implementation of a nonpartisan districting and apportionment commission now joins the list.

But please keep Butte and Helena together. Over the past several years, I have come to see Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, and Big Fork as even more of a disintegrating community than the disparate communities there were in my youth when I spent summers in the Flathead Valley playing Legion baseball and recreating at the many lakes across the area. I have now chosen to avoid supporting businesses in Flathead County because Flathead County seems such a very unhealthy place with an ugly anti-community climate. However, I also realize that dividing the Flathead Valley in the districting process would draw lawsuits, and would be difficult to defend, given the geography.

On the other hand, I have seen how the communities of Bozeman and Livingston have grown closer and more community-minded over the years. Around fifteen years ago, I realized Bozeman was much like the Missoula of my youth. But Bozeman has continued to move far past that similarity and down its own path.

Helena and Butte, however—these two communities have a long history together that goes back to territorial days, and that relationship is still strong today. So many people with whom I have worked at OPI and in other state agencies, have family and history in both communities. I would hate to see that bond and that history not respected, honored, and supported.

If there is any way you can find to include the greater part of Helena with Silverbow County, I think the state and the nation would benefit. There are so many stresses tearing apart the social and community fabric of this state and this nation right now, and I would love to see the commission take a stand to respect and honor “community” by working to keep Butte and Helena joined in the districting process. There has to be a way to do this. Please work together to make it so.

Lemlmnts. Thank you.

Hal Schmid, Ed.D.
Arlee, Montana

From: [Hal Schmid](#)
To: [Maylinn Smith](#); [Jeff Essman](#); [Joe Lamson](#); [Dan Stusek](#); [Kendra Miller](#); [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Schmid comments for Nov 4
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:13:48 PM

Chairwoman Smith and Commissioners:

I apologize for my poor audio today. My rural location has weak Internet service and it gets worse in the afternoon. Please accept my comments below. I have highlighted in blue the concern that I think was probably not heard on Zoom.

My name is Hal Schmid . . . H-A-L S-C-H-M-I-D

I was born, raised, and educated in Missoula.

I have resided in southern Lake County on the Flathead Indian Reservation for the past 40 years.

I am a staunch long-time Independent voter, and it is issues and candidates that matter to me.

My concern here is the representation of both individuals and communities-of-interest in the chosen map.

To me, [CP 11](#) does the best job of doing this for both District 1 and District 2. CP 12 does not.

While CP 11 is certainly not perfect, CP 11 is therefore my choice.

One thing I have not heard adequately addressed by anyone over the past month is the substantial number of indigenous American Indian voters in urban areas of Montana.

I grew up, attended school with, and played sports with many American Indian students in Missoula

and only much later learned that they and their families were tribal members.

So including at least one tribal nation in each district ensures an advocate body to help lift

those voices too,

in Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Bozeman, and Helena—in both District 1 and District 2.

I do not want our elected representatives to be more attentive to a few party bosses—

whether they be in the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, and whether they be in MT or Washington, DC.—

rather than they are to the constituents in their own district.

So I feel it is critical to maintain intact communities-of-interest.

To me, CP 11 does the best job of keeping communities-of-interest together so that individuals are represented.

I therefore support map CP 11.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Linda schmitt
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:09:15 AM

From: Linda schmitt linda@schmittleslie.com
Residence: Corvallis MT

Message:

It's important to send Representatives to the US House who will be effective at achieving results for Montana. If you choose Map 12, the two MT Representatives are not urban nor rural, but some muddle of both. Their time in the Congress is limited and coalitions are always in flux. We want our Representatives to join forces with colleagues who can adopt simple but strong agendas for their districts. If we send two Representatives who cant focus laser-like on urban or rural issues, we will just get pablum in return. Pick Map 11. Let's give our state a shot at being effective in the national arena.

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

From: [Marcia Schottler](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support redistricting map CP12
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:52:14 AM

1. CP12 keeps Flathead County in the Western District.
2. CP12 includes the Confederated Salish & Kootenia Tribes of the Flathead Res. & Blackfeet Res. This gives them a stronger voice in the Western District.
3. CP12 maintains continuity with Lewis & Clark, Flathead and Gallatin counties by keeping them all intact.
4. CP12 splits only 1 county.
5. I strongly oppose CP11. It puts most of Flathead County in the Eastern District.
6. CP11 is not in the best interest of Montanans. Therefore, in good faith I cannot support it.
7. CP13 splits too many counties and will create mass confusion.
8. CP12 Keeps Lewis and Clark County as a whole. This makes good sense to me.

Thank you for considering my opinion I believe my reasons for support are sound and logical.

Respectfully,

Marcy Schottler
3365 Pine Hills Dr
Helena, MT 59602

From: boxcanyon15@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jeff Schultz](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]I do not support CP10 and CP12
Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 9:52:57 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I respectfully ask that you reject these maps. These are not, have not been, negotiated in good faith. They do not even adhere to your OWN parameters.

Please do the right thing and bring us fair district maps for all citizens of Montana, now and in the future.

Jeff Schultz
Belgrade, MT

Sincerely,
Jeff Schultz
211 N Davis St Belgrade, MT 59714-3820
boxcanyon15@aol.com

From: ccscott@tutanota.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 3:41:46 PM

I am in favor of [map]CP12 for redistricting.
Thank You,
David Scott

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Sent with Tutanota, the secure & ad-free mailbox.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: paul shefelbine
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:28:45 PM

From: paul shefelbine campmont12@yahoo.com
Residence: butte

Message:

I am very disappointed you choose map 12. This choice does not meet the original requirements YOU set forth when this process was started. Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater and park counties intuitively belong with the rest of the western district. Not only does this reflect common sense it gives both parties a fair chance at getting their candidate elected during any given election. Map 12 favors republicans. With the other district already favored by republicans now Montana will have both districts favored by republicans. I am an independent and vote for the candidate that cares best about Montana. However, map 12 makes it very likely that when I choose a democrat candidate that candidate will never be elected. Map 11 was not a real good choice either but at least it sort of met your original mandate.

You did not do a good job.

Respectfully,

paul

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

Redistricting Commission members,

I am very disappointed to hear that the commission is pushing forward map #12 for the future two districts instead of map #11 which - hat map #12 allows the *GOP* to control our state for years to come. Although our state is 40-45% Democratic, map #12 does not reflect this, but weighs heavily Republican. Also, concerns of the tribes were ignored in map #12.

Montanans used to be termed the most independent voters in the country since we have, in the past voted split tickets based on the person running for the office (not party affiliation). It would be a shame to lose that freedom of choosing the best option for Montana because of a district line.

I hope that you reconsider your approval of map #12 for the sake of all Montanans and approve map #11 instead.

Thank you for your hard work.

gonnie siebel, 609 n.montana ave, bozeman 59715

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jeff M Sillick
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 6:05:01 PM

From: Jeff M Sillick jsillick@mt.net
Residence: Helena

Message:

Although I appreciate the work performed by the Commission to-date, I must object to the selection of Map 12. The map simply does not meet the criteria the Commission agreed to at the beginning of the process. Map 12 does not keep communities-of-interest together and it most certainly does not create a competitive district in the west.

I ask respectfully the Commission abandon Map 12 and reconsider this selection. I believe Map 11 is the best map that meets the Commissions criteria and helps ensure all interests are represented throughout our great state.

Thank you for considering my input.

Jeff Sillick

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Simmons
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 12:21:20 PM

From: Patricia Simmons psimmons100@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

I am outraged at the Chair of the Redistricting Committee – she is obviously biased and selected the Republican map as a result. CP12 is terrible for citizens of Montana, especially Democrats or other non-Republican parties, is not competitive and so for 10 years, all of us Democrats have no chance at winning a Congress person representing the modern world – believing in science, health & safety, protecting our planet affected NOW from climate change, supporting all races and genders and identities and religious beliefs, investing in our country from the bottom up for education, transportation, housing, healthcare, infrastructure, etc. Republicans support wealthy people and businesses, no fairness, only White old males and conspiracy theories and spew out lies to the vulnerable people.

You didn't obviously review the hundreds of comments submitted, including mine that support CP-11. You didn't listen to the Indian tribes and you eliminated their chance at having a voice. You were cowered at Ex Governor Racicot's testimony, a Republican who doesn't live and work in Montana. Ex-Senator Baucus is a traitor.

You had better reconsider, amend and come up with solutions that are not just the exact population. That is stupid and not dealing with the thousands of different types of people who live in places all over the State, from big to small, from rural to urban, many different professions and jobs. You can be close in population with being under 1,000 people; people are moving into Gallatin County and a few other places by the hundreds from in and out of state, so the numbers you are using now will change enormously over the next 10 years. You must make the district competitive for conservative, moderate and progressive citizens and Tribal reservations. Otherwise you are ruining and gerrymandering Montana. I'm a 43 resident of Gallatin County and I see and know the enormous changes that have occurred over the past years resulting in huge growth, traffic, infrastructure effects, housing costs are unaffordable for our working class citizens and Republicans have taken away our ability to make our County more affordable. Do the right thing, and amend your map and stop cowering to the Republican Party!

Thank you.

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

From: [Michael Sinclair](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reconsider and choose Map 11 instead of Map 12
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:02:57 PM

Map 11 is more fair and just, and produces more competition. I ask you to reconsider and choose Map 11. -- Mike Sinclair, mvsinclair1024@gmail.com

From: [Jerry Slatter](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Map
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:18:31 PM

Hello,

This message is in support of the CP12 districting map.

Jerald Slatter
P.O. Box 1963
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

From: maryannwellbank@aol.com
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose Proposal 12; Support Proposal 13
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 2:21:57 PM

Dear Commissioners:

As stated on the Commission's website, "Each and every Montanan is entitled to an equal voice in the halls of the U.S. Congress and under the dome of the state Capitol in Helena. This is where that promise is kept." However, Proposal 12, does not keep that promise. In fact, it assures that Montana will continue to be dominated by Republican perspectives and lawmakers.

I live in Clancy Montana, just south of Helena. Clancy, like Helena, suddenly finds itself in the Eastern District, although we are located in the western portion of the state and have more in common with other western communities.

An examination of voting patterns over the last decade shows that the proposed split would favor Republicans, defying the Commission's objective of not unduly favoring a political party. On the other hand, Proposal 13 more fairly splits the districts and promotes competition between the parties.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment. I urge you to reconsider the Commission's preference for Proposal 12 and instead adopt Proposal 13, a much more impartial apportionment of the districts that would promote, rather than impede, competition and provide better options and fair elections for all Montanans.

Mary Ann Wellbank Smietanka

110 Rock Ridge Drive

Clancy, MT 59634

From: [DEIDRE SMITH](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 1:10:24 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Deidre Smith. I am native to Montana for 54 years. I have been living in Helena MT for the last 31 years.

I want Map 11 .

It doesn't favor either party and makes for competitive race.

Thank you for taking your time and your consideration.

Regards,
DEIDRE SMITH
1108 Butte Ave
Helena, MT 59601

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Edwin Smith
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 9:42:22 AM

From: Edwin Smith edws1971@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

Map 12 adopted by three members of the commission is not competitive. Maylinn Smith, who requested input from the tribes of Montana, ignored their recommendation

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Edwin Smith
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 9:52:43 AM

From: Edwin Smith edws1971@gmail.com

Residence: Helena, Mintana

Message:

The map adopted by three members of the commission is not competitive. Maylinn Smith, requested input from the tribes of Montana and then ignored their recommendation to ensure a truly competitive district that was available in other proposals.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Smith
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 2:47:11 PM

From: Elizabeth Smith mtliz50@yahoo.com
Residence: Miles City

Message:
We want it to be fair! Thank you Republicans.

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

From: [Maggie Smith](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Map 12
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:46:03 AM

Dear Congressional Districting Commission,

I know today is the final vote of the new congressional map for our state. I've been following the progression of this process and as a member of the public I want to make my voice heard for the CP 11 map. Map CP 12 does NOT fulfill the criterion and goals that you all unanimously adopted in July of this year. CP 11 divides up Gallatin county in a way that creates non-competitive zones and political bias.

As a member of this commission, your job is no easy task. This map will undoubtedly affect the future of our state and the future for our children, our resources, and our wildplaces. So I urge you to be fair and just and to listen to the public's concerns over Map 12 and put them above your own personal political interests.

Thank you for your time,



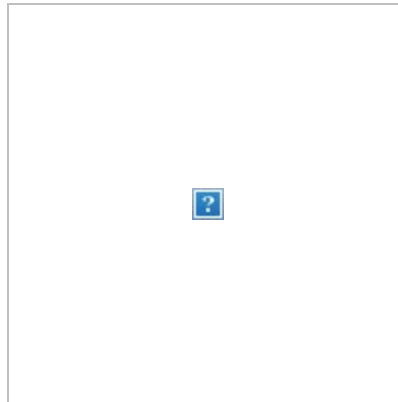
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Mary Margaret Smith

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[\[themeateater.com\]](#)

From: [Vicki Snider](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 5:04:14 AM

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

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathleen Snodgrass
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:57:10 AM

From: Kathleen Snodgrass kippie_snodgrass@hotmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I think both maps 12 and 13 are better than any of the previous versions because they do a better job of keeping communities with similar interests, businesses, etc. together. And they are closer to a north-south line. I prefer option 13, even though it does split more counties, because I think it does a better job than 12. However, I wouldn't be mad about either 12 or 13, because you can't get anything perfect in politics, and either would be more-or-less reasonable for Montana.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Suzanne Snow
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:36:08 AM

From: Suzanne Snow 4snowgirls@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

I am writing in support of either CP-11 or CP-13 – neither of which is as good as CP-2. But in contrast to maps 10 and 12 they do a better job of providing a district that represents the ultimate community of interest in Montana – those of us who are moderate, freedom-loving people who value our neighbors, our land, the wide variety that makes Montana unique. We are Republicans, we are Democrats, we are constructive people who want to get things done, with liberty and justice for all.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Annette Sontag
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 10:24:02 PM

From: Annette Sontag amsontag@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I am writing to share my input about Proposal 12 recently proposed as the final redistricting map from the Commission.

Proposal 12 would split Pondera County, move Lewis and Clark County from the west district where it has been historically to the east, split the Native American representation between the two districts which would reduce their influence, and would create two districts which would not be competitive. I oppose Proposal 12 as currently designed for these reasons.

I want to offer the following suggestions to improve Proposal 12 and make it more consistent with the stated objectives of the Commission. First move all of Pondera County, now split between the west and east districts, to the east district. While that would divide a small portion of the Blackfeet Reservation from the rest of the Reservation, it would keep Pondera County whole. Second move Powell County from the west district to the east district, since it shares social, economic, and cultural values with Lewis and Clark County and the counties to the east. Third move Park County from the east district to the west district, since it shares social, economic, and cultural values with Gallatin County and the counties to the west.

The revised Proposal 12 with these changes would not split any counties. This proposal would include most of two Native American reservations in the west district and the remaining reservations in the east district. This proposal would create a reasonably competitive western district, rather than two districts which would be dominated by Republicans and would never be competitive.

These maps will be the basis for our political representation for the next decade and it's important that the maps fairly reflect our communities. Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment.

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

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

From: [Jim Soumas](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 1:01:51 PM

-
Though maps 12 and 13 divide the populations equally, I would vote for map 12 because only one county will be affected by a split.

Thank you for this second opportunity to vote. I hope it is settled soon.

Jim Soumas

From: susie@montana.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] voting districts.
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:59:25 PM

I would like to see map #11 which keeps Gallatin and Park county together- Yellowstone ecosystem and tourism development affect both counties in similar ways. These US fish and wildlife management voices should not be split. This is a fair map population wise and represents a diverse and changing population with Bozeman, Missoula and Whitefish sharing many of the same issues with rising costs, influx of new populations, summer and winter tourism development and their costs to infrastructure and land use.

Thank you very much
Susie Spindler

From: [Beckie Squires](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 6:40:49 PM

The Commission's tentative final plan does not meet the goals the Commission set for itself.

Republicans are favored heavily in both districts, all but ensuring a 2 Republican congressional delegations for the next decade. The plan is drawn to unduly favor a political party, and this Commission is going back on the promise it made when it passed its criteria.

All tribes who spoke up on this critical issue, spoke with one voice. They wanted as many reservations as possible in a competitive district, and now their words are being twisted and used as a justification for a plan that puts every reservation in the state in a district where their Representative can ignore their voices. This is yet another example of Montana's government ignoring tribal voices.

The public record is clear. Proposal 11 had the most public support, yet this Commission is passing a plan with little to no public record behind it. That's wrong for this state.

This plan separates Butte from Helena and Jefferson County, which has the effect of kneecapping the voices of organized labor in this state. This plan makes it harder than ever for the voices of working families to be heard.

The greater Gallatin economy is severed under this plan. Townsend and Livingston belong with Gallatin County in a Congressional district. Our state's future will be increasingly driven by growth in the greater Gallatin economy. Intentionally chopping it up is the wrong decision for Montana.

This Commission should reconsider this tentative plan and adopt a map that meets all of the adopted Commission criteria and goals.

Please don't go back on what you set out to do. Do what gives all Montanans a voice in how this state is run.

Rebecca Squires

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kyle Stadel
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 6:34:01 PM

From: Kyle Stadel kstadel@yahoo.com
Residence: Columbus, Montana

Message:
Map 12 is fine the way it is. 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: [Rebecca Stanton](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Don't approve Map #12 - please.
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 10:27:00 AM

Happy Sunday to you, Districting Commission -

I was disappointed to hear that the commission pushed forward Map #12 as the option for the 2 MT districts. I had hoped that this would actually be a non-partisan decision, and it seems that this map allows the GOP to control our state for the next 10 years. Both of the districts in the map lean heavily Republican. People are even terming it the "Republican" map. Our state is 40-45% Democratic, and this map doesn't reflect that breakdown.

Some additional points:

1. Our tribes' concerns were ignored when Map #12 was put forward.
2. Map 12 gives the GOP a serious electoral advantage and makes it so a Democrat will probably not hold either seat for at least 10 years.
3. 45% of Montanans shouldn't be ignored by the districting commission.

When you review the map, please consider changing it so that the two districts are competitive and that our tribes and 45% of Montanans aren't ignored in the process. Our representatives should be chosen by the people in Montana which means that our district lines shouldn't play a part in deciding an election. Montanans used to be termed the most independent voters in the country since we have, in the past, voted split tickets based on the person running for the office (not party affiliation). It would be a shame to lose that freedom of choosing the best option for us because of a district line.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this project, and I hope that you reconsider approving Map #12 for the sake of all Montanans.

With gratitude for your diligence,

Rebecca Stanton

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patti Steinmuller
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:21:01 PM

From: Patti Steinmuller psteinmul@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I am disheartened by the commission's decision to select map 12 as the tentative final plan. Map 12 fails to meet the goal set by the commission to select a map that does not unduly favor one political party. In this case the Republican party is unduly favored in districts 1 and 2. The shared economic, cultural, transportation, tourism, and other historic interests of Bozeman and Livingston are inextricably tied but separated by this map into two different districts. The shared interests of union families in Helena are separate from those in Butte and Anaconda, a fact which lessens their voice in each district.

From the evidence I have heard and seen, tribal leaders preferred map 11, not map 12. Although map 12 places two of the reservations in the same district, tribal leaders appeared to prefer having the plains reservations in the eastern district and the Blackfeet tribal nation in the western district. I urge you to listen to the tribes for their unique perspective and consider modifications to address their shared interests and culture. Additionally, rural voters throughout the state have less voice in map 12 since the largest cities contain the greatest population in both districts. Finally, I urge you to consider modifications of map 12 to address these concerns and to end with a final map that does not unduly favor one political party.

--

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

From: [Frances Stewart](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reject CP12 as it stands!
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:19:28 PM

Dear Chair and the Montana Districting Committee,

It is disheartening that despite the fact that a vast majority of Montanans, including the Tribes, overwhelmingly favored CP 11 as the only truly competitive map in all your requests for public input, you have ignored the will of the people of Montana and supported CP 12.

Please remember these facts in your final deliberations:

- The Commission asked the public to weigh in on CP 12, and Montanans overwhelmingly disapproved of it
- The Commission ignored the voices of Tribes in moving an uncompetitive map forward
- CP 12 gives Republicans a massive electoral advantage and all but ensures that no Democrat has a chance to hold either seat for the next decade
- Please find a compromise on Tuesday to make CP 12 more competitive so everyone has a voice in our democracy

Remember your responsibility to keep Montana a place where every voice is heard.

Frances Stewart, homeowner and full-time resident
Livingston, MT. 59047

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Don R Stone
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:17:29 AM

From: Don R Stone donrichardstone@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I urge the commission to support maps 11 and 13 and oppose map #12.
Don Stone

--

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: Don R Stone
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:14:16 AM

From: Don R Stone donrichardstone@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I urge the commission to support maps 11 and 13 and oppose map #12.
Don Stone

--

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

From: [Stephen Straley](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting map
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:32:19 AM

Please select Map proposal 11 as the new redistricting map for the state of MT. This map provides the greatest balance of voices for people in the state.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Steve Straley

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bob Stringer
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:30:17 PM

From: Bob Stringer strbras@gmail.com
Residence: helena, mt

Message:

Vote for Congressional Proposal 11.

I believe Map 12 does not best meet the criteria the Commission unanimously adopted at the start of the redistricting process.

Map 12 DOES NOT MEET Your own criteria.

Your criteria for Congressional Districting states “The Maps should not be drawn to unduly favor a political party

Congressional Proposal 11 does meet your criteria.

Map 12 DOES NOT MEET Your own criteria.

Your criteria also state “(Maps should) consider keeping communities of interest intact
Congressional Proposal 11 does meet your criteria.

Map 12 DOES NOT MEET Your own criteria.

Your criteria also state “(Maps should) consider ensuring the competitiveness of districts.”
Congressional Proposal 11 does meet your criteria.

I believe that Lewis and Clark County lines up more with the Western District based on your own criteria and Congressional Proposal 11 meets that criterion and is still complete for both parties.

Vote for Congressional Proposal 11

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Peggy Stringer
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:20:54 PM

From: Peggy Stringer stpmls@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please vote for Congressional Proposal 11.

I believe Map 12 does not best meet the criteria the Commission unanimously adopted at the start of the redistricting process.

Your criteria for Congressional Districting states “The Maps should not be drawn to unduly favor a political party.” I believe this map does provide does NOT meet this criterion. I believe this map does favor the republicans over the democrats.

Vote for Congressional Proposal 11

Your criteria also state “(Maps should) consider keeping communities of interest intact.” I believe this map does provide does NOT meet this criterion. Lewis and Clark County is more aligned with Western Montana then Eastern Montana. Lewis and Clark County main driver of the economy is not agriculture like Eastern Montana. With only a small percentage of revenues derived from agriculture and does not belong with Eastern Montana District.

Vote for Congressional Proposal 11

Your criteria also state “(Maps should) consider ensuring the competitiveness of districts.” I believe this map does provide does NOT meet this criterion. Lewis and Clark County is NOT complete if included in the Eastern District. I believe that my vote will NOT count if included in the Eastern District.

Vote for Congressional Proposal 11

I believe that Lewis and Clark County lines up more with the Western District based on your own criteria and Congressional Proposal 11 meets that criterion and is still complete for both parties.

Vote for Congressional Proposal 11

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Stubblefield
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:48:17 PM

From: Susan Stubblefield scsinmissoula@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Dear Commissioners,

People want to be heard by their congressional representatives. Face to face interaction with their representatives is important and has been lacking of late. Montanans want their votes to matter. They want fair and equitable elections.

I still strongly favor Proposal 11 which creates an equal population distribution between eastern and western districts and does not give one party unfair advantage over the other.

My vote is for Proposal 11.

Thank you.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Betsy Swartz
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:16:46 AM

From: Betsy Swartz betsy@betsyswartz.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I continue to be in support of Map 11 for the following reasons:

The Gallatin City-County Health Dept. has been a leader in supporting the needs of public health. When they took measures to keep people safe and healthy, businesses & individuals complied for the most part, while Flathead (Kalispell in particular) did not and was and is splintered in its Covid response.

Gallatin County, the cities of Belgrade, Bozeman, and Manhattan are working collectively on a Regional Water & Sewer study to support infrastructure needs.

The Triangle Plan is a concrete example of the cities of Bozeman, Belgrade and Gallatin County working closely together to come up with a cooperative and comprehensive community plan for growth in the Triangle. This is a model of cooperation in problem-solving for land use development and keeping these entities together is in the communities' interests. Keeping Gallatin in one district and putting Yellowstone and most of Flathead in another will equalize growth across both congressional districts over the next 10 yrs as these three counties are the fastest growing counties in the state.

I am not in support of Map 12 for the following reasons:

Map 12 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.

Republicans won every single statewide election in both of these districts in the most recent election. There were 8 statewide races in 2020 and Republicans won all of them in both districts. That is clearly not meeting any basic definition of competitiveness that this Commission unanimously adopted as a goal.

This plan separates Butte from Jefferson County. People commute from Jefferson County into Butte every single day, and it makes no sense at all to separate the two communities.

This plan intentionally cracks the union vote to separate workers who have banded together for more equitable workplace standards. Separating Helena union workers from their brothers and sisters in Butte, Anaconda, and Deer Lodge isn't just bad policy. It's immoral.

This plan slices Park County off from Gallatin. Livingston is a vital part of the greater Gallatin regional economy, and their interests will be ignored in District 2.

This plan splits a small rural county, ensuring that its voters will be ignored by both Congresspeople. County splits should respect communities of interest and large counties have distinct communities of interest within them that can be split more logically and ensure real representation for communities divided within a county.

This plan ensures that rural voices can never carry the day in any Congressional district. Our largest urban areas are equally split between the two districts, meaning that rural Montanans can never elect a Congress person of their choice.

--

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

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

From: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Support 11 - We need fair and competitive elections
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:07:32 AM

From: Montana Caregivers <mtcaregivervoices@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:06 AM
To: dan.stusek@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support 11 - We need fair and competitive elections

I'm writing to register support for CP 11. What's most important to me is that we have at least one competitive map. Missoula will get lumped into the western district in either map, but map 11 keeps the larger Bozeman area consolidated into the western district. This ensures that there will be at least one competitive district and that our elections are not predetermined.

Lori Swartz

Missoula, MT

skyline5503@gmail.com

From: [Betsy Swartz](#)
To: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final Comments: CP 12
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 4:12:31 PM

Hello Commission:

I am writing to oppose CP 12 regarding Redistricting as it's not good for Montana, and doesn't fairly represent Montanans by ignoring important groups as detailed below. Here are the reasons why I'm not in favor of CP 12:

- The Commission's tentative final plan does not meet the goals the Commission set for itself.
- Republicans are favored heavily in both districts, all but ensuring a 2 Republican congressional delegation for the next decade. The plan is drawn to unduly favor a political party, and this Commission is going back on the promise it made when it passed its criteria.
- All tribes who spoke up on this critical issue, spoke with one voice. They wanted as many reservations as possible in a competitive district, and now their words are being twisted and used as a justification for a plan that puts every reservation in the state in a district where their Representative can ignore their voices. This is yet another example of Montana's government ignoring tribal voices.
- The public record is clear. Proposal 11 had the most public support, yet this Commission is passing a plan with little to no public record behind it. That's wrong for this state.
- This plan separates Butte from Helena and Jefferson County, which has the effect of kneecapping the voices of organized labor in this state. This plan makes it harder than ever for the voices of working families to be heard.
- The greater Gallatin economy is severed under this plan. Townsend and Livingston

belong with Gallatin County in a Congressional district. Our state's future will be increasingly driven by growth in the greater Gallatin economy. Intentionally chopping it up is the wrong decision for Montana.

- This Commission should reconsider this tentative plan and adopt a map that meets all of the adopted Commission criteria and goals.

Sincerely,
Betsy Swartz
310 Comfort Lane
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-580-4510

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shelby Switzer
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 12:31:22 PM

From: Shelby Switzer switz57@yahoo.com
Residence: Kalispell MT

Message:

CP-10 is clearly a better option than CP-11. The only negative is the split in Gallitan county. But this split is minimal vs the gerrymandering being done in CP-11 thru Flathead County which is clearly in the western side of the state. The district's should be drawn based on population, not political parties which is clearly what CP-11 is about. And since the deciding vote is supposed to be non-partisan then CP-10 is the clear choice.

--

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

From: [Whitney Tawney](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 2:13:23 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hi, my name is Whitney Tawney and I'm a mom who lives in Bozeman, Montana. I grew up in Missoula and returned to Montana to raise my son three years ago.

I favor map 11 because it doesn't favor one political party and will create a more competitive election process that hopefully will give my son better representation in the U.S. Congress.

It's important to me that our new congressional district helps Montanans have a voice for generations to come.

Thank you for your time, public service and consideration of my comments. I want to pass on a better Montana to my son and the next generation.

Regards,
Whitney Tawney
2108 Boylan Rd
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sen. Russ TEMPEL
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 12:03:50 PM

From: Sen. Russ TEMPEL russ.tempel@mtleg.gov
Residence: Chester Montana

Message:

You have chosen the split for the US House seat that makes the the most sense. Russ

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Templeton
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:44:03 AM

From: Mark Templeton m.templeton@explorerslikeus.com
Residence: Red Lodge, 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])

From: [Annie](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP-12 Comments
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 3:53:06 PM
Importance: High

Dear Commissioners:

I was shocked that you would choose CP-12 when it was clear that there was far more support for fair map CP-11.

We shared our voices on this very important decision that affects all of us.

CP-12 is clearly NOT a fair map and favors the Republican voice. NO map should favor one party over another. EVER. So, do the right thing for the residents and voters in Montana.

You ignored the voices of the tribal members as well as other voters in this state.

I testified and saw what former Gov. Racicot said. It appeared that his voice carried more weight than the voters. It was sabotage. It was appalling that he would loop in Max Baucus and speak for him untruthfully.

I am asking, along with many others, that you find a compromise and choose a map that is FAIR TO ALL VOTERS; not just the republicans. CO-12 is NOT competitive. You know that. You know it gives unfair advantage to one party.

Remember that every decision that any of us makes has repercussions. If you choose a map that unfairly favors one group, you will be responsible for the fallout over the next 10 years. It will devastate our state.

Reflect deeply. This is what each one of you is called to do.

You have a chance to follow the moral and ethical road. Take it.

Thank you for your time.

Annie Thomas
McLeod. MT

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shannon K Thomas
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 6:46:52 AM

From: Shannon K Thomas mtshan73198@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

The process of selecting a map has been clear until the addition of a last minute map in Map 12. This map violates the intent of the commission. It creates two uncompetitive districts in direct violation of the unanimously adopted criteria in July. Map 12 was added at the last minute giving little to no time for public comments. Public comments are clear in support of Map 11. Map 12 separates Helena and Jefferson County from Butte. these communities share clearly cultural, economic, and historical identities. Finally, Map 12 appears to be a clear attempt to split the union vote in this state. The fact this was mentioned in testimony makes the choice of this uncompetitive map particularly egregious. These maps will define Montana politics for ten years. Please, reconsider this poor decision. Montana deserves competitive districts that serve all the people of the state.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Catherine Thompson
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:00:19 PM

From: Catherine Thompson lou@helenet.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

Please reconsider your selection of Map 12 over Map 11 for Montana's Congressional districts. I believe that Map 12 fails to best meet the criteria the Commission unanimously adopted at the start of the redistricting process including that the maps should be drawn to ensure the competitiveness of districts and not unduly favor a political party. Additionally, the criteria maintain that the commission attempt to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts when possible and consider keeping communities of interest intact. MAP 12 CLEARLY FAILS TO MEET THE COMMISSION'S OWN CRITERIA.

--

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

From: [Weiss, Rachel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Map #11 is the way to go
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:23:44 AM

From: Montana Caregivers <mtcaregivervoices@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:12 AM
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map #11 is the way to go

Hi again, this is Marion Titus in Clinton MT. I originally liked map #6 but given the limited choices now I would urge you to adopt map #11 because it keeps the western district competitive. The Commission said they wanted to keep communities of similar interest together. Map 12 fails to meet this test by cutting off Helena from the rest of western MT for no obvious reason.

Marion Titus

Clinton, MT

mariontitus@yahoo.com

From: [Lori Todd](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP 12
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 6:10:16 PM

Dear Commission -

How is this map even moving forward in our democracy? It is critical to the fabric of our state to keep these maps competitive, fair and not favoring one party over another. I regret that I am just speaking up now.

I supported map #11 because it splits populations evenly, it is competitive, it does not support one party over the other, and it keeps Park and Gallatin Counties together. I have lived in Park County for 15 years yet the much of my healthcare and shopping are in Gallatin County. I also worked Gallatin County for three years and recently applied for work there. Issues in Gallatin county often impact me. We are interdependent counties and keeping us together makes the most sense.

Please do not support CP 12!

Thank you for your time,
Lori Todd
8 Warrior Rd.
Livingston, MT 59047

From: jennietranel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jennie Tranel](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Reject CP10 and CP12
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 6:28:44 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Please keep your promises and make our Congressional districts conform to the criteria you adopted. Competitive district's are essential to make sure our representatives have to work for our votes and truly represent us.

Sincerely,
Jennie Tranel
1213 S 4th Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-5559
jennietranel@yahoo.com

From: [Eric Troth](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Cc: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment, Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission, Please Wisely Balance All of the Criteria and Goals
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 12:53:44 AM

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Commission,

Thank you for all of your efforts in this long process.

In the Commission's set of eight adopted Criteria and Goals, the first criterion, in accordance with the U.S. Constitution, is that the "Districts must be as equal in population as is practicable."

We need to underscore "practicable."

Unfortunately, as relatively miniscule deviations in population between the two districts become some sort of "Holy Grail" in the proposal of competing maps, other essential values and goals are abused.

Population equality starts to function as a cover for obvious, or sometimes stealthy, attempts to gerrymander, something well known to be problematic.

Does keeping the population counts of the districts exceedingly close, while unduly favoring a political party, make sense?

No.

Does keeping the population counts of the districts exceedingly close, while dividing cities, towns, counties, and federal reservations, make sense?

No

Does keeping the population counts of the districts exceedingly close, while failing to keep communities of interest intact, make sense?

No.

Does keeping the population counts of the districts exceedingly close, while making both Montana districts non-competitive, make sense?

No.

"Practicable" means that we shouldn't be overemphasizing the criterion of population equality to the detriment of other goals that have at least equal if not greater value in the big picture of what makes sense in the representation of all Montanans.

Please create final districts that also preserve the four other agreed-upon and necessary goals for this process.

Thank you,

Eric Troth
Dillon, MT

From: [Barbara tylka](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting map
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 1:06:26 PM

I was disappointed to learn that the Commission is choosing to ignore public input from Montanans and support CP 12, a map that has been nicknamed the "Republican Map". Map 12 dilutes the union vote by separating Butte from Helena and Jefferson county. Despite the economies of Bozeman and Livingston being intertwined, this map separates the two counties. This map also ignores the concerns of Montana tribes by not putting the tribes into a competitive district. CP12 is designed to give a strong Republican advantage in both districts which is in direct violation of the stated goal of creating competitive districts. Once again, I am asking you to support CP 11, which would come closer to the stated goal of creating competitive districts.

Thank you for your time,

Barbara Tylka

3109 Autumn Grove St, Bozeman, MT 59718 drbltylka@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Doreen Vaira-Herbert
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:47:07 AM

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

Message:

Beings you've added 2 more maps since the last time I voted, I am changing my vote for Congressional Map 13.

Thank you.

--

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

From: [Ted Valentiner](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Formally Adopt CP-12 as the new Congressional District Map
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 11:13:57 AM

Madam Chair, Committee Members

Thank you for your commitment and your dedication to this effort.

I have attended several meetings and provided in-person comment in support of map CP-12. I believe this map best represents the interests of all Montanans. It only splits one county; Pondera and they do not object. It includes two tribes in the western district to better represent their interests, and it is within 1 citizen of being a perfect split of the states population.

Thank you
Ted D Valentiner
704C E 13th St. #425
Whitefish, MT 59937

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

From: [Kevin Eugene](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting CP12
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:56:15 PM

Hello commissioners,

Your tireless efforts to resolve two congressional district boundary in for Montana is commendable.

Upon review, I fully support CP12 because it's fair to Montana voters and those wishing to campaign for public service.

Please adopt CP12 as final resolution to congressional boundaries.

Warm regards,

Kevin E. Valerio

Tarkio, Montana

From: [Jay Van Alstyne](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]My comment on maps 10 and 11.
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:13:34 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I'm Jay, a computer science student at MSU graduating this semester. I've lived in Bozeman since I started college and, before then, in Helena since I was 3 years old.

I prefer CP 11.

I only know my own area, and it'd be foolish to pretend I understand political advantages outside of the places I live. I do not like my current Gallatin County being split, nor do I understand why Lewis and Clark County, where I used to live, seems to have been carved out from the surrounding similar areas and grouped with the east. Map 11 seems to follow a mostly-normal diagonal line, in comparison, and is about how I divide the state to myself in my head.

I appreciate you all putting in the effort to do this right!

Regards,
Jay Van Alstyne
609 S 9th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dwight Van Brunt
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 1:53:38 PM

From: Dwight Van Brunt kodiak_454@hotmail.com
Residence: Kalispell, Montana

Message:

Enough of this foolishness. Kalispell is not Eastern Montana.

Just because the committee cannot figure out a logical way of keeping the potential for a blue district in play is not an excuse for gerrymandering. Missoula and Bozeman can't go into the same district if the map is fair.

Stop playing politics and pandering to out-of-state partisan interests. Draw a simple straight line either N/S or E/W and go home. If you don't, it will just go to court.

Do the right thing – for democracy and Montana.

--

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: Erin Vang
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 8:18:40 AM

From: Erin Vang erin.vang@me.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

I am writing in support of CP-11 and CP-13 – neither of which is as good as CP-2. But unlike maps 10 and 12, they provide a district that represents those of us who are moderate, freedom-loving people who believe in taking care of our neighbors and God's planet. We are reasonable people who want Montana to be run by Montanans, not by cynical Trump disciples.

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

From: [Nathan Varley](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Don't ignore
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 1:52:48 PM

Montana asked for Map 11 and you all chose 12. Change your vote in the final meeting to 11 to level the field. The Commission ignored the voices of Tribes in moving an uncompetitive map forward. CP 12 gives Republicans a massive electoral advantage and all but ensures that no Democrat has a chance to hold either seat for the next decade. Please find a compromise on Tuesday to advance 11 or make CP 12 more competitive so everyone has a voice in our democracy

Nathan Varley
Gardiner MT

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.wolftracker.com__!!GaaboA!4LqrqEXwGgB0tcEkA-TcdJIK9T5cE2gEQSCDoBQvWaRIYVKVGUT8VBaRcFrJZJazw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.wolftracker.com__!!GaaboA!4LqrqEXwGgB0tcEkA-TcdJIK9T5cE2gEQSCDoBQvWaRIYVKVGUT8VBaRcFrJZJazw$)

406 223 2152

From: [jim vetsch](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting lines
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 2:15:34 PM

Hello all.

Dividing the state up looks like Dem & Rep. lines since many out of staters have settled in the west (Missoula/Kalispell), bringing their "fleeing Dem state problems" to influence Montana's way of life. House prices are just one of these issues.

Sexual lifestyles are another. LHBTQSPBN

Concerns over illegitimacy in voting is another.

Kulr8 tv has an a.m. program called Wake Up Montana! I don't care for the undertones of being a backward state in need of help adjusting to "modern life"!

I would like an explanation on the congressional district lines please.

Divide & conquer is real!

My other comments are of my own citizenship concerns for our state & nation.

Sincerely,
Jim Vetsch

From: [Emerson Vorel](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Monday, November 1, 2021 1:42:19 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Emerson Vorel and I retired and moved to Helena four years ago.

I would like to express my support for map 11.

I feel map 11 will allow for equal, unbiased representation for all Montanans.

Thank you for offering this opportunity to share my opinion and thank you for your service.

Regards,
Emerson Vorel
3835 Deer Park Dr
Helena, MT 59602

From: gwaldby@pat7.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Make CP 12 more competitive!
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 2:42:05 PM

The Commission asked the public to weigh in on CP 12, and Montanans overwhelmingly disapproved of it.

The Commission ignored the voices of Tribes in moving an uncompetitive map forward.

CP 12 gives Republicans a massive electoral advantage and all but ensures that no Democrat has a chance to hold either seat for the next decade.

Please find a compromise on Tuesday to make CP 12 more competitive so everyone has a voice in our democracy.

Gail Waldby
Livingston MT

From: [Michael Wallace](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 2:24:39 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Michael Wallace. I have lived in Bigfork, MT since 2005.

I support map 11 because it does not favor one political party.

Map 11 also increases the chance that the parties will win elections in proportion to their overall representation in the population. This is fair.

Map 11 does not favor one political party.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Michael Wallace
29762 Bluegill Ln
Bigfork, MT 59911

From: [Kristen Walser](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For Climate | Vote For Maps 11 or 13
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:04:23 AM

Dear Chair Smith and the Districting committee,

Please rule in favor of Maps 11 and/or 13.

Missoula and Missoula County, Helena, and Bozeman all have committed to Climate Plans and to 100% net clean energy by 2030, along with other climate-friendly policies, but have been stymied by state laws that prevent adoption of policies that would help them improve building codes, encourage renewable energy (lift the 50KW cap on solar arrays), etc..

It would be helpful to have federal legislation that represents the interests of those regions of the state that are trying to move forward. While most Democrats support climate policies, there are also Republicans who are climate advocates as well.. Having a district that values climate would support all candidates who advocate and vote for these crucial policies.

I volunteer for a nonprofit that works closely with Republicans and Democrats to support a fair and effective climate policy that has strong support from prominent Republicans like Lindsey Graham and Mitt Romney.

Please keep the areas with climate interest together so that there will be a reason for Congressional candidates to speak to this issue!

Kristen Walser

citizensclimatelobby.org [citizensclimatelobby.org]

406.551.0388



Virus-free. www.avg.com [[avg.com](http://www.avg.com)]

[avg.com]

From: [kathy.wehrly](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 6:46:22 PM

I am strongly in favor of map 11. Both maps 12 and 13 will not allow bipartisanship to exist in the state of Montana!

Kathryn Wehrly
Hamilton, MT 59840

From: [Roxane Weikel](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map 13
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:47:11 AM

Please support a map that will allow a competitive western district.

Thank you.

Roxane Weikel
207 Takima Dr.
Missoula MT 59803

From: [Dylan Wells](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] change the redistricting map
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 12:26:45 PM

Map #12 is a partisan map, map #11 in the Montana redistricting is superior and more competitive, Please change your selection and put forward #11 as your selection. It is better for Montana, it is better for the tribes, and it more evenly represents the political representation of the people in this state.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Oliver Alan Weltzien
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:12:54 PM

From: Oliver Alan Weltzien alanweltzien@gmail.com
Residence: Dillon, MT

Message:

I believe Map 12 inferior to Map 11 because it reinforces partisanship rather than reinforce any fair distribution. And in thtese unprecedentedly bipartisan times, Montana deserves better.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Oliver Alan Weltzien
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 8:09:46 PM

From: Oliver Alan Weltzien alanweltzien@gmail.com
Residence: Dillon MT

Message:

Map 12 is inferior to Map 111. I strongly urge you to officially adopt Map 11, as it most preserves bipartisanship and divides communities less.

--

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

From: [Karrie West](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please find a compromise to fix Map 12
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 11:50:17 AM

As a Livingston resident, I was disappointed that the Commission chose Map #12. This map puts Livingston and Bozeman in separate districts. Livingston has a close economic relationship with Bozeman. We would best be served in the same district as Bozeman instead of the stagnant agricultural communities in the prairie region.

Map 12 leans heavily Republican in both districts - not at all competitive. 40-45% of Montanans are Democrats, but Map 12 will likely allow Republicans to control our state for the next decade.

When you review the map, please find a compromise so

1. that the two districts are competitive,
2. that our tribes and 45% of Montanans aren't ignored in the process,
3. that keeps Livingston and Bozeman together.

Karrie West
406 N Yellowstone St
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-3675

From: [Kim West](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reconsider using Map #12 as it currently exists
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 12:05:06 PM

I am extremely disappointed to see that Map #12 was moved forward by the commission. This map is absolutely not competitive in either district, something that should have been a priority of the commission.

Montana has a strong Democratic contingency of 40-45% and a map that would allow a Democrat to win one district should have been the top priority. Even with that percentage, the district would likely always go to a Republican.

It appears you ignored the wishes of the Montana Tribes who testified that the most important factor for them was creating a competitive map.

I believe Montana deserves better. I think this decision should be looked at again with possible revisions to Map #12 so it is more competitive. As a Park County resident I think that we should be in the same district as Gallatin County because of our close economic connection.

It's not too late to revise the district maps and make Montana a fully represented state.

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

From: [Chuck Wheeler](#)
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Cc: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP 12 is the WRONG choice
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 8:18:12 AM

CP11 has the most public support. The Native voice is watered down to the point of insignificance. 12 is not competitive and fails the commissions own goals. Livingston belongs with Gallatin County in socioeconomic thus voting terms.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider your position on this issue.

Charles Wheeler, Ronan

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Veronica Whitaker
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:26:12 PM

From: Veronica Whitaker rwhitakermsw@bresnan.net
Residence: Helena

Message:

I believe that Map 12 unduly favors the Republicans. I believe that every Montanan needs to have their voice heard and represented, Republican, Democrat and Independent. Leaving Lewis and Clark County in the Eastern District gives the Republicans an unfair advantage, thus not allowing those who are Independent or Democratic to be represented!

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Regan Whitworth
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:13:36 PM

From: Regan Whitworth regan.whitworth@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Proposed CP 11 clearly meets the Commission's criteria more closely than CP12, with minimized division of counties and municipalities, and greater accommodation of natural communities of interest, while not favoring one political party over another. The Commission, by its own criteria, is permitted to "consider competitiveness of districts when drawing plans", and should do that to avoid favoring one political party over another. A division, such as CP12, that favors one party operates to deprive Montana citizens of a meaningful right to vote; Congressional districts drawn to eliminate competition clearly violate the intent of the Montana Constitution.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cynthia A. Williams
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 8:01:53 PM

From: Cynthia A. Williams cabingrammy@gmail.com
Residence: Proctor, MT 59929

Message:

It seems obvious to me that Map 12 does not meet the criteria of competitiveness as one of the stated goals set by the Commission. Either Map 11 or Map 13 does a better job of insuring fair representation for all points of view. Please give both parties a fighting chance!

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Beth J Taylor Wilson
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:11:53 PM

From: Beth J Taylor Wilson bethwilson77@hotmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I guess having every single statewide office being won by Rs this last election was not enough of an unfair advantage? Come on, Maylinn, be fair. Especially when Rosendale is now in a lawsuit from Gabby Giffords against the NRA, after Rosendale took tons of illegal campaign contributions from the NRA. You say redistricting is fair now, Democrats just need better candidates to make the West more competitive, but the Rs can be absolutely corrupt, dishonest and hypocritical, and still win. They are terrible candidates, all of them, if ethics, honesty and morality matter at all. Put Helena back in the West! Stop letting climate change-denying, anti-vaxxer crazies rule our state, all under the guise of personal freedom, while people die of a deadly disease spread by selfish individuals who won't put a strip of fabric over their noses and mouths, even if it would save their elderly parents from grave risk. There is no more "common good" from these folks. Again, be fair. Your own prejudices are clearly showing!

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

From: [Evan Wilson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony - Erik Iverson
Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:18:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Iverson Erik MDAC Testimony\(11.4.21\).pdf](#)

Good morning-

I would like to submit the attached testimony to the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission in advance of today's meeting.

Thank you,

Evan Wilson
Vice President
Moore Information Group
Direct line: 720-728-0408



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

November 4th, 2021

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

To Whom It Concerns:

My name is Erik Iverson and I am a fifth-generation Montanan who resides and works out of Missoula. I am submitting this testimony today in an effort to add to the Commission's discourse on what constitutes a "competitive district" in recent Montana elections.

A brief background on myself: I was born in Great Falls, grew up in the Sweetgrass Hills, attended grade school in Whitlash and Chester, High School in Polson and graduated from Montana State University. After receiving my law degree from the University of Oregon, I moved to D.C. briefly to work for Montana's Congressman at the time, before moving back to Big Sky Country to serve as chair of the Montana Republican Party and work on political campaigns across our state.

Today, I am a professional pollster and President & Managing Partner of Moore Information Group. Over the past five years alone, our firm has conducted over 120,000 polling survey interviews in the state, as well as dozens of focus groups. And if I've learned anything from my research, it's this: Montana is already a highly competitive place to run for federal office.

My main takeaways for this Commission are the following: An R+5 district would be highly competitive with either party standing a very real chance of winning the seat in any given election. Over reliance on national-level congressional ratings such as the Cook Partisan Voting Index and others leads to an inaccurate analysis of the true partisan makeup of proposed Montana congressional districts. Cook PVI relies solely upon presidential election results to determine the partisan lean of a district. By that logic, no Democrat in nearly 60 years could have won statewide office as Montana has not given a majority of its vote to a Democratic presidential candidate since Lyndon Johnson.

In fact, Montana leads the nation in ticket splitting when presidential races appear on the same ballot as U.S. Senate races, having voted for a Democratic U.S. Senate nominee and Republican Presidential nominee 10 out of the past 19 times. Since our state has one of the highest incidences of ticket splitting in the nation – something Montanans are rightfully proud of – it stands to reason that the Cook PVI methodology would be more inaccurate when applied to Montana than it would be in any other state.

When gauging partisanship in Montana, it is best to make an apples-to-apples comparison and look at proposed congressional districts in terms of how previous congressional candidates would have fared in each of the proposed districts. This new line, after all, only applies to U.S. House races. Using this methodology, the four maps under consideration by this commission – CPs 10, 11, 12, and 13 – would all be considered highly competitive and capable of being won by either major party in any given election.

Furthermore, using county-level population growth estimates included in the 2020 census, it is clear that whichever map the commission ultimately comes to a final agreement on, the western congressional district is set to grow at a much faster pace than the eastern district. Models vary, but current estimates indicate that the population deviation could be as high as 6-8% between districts in the next handful of years. In layman's terms, that's the equivalent of adding an extra Helena or Butte to one side of the congressional line.

To be sure, as a professional pollster, highly competitive elections are good for business. And I am confident the polling business will continue to flourish in western Montana if any of these four highly competitive maps are adopted.

Erik Iverson
President & Managing Partner
Moore Information Group
1821 South Ave. W.
Suite 200
Missoula, MT 59801

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Keegan Witt
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 9:50:37 AM

From: Keegan Witt wittk60@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I oppose map 12 as it unfairly advantages Republicans and leaves what is consistently more than 40% of voters in the state unlikely to ever have the representative of their choosing. For Democrats they have to hope Bozeman continues to expand by adding Democrats to ever have a chance of winning a house seat. Helena should be drawn in to the West to allow for a more competitive district.

--

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From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Keith Wood
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:25:37 PM

From: Keith Wood woodkeithg@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

I would like you to reconsider and here in Lewis & Clark should be in the west. This new map goes against the democrats and it's not fare.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nancy Wood
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 4:30:57 PM

From: Nancy Wood njmwood@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

I would sincerely like to see Helena included in the Western District. For years, I have not felt that my choices have been heard and I would like to see politicians forced to compete for votes on a more even playing field. Fair competition is a good thing. No one party should have an unfair advantage.

--

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

From: lenzee75@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lena Zeeck](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Reject CP10 and CP12
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 5:30:53 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Please reject maps 10 and 12. They will divide Helena, Jefferson County, and Butte to keep the voting block from being fairly represented by both parties. They will also keep unions divided. Please remember your standards and choose a map that fairly represents Montana.

Sincerely,
Lena Zeeck
8555 N Montana Ave Helena, MT 59602-8320
lenzee75@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Chris D Zier
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:15:23 PM

From: Chris D Zier sfbelarko@gmail.com
Residence: MANHATTAN mt

Message:
I think map 12 is a good choice
Chris

--

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

From: [Roni Zimmer](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New redistributing map
Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021 11:26:11 AM

To whom it may concern

I was totally disappointed, but not surprised, to hear that the commission pushed forward Map #12 as the option for the 2 MT districts. I had hoped that this would actually be a non-partisan decision, and it seems that this map allows the GOP to control our state for the next 10 years. Both of the districts in the map lean heavily Republican. People are even terming it the "Republican" map. Our state is 40-45% Democratic, and this map doesn't reflect that breakdown.

In choosing map #12

- 1. Our tribes' concerns were ignored*
- 2. Map 12 gives the GOP a serious electoral advantage and makes it so a Democrat will probably not hold either seat for at least 10 years.*
- 3. 45% of Montanans shouldn't be ignored by the redistricting commission.*

Please consider changing the map so that the two districts are competitive and that our tribes and 45% of Montanans aren't ignored in the process. Our representatives should be chosen by the people in Montana which means that our district lines shouldn't play a part in deciding an election. Montanans used to be termed the most independent voters in the country since we have, in the past, voted split tickets based on the person running for the office (not party affiliation). It would be a shame to lose that freedom of choosing the best option for us because of a district line.

*Respectfully
Roni Zimmer
Bozeman, MT*