

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5 pm and midnight on November 8

Distributed electronically November 9, 2021

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bruce Arthur
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:43:12 PM

From: Bruce Arthur butch1@midrivers.com
Residence: WINNETT

Message:

Please adopt map CP12 as your final choice for the benefit of all Montanans. We need fair and equitable elections that are guaranteed by our constitution. Thank you for being willing to serve the people of our great state.

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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: Phyllis Arthur
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:47:16 PM

From: Phyllis Arthur arthurs@midrivers.com
Residence: WINNETT

Message:

We need map CP12 for equitable and fair elections. The people of Montana deserve to have equal voices to elect our government representatives. Thank you for your time in serving the people of Montana.

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

From: [T Baer](#)
To: [Districting](#); Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting of Montana
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:18:08 PM

Tammi Baer
626 6th Av SW Ronan Montana
4065298275

I am pleased that cp 12 has been selected. Although it lacks the amount of territory that we should have in the west, it is still competitive and keeping 2 tribes in each zone is competitive and unifying. The tribes, outside of voting, dont like each other anyway. I live on the CSKT reservation, I am very aware of that fact.

We need to end this portion of redistricting and move on to finding qualified people to represent us. Let's move on to unifying now instead of being so competitive.

Thank you Tammi Baer

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: LYNNE BOONE
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:41:19 PM

From: LYNNE BOONE lmboone@earthlink.net
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I have lived in Lewis and Clark County since 1982. This county DOES NOT BELONG IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT. Splitting counties is not good so select a map that keeps ALL OF L&C COUNTY IN THE WESTERN DISRICT. Thank you. I believe Map 11 does this.

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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: Kathleen Burt
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:14:43 PM

From: Kathleen Burt commakaysie@yahoo.com
Residence: Kalispell Montana

Message:

I believe this comment system is malfunctioning as I just attempted to send a lengthy comment. It did not appear to be accepted. In short, please do not let partisan power brokers sway your decision to use Map 12! It is the fairest and most sensible way for Montanans to represent their collective interests and different geoeconomics interests. Hopefully, this comment does not disappear like my previous one. Thank you

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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: Kathleen Burt
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:04:39 PM

From: Kathleen Burt commakaysie@yahoo.com
Residence: Kalispell Montana

Message:

I am astounded that a partisan group is still being taken seriously in resisting CP map 12. This is at least

my third letter pleading with the commission to honor logical, geographic lines in forming a new district for our state. Grouping people with related life issues, culture and economic concerns—a division accomplished by the continental divide—is far more important than allowing people to group based on political philosophy. Those wishing to draw arbitrary incisions in a map to create an artificially robust political state is unfair to everyone. Montanans have historically proven themselves to be largely independent, evidenced by their historic choices for senators, governors and Congressional representatives. In the past when there were two districts in our state, there was no serious complaint in how the district lines were drawn: Map 12 comes as close to the pre 1990 districting as any map, and far and away more than the laughable CP-11. Why would we change lines in a substantial way that historically have set a standard?

There are is only one county divided in CP-12, another issue I feel is of paramount importance—especially when it comes to dividing large counties and population centers? To the commission, this is a respectful request to keep map12 as it is and to resist the partisan politics. Thank you

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

From: [mtmaps](#)
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov
Cc: Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Map 12
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:05:51 PM

Commissioners,

Please look again at the fairness of Map 12. It is NOT a fair and bipartisan redistricting. We will be stuck with what you choose for a long time.

This state has often been purple, with a Democratic governor and a Republican Congressman. Our Representatives to the House often split the parties. In many counties, the total votes for a candidate from each party are the same number with only the districting making the difference in who wins. Thus it is clear we are not all a majority of Republicans in this state. It would not be right to have both eastern and western Montana districts always electing Republicans. That would certainly not be fair, which was your intended goal, as I understand it. Do you really want a one party state - no choice, candidates win simply because of their party, not their plans or their character and abilities?

Native voices will never be heard if you go with map 12; nor will labor groups, who represent the interests of many working people (whether they know it or not). It makes sense for Livingston and Bozeman to be in the same district. Public support is not with Map 12; please vote against it.

Thanks for your time.

- Carolyn

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Laurence M. Carucci
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:31:40 PM

From: Laurence M. Carucci wetakII@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:
Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I find your selection of map 11 for our new Representative districts disappointing inasmuch as such a division does NOT meet the criteria laid out by the Commission to guide the decision. It is clear that the map, in most respects, tries to minimize dividing political entities (cities, towns, counties, reservations), but it fails on all other accounts. The selected map does favor one political party, it fails to ensure the competitiveness of districts, and it certainly does not keep communities of interest intact. Indeed, Lewis and Clark county, a mountain valley with similarities to Missoula, Gallatin, and Flathead, is placed with farming and oil extraction communities in eastern Montana, directly contravening its primary interests. I would strongly encourage the Committee to reconsider its choice and select a map similar to map 6, which, while not perfect, comes far closer to meeting the stated criteria.

Regards,
Dr. Laurence M. Carucci

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

From: [Chelsea Culpon](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you for Map 12 from a 9 year old!
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:22:18 PM

Good Evening Ms. Smith,
Thank you for the countless hours you've spent on re-districting. My 11 and 9 year old kids appreciate Map 12 because it "makes sense."

They reviewed each map as part of their geography studies and had some funny questions about why some areas in the NW corner of MT were part of "eastern Montana."

We are grateful for your work.

Chelsea Culpon (and kids!)
3466 Overland Rd
Helena MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Chelsea Culpon
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:18:50 PM

From: Chelsea Culpon chelsearandf@gmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Thank you for your tireless work and for Map 12!

Thank you for diligence and long hours which are guaranteed to be disliked by 50% of Montana. You have a thankless task ahead of you.

Flathead County is clearly in NW Montana.

Lewis & Clark County is politically purple and it always will be. Inner city Helena is almost exclusively blue and the outskirts, valley and county are red. In 2021, Rep. Matt Rosendale only lost L&C County by 5 votes. As an eastern Montanan, he clearly identified with 50% of the voters in L&C.

Broadwater County is east of Lewis & Clark County and considered part of the numerous L&C county level organizations and working groups. Residents of Townsend commute to Helena for work, school and groceries.

Good luck and thank you again,

Chelsea Culpon

Helena MT

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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: Christopher Culpon
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:26:41 PM

From: Christopher Culpon cculpon@msn.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Dear Commission Members,

Map 12 is the best choice. Both political parties are going to whine, fight, insult and complain about maps that their party doesn't think provides them a chance to "win."

Map 12 is logical and fair.

Montana had every statewide office filled by a Democrat for 16 years, and now filled by Republicans for 4 years. We had Baucus AND Burns, now Daines and Tester. Montana has a history of evenly dividing power.

The majority of the other maps were clearly flawed, map 12 will meet the needs of Montana.

Thank you again,

Chris Culpon

Helena MT

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

EMILY K. DEAN
COMMISSIONER · HELENA, MONTANA

November 8, 2021

Dear Presiding Officer Smith and Commissioners,

I write to you as an individual Helena City Commissioner and not speaking on behalf of the full Helena City Commission.

I urge you to include Lewis and Clark County in the western congressional district. To place Lewis and Clark County and Helena in the eastern congressional district defies common sense and is directly at odds with our community identity. We work in industries unique to Western Montana, we play high school sports in the Western Conference, we view ourselves as Western Montanans.

Should you leave Lewis and Clark County in the eastern congressional district our community will lack representation consistent with the issues our community faces over the next decade. Our challenges are more similar to those of Butte, not Baker.

I implore you to place Lewis and Clark County in the western congressional district and ensure our community is fairly and properly represented in Congress. I appreciate your public service to Montana and dedication to this districting process.

Best regards,



Emily K. Dean
Commissioner, Helena City Commission

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sheryl Douglas
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:42:14 PM

From: Sheryl Douglas ssdrph2370@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

Please accept the CP 12 Redistricting map as it is now with no changes. 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: [Olympia Gioulekas](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting - FOR THE PEOPLE
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:26:12 PM

To Whom it may concern:

I was disappointed to hear that the commission pushed forward map #12 as the option for the 2 MT districts. I hoped this would be a nonpartisan decision as it is in the state and countries best interest. We live in an ever changing world and our country depends on our democracy to make choices that affect our children's future. It seems map #12 allows the GOP to control our state for the next 10 years. Both districts in the map lean heavily Republican and do not accurately represent the people in our state.

Additionally:

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 redistricting commission.

Please consider changing the map so that the two districts are competitive and that our tribes and 45% of Montanans are not 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 in office (not party affiliation). It would be a shame to lose that freedom of choosing the best option for use because of a district line.

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

Sincerely,

Olympia Gioulekas

From: [C Granrud](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Map 12
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:11:40 PM
Attachments: [Final zoom response to Rdistricting.docx](#)

I am attaching my response to the Redistricting Commission regarding Map 12.

Christina Granrud
Kalispell

The following is my response as to why Map 12 is bad for Montana.

1. Map 12 does NOT meet the goals that the Commission set forth at the beginning of the Redistricting process.
 - Map 12 unduly favors a political party – the Republican party.
 - Map 12 divides cities and towns that are “communities of interest” and that should be kept intact.
 - Map 12 destroys any possible competitiveness. Map 12 all but guarantees that both Congressional Districts will be Republican.
2. Map 12 does NOT listen to the wishes of Montana’s Tribal Nations.
 - Every member of a Montana Tribe who testified spoke with ONE voice. They wanted as many tribes as possible in a COMPETATIVE DISTRICT. Their words are being ignored and twisted. Map 12 puts ALL reservations in Montana in districts where native voices can easily be dismissed and NOT listened to.
3. The public record shows that Map 12 did NOT receive the most public support. Therefore, it makes NO sense to support Map 12 when Map 11 received far MORE public support.
4. Montana has always been a union state. Counties and cities where unions are strong definitely make up “communities of interest”. Map 12 would separate Butte from Helena and Jefferson County, and would cut in two and nullify the voices of hard working Montanans.
5. Map 12 divides the economy of Gallatin County from the cities of Townsend and Livingston. Gallatin and Park Counties make up an “economic community of Interest”. Splitting them is directly AGAINST the goals that the Commission set forth. The growth of this part of Montana will drive the economy of Montana well into the future. Deliberately chopping it up will harm Montana’s economy.

I submit that the Commission should reconsider this TENTATIVE plan, and adopt a map that meets ALL of the Commission’s criteria and goals.

The biggest communication problem is that we do NOT listen to UNDERSTAND. We listen to REPLY.

From: [Richard Greenwood](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:53:12 PM

Dick Greenwood (Ferndale)

The rules were equal pop and compact. What took so long? The socialists wanted to gerrymander the system to their wishes.

Thanks for a fair and logical conclusion, even though a lot of time and energy were wasted .

Live free or die!
Dick

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bryon Grueter
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:59:09 PM

From: Bryon Grueter bgrueter1939@yahoo.com
Residence: Clancy Montana

Message:

I will keep this short, as I'm sure you are receiving lots of comments concerning the redistricting maps. I am expressing my support of map CP12. CP12, as compared to CP11 and CP13, does the best job at preventing the splitting of county boundaries. I believe this map will allow for the best representation for the people in each district.

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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: Sandra Hammer
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:45:53 PM

From: Sandra Hammer sandie@sandiehammer.com
Residence: Polson, MT

Message:

I am strongly suggesting Map #12. It is the best compromise to all MT citizens.

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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: Dan & Jo Hawkins
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:02:16 PM

From: Dan & Jo Hawkins HawkinsHelena@gmail.com

Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please accept our encouragement to adopt CP12. It seems a suitable compromise and end to the process.

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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: Kent D Heitmann
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:02:10 PM

From: Kent D Heitmann kdheit@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

Dear Commissioners,

I want to show my support for CP-12.

Thank you,

Kent D Heitmann
Kalispell, Mt

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

From: [hendryholdingsmt](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly urge you to support Maylinns decision regarding redistricting in montana
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:04:25 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Donna Holden
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:20:58 PM

From: Donna Holden donnaholden@gmail.com
Residence: Billings MT

Message:
I wholeheartedly approve the CP – 12 map.

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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: Kay Joslin
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:07:12 PM

From: Kay Joslin westforkayj@cybernet1.com
Residence: Darby MT

Message:

I strongly oppose MAP 12 as being uncompetitive. Not only does it unduly favor one party, the Republicans, it unduly favors one potential candidate from Flathead County who is already running. So putting Flathead County in the Western District seems to me a brazen step to hand the election to this candidate who has already ran from that district. Deplorable. And why were the Republicans allowed to submit two additional maps and the Democrats weren't?

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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: Heidi Keaster
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:50:38 PM

From: Heidi Keaster heidialison6311@yahoo.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Thank you for considering Map 12.

We are 5 Generation Montanans from Highwood, Montana and still have the ranch there. This keeps Montana ranchers to have a voice while they tend to the land. People say land doesn't vote? What about the voice of the Ranchers working the land who feeds America and therefor cannot use the land to make more houses/people. Thank you for considering Map 12 and all your work.

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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: Tracy Konoske
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:23:04 PM

From: Tracy Konoske TRACY@HEALTHYLIFESTYLESMT.COM
Residence: Laurel, MT

Message:

I am in support of CP12 and the Commission's actions to adopt CP12. Please hear our voices!

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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: Jeanne Liebelt
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:53:03 PM

From: Jeanne Liebelt jmliebelt39@gmail.com
Residence: Fort Peck, MT

Message:

I am requesting you support CP12 as it is the rightful voting map for all of Montana. The voters have the right to vote in whomever they want to have represent them in Congress. If the map HAS to be slanted in order to get a victory for a certain party, it will be a disservice to all Montana voters. THE GERRYMANDERING HAS GOT TO STOP!

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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: Mary H. Maifeld
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:38:13 PM

From: Mary H. Maifeld marymaifeld@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I find your selection of map 11 for our new Representative districts quite disappointing since it does NOT meet the criteria established by the Commission at the beginning of its deliberations. In some respects, the map seeks to minimize dividing political entities, but it fails in regard to all of the other criteria. The selected map favors a single political party and it fails to ensure the competitiveness of districts. Equally, it does not keep communities of interest intact. This is particularly true of Lewis and Clark county which shares far more similarities with Missoula, Gallatin, and Flathead, yet is placed with agriculturally-grounded communities located on the eastern plains. I strongly encourage the Committee to reconsider its choice and select a map that honors the stated criteria as closely as possible.

Sincerely,
Mary Maifeld

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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: Cynthia A Marble
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:39:42 PM

From: Cynthia A Marble cynthiamarble@gmail.com
Residence: Red Lodge

Message:

I want to reinforce the direction the commission is heading and urge you to adopt CP 12. It remains the most complete map, encompassing all the best that the commission is meant to accomplish.

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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: Kerrin Maureen McCormick
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:59:15 PM

From: Kerrin Maureen McCormick kerrimccormick6@gmail.com
Residence: KALISPELL

Message:

I am strongly in favor of Map 12 for re-districting. It keeps Flathead County intact and also on the Westside of MT, where it belongs for economic interest reasons. It makes the most sense of the maps proposed and is fair to all parties concerned. It is the clear winner per public response, and going backwards to other options would not serve our Democratic process. A push to shift to another map at this final hour reveals ulterior motives!

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

From: [Mellinger](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you!
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:00:26 PM

Hi Maylinn,

I just wanted to say thank you for your support of MP12. I agree that it is the most fair map that splits the largest of the Montana cities putting Bozeman and Billings in the east and Missoula and Kalispell in the west. Any map that splits Flathead County is nonsensical. Again, thank you for your support of MP12.

Lynnelle Mellinger

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shelly Meyer
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:59:07 PM

From: Shelly Meyer crone.1753@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

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

Maps should not be drawn to unduly favor a political party.

The commission shall attempt to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts when possible.

(Maps should) consider keeping communities of interest intact.

(Maps should) consider ensuring the competitiveness of districts.

I am deeply disappointed in the selection of Map 12. This selection favors unequal representation to voters.

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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: Kimberly Fields-Mitchell
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:30:24 PM

From: Kimberly Fields-Mitchell bellinghamwarehouse@aol.com
Residence: Saint Regis, Montana

Message:

Hello,

Thank You for all of your efforts in making this decision. Map CP-12 is the only Map that makes sense for the western district, Flathead County could never be considered a part of the Eastern District it just does not make any sense. HB506 clearly states that the decision cannot be made to favor one political party over another and by cutting out Flathead county from the western district would be for no reason other than to favor the Democratic Party, Thank You for recognizing that.

Best regards,

Randy Mitchell and

Kimberly Fields-Mitchell

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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: Garth Neuffer
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:08:41 PM

From: Garth Neuffer gneuffer@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Thank you for all your hard work on this redistricting. I know it has been a time-consuming effort and difficult decision. I was disappointed in the final selection of maps, but I hope and expect all Montanans will respect the commission's choice and the principle of an independent, non-partisan process to reach a final conclusion. As I note earlier, I believe that while Map 12 has a lot going for it — in terms of minimizing division of counties and inclusion of two reservations in the Western district — I think that Map 11 ultimately provides the best balance of meeting all the criteria set out by the Commission. In particular, I remained concerned that Gallatin County and Park County share a strong community of interest and shouldn't be divided. Both counties, along with Lewis & Clark County, belong in the Western District. Map 11 does the best job of accomplishing this, keeping our counties, towns, reservations and communities of interest together, and providing Montanans with representative, competitive districts that don't unduly favor one political party, and give all our citizens a fair chance to express their political views. Whatever the final determination, I encourage the Commission and all Montanans to continue moving forward and working towards the common ground, mutual respect, and common sense solutions that make our state a special place to live. Thank you 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: [Maureen OMara](#)
To: [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](#); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](#); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](#); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](#); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](#); [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting concerns
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:43:09 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing you with concerns about choosing Map 12 as the final map for voting redistricting. I believe CP 12 is a bad decision for the voters of Montana. This map would not allow any political party other than the Republican party to be elected in the next decade. Allowing a plan that is drawn to favor a political party goes back on promises made when selection criteria was passed. CP 12 places the voice of citizens who reside on reservations into a district where their voices will be ignored due to lack of political competitiveness.

CP 12 also divides up Gallatin County in such a way that the greater Gallatin economy will be severed, hurting the future expected growth of the communities of Townsend and Livingston. Working families will be hurt by this plan by making their voices harder to hear. Butte will be separated from Helena along with Jefferson County having the effect of stopping the voices of organized labor, an essential voice for many working family, that helps to raise them up financially.

The public record shows that Proposal 11 has the most public support, yet CP 12 is being chosen over the voice of the majority. Why is an unpopular plan being put forward instead of a proposal that has greater support?

I ask that you reconsider this decision and put forward CP11 as the choice that is best for all Montana voters.

Thank you,

Maureen O'Mara
502 4th St SE
Sidney, MT 59270

From: [Barbara Phinney](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please choose Redistricting Map 11
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:42:59 PM

Dear Commission:

I understand that by choosing a last minute choice of Map 12, you are rendering this area to be non competitive for the next 10 years. When you are asking people to trust the system and this is the result, you are doing damage to how our democracy works and it is unfair. Please follow your own rules that the commission set up.

Thank you for this most important consideration.

Barbara and Ben Phinney
Bozeman

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: DAVID RANEY
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:10:52 PM

From: DAVID RANEY davidcraney@comcast.net
Residence: Clancy, MT

Message:
You are making the responsible decision with Map CP12.

Thank you,
David C Raney

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: PAMELA RANEY
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:08:31 PM

From: PAMELA RANEY pamelaraney@me.com
Residence: 1 Monarch Court, Clancy, MT 59634

Message:

My support of Map CP 12 has not changed. Please confirm this reasonable map.

Thank you,

Your constituent,

PAMELA RANEY

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From: [Pamela Raney](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank you
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:21:03 PM

Dear Chairperson Smith,

Thank you for several conversations we had at the breaks during the public meetings over the past months. I learned about the state and it's needs. In choosing Map CP12, you have come to a good place. Please follow through with your decision.

Sincerely,
Pamela Raney

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Neva Rathbun](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map 12
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:22:59 PM

Dear Maylynn,

Thank you so very much for selecting Map 12. I agree that the district lines and population numbers seem to be as close to fairness as is possible. Again, Thank you for this map. I hope that it doesn't get changed because of pressure from the resisters. Keep your faith, knowing that many are backing your decision, even though it may not seem like that tomorrow, November 9, 2021. Blessings, Neva Rathbun, President, Prairie County Republican Women (Personal comment)

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Heidi Roedel
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:57:34 PM

From: Heidi Roedel roedel@centurylink.net
Residence: Kalispell

Message:
Madam Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for all your hard work. I have been following this process and appreciate that I was able to be part of the process. My husband and I took a bus to Helena and we were both able to speak on the importance of keeping the Flathead in the Western District and all together. The process helped educate us! We reflected on how important it is to keep communities together and how much we have in common.

Thank you for your service to Montana!

Heidi Roedel

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From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Curtis Rosman
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:33:24 PM

From: Curtis Rosman c.rosman@montana.com
Residence: CHARLO, MT

Message:

I believe Map 11 best meets the four criteria adopted for redistricting.

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From: [Melisa Schelvan](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map – Keep Map CP-12
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 6:14:54 PM

Chair Smith and Commissioners,

Thank you for your hard work and dedication while considering the various maps presented.

I continue to support Map CP12 because it keeps the CSKT and Blackfeet Reservations in the Western District, which allows for a stronger voice for the tribes. It also keeps Lewis and Clark, Flathead, and Gallatin counties whole, while only splitting one county. Finally, it keeps Flathead County in the Western District. :

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melisa Schelvan

2916 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT, 59804

(406) 540-2813

mbschelvan@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Amy Seymour
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:14:45 PM

From: Amy Seymour amyseymour1@gmail.com
Residence: Joliet, MT

Message:

I strongly support CP-12 as the best choice for Montana's congressional districts because it minimizes the splitting of counties and just makes the most sense.

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From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Louis Seymour
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:16:49 PM

From: Louis Seymour Lamontan2000@yahoo.com

Residence: Joliet

Message:

CP12 is the best choice for dividing Montana into two congressional districts.

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

From: [Mark Smith](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Approval of Map CP 12
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:43:55 PM

I know that adjustments might be made to this map before approval, but I want to urge passage of this map as is.

This map shows compromise, includes continuity of counties and keeps communities intact. With two first people nations in the west, this community is sustained, and I think everyone recognizes the importance of keeping the strongly associated northwestern tribes together. Gallatin county is kept whole and in the west and both democrats and republicans have won this proposed west district in the recent past. Balance seems to have been achieved in this map (as close as is possible), and counties (save one) remained whole. I support this map.

--

Mark
Aspen Island Ranch

From: janet.sucha
To: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtlrg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Da.Stusek@mtleeg.gov;
Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP 12
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:42:02 PM

Please note that I am opposed to adopting the final plan for districting put forth in CP 12. The plan silences important voices from our State by dispersing small population based interest groups so their issues are overlooked and out voted. Intentionally chopping up these districts is wrong for Montana. We need a plan where all voices are heard, including working families, organized labor, and very importantly the Tribal voice. Please reconsider the draft and adopt a map that meets all of the Commission's criteria and goals.

Sincerely,
Janet Sucha
33647 Eagle Pass Trail
Charlo, MT 59824

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ruth Wardell
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:11:39 PM

From: Ruth Wardell rwardell@rocketmail.com
Residence: Great Falls, MT

Message:

I support CP12 as it splits 1 county, keeping communities of like interest together, and makes the population on both sides as equal as possible. This is the best map between CP 11, CP 12, and CP 13 as ALL concerned parties have a voice in both districts. But I still like map 7 and 1 better.

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From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jorene Sue Williams
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:15:18 PM

From: Jorene Sue Williams josue7williams@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

Ms. Chair Maylinn and redistricting commissioners,

Thank you for all your hard work on the very important issue of Redistricting. for Montana.

I am glad you choose CP -12. I hope you keep this map. It seems to fit the Mt. state guidelines best. I like that Flathead county is in the West.

and not divided. 1. This kees this area in the NW together with similar interest: in such things as Forestry and tourism. 2. Whitefish, Kalispell and Columbia Falls share the same airport. GNA. They also share the medical health centers in Whitefish and Kalispell. Also, the Blackfeet tribe share the same medical facilities.

4. The most important reason is I believe this map complies with the Mt. State Constitution of making the districts compact, and contiguous . Not divided by Mountains or lake or big rivers. Not S shapes or pie shapes to fit voting area's, and keeps it nearly equal in Population. It is fair for the district representative who needs to stay in touch with his/ her people in the district.

Several spoke about competition or being competitive at the last public comment Oct. 30. I did not understand how they were using this word. Who's competing with who? I do not understand the meaning they are putting to the word competitiveness. Of the original bunch of maps. Many were not competitive if they are meaning making voting lines. They were putting most the 7 largest cities together. The ones who are know to be more liberal in voting. They seemed to go along voting lines and not population lines. It is confusing to me how they using this word or the meaning they are attaching to the word competitiveness. It makes more sense to me to follow the Mt. Constitution rules. It seems to me it would make your job a lot easier.

God be with you in making your final decision. Do what is right for Montana.

Thank you for your work on the Redistricting of Montana.

Miss Jorene Williams

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