

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 6:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robin Abeshaus

From: Robin Abeshaus robinabeshaus@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I ask that the commission reconsider proposed maps HDP1 and HDP4. The currently proposed maps lean toward a legislature that will not be an accurate reflection of Montana voters Indigenous population or an accurate reflection of Montana's political parties. The state legislature should reflect the state's population. Our legislature needs to work together, across the aisles, to consider and represent the needs of all Montanans. We should begin with legislative districts that reflect all Montanans. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 4:23 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Wes Adams

From: Wes Adams stuwjas1@gmail.com
Residence: HOT SPRINGS

Message:

I'm in favor and vote yes to the MT GOP redistricting map. God bless our great state.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 1:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carole Addis

From: Carole Addis cjeanaddis51@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I believe maps 2 and 3 are the appropriate ways to develop the legislative districts. The whole goal with this redistricting is to make voting fair and equitable in all parts of Montana, especially to Native Americans/ Indigenous citizens, who have been too often marginalized. Maps 2 and 3 will accomplish this. Compromising with maps 1 and 4 will defeat this purpose.

I urge you to vote for maps 2 or 3.

Thank you.

Carole Addis

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 4:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathy Armstrong

From: Kathy Armstrong musk@reagan.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

My home is located in a rural area. Its my opinion that map 4 appears to be the most efficient way of getting between the different districts. When looking at the criteria used to do the redistricting it looks like map 4 is best at meeting those requirements. Based on a review of maps 1 and 4, it appears to me that they do the best representation to all of us who live in those areas.

Thanks for considering my comments.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 2:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Maryrose Beasley

From: Maryrose Beasley mrosebeasley@gmail.com
Residence: Roundup, MT 59072

Message:

None of these maps are acceptable. Territories are too large and unreasonable for representatives to cover in an easy, economical manner. With the price of fuel, districts should not gerrymander! Smaller geographical areas help conserve fuel, and allow for better representation from our officials.

Please do not accept any of the maps submitted. START OVER!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Carole Berkoff <cberkoff@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 7:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My statement re state legislative redistricting maps.

To those concerned from one who is concerned re how legislative districts elect representative & senators in Nov 2024. It is my understanding that in the state of MT 57% of the voters are republican & 43% vote democrat. The maps should not favor 1 political party. Maps 2 &3 reflect this voting split & meet the criteria required by law. The Native American vote is reflected in maps 2&3 .Maps 2&3 will allow the one person 1 vote rule to apply which provides a more representational government. I want maps 2&3 because they do not unduly favor 1 political party over the other. We need a fair 2 party system so all Montanans are represented.

Carole Berkoff
cberkoff@icloud.com
2089930620 83462

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 11:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

From: william berthoud wberthoud@msn.com
Residence: Roundup

Message:
Stop communist gerrymandering!! Do it according to the law.

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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: Deb E Bond
Date: Friday, August 26, 2022 5:57:36 PM

From: Deb E Bond debibond8@gmail.com
Residence: Whitefish

Message:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I believe that all districts should be competitive so voters decide not parties. This would make candidates more accountable to constituents not party leadership. Also all Montanans should be represented especially our Indigenous people. Both maps put forward by the Democratic Commissioners are proportionately fair and competitive. These maps have the best opportunity to elect Native candidates of their choice. The republican maps are examples of extreme gerrymandering and will not represent all of Montana's constituents. HDP2 reflects communities in the Flathead Valley the best while maintaining a strong majority-minority districts while adding another competitive district to the map on the Flathead Reservation. Please support HDP2 and HDP3 since they are fair and proportional and meet all the criteria and goals of the Commission.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Bradley

From: Patricia Bradley patbradley368@gmail.com
Residence: Twin Bridges

Message:

Members of the Redistricting Committee MUST be fair about representation. The GOP representatives are not at all. Their maps completely disregard the rules of the committee and are blatant and disgusting to gerrymander their ideology.

Democratic maps tie cities and and their commuters into a common community unlike the GOP maps. The Democratic maps reflect an interconnectedness, again, that follow the RULES. Unfair gerrymandering must not be allowed in the redistricting process. Follow your own rules and do the equal and fair plan.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 6:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Judith A Bundy

From: Judith A Bundy mjbundy.mt@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I favor maps that do not unduly favor a political party. It is only fair that maps that accurately reflect and represent minorities and political make-up of the Montana voters.

These districts will stand for the next ten years, thus defining how our communities will be represented in the Montana legislature. Where these district boundaries are drawn will affect how responsive Montana's legislators are to their constituents.

HDP2 and HDP3 ACCURATELY REFLECT AND REPRESENT MINORITIES AND THE POLITICAL MAKEUP OF OUR STATE. HDP2 and HDP3 ALSO MEET ALL OF THE MANDATORY CRITERIA REQUIRED BY LAW.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lorraine Carlson

From: Lorraine Carlson madamecarlson@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I support Maps 2 and 3 because they more accurately reflect the voting patterns of Montanans (57 Republicans and 43 Democrats per 100 voters) which meets one of your goals "No plan may be drawn that unduly favors a political party." Additionally, one of your mandatory criteria is "Legislative districts must be as equal in population as is practicable." To meet this criteria, there must be 7 – 8% indigenous legislators which maps 2 and 3 meet.

Gerrymandering is not fair. Montanans are fair. Please support Maps 2 and 3, NOT 1 and 4. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 3:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Julie Chapman

From: Julie Chapman julie@JulieTChapman.com
Residence: Huson, MT

Message:

I support MT redistricting maps 2 and 3, as they represent Montana's populace in a politically proportionate manner. I absolutely DO NOT support maps 1 and 4, as these are gerrymandered in the extreme and would create a legislative supermajority uninterested in compromise, collaboration, and problem solving. We need MORE citizens to vote and participate in our democracy...far too many already feel hopeless and voiceless, given gerrymandering and the electoral college. PLEASE — make sure all citizens feel empowered and represented! Adopt map 2 or 3!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 3:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Clarion

From: Susan Clarion susieclarion@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I support the redistricting plan for Maps 2 and 3. They are fair politically and equitably maintain representation of Native Americans. Maps 1 and 4 remove equitable representation of Native Americans.

Thank you for the hard work you do maintaining our legislative districts equal in political representation, and protecting minority voting rights.

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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: Carole Davenport
Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022 8:20:36 AM

From: Carole Davenport montanacarole@live.com
Residence: Florence Montana

Message:

I've studied the four maps officially offered and none of them are logical, impartial or even close to achieving the stated goals for this commission.

Since schools are the hub of small communities like mine, in our vastly rural state, the redistricting MUST keep schools within the redistricting boundaries. None of these maps do that, but seem to target placing schools in districts that do not represent the views and values of the actual residents. This is absolutely NOT ACCEPTABLE.

I reject all the maps on this site and the incoherent theories behind them.

I support the map submitted by Kim Dailey which includes every school district within the boundaries of 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: Anna Elizabeth Davis
Date: Friday, August 26, 2022 6:50:40 PM

From: Anna Elizabeth Davis mtlizard77@gmail.com
Residence: Ennis, MT

Message:

Miller HDPD map is the one that I believe is the most fair for MT voters.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Guida G. DuBois
Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022 1:15:07 PM

From: Guida G. DuBois gigisez@aol.com
Residence: St. Regis, MT

Message:

Option # 4 leaving the Mineral County District as is would be my choice as a resident voter in the county. Please hear our opinions.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Epstein

From: Susan Epstein shrop@mt.net
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

I support the maps that do not unduly favor one party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montanans.

I therefore encourage you to adopt either HDP2 or HDP3.

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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: Jacob Felax
Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022 3:42:30 AM

From: Jacob Felax jacob_felax@yahoo.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Hello Commissioners,

I thank you for the work you're undertaking. It's incredibly important that our district maps reflect the people living in them.

As such, I believe HDP 1 best represents the people living in Missoula (outside of HD 43 and 50, which should be split with one encompassing the rural area and one encompassing Missoula). The values of those living outside Missoula and those living within the city limits are vastly different, and the districts in the other maps that extend so far outside the city do not allow for a representative in those districts to represent the values of the people living there.

I attended the meeting in Missoula yesterday (8-26-22) and heard a lot of talk of fairness, but what I didn't hear anyone mention was whether the people living in the districts should be represented by someone who actually holds their values. What's the point of a competitive district if it pits people with conflicting values against each other, increasing animosity?

I hope you'll consider the values of the people living in the districts you're proposing when you make your recommendation.

Thank you,

Jacob Felax

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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: Thomas A. Gentry
Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022 4:06:04 PM

From: Thomas A. Gentry tdgentry34@gmail.com
Residence: CORVALLIS

Message:

Dear Redistricting Commission, Aug. 27, 2022

In deciding our legislative districts, please consider Montana as a whole. We are vastly conservative and would like to stay that way. If we switch to either map 2 or 3, we will become left leaning. Those boundary lines would put democrat pockets in conservative areas and sway our ability to maintain our values. Besides, either of these drafts considered transportation, communication, or community interests of Rural Montana. They don't consider how our representatives would have to adjust to such diverse terrain and change in representation. The best plan would be to adjust the districts as little as possible. My preference is map 4.

Thank you for your hard work on this and consideration.

Sincerely, Thomas A. Gentry

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dana Gentry

From: Dana Gentry tdgentry34@gmail.com
Residence: CORVALLIS

Message:

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

After previewing the proposed redistricting maps, in my opinion, map #4 would best serve Ravalli County. By keeping most districts within our county lines best serves the citizens here as far as representing our values. If you take chunks of our population out, mixing it with other areas, then our voice for Montana's future will be overpowered by the Democrats. Maps 2 & 3 clearly show that favor. Please consider keeping district lines that reflect the values of a given area. This is so important for the political process and what Montanan's stand for.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dana Gentry

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 9:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joyce Gibbs

From: Joyce Gibbs ghotiyawps@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:

Please select map 2 or 3, more fully representing districts which will give every voter a voice in our great state. Thanks

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gail Gilman

From: Gail Gilman gg4justice@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Maps 1 and 4 of the Montana Legislative District redistricting process are absolutely NOT representative of democracy, fairness, nor equal representation of Indigenous peoples! Maps 1 and 4 are gerrymandered and do not allow for Indigenous representation, which is super important in this state of Montana! I, for one, have much appreciated knowing there are Indigenous voices in the Legislature! Their voices need to be heard and honored. I want to know that ALL tribes are likely to be represented. Their voices are essential and their historical knowledge is invaluable! Thank you! Please do the right thing and redo maps 1 and 4!!!!!!!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 10:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Hancock

From: Patricia Hancock MTVISTACOS@GMAIL.COM
Residence: Stevensville, MT

Message:

I propose to the House of Representatives State Legislative districts the selection of Map #4 to be used in the elections between 2023-2032.

I request Map #4 because it represents the most equitable of all 4 maps.

Map #4 dose not represent Gerrymandering as dose maps 2 & 3 giving one political party the majority of the vote.

I propose Map #4 because I believe the arrogance of believing one party's vote is superior to another has no place in the state of Montana which I believe still represents "Liberty & Justice for ALL!"

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Kimya Mai <kimyamai@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting comment

Hello,

I am away from Montana at the moment, as I am waiting on moving into an apartment September 5. So I won't have the opportunity to speak in person.

But if I could, I would like to say that we should consider what indigenous Montanas want as a priority for what our community wants, whether we are indigenous or not. Indigenous people are disproportionately affected by the negativities of decisions to mine, not to take care (including data-gathering) of our watersheds, not conserving our trees and land, nor protecting keystone and culturally important species like free roaming buffalo (which composes an entire campaign at Yellowstone National Park which makes slow progress, when the science all points to the fact that bison are being slaughtered in the thousands when we could administer a vaccine for a disease which also affects elk (but is not nearly as publicized for that animal) and is virtually impossible to transfer to cattle even were there no barriers to travel.

I also would like to say that, while recreating is an important enjoyment and aspect of appreciating nature, I believe even those Montanas who believe they are ecologically conscious are not conscious to the degree that an indigenous person is. We must be more progressive, even among those who label themselves as progressive. We must be more open-minded, have higher standards, must have a higher consciousness of our interconnection, and truly work for regenerative agriculture and development, not "sustainable" development.

If there is any way I can be of service further to the Montana Conservation Voters, I would appreciate you all letting me know.

Kind regards,

Mai Hedayat-Zadeh

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 10:41 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joseph Hiett

From: Joseph Hiett joegobble@yahoo.com
Residence: MISSOULA

Message:

To me, Map # 4 does the best job of complying with the required criteria. It is compact, and contiguous

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 2:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Latimer Hoke

From: Latimer Hoke latimerhoke@gmail.com
Residence: Eureka

Message:

First, I didn't realize how sparsely populated Eastern Montana is. Each proposed map has some areas that look ridiculous on the east side and I guess that's the way it has to be.

I also want to say that I've received emails from special interests groups on "both" sides of this process, and both sides say that my participation is deeply important because the "other side" is proposing radical changes that will "turn Montana blue" or "make Montana redder." Ugh.

I see the commission is made up of two people selected by Republican leadership, two people selected by Democrat leadership, and one person selected by the MT Supreme Court. Clearly four of the members have partisan alliances that will sway their opinions, no matter what they say.

I understand your task is to approve a map that is competitive, accurately represents Montana's demographics, and doesn't favor one major party over another. I request that you actually do this.

I frankly don't have time to study these maps in close detail, crunching numbers, evaluating competitiveness. I suspect the vast majority of Montanans are similar to me, so I ask that you all HONESTLY achieve the task you have before you, rather than trying to score a "win" for a major party.

With respect,
Latimer Hoke, Eureka MT

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cathy Kendall

From: Cathy Kendall cathykendall@live.com
Residence: Helena. MT

Message:

Consider this comment a strong support for Maps 2 and 3 as the most honest representation of the population.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jane Kollmeyer

From: Jane Kollmeyer tjchute@msn.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please do not choose the GOP redistricting plan. It is extreme and will lead the GOP to dominate the legislative branch. Montana needs for all voices to be heard. Please choose a plan that will be fair and balanced to all parties and the state. Thank you

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jane Kollmeyer

From: Jane Kollmeyer tjchute@msn.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please do not allow for extreme redistricting. The GOP maps will tilt the state elections so the republicans will win most elections. This is not fair or balanced. We need all voices to be heard in Montana. We have lived here for over 30 years and we value the middle of the road approach that respects individual rights. Please choose maps that will allow for choices and both parties to be heard and represented. Thank you

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Benjamin Alesehir Lacayo

From: Benjamin Alesehir Lacayo bennyinmissoula@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I oppose the adoption of maps 1 and 4 as they do not fairly represent the true Montana demographic. Gerrymandering to misrepresent the indigenous people of Montana is not only unconscionable, but it does nothing to honor the credibility of the seat in government which you are fortunate to hold at this time. Nobody wins if they don't win fairly. I support free and fair elections, and I urge you to throw your support behind either map 2 or 3. Thank you for your time.

--

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 10:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joseph E Loos, Jr

From: Joseph E Loos, Jr joeloos7245@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed redistricting plans. I advocate for maps that do not unduly favor a political party. Further, the maps should fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political make-up of Montana. I understand that data the commission has agreed upon indicates that roughly 43% of Montanans vote democratic and 57% vote republican. While plans #2 and #3 roughly maintain this 43/57 balance, plans #1 and #4 skew toward a 30/70 preference for republican representation. It would also move us away from proportional representation of Native Americans by Native American representatives. I would strongly oppose such a regressive change. Further, an unfair advantage toward the current majority republican party would not only be unfair to the 43% of Montana Democrats, it would be unfair to all of us by creating a super majority legislature where debate over issues and the need to negotiate out compromises would be cut off. A solution that takes us to somewhere in between the 43/57 and 30/70 proportions is also not the answer. Fairness requires staying as close to the agreed upon data as possible. Thank you for considering my heartfelt concerns. I am 75 and have lived a good life here in Montana. I worry for the future of our small "d" democratic values for future generations if we go down the gerrymandering road of disenfranchising voters by skewing the map to create a super-majority in our legislature.

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shantie Midnight

From: Shantie Midnight shantiemidnight@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Dear MDAC, my family whole-mindedly implores you to select districting maps that do NOT unduly favor a single political party, such as proposed maps HDP1 and HDP4.

Political monopolies of either party do harm in the long run for state citizens. Like any monopoly, they become self-serving and entrenched, forgetting the very purpose of serving all their citizens and considering all ideas.

Montana needs districting voter maps that fairly reflect and represent all parties and political make-up of our great state. We need all good ideas on the table, from all parties.

The two maps that have the proper make up to represent Montana are HDP2 and HDP3.

Thank you for doing the right thing for Montana's citizens and future.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Will Lovett Moore

From: Will Lovett Moore willlovet Moore@gmail.com
Residence: Florence

Message:

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Your work is crucial to our state! I would urge you all to use your love for this state to pick the proposal that most allows for all Montanans to have a voice and avoid gerrymandered districts which only polarize our people further. Please pick a districting strategy that allows equal representation of all our citizens and their political views.

Thank You,

Will Lovett Moore

Independent Like You!

Candidate HD 87 Montana House of Representatives

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Newsom

From: Elizabeth Newsom wijim.7@juno.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I like Map 1. Districts are well-thought out, with equal representation of population and minimal deviation.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 5:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Andrea Phillip

From: Andrea Phillip aphillip780@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I want maps that do not unduly favor a political party. I want maps that ensure that Montanans from every part of the state can be heard. I am against maps which eliminate majority-minority districts or make it no longer a possibility for Native Montanans to elect the candidates of their choice. I am against maps which would make it nearly impossible for Native candidates of choice to win. I want maps which protect minority voting rights and obey Montana Constitution Article II, Section 4. I want maps which truly and fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political make-up of Montana voters.

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 5:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Christopher Preston

From: Christopher Preston christopherpreston1752@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Maps 1 and 4 seem to be clearly gerrymandered to exclude native American representation in the statehouse. This is overtly racist and offensive to Montanans. Maps 2 and 3 seem fair and would likely provide representation in proportion to the political interests of Montanans. Please choose either map 2 or 3.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 11:37 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Christine McCarthy-Ryan and Patrick Ryan

From: Christine McCarthy-Ryan and Patrick Ryan mcryan2010@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Thank you for your hard work on this effort to provide fair and just political districts in our great state.

We support HDP2 and HDP3 because we believe those two alternatives most fairly reflect the political makeup and minority representation of Montana. The other two alternatives developed by the Commission unduly favor one political party. It's critical that all of us feel like we have a fair opportunity to have our concerns and needs represented in the State legislature.

Sincerely,

Patrick and Christine

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Stacy Rye

From: Stacy Rye srye20@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Dear Redistricting Commission:

I wanted to make comments in favor of fair maps for redistricting Montana Legislative districts. The Republican vote share in Montana is around 57%. The legislative districts should reflect this. We can't have statewide offices that are won by Republicans at around 55% and have the legislature have more seats than that. That is gerrymandering and is prevalent in states like Wisconsin, which elect both Democrats and Republicans to statewide and federal office, but the legislature is 65% Republican. Wisconsin is listed by national organization as not a functioning democratic state. Please make sure the Montana Legislature remains reflective of Montana's population. The Chair must be fair.

Stacy Rye
Missoula

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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: Mark T. Savinski
Date: Friday, August 26, 2022 7:19:43 PM

From: Mark T. Savinski savin54@outlook.com
Residence: Sheridan, MT 59749

Message:

Currently MT is being redistricted based on the results of the 2020 census. There are 4 maps being considered, 2 submitted by Republicans and 2 by Democrats. The 2 submitted by Republicans are blatant partisan gerrymandering and will cause the MT state legislature to be unshakably Republican for the next decade. They will gain 13 seats when they already hold a near super majority and have controlled the State Legislature since 2008. Their disregard for the rules in this redistricting process and clear desire to turn Montana into a solid red state where they face no consequences for their blatantly partisan actions is disgusting, authoritarian, and Un-American. Even if they make dozens of concessions, the Republicans will come out ahead with an unjust super-majority while making races less competitive and ending any chance for native communities to have a voice in state congress, which is clearly discriminatory.

The Democrats' maps followed the rules and proper procedures and decided the state along voting numbers, 43 Democrat seats and 57 Republicans. Democrats used the 'spoke and wheel' method that shows how city centers have commuters that live in other areas and ties them together into a community. This creates some oddly shaped polygons, but it is meant to reflect the interconnectedness of cities and towns with outlying subdivisions. The Democrats followed the rules set out by the committee to the letter, that is why I strongly support either of the Democratic maps presented. Following the rules and procedures is not in the Republican playbook; their maps are blatantly partisan and if either one of their maps are chosen the Republican party will have a death grip on our state for the next 10 years, which will lead to scrapping our great Constitution, getting rid of the Stream Access Law, severely limit Public Access in general, and passing medieval abortion laws that the majority of Montanans oppose, along with most of the country. I strongly urge you to approve either of the two Democratic redistricting proposals and reject the two Republican proposals.

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 8:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Katherine Scholl

From: Katherine Scholl clinical4n6rn@aol.com
Residence: Florence, MT

Message:

Map 1 keeps many of us within our respective counties and communities. I strongly support map 1

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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: Randy Schwickert
Date: Saturday, August 27, 2022 3:14:06 PM

From: Randy Schwickert rschwick@cyberport.net
Residence: Whitefish, MT

Message:

Notwithstanding the protests of the GOP, it is obvious that gerrymandering is their tactic and obtaining a supermajority in both the Senate and House is their goal. That way they can continue to pass laws that run against the wishes of most Montanans, including damaging one of the best state constitutions in the country. I urge you to adopt a map that reflects the principle of one person one vote. I understand that HDPP-2 and HDPP-3 come closer to that constitutional mandate. As the attorney for our Republican Secretary of State recently stated, the whackos have taken over. Please adopt a fair and representative map so Montana does not become The Lost Best Place. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 8:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Theresa Seth

From: Theresa Seth tseth455@gmail.com
Residence: Gallatin Gateway Montana

Message:
Greetings,

RE: redistricting maps for Montana

Please select redistricting maps that reasonably represent the views of the population. Montanans are independent thinkers as is evident from the voter results. Typically the state is somewhere near 55-45% red versus blue with cross over voting.

The maps submitted by the democratic side are very reasonable and give all Montanans a voice. The districts are reasonably designed and identify areas with common voter issues which enable voice for issues specific to a locale. This is especially important in our Montana legislature. The maps include competitive districts which makes candidates more accountable to their constituents.

The maps submitted by the republican side are nothing short of a power grab to silence the views of voters with different views than the far right thinking republican wing of the party. All of the maps represent Montanas generally conservative views but these maps silence the voice of a large proportion of the population by eliminating competition that promotes real dialogue between candidates. Competition gives voters a choice and allows candidates to have a range of views not just extremes.

Accountability comes with diverse views and maps 1 & 4 ensure safety for the republican majority not accountability.

Maps 2 and 3 represent where Montanans live and ensure that the legislature can fairly represent a variety of interests and diversity of opinions.

Please give all Montanans and our locale's a voice by selecting maps 3 or 2. I personally view map 3 as more representative but either is immensely more representative than maps 1 and 4 presented by the republican contingent.

I am concerned about losing our long standing and effective democracy in America and Montana where the independent and moderate voice is getting drowned out by extremes on both side.

How about if Montana leads the way in giving voice to the population and not just the extremes.

Thank you for serving. Please select maps 3 or 2 that address the greater good and not the partisan gerrymandering promoted by the Republican Party.

Sincerely
Theresa Seth

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 10:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sonia Shearer

From: Sonia Shearer soniamaxfield@hotmail.com
Residence: MISSOULA

Message:

To me, Map # 4 does the best job of complying with the required criteria. It is compact, and contiguous

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 3:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Beth Sirr

From: Beth Sirr healthempowers@yahoo.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

1. The Commission unanimously adopted the goal of choosing a map that “does not unduly favor one political party.” Maps HDP 1 and 4 violate this goal by giving an unfair advantage to the majority party.
2. Protecting the voting rights of minorities is required by law and is one of the mandatory goals of the Commission. Please, don’t approve a map that weakens Native American voting strength.
3. Partisan gerrymandering is any map that unduly favors one political party. Please, act with honesty, fairness and integrity-it's always worth it.
4. The geographic distribution of Montana’s voters makes it easy to “pack” or concentrate minority party voters into urban districts. Please do not put undue emphasis on compactness to choose a map that looks good to communities of interest at the expense of partisan fairness for Montanans.
5. A map that does not unduly favor one political party would have the same proportion of majority voter districts as that party’s overall share of voters in elections.
6. Voter data adopted unanimously by Montana’s Commission indicate that on average, 57% of Montana’s voters vote Republican and 43% vote Democrat. To meet the Commission’s goal of drawing a map that “does not unduly favor one political party,” proposed maps would have 57 house districts that favor Republicans, and 43 house districts that favor Democrats. Two of the proposed maps have exactly this split, maps HDP2 and HDP3, while also meeting all of the mandatory criteria required by law.
7. The other two proposed maps, HDP1 and HDP 4, create over 70 districts favoring Republicans and less than 30 districts favoring Democrats. These maps meet the mandatory criteria with an emphasis on compactness. While the difference in party voters state-wide is only 14%, these maps would create an advantage of 30% to the majority party, about 15% more than their share of voters statewide. Regardless of the shape of the districts, this is partisan gerrymandering.
8. Our elections are based on the principle “one person, one vote.” But one vote doesn’t have equal weight when the deck is stacked with gerrymandered districts. State legislatures should reflect and represent the political make-up and the minority populations of their state.
9. Finally, please consider the "golden rule", do unto others as you would have them do unto you. While politics often seems untethered from such 'old fashioned" values it is important to orient our moral compasses to some basic standards, and I hope you will do so. Please, be honest, be fair, be kind, follow the intention of the law.

Please, consider all of the above and support either HDP2 or HDP3.
Thank you

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 4:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathleen P. Snodgrass

From: Kathleen P. Snodgrass Kippie_snodgrass@hotmail.com
Residence: Missooula, Montana

Message:

It is important to me that legislative districts in Montana reflect proportionally the communities of interest in our State. To accomplish this, please choose either map 2 or map 3. Maps 2 and 3 do a better job of meeting all of the commission criteria. Using either of these maps would tend to allow election of legislators who fairly represent the citizens of Montana, which would encourage legislators to listen to opinions that differ from their own and compromise to accomplish legislation that benefits all Montanans. Maps 2 and 3 show districts that are far more likely to elect indigenous legislators in proportion to the indigenous population in Montana, which is VERY important. Maps 1 and 4 are highly unfriendly to electing indigenous legislators and highly unlikely to produce a legislature proportionally representing the thoughts and beliefs of the people of Montana. PLEASE choose map 2 or map 3.

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 7:45 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: R. R. Turner

From: R. R. Turner sonwestdesigners@gmail.com
Residence: Stevensville, MT

Message:

I would prefer the options presented on Map Number Four (Mao 4).

Thank you for taking my input.

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 11:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jean Zankner

From: Jean Zankner jzankner@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

Dear Commission Members,

Please consider the main goal of redistricting which is FAIRNESS. I urge you to select either HDP2 or HDP3 as these proposed maps provide a more even distribution of voters from the two political parties. I realize the commission has a difficult job and I thank you for your participation. Jean Zankner

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