



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

MAYLINN SMITH
Presiding Officer
Arlee, MT 59821

JEFF ESSMANN
PO Box 80945
Billings, MT 59108

JOE LAMSON
612 Touchstone Court
Helena, MT 59634

KENDRA MILLER
3734 Potosi St.
Bozeman, MT 59718

DAN STUSEK
3477 Birkland Drive
Helena, MT 59602

COMMITTEE STAFF
RACHEL WEISS, Research Analyst
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
K. VIRGINIA ALDRICH, Staff Attorney
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

Request for Information (RFI) Racial Bloc Voting Analysis

Background

The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission ("commission") is a five-member citizen commission created by the Montana Constitution to draw congressional and state legislative districts after each decennial census. The commission issues this Request for Information (RFI) for information related to a vendor to perform a racial bloc voting analysis for the State of Montana for use in state legislative redistricting.

The commission must present a state legislative redistricting plan to the Montana Legislature at the beginning of the 68th Legislative Session, which starts in January 2023. After receiving recommendations from the Legislature, the commission may adjust and will finalize the state legislative districts for use in the 2024 election cycle.

Montana contains eight federally recognized American Indian tribal governments. According to the 2020 Census redistricting data released in accordance with Public Law 94-171, at least 9.3% of the state's population reported being American Indian or Alaska Native either alone or in combination with some other race. According to information provided to the Montana Legislature by legislators, a total of 12 legislators who served in the 2021 Legislature were American Indian, or a total of 8% of the 150-member body.

Montana has complete coverage of voting districts (VTDs) for the 2020 Census but did not have complete VTD coverage for the 2010 Census. Of Montana's 56 counties, 20 did not participate in the U.S. Census Bureau's Voting District Project in 2010. Six of those counties include portions of five reservations.

Statement of Need

The purpose of this RFI is to seek information on statistical racial bloc voting analyses and related consulting services from technically experienced and capable vendors who are interested in providing these services to the commission. The information gathered in this RFI will be used to formulate pricing for potential future requests for services in a public procurement process. However, this RFI is being sought strictly for the purpose of gaining knowledge of services available with an estimate of their corresponding costs and should not be construed as intent, commitment, or promise to acquire services or solutions offered. *No contract will be awarded as a result of this RFI.*

Who Should Respond:

Vendors are encouraged to participate in this request if they are interested in providing the services listed in this RFI to the commission. A vendor may include alternate services that meet the needs described in this RFI.

Requirements:

The commission has developed the following initial direction of a draft scope of work and related technical requirements.

Draft Scope of Work:

At a minimum, services must include but are not limited to:

1. compiling a database of precinct-level election returns
2. providing guidance to the commission to assist it in determining relevant elections, specific regions, and preferred candidates to use in the analysis
3. conducting racial bloc voting analysis using standard statistical techniques to determine the existence and extent of racially polarized voting in the state or specific regions of the state
4. preparing a draft report and a final report outlining the results of the racial bloc voting analysis
5. making an oral presentation of findings to the commission and responding to the commission's questions relating to the analysis.

The services may include:

1. if the analyses indicate the existence of legally significant racial bloc voting, assisting the commission to determine if one or more proposed redistricting plans may comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act
2. serving as an expert witness for the commission on Voting Rights Act issues in any court challenges to the commission's plan that occur before the commission submits its final plan to the Montana Secretary of State and is dissolved, as required in the Montana Constitution.

RFI Response Requirements

Please provide all requested information outlined in this RFI. In addition, responses must include the complete name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of the vendor. Responses must be signed and dated by the vendor.

Please answer each of the following questions:

1. What statistical analytical methodology would the vendor employ to perform the required services?
2. What are the costs and benefits of obtaining data and analysis for the 2010 and 2012 elections given the lack of complete VTD data for those elections versus the costs and benefits of analyzing relevant elections from 2014 to 2020 for which VTD data is available?

3. How would the vendor select the relevant elections, specific regions, and preferred candidates to recommend to the commission for inclusion in the analysis?
4. How much time does the vendor estimate is necessary to complete each required service in the Draft Scope of Work and, if possible, for the discretionary services? The estimate may include a range of hours.

Cost and Expenses

Please provide an hourly rate schedule for the required and discretionary services listed in the Draft Scope of Work. If the vendor proposes using a subcontractor, please provide an hourly rate schedule for those services.

Travel to the commission office in Helena may be required. Please provide details on how the vendor calculates travel expenses.

Submission Details

Submit one electronic copy of the requested information in eMACS for the solicitation LEG-RFI-2022-0015NH.

Responses to this RFI must be received by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time on November 4th, 2021.

This RFI does not obligate the commission to pursue a contractual relationship with an entity that responds to this RFI and does not limit the commission to or restrict the commission from pursuing a contractual relationship with an entity that does not respond to this RFI.

The commission reserves the right to request additional information for clarification during the review of the responses to this RFI.

An entity responding to this RFI is responsible for all costs associated with its response. Responses become the property of the commission and are subject to public disclosure.

Questions should be directed to the Q&A Board within the Request for Information solicitation.

The Single Point of Contact for this RFI is Nolan Harris.

- Nolan.Harris@mt.gov
- 406-444-7210