

# Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between September 19 and September 26, 2022

Distributed electronically September 27, 2022

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 4:36 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Randy Alford

From: Randy Alford jracpa@montana.com  
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

I support map 4. It is the map that does the best job of meeting the criteria of the commission. Maps 2 and 3 propose districts that are less compact and therefore do not meet the commission's own criteria. Both maps 2 and 3 propose putting Darby in HD22 with Drummond, but there is no road connecting those towns without driving through at least 2 other proposed districts in those maps. Also, Skalkaho Highway is only open 6 months of the year, and is not entirely in the proposed HD22, so maps 2 and 3 violate the commission's mandatory criteria that "areas separated by natural geographic or artificial barriers that prevent transportation by vehicle on a maintained road shall be avoided."

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 5:12 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: John Alford

From: John Alford mtjra@protonmail.com  
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

The Montana Constitution says that each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. Maps 2 and 3 have districts that are deliberately not compact with the goal of favoring one party (Democrats) in those districts. That was not the goal of how the current legislative districts were drawn and should not be how the new legislative districts are drawn. Map 4 makes minor adjustments to the current districts and is the optimal choice of the four maps proposed by the commission.

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 3:50 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Jane Alford

From: Jane Alford jane.e.alford@gmail.com  
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

I've lived in Ravalli County for 45 years. The county votes republican. Now partisan members of the commission are trying to gerrymander legislative districts to disenfranchise republican voters in Ravalli County. The Montana Constitution Article 5 Section 14 specifically states that "Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory." Proposed Maps 1 and 4 follow the Montana Constitution, while Proposed Maps 2 and 3 do not. You should reject Maps 2 and 3. Maps 1 and 4 more closely match the current legislative districts and obey the Montana Constitution.

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Richard Amrhein <amrhein33@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 3:30 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** NO new Redistricting for Park & Gallatin Counties

## **VOTE NO**

on any and all Redistricting in Park & Gallatin Counties.

**ABSOLUTELY NO, NO, NO**

**I oppose maps 2 and 3** for many of the reasons already provided at public hearings I have listened to.”

“To respect your time and avoid repeating what was said already,

**I oppose mas #2 and #3** for many of the reasons already provided at public hearings I have watched and heard.”

**Richard J Amrhein**  
**890 Hidden Valley Road # 87**  
**Bozeman, MT. 59718**

**P.S.** It has come to my attention that the behavior of **Democrat Commissioners Miller and Lamson** was to question members of the public and turn it into an interrogation room and bully people !

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:44 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Carol Anderson

From: Carol Anderson carol@2andersons.com  
Residence: Emigrant MT

Message:

I disagree with the proposed redistricting maps 2 and 3, and I concur with various reasons voiced at the public hearing at MSU, especially that Park interests do not speak to the interests of Montana residents.

I also find it shocking and disappointing that some people were questioned and intimidated by public officials at that meeting to the point that others chose not to speak. What a shame—that defeats the very purpose of allowing public comments!

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:30 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: James Barutha

From: James Barutha pioneer19751@hotmail.com  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

After reviewing the proposed maps supplied by the redistricting commission I believe that map HDP2 and HDP3 allow for the best representation of all Montanans. We should not be favoring one political party over the other. A good mix of constituents who have similar needs should be able to choose their district representative in a fair and equitable way with no political skewing of districts.

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 9:16 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:  
Do it right. That means you, commies.

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 9:20 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:  
NO commie gerrymandering. You socialists are an embarrassment.

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:59 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:  
Use the conservative map, not the communist one!!

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 11:42 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Tera Bos

From: Tera Bos farm4jc@outlook.com  
Residence: Belgrade, MT

Message:

To respect your time, I will just say in brief that I oppose maps #2 and #3 for many of the reasons already provided at public hearings. I do believe it ultimately diminishes the voice of the rural voter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:52 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Susan Dailey

From: Susan Dailey sdailey8469@gmail.com  
Residence: Livingston

Message:

I am in favor of Redistricting Map #3. I think it is important to keep residents of counties in the same district as much as possible, and this retains the most of Park County's integrity. Redistricting Map #2 would be my second choice. I am adamantly opposed to Redistricting Map \$4 as it would split up the city of Livingston, which makes no sense at all. Thank you for your attention to my comments.

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 11:15 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Julie Dooling

From: Julie Dooling jd2.dooling@gmail.com  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I am the current Rep for HD 70 (Broadwater County & Eastern portion of L&C County). The redistricting map that I prefer is House District Proposal 1, as it has the least amount of changes to the boundaries of the current district.

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2022 3:52 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Steven Eschenbacher

From: Steven Eschenbacher seschenbac@yahoo.com  
Residence: Polson, MT

Message:

The first maps have a HD15 that is an abomination for the requirement of compact districts. The leg sticking down the east side of Hwy 93 to St. Ignatius is pure gerrymandering. I understand the need to help with representation of Native Americans, but this district is designed in such a way that one of the neighbors who live across the road from each other are disenfranchised even if they have common interests and needs in order to try and create a minority majority district. It is unConstitutional and discriminatory on the basis of race and they should be discarded in favor of the final map.

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 9:50 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Louise Faith

From: Louise Faith lfaithb@outlook.com  
Residence: Gardiner, MT 59030

Message:

Some valid reasons were stated opposing maps 2 & 3 & I also hold those views.

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

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2022 4:22 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Darrel Folkvord

From: Darrel Folkvord mtaero.df@gmail.com  
Residence: Toston, Montana

Message:

Of the four maps developed, Map number one makes the most sense for Broadwater County. Dividing the county into so many districts will make it very confusing for residents to understand who their representative is.  
Thank you.

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



**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Jeff Green <jeffgreennd@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:00 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MT Redistricting

Good afternoon. I am writing to voice my opinion regarding the proposed redistricting maps being presented.

I oppose maps 2 and 3 because I believe it will bring a disparity between rural and city voters ultimately and unfairly.

Jeff Green  
Belgrade, MT

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 1:14 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Jedediah Hinkle

From: Jedediah Hinkle jedediah.hinkle@legmt.gov  
Residence: Belgrade, Montana

Message:  
Commissioners,

In these written comments, I would like to focus on some positives and negatives with the propose maps as far as boundaries and areas of interests. I will focus mostly in Gallatin County.

1. Concerning the Belgrade community, MAP#1 represents the Belgrade community the closest. HD73 represents the River Rock community and HD74 represents Belgrade City. This MAP#1 is fairly close to the boundaries of the current districts but HD74 is pared down to account for population.
2. MAP#1 keeps the agricultural communities intact between districts HD71 and HD76. These would be the Four Corners, Gateway, Backwood Road, Goochhill Road, and Stucky. This is mostly all agricultural land on the south side of Gallatin Valley which also includes some non-compact subdivisions with possible 5-10 acre lots.
3. Map#1 keeps Livingston intact.
4. MAP#4 a negative for MAP#4 is that it splits the city of Belgrade. Belgrade should be left intact such as in MAP#1. Map #4 also splits Livingston.
5. A positive for Map #4 is that is includes both the Meadow Village, Upper Village and the Yellowstone Club of Big Sky in the same district and Madison County which not only helps Madison County with population but keeps the bulk of the Big Sky community intact. Currently Big Sky is split between the Meadow Village and the Upper Village and because of this, Big Sky has 2 Senators and 2 Representatives. Keeping Big Sky intact will bring the representation down to 1 Rep and 1 Senator.
6. In any map, the community of Churchill should be included in the same district as Manhattan as both areas are very close in community and interest. MAPS #2 and #3 are the closest to achieving this although In those maps the district boundaries which include Churchill only skirt Manhattan rather than including the town.
7. Negatives for MAPS #2 and #3. They split agricultural communities and interests around the Four Corners/Gateway area and bring district boundaries into Montana State University and East Bozeman.
8. MAPS #2 and #3 carve up Belgrade and bring districts into the heart of East Bozeman. This would create legislative districts that carve up Belgrade's school district and also carve up Bozeman's school district into slivers and pointlessly join the two. Belgrade school district areas should be left intact and specifically represented rather than sharing representation with slivers of Bozeman's school district.
9. MAP#3 splits an island like subdivision community on the corner of Jackrabbit Lane and W. Valley Center Road (Between Four Corners and Belgrade). This island subdivision should be left intact and this subdivision is part of the Belgrade School district.

10. In both MAPS #2 and #3 the proposed HD30 is basically geographically impossible to travel. As was stated in the in-person hearings, it would take a Representative roughly 6 hours to travel from West Yellowstone to Red Lodge through Montana and even more to get to Cooke City. This is equivalent to driving from Bozeman to Spokane Washington. Traveling through Yellowstone Park, should not be a consideration or a legitimate option when deciding what districts these towns are placed in. For Cooke City, it should be placed in a district within Carbon County as it would be much easier to travel south into Wyoming and enter Cook City, than to travel through Yellowstone Park which is closed for portions of the year. Additionally, a legislator should not have to purchase a park pass to conveniently travel from one end of the district to another.

11. All of the Maps should include Cook City in a district with Red Lodge rather than Gardner.

I hope this insight will help determine a final map that can focus on areas of community interest within Gallatin County.

Thanks,  
-Jedediah Hinkle

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Jedediah Hinkle <jedediah.hinkle@mtleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 1:24 AM  
**To:** districting@mt.gov; Joe.kolman@mt.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Considerations for Gallatin County

Commissioners,

In these written comments, I would like to focus on some positives and negatives with the propose maps as far as boundaries and areas of interests. I will focus mostly in Gallatin County.

1. Concerning the Belgrade community, MAP#1 represents the Belgrade community the closest. HD73 represents the River Rock community and HD74 represents Belgrade City. This MAP#1 is fairly close to the boundaries of the current districts but HD74 is pared down to account for population.
2. MAP#1 keeps the agricultural communities intact between districts HD71 and HD76. These would be the Four Corners, Gateway, Backwood Road, Goochhill Road, and Stucky. This is mostly all agricultural land on the south side of Gallatin Valley which also includes some non-compact subdivisions with possible 5-10 acre lots.
3. Map#1 keeps Livingston intact.
4. MAP#4, a negative for MAP#4 is that it splits the city of Belgrade. Belgrade should be left intact such as in MAP#1. Map #4 also splits Livingston.
5. A positive for Map #4 is that is includes both the Meadow Village, Upper Village and the Yellowstone Club of Big Sky in the same district and Madison County which not only helps a Madison County district with population but keeps the bulk of the Big Sky community intact. Currently Big Sky is split between the Meadow Village and the Upper Village and because of this, Big Sky has 2 Senators and 2 Representatives. Keeping Big Sky intact will bring the representation down to 1 Rep and 1 Senator.
6. In any map, the community of Churchill should be included in the same district as Manhattan as both areas are very close in community and interest. MAPS #2 and #3 are the closest to achieving this although In those maps the district boundaries which include Churchill only skirt Manhattan rather than including the town.
7. Negatives for MAPS #2 and #3 are that they split agricultural communities and interests around the Four Corners/Gateway area and bring district boundaries into Montana State University and East Bozeman. These boundaries dilute the permanent rural agricultural vote with the transient college population and is quite unfair to these rural voters. These maps are contrary to MAP#1 which leaves these agricultural areas intact and does not dilute the rural vote.
8. MAPS #2 and #3 carve up Belgrade and bring districts into the heart of East Bozeman. This would create legislative districts that carve up Belgrade's school district and also carve up Bozeman's school district into slivers and pointlessly join the two. Belgrade school district areas should be left intact as much as possible and specifically represented rather than sharing representation with slivers of Bozeman's school district.
9. MAP#3 splits an island like subdivision community on the corner of Jackrabbit Lane and W. Valley Center Road (Between Four Corners and Belgrade). This island subdivision should be left intact and this subdivision is part of the Belgrade School district.

10. In both MAPS #2 and #3 the proposed HD30 is basically geographically impossible to travel. As was stated in the in-person hearings, it would take a Representative roughly 6 hours to travel from West Yellowstone to Red Lodge through Montana and even more to get to Cooke City. This is equivalent to driving from Bozeman to Spokane Washington. Traveling through Yellowstone Park, should not be a consideration or a legitimate option when deciding what districts these towns are placed in. For Cooke City, it should be placed in a district within Carbon County as it would be much easier to travel south into Wyoming and enter Cook City, than to travel through Yellowstone Park which is closed for portions of the year. Additionally, a legislator should not have to purchase a park pass to conveniently travel from one end of the district to another.

11. All of the Maps should include Cook City in a district with Red Lodge rather than Gardner.

I hope this insight will help determine a final map that can focus on areas of community interest within Gallatin County.

Thanks,

-Jedediah Hinkle

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Butte bears <bearcrazy.jh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 2:38 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Montana has fought long and hard to be the thriving State.

We are now on an upwards climb in many area of industry. We will soon be a place the younger generation will be able to provide for their families instead of moving to another state. With that said.

I want to take this opportunity to flex my civic muscle of behalf of the citizens of Silver bow County and stand in opposition to Maps like #2 and #3 .

I have been able to review all proposals and find these two lacking in the mission Montana has in mind for a strategic future for those that want to raise families and find good jobs and bring us into a successful future.

Thank you for reviewing my statement and adding to the record.

Sincerely,

Jennifer m. Howell

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 9:50 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Gene Huntington

From: Gene Huntington efg59019@gmail.com  
Residence: Helena. Montana

Message:

I favor HDP 2 and 3, because they best meet the goal of not unduly favoring one political party. These proposals also do not reduce the potential Native American representation. Proposed HDP 1 and 4 would appear to be efforts to gerrymander legislative districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 24, 2022 8:50 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Natalie Katsoulis

From: Natalie Katsoulis nataliekatsoulis.ma@yahoo.vom  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:  
Please vote against maps 2 and 3. Thanks, Natalie

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



## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2022 8:55 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Robyn Lauster

From: Robyn Lauster robynkcl@gmail.com  
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

Only map #2 or map #3 gives a fair competitive chance to both parties, as the law requires.

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 7:55 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Richard Lyon

From: Richard Lyon richardglyon@att.net  
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

### Message:

My name is Richard Lyon. I have resided in Gallatin County since moving to Montana in February 2012. I am a corporate lawyer, mediator, arbitrator, and nonprofit board member and executive. I have been active in zoning issues in Gallatin County since moving to Montana. I have been involved in apportionment and redistricting issues my entire adult life. As a high school student I attended oral argument in the Supreme Court of the United States on one of original cases involving one-person, one-vote, from native state of Delaware. As an aside, my opposition to partisan gerrymandering has been directed toward both major parties – in Delaware, the Democrats; in Texas, the Republicans. I believe in democracy and a republican form of government [lower case], not Democrats or Republicans [upper case].

I am going to repeat some of the arguments I made to this Commission during its hearings on Congressional districting, as both necessary background for my substantive testimony today and to demonstrate why this Commission's task in apportioning the state legislature will in many ways impact Montanans' lives more directly and more quickly than the Congressional map.

To quote the Chief Justice of the United States, in his opinion in the first case to lay out apportionment guidelines, the bedrock principle is simple: "Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests." The one person, one vote principle was intended to end the notion that some voters – in that case and most of the cases that followed, rural voters – had insight or interests that would be ignored or overwhelmed absent a percentage of legislators disproportionate to their numbers.

Gerrymandering has a long and dishonorable history in the United States. Massachusetts governor Elbridge Gerry, who gave his name to the word, had signed the Declaration of Independence. Attempts to craft districts intentionally to dilute the franchise of a political minority or disfavored ethnic group have flourished to this day. Technology has made partisan gerrymandering both easier and more sophisticated. An innocent-looking simple line north to south or east to west may have carefully crammed one party's likely voters into one district or carefully divided the other party's voters into separate districts. A recent egregious example was a proposed Congressional redistricting map, submitted to this Commission with a straight face, with a boundary that literally ran down Main Street in Bozeman.

No redistricting can entirely avoid the scent of politics. Sometimes it's disguised, sometimes not. In my 25 years of residing in Texas redistricting was almost a biennial event, each an effort openly acknowledged by the majority political party to increase and perpetuate its majority.

The authors of Montana's Constitution were wise to entrust this fraught subject to a politically neutral body – this Commission. I trust that the Commission will carry out its charge with care not even to consider artificial distinctions intended to favor any political party.

Prior public comments suggest that this Commission may need to choose between two of its Constitutional and self-imposed redistricting criteria. The Montana Constitution requires "compact territory," which many commentators believe calls for simply drawn, geometrically plain-shaped districts. Others favor districting that "minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations when possible" and "keep[] communities of interest intact."

Both of these objectives have benefits and drawbacks. Avoiding division of established communities intimates charges of redistricting contortions intended to overvalue a minority community of interest and risks less than geometric shapes. But a district drawn to include an Indigenous tribe or homogenous city or county may give that community of interest proportionate representation in the legislature.

Compact territories look neat on a map and avoid any charge of districts appearing to suit one party or another. However straight lines and rectangles rarely coincide with readily identifiable communities or county or city boundaries. Criticism of petal-shaped districts, for example, ignores the fact that individuals – such as myself – in the immediate vicinity of a city identify with the city more than surrounding rural areas. I shop in Bozeman, pay school taxes in Bozeman, am active in Bozeman affairs, and consider myself a Bozeman resident even though I do not live within city limits. District boundaries that recognize such communities of interest better serve representative democracy and the public interest.

But the greatest drawback of reliance on compact districts is the opportunity to use straight lines for political advantage. Recent elections and registration data indicate a 57-43% advantage for Montana's current majority party. Yet certain proposed maps would, if current trends are followed, yield a legislative majority for that party exceeding 70%. I doubt that this is coincidental. It approaches what I described in my earlier testimony as naked partisanship and runs directly counter to the state Constitution's admonition and this Commission's stated charge against using redistricting for partisan advantage.

The principle of nonpartisan redistricting – fundamental to the U S Constitution's guarantee to each state of a republican [lower case] form of government – should be this Commission's overarching guideline. I'm willing to abide a couple of oddly shaped districts to achieve a legislature that reflects as best as possible the political and demographic realities of the Treasure State.

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Marty Malone <marty@ycminc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:25 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** comment

Marty Malone  
P O Box 152  
Pray, MT  
Cell 406-223-1302

Park and Sweet Grass Counties have been together forming one House District. When the city of Livingston is included a very nice compact Senate District is formed. I see no reason for the Commission's insistence that the districts be destroyed. Version 2 and 3 make no sense since there is no connection with the boundaries. Is the Commission aware there are physical boundaries separating each County.

Version 4 splits Park County three ways requiring three representatives for the County. This map is close to being as bad as 2 and 3.

Version 1 does have Park and Sweetgrass in one House District but for some reason the Livingston District includes a portion of Paradise Valley splitting communities.

This could be an easy project by tweaking each House District a bit in most of Montana but technology allows the Commission to do four "what if" scenarios. Not good for Montana nor the voting public.

Marty Malone

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Marty Malone <marty@ycminc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:09 PM  
**To:** districting@mt.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] comment

Commission

Park and Sweetgrass Counties have been in one district since 1974 and should remain as one district. Maps 2 and 3 do not fit the requirement of being contiguous since there are many mountain ranges between the counties in question. I would encourage the Commission to leave District 59 and 60 with just a few alterations. The census district on Bozeman Hill can be returned to District 59. A simple fix.

Marty Malone  
Cell 406-223-1302

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Angela Marshall <angelamarshall8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 10:55 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MSU panel

Hello,

My name is Angela Marshall. I live in Big Sky. I drove to MSU well prepared and ready to speak. I was appalled at what took place there. I was intimidated to speak as it appeared that all who were well prepared were lambasted by the panel. The panel was quite condescending and clearly Democratic from the way they grilled ALL public that were in opposition to map 2/3. It was very obvious. I felt like I would not know all of the answers to their snide responses and Q and A. I lost my nerve to speak and was so frustrated by what was happening that I did not feel like I could maintain composed dialogue that I left MSU without public comment. Luckily I wrote it down. So please accept this here in lieu of at MSU.

**Don't spilt up the town of Big Sky:** Big Sky is made up of 2 counties – Madison and Gallatin - and is additionally legislatively split between 4 legislators – 2 House and 2 Senate. As Big Sky has grown, this legislative split has resulted in a dilution of our ability to advocate for our unique needs. The Commission should keep Big Sky whole and not split it between 4 legislative districts. Map 4 is the map which best meets this need. The reason Map 4 is preferred is because Madison County lacks the population to make-up even one legislative district. In fact, it's short 2300 people. By necessity, Madison County must draw people from another county. It makes sense to draw the Gallatin side of Big Sky so our community is kept whole. In case you're not aware, the legislators who represent the Madison County side of Big Sky come to Big Sky by Jack Creek Road - a road that goes directly from Ennis to Big Sky.

• **A map shouldn't be manipulated to favor one party over another:** In the last presidential election, Gallatin voted 53% Democrat, 45% Republican, and 3% Libertarian. There are 11 House districts in the county, 6 of which are held by Democrats and 5 by Republicans. However, in proposed Maps 2 and 3 there are about 10 safe Democrat seats and 2 safe Republican seats. That ratio for sure doesn't reflect the partisan make-up of the county. In my opinion, with respect to Gallatin County, Maps 2 and 3 unduly favor one party over another.

Angela Marshall

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 8:12 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Mari Messinger

From: Mari Messinger mmessinger05@gmail.com  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

From the research I'm seeing, I believe the proposed HDP2 and HDP3 seem fair and proportion while meeting all the criteria and goals of the Commission. I'm a born and raised Montanan of the Gallatin Valley.

I believe in fair elections, including districts that are not leaning heavy one political party or another. I do not believe we should have echo chambers for political parties in Helena. We should be able to fairly elect legislators the best represent their area.

Please keep Montana fair and respectable.

-Mari

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

In America, voters choose who our leaders will be. At least, we used to. In the 2021 legislative session, Montana Republicans flipped that tradition. They chose who their voters would be. Their choice: Montanans most likely to vote for them.

They passed three bills that make it harder for four distinct populations to vote: the disabled, the poor, American Indians, and college students. Of course, they couldn't say that was their intent ... but, frankly, their statements on the floor, in public, and in court remind you of asking your son and his friends why the car you let them take camping smells – well, funny. They can't get their lines right or their stories straight.

HB 530 was originally a “clean-up” bill, intended merely to update security measures to prevent foreign interference in our elections. It sailed through the House, but mysteriously languished in the Senate. It was having a makeover.

Earlier in the session, the Senate had killed a bill prohibiting paid ballot collection after election clerks and tribal members complained mightily of the burdens such a ban would impose. But in the flurry of activity two days before the legislature left town, Republican leadership snuck the same concept into HB 530 as a floor amendment.

Floor amendments don't allow for public comment, so senators were spared the vehement objections to the original bill. The new, “improved” HB 530 passed the Senate on a party-line vote. Warily, the House sponsor saddled up what had become a Trojan horse and rode it back to the House. Despite her incoherent defense of the makeover, the bill passed, slashing what Montana's American Indians describe as their “lifeline” to the ballot box.

Next: Election Day Registration (EDR). One story alone justifies EDR. On Election Eve 2017, a Montana candidate for Congress assaulted a reporter and then lied about it. Maybe you hadn't cared much about that election – or any election – until then. But if you wanted to register the next day and cast your vote to keep someone with those character issues out of Congress, you could.

Not now. HB 176 eliminated EDR even though Montanans voted to keep it in 2014. Yes, election eve surprises are rare, but election day registration isn't. Since 2008 7% of all registered voters in Montana, nearly 1/3 of them young voters, have used it. It's never been associated with fraud.

For the trifecta: HB 169, revising Montana's voter ID requirements. After 36 years running Rosebud County elections, Rep. Geraldine Custer saw weaknesses in the original bill. For a month she worked with the Governor's office, the Secretary of State, the bill's sponsor and her party's leadership to make HB 169 “the best ID law in the land.”

She finally got consensus. But in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, the Speaker of the House himself rose to amend HB 169 from the floor. The amendment? Eliminating student IDs as a primary source of identification.



No voter fraud has ever been associated with student IDs. The only thing associated with them is more students voting. The amendment would require college students to show not just their ID, but something college students don't always have: a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or government document addressed to them. Why?

Speaker Galt took the silver spoon out of his mouth long enough to explain: "If you're a college student and you don't have a registration, bank statement, or a W-2, I kind of wonder why you're voting." Sheesh.

While her Rosebud County "colleague" openly ridiculed her from behind, Custer took her last stand. It's discriminatory, she warned. It's going to be challenged. "We're going to spend hard-earned Montana taxpayer dollars to line the pockets of attorneys."

Her majority leader rose to scold her for over-reacting. "You lost me at 'lining their pockets,'" she told Custer. As of June 30, Montana taxpayers have paid \$642,228 to the law firm defending challenges to these three bills. And the trial hadn't even started, so those pockets better be deep.

The solution isn't in court, critics say. If you don't like what these legislators did, "throw the bums out." There's the rub. The Montanans most likely to do the tossing have been tossed themselves.

Suggested Headline: "Election Integrity"? How about Electee Integrity?

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** mary moe <mary.sheehy.moe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 12:08 PM  
**To:** Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essman@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov  
**Subject:** Voting Rights  
**Attachments:** disenfranchised.docx

As the Redistricting Commission continues its deliberations, it is important to factor in what's going on with voting rights in Montana. The attached column, published in a number of Lee newspapers this week, gives you that broader context.

Best,

Mary Sheehy Moe

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 7:21 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Robyn Mohs

From: Robyn Mohs rickrobyn@yahoo.com  
Residence: E. Helena

Message:

To respect your time and avoid repeating what was said already, I oppose maps #2 and #3 for many of the reasons already provided at public hearings.

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

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Clare Parker <clare@rudyparker.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 5:37 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MAPS

I oppose maps 2 and 3.

Clare Parker  
Emigrant, MT

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Ta'jin Perez <tperez@westernnativevoice.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 9:45 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Attachments:** Billings Gazette OpEd by Tammi Fisher - The Montana GOP is now saying the quiet part out loud.pdf;  
RDX- Public Comment.pdf

Good morning,

My name is Ta'jin Perez, and I am the Deputy Executive Director of Western Native Voice. Please see the attached documents which I would like to add to the record of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission, on behalf of Western Native Voice.

I would appreciate a reply confirming receipt and submittal to the Commission. Please reach out if there are any questions the Commission might have.

Thank you.

**Ta'jin J Perez**

(Pronouns: He/Him/His)

Deputy Executive Director

Western Native Voice

80 25th St W

Billings, MT 59102

406.869.1938 - office

406.696.0754 - cell

[tperez@westernnativevoice.org](mailto:tperez@westernnativevoice.org)

[https://billingsgazette.com/opinion/columnists/tammi-fisher-the-montana-gop-is-now-saying-the-quiet-part-out-loud/article\\_8297e532-338d-11ed-bbd2-97cdc9d2d8f5.html](https://billingsgazette.com/opinion/columnists/tammi-fisher-the-montana-gop-is-now-saying-the-quiet-part-out-loud/article_8297e532-338d-11ed-bbd2-97cdc9d2d8f5.html)

GUEST OPINION

# Tammi Fisher: The Montana GOP is now saying the quiet part out loud

**TAMMI FISHER**

Sep 16, 2022



In this file photo from 2020, Montana Native Vote regional organizer Lori Kindness canvasses the Crow Indian Reservation seeking new voters and delivering completed ballots to central election offices.

Janie Osborne for the Missoulian

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TAMMI FISHER

**K**ALISPELL — The Montana GOP changed its platform recently and removed an important passage, hoping Montanans wouldn't notice: "We support the individual rights of Montana tribal citizens as guaranteed by the Montana constitution."

Within weeks of the removal of this passage, and issuing the new authoritarian approved State Platform, leaders within the Montana GOP started saying the quiet part out loud.

At a North Central Pachyderm meeting, Ed Butcher, the developer of the "legistats" loyalty scorecard that is now mandated by the MTGOP in its new platform, publicly expressed his disdain for Native Montanans who happen to be American Indian.

According to the Havre Daily News, Butcher remarked American Indian legislators always "vote for welfare", and said while there were two he respected very much, most legislators from reservations are "unintelligent."

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- 1 **Charges detail shooting death of Billings 15-year-old Khoen Parker**
- 2 **In red-hot Montana housing market, young cash-strapped buyer beats the system**
- 3 **Inmate dies at Yellowstone County jail**
- 4 **4 charged, including 2 juveniles, in shooting death of Khoen Parker in Billings**

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"I won't mention the other names that are room-temperature IQs," he said. "The reservation doesn't necessarily always send their best and brightest."

This from a guy lovingly embraced by the MTGOP as a leader in determining whether a Republican legislator is "Republican enough" to serve Montana under the Republican brand.

According to Butcher, American Indians, by virtue of being American Indians, are dumb. He believes and is flanked by the state GOP through the deliberate deletion of any acknowledgement of the constitutional guarantees afforded our Native American population, that American Indians are not worthy of serving in the Montana Legislature because of their race.

Supported in this endeavor to eliminate American Indians from our ranks is Brad Tschida, the current Montana GOP Executive Committee secretary and former Republican House Majority leader.

Tschida publicly told the Montana Redistricting Commission (notably chaired by a Montana American Indian woman) that Native Americans are “over-represented in the Montana Legislature.” Of course, the fact that this statement is patently false did not dissuade Tschida from proclaiming it, now that the Montana GOP gave the authoritarians among us permission to spew their racist vitriol publicly.

The truth is, Native Montanans — both American Indian and those of us born and raised here — are grossly under-represented in the Montana Legislature and in leadership of the Montana GOP. This gross under-representation of people who know Montana, embrace her history, and love this state reflects the infiltration of out-of-state-authoritarians wishing to change who we are and discard our history.

We shouldn't be surprised.

Montana GOP leadership exalted the defaming rants of charlatan Jordan Hall through his blog the “Montana Daily Gazette,” going so far as to award Hall with a truth in “journalism” award at a Montana GOP statewide event. It follows that since it was an American Indian that successfully sued Hall for defamation, that in solidarity with Hall the Montana GOP would strike back by removing its acknowledgment of the constitutional guarantees given Montana Native Americans.

This intentional rescission of traditional Republican values from the state platform comes notwithstanding the fact that the National Platform condemns racism in all forms and the last Republican president did more to reduce the inequities in race-



based incarceration than any Democrat president has.

As a Republican woman, I used to think the state GOP leadership's silence on these shenanigans was simply cowardice. But we now know it's worse than cowardice.

The intentional removal of a key passage is consent to racism. The desecration of Republican and Montana values is literally happening before our eyes; when the Montana GOP alienates American Indians, they alienate all Montanans, including Republicans who adhere to traditional Republican principles.

What used to be “the party of the Constitution” is now a shell of its former self, shunning Montana's constitutional guarantees afforded Montana Native Americans. The new Montana GOP has assured the departure of run-of-the-mill conservatives — including American Indian conservatives — by eschewing traditional Montana Republicans for racist authoritarian charlatans.

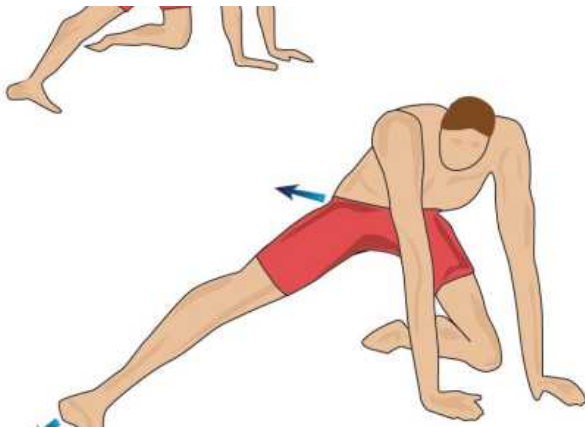
At the rate the Montana GOP is going, the Democrat Party, which has no message and no bench, could run a paper bag for office and be assured its election.



Tammi Fisher

*Tammi Fisher is an attorney, former mayor of Kalispell and the host of the **Montana Values Podcast**.*

### **Around The Web**



### **If You Have an Enlarged Prostate, Do This Immediately (Watch)**

Gorilla Prostate



### **Prime Is Now \$139, But Few Know This Saving Trick**

ExpertsInMoney.co

Every ten years after the decennial census, the federal government comes out with the Post-Enumeration Survey. The survey shows data on the citizens the Federal Government has counted. The 2020 Post-Enumeration Survey, for the second decade in a row, found that Natives living on reservations were undercounted. At 5.7%, the 2020 undercount of Natives living on reservations was an increase from the undercount percentage of a decade ago, which was 4.9%. The survey also showed that, the Non-Hispanic White population was overcounted at 1.6%, compared to 0.8% a decade ago.

The Post-Enumeration Survey demonstrated the only groups statistically undercounted in Montana are Natives Living on Reservations. This data sets a tone that we, and Natives living on reservations, take to mean that the voice of Natives is set up to be silence. People in Montana's Native communities often believe that their vote doesn't matter - that their vote can't make a difference. It is increasingly more difficult to push back against this belief and inspire confident participation in the civic process.

Yesterday I spoke with community members in Crow who are disillusioned with the civic process and government. Natives' faith in civic institutions is low because many believe that their voice does not have an impact, that it's open season on their voting rights, and that government does not reflect who they are or their values. It also doesn't help that non-Native elected leadership insults and disparages those Natives who take the step to be legislators with remarks such as "not the best and brightest" and calling them "unintelligent". Of course, you

can add border town racism, historical and generational trauma sanctioned and performed by the government, and a history of disregard for Natives as people to the list of reasons not to participate.

Nevertheless, Native people have shown up and have given public comment at these redistricting hearings in a good faith action to demonstrate the willingness to participate. As a particularly important community of interest, especially given our state's Constitutional commitment to Native people, we urge this Commission to listen more intently, more comprehensively to the Native voices. We hope their words and their passion for their communities have not fallen on deaf ears.

Our state is unique in parity between the Native population and Native representation in the Montana legislature. This uniqueness is not by accident nor does it exist because of the goodwill of government. Representative parity came from demonstrations, advocacy, and litigation which had Native voices as the focus. None of it came to Natives easy or with expediency.

Now is the time for our institutions, this Commission included, to do what's right the first time for Native communities. Native communities deserve to elect a candidate of choice and majority-minority districts are crucial in making that happen. We cannot deny the differences of history, culture, and tradition between Natives and non-Natives and history shows what kind of harm is done when elected officials do not reflect their communities. History also shows that efforts to curtail electing candidates of choice do not end well and are often costly. We

hope this Commission has both the hindsight of history and the wisdom of foresight to avoid maps that set up future legal challenges and mandated re-drawing of district boundaries.

The elected officials who will be elected using these districts will be making decisions that will impact Native Americans for generations to come. As a result, this Commission must use the flexibility given to it by its mandatory criteria to address this with the full federal deviation standard.

Additionally, we believe this Commission should adopt proposed map 2. Proposed map 2 is, in our view, the best map that takes into account the impact of another undercount of Natives by the Census. Our organization knows that not everyone was counted in Native communities during the 2020 Census. As I stated before, the Post-Enumeration Survey information also informs us that a significant undercount occurred.

With flawed data on an important community of interest we believe that a map that most closely aligns with the legislative districts currently in place can best protect proper representation for Native communities. That map is proposed map 2.

We support proposed map 2 because it keeps communities of interest, such as the Crow nation and a heavily Crow Billings South Side together. Many Crow people travel to Billings for work and many spend much of their time between the two locations. The way proposed map 2 is drawn helps to preserve this connection of community, employment and family.

We support proposed map 2 because it best preserves the parity that has been fought for by our ancestors.

We support proposed map 2 because it is fair to ALL Montanans, not just those in the majority. Not just to those with the loudest voices but for those who are most left behind by our institutions, Native people.

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Robert C. Pyfer

From: Robert C. Pyfer jcpyfer@charter.net  
Residence: HELENA

Message:

Please adopt HPD2 or HPD3. Please do not separate Helena at Custer Ave. Helena is one community of interest.  
Thank you.

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

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 12:12 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Andrea Root

From: Andrea Root andreamorren19@gmail.com  
Residence: Dillon, MT

Message:

Please support Redistricting Maps 1 or 4 to preserve the voting population distribution of Montana.

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



**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 11:44 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Milo Root

From: Milo Root miloroot16@sbcglobal.net  
Residence: Dillon, Montana

Message:  
Please support the Republican drawn maps!

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 6:49 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Rita T Rozier

From: Rita T Rozier rtrozier@gmail.com  
Residence: Livingston, Montana

Message:

I am a Democrat, and Democrats are currently in the minority in Montana, comprising about 43% of the population. We expect to be outvoted on many issues in Helena, because that is how democracy works. But we still expect to be part of the conversation and to have a voice in the debate about issues that affect us and the state where we live.

We expect to have representation. In fact, the very word “Representative,” the title we give our delegates in Helena, promises that our interests will be put forth for consideration. Being in the minority, they may not decide an issue, but they will likely moderate, influence, and add perspective, all of which is important.

Therefore, it is fair and right that a redistricting map be chosen that supports fair elections for those representatives, and that the expected outcome of those elections will be that 43% or so of the delegates to our state congress will be Democrats.

Maps 1 and 4 are designed to eliminate competitiveness from our elections and foil our representation. They specifically break up communities of interest and current voting districts, like Indian reservations and my hometown of Livingston, so that Democrats cannot possibly win 43% of the seats. Instead, we might get 28%, which is not fair or right or healthy, and which will, for 10 years, stifle true conversation about issues such as unprecedented drought, wildfire, flooding, and how to feed and affordably house our people when nature makes agriculture ever more difficult. We also face external forces that want to come in and divide up our riches—our public lands, minerals and our increasingly precious waters., issues that affect our lives and livelihoods, and the future of our children, our public lands, utilities, judiciary, wildlife, and our ever more precious waters.

Please, for the good of all Montanans and in the name of fair and honest elections, eliminate maps 1 and 4 from consideration. Thank you.

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 21, 2022 8:42 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: helen sabin

From: helen sabin hsabin1@gmail.com  
Residence: Corvallis MT 59828

Message:

Ten years ago, redistricting favored Democrats without good reason. Rural Montana was combined with Urban Democratic areas to the detriment of the Rural population. These two parts of Montana had NOTHING in common – not culturally, philosophically, politically, socially, nor educationally. It was based mainly on a political division which it should NOT have been. Thus, the most conservative voice of Montana was silenced.

On November 12, 2021, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission (MDAC) chose a map from various ones submitted by interested parties and the commissioners voted 3-2 to approve it. The commission was made up of two Dems, two GOP and one “neutral” head commissioner who seems to be holding the line on being “neutral.” The two Democratic commissioners voted against it. This is the map that should be used for redistricting

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Cathy Nolan <canolan4@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:16 AM  
**To:** Montana Districting Commission <districting@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My comments on Proposed Legislative Districts

I want district maps that do not unduly favor a political party and I want maps that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political make-up of Montana voters.

HDP1 and HDP4 **do not** meet this criteria. I **do not** support them. I **do not** want you to endorse them.

Thank you,

James C Schmid  
209 E Crestline Dr  
Missoula, MT 59803

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:33 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Josh Staller

From: Josh Staller staller1@verizon.net  
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

I oppose maps #2 and #3 of the redistricting. Quit trying to draw the lines around certain political parties that you want to encompass.

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

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Timothy Sweeney <fivesweeneys@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 8:34 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** oppose redistricting maps

I oppose redistricting maps 2 and 3 because these do not truly represent the actual local, year-round residents or culture of these counties. Park boarder communities relate more to the county in which they live. For example, what does Big Sky have in common with Gardiner, or Cooke City or Red Lodge when talking about non-seasonal residents? There are many reasons already provided at public hearings I have listened to opposing these maps. I agree with those statements.

Timothy Sweeney  
#30 Helios, PO Box 1175, Emigrant MT, 59027

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Destyne Sweeney <dsweeney@tsl.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 12:05 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** I oppose redistricting maps 2 and 3

I oppose redistricting maps 2 and 3 because these do not truly represent the actual local, year-round residents or culture of these counties. Park boarder communities relate more to the county in which they live. For example, what does Big Sky have in common with Gardiner, or Cooke City or Red Lodge when talking about non-seasonal worker/residents? There are many reasons already provided at public hearings I have listened to opposing these maps. I agree with those statements.

Destyne Sweeney  
#30 Helios, PO Box 1175, Emigrant MT, 59027

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2022 8:04 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Carolyn Truscott

From: Carolyn Truscott lv4jsus@msn.com  
Residence: Helena

Message:

I'm submitting my choice for Map #4 for redistricting. This is the most fair, most rounded map choice, and gerrymandering seems to be minimal.

MAP #4!

--

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



**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Deb Velli <lamamama2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 1:55 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** re-districting maps

Good afternoon,

As I was unable to attend the meeting at MSU in person, nor was I able to attend the zoom meeting, I am emailing my brief comments to let you know that I oppose map 2 and map 3 in the re-districting plans, as they do not fully show the best way to represent the voters in these areas. It makes no sense to have some areas in Western Montana in the same district with other areas in Central or Eastern Montana.

I fully appreciate the time that was taken to listen to the public and I hope you will take my comments to heart as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah M. Velli  
Bozeman, MT

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 8:42 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Mark Vilhauer

From: Mark Vilhauer extreme@midrivers.com  
Residence: Miles City, MT

Message:

Dear Committee Members,

I am opposed to maps #2 and #3. For the sake of time, I will not reiterate my reasons as they were of the same mindset of the public testimony I've listened to.

Thank you.

Mark Vilhauer

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 8:40 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Jo Vilhauer

From: Jo Vilhauer stugiej@protonmail.com  
Residence: Miles City, MT

Message:  
Redistricting committee:

I am writing to state that I am opposed to maps #2 & #3 for many of the same reasons that you heard during the public testimony. I ask that you consider maps #1 and #4.

Thank you.

Jo Vilhauer

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 20, 2022 9:27 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Lauren Waski

From: Lauren Waski laurenwaski@gmail.com  
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I believe state

legislatures should reflect and represent the political make-up and the minority populations of their state. I favor maps that do not unduly favor a political party. Therefore, I support HD2 and HD3. Average voters approve of legislative districts that are competitive, equitable, fair, and reflect our communities.

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2022 10:20 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Lori Webster

From: Lori Webster montanawebsters@gmail.com  
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I write these comments in regard to the 4 proposed maps for redistricting Montana based on the latest census. As I review the criteria required by law to determine the districts I come to the conclusion that the proposed maps 2 and 3 reflect a districting that doesn't unduly favor one political party. Please support map 2 or 3 to uphold fairness in Montana.

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