

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received by 5 p.m. on August 24, 2022

Distributed electronically August 24, 2022

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 6:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Walter C Ammons

From: Walter C Ammons wcf.ammons@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Dear Commission,

To support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I prefer and encourage adoption of either maps HDP2 and HDP3. Thank you.

W.C. Ammons
Missoula, 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 19, 2022 7:33 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rachel J Ammons

From: Rachel J Ammons ammons.rach@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:
Dear Commission,

In order to support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I ask you to adopt either maps HDP2 or HDP3. Thank you for your consideration.

Rachel Ammons
Missoula, MT

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

Commission on Redistricting

These comments reflect my personal experiences with setting voting district boundaries. I live in the northeast Helena valley. It is on the side of the Missouri closest to Helena. I commute to Helena, worked in Helena, shop in Helena and share interest with Helena valley residences. I am in Lewis and Clark County.

In forty years, I have never been in a district from the Helena valley. Never in a district that had shared interest, shopping or commutes. Because the boundary passes close to my house, I am in a different district than my neighbors. My representatives have been from the Musselshell river valley as far as Lavina, Harlowton and Two Dot. They were across two mountain passes, through other voting districts, and across the Missouri river, more than one hundred miles away. They have never ask for my vote. I do not exist to them. They give me no reason to vote.

The last redistricting picked me out of the Helena valley and included me with me with Wolf Creek and Elliston. I am cross multiple districts and the continental divide from my representative. I have few shared interests with the people in my district.

Current district boundary proposals

Proposal 1 moves me to house district 67. I would be on a far corner of a district based on Townsend. None of my neighbors would be in the same district.

Proposal 2 puts me in house district 84. This is a highly contorted district. I should be glad I do not live in York.

Proposal 3 puts me in house district 84. This is a somewhat contiguous district with some shared interest.

Proposal 4 puts me in house district 80. This is a somewhat contiguous district with some shared interest.

Your task is not easy. I ask that you consider geographic features when following the guidance of the law. Your job is to give everyone a reason to vote and feel represented. It is critical to democracy.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cd Avery, 5617 Rainbow Drive, Helena, MT 59602

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John P Backes

From: John P Backes backessmith@charter.net
Residence: BOZEMAN MT

Message:

I believe maps 2 and 3 best reflect the criteria for redistricting in Montana. Maps 1 and 4 are clearly an attempt to suppress minority votes and gain super majority status for one party over another. Goodby democracy hello oligarchy!

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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 19, 2022 10:30 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: William E Bennett

From: William E Bennett billandmargo@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

My wife, Margo, and I support options HDP2 and HDP3 as the only maps that do not unduly favor one party or the other.

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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: Monday, August 22, 2022 5:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:
Stop the democrat gerrymandering!! Do it correctly

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:
Dearest leftwingers,
Do it right. Quit trying to cheat your way to a win.

--

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 18, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert R. Black

From: Robert R. Black rblack41@aol.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

HDP2 and HDP3 are the only maps that most accurately reflect a constitutional mandate for one-man-one-vote.

The other maps promote gerrymandering.

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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: Monday, August 22, 2022 5:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Paula Braun

From: Paula Braun cottonwoodcr@msn.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Some of my primary concerns follow

- 1) Protecting the voting rights of minorities is required by law and is one of the mandatory goals of the Commission. Don't approve a map that weakens Native American voting strength.
- 2) Partisan gerrymandering has nothing to do with the shape of the district. Partisan gerrymandering is any map that unduly favors one political party.
- 3) 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.

Montana is referred to as "The Last Best Place." Part of earning those credentials needs to include being a place where everyone's voice can be heard. As a native of Montana, I want to feel proud of "The Last Best Place."

Thank you for your time,

Paula Braun

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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: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 8:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lindsey Brensda

From: Lindsey Brensda lbrensda@co.sheridan.mt.us
Residence: Reserve, Montana

Message:

Please do not use HDP-1. The boundary lines between District 6 & 7 will divide Sheridan County leading to three splits within our precincts that we do not currently have. The other three maps have the entirety of Sheridan County within one district, which we prefer. Thank you.

Lindsey Brensda
Sheridan County Clerk & Recorder
Sheridan County Election Administrator

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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: Sunday, August 21, 2022 10:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sara Busey

From: Sara Busey henrybusey@gmail.com
Residence: Polson MT

Message:

I urge you to support redistricting maps that honor a balance of voters' political preference. This includes HDP2 and HDP3. The maps HDP1 and 4 give unfair advantage to the majority party.

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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 18, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Anne L Christensen

From: Anne L Christensen annelchristensen@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

Redistricting maps HD2 and HD3 are fair maps for the residents of Montana. They maintain districts in which Native Americans have realistic opportunities to elect Native American representatives. In addition HD2 and HD3 create more competitive districts in which it is more likely that the number of representatives for each major party will reflect the proportion of Republican and Democratic voters within Montana. Redistricting maps HD1 and HD4 would likely result in Republicans being over represented in the state legislature and Native Americans having little or no representation.

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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: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 9:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: William H Clarke

From: William H Clarke wclarke440@aol.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My earlier comment had a type in my first paragraph. It should have read: " 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."

Thank you and I'm sorry for my mistake.

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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 18, 2022 10:55 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: William H Clarke

From: William H Clarke wclarke440@aol.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

1. The Commission unanimously adopted the goal of choosing a map that “does not unduly favor one political party.” Maps HDP 2 and 3 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. Don’t approve a map that weakens Native American voting strength.
3. 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. BUT, the other two proposed maps, HDP1 and HDP 4, create over 70 districts favoring Republicans and less than 30 districts favoring Democrats.
4. 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, as HDP1 and HDP 4 are.

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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 19, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Constance Cole

From: Constance Cole dccole@mt.net
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

My husband and I are in support of drawing a map that does not unduly favor one political party. We are in favor of maps HDP2 and HDP3, which meet all the mandatory criteria. We are very concerned about reducing Native Americans ability to elect candidates of their choice. Maps HDP1 and HDP4 reverse the work of previous Commissions in assuring fair Native American representation. We are very concerned that HDP1 and HDP4 would provide illegitimate political power to the majority party. Please support selection of either HDP2 or HDP3.

Sincerely,

Connie and David Cole
6040 Ferry Dr.
Helena, MT 59602-9154

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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: Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Richard Dale Cordell

From: Richard Dale Cordell pocketgofer@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

There should be NO redistricting that favors one party over another. Any method other than equal redistricting, should be considered illegal. Unfavorable redistricting could allow one party to favor the heaviest populations, trying to make them in their own favor, to effectively rule the vote or change montana from a Red state to a Blue state. However it is done, it should be unconstitutional. Montana is a Red state and I do hope it contintues to stay that way.

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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: Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carole Davenport

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

Message:

I strongly object to the proposed remapping of my residential area, to combine it with Missoula. Rural communities have different needs than cities. We cherish our way of life and do not want any unfair influence from Missoulians. Please vote against this proposed change. 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: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:07 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tracy Davidson

From: Tracy Davidson t3artnheart@gmail.com
Residence: BILLINGS, MT

Message:

I am writing to share my thoughts on the current redistricting efforts and to express my concern about preventing any possible gerrymandering efforts. I am in favor of maps HDP2 or HDP3 as they do not unduly favor any one political party and they appear to best reflect the split shown by voter data adopted unanimously by Montana's Commission. This data indicates that on average, 57% of Montana's voters vote Republican and 43% vote Democrat. HDP2 and HDP3 maps best address the political make-up of all Montana voters and also appear to meet all of the mandatory criteria required by law. I urge the decision makers to tune out all the rhetoric and lies and do the right thing. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my comments, Tracy Davidson, Billings, 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 19, 2022 3:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Detrick

From: Robert Detrick rdetrick@mac.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

It is extremely important that MT legislative districts reflect the approximately 57% Republican/43% Democratic demographics of our state and not be gerrymanded to favor one political party or the other. The plans HDP1 and HDP4 would disenfranchise Democrats and native Americans by making over 70% of the districts Republican.

I strongly favor HDP2 and HDP3 which reflect the approximate proportions of Republican and Democratic voters in this 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: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dee Ellis

From: Dee Ellis ellis.logcabin2@gmail.com
Residence: Seeley Lake, MT

Message:

Greetings,

I would like to make it know that Missoula County, and Galletin County need to be in separate district.

Thankyou for considering my opinion.

Dee Ellis

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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: Monday, August 22, 2022 6:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Ewing

From: Susan Ewing susanewing.mt@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Getting the maps right—not favoring one party over the other—is crucial to Montana's democratic process. I urge the Commission Chair to do what's right and what's in the best interest of Montana, by selecting HDP2 or HDP3. Protecting the voting rights of minorities is the right thing to do, and it's the law. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment.

--

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 2:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia Franklin

From: Patricia Franklin patty@thefranklinhouse.com
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

I have given careful consideration to all 4 maps submitted and I have to say that I'm very confused by #2 and #3 having a portion of our county, and valley, segregated from our community (e.g. Darby). That makes no sense to me when the citizens of ALL our cities are so interconnected. The only map that truly makes sense is #4 so, I strongly encourage you to consider this proposal to continue the continuity of our communities. Thank you, P Franklin

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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: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 7:32 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Laura B Gerlach

From: Laura B Gerlach lbsargent@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:
Please accept this edit of my comment submitted 8/19/2022.

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.

Protecting the voting rights of minorities is required by law and is one of the mandatory goals of the Commission. Don’t approve a map that weakens Native American voting strength. Article II, Section 4 of the MT Constitution prohibits the state infringing on a citizen's political rights to representation "on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas." Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act guarantees minorities the right to districts where they are the majority and can elect the candidates of their choice.

Partisan gerrymandering has nothing to do with the shape of the district. Partisan gerrymandering is any map that unduly favors one political party.

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.

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.

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.

The 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.

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.

Please support Maps 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: Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Laura B Gerlach

From: Laura B Gerlach lbsargent@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

I favor Maps HDP 1 or 4 for these reasons:

The Commission unanimously adopted the goal of choosing a map that “does not unduly favor one political party.” Maps HDP 2 and 3 violate this goal by giving an unfair advantage to the majority party.

Protecting the voting rights of minorities is required by law and is one of the mandatory goals of the Commission. Don’t approve a map that weakens Native American voting strength.

Partisan gerrymandering has nothing to do with the shape of the district. Partisan gerrymandering is any map that unduly favors one political party.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

--

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 19, 2022 11:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Andrea Getts

From: Andrea Getts andreagetts@gmail.com
Residence: Columbia Falls, MT

Message:

I am concerned with the two maps submitted by Essman and Stusiek. It seems like they are trying to isolate the democrat areas in order to gerrymander the Senate seats. If there are fewer democrat leaning House Districts (and especially spaced so far apart) than the majority of the Senate Districts will be heavily Republican leaning. I would like to see competitive districts for both the House and the Senate that represent our state so that voters have a real chance to consider WHO they are voting for instead of just the party. I also would like to see populated towns and reservations kept together. Stusek's map cuts Columbia Falls in half and I don't believe that is the correct way to represent my town. I don't think that Columbia Falls (city limits) is populated enough to start dividing it into separate districts.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sherry Lynn Goins

From: Sherry Lynn Goins hisprincess6564@gmail.com
Residence: Superior, Montana

Message:

I would like to vote about the map for Mineral County but cannot find any information. I want Map #4, I do not want my county made smaller but go back to what it was where as Huson and Frenchtown was part of Mineral County.

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: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Henry Gonshak

From: Henry Gonshak uncanny@outlook.com
Residence: Butte

Message:

According to a well-informed editorial in today's Montana Standard, many of the electoral maps which have been submitted are gerrymandered in a way that strongly favors Republican candidates over Democrat ones in Montana. Gerrymandering undermines representative democracy by drawing districts in such a manner that the true political make-up of the state is not reflected; instead, one party is granted an unfair advantage over the other. Especially with, for example, the Supreme Court throwing the issue of abortion back to the states, state legislature are being given more political power than ever. I urge the commission to reject electoral maps gerrymandered by one party, giving them an unfair advantage, and instead urge them to ensure that such maps accurately reflect the true political make-up of Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Gore

From: James Gore tealdux@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, mt

Message:

Please favor and vote for either maps HDP2 or HDP3. These maps have a fairer distribution of voters. 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: Saturday, August 20, 2022 4:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Royce Gorsuch

From: Royce Gorsuch rgsuch2@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.

--

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 12:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jon Haber

From: Jon Haber jonmhaber@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I would like to explain why the State of Montana should have districts that are expected to produce results consistent with the proportion of voters in the state of each party. Done right, redistricting is a chance to create maps that, in the words of John Adams, are an “exact portrait, a miniature” of the people as a whole. Proportionality (or “balance” or “equity”) is the goal, and everything else is secondary.

Gerrymandering is defined as “the practice of dividing or arranging a territorial unit into election districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage in elections” (Merriam-Webster). Proportionality is therefore fundamental to avoiding gerrymandering, regardless of other criteria a state might want to use. While the term “gerrymandering” is based on strangely-shaped districts that can result from this process, that is not the only way to create an unfair advantage.

Gerrymandering happens when the results are unfair because they are not proportional to a population (racial or political). This simply means that other criteria for redistricting should not be applied if their use moves the results away from proportionality. It means that when districts are drawn in Montana that produce a Republican supermajority, that is gerrymandering.

“Compactness” (emphasized by the Montana GOP Redistricting Committee chairman) can be easily manipulated for gerrymandering purposes. It should not be viewed as sacrosanct in the redistricting process. Reducing compactness should be considered if it would help move TOWARDS the overriding goal of proportionality. The maps recommended by Democrats appear to do that.

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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: Sunday, August 21, 2022 5:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Edwin Halland

From: Edwin Halland edhalland@reagan.com
Residence: Bridger

Message:

Dear Montana Redistricting Committee Member,

Please choose map #1. It provides compactness of districts and keeps communities together.

Reject Maps #2 and #3. Living in Bridger, it is ridiculous to include Red Lodge Gardiner and Big Sky. Definitely not a compact district. Also, the long and narrow district running east to west in the Fort Peck area is an obvious gerrymander. Not having any semblance of compactness.

Map #4 is my second choice; it also provides compactness and keeps communities together.

Thankyou

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Linda Hanson

From: Linda Hanson montanahanson@gmail.com
Residence: Red Lodge, MT

Message:

It is important that all citizens have access to voting and can truly believe that their votes count in the governing of our beautiful state. Good government does not disenfranchise its citizens. HDP2 and HDP3 provide an equal distribution across party lines and give fair voice to the Native population. HDP1 and HDP4 do not. They were obviously drawn to favor one party and give that party a super majority in our legislature. That is not how democracy is supposed to work.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 13, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cydney Henderson

From: Cydney Henderson squidneysu@gmail.com
Residence: Victor, MT

Message:

In order to meet population criteria, rural and urban interests, as well as local interest lines, I support HDP4 map. Two of the other maps (2 and 3), mix rural with urban like the northern part of Ravalli County with the city of Missoula which breaks up Ravalli County.

Also in those maps, Darby, which is in the southern part of Ravalli County, shouldn't be combined with Granite and Powell County. Criteria states that each district shall consist of compact territory. By putting Darby with the other counties it doesn't support that criteria.

HDP4 maintains population criteria as well as rural/urban interest.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tom Hogan <tmhogan5@cs.com>
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 5:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Just Say No to Re-Districting

To Whom it May Concern,

Can you tell me why we are redistricting other than an attempt to provide Democratic candidates a better chance to win in Montana?

None of the four maps you provide or suggest are acceptable to this Yellowstone County voter.

Leave the districts alone and get rid of the redistricting committee. We really don't need any more bureaucrats making work for themselves on my dime.

Thank you for your time & attention to my "Too Much Government - Too Much Voter Interference" concerns.

Tom Hogan
9333 North Road
Broadview, America 59015

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bruce Hoiland

From: Bruce Hoiland bjhrjh@hotmail.com
Residence: Roundup

Message:
I like option one

--

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 10, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tim Holmes

From: Tim Holmes musegaze@yahoo.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Regardless of our party affiliation if we believe in democracy we should work for FAIR representation! Right now, Republicans have a 57% vote share statewide, the maps they are proposing will claim 15 seats above their vote share, ensuring a Republican supermajority for the next 10 years. The Democratic maps are fair and would produce a proportional legislature for Montana. Please vote for the fairer maps!
Than you for listening.

--

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 10, 2022 7:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Barbara Holmes-Smith

From: Barbara Holmes-Smith 56mamallama@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

It is my hope that the Commission ensure that the chosen map does not unduly favor one party over another, and not be representative of actual voters in Montana. Further, voting rights and representation of voters on every reservation in the state must be maintained. Fairness and representation of ALL Montana voters is of the utmost importance, in order to maintain the integrity of our election process. 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: Sunday, August 21, 2022 8:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan L. Holton

From: Susan L. Holton aldebaran0011@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:
Dear Commission,

To support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I prefer and encourage adoption of maps HDP2 or HDP3. 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 19, 2022 3:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Wendy L Holton

From: Wendy L Holton wholton@mt.net
Residence: Helena

Message:
Dear Commission,

To support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I prefer and encourage adoption of either maps HDP2 and HDP3. Thank you.

Wendy Holton
Helena, MT

--

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 11:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Julie Huntington

From: Julie Huntington juliehuntington@hotmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Of the four redistricting maps proposed by the four partisan members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission, I support HDP2 and HDP3 because they reflect the political preference of state voters: 57 percent Republican and 43 percent Democrat. Of those two maps, I prefer HDP3 because it preserves Native American voting blocks.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2022 8:37 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: mark hurlbut

From: mark hurlbut mghurlbut@gmail.com
Residence: helena, montana

Message:
Dear Commission,

To support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I prefer and encourage adoption of maps HDP2 or HDP3. Thank you.

Mark Hurlbut

--

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 10, 2022 7:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rebecca Johnson

From: Rebecca Johnson rebeccainmt@gmail.com
Residence: Montana City MT

Message:

Please consider maps that don't take away minority voting rights. Native Americans in our state should have a voice in determining who represents them, unfortunately, two heavily partisan maps are taking away their ability to elect people who will represent them in the state legislature. The commission must look at the impact of the maps instead of the nice even shapes. It is not right to have a heavy partisan map that will silence certain voters in our state. The right map should reflect the 57/43 split from the previous 10 elections. If not, you will silence 43% of the population in Montana by not allowing them to elect their reps.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Hilary Johnson

From: Hilary Johnson ralphhilary@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Please consider maps that do not favor one political party and maps that will make it easiest for Native American citizens to vote. Maps 1 and 4 seem to favor one political party which would result in a legislative that is not representative of the voters in Montana. Thank you, Hilary Johnson

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 7:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cynthia Johnson

From: Cynthia Johnson cyndij@3rivers.net
Residence: Conrad

Message:

WHY!!!!???? Why would you not have a meeting in the middle of this "Eastern" District? The meetings are both in South Central Montana and those of us who reside in the NORTH and EAST of this area will have to give up 3 working days to attend a meeting or be happy with another "zoom".

--

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 17, 2022 8:20 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Clare Kearns

From: Clare Kearns kearns.clare@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

It is vital that district lines be drawn to reflect the political leanings of Montana's residents so that ALL Montana residents can be represented in our legislature. 57% of Montanans vote Republican while 43% vote Democrat. The 2 maps that reflect this fact are HDP2 and HDP3. Additionally, Montana must protect representation of our Indigenous peoples. Maps HDP1 and HDP4 both reduce the likelihood an Indigenous Montanan can be elected to our legislature. Please support maps HDP 2 and 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: Thursday, August 18, 2022 6:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mary R Keck

From: Mary R Keck mary.keck@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for your work in drawing district boundaries. The people of Montana are counting on each of you to be fair, honest and diligent in making sure the districts that are created do not favor either political party. Our democratic process works best when all voices are represented and heard. For the future of our state, please, guard against gerrymandering. Your integrity is appreciated and required in this important task.

Respectfully,
Mary R Keck

--

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 18, 2022 11:14 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cathy Kendall

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

Message:

The Commission unanimously adopted the goal of choosing a map that “does not unduly favor one political party.”
Maps HDP 2 and 3 violate this goal by giving an unfair advantage to the majority party.

Please fulfill your responsibility to the entire state by assuring equality irrespective of political bent. And that does not disrespect the Native Americans ability to vote according to their residence and needs.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Steven King

From: Robert Steven King rockingpk@hotmail.com
Residence: Huson, Montana

Message:

House District proposal 1 looks best to me. Thank you for your work on this!

--

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 17, 2022 11:14 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Michael King

From: Michael King mikekhelena@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:
Dear Commission,

To support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I prefer and encourage adoption of either maps HDP2 and HDP3. Thank you.

Michael King
Helena, MT

--

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 17, 2022 11:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Douglas Kinne

From: Douglas Kinne dougkinne@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I favor maps that do not unduly favor a political party and I want maps that fairly reflect and represent minorities and political make-up of Montana voters. This would be HDP2 and HDP3. Do not allow the current majority party to gerrymander to ignore the minority party and Native American populations of Montana. This creates a government that is not representative of the population and is not the definition of democracy.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] trying to comment on redistricting

From: Ellen Knight <mtstarrynight@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 10:12 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel <RWeiss@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] trying to comment on redistricting

I tried to comment on the MDAC page, but it wouldn't send my comment in. I'm sending it to you in hopes that you can get it promptly to the correct location. Many thanks for doing that....this is an important topic.

Ellen KNight
5800 Rattlesnake Dr.
Missoula, MT 59802
406.549.5952
mtstarrynight@gmail.com

Please Choose Voting Districts that match your (and my) goals. I believe that HDP2 and HDP3 most nearly match those goals.

1. They have more even distribution of political perspectives among voters.
2. They meet other legal criteria for redistricting.
3. They preserve Native/Tribal effectiveness

If everyone's voice should be heard in any election, its important to get these voting districts right. HDP2 snf HFP3 would do that.

Further, I firmly believe that voting districts with a good mix of voter perspectives helps us get away from the blind, polarized positions that we are experiencing now to our detriment, and closer toward what the majority of people want which requires us to listen to all positions and find a more balanced approach.

Good government requires well-drawn election district boundaries; they are key to a well-designed government. No Gerrymandering!

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kimberly E Kotur

From: Kimberly E Kotur kim-mel@bresnan.net
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

Equitable distribution does not unduly favor one political party. HDP1 and 4 violate this goal by giving unfair advantage to the majority party. Please choose HDP 2 or 3 as they have the same proportion of majority voter districts as the overall share of voters in elections. HDP 2 and 3 are not gerrymandering and are fair representation.

--

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 19, 2022 8:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kip Kramer

From: Kip Kramer quantumgravity11@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:
Dear Commission,

To support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I prefer and encourage adoption of either maps HDP2 or HDP3. 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: Thursday, August 4, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: tom kresan

From: tom kresan tomkresan@gmail.com
Residence: Hamilton

Message:

The maps proposed by the Democrats are fair and would probably result in a legislature that reflects Montana voters. The Republican proposals are more gerrymandering, when they initially said that no plan should unfairly favor any political party. The Republican map gives them probably 71-72 seats when they only receive about 57% of the statewide vote. The Republicans are just trying to ignore Democratic voters, (me), and stack the deck in their favor. I urge you to deny the Republicans this opportunity to rig the game.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Mike Lang <nasml1949@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Aug 2 meeting

I was on zoom during the meeting. I joined late.

My concerns take in the poor manners exhibited by the young lady commissioner. I believe her name was Miller.

This was my first time with full attention to the redistricting process. I came away with an uneasy feeling.

In my experience of being a Montana legislator, I have seen the discrimination of the VRA from a different angle. I receive more legislative inquiries from citizens of House and Senate districts that are not in my district. Such as, Citizens from southern portions of Blaine, Phillips, and Valley counties along with the town of Wolf Point feel they are not represented and their voices are not heard in the Montana Legislature.

In eastern Montana, there are natural boundaries and different social aspects of life. I feel that districts should be drawn with the communities in mind and then let the rules define the boundaries.

Elections are made of those who pay \$15 to become a candidate.

--

Mike Lang
PO Box 104
Malta, MT 59538
406-654-7357

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 8:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rep. Denley M Loge

From: Rep. Denley M Loge denleylogehd14@gmail.com
Residence: St. Regis, Montana

Message:

As the Representative of HD 14, the map proposals 1, 2, and 3 create some real transportation and thereby communication problems in adequate representation of constituents. Those 3 proposals take away community and real compactness due to transportation and geographic barriers. They all split Mineral County which already has enough economic problem due to a low population and 87 percent USFS ownership. Map 4 holds that compactness and like interests with the I-90 corridor and students from Mineral even attending the Frenchtown school for the past 5 years. Map 3 could possibly be fixed by excluding everything west of Plains and adding Alberton and the east end of Mineral County back. Representation is the most important factor and splitting this small county and creating distances from Thompson Falls to Saltese will not create any semblance of community, compactness or help citizen involvement.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 5:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathy Love

From: Kathy Love 0217klove@gmail.com
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

I feel that maps 2&3 should be off the table as they don't meet the criteria set forth by the commission. I don't believe that Ravalli, Granite, and Powell counties should be linked into a district that large. These areas are very diverse and separated by mountain ranges that are a natural barrier to easy travel between these areas. How can you keep communities of interest intact when those communities are literally hours hundreds of miles apart? Linking Darby and Lost Trail with Seeley Lake is not a good division. Map 2&3 also have fingers extending from Stevensville all the way up into Missoula. These are not compact and contiguous nor are they communities of interest. One of the maps has Missoula split into 12 districts. How can this possibly meet the goal of not splitting up cities? It appears to me that maps 2&3 clearly ignore the directives that were set for this process. Of all the maps, I think map #4 best meets the criteria set forth by the committee. It uses natural terrain as a dividing line without putting a hardship on any one community. It does not single out and isolate any one community either. The populations seem to be fairly even (although I'll never understand the finger from the Missoula County Line extending south to Florence) As stated above, I believe that map 4 best meets the criteria set forth and would be in the best interest of the people of the districts.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Richard E Lund <lundr491@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 8:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map preference

I prefer selection of maps HDP2 or HDP3 by reason of their offering a more fair split in MT voting habits between the two major political parties.

Richard E Lund, registered voter in Gallatin County

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 8:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mary E. Lynch

From: Mary E. Lynch mlynch@co.sheridan.mt.us
Residence: Plentywood, Montana

Message:

As Sheridan County Elections Deputy, I would like to ask that map one (1) not be used.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Marty Malone <maloneforhd59@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps

Joe

The second criteria for the Commission must be to avoid spitting counties. Only HP 1 does a decent job of that.

And why not keep District numbers roughly the same?

HD 59 and 60 are very close to complying with the law with just a few minor changes. Leave them alone as well as SD 30.

--

Marty Malone
Candidate for House District 59
PO Box 152
Pray, MT 59065
406-223-1302

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tyler Manning

From: Tyler Manning Mannintw@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:
Proposed map is typical gerrymandered BS.

How about just NOT having voting districts and just having everyone's vote count for one? I'm sure there is a garbage partisan reason that won't happen. (Oh and don't give me that crap about needing districts, county and city lines already exist)

--

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 18, 2022 6:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jon David mccarson

From: Jon David mccarson dave@alpinegh.com
Residence: Three Forks, MT

Message:
I favor Map 2 as a fair and balanced district map

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Annette McDowell

From: Annette McDowell mtannie326@aol.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I am asking the commission to ADOPT HDP2 or HDP3. These are the best maps to represent the Montana voting population. Given MONTANA voting data of 57% Republican and 43% Democrat. 57 house districts for Republicans and 43 for Democrats is fair. Please keep Montana honest and well represented!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Joe Lamson <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Legislative Districts

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Brenda Moen" <brendamoen691@everyactioncustom.com>
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 10:00:44 AM
Subject: [spam]Legislative Districts

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am writing to urge you to please ensure all Montanans' voices are heard and voting is fair by selecting unbiased legislative districting maps. I believe maps HDP2 and HDP3 are apportioned in a fair, competitive manner, and will result in electing a legislature that reflects how Montanans actually vote. Thank you for all you do to ensure integrity and fairness in future elections; it matters.

Sincerely,

Brenda Moen

1186 Falling Leaf Ct Whitefish, MT 59937-9011 brendamoen691@gmail.com 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

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 8:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Paula M Morin

From: Paula M Morin chezpaula@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I prefer adoption of maps HDP2 and HDP3. There is enough divisiveness in our country and our state happening these days. Montana has a rich tradition of fairness. Voters deserve maps that do not favor one particular political ideology and that support our democratic institutions and preserve democracy!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Teresa Newcomer <tnewcomer2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps

I feel map 3 would result in the majority of constituents being truly represented by their representative. It appears to keep common interests associated best.

Teresa Newcomer
Billings, Montana

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 5:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Donna Nichols

From: Donna Nichols nichols5150@msn.com
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

The Commission has a legal duty to draw compact maps. The maps submitted by Democrat Commission members split communities of interest and are simply not compact. The Democratic Commissioners are not in compliance with the requirements of the Montana Constitution:

The four mandatory requirements imposed by the law and our Montana Constitution:

Equality of population,

Physical contiguity,

Compliance with the Voting Rights Act by the creation of minority majority districts,

Compactness.

As a Montana Registered voter, I am opposed to the current proposals, as they do not meet the requirements of our Constitution.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 6, 2022 8:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Scot Ninnemann

From: Scot Ninnemann scot@scotjohn.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

Fairness is important to Montanans. Serving on a jury recently, I was struck by how committed all of us were to reaching a fair outcome — we had very different backgrounds, jobs, and probably political beliefs (we didn't discuss them) but we all treated each other and the jury process with respect, focused on finding what was fair. Simply put, it is not fair to receive 57% of the vote and get 72% of the seats. Commissioner Essmann openly admitted that his proposed map was unfair: “The word ‘fair’ does not appear in the Montana Constitution with regard to drawing these maps,” he said, as quoted by the Billings Gazette. By knowingly submitting blatantly unfair maps, Commissioners Essmann and Stusek disrespect this commission, this process, and Montana's values and voters.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Janice and Jim <7nugents@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

The primary requirements of redistricting are that no plan may be drawn to unduly favor one political party, the maps should avoid dividing cities, towns and other entities when possible, and communities of interest should be kept whole.

I strongly favor accepting one of the maps submitted by Kendra Miller and Joe Lampson.

Thank you!

Janice Nugent

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 10:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Oleson

From: Elizabeth Oleson olesonea@onewest.net
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

The redrawn legislative maps need to represent Montana voters' political make-up, as well as our minority populations, in a way that avoids gerrymandering. Elected legislators need to reflect all the people, not a single party artificially empowered by biased maps.

Thank you for working on this thorny problem!

--

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ellen Smith Payton

From: Ellen Smith Payton paytones@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

We should all reject HDP1 and HDP4 which nearly eliminate Native American representation.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Joe Lamson <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please adopt fair, competitive legislative districts

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Allen Porter" <adporter4@everyactioncustom.com>
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 10:55:58 AM
Subject: [spam]Please adopt fair, competitive legislative districts

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.There seems to be a lot of griping about division in our country today, for good reason. Our current division tends to gridlock Washington DC and has made our most important branch of government, the legislative - Article ONE in the Constitution, dysfunctional. Why? Because too many legislators are extremists with no incentive to compromise. They come from "safe" districts where the only serious opposition they will face will be in a primary, not the general election. That makes them behave hyper-partisan as there is no upside to appealing to the other party and it can be used against you in a primary. Let's NOT make the same mistake in Montana, we don't need "safe" districts, we need legislators that will work for ALL Montanans, not just their own party.

Sincerely,
Allen Porter
PO Box 793 Malta, MT 59538-0793
adporter4@juno.com

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

From: Joe Lamson <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Support for HDP 2 & HDP 3

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Debo Powers" <debopowers@everyactioncustom.com>
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 11:27:26 AM
Subject: [spam]Support for HDP 2 & HDP 3

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello Commissioners,

As a Montana resident and voter, I support HDP 2 and HDP 3. These two proposals create fair, competitive legislative districts and avoid gerrymandering and giving undue support to one political party over another.

The reason that we have a Districting and Apportionment Commission is so that fair, competitive districts can be created.

Sincerely,

Debo Powers

11499 N Fork Rd Polebridge, MT 59928-9719 debopowers@gmail.com 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

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Radzwion

From: Mark Radzwion mwradz@gmail.com
Residence: Troy MT

Message:

Hello;

I am not familiar with this procedure and frankly do not fully understand the ramifications. I would like to submit for the public record however that myself and quite a number of other people have moved to Montana recently escaping cities and states that have been mismanaged by democrats (drugs, rampant crime, a culture of death). It was my understanding that Montana was a conservative safe haven. If liberals in Missoula or Bozeman have their way they will 'California' Montana!! This is unacceptable and will cause civil unrest within our beloved state dividing city versus rural citizens. I will be watching closely these proceedings. Do not make the mistake that liberal cities and states have made and ruin Montana!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Joe Lamson <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 10:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please adopt fair, competitive legislative districts that represent all Montanans

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Rachel Schillreff" <rachel.schillreff@everyactioncustom.com>
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 8:40:42 AM
Subject: [spam]Please adopt fair, competitive legislative districts that represent all Montanans

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commission,

I urge you to adopt a fair and balanced legislative district map for our state. We live in a nation that has been polarized, and I have always been proud of the ability Montanan's have had to be fair, equitable, and work together. That pride has waned in recent years as we see an infamous few law makers try to make Montana lock step with political party agendas. Please keep the map fair, please use either HDP2 and HDP3, which are proportionally fair, competitive, and likely to elect a legislature that reflects how Montanans vote.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schillreff

401 Lavender St Billings, MT 59106-2385 rachel.schillreff@gmail.com 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

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 7:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Prudence A. Smith

From: Prudence A. Smith pruesmith@aol.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Dear Commission,

To support and preserve our democracy and democratic institutions, I support maps that do not favor one political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. For that reason, I prefer and encourage adoption of either maps HDP2 and HDP3. Thank you.

Prudence Smith
Missoula, MT

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debbie Sowre

From: Debbie Sowre dsowre@gmail.com
Residence: Clinton

Message:

I would like to advise as a born/raised Montanan I favor maps that DO NOT unduly favor a political party and I want maps that FAIRLY REFLECT & REPRESENT minorities & political make-up of Montana voters. I for one, would like to see our democracy in tact & not being torn apart by one party or the other. I want democracy & not a dictatorship or king. I would like to keep faith that my vote counts. 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: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Wendie Thomas

From: Wendie Thomas t_w_thomas@msn.com
Residence: Dillon, MT

Message:

Please, I beg you all, choose maps that fairly reflect and respresent minorities and political make-up of Montana voters and not ones that unduly favor a political party.

Thank you.

Wendie Thomas

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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 11, 2022 8:03 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shannon K Thomas

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

Message:

The first meeting of this commission was disheartening to say the least. When a GOP member says that there is no need for the maps or process to be fair while presenting fully gerrymandered maps, it is hard to stay hopeful about the future of Montana. Of course these maps need to be fair. Any map providing a clear advantage to one party which is not consistent with the politics of the last 10 years in this state should be dismissed. Maps that do not keep communities together should be dismissed. Do better. Do far better.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Joe Lamson <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Please adopt fair, competitive legislative districts

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Tracey Vivar" <traceyvivar@everyactioncustom.com>
To: "joe lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 11:51:52 AM
Subject: [spam]Please adopt fair, competitive legislative districts

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.HDP2 and HDP3, seem to be fair choices for Montana. We must have a balanced approach to drawing district lines. Please adopt maps that reflect the voters of our great State.

Sincerely,

Tracey Vivar

313 Meade St East Glacier Park, MT 59434 traceyvivar@gmail.com 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

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 8:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan A Webber

From: Susan A Webber nitzitapii@gmail.com
Residence: BROWNING, MT

Message:

I have watched the redistricting committee hearings and was appalled at the republican redistricting map proposals. I currently represent Senate District 8 which includes the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. I cannot support any effort to silence the native voice and eliminate tribal participation in state government. I support both of the democrat proposals.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 10:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Barbara Worthen

From: Barbara Worthen bjworthen219@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

In looking at the info on the web about redistricting in Montana, it seems that any final map is always subjective. Unfortunately, we have no 'nonpartisan' or 'fair' or 'reasonable' standards (yes, these would be difficult to agree on) to use in setting maps; rather we start with the maps the two parties proposed.

I thank Montana for having the Redistricting Commission, which can at least blunt the most egregious proposals made by the parties.

I believe if we really want some degree of 'fairness' or 'reasonableness' – which I consider essential to our democratic system – the only maps to be considered are those proposed by the Democrats (HDP2 and HDP3). The Republican proposals clearly are "egregious" in their 70%/30% results, which do not reflect the actual voting history here. The maps that reflect reality are the only choices.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: j w <jwright68@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Compromise for the legislative map

8-02-2022

Dear Commissioners and Chairperson,

I would recommend using Miller's map as a template for the rural districts and majority Indian districts while using Essmann's map as a template for the urban districts since his city districts are more square and compact. Combine the two maps in this way to create a map for public comment. This would keep the divisive partisan comments at a minimum while creating a final map based on bipartisanship.

Thank you,

John Wright

Lincoln County, MT

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