

# Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between  
December 10 and 5 p.m. on March 1

Distributed electronically March 2, 2022

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Christine Banta <Christine.Banta.484375973@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 22, 2022 7:20 AM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am Christine Banta. I have lived in Bozeman for 20 years.

I strongly support Map 11 for a couple reasons.

Map 11 doesn't split Big Sky

Map 11 doesn't appear to favor one party over another, where Map 10 seems to favor one party

Map 11 keeps districts competitive

Please consider my responses as you move forward. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Fondly

Christine Banta

Regards,

Christine Banta

8511 Silverberry Ln

Bozeman, MT 59718

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Leslie Brown <Leslie.Brown.484328641@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 9:35 PM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Leslie F Brown. I have lived in Montana for over 21 years and currently reside at 194 Zimmerman Rd, Kalispell, MT.

Map 11

Map 11 creates a competitive district rather than favoring a single party.

Thanks for your time and consideration

Regards,  
Leslie Brown  
194 Zimmerman Rd  
Kalispell, MT 59901

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:14 AM  
**To:** Sherley, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Josh Butterfly

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 4:42 PM  
**To:** Districting <districting@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Josh Butterfly

From: Josh Butterfly [butterflyjosh4@gmail.com](mailto:butterflyjosh4@gmail.com)  
Residence: Great falls

Message:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n85ru9r1-sZ6WX6w9hoGdBaTn87Myp-t3m2E\\_LdxFPI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n85ru9r1-sZ6WX6w9hoGdBaTn87Myp-t3m2E_LdxFPI/edit?usp=sharing)  
[\[docs.google.com\]](https://docs.google.com)

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

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Kurt Crowley <Kurt.Crowley.484440943@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 25, 2022 7:05 PM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Kurt Crowley, I grew up in Helena, Montana. As I have traveled the world for my education and other career opportunities, I always consider Montana my home, and take great pride in the respect and dignity Montana affords all residents.

I support Map 11 - I think it meets the intent of trying to balance the population centers of current 2021 Montana. Other key points include keeping Gallatin county intact, as an area of fast-growth which will have more of a consistent viewpoint that draws people there - and keeping Lewis and Clark county in the 'Western' district, which bears out the commonality of those cities along the heavily-traveled 12/90 highway routes.

I think these districts are in keeping with the goal to make sure Montana has more balanced representation in Congress, instead of tipping the scale where the more-populated cities will be diluted by rural swaths of the state.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,  
Kurt Crowley  
513 S Raleigh St  
Helena, MT 59601

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** michael dryden <michael.dryden.483005983@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 2:05 PM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I lived in Western Montana through college and then I have resided in Glendive for over 40 years. It is important to have competitive districts.

I support map #11 for competitive districts.

I prefer competitive districts that do not unduly favor one party over the other.

Thanks for your efforts in the redistricting process

Regards,  
michael dryden  
8 Glen Ct  
Glendive, MT 59330

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Jon Ellingson <Jon.Ellingson.484454858@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 3, 2022 7:45 PM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Members of the commission. My name is Jon Ellingson. I am a resident of Missoula, where I have lived for the last 50 years.

I want to register my support for Map 11 which creates one competitive district in the state.

The competitive district that Map 11 creates will benefit the residents of the district because it will require the elected representative to care for the needs and interests of the residents. In a non-competitive district, the representative has less incentive to listen to his constituents.

Thank you for your public service and for considering my comments.

Regards,  
Jon Ellingson  
141 North Ave E  
Missoula, MT 59801

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Millie Espeseth <Millie.Espeseth.484341763@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 7, 2022 11:05 AM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Millie Espeseth and I live in Kalispell, MT. I have lived there for 21 years.

Map 11

It doesn't favor one party or the other.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,  
Millie Espeseth  
875 N Main St  
Kalispell, MT 59901



**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Sarah Gregson <Sarah.Gregson.484415888@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 3:20 PM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Sarah Linden Gregson, I live in Helena and have lived here on and off for 38 years.

Map11

It does not favor one political party.

Thank you!

Regards,  
Sarah Gregson  
1065 Strawberry Dr  
Helena, MT 59601

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Craig Hensel <Craig.Hensel.484323664@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 1:00 AM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Craig Hensel and I live in Billings, Montana. I've resided in Billings for 25 years.

I support map 11 as it does not favor one political party and it is more competitive.

It makes for a more competitive district and it doesn't favor one political party.

Thank you for listening.

Regards,  
Craig Hensel  
3721 Ave F  
Billings, MT 59102

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Nan Knitter-Jack <Nan.KnitterJack.484411800@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 15, 2022 12:51 PM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hi, my name is Nan. My husband and I moved to Philipsburg in Granite County in June, 2021.

I prefer Map 11 as it doesn't unduly favor one political party making it a more competitive district.

Thank you for time and consideration

Regards,  
Nan Knitter-Jack  
4535 Skalkaho Rd  
Philipsburg, MT 59858

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Nancy Leifer <nancleifer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 3:03 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for March 4 Commission meeting

Dear Commission Staff:

Below is public comment from the League of Women Voters for the March 4 Commission meeting:

Comments of the League of Women Voters Montana  
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission Meeting  
March 4, 2022

Commission Chair Smith, members of the Commission:

The League of Women Voters encourages the Commission to implement the following in the legislative redistricting process:

1. Opportunity for public participation at hearings in locations across the state chosen to provide access to diverse areas and populations, including Native American communities.
2. Transparency in disclosing timelines, hearing locations, and the decision-making processes to allow for full public participation.
3. Redistricting processes that are accessible to and inclusive of as many diverse communities as possible.

To help engage Montanans in the process, the League of Women Voters of Montana has prepared a 25 minute presentation "Legislative Redistricting 101." The League has a Speakers Bureau that can provide the presentation for free to community groups. More information can be found on the League's website: <https://my.lwv.org/montana> [[my.lwv.org](https://my.lwv.org)]

The League looks forward to hosting virtual presentations going forward to help the people of Montana understand the redistricting process and how they can participate by providing public comment to the Commission for meetings and hearings.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Nancy Leifer

Nancy Leifer  
President, League of Women Voters Montana  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers  
C: 406-207-9114  
E: [nancleifer@gmail.com](mailto:nancleifer@gmail.com)

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Paul Loehnen <Paul.Loehnen.484465982@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 6:05 AM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Paul Loehnen. I've lived and worked in Missoula for almost 50 years.

I favor map 11.

I favor map 11 because it is fairer and doesn't favor one party.

Thank you for your time and effort toward this very important decision.

Regards,  
Paul Loehnen  
845 Wyoming St  
Missoula, MT 59801

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Betsy Quammen <Betsy.Quammen.269189717@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 12:14 AM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Betsy Gaines Quammen. I reside in Bozeman and have lived in Montana for 28 years.

I support map 11 in the redistricting of the state.

I think it is the fairest option and does not favor one party over another.

Thank you so much for your time.

Regards,  
Betsy Quammen  
414 S 3rd Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59715

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Mary Schelle <Mary.Schelle.268530790@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 3:50 AM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Mary Schelle. I live in Billings MT and formerly in Lewistown. I have lived here since 1992.

I support map number 11 which seems to not favor one party over the other.

Map 11 appears more competitive.

Thank you for you time and energies in this endeavor.

Regards,  
Mary Schelle  
203 Skokie Cir  
Billings, MT 59105

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Ella Smith <ella@montanawomenvote.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 10:16 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Cc:** maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana Women Vote Legislative Redistricting Comments

To the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Montana Women Vote is a statewide organization of women and families. We appreciate the time and consideration of the Commission throughout the process, especially an important process such as this which will have sweeping implications for all Montanans for the next 10 years, and beyond.

Montana Women Vote and our members learned a lot during the Congressional Redistricting process. We also encountered some barriers and lack of clarity, and we would like to advocate for processes that would improve the ability of everyday Montanans to participate and make their voices heard.

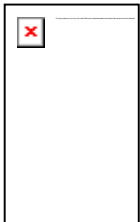
To the Commission, we ask that you will:

- Clearly articulate a shared definition of not unduly favoring either political party at the start of the process.
- Set and stick to dates, timeliness, and rules for public participation so that all Montanans feel like they're being heard.
- Understand that gerrymandering is measured by data, not the shape of a district.

To each individual Commissioner and Chair Smith, we ask that you will:

- Share individual additional criteria you're considering with the public early.
- Value Zoom & written comments with the same weight as in-person comments.
- Work collaboratively to prevent other Commissioners from moving the goal post on criteria and timeline, as this greatly inhibits the public's ability to trust the process.

Once again, thank you all for your time and diligence.



**Ella Smith**, she/they, [Why pronouns matter \[mypronouns.org\]](#)

Program Director

Montana Women Vote

(406) 417-0957

[www.montanawomenvote.org](http://www.montanawomenvote.org)

[\[montanawomenvote.org\]](http://montanawomenvote.org) **Committed to increasing women's participation in all aspects of democracy.**



## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Katjana Stutzer <Katljana.Stutzer.484481263@p2a.co>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 5:28 AM  
**To:** Joe Lamson  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Katjana Stutzer. I moved to Missoula in 2014 to finish my undergraduate degree and decided to make Montana my new home. Now, I can't imagine living anywhere else.

I support map 11 because it doesn't favor one political party. One of the things I love about Montana is how all different kinds of people work together and have hard conversations to make the right decisions for our community. Let's preserve that kind of collaboration rather than letting politicians choose their voters and silencing thought diversity in our state.

The new congressional district should not favor one political party over another.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,  
Katljana Stutzer  
404 S 5th St E  
Missoula, MT 59801

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 9:14 AM  
**To:** Sherley, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: SALLY WILHELM

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 2:48 PM  
**To:** Districting <districting@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: SALLY WILHELM

From: SALLY WILHELM [sitkamomo@yahoo.com](mailto:sitkamomo@yahoo.com)  
Residence: chinook mt

Message:

i think the district map is unfair, as you know that the growth in Mt. is in the west side of the divide. So their population will be much higher than the east side, always. It will just grow with all of these out of staters moving in. I think to be fair Kalispell should be included on the eastern side, why not? How often do they redue the map?

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



## Inspiring Native Leadership So Our Communities Flourish!

February, 17, 2022

Ronnie Jo Horse  
Western Native Voice  
1215 24th St W  
Billings, MT 59102

To:  
Director of the United States Census Bureau  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233

To Whom It May Concern:

Indigenous people have suffered centuries of injustice at the hands of the United States Government, our legal trustee. In Montana, these injustices continue to the scourge of mass incarceration of racial minorities in America.

According to a 2018 study conducted by the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana, Indigenous people comprise approximately 6.5 percent of Montana's population. Still, they account for 20 percent of the men's state prison population and 34 percent of the women's state prison population. Additionally, Indigenous people account for 27 percent of the state's arrests for failure to appear in court or probation or parole violations. It is important to note that technical violations of the terms of probation or parole are contributed to because of lack of transportation, affordable housing, child care services, and other services more readily found in off-reservation areas.

The US Census Bureau's historical practice of counting incarcerated individuals as residents of their prison cells rather than their home communities is a topic to reconsider. Prisoner reallocation to their home districts is critically important because most states in the US do not let the incarcerated vote. The incarcerated often have no ties to the local community because their community is hundreds of miles away, which affects the Indigenous people's vote. When legislative districts are drawn based on the census numbers, incarcerated individuals become "ghost constituents" of districts they are imprisoned in. The imprisoned are allocated to legislative districts that artificially inflate the districts where the prison is located. While back in the communities where they are from, they are often suffering from losing representation, loss of community funding, and voting strength for a decade until the prison gerrymandering problem is fixed.



## Inspiring Native Leadership So Our Communities Flourish!

We respectfully and firmly request that the United States Census Bureau reform its prisoner allocation policies. We also request that the Department of Corrections provide complete address information, which we know is collected as part of the legal process. Lastly, we also request that the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission address this issue adequately. All of the entities above must do what can be done to limit the harm done to Native representation and funding by reallocating Montana's prison population representation to the home districts of those incarcerated. The districts drawn will impact the next ten years of representation, and we believe that everyone's vote is essential, including those incarcerated. That includes our relatives and community members who are disproportionately incarcerated in Montana.

Thank you

Ronnie Jo Horse  
Executive Director  
Western Native Voice

CC

Director Brian Gootkin  
Montana Department of Corrections  
P.O. Box 201301  
Helena, MT 59620-1301

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Josh Butterfly  
519 4th St S  
Great Falls, MT 59405

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Chris Zier <outlook\_79AEE5378DCD9C7D@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 3, 2022 9:40 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana districtcs

I am in favor of map #1 it provides a clear east -west division, balanced correctly.

Chris Zier

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