

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received by 11:59 p.m. on September 18, 2022.

Distributed electronically September 19, 2022

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Dylan Barnard

From: Dylan Barnard db170902@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:
Madame Chair Smith and District and Apportionment Commissioners:

I was born and raised in Montana, and currently reside in Missoula, but have also lived in Billings and Bozeman. Living in these politically different areas, I learned that Montanans want legislative districts that are fairly drawn and competitive, in which each vote carries equal weight. Having reviewed the proposed legislative district maps, it is apparent that HDP2 and HDP3 meet the criteria required by law. These two proposed maps do not unduly favor a political party and protect minority voting rights.

I urge you choose one of these proposed maps for your final version.

Sincerely,

Dylan Barnard

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gabe Bernard

From: Gabe Bernard gbernardmt@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade, MT

Message:

I expressing concern regarding the redistricting options regarding Gallatin County Democrats attempting to manipulate votes by moving boundaries in violation of Montana Law. Many of the maps presented for redistricting clearly violate the MT Law and fall into the category of gerrymandering. They do not keep When looking at one map outlining democratic voters vs republicans I cannot see how stretching the district all the way north to include Wilsal MT...its apparent democrats are attempting to use higher populated city voters to skew rural voters voices. Montana is a vast area with many rural conservative folks working hard to maintain the Montana way of life. It is very inaccurate to have rural ranching an farming communities being lumped in with the booming city of Bozeman MT which is not even a real representation of Montana. My wife and I have been traveling to rural towns this summer and it is evident there is a vast difference in the economics of Bozeman vs most everywhere else. We need to stand up to protect everything that keeps Montana so great and unique...and the reason why people keep moving here. Even when they fail to see what makes it so great of a state! We need to keep representation fair and equal so there is always checks and balances from both sides.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 9:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jennifer Bernard

From: Jennifer Bernard jennsteingruber@hotmail.com
Residence: Belgrade, MT

Message:
To Whom This Concerns:

I am writing to protest Democrat Maps #2 and #3 which have been submitted towards the redistricting process. According to Montana Code Annotated 2021, 5-1-115, which addresses specific criteria for redistricting, maps 2 and 3 are NOT compliant. They are illegal and do not follow the constructs of our laws and therefore must not be entertained. They have been designed as a blatant power grab for the Democratic vote. I find these maps divisive to historic communities that have always voted conservative and FORCED these communities into other communities that would drown out their representation and thus, their voice and their right to be heard and represented. These maps FORCE the outlying communities of Missoula and Bozeman into the universities and THEIR surrounding communities. This is unacceptable. These maps drown out many voices that make up our communities. We are not ONLY Democratic. We are NOT only Republican or Independent or anything else because OUR communities consist of Every voice, and every voice must be HEARD! Under Maps #2 and #3, ONLY the voices of the university students and other Democratic communities will be heard. And since that would be the case under these maps, they DO NOT follow the criteria of the laws written to prevent ONE PARTY FROM MONOPOLIZING ON THE VOTES OF THE PEOPLE and must be dismissed as errant, biased, prejudiced, despicable, one dimensional and censuring of a certain group of constituents.

Thank for your time and careful consideration on these pivotal matters concerning all at this time.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 1:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:
Use Mr. Friedman's map.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:
I support the republican version of redistricting. Go Griz. Trump won.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Peter Bower <bowerpj@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 7:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting Concerns

Dear Redistricting Commission:

As a Montana resident and a licensed Montana attorney, I am concerned about the proposed redistricting maps 2 and 3 on grounds of legality and public policy. I am writing via email rather than providing in person comment at last week's meeting at MSU in order to ensure that my comments are received and duly considered. I sincerely value the opportunity to be heard and trust that this Commission is acting in a balanced and equitable manner.

With regards to the legality of the proposed maps, as you are already aware from the numerous public comments and the goals outlined by this Commission, the effect of redistricting should not dramatically split apart communities or unduly favor one political party over another. With redistricting occurring only once every ten years, in order to avoid costly and time consuming (and divisive) litigation on this matter, any acceptable map should clearly comply with the guidelines of this body. Maps 2 and 3 are divisive and should not be adopted on the grounds that they are divisive and do not keep communities intact.

As to policy, public sentiment towards the trustworthiness of our democratic institutions is currently at a heightened level of sensitivity. Regardless of the outcome of any election, in order for our state and local government to work effectively, our residents must truly believe that they have had a meaningful voice in each and every election. In this way, though healthy comparison of ideals, the best candidates with the best ideas can prevail. Our redistricting should attempt to give everyone a voice, not promote one over another. Regardless of the authority that this Commission has to promote one map over another, it should carefully consider each map and seek to pick the fairest, not only one that passes muster with baseline legality. For this reason as well, the Commission should reject Maps 2 and 3 as they unfairly favor Democratic candidates.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Bower
Resident of HD 61, Gallatin County, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 12:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Dan Eakin

From: Dan Eakin daniel.eakin@umontana.edu
Residence: Sidney, MT

Message:

Dear Commission members,

Thank you for your work in doing this, and for your consideration and time in listening to all public comment. Regarding the four commission-proposed maps, I would say that the fairest and best map is probably number three. It appears to do the least carving up of population centers and reservations in general. Based on my review of it, it would appear to be the most accurate reflection of Montana voters among the four commission-proposed maps, and has the least potential for partisan gerrymandering. Numbers 1 and 4 appear to carve up several reservations and population centers arbitrarily and capriciously to favor a certain party. Number 2's proposed HD 71 and HD 51 just don't look right. Overall, I would say that proposed map number three appears to best follow the one-person, one-vote standard for meaningful representation.

Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate being able to offer this input, and I wish you the best in your decision-making.

Dan

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Bill Ellis

From: Bill Ellis billellis58@aol.com
Residence: Miles City

Message:

The City of Miles City and parts of Custer County is currently in House District 38 and Senate District 19 and should stay as a complete district and not be divided into two districts. Maps 1 and 2 keep Miles City in one district, in according to the Mandatory Criterial and Goals of the Commission. (The Commission shall attempt to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties, and federal reservation between two districts.) I prefer Map 1 because, I fill it has laid out all the districts with easier to understand boundaries. Thank You

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 7:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elichai Fowler

From: Elichai Fowler ejfire@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I very much disagree with map number two and three. They do not represent the voters well and give too much power to a few city people over large tracts of rural people who have a much different life and different needs that most city representatives do not understand or represent well.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 12:13 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Bethanie Green

From: Bethanie Green mori_48@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I oppose maps 2 and 3 and approve maps 1 and 4. Maps 2 and 3 seem excessively complicated, divide more than is necessary, and do not comply with state laws, while 1 and 4 seem to have logic and reason and are compact, adhering to state requirements.

Thank you for all your hard work in creating and proposing these various maps. I participated in the second of the zoom meetings but at the time I had not questions for any of the commissioners. I look forward to having another representative for Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Janet Haarvig <jhaarvig@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 6:07 PM
To: districting@mt.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on Redistricting

September 15, 2022

Dear Chair and members of the commission, my name is Janet Haarvig and I live in Missoula. I support Maps HDP-2 and HDP-3 because:

- *They both represent how Montanans have historically voted and do not unfairly favor one party over another. (1)
- *They fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political make-up of Montana voters. (2)
- * Maps 1 and 4 violate the Voter Rights Act (3)
(see explanations below)

(1) 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. **Regardless of the shape of the districts, this is partisan gerrymandering.**

(2) To reach more than 70 Republican-favored districts, HDP1 and HDP4 eliminate districts in which Native Americans have majorities, reducing Native American voters' ability to elect the candidates of their choice. Beginning with the districts drawn by 2000 Commission, Native Americans were elected to the Legislature in about the same proportion as their share of the state's population. These maps reverse the work of past Commissions in assuring fair Native American representation.

(3) Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits not only election-related practices and procedures that are intended to be racially discriminatory, but also those that are shown to have a racially discriminatory result.

Thank you for including this letter in the public record,
Janet Haarvig
1826 S. 12th St W
Missoula, MT 59801

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary T Hamilton

From: Mary T Hamilton magarac@bresnan.net
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Please, don't allow elected-by gerrymander politicians to control Montana. It would be an egregious violation of a democracy. The GOP proposed maps #1 and #4 are clearly gerrymandered and not fair. Please select either of proposed maps #2 or #3.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: JoAnn Hanson

From: JoAnn Hanson jhansonmt@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Dear members of the Redistricting Commission,

Please vote for either map 2 or map 3 for our future Montana legislative districts. I recommend these maps for the following reasons:

It is important that our Montana Native American communities continue to have representation in the Legislature and in our laws. Maps 2 and 3 maintain and facilitate this representation.

It is important for our state legislature to continue to be representative of Montana voters of whom 57% typically vote Republican and 43% typically vote Democratic. Maps 2 and 3 reflect this bi-partisan voting. We need to support the diversity of Montana voters. Representation of all voters is fundamental to our democracy.

Lastly and importantly, maps 2 and 3 meet the mandatory criteria set by the Redistricting Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely, JoAnn Hanson

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:44 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Joan R Higgins-Smith

From: Joan R Higgins-Smith joanruth@q.com
Residence: Clancy, Montana

Message:

From data reports published widely to the public it confirms that Montana's voters vote 57% Republican and 43% Democrat. Redistricting maps #2 and #3 have 57% majority Republican and 43% Democrat districts. Those two maps according to commission information retain the same number of Native American majority districts (which are the Indian Nations), and according to the commission data, meet all of the mandatory criteria. Please be fair and nonpartisan and vote for Maps #2 and #3. Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Greg Kmetz

From: Greg Kmetz nolley@midrivers.com
Residence: Miles City, MT 59301

Message:

The City of Miles City and parts of Custer County is currently in House District 38 and Senate District 19 and should stay as a complete district and not be divided into two districts. Maps 1 and 2 keep Miles City in one district, in according to the Mandatory Criterial and Goals of the Commission. (The Commission shall attempt to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties, and federal reservation between two districts.) I prefer Map 1 because, I feel it has laid out all the districts with easier to understand boundaries. Thank You

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Alice Kmetz

From: Alice Kmetz mommykmetz@gmail.com
Residence: Miles City, Montana

Message:

I am requesting that Miles City be left as it is labeled in Map 1. This is HD 38, Senate district 19. This meets the commissions requirements. We want the same representation in legislation.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Alice Kmetz

From: Alice Kmetz mommykmetz@gmail.com
Residence: Miles City Montana

Message:

I request that Map 1 be used so that HD 38 and Senate District 19 remain the same for legislation representation. Please take this into consideration.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Alice Kmetz

From: Alice Kmetz mommykmetz@gmail.com
Residence: Miles City, Montana

Message:

I am requesting that Miles City be left as it is labeled in Map 1. This is HD 38, Senate district 19. This meets the commissions requirements. We want the same representation in legislation.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: trancefuric@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jeff Kober <trancefuric@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 6:20 PM
To: districting@mt.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please adopt fair, competitive legislative districts

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please consider either HDP2 or HDP3. The commission has pledged to adopt a map that would not unduly favor one party over another. These two proposed maps are fair and not in danger of gerrymandering like HDP1 and HDP4. As a Montanan I believe in my right to cast my vote at every election and I also think everyone else's vote should be weighted fairly. Gerrymandering presents an unfair and unethical approach that doesn't give each individual a true say. Do the right thing adopt either HDP2 or HDP3.

Sincerely,
Jeff Kober
1519 Wind River Ln Billings, MT 59101-8945 trancefuric@hotmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 9:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Michelle Kozlow

From: Michelle Kozlow michellekozlow@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston MT

Message:
Please select HDP 3. My second choice is HDP 2.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: rleach370@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 7:33 PM
To: districting@mt.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] map comments from Rosemary Leach

Montana Redistricting Commission

14 September 2022

Rosemary Leach
4600 Edgewood Drive
Missoula, MT 59802
Ph 406-370-1999

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

Thank you for considering my comments.

My choice for the proposed House maps are those that meet all 4 of the mandated criteria—political fairness, competitiveness, population equality, and fair indigenous representation, as per the video on the [RepresentMT.com \[representmt.com\]](https://representmt.com) site. The only maps that meet all 4 criteria are **HDP-2** and **HDP-3**.

It seems to me that the maps that did not meet all of the criteria should be eliminated at this point (maps 1 and 4). However, in the interest of discussion, I will include their assessment below, based on the GIS map tools available at the davesredistricting.org link.

Looking at the proposed House district maps, **HDP-3** was the **best** at meeting my number 1 criteria, which is **competitiveness**.

It seems to me that all other things being equal, the maps we want for Montana should be the most competitive that we can make them, while meeting all other laws and requirements. Why—because that way, each voter’s voice has the best chance of being heard.

When we gerrymander such that seats are not competitive, 1 party has an advantage over the other. When seats are competitive, we have the best chance of getting candidates that can appeal to the majority of voters, not the most extreme candidates. You would think it odd if you went to a horse race and 1 party got to move his horse closer to the finish line—before

the race had even started. So too with making districts less competitive. There should be no objection from any candidate or party in a democratic society, to making districts the most competitive as possible, while also meeting all of the other criteria set out by law and policy.

According to the GIS map criteria (proportional, competitive, minority, compact, least splitting), HDP-3 was also best at proportional districts, so it was the best in 2 out of 5 criteria, which was the best overall score of any of the 4 proposed maps.

In reviewing other categories relative to the other maps, HDP-3 tied with 2 other maps at being just 1 point shy of best minority, so it was essentially not significantly different from the best in that regard.

While HDP-3 was not as compact as the best 2 maps in that category, it was similar to 1 other map in this category. Still, both of these maps (2 and 3) did meet all of the overall criteria.

HDP-3 was the worst relative to splitting, but that seems to me to be at least partially addressed by being relatively not-so-bad in terms of compactness. Of all of the criteria in the GIS models, I can live with a lower splitting score, especially when HDP-3 was the most competitive.

My second choice is HDP-2, because it also is only 1 of 2 maps that meet all 4 criteria listed in the [RepresentMT.com \[representmt.com\]](https://www.representmt.com) video. Also, HDP-2 is highly competitive and compares favorably with HDP-3.

The shape of the HDP-2 polygon and graph line looks similar to HDP-3 in terms of the GIS criteria on the [davesredistricting.org \[davesredistricting.org\]](https://www.davesredistricting.org) link. Map 2 is a bit worse at compactness and splitting than map 3.

Overall, please choose the maps that meet all of the legal and policy criteria of 1) political fairness, 2) competitive, 3) population equality, and 4) fair indigenous representation, which are either **HDP-2 or -3**. Next, please choose the most competitive map, which according to the [davesredistricting.org \[davesredistricting.org\]](https://www.davesredistricting.org) link is **HDP-3**, followed closely by HDP-2.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Rosemary H. Leach, a Missoula voter.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 3:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Donald LeGore

From: Donald LeGore dvleg3@gmail.com
Residence: Manhattan, MT

Message:

To respect your time and avoid repeating what was said already, I oppose maps #2 and #3 for many of the reasons already provided at public hearings I have watched and heard. Thank you for hearing my request.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tiffany LeGore

From: Tiffany LeGore tiffanylegore@gmail.com
Residence: Manhattan, MT

Message:

To respect your time and avoid repeating what was said already, I oppose maps #2 and #3 for many of the reasons already provided at public hearings I have watched and heard. Thank you for hearing my request.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Elise Lininger <elise.lininger@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 6:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MSU public comment

To whom it may concern

I'm appalled at how conservatives were treated at the meeting. It's a Public Comment Session, not an interrogation.

I would like the following to be I included in the public comment record.....

I oppose maps 2 & 3: same reasons as those who spoke up at the meetings.

Sincerely
Elise Lininger
59741

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 7:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Shelly Meyer

From: Shelly Meyer crone.1753@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I write to urge you to vote for Map 2 or Map 3. These maps meet the mandatory criteria you have established, reflect the partisan make-up of the state's population (Montana voters vote roughly 57% Republican and 43% Democrat), and retain the same number of Native American majority districts previously established. Montana needs to preserve an electoral structure that fairly represents the racial diversity of our state and attempts to reflect the partisan diversity of Montana voters. This is truly what can be proudly called representative democracy.

I am a resident and voter in Missoula County since 1978. I make it my business to be an informed and active voter and to advocate for the inclusion of all citizens in order to reflect and represent their various viewpoints, regardless of whether those viewpoints agree with my own. The population of citizens in Montana is widely dispersed, with more population in urban than rural areas. It is composed of groups of citizens who earn a living in different professions or as laborers in different industries/programs, or as farmers or ranchers who manage resources we all depend on for our food supply. All deserve to be fairly represented when they exercise their voting rights.

Please vote for Map 2 or Map 3 so the concerns of our wide spectrum of citizens in Montana can be most fairly represented.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Christina Parker Smith

From: Christina Parker Smith cpsmith55@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Please delete previous message as I had hit submit button before I was finished.

Madame Chair Smith and District and Apportionment Commissioners:

As a Gallatin County Resident of 43 years and a Bozeman one of 40.5 years, I am appalled by a couple of proposed legislative district maps, that are not fairly drawn, are not competitive nor do they allow votes to carry equal weight. Only HDP2 and HDP3, proposed legislative maps meet the criteria required by law, both do not favor a political party and protect minority voting rights. Please vote to approve legislative districts that are competitive, equitable, fair and reflect our true Montana communities.

Respectfully subitted,

Christina Smith

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kerri Reno

From: Kerri Reno kreno@itstriangle.com
Residence: Garneill, MT

Message:

I vote for districting map #3. It seems to be the fairest layout. If not #3, then #2.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2022 8:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Cheryl Roller

From: Cheryl Roller cheryl.roller@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I oppose maps #2 and #3 because they violate the requirements set forth in Montana's constitution. Redistricting is an important tool in maintaining justice for voters, and the framers of our constitution wisely established parameters to protect that process from politicization. To adopt a non-compliant redistricting map would undermine Montana's election fairness.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Monica Scott

From: Monica Scott db_scott@comcast.net
Residence: Corvallis, Mt

Message:

Madame Chair and commissioners,

After review of all the maps, I find map 1 to be the most reasonable given your guidelines and rules. Map 1:divides only 2 counties, is the most compact with the North/South and East/West dimensions looking the most equal. Also there is only a difference of one person between the two congressional districts. This map is the most compact and contiguous, keeping communities of interest together.

Thank you,
Monica Scott

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 7:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Roger Sherman

From: Roger Sherman rlsherman614@gmail.com
Residence: WHITEFISH

Message:

The present district are nonpartisan and fair changing them is a partisan attempt to add favor to one party over a number

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 10:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Dale F Steingruber

From: Dale F Steingruber Dsteingrubermt@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

I strongly protest redistricting maps 2 and 3. They unlawful and noncompliant with State Law, which states that legislative districts MUST be compact with fairly equal width and length. It states that a district should not be more than 3 times longer than it's width. Maps 2 and 3 violate State Law and appears to be only an attempt to consolidate and overwhelm rural Republican districts with highly populated city voters that do not represent the whole of the Gallatin County.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 12:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Eric Stimson

From: Eric Stimson estimson@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Dear members of the Redistricting Commission, Please vote your support for either Map 2 or Map 3. My reasons are as follows. Montana is not an "all-Republican" state. In the last presidential election over 40% of Montana voters voted for Biden. Our legislative districts should reflect that strong minority. If the Republican party gains even more of an advantage in the Montana House and Senate, the 40% minority will have effectively NO voice in the state legislature, especially if a Republican "super-majority" is able to change Montana's Constitution. Please respect the rights of the minority. Thank you.

Eric Stimson
6123 Moondance Road
Helena, MT 59601

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Nancy Tanner

From: Nancy Tanner nancymtanner@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

I was not able to attend the public comment sessions or zoom call, so I am writing to state that I OPPOSE maps #2 and #3.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Timothy Wheel

From: Timothy Wheel grumpybear@mt.net
Residence: Helena

Message:

Please follow policy and the law when redistricting. There is no sense in coming up with districts that will be challenged in court.

It looks like map four is the right district map and hopefully won't end up in court.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2022 7:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Rick Whiman

From: Rick Whiman whitmanrr@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston Montana

Message:

Regarding State Legislative Redistricting: I prefer House District Proposal 3. My second choice is HDP 2. Both of these two proposals do a good job of maintaining current partisan balance while maximizing the number of competitive districts. Please select one of these two proposals and reject both HDP 1 and HDP 4.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 11:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Margarita McLarty

From: Margarita McLarty mclarty1@outlook.com
Residence: Pray, Park County, Montana

Message:

None of the four maps meets my expectations for dividing Montana into districts that fairly reflect the diverse populations of our beautiful state. The Republican projections are clearly aimed at enhancing their current domination of legislative seats at the expense of severely disenfranchising tribes and local communities. The two Democrat proposals, while adhering to maintaining the current likely political divisions, and giving fairing treatment to tribal areas, still draw some uncomfortable geographic boundaries. I know we can use the two Democrat proposals as a bases for redrawing divisions that reasonably maintain current political powers within more compact and homogeneous geographic boundaries. I am trusting that you will fully engage with proposals to do so.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 9:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Neva Rathbun

From: Neva Rathbun msrev@midrivers.com
Residence: Terry

Message:

After attending a redistricting meeting in Miles City and seeing the maps, I feel strongly that there should be no division of Custer County. It seems to me that to divide the county is to cause divisiveness. I encourage the implementation of House District Proposal 1. Thank you for your consideration.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 8:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gillian Nadège Zohner

From: Gillian Nadège Zohner zohnergilly@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

Thank you for your service to our community. I do not agree with mas #2 and #3 for many of the reasons already provided at public hearings and from what I understand.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 6:37 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Greg McClellan

From: Greg McClellan kiskagreg@yahoo.com
Residence: Stevensville, Montana

Message:

I reviewed the four maps drafted by the commission. I recommend that Map 1 be approved. For my area it looked the most concise without outlandish configurations. I think the map should not unduly favor one political party over the other and the map should fairly reflect and represent all Montanans. I believe Map #1 does that best. Thank you for your consideration. Greg McClellan

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2022 5:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sarah Merrill

From: Sarah Merrill sarademerrill@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:
Madame Chair Smith and District and Apportionment Commissioners:

I have lived in Bozeman since 1975. Montanans want legislative districts that are fairly drawn and competitive, in which each vote carries equal weight. Having reviewed the proposed legislative district maps, it is apparent that HDP2 and HDP3 meet the criteria required by law. These two proposed maps do not unduly favor a political party and protect minority voting rights. I urge you to choose one of these proposed maps for the final version.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sarah Merrill

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