

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received by 5 p.m. on September 6, 2022.

Distributed electronically September 6, 2022

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Krista Baziak

From: Krista Baziak kristabaziak@gmail.com
Residence: BELGRADE

Message:

In considering the guidelines for drawing district lines laid out in the Montana Constitution, the only proposed map that follows the guidelines is map 4. Maps 2 and 3 appear to be unnecessarily dividing up the downtown Bozeman and MSU College campus so as to redistribute the liberal vote. I do not support any map that uses such gerrymandering techniques to manipulate the distribution of votes. Maps 2 and 3 are NOT compact so they do not meet the guidelines and cannot be supported.

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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, September 2, 2022 8:37 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:

Dear hypocritical commie cheaters. Be an American for once in your life. Quit the democrat party.

--

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, September 4, 2022 4:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:
Dear democrat members of the commission,
Stop cheating.
Love, Bill

--
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, September 1, 2022 6:58 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: william berthoud

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

Message:
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: Thursday, September 1, 2022 1:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: PHYLLIS BOCK

From: PHYLLIS BOCK nicholbock@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

To strive to implement "One person; One vote" should be the overarching constitutional principle that the Montana Redistricting and Apportionment Committee adheres to in all of its deliberations and decisions.

--

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, September 2, 2022 4:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Faye Boom

From: Faye Boom fdboom@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

In my opinion, if the redistricting maps are not drawn to ensure a fair election for everyone, and a fair distribution for voters of all parties, including the Indian voters, it would qualify as commission endorsed gerrymandering. I believe maps 2 and 3 are the most fair of the 4 maps that were submitted and I would urge the choice of one of the two.

--

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, September 1, 2022 4:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: collette Brooks-Hops

From: collette Brooks-Hops collette.paintbox@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Whenever maps are gerrymandered and clearly favor one party over the other, it's a blatant violation of the rules the Redistricting and Apportionment Commission agreed to.

These proposed maps create non-competitive districts and could enable a ten-year supermajority, giving the GOP unilateral control in Helena.

Proposed Republican maps dilute the Democratic voter base into small urban areas, ignoring connectivity between communities. For example: Bozeman is separated into a blue district and Belgrade into a red district, ignoring the fact that Belgrade has a considerable Democratic voter base and the interconnectedness of these two communities.

These proposed Republican maps weaken and eliminate some of the 9 majority-minority districts that have existed for decades in our state. This is a clear attempt to disenfranchise tribal communities and is certainly not without precedent in Montana. What happened to the Federal Voting rights Act????

These Republican maps are obviously and outrageously gerrymandered. What's more outrageous, is the possibility that you might consider these to be valid!!!

Democratic maps followed the rules set out by the Commission. creating 43 Democrat and 57 Republican seats, fairly balancing power in the legislature.

I urge you all to do the right thing and balance voting districts without giving unjust advantage to one party over the other.

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, September 1, 2022 7:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marilee Brown

From: Marilee Brown marilee2browndogs@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman Montana

Message:

I favor maps that do not unduly favor a political party and want maps that fairly reflect and represent minorities and political make-up of Montana voters. Map 1 and 4 are not fair and I am against them.

--

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, September 1, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Anne Buckley

From: Anne Buckley asbuckley@earthlink.net
Residence: Livingston, MT

Message:
Dear Commissioners,

My comment is focused on the impact of redistricting upon Park County. Please respect the voices of Park County voters and support Montana's rich heritage of authentic democratic representation by choosing either HDP2 or HDP3.

In 2021 when you voted to place Park County in the eastern congressional district, you ignored the needs and challenges faced by Park County citizens as we deal the pressures of a changing economic and natural landscape. These are distinct challenges that we share with the other tourism gateway areas in SW Montana such as West Yellowstone and Bozeman, but are irrelevant to the agriculturally-dominated communities to the north and east of us. By choosing either of the Republican redistricting maps, you silence the voice of Park County voters whose livelihoods depend upon tourism, who are struggling with questions of planning and housing, and who must deal with the burdens faced by extra-urban growth.

We need and deserve representation in Helena that doesn't favor the voices of Park County rural voters to the detriment of those whose concerns are not based in agriculture alone. For the record, my property is a working ranch to the east of Livingston, yet my interests and concerns encompass those of the urban, tourism, etc. communities in addition to the agricultural community. My existing State House and Senate districts are already vastly skewed towards one perspective; the two redistricting maps proposed by the Republicans would make this situation even worse.

I respectfully ask for fairness and that you all support the voices of all voters in Park County.

Thank you.
Anne Buckley

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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 31, 2022 6:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Catharine Carey and Robin Carey

From: Catharine Carey and Robin Carey cgc57@bresnan.net
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I support maps 2 and 3 because maps 1 & 4 are heavily gerrymandered. Montana has been known for having independent, fair-minded residents, and maps 1 & 4 do not represent them. They also do not represent our Native American population.

--

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, September 1, 2022 5:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mary Louise Carlson

From: Mary Louise Carlson mlb.chem@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:
HDP2 and HDP3 seem the most equitable plans of the four proposed.

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

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation

Phone: (406) 395-5705 - Finance Office
(406) 395-4282 or 4321 - Business Committee

96 Clinic Road
Box Elder, Montana 59521

September 1, 2022

VIA Electronic Communication (E-Mail)

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Montana State Legislature
State Capitol
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov

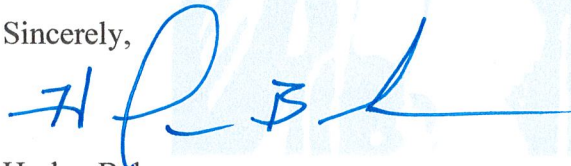
Re: Opposing proposed map plans introduced by both Commissioner Dan Stusek and Commissioner Jeff Essmann (HDP1 and HDP4)

Dear Respected MT Districting and Apportionment Commission Team:

Please note, this communication is on behalf of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation. The Tribe strongly opposes the proposed maps, HDP1 and HDP4, introduced by both Commissioner Dan Stusek and Commissioner Jeff Essmann. If either plan is adopted, it will greatly mishandle the racial majority-minority districts and dilute Native American votes. In addition, the Tribe strongly opposes any map that does not represent a healthy and well-balanced majority-minority districts and advantages one party.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at

Sincerely,



Harlan Baker
Chairman of the Chippewa Cree Tribal Business Committee

Chief Rocky Boy

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gerald Daniel Cole

From: Gerald Daniel Cole 125sucecreek@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston, Montana 59047

Message:

My name is Jerry Cole. I've lived on Montana all 67 years of my life. I've lived outside of Helena, in Bozeman and south of Livingston. One thing I know for certain, since the passing of the 1972 State Constitution, everyday Montanans have increasingly lost control of governmental proceedings through republican gerrymandering and big businesses manipulating of our politicians. Please return control of our futures to grass-root Montanans where it belongs.

--

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, September 1, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dulaney Collins

From: Dulaney Collins dncollins09@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

The MT Redistricting map drawn by the Republicans is illegal because they didn't adhere to the guidelines set out. No surprise since we know that Republicans do lie, cheat and most have stolen classified documents. You can't allow their cheating to continue. They run horrible candidates and the only way they can win is by cheating by using redistricting. DO NOT ALLOW THIS. In my birth state of Virginia the Republicans drew illegal legislative/congressional districts. They were challenged and new ones had to be redrawn with DOJ's oversight. Do we really want to put Montanans through that? Does Jeff Essman and these other Republicans think we Montanans are so stupid that we won't realize they're attempting to cheat? Not to mention ripping up communities. Belgrade is a bedroom community of Bozeman and needs to remain in the same district. Let's not make Montana's Congressional & Legislative District resemble a jigsaw puzzle of 1000+ pieces. Thank you for reviewing my comments. Dulaney

--

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, September 2, 2022 8:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jon Cuthbertson

From: Jon Cuthbertson jon.myles.cuthbertson@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

HD 1-3 are obvious gerrymandering. HD 4 isn't too bad. All the comments about "fairness" and "competitiveness" are just lying weasel words to justify gerrymandering. Knock it off. The maps should NOT be based on political party, race, or any other characteristic to allow gerrymandering. Just population and a small contiguous border.

--

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, September 6, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Pat Defries

From: Pat Defries padefries@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman Mt

Message:

Keep it the way it is without changing the borders in able to cheat to win.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Leah DeLange <sr71blackbird1911@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps for Redistricting

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am sick and tired of Democrats who ignore and circumvent the Montana Constitution to unlawfully get their own way. I am sick and tired of Republicans who do not stand up for our Constitution and demand that it be followed. Where is your honor? Where is your integrity? Maps 1, 2 & 3 are in violation of the Montana Constitution. They are not compact and they fail to group like communities together but rather they dilute the rural vote by forcing them into districts with cities. Why are these 3 maps still in the running? They are unlawful and thus are disqualified to be used. I have had to submit documents to the government, and if they are not exactly to their specifications, the documents are thrown out and I have to re-write them and submit again; the same should be done for these maps.

If you persist in their submission, we, the people of Montana, will have no choice but to sue you board members for failing to do your duty by upholding our laws. We are done allowing politicians to disregard our laws. It is time you are held accountable.

Thank you for your time.

--

Leah DeLange
sr71blackbird1911@proton.me
"Test everything, hold to that which is true."

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Leah DeLange

From: Leah DeLange sr71blackbird@tutanota.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I am sick and tired of Democrats who ignore and circumvent the Montana Constitution to unlawfully get their own way. I am sick and tired of Republicans who do not stand up for our Constitution and demand that it be followed. Where is your honor? Where is your integrity? Maps 2 & 3 are in violation of the Montana Constitution and so is Map #1. They are not compact and they fail to group like communities together but rather they dilute the rural vote by forcing them into districts with cities. Why are these 3 maps still in the running? They are unlawful and thus are disqualified to be used. I have had to submit documents to the government, and if they are not exactly to their specifications, the documents are thrown out and I have to re-write them and submit them again; the same should be done for these maps.

If you persist in their submission, we, the people of Montana, will have no choice but to sue you, board members, for failing to do your duty by upholding our laws. We are done allowing politicians to disregard our laws. It is time you are held accountable.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 8:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Pamela Diedrich

-----Original Message-----

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 7:18 PM
To: Districting <districting@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Pamela Diedrich

From: Pamela Diedrich pdiedrich959@gmail.com
Residence: Butte, MT

Message:

I live and work in Butte, MT and want to show my support for HDP2 proposed by Commissioner Lamson. HDP2 keeps Jefferson County, Butte and Anaconda together in the same legislative districts. Butte and Anaconda are so close together and share many of the same resources. I frequently shop in Anaconda because it offers me two more food stores than Buttes two choices of Safeway and Walmart. Also, many people work in one city and live in the other city since they are only seventeen miles apart. Butte and Anaconda have deep shared historic roots. They were built by two competitive Copper King giants – Marcus Daly and William Clark. Likewise, Jefferson County shares in the mining history since it was the place where Western Montana mining originated in 1864. Jefferson County, Butte and Anaconda all share in the same environmental issues related to past mining, as well as, current economic concerns and would be best represented in the same legislative district. Finally, HDP2 is a fair and proportional plan for Montana. I strongly urge you to adopt HDP2 as the Montana Legislative District map.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov] <[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!rOreeYReoqCJHtepcCn0E9verliumezvPvc945Z8pz4uiAz3JUGtplcelp4sUoFLuoNs2iMLsyvVtxNs0hSP6jBMjHQ\\$>](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!rOreeYReoqCJHtepcCn0E9verliumezvPvc945Z8pz4uiAz3JUGtplcelp4sUoFLuoNs2iMLsyvVtxNs0hSP6jBMjHQ$>))

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 7:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Pamela Diedrich

From: Pamela Diedrich pdiedrich959@gmail.com
Residence: Butte, MT

Message:

I live and work in Butte, MT and want to show my support for HDP2 proposed by Commissioner Lamson. HDP2 keeps Jefferson County, Butte and Anaconda together in the same legislative districts. Butte and Anaconda are so close together and share many of the same resources. I frequently shop in Anaconda because it offers me two more food stores than Buttes two choices of Safeway and Walmart. Also, many people work in one city and live in the other city since they are only seventeen miles apart. Butte and Anaconda have deep shared historic roots. They were built by two competitive Copper King giants – Marcus Daly and William Clark. Likewise, Jefferson County shares in the mining history since it was the place where Western Montana mining originated in 1864. Jefferson County, Butte and Anaconda all share in the same environmental issues related to past mining, as well as, current economic concerns and would be best represented in the same legislative district. Finally, HDP2 is a fair and proportional plan for Montana. I strongly urge you to adopt HDP2 as the Montana Legislative District map.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov]
<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!rOreeYReoqCJHtepcCn0E9verliumezvPvc945Z8pz4uiAz3JUGtplcelp4sUoFLuoNs2iMLsyvVtxNs0hSP6jBMjHQ\\$>](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!rOreeYReoqCJHtepcCn0E9verliumezvPvc945Z8pz4uiAz3JUGtplcelp4sUoFLuoNs2iMLsyvVtxNs0hSP6jBMjHQ$>))

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 3:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lindsey Drewiske

From: Lindsey Drewiske Drewiskelindsey@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

I strongly oppose new district maps 2 and 3 as they go against our MT state 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: Sunday, September 4, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Victoria Emmons

From: Victoria Emmons victoriaemmons@mac.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I reviewed all four proposed redistricting maps and have concluded that, were I in your shoes and had to decide, I think Map #1 is best due to its more logical arrangement. My second vote would be Map #4. That being said, Map #4 separates me, as a resident of Missoula, apart from most of my neighborhood — literally neighbors across the street would fall in a different district. That's unsettling since my new district would be in a mostly commercial area. But then again, I guess representatives have to consider all who live in their districts. I'd have more in common with those as outlined in Map #1. Keeping smaller towns together is also important. When I lived in N. California, they split up our town into three different legislative districts on purpose. Each "finger" of our town got plugged into some other far-reaching area in another town. It was ridiculous. What I saw in Montana's proposed Maps #2 and #3 try to do that same thing by creating long, crooked fingers of space running in odd directions. Doesn't seem to meet the criteria for designing districts. Thanks for all your hard work on redistricting. It is an important job and we appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback.

--

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, September 3, 2022 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Steve Fitzpatrick

From: Steve Fitzpatrick fitzpatrick@bresnan.net
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

I am writing to comment on the various maps that have been submitted by each commissioner. I am currently serving as a Montana State Senator for Senate District 10. Senate District 10 covers most of the rural portions of Cascade County and the southeast and southwest portions of the City of Great Falls. Prior to being elected to the Montana Senate, I served three terms in the Montana House of Representatives. I represented the 2005 to 2015 configuration of House District 20 from 2011 to 2015 and the 2015 to 2025 configuration of House District 20 from 2015 to 2017. I am also the Republican Party committeeman for House District 23. As such, I am spent a considerable amount of time campaigning and meeting people throughout the southern portions of the City of Great Falls including the downtown area.

For the last twenty years, the legislative districts in the City of Great Falls have been configured into strips. From looking at the maps submitted by Commissioners Lampson and Miller, they are trying to do the same thing in Missoula and Gallatin counties. I would encourage the commission to reject this approach. First, the districts which are drawn like strips do not reflect the communities of interest in each community. For example, in the City of Great Falls, the downtown area has been divided into five different House districts. In my opinion, this neighborhood would benefit by having a representative dedicated to the area. This is an area with issues and needs which are different from the rest of our community. By carving up this area, the voting power of this neighborhood has been diluted. As such, I do not believe many candidates visit the area or spend much time trying to win votes in the area. When I first ran in 2010, I had a number of people tell me that I was the first person to come through the downtown area and knock on doors in a long time. Second, the strip configuration has the potential to result a in high turnover in legislative races. For example, House District 25, a strip through the middle of Great Falls, has had a different representative each legislative session for the last four sessions. This constant turnover in our delegation prevents any legislator from building up seniority and experience. Success in the Legislature is to a large degree a function of time and experience. With this constant turnover in Great Falls legislative seats, our community is missing out on having an experienced delegation who can advance the goals of our community.

Although the Democrats seem to be offering these maps with long strips for districts, I am not really sure the strip configurations used in the Great Falls map has been beneficial to the Democratic Party. One of the reasons why the Republican Party has such a large delegation is because Republicans are winning seats in these strip configurations. If the commission had adopted the Bennion map in the prior redistricting cycle, I doubt the Cascade County delegation would have elected so many Republicans.

In terms of the specific maps, I would encourage the commission to reject maps 2 and 3 submitted by Commissioners Lampson and Miller. In looking at the maps, it is obvious these maps have been drawn to gerrymander as many districts as possible for Democratic candidates. The districts, especially in Bozeman and Missoula, are clearly not compact and do not reflect communities of interest. Many of the districts look like bug splatter on my windshield.

Specifically, for the Great Falls and northcentral Montana region, Map 2 contains many of the strip configurations which do not reflect communities of interest. For example, in Map 2, District 81 runs from the Canadian border down into the City of Great Falls. This district does not represent a community of interest, is not compact, and appears to be effort by the Democrats to draw Rep. Buttrey out of a seat. Likewise, in Map 2, Districts 78 and 79 look like two L shapes. Again,

neither district is compact, nor do they represent communities of interest. Instead, this map breaks up neighborhoods for no good reason. Finally, House District 77, does not represent a community of interest. In my opinion, the best configuration for a map using Malmstrom Air Force Base would be to include areas to the west of the base because a high number of people who work at the base live in the area west of the base.

Map 3 is better than Map 2, but it also suffers from many of the same problems as Map 2. Map 3 attempts to dilute the downtown neighborhood by breaking it up into multiple districts. In addition, Map 2 contains an oddly drawn House District 76. However, Map 3 does contain a district (House District 75) which appears to look like the current House District 20. As a former representative of that district, I think the current House District 20 is a good one and does represent a community of interest.

I realize the commission is looking at competitiveness, however, in looking at the maps, I think Republicans will likely win most, if not all, of the seats drawn by every commissioner. As such, even if competitiveness is a high priority, there is no reason to draw weird looking legislative seats in Cascade County.

The best map is Map 1. Map 1 has configurations which meet all of the constitutional criteria. The districts in Great Falls are compact and reflect what people in our community would consider neighborhoods and different parts of town. In my opinion, this map is probably the most competitive of all of the maps.

For the Great Falls area, I think Map 4 would be better if the Fox Farm area (the southwest part of town) in Great Falls is kept in one district. In addition, I think the map would be better if the Riverview area (the area to the north of the Missouri River) did not cross the Missouri River.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick, SD 10, Great Falls

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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, September 1, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Alena Furlong

From: Alena Furlong racheterale@hotmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I am writing in support of either Map 2 or Map 3 for the proposed redistricting as they are fair and accurately represent Montanans, including Indigenous populations.

I am NOT in support of Maps 1 and 4 as they do not do the above.

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: Saturday, September 3, 2022 6:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joseph Genovese

From: Joseph Genovese cherjoe.genovese@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman Montana

Message:
Support HDP2 and HDP3 to give Montanans a chance for 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: Saturday, September 3, 2022 6:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cheryl Genovese

From: Cheryl Genovese cherjoe.genovese@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman Montana

Message:

I am in favor of HDP2 and HDP3 because they more fairly reflect the people of Montana. The other redistricting seems to disenfranchise many Montanans.

--

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, September 5, 2022 7:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Helen Gilbert

From: Helen Gilbert stakedin3in1@yahoo.com
Residence: Clyde Park, MT

Message:

Living in Clyde Park, it's important to me that my rural vote not be compromised by redistricting with Bozeman and/or with MSU's mobile population of college students. I prefer to be in the same district as White Sulphur Springs. Therefore, it looks like map #4 would be the best option. Maps #2 & #3 also make larger districts, ex: West Yellowstone to Red Lodge with half of Park County in the middle. That certainly is not compact.

--

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, September 4, 2022 7:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Perry Gliessman

From: Perry Gliessman perrygliessman@gmail.com
Residence: Butte, Montana

Message:

Greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2022 Montana House District redistricting proposals. After reviewing the four current proposals, I encourage you to select the boundaries as set in HDP2. As a resident of Silver-Bow County, I think it is important to maintain contiguous representation for businesses and individuals living and working in Silver-Bow, Deer Lodge, and Jefferson counties. We share a long history of mining and labor interests, as well as current environmental remediation projects, that require knowledge of extensive overlapping local, state, and federal legislation to effectively represent constituents. These three counties also share a more recent history of industry downturns and plant closures with resulting loss of employment opportunities which have had a major impact on the economic vitality of the region as a whole. I believe HDP2 would enable the most effective representation for businesses and individuals in this region.

HDP2 and HDP3 both offer the potential for balanced representation of the various political perspectives Montanan's hold. Basic fairness requires a system in which the votes people cast are reflected in the composition of the Legislature. I encourage you to select Montana's legislative district boundaries with that principle in mind.

With thanks,
Perry Gliessman

--

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, September 1, 2022 10:06 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Catherine Grott

From: Catherine Grott cjgrott@gmail.com
Residence: Billings

Message:

Please consider maps HDP2 & HDP3. Maps HDP1 and HDP4 are heavily gerrymandered and eliminate several majority Native American districts. Maps 2 & 3 are fairer maps.

--

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, September 1, 2022 9:44 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marilyn Guggenheim

From: Marilyn Guggenheim mb.guggenheim@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I ask you to please adopt legislative district maps HDP2 or HDP3, which most closely represent your Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission Voter data that you adopted unanimously because they "do not unduly favor one political party."

Pleas also consider that these maps most closely represent the districts drawn by the 2000 commission, where Native Americans were elected to the Legislature in about the same proportion as their share of the state's population.

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, September 4, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: ELIZABETH HALVERSON

From: ELIZABETH HALVERSON liz.halverson@gmail.com
Residence: Billings

Message:

Map 2 or 3 must be adopted as they are the only maps that accurately reflect the minority and partisan make up of Montana's population. Map 3 is the best. Montana's districts are sprawling, of course, and compactness should be a less important factor than competitiveness, proportionality, and not favoring one party over another. Maps 1 and 4 will disenfranchise minority voters. Please select map 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, September 1, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Anika M Hanisch

From: Anika M Hanisch anikahanisch@ymail.com
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

I have two concerns regarding Essmann and Stusek's maps:

1. As noted by Kendra Miller, the Republican party typically gets 57% of the vote statewide. The maps proposed by Essmann and Stusek would exceed that percentage, likely yielding 72 seats to the Republican party. This qualifies as gerrymandering.

2. Essman and Stusek's maps essentially disappear the votes of historically Tribal-influenced districts, ensuring that the indigenous community can no longer experience true representative democracy in Montana. This is shameful.

Miller and Lamson's maps better reflect statewide Republican and Democrat percentages and give all Montanans the chance to be truly represented.

--

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, September 2, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Steve Hanson

From: Steve Hanson sahanson49@gmail.com
Residence: Red Lodge

Message:

I favor HDP2 or HDP3 maps because they do not favor one political party over another. They are drawn proportional to the number of voters in the state who tend to favor each of the 2 primary political parties.

--

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, September 2, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Georgia Hartley

From: Georgia Hartley hartleygr@protonmail.com
Residence: Missoula Mt

Message:

I believe that the maps supported by the MT Republican party is fair and equitable to ALL citizens. I do not support gerrymandering with districts because that only supports the special interests trying to game the system for their sole benefit

--

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, September 1, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Suzanne Held

From: Suzanne Held sznbzn@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Thank you for taking my comments regarding the redistricting process. I favor maps that do not unduly favor a political party and want to see maps that fairly reflect and represent minorities and political make-up of Montana voters. My understanding is that maps HDP2 and HDP3 represent the current split regarding republican and democrat voting and that they meet all of the mandatory criteria required by law. I support adopting one of these maps.

--

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, September 1, 2022 8:51 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Michael Herring

From: Michael Herring herrboz@aol.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Thank you for taking my comments regarding the redistricting process.

I favor maps that do not unduly favor a political party, mine included. Enough with this endless gerrymandering by the party that controls the legislature when redistricting occurs! It's disheartening. Our democracy is better than this, WE are better than this.

I would like to see maps that fairly reflect and represent minorities and political make-up of Montana voters. My understanding is that maps HDP2 and HDP3 represent the current split regarding republican and democrat voting and that they meet all of the mandatory criteria required by law. I support adopting one of these maps.

--

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, September 1, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patricia A Kelly

From: Patricia A Kelly pkelly67@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I am very concerned about the extreme political action in our legislature. I feel like Democrats are not represented. I am a native Montanan and would like to see representation distributed fairly.

The redistricting board began this process by choosing ten elections to guide them to fair distribution. The percentage of republican and democratic votes were determined to be 57% Republican and 43% Democratic.

Maps 1 and 4 most closely align with that voter distribution. Therefore, I want the board to choose one of those two.

Also, I understand that Native American vote could receive a more equitable distribution with maps 2 and 3. If I understand the process correctly, the Voting Rights Act was a requirement for redistribution. This requires the ultimate attention to Native American voice in Montana.

Thank you receiving my thoughts,

Patricia Kelly

--

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, September 4, 2022 12:23 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lynn M. Kirtley

From: Lynn M. Kirtley lynn.kirtley03@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I demand redistricting maps that do not unduly favor a political party and that fairly reflect and represent minorities and the political makeup of Montana voters. Historically, Montanans have voted 57% Republican and 43% Democratic. Republican maps HDP1 and HDP4 reflect compact districts, but give an overwhelming 70% majority to Republicans. This is known as gerrymandering: giving the one political party an unfair proportional advantage over its rivals. Democratic maps HDP2 and HDP3 maintain the 57% Republican and 43% Democratic voting history of Montana. Please choose a map that fairly represents the political makeup of ALL Montana voters. Thank you for your time and consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Allan kloiber <ajkloiber@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 6:38 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

I am in favor of Map #4 for redistricting. Please vote accordingly.

Thank you,
Allan J. Kloiber Jr.
Great Falls MT 59401
406 868 6191

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 5:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ellen J Knight

From: Ellen J Knight mtstarrynight@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Mt

Message:

Maps 2 and 3 reflect the actual proportions of the political parties in the state. Importantly, they also maintain good integrity of the Reservations giving tribes a chance to vote more cohesively.

I believe that honest redistricting is critical to an honest reflection of "the Peoples'" choices. This is key to a healthy democracy.

Please select maps 2 or 3.

From a long-time Observer of Montana state and local government.

--

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 31, 2022 5:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ellen J Knight

From: Ellen J Knight mtstarrynight@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Mt

Message:

Maps 2 and 3 reflect the actual proportions of the political parties in the state. Importantly, they also maintain good integrity of the Reservations giving tribes a chance to vote more cohesively.

I believe that honest redistricting is critical to an honest reflection of "the Peoples'" choices. This is key to a healthy democracy.

Please select maps 2 or 3.

From a long-time Observer of Montana state and local government.

--

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, September 1, 2022 4:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kristi Lahusen

From: Kristi Lahusen klahusen@me.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

I oppose Proposed maps #2 and #3. The districts as shown in maps #2 and #3 are not compact nor do they group communities of common interest. These maps are taking densely populated Missoula residents, for instance, and matching them up with thousands of acres of rural residents, both of which have different needs. These maps do not allow for fair representation.

Map 4 is the fairest/least partisan: the districts are compact and the population deviation is within specs while keeping communities of interest together.

--

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, September 1, 2022 11:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Katie LaLiberty

From: Katie LaLiberty katie.laliberty@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade, MT

Message:

Hello members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

As a citizen of Gallatin county, I would like to point your attention to the lines drawn in Gallatin County. Maps 2 and 3 combine the downtown Bozeman and rural areas which are different communities and do so in a way that does not follow the legal requirements set in the Montana State Constitution in Article 5, Section 14 which states that districts shall be "compact" and "contiguous."

Maps 1 and 4 follow these rules better with map 4 being the best of the two.

I respectfully request that these legal requirements be taken into account when re-drawing the new state legislative map.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Montana.

Regards,
Katie LaLiberty

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Russ Lawrence <russworks@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting maps

Members of the Commission:

I am in support of map proposals #2 and #3. I am opposed to gerrymanders that result in unbalanced representation, and that is what the Republican proposals do. I am a Democrat residing in Ravalli County, and although Democrats regularly receive 30-35% of the vote, it has been a long time since we have had a voice in the Montana legislature. The same thing can be said statewide – Republicans receive less than 60% of the statewide votes, yet would likely control more than 70% of the legislative seats under their proposal.

I understand the arguments regarding “competitiveness” as a criterion, but let’s set that aside and look at “voter representation” as the overriding criterion. I want my vote to count, I want my party to be fairly represented in the Montana legislature.

In the interest of hearing a variety of points of view and a diversity of interests represented in our legislature, I strongly endorse maps 2 & 3, and hope that the commission will see the value of balanced representation in Montana.

Russ Lawrence
600 S 5th Street
Hamilton, Montana 59840

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 12:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Karole Lee

From: Karole Lee karole.lee59634@gmail.com
Residence: Clancy, Montana

Message:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend a meeting, but thank you for the opportunity to submit a written comment. Representative democracy in Montana is at stake. We ask you to support representative democracy by supporting map 2 or 3 that creates districts responsive to the diversity of the state. Montana needs an electoral structure that fairly represents the partisan and racial diversity of Montana.

Thank you,
Karole Lee

--

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, September 6, 2022 9:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gordon Levin

From: Gordon Levin gglevin@yahoo.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

Analysis of the proposed redistricting maps HDP 2 and HDP 3 as they are currently shown indicate that based on the recent percentages of people voting Republican and Democrat, the maps would result in the same percentage of districts electing Republican and Democrat representatives. These maps meet the all of the requirements for redrawing districts, and either HDP 2 or HDP 3 should be adopted with my personal preference being HDP 2. Proposed maps HDP 1 and HDP 4 result in election that scew toward Republican representatives winning at a higher rate than the percentage of Republican voters and they should not be adopted.

--

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, September 6, 2022 3:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Billie Love

From: Billie Love jibilove@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Gerrymandering is illegal. Districts should be compact and not cross over geographical barriers. The rule also restricts the length of a district corresponding to the width.

As far as I can see, none of the rules were applied. This is illegal and unfair to the voters. I pray this illegal gerrymandering is pursued in the courts.

--

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, September 4, 2022 1:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Stephanie Lubrecht

From: Stephanie Lubrecht magpie.01.fumbles@icloud.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I am writing today to encourage favor of a map that accurately reflects the minority and partisan make-up of the state's population. I strongly favor maps 2 or 3.

Maps HDP 1 and HDP 4 are heavily gerrymandered, undermining the ability of citizens to elect candidates that are truly representative of the state's population. I strongly oppose maps 1 and 4. I am a 4th generation Montanan and I feel strongly about maintaining a truly representative democracy in the state I am lucky to call home.

--

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, September 1, 2022 8:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jessica MacDonald

From: Jessica MacDonald powderboundtoo@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Just wanted to comment on the redistricting maps. Maps #2 and #3 should not be considered at all due to their unconstitutionality. Redistricting maps must follow the Montana 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: Thursday, September 1, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Trina Matthews

From: Trina Matthews tmerrymom@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade, MT

Message:

PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE BOUNDARIES FOR MAPS #2 AND #3. THIS IS A FLAGRANT PLOY TO DILUTE THE OPINIONS OF LONG-TIME AND HARDWORKING MONTANANS WITH LIBERALS WHO HAVE PROGRESSIVE GOALS FOR OUR STATE, CONTRARY TO THE COMMON GOOD.

--

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, September 6, 2022 3:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kathrin Nesson

From: Kathrin Nesson kathrin.nessan@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

As a citizen of Great Falls I urge the committee to adopt redistricting in a fair and equal manner, that keeps neighborhoods and communities intact. In HD proposal 1 my small neighborhood (Valley View) would be broken into three separate districts, with the house directly south of mine in the same district, but the houses directly across the street and to the north in a separate district, and yet another district three blocks away where my parents live. Please let all of my neighbors be represented by the same person, and do not adapt maps that don't accurately represent the population.

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, September 1, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Nichol

From: Robert Nichol nicholbock@bresnan.net
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

It is ever important that the MDAC redistrict and reapportion Montana legislative & voting districts with the constitutional principle of One Person/One Vote as the primary consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Cathy Nolan <canolan4@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 3, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My comments on Proposed Legislative Districts

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

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

Thank you,

Catherine Nolan
209 E Crestline Dr
Missoula, MT 59803

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 9:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Adam Oliver

From: Adam Oliver adamoliver87@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

State laws affect me, alongside everyone in the state. While some interests or viewpoints are more pronounced in geographic areas, the laws apply to everyone. For this reason, I am much more concerned about the overall makeup of the state legislature reflecting the state's voters than the boundary of my particular district. If my district includes voters inside and outside of Bozeman, no problem. The area will not be difficult to travel, and I'm going to contact my representative via email anyway.

While equal population size and consistent shape theoretically lead toward a result which is "not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party," we all know that the amount of information available about demographics is staggeringly large and detailed. The two approaches that could use this information to uphold a process where the people vote for their electors and not the other way around, are to completely randomize districts using a mathematical model, or to choose them wisely and make them as competitive as possible. Montana is not going with the hands-off model, so the best thing is to make them competitive, and the overall result ought to be similar to the proportion of voters. Competition leads to better candidates and cooperative solutions.

You have a difficult job considering how our population is spread out as well as the odd shape of existing Counties that you have to try and follow. It must be easier in states like Chessopotamia or Whenoming! (<https://i.redd.it/qvtt0m1e3hh91.jpg> [i.redd.it]). Currently, the Lamson version is best at creating competitive districts, but I am sure the maps will change through this process. I urge you to prioritize competition to reflect the will of the voters and encourage the best candidates.

Thank you,
Adam

--

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, September 4, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Stuart Reynolds

From: Stuart Reynolds stuinmt@mintouch.net
Residence: Havre, MT

Message:

It is time to get rid of our many salamander/snakes shaped districts and make all districts symmetrical with due attention to population numbers as required. It is time to halt Woke racial equity and consider all citizens equal, as provided by the Equal Rights Act.

--

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, September 1, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David Rockafellow

From: David Rockafellow dave.rockafellow@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

I support maps HDP2 and HDP3 which represent a more fair split between the two parties representation in the state. I oppose HDP1 and HDP4 for the unfair way in which Republicans are over-represented compared to Democrats.

--

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, September 1, 2022 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rachel Rockafellow

From: Rachel Rockafellow docrocnrach@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I appreciate the editorial in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle of August 18 about the legislative map process. I want to state my support of maps HDP2 and HDP3. I also support the editorial in the 9/1/22 paper as well encouraging MT to move to open primary elections.

--

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, September 2, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cherie Ryan

From: Cherie Ryan ibcnuryan@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT 59601

Message:

September 2, 2022

I want to speak out against the GOP's redistricting maps #1 and #4. They're clearly gerrymandered and favors them in 70% of seats with only 57% of the votes. They eliminate 3 seats in Indian Country too. 7% of Montana's population is Native American. We deserve a voting voice! The GOP's maps aren't fair at all and silences us.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Cherie Ryan

--

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 27, 2022 3:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Randy Schwickert

From: Randy Schwickert rschwick@cyberport.net
Residence: Whitefish, MT

Message:

Notwithstanding the protests of the GOP, it is obvious that gerrymandering is their tactic and obtaining a supermajority in both the Senate and House is their goal. That way they can continue to pass laws that run against the wishes of most Montanans, including damaging one of the best state constitutions in the country. I urge you to adopt a map that reflects the principle of one person one vote. I understand that HDPP-2 and HDPP-3 come closer to that constitutional mandate. As the attorney for our Republican Secretary of State recently stated, the whackos have taken over. Please adopt a fair and representative map so Montana does not become The Lost Best Place. Thank you.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov]
<[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!uib5_xThFLgJv2DslpWvB99oUO7TfPQXo4wdiTHNRzxAXoWN-CpCNxD4xIdmOadYjLOS2mxfKII3dHuvMUCGFjrEdIU\\$>](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://mtredistricting.gov__;!!GaaboA!uib5_xThFLgJv2DslpWvB99oUO7TfPQXo4wdiTHNRzxAXoWN-CpCNxD4xIdmOadYjLOS2mxfKII3dHuvMUCGFjrEdIU$>))

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Monica Scott

From: Monica Scott db_scott1@comcast.net
Residence: Corvallis, Mt

Message:

Madame Chair and members of the Commission,

I attended the regional hearing in Missoula and time constraints made it impossible for me to stay and speak to you in person.

I have spent many hours studying the four proposed maps.

Maps 2 and 3 clearly violate the goals and requirements that were set as guidelines for the maps. Both maps favor the democrat voter, disenfranchising the Republican voters.

Both maps divide cities, counties and towns. Both maps separate communities of interest. Neither map is compact or contiguous.

Example (only two in the interest of your time) map 2:

in HD 11, Missoula to Florence crosses the county line, and disenfranchises the voters of [Florence.In \[florence.in\]](#) HD 17, the map is drawn to capture part of Missoula and goes to Frenchtown, capturing all of the Frenchtown. What do Missoula voters have in common with the voters in Frenchtown? The boundaries of this district, as drawn, violate the requirements and goals set for the drawing of the maps.

Maps 2 and #3 are not uniform, compact or contiguous.

maps 2 and 3 clearly favor democratic seats

Maps 2 and 3 divide cities, counties and towns

Lastly, Maps 2 and 3 clearly do not keep communities of interest intact.

politically savvy people call this gerrymandering. An average voter calls these maps a clear attempt to manipulate the process in favor of one party over another.

Thank you for your time,

Monica Scott

--

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 31, 2022 8:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Edleeta Shands

From: Edleeta Shands las.fronteras@gmail.com
Residence: Montana

Message:

Please consider Map 2 and 3 since it is competitive and fair. Fairness is a cornerstone of our democracy. All voters voices should be heard. The voters should pick their Representative rather than the political party or representative picking their voters.

Maps 2 and 3 are fairer because Livingston competitive.

--

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, September 1, 2022 11:23 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sue E Silverberg

From: Sue E Silverberg suebird.silverberg@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Dear Committee members,

I would like to urge you to ensure that the map chosen for redistricting is fair and representative of Montana voters. Two of the maps that have been suggested appear to be skewed towards an over-representation of voters that tend to vote Republican. It is imperative that all voters, including Indigenous people, are given equal representation so that each vote counts and is not diluted by a map that encourages gerrymandering. From what I can see both HDP1 and HDP4 are drawn unfairly and appear to be gerrymandered. The other maps: HDP 2 and 3 both seem to be drawn to more fairly represent the full range of MT voters. I urge you to approve either HDP2 or HDP3 so that MT has fair elections and is representative of voting patterns.

Thanks for your consideration and work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Sue Silverberg

--

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, September 5, 2022 6:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David A. Skinner

From: David A. Skinner daskinner@centurytel.net
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

I'm going to limit my comments to the Flathead country because I don't have the energy or desire to nitpick the entire state.

Map 1: Because this map jumps up the minority-majority deal, it turns Flathead County into a total mess. I'll still probably have a good representative but I'm right next to a boundary line that seems pretty arbitrary.

Overall, however, I want to say, and this applies to all maps targeted at satisfying the "majority minority" thing, I hate race-based gerrymandering. The mere thought of voting skin color irritates me to no end, its flat-out un-American. I'll have you know I voted for Ben Campbell while I lived in Colorado, emphatically not because he was Indian but because he was, well, Ben Campbell. Not all Indians are hardline Democrats, in fact I think a couple of GOP legislators are Indian already. Imagine if Republican Indians win these gerrymandered messes once in effect!

Back to Map 1, we might as well put signs around the Whitefish district as in "You Are Now Leaving The American Sector.

Maps 2 and 3 grossly mis-read the Flathead "communities of interest." Whitefish and Columbia Falls together? YGBSM!

And Map 2 puts me in with the crazy canyon critters while Whitefish overruns Essex? Insult. I just love that little hookie back across US 93 south of Whitefish but conveniently north of middle-working-class CONSERVATIVE Happy Valley?

Seriously? No way! Map 3 does a 2000 style hub and spoke of Kalispell just like Missoula back then?

So, I guess Map 4 is the least ridiculous for the Flathead, but then, because it doesn't jump the Divide, it will never happen. Therefore, I have a feeling that Map 1 is probably the most-honest map that is legally defensible. I can tolerate 1 and 4, but seeing the crazy quilting of 2 and 3 on ground I know, I can't believe they are being proposed with straight faces. Shame on the creators.

--

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, September 4, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Larry N Smith

From: Larry N Smith uptownlarry.smith@gmail.com
Residence: Butte

Message:

My main criteria are that the map should:

- (1) not "crack" cities, such as Butte and Missoula, by incorporating the town areas with far outlying districts. (As I am not as familiar with other cities, I did not evaluate the other areas by this criterion), and
- (2) That American Indian majority districts should represent their population in the state.

Given those, my preferred map is Map 1 – it does the best job on those two criteria.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Susan Smith <susbosmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 5:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Montana Redistricting Maps- 4 is Best Choice

To the Committee,

I support Map #4 for the Redistricting of Montana. It is the one that best follows the Rules and Guidelines outlined by keeping communities of interest, rural areas, urban areas, intact while giving all a voice that maintains competitiveness overall for fairness. It does not gerrymander blatantly to try to give power to one political group as does Map 1 and Map 2. Maps 1 and 2 appear to be a blatant power grab by the Democratic Party. Maps 1 and 2 split communities of interest, and are not compact. They do not group commonalities of residents but erase rural votes by surrounding them with Democrat strongholds such as Missoula and Bozeman. The way they have been gerrymandered eliminates Republican representation in these areas to nullify these rural votes. Rural voters should be placed with rural interests in their own district to maintain a voice. Urban interests should be maintained also so that "communities of interest" are kept intact.

Maps 1 and 2 represent an attempted urban takeover of the state legislature by urban cosmopolitan interests and colleges of students who live here part time. This gerrymandering power grab cannot be allowed. It will delete long-time residents, rural and small town voters' interests, in favor of guaranteeing urban Democratic seats in the state legislature.

Our state cannot continue to grow the divide between urban and rural interests. Each must have representation and a voice at the table. Issues, such as taxation, land use, recreation, jobs, zoning, agriculture, forestry, mining and others must be debated on the facts presented and decided on merits and not party line or politics! Choose Map 4 to allow equal debate, fairness, compactness and aligning communities of interest to give ALL a voice without disenfranchising rural voters and blatantly gerrymandering districts for a fixed outcome. Map 4 best follows the established rules and is most fair. Map 3 would be a backup but 4 is best! Maps 1 and 2 are totally unfair.

Respectfully,
Susan Smith
2008 5th Avenue
Helena, Mt. 59601
susbosmith@gmail.com
406-461-5409

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 9:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Philip Solum

From: Philip Solum psolum@montanabones.com
Residence: miles city, Mt

Message:

I would propose the two current Democratic maps be thrown out. This is poorly disguised attempt to disenfranchise rural voters in Montana. In my opinion this is obvious in the areas around Billings, Bozeman, and Missoula. I also oppose the plan to split Miles City into two 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: Sunday, September 4, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susanna Soper

From: Susanna Soper sopersusanna@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

You should pick map 2 or map 3. The other two are unfair. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Chuck Stearns <cstearns0711@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 8:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Legislative Maps Proposals

Greetings to the Districting Commission and thank you for taking comments.

I first moved to Whitefish in 1980 and have more recently lived there since 2008. Since returning to Whitefish in 2008, it has always bothered me greatly that our Senate representation was by elected Kalispell republican members. In fact, it seemed that the districts were gerrymandered in a south-north manner to ensure that first, Bruce Tutvedt and secondly Keith Regier represented my area of Whitefish. In fact, in many newspaper stories, Keith Regier is mentioned as being a Senator from or representing Kalispell. I do not feel that Senator Regier represents the majority of Whitefish voters, not even close.

Given that background, I feel that Map Proposals #1 and #4 treat Whitefish as a fair, compact district. I feel the State of Montana should end the north-south gerrymandering of the districts and keep a compact district in Whitefish and not split it up. When Whitefish had compact districts in the past, it was still very competitive and represented by distinguished senators from both parties such as Bob Brown, Bob Depratu, Ryan Zinke, and Dan Weinberg.

Please return Whitefish to a compact district and end the south-north gerrymandering. Thank you.

Charles C. Stearns
698 Woodside Ln, Whitefish, MT 59937
406-871-5176

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 7:30 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Frances M Stewart

From: Frances M Stewart frances.m.stewart@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston, MT

Message:

I am absolutely in favor if district maps that do not favor Republicans over other parties, that represent all the voters in Montana including all minorities, particularly Native Americans, and that accurately represent the sentiments of all the people in Montana, not just the Republican party. Please protect a fair and just voting Democracy in 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: Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Will Swearingen

From: Will Swearingen wds59hp@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT 59715

Message:

I'd like to delete one of my sets of comments on Map 2. I meant to Like it but entered it as Dislike the first time. How do I correct that? 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, September 1, 2022 5:23 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Shannon K Thomas

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

Message:

This is supposed to be a fair process to draw maps that will not result in gerrymandered districts that give one political party control of our state for the next 10 years. One GOP member has given away the game by stating publicly that there is no requirement to be fair and anything he does as a result should be viewed in that light. The GOP maps are extreme gerrymanders giving Republicans a 14 to 15 seat advantage beyond the 57% statewide vote share. Both Democratic maps are proportional and fair according to the rules set out by the committee. Carving this type of extreme partisan advantage into maps undermines the will of Montana voters. In addition the latest statements by the GOP make it clear they want to strip Native voters and regions in particular of representation. Montanans are paying attention and this DOES need to be a fair process. If the GOP needs this kind of cheating to win, their maps should simply be tossed for not following the process in any way.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Paul & Brooke Trey <paultrey@q.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 3, 2022 5:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments concerning redistricting maps

Dear Commissioners,

I spoke briefly at the public meeting on September 1, 2022, but would like to add some more thoughts. I hope that's all right.

I live in Gallatin Gateway. This community is more rural & includes many farmers and ranchers. My neck of the woods is radically different from life in Bozeman. Life is a lot less controlled out here & harder. I commented that Maps 2 & 3 had "fingers" that reached from the heart of Bozeman into my district & divided it up into several sections. The result is that the higher population density in Bozeman will dilute my vote & snuff out my voice. I chose to live here and not in Bozeman. There is no rational reason why they should be able to make decisions for me. I wanted to also speak out on behalf of farmers & ranchers in my area. People in cities have no idea what it takes to grow the food they eat. There aren't any people in this country that work harder than those who grow our food. Life for them is much more down to earth & practical. They can't afford to be idealists. They must have their own voice as others haven't a clue of the finances and of the other needs that food producers have. It isn't right, good or wise to allow city dwellers to dilute their votes and to make decisions that will severely affect ALL of our food supply. For these reasons I would ask that maps 2 & 3 be rejected as they are obviously politically motivated--gerrymandering is obvious. In fact, I am curious to know how the original maps were drawn when our country began. Knowing how selfish all of us are as humans and how prone to want to get our own way, it would seem that an actual grid would be the most fair. Obviously, the squares on the grid would have to be tweaked as they are to have an even number of people. But, at any rate, that is probably where the compact rules came into play...to try to keep things as fair as possible.

Also, I wanted to speak as to the many comments on minorities having a voice. I think that it is dehumanizing to assume that any minority is going to all vote in mass for one party or the other. We are all of one race...the human race. We all have the ability for free, independent thought. Most of the people I know who could be labeled in the category of "minority" are very conservative in their family values & probably wouldn't appreciate being lumped into one big group with people that they disagree with. Many would be surprised that they vote their values & not how others think they should vote.

Thank you for your hard work. Please reject maps 2 & 3.

Thank you,

Dr. Brooke Trey

Paul & Brooke Trey

PO 689

Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

406~570~0763

paultrey87@gmail.com

9-3-2022

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

PO Box 201706

Helena, MT 59620

Dear Commissioners

I attended the September 1 meeting in Bozeman. My wife, Brooke, spoke briefly. Being neither as bold or eloquent as her I have chosen to submit my comments in writing. I trust they will be received with the same degree of attention and importance.

At the meeting many impassioned pleas were made to protect minority voting rights which is understandable and commendable. What is disingenuous in those pleas was the inference that voters in the greater Bozeman area who wish to live in compact and contiguous voting districts somehow wish to do so at the expense of fair and equal minority voting rights.

It is also wrong to think that only Democrats wish to protect these rights.

Citizens (voters) have a right to assume that they are represented in the legislature by people who share their common local concerns. Otherwise they (we) are not really represented at all. Maps 2 & 3, at least insofar as urban areas are concerned, and in my case greater Bozeman and Gallatin County, do not accomplish the goal of fair, compact and contiguous representation. Breaking up small town, rural and ranching communities to allow them to be dominated by increasingly highly densely populated urban areas is unfair, cynical and cruel.

Maps 2 & 3 are clearly gerrymandered in the hopes of insuring that Democrats gain a significant advantage in the legislature. If implemented the result will not be improvement in minority rights protection, but an increase in the redirecting of state resources to these urban areas which have lower percentages of minority voters and higher numbers of upper income and wealthy retired residents.

Maps 2 & 3, far from correcting inequities in representation (a claim often repeated but never backed up with factual evidence) will implement a process whereby the larger cities in the state control the of the states resources. This will be to the serious detriment of rural and minority voters.

Thank you all for your service. I urge you to reject Maps 2 & 3.

Sincerely,

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 10:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Chelsea

From: Chelsea chelsea.turo@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Maps 2 and 3 silence the voice of farmers, ranchers and rural voters. These proposed maps will not be able to accurately represent much of our population. I oppose Maps 2 and 3 and I thank you for your consideration.

--

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, September 1, 2022 6:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Madison Vertin

From: Madison Vertin madisonmay@reagan.com
Residence: Belgrade, Montana

Message:

Hello – I would like to submit my request to reject maps #2 and #3 as they do not comply with our state’s constitution calling for districts to be “compact” and “contiguous”. I believe our constitution uses this language to preserve the integrity of our state’s democratic process and to accurately reflect the wishes of the differing communities. Please keep the downtown Bozeman and university area as one district, with more rural outer-lying communities as separate districts, as this will allow representatives to more accurately represent constituents of their respective district. Thank you for your time.

--

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, September 3, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gail Waldby

From: Gail Waldby gwaldby@pat7.com
Residence: Livingston

Message:
Chair and Commissioners:

I support Public Map 3, which fairly apportions my County, Park County. It also keeps the Yellowstone Gateway communities, which have similar interests, together.

My second choice is Map 2.

I strongly oppose Maps #1 and #4, because favor GOP to win 70% of seats with 57% of the votes.

--

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