

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5 p.m. on February 7 and noon on February 10,
2023

Distributed electronically February 10, 2023

Sherley, Laura

From: Donna Aline <donna.aline@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 11:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting

To members of the Montana Redistricting Commission,
Thank you for your commitment to fair election representation in the state of Montana. Your hard work is commendable.

I have read that you are getting pressure from the 2023 legislature to amend Map 3 in an attempt to maintain a super majority. Please don't give into their pressure.
Your recommendation, Map 3, may not be perfect for everyone, but is very close to fair election representation. Please don't change it.

Donna Aline
29 Pine Ridge Cir,
Clancy, MT 59634

Sherley, Laura

From: cnarnold@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Constance Arnold
<cnarnold@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for all the hard work you have done on the redistricting maps and for listening to members of the public and not giving more weight to politician's input. Politicians should not be able to draw maps to benefit their own seats.

Sincerely,
Constance Arnold
1921 Parkhill Dr Billings, MT 59102-2352 cnarnold@msn.com

Sherley, Laura

From: jatchison@semdc.org
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 11:05 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Public Comment - SJ 8 Recommendation
Attachments: Signed Legislative Redistricting Letter.pdf

Hello Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Please see attached the Letter concerning your Agenda Item for SJ 8. Please consider this Letter from Southeastern Montana Development as **Public Comment** for your Hearing on **Friday February 10, 2023** in Helena.

Thanks you once again,

Jim Atchison
Executive Director
Southeastern Montana Development
6200 Main Street, PO Box 1935
Colstrip, MT 59323
406-748-2990
www.semdc.org
www.MontanaMadePossible.com



SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation

Growing Montana ~ One Job at a Time

6200 Main Street
P.O. Box 1935
Colstrip, MT 59323
Phone/Fax (406) 748-2990
E-mail: jatchison@semdc.org
Website: www.semdc.org

February 9, 2023

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

RE: Public Comment Letter – Opposition to SJ 8 Proposal and Recommendation

Dear Commission Members:

As the Executive Director for Southeastern Montana Development (SEMDC), I am Opposing the current Proposal as Recommended by SJ 8. I feel that the Redistricting Plan of Tentative Commission Plan 3 would be better for both the Colstrip and Lame Deer Communities.

As you may know, SEMDC is a regional non-profit economic development group that was formed in 1997 to encourage economic activity in the four (4) Counties of **Custer, Powder River, Rosebud, and Treasure**. Our track record has documented over 1,111 jobs created or retained and over \$76 million dollars in project assistance since 1997. Since 2005, we have been designated by the State of Montana as a Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) and the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an Economic Development District.

My feelings on this Important and Key Redistricting Issue are as follows:

- 1) As a regional economic development group, SEMDC works successfully in both communities. Even though the size of each community is about the same, their economies, culture and priorities are significantly different,
- 2) Separating the House / Senate Districts for both the Colstrip and Lame Deer Communities would be Mutually Beneficial to all parties,
- 3) Thus, SEMDC Opposes the current form or recommendation as set forth by SJ 8 and would suggest moving forward with Tentative Commission Plan #3 or perhaps leave the District Mapping as it is today.

Thank You for the Time and Effort that you all have invested in this most important process for our state.

I appreciate your consideration:

Jim Atchison
Executive Director

Sherley, Laura

From: kcbUnionStrong@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of KaCee Ballou
<kcbUnionStrong@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you so much for working so hard to ensure that we have a map that will allow for Montana voters to have fair and competitive elections that keep communities together. TCP-3 helps to ensure that we all have a voice in our elections and that we can have races for office in which great candidates can come to the forefront from both parties for a great race - something that Montanans love and value in our state.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
KaCee Ballou
1001 SW Higgins Ave Ste 101 Missoula, MT 59803-1340 kcbUnionStrong@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Deborah M Blackburn

From: Deborah M Blackburn deb4cats@aol.com
Residence: Gallatin Gateway, MT 59730

Message:
I support tentative Map #3 as is. No changes needed

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Keith Blaylock

From: Keith Blaylock kblay211@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

Hello, my name is Keith Blaylock I live in Kalispell, MT. I support the map provided by the redistricting commission without the Republican legislatures changes, which completely disregard the Commissions fairly drawn map and created a blatant Gerrymander favoring the Republican Party. This is an outrage and is not supported by Montanas constitution. Every Montanan can feel the slap in the face by the Republican power grab taking place. I expect this type of governing to take place in third world countries, but not here in Montana. Many, many people put hundreds of hours to formulate fair and reasonably drawn districts. Citizens from all over the state let the commission know what they would like to end up with. Suddenly we discover that process was for nothing, as you step in and alter those districts into a brazen partisan hack. Please support the map as drawn partisan politicians should not be able to circumvent the commissions map for political reasons.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Lynne Boone

From: Lynne Boone Imboone@earthlink.net
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Joint Resolution on Redistricting: ALL MONTANANS DESERVE TO BE EQUALLY REPRESENTED. The great RESPONSIBILITY to make this happen as fairly as possible. LIES WITH YOU AND NOT THE LEGISLATURE. PLEASE SUPPORT MAP 3 WITH NO AMENDMENTS if you truly feel this will provide the most equal representation for us all. Thank you very much for your hard work.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Jennifer Brunson <jbrunson34@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:43 PM
To: Districting

Please stick with Map 3, without amendments.

Jen Brunson, MD
Helena, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Beth & Rick Cottingham

From: Beth & Rick Cottingham thecottinghams@yahoo.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

"Thank you for your work on the Tentative Final House map, TCP-3. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is. It meets the criteria and goals of the Commission. We support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, the map is a compromise. Please don't let self-serving politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is."

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: lesliedalbey@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Leslie Dalbey
<lesliedalbey@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 8:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for the hard work you have done in creating the final map for the redistricting process. As a Montanan, I appreciate that the group has worked so hard to create a map based on the guidelines set out for the process. As you move toward voting on TCP-3, please ensure that the many members of the public who have been testifying and writing for months are not forgotten. Politicians should not be able to completely change the map and essentially draw their own seats. Please do not eliminate the majority-minority seats. It is a thinly veiled attack on Native representation. TCP-3 keeps communities whole and avoids partisan favoritism. Both are important so all Montanas are heard in our Legislature. I support TCP-3 and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,
Leslie Dalbey
35122 Caldbeck Ln Polson, MT 59860-8089 lesliedalbey@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:04 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Patricia Decker

From: Patricia Decker triciapeaks@gmail.com
Residence: Red Lodge

Message:
Please adopt Map TCP-3 without substantive changes

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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, February 8, 2023 7:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Susan M Dickson

From: Susan M Dickson susanmdickson63@gmail.com
Residence: Laurel

Message:
I like Map 3 just the way it is..

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 6:36 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Missey Dore

From: Missey Dore misseyd@q.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Thank you for your hard work to create fair and lawful maps for Montana's democracy. Please vote in the affirmative for the current map brought forward to the committee. Thank you, Missey Dore, Bozeman

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: dwyw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of William Dwyer <dwyw@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 8:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I Rise in support of Tcp3. It is fair.

William Dwyer

Sincerely,
William Dwyer
801 S Pacific St Dillon, MT 59725-3528
dwyw@aol.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Alice A Ebi

From: Alice A Ebi alethia52@hotmail.com
Residence: Great Falls, MT

Message:

Please vote for Tentative Commission 3 for the new redistricting map. It is not quite a fair split of districts but it is a decent compromise. It is far more reflective of our state than the current map, which is 10 years out of date.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Fisher, Shelby
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 10:11 AM
To: Districting
Cc: Olsen, Andrea; Smith, Maylinn
Subject: Numbering System Modifications
Attachments: Legislative Numbers - Andrea Olsen.pdf

Good Morning!

I am attaching a form with signatures on behalf of Senator Olsen, CC'd here.
The signed legislators would like to suggest modifications to the proposed numbering system to better resemble the current numbering system.

Please let us know if there is anything else you need.

Best,

Shelby Fisher
Senate Minority Aide

Chairwoman Smith and Members of the Districting & Apportionment Commission,

As you near the final steps in the legislative redistricting process, we ask that you consider modifying the numbering system currently used on Tentative Commission Plan 3. While significant population changes across the state always result in a majority of incumbent legislators running in districts with new numbers after each redistricting cycle, there is currently a way to number districts in a way that more closely resembles the numbering system of the last ten years. **We would like to suggest modifications to the current numbering system that better resemble the current numbering system. The suggested numbering system relates only to the district numbers and not modifications to the map itself.** We recognize that regardless of these proposed numbering changes, most incumbent legislators will still run in districts in the future with new numbers, but we encourage you to consider these proposed changes, or something similar, that more closely resembles the numbering system of the current districts.

Sen. Fitzpatrick (SD 10)

~~Sen. Enrich (SD 13)~~

Sen. Molnar (SD 27)

Sen. Sales (SD 39)

Sen. Welborn (SD 35)

Sen. Hayman (SD 32)

Sen. Flowers (SD 32)

Sen. Morigeau (SD 48)

Sen. Olsen (SD 50)

Rep. Zolnikov (HD 45)

Rep. Deming (HD 55)

Rep. Walsh (HD 71)

Rep. Welch (HD 72)

Rep. Frazer (HD 78)

Rep. Weatherwax Jr. (HD 15)

Rep. Running Wolf (HD 16)

Rep. Tuss (HD 28)

Rep. Kortum (HD 65)

Rep. Matthews (HD 66)

Rep. Howell (HD 95)

Rep. Zephyr (HD 100)

Bob Molnar

Jeff Welch

Sen. Hayman

Andrew Olsen

Sam

Sen. Jen Gross

Jen Gross

TRW

Bob

Kelly

Matthews

Howell

Suggested House Renumbering

HD 09 change to HD 10
HD 10 change to HD 09
HD 15 change to HD 16
HD 16 change to HD 15
HD 19 change to HD 25
HD 20 change to HD 26
HD 25 change to HD 20
HD 26 change to HD 19
HD 27 change to HD 28
HD 28 change to HD 27
HD 39 change to HD 44
HD 40 change to HD 43
HD 43 change to HD 46
HD 44 change to HD 45
HD 45 change to HD 49
HD 46 change to HD 50
HD 47 change to HD 53
HD 48 change to HD 54
HD 49 change to HD 52
HD 50 change to HD 51
HD 51 change to HD 48
HD 52 change to HD 47
HD 53 change to HD 56
HD 54 change to HD 55
HD 55 change to HD 40
HD 56 change to HD 39
HD 61 change to HD 62
HD 62 change to HD 61
HD 63 change to HD 66
HD 64 change to HD 65
HD 65 change to HD 64
HD 66 change to HD 63
HD 69 change to HD 71
HD 70 change to HD 72
HD 71 change to HD 76
HD 72 change to HD 75
HD 73 change to HD 74
HD 74 change to HD 73

HD 75 change to HD 77
HD 76 change to HD 78
HD 77 change to HD 69
HD 78 change to HD 70
HD 89 change to HD 90
HD 90 change to HD 89
HD 91 change to HD 94
HD 92 change to HD 93
HD 93 change to HD 92
HD 94 change to HD 91
HD 95 change to HD 100
HD 96 change to HD 99
HD 97 change to HD 98
HD 98 change to HD 97
HD 99 change to HD 96
HD 100 change to HD 95

Mark Shane
Current: HD 99

TOM FRANCE
CURRENT: HD 94

Kasom HD 89

Corresponding Senate Renumbering

SD 10 change to SD 13
SD 13 change to SD 10
SD 20 change to SD 22
SD 22 change to SD 23
SD 23 change to SD 25
SD 24 change to SD 27
SD 25 change to SD 26
SD 26 change to SD 24
SD 27 change to SD 28
SD 28 change to SD 20
SD 32 change to SD 33
SD 33 change to SD 32
SD 35 change to SD 36
SD 36 change to SD 38
SD 38 change to SD 39
SD 39 change to SD 35
SD 46 change to SD 47
SD 47 change to SD 46
SD 48 change to SD 50
SD 50 change to SD 48

David Salmon
SD 47
Shanna O'Brien
SD 46 current

Keep TCP 3 House Numbering

HD 01
HD 02
HD 03
HD 04
HD 05
HD 06
HD 07
HD 08
HD 11
HD 12
HD 13
HD 14
HD 17
HD 18 *aw Jones*
HD 21
HD 22
HD 23
HD 24
HD 29
HD 30
HD 31
HD 32
HD 33
HD 34
HD 35
HD 36
HD 37 *HA*
HD 38
HD 41
HD 42
HD 57
HD 58
HD 59
HD 60
HD 67
HD 68
HD 79
HD 80

Keep TCP 3 Senate Numbering

SD 01
SD 02
SD 03
SD 04
SD 05
SD 06
SD 07
SD 08 *Stewart*
SD 09
SD 11 *De*
SD 12
SD 14
SD 15
SD 16
SD 17
SD 18
SD 19
SD 21
SD 29
SD 30
SD 31 *F. Smith*
SD 34
SD 37 *NY*
SD 40
SD 41
SD 42 *Mary Anne Durwell*
SD 43
SD 44
SD 45
SD 49 *W. Curdy*

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sharon Galligan

From: Sharon Galligan gallibab32@yahoo.com
Residence: Trout Creek Montana

Message:
Please adopt Map 3 without substantive changes!!!
Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Edwin Halland

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

Message:

The Montana Constitution requires districts to be compact, but the current proposed map that was chosen put the partisan gain of Democrats over this requirement. This problem can also be seen in the districts in Missoula, Bozeman, Whitefish, and generally all over. I am requesting the districts that are non-compact be redrawn and follow the Montana Constitution

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 8:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Christine Hann

From: Christine Hann chris.hann@comcast.net
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Please maintain fair representation by keeping Map 3 with out ammenments.
Thank you for your difficult decision making work and keeping democracy in tact.
Sincerely
Christine Hann

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sharon Haugen

From: Sharon Haugen haugensharon74@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:
I support tentative Map 3 with no changes

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Charlotte Henson <charhenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 8:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting: Map 3 Please

Dear Redistricting Committee Members,

First, thank you for all your hard work. We will all be glad when your efforts are completed.

Secondly, I am writing to ask that Map 3, be approved, as is, with no amendments. Of the choices it is the fairest to everyone on the political spectrum. It doesn't weight things unfairly, leaving many voters without a chance to have their voices heard. This state belongs to ALL of us.

Charlotte Henson
1103 Woodbridge Dr.
Helena
406-449-2993

--

Summer address: P.O. Box MXY **85**, Glennallen, AK. 99588 406-449-2993. April to October

Winter address: 1103 Woodbridge Drive, Helena, MT. 59601 November to March

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gerry Hill

From: Gerry Hill gerryhill13@me.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I support map 3. This is a fair representation for Montana. I support adoption of map 3.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 1:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marilyn Hill

From: Marilyn Hill snowsquidmax@gmail.com
Residence: Big Sky Montana

Message:
Dear Commissioners,

Please adopt Map TCP-3 without substantive changes.

Thank you.

Marilyn Hill

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 8:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Julie Holzer

From: Julie Holzer jholzer29@gmail.com
Residence: Red Lodge Montana

Message:

Thank you Commissioners! Map TCP-3 is fair to Montanans. The map doesn't favor one party or another. I am sure your efforts were complicated and difficult. Thank you for working together to get it right. As a Montana voter, I support map TCP-3!

Julie Holzer

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tony Jewett <tonyjewett1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 6:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Commission Final Decision on Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners -

I have watched over these past many months the efforts and labor of the 2020 Districting Commission as it has worked to create a balanced and appropriate plan and map for drawing Montana's legislative districts. The plan is intended to meet a set of expected standards, including mandatorily established state Constitutional requirements, equal representation for all Montanans, adherence to the principles and letter of the Voting Rights Act, and, importantly, ensuring that your final product does not unduly favor one political party over another. This difficult task of achieving balance within the context of these sideboards is no small feat. It is because of the complexity of the challenge in front of you that I have been deeply impressed, and supportive, of the product which you built and adopted several months ago - Plan 3.

As a part of this process the Constitution requires that the Legislature provide the Commission with non binding recommendations on your plan. You are at that stage in the process now, and the Legislature has put before you SJ8. I am writing to sincerely request that you totally reject the recommendations of this legislative plan. This plan passed by the Legislature on party line votes. It is by its very nature a partisan attempt to undo the careful and balanced work of the Commission and to unduly favor one party over another, to undermine the mandates of the Voting Rights Act, to gerrymander multiple districts across the state and to guarantee a decade of unbalanced power by a single party within the levers of political and policy development in our state.

I am saddened to see SJ8 as the highly partisan product of this state's legislature. It is a dishonor to the efforts of the commission. I urge you to hold your ground, have faith and confidence in the fairness, legality and balance of your Plan 3 product and to adopt your careful deliberated and adopted Plan 3 product uncompromised as you move forward.

Sincerely,

Tony Jewett
500 Diehl Dr.
Helena, Mt. 59601

Sent from my iPad

Sherley, Laura

From: jensaccount2@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jen Johnson <jensaccount2@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 10:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for your time and effort spent creating TCP3, which seems fair and reflective of public comments.

Please do not turn against public comments and bend to the wishes of the politicians. Montana is a diverse and broad state and needs equal voice and representation, especially Native voices! They have been too long silenced, marginalized, and ignored. Please do not ignore this opportunity you have to listen to the people and keep representation valued.

It feels like many times our vote and representation as Montanans on the national level is basically ignored, so that makes our local voice and opinion so much more important. Please honor that. Thank you

Sincerely,

Jen Johnson

151 6Th Avenue West N Kalispell, MT 59901-3813 jensaccount2@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:28 AM
To: ejoiner@rosebudcountymt.com
Cc: Sherley, Laura
Subject: Public Comment for JSC Redistricting

Dear Mr. Joiner –

Because your email went to the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting, which is a legislative committee that does not plan to meet again, I've forwarded your comments to the [Districting and Apportionment Commission](#). The commissioners are meeting later this afternoon and tomorrow morning, and your comments will be provided to them later today.

Sincerely,

Rachel Weiss
Legislative Research Analyst
406-444-5367

My email address has changed. Please use Rachel.Weiss@legmt.gov to reach me.

From: donotreply@mt.gov <donotreply@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 1:41 PM
To: LEG Cmte-SRStestimony <LEGCmte-SRStestimony@legmt.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for JSC Redistricting

Public Comments for the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting

Date: 7th February 2023 13:41

First Name:

Ed

Last Name:

Joiner

Email Address:

ejoiner@rosebudcountymt.com

Subject:

Rosebud County Commissioners comments on redistricting

Comment:

February 8, 2023 To; Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission From; Rosebud County Commissioners Re.;

Tentative Commission Plan 3 The Rosebud County Commissioners would like to voice our opinions on SJ8, and say that we are in favor of the Tentative Plan 3 but we strongly oppose House District 4. The difference in the two plans strongly effect our house voting districts. As you know Colstrip is a part of Rosebud County, and a very vital part of our tax base and energy provider to our state. It is very important to have this reflected in our voting districts to get the ample representation it deserves. Plan 3 addresses these concerns with the rest of the county and those within the district. Energy, mining, high paying jobs, and plans to continue functioning in the successful ways that have brought revenue not only to our cities and county, but to the entire state of Montana. Plan 4 splits the interest areas, and would not be good for not only the City of Colstrip, Rosebud County, the State of Montana, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. This Plan 4 goes against a lot of work people have put in to get equal representation and voting power to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Plan 4 would split the Cheyenne Tribe away from the Crow Tribe. The Tribes have different interests than the counties and splitting them would also weaken their vote, which we have been trying to keep it equal for years. Please excuse us for jumping in so late but we were not notified about the amendments to SJ 8 and the effects they will have if not thought of thoroughly. It is all of our best interests to pass Plan 3. Thank you for your considerations!

Sent via leg.mt.gov/joint-select-committee-redistricting/public-comments-joint-select-committee-redistricting/

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:55 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Clare Kearns

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

Message:

"Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map, TCP-3. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is."

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Julie Kleinert <juliekleinert@me.com>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 8:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Commission plan 3

Please support Commission plan 3 and oppose GOP SJ8! Fair districting in Montana is important for all Montanans.

Sincerely,

Julie Kleinert

Sunburst, Montana

Sent from my iPad

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 7:21 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: William G Klenn

From: William G Klenn wgklenn@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I wholeheartedly support the commission's decision to adopt the TCP-3 map. It meets all of the commission's goals and is the fairest map we have.

Please be strong today and reject attempts by politicians to corrupt the process, and let's get this thing behind us!

Thank you for your work on this committee,

William Klenn

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kerry Krebill

From: Kerry Krebill kerrykrebill@aol.com
Residence: Clancy

Message:

Thank you for your dedicated service to Montanans as you have worked to find fair representation for Montana voters across our state.

I am writing to commend your choice of Map 3 and to encourage you to stick with Map 3 as your final choice for the legislative districts for the next 10 years.

Please stand firm on this map, without amendments. The current MT Legislature is pushing hard for unequal representation across our voting districts. You all understand the percentages that make the redistricting maps the fairest and Map 3 AS YOU SUBMITTED originally IS the fairest map to represent the voting citizens of Montana.

Vote for Map 3, without amendments from the 2023 Legislature. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary LaPorte

From: Mary LaPorte marylaporte53@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:
I support Map 3 – It is a fair map

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 5:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marga R Lincoln

From: Marga R Lincoln margalincoln@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:
Feb. 8, 2023

To: Legislative District Commission

Please vote for Map TCP-3, which I believe to be the least politically biased map being proposed in the redistricting process at this stage.

It appears to be the most politically competitive map being considered.
In the interest of promoting greater political involvement by the Montana citizenry, I urge you to adopt it.

I also want to thank the commission and its staff for all their work

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Shelly J Meyer

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

Message:

I ask that you adopt Map TCP-3 without substantive changes. This map more fairly balances the demographic representation among districts, allowing for population numbers and characteristic of that population.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Paul Pacini <ppacini47@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Map #3

Districting Committee:

I urge you to vote for map #3 - - - WITHOUT AMENDMENTS. It is the most evenly distributed map by party.

Paul Pacini

303 State Street
Helena, Montana 59601-5788
U.S.A.

406.443.7730 - hm
406.431.7306 - cll
ppacini47@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Paul Pacini

From: Paul Pacini ppacini47@gmail.com
Residence: MT

Message:
Vote for map #3 without amendments.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Catherine Parke <ourart.cparke@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: My strong support of TCP-3

To the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I strongly support Tentative Commission Plan 3 (TCP-3).

This good plan for an updated map of legislative redistricting--with its important ongoing effects into our future--achieves the goals set out by the Commission regarding: 1) meeting the Voting Rights Act requirement; and 2) not unduly favoring one party over another. Excellent!

I send this strong endorsement of TCP-3, along with thanks for your work.

Yours truly,
Catherine Parke

Catherine Parke↔OurArt Studio
702 Charlo Street, Apt A, Missoula, MT 59802
573-289-0825 (mobile); ourart.cparke@gmail.com
she/her/hers

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: David Patterson

From: David Patterson dapatterson@fastmail.fm
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I urge the Commission to accept TCP3. The Republican recommendations in SJ8 mention the potential under-representation of Republicans in Gallatin County but ignore the vast under-representation of Democrats in much of eastern Montana. Even under TCP3, there are far more Democrats living in Republican majority districts than Republicans living in Democratic majority districts. Please do not exacerbate this discrepancy.

Competitive districts encourage candidates who have broad appeal and encourage voter participation and dialog. We need districts like this.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 1:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Becky Piske

From: Becky Piske bekyjpiske@gmail.com
Residence: MT

Message:
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your service. Your chosen Map 3 is the result of your hard work. You are to be commended.

Please stand firm on this map, without amendments. The current MT Legislature is pushing hard for unequal representation across our voting districts. You all understand the percentages that make the redistricting maps the fairest and Map 3 AS YOU SUBMITTED originally IS the fairest map to represent the voting citizens of Montana.

Please stick with your original map 3 as your final choice for the legislative districts for the next 10 years.

As you well know, the current super majority of the 2023 Montana Legislature is not a true representation of the Montana voting population. Time to change the maps.

Vote for Map 3, without amendments of legislature.

Thanks you again for your service.

Sincerely,
Becky Piske
Helena

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Becky Piske <beckyjpsike@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting map decision

Dear Redistricting Commission,

First, thank you for your service. This is a long haul, worthy cause, thank you.

Please support Map #3 as IS.

Please stick to your original map decision. As you all know, this map 3 most closely represents the distribution of voters of Montana.

Sincerely,

Becky J. Piske

303 State Street
Helena, MT 59601-5788
406.443.7730 home
406.431.5624 cell
beckyjpsike@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Becky Piske <beckyjpsike@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 12:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please accept Map 3, no amendments

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

This has been a long duration commitment to work with the Montana Census 2020 results and redraw Montana's election district maps to correctly represent our voters. You are well aware the current super majority of Republicans in our 2023 legislature does NOT represent the correct and current proportion of Montana voters.

Please vote yes on Map 3 as originally submitted.

Please do not be swayed by the current 2023 Montana Legislature that does not correctly represent the voters of Montana.

Yes to Map 3 as you submitted.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Becky J. Piske

303 State Street
Helena, MT 59601-5788

Sherley, Laura

From: britten.postma@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Britten Postma
<britten.postma@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 9:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you so much for all your hard work on this Commission. The TCP-3 map has equal populations, compact and contiguous, and complies with the federal Voting Rights Act and our Montana Constitution. I think this is a very fair map with a lot of input from Montana citizens. I like that this map is keeping communities intact and avoid partisan favoritism. Again, thank you so much for your thoughtfulness, patience, and hard work on this Commission.

Sincerely,
Britten Postma
1890 Ola Dr Missoula, MT 59802-9672
britten.postma@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jaq Quanbeck

From: Jaq Quanbeck jaqquan@gmail.com
Residence: Billings Montana

Message:
Please maintain a sense of fairness by keeping Map 3.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jacqueline M Reimers

From: Jacqueline M Reimers jackiereimers@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I support the redistricting map TCP-3. This map seems most fair to both parties and citizens of Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: lynne.rider@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lynne Rider
<lynne.rider@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Good morning,

First, I want to thank you for your service to Montana and allowing Montanans voice to be heard.

I believe that the districting map, tentatively adopted in December, is fair and the best option for Montana.

TCP-3 keeps communities whole and avoids partisan favoritism. This balance is critical to ensuring all Montanans can be heard in their Legislature.

Thank you for your time.

Dr. Lynne Rider

Sincerely,

Lynne Rider

117 Waggener Way Kalispell, MT 59901-6594 lynne.rider@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:02 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Rivard

From: Elizabeth Rivard lizriv1@yahoo.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:
Dear Commissioners,

I urge you to stick with Map 3 for the redistricting of Montana. It is the map that most fairly represents all Montanans.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Rivard

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Charles Roberts

From: Charles Roberts rnr@bresnan.net
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

As an independent voter, I support Map #3 with no changes

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:32 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Darien G Scott

From: Darien G Scott darien637@msn.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Please accept Map3 for redistricting. Even though it still gives Republicans a little majority, it is more equitable than the others.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carol Scott-Fowler

From: Carol Scott-Fowler cscottnepal@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

I support Tentative Map 3 and feel it fairly represents Montana. Tentative Map 3 is far and should be adopted. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:29 AM
To: seymourjanet2@gmail.com
Cc: Sherley, Laura
Subject: RE: Public Comment for JSC Redistricting

Dear Ms. Seymour-

Because your email went to the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting, which is a legislative committee that does not plan to meet again, I've forwarded your comments to the [Districting and Apportionment Commission](#). The commissioners are meeting later this afternoon and tomorrow morning, and your comments will be provided to them later today.

Sincerely,

Rachel Weiss
Legislative Research Analyst
406-444-5367

From: donotreply@mt.gov <donotreply@mt.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:31 PM
To: LEG Cmte-SRStestimony <LEGCmte-SRStestimony@legmt.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for JSC Redistricting

Public Comments for the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting

Date: 9th February 2023 16:31

First Name:
JANET

Last Name:
SEYMOUR

Email Address:
seymourjanet2@gmail.com

Subject:
Redistricting

Comment:
First and foremost, the party voter breakdown in Montana is not a super majority. Therefore any proposed re-districting amendments by the legislature joint committee must not be created assuming otherwise. Remember - Republicans in particular - your role is to represent, act on and stand for the best regarding the needs and rights of the people in

Montana. Voting district gerrymandering to up the advantage of one party (in this case, Republican) over another is irresponsible and flies in the face of the foundation of democracy. When you have completed your non-partisan role in determining the fairest possible district based on population - I hope I can say, "nice try, Republicans...but no cigar."

Sent via leg.mt.gov/joint-select-committee-redistricting/public-comments-joint-select-committee-redistricting/

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 5:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: JANET M. SEYMOUR

From: JANET M. SEYMOUR seymourjanet2@gmail.com
Residence: HELENA

Message:

Without hesitation, I support District Map 3 and urge the Commission to disapprove any and all amendments proposed by the Republican legislators who consistently disregard the rights and needs of their constituents, voting to aggrandize their personal and egotistical agendas in defiance of the foundations of democracy.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: laurenastevens12@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lauren Stevens <laurenastevens12@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 7:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I appreciate the work that the Commission put in to making this map. I would urge you not to ignore the constitutional mandate of an independent commission by implementing changes suggested by politicians who stand to benefit from drawing their own districts. Ideally, the map would result in districts that directly reflect the approximate 44/56% partisan split in the state, but becoming even less competitive than TCP-3 would reduce representation for even more Montanans. I support TCP-3 as proposed by the Commission.

Sincerely,

Lauren Stevens

2228 E Summit Dr Missoula, MT 59803-2624 laurenastevens12@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: sstolp@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Staci Stolp <sstolp@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 7:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: I support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.I want to thank you for your hard work finalizing tentative legislative map, TCP-3. You have thoughtfully incorporated much of the input from hours of public testimony into TCP-3. Please do not give more weight to the input of politicians than members of the public who have been testifying and writing the commission for months. TCP-3 balances compactness, keeping communities whole, and avoiding partisan favoritism. This balance is critical to ensuring all Montanans can be heard in their Legislature.

Thank you again for your effort and consideration.

Sincerely,
Staci Stolp
2224 Tea Rd Helena, MT 59602-9151
sstolp@highcountryinc.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 7:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Janis L Strout

From: Janis L Strout janchangethatworks@yahoo.com
Residence: BOZEMAN, MT

Message:

Dear Commissioners,

Legislative districts are redrawn once every 10 years. Yes, every 10 years. A lifetime for a young voter and a life's worth of vast experiences for others. That is why we are supporting MAP TCP-3.

I am commenting as President of the Montana Chapter of the National Organization for Women. MT NOW members know how important a fair and democratic Legislative Re-Districting process must be designed and adopted. Our MT Legislative Re-districting process must yield districts able to elect Women's Human Rights Champions of all backgrounds for our need of Representation and for our lives. If we are not at the table of elected representation, we are on the menu!

We also know that this process needs the Voting Rights Act requirements to ensure that Montana voters who are Indigenous, Black, people of color, LGBTQ+ and others most under-represented have fair and equitable Legislative districts to reflect Montana's values and life experiences.

That's why it's essential that this map, TCP-3, is finalized. This map meets all the goals the Commission originally set out to accomplish, it meets the Voting Rights Act requirements and doesn't unduly favor one party over another.

Thank you for your work and consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 2:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Martha Jane Thieltges

From: Martha Jane Thieltges thie@mcn.net
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I am writing in support of your May 3 proposal. I would not like to see any amendments which would further skew the political balance in the new districts.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Dick Thweatt <dickthweatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 3:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: reapportionment

Dear Commissioners:

Democracy hinges on fairly apportioned legislative districts, hence the importance of your task. After much study and discussion with input from all sides, you settled on Map 3. It didn't make everyone happy. So now you are being asked to change your mind. **Please don't.**

Thank you for serving on the commission.

-Dick Thweatt
36 Harrison Avenue
Helena MT 59601

Sherley, Laura

From: Michele Webster <michele.na.mt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 9:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting testimony

Dear Commissioners,.

Please stand firm on Map 3, without amendments. The current MT Legislature is pushing hard for unequal representation across our voting districts. You all understand the percentages that make the redistricting maps the fairest and Map 3, as you submitted originally, is the fairest map to represent the voting citizens of Montana.

Please vote for Map 3, without amendments from the 2023 Legislature. It is completely your right to chose the map for Montanans. It is NOT the right of the legislators.

Thank you,
Michele Webster
Helena, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: rmwillhite@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Margie Willhite
<rmwillhite@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 3:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thanks for your hard work on the final map.

Please reject the attacks on Native representation.

Sincerely,
Margie Willhite
118 Winkie Way Butte, MT 59701-8010
rmwillhite@centurylink.net

Sherley, Laura

From: Hugh Zackheim <montanazac@mac.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Districting Commission -- public comment

I support Commission Plan 3 for Montana legislative districts. This plan represents the thoughtful work product of years of study, analysis and negotiation, and is a fair and reasonable approach to this complex challenge.

The Legislative recommendations as presented in SJ8 are unfair and undemocratic — setting up districts that blatantly favor one party over another, and that disenfranchise tens of thousands of Montana voters.

Let's finish this process on a high point, and adopt Commission Plan 3.

Thanks for your work.

Hugh Zackheim
33 S Howie St
Helena, MT 59601