

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between January 23 and 5 p.m. on February 6, 2023

Distributed electronically February 6, 2023

Sherley, Laura

From: kiah.abbey@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kiah Abbey
<kiah.abbey@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for the immense amount of effort, thought, and time you've put into crafting plans for our legislative districts. TCP-3 is clearly a product of a deliberative and intentional body that has Montanans present and future in mind.

Sincerely,
Kiah Abbey
2209 Gilbert Ave Missoula, MT 59802-3504 kiah.abbey@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: rogandpat@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Allick
<rogandpat@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Hello, I know you have gone through a lot to come down to the final map. I am just one person, but I'm tired of politics. Please try to make the map as fair as possible. To me TCP-3 seems the most equitable. Take a deep breath and do the fair choice. It's time to put the power back to people instead of some very crazy politicians.

Thank you,

Patricia Allick

Sincerely,

Patricia Allick

563 Five Card Draw Kalispell, MT 59901-0811 rogandpat@centurytel.net

Sherley, Laura

From: liz.ametsbichler@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Liz Ametsbichler
<liz.ametsbichler@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3. It hasn't been an easy job, but it is very important. 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.

The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps. Thank you for adhering to that.

Sincerely,
Liz Ametsbichler
2405 Raymond Ave Missoula, MT 59802-3413 liz.ametsbichler@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Linda S. Andrus

From: Linda S. Andrus andrus.lindalou@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I want you to know that I fully support tentative map 3, as proposed by the commission. I think it's the fairest of all that have been submitted, and doesn't need to be changed or altered as proposed by the State Legislature. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: alice.asleson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alice Asleson
<alice.asleson@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for all the time you have spent listening to public comment and incorporating feedback into TCP-3. Please do not give politicians an outsized voice in determining the final map. Please adopt TCP-3 as a fair, balanced map that will represent Montanans accurately.

Sincerely,
Alice Asleson
1201 Wunnicke Ln Billings, MT 59102-4243 alice.asleson@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: GEOFFREY T BADENOCH

From: GEOFFREY T BADENOCH geoffb@ism.net
Residence: MISSOULA

Message:

Thank you for the very hard work the Commission did on developing district voting maps. I know the work is challenging and contentious and your service to the people of Montana should be recognized.

I support Map TCP-3. I believe it more represents a fair map for Montana.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: ginnb@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Virginia Baldwin <ginnb@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Montanans have pride in their elections. We expect to continue this tradition through fair numbers of voters in compact districts that are contiguous districts. The legislators should not try to select their voters, the voices of the citizens should be what is heard by those who are supposed to represent the people in their districts.

The Montana Independent Districting and Apportionment Commission has worked on the configuration of a district map that meets the criteria and goals that have been stated and shared with the Commission through numerous hearings. TCP-3 is a popular choice for the new district map that will guide us for the next ten years. This map also does not split voting communities that will weaken community or Native voices. It is also in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and with our Montana Constitution.

Take seriously the voices of the people as earnest and eager to have a Montana that listens to the people and that politicians represent us not special interests.

Respectfully,
Virginia Baldwin
89 Northwoods Trail
Whitefish, MT 59937

Sincerely,
Virginia Baldwin
89 Northwoods Trl Whitefish, MT 59937-7907 ginnb@live.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Anne Banks

From: Anne Banks anban@bresnan.net
Residence: Bozeman, MT 59715

Message:

Please vote yes on option 3 of the state redistricting proposals — it is the fairest of the bunch.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: jjjcbarcus@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julie Barcud <jjjcbarcus@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:35 AM
To: Districting
Subject: I am in in Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Good Morning,

I feel the current, proposed map is fair and meets all criteria and goals set by the Commission. I do not feel the map needs to be changed. Thank you for considering public input on this matter.

Sincerely,
Julie Barcud
625 All View Ln Corvallis, MT 59828-9343 jjjcbarcus@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Evan Barrett <evanbutte@bresnan.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Comments on the Redistricting Plan

I urge support for the Commission Plan 3 as submitted to the legislature for comment.

Commission Plan 3 received broad public support at the legislative district hearings held across Montana. Plan 3 meets all mandatory constitutional requirements, upholds the Voting Rights Act, does not unduly favor a political party and guarantees equal representation for all Montanans. It's a good plan for Montana.

The Legislative nonbinding recommendations are in SJ8 which passed the Legislature on straight party line votes in both houses. That's because the recommendations unduly favor one party – in this case the GOP. The GOP recommendations are blatant gerrymanders. They are demanding the districts be redrawn so they are guaranteed to unduly favor the GOP for the next ten years.

And Republican legislators are recommending the Commission violate the Voting Rights Act and the Montana Constitution for purely political gain the GOP by eliminating the proposed Crow minority-majority House District 42 thereby decreasing Indian community representation at the Legislature.

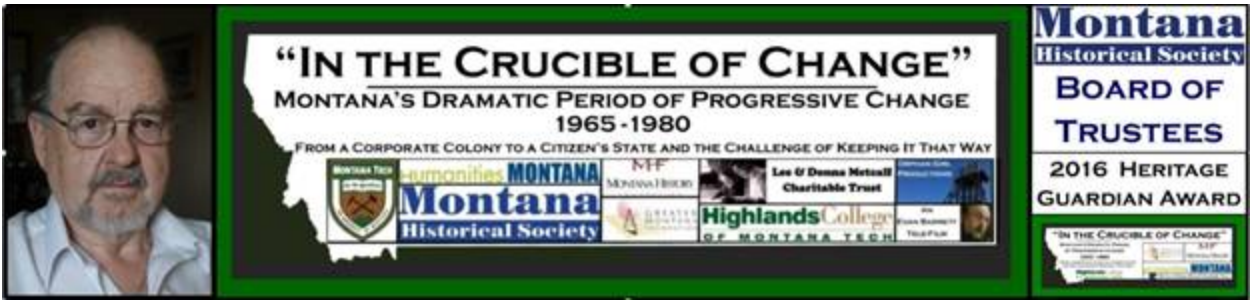
Again, I urge support for the Commission Plan 3 as submitted to the legislature.

Thanks.

Tap 'er light!



Evan currently is Vice Chair of the “Friends of the Montana Constitution” and was also on the Executive Committee of the “Montana Constitutional Convention Celebration Committee.” He lives in historic Uptown Butte, having retired several years ago after 47 years at the top level of Montana government, politics, economic development and education. He is an award-winning producer of Montana history films who continues to assist with community development, write columns and record commentaries, and occasionally teaches Montana history.



Evan Barrett, 807 West Silver – Butte, MT 59701
Home Phone: 406-782-4671 – Personal Cell: 406-490-4349
Personal Email: evanbutte@bresnan.net
Montana Tech Email: ebarrett@mtech.edu

Sherley, Laura

From: familybrusko@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kara Basko
<familybrusko@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I've been following with interest the process of creating a new legislative map for Montana, and I wanted to let you know that I think that TCP-3 is a very fair and balanced map. I know that hours and hours of work went into creating it, and especially in responding to public comment to create a map that gives Montana tribes and all other citizens a voice in how our voting districts will work for the next 10 years.

Please don't allow politicians to unduly influence the map and redraw it in favor of their own seats. This map balances compactness, keeps our communities intact, and avoids partisan favoritism. It will go a long way towards making sure that we can all have our voices heard in the legislative process.

Thank you for the work you did in creating such a positive map for Montana's legislative districts. I hope that it passes on Feb. 10th!

Sincerely,
Kara Basko
619 2nd Ave W Kalispell, MT 59901-4865
familybrusko@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: sbechardfamily@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Staci Bechard
<sbechardfamily@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:23 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work in the district mapping process. I sincerely appreciate your thoughtful approach, and for listening to Montana citizens' priorities of independence and balance, rather than giving in to partisan politics.

As a parent of a young adult citizen with complex special needs, it is of utmost importance to me personally that our state remains one where districts and voting are fair to everyone, and reflect the diversity of the people and cultures that make Montana so unique — whether Democrat, Republican or Independent. This also includes fair representation of our Native American populations.

Your vitally important work in keeping Montana districting fair and “whole”, means my family can continue to live in this beautiful state with less fear of discrimination or of losing services critical to our well-being.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Staci Bechard
2208 1st Ave S Great Falls, MT 59401-3953 sbechardfamily@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gerrie Beck

From: Gerrie Beck gerriebeck1948@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:
Please support Tentative Map 3

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

Sherley, Laura

From: joebeneventi7@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joseph Beneventi <joebeneventi7@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.i appreciate your hard work on tcp-3, thanks

Sincerely,
Joseph Beneventi
1000 Hiawatha St Helena, MT 59601-1442
joebeneventi7@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carole Berkoff

From: Carole Berkoff cberkoff@icloud.com
Residence: Victor MT 59875

Message:

The Tentative Map 3 should be adopted all though it could be fairer, it is better that any other alternative.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carole Berkoff

From: Carole Berkoff cberkoff@icloud.com
Residence: Victor MT 59875

Message:

The Tentative Map 3 should be adopted all though it could be fairer, it is better that any other alternative.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: joanneanibaldiberry@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joanne Berry
<joanneanibaldiberry@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your work on the map. It is fair and meets the commission's criteria.

Sincerely,

Joanne Berry

528 NE Broadway St Lewistown, MT 59457-2011 joanneanibaldiberry@hotmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: lissyboar@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Alissa Boar <lissyboar@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Hello,

I am emailing to show my support for fair legislative mapping for the following reasons:

**The Commission should not give more weight to the input of politicians than members of the public who have been testifying and writing the commission for months.

**The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps.

**Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

**Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation.

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3.

Thank you for your consideration,
Alissa Boar

Sincerely,
Alissa Boar
88 Empire Loop Kalispell, MT 59901-2574 lissyboar@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: 3bolts@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brenda Bolton <3bolts@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:26 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

As a native Montanan, born in 1958, and remembering the days when Montanans worked across the aisle in favor of farmers, teachers, higher education, natural resources, forestry, railroads, recreation, conservation, and so much more (because Montana has it!!), I respectfully request your support for TCP-3. I agree that an independent commission should be "driving this car" as our constitution states. Politicians can take a back seat and let the commission do its work. In supporting TCP-3, I am hoping Montana can keep its nose out of gerrymandering (as much as it can) and be an important example of balance for all Montana citizens!

Thank you,
Brenda Bolton
Farmer's daughter
Retired teacher
Montana Citizen

Sincerely,
Brenda Bolton
5342 Simmental Trl Florence, MT 59833-6960 3bolts@bresnan.net

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 7:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Susan Bouton

From: Susan Bouton boushea956@gmail.com
Residence: MT

Message:

Please consider the Tentative Commission 3 for approval. It is a far better, fairer split than what we have now. I am tired of the negative behaviors of our legislature, especially this 2023 year. The division that we have in place now is unfair. Every citizen of the state of Montana needs to be heard. and represented. Make redistricting fair, not one party sided. Only then can we go back to a legislature that is willing to work for all Montanans and not just one party.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Paula Braun

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

Message:
Tentative Map 3 is fair and should be adopted.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Noreen Breeding

From: Noreen Breeding rog7nor@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

Republican changes to Tentative Commission Plan-3 map recommended in SJ 8 are generally partisan and inaccurate in regard to Gallatin County. I support keeping the Tentative Commission Plan-3 map unchanged. Many citizens, in their comments, found compactness to be a relatively unimportant criterium with little functional value in comparison to competitiveness. Competitiveness enables better representation of citizens and a better exchange of ideas and compromises. Although competitiveness is rejected in SJ 8, it is used to support the arguments in Finding (4). Contrary to the statement in SJ 08 that communities of interest are separated, I believe that Tentative Commission Plan-3 map keeps communities of interest together better than other maps have done.

HD 57 does not run to the center of Bozeman; as a matter of fact it follows the Park County boundary and is wholly inside Park County.

The 3 districts in Bozeman that extend west of Jackrabbit Lane are functionally compact due to ongoing expansive development west and northwest of Bozeman center.

HD 66 is centered on the Bridger Mountain range which is mostly national forest land and sparsely populated. Its boundary needs to include development near Bozeman in order to reach target population numbers.

The statement that there are only 2 of Gallatin County's 11 seats that lean Republican is not true. Districts 65, 68, 69, and 77 lean Republican out of the 12 House seats in Gallatin County. The statement that 45% of voters in Gallatin County are Republican is overly broad and is not borne out by legislative election results. Republican areas are generally sparsely settled and need to be combined with more dense Democratic areas to reach target population numbers.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Dale Broszeit

From: Dale Broszeit dvlsdvct55@gmail.com
Residence: Hamilton

Message:
I support district map 3

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: lisagrace1979@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lisa Bullock <lisagrace1979@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

In support of.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bullock
218 S 6th Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-4559
lisagrace1979@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: sheridanb@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sheri Burden
<sheridanb@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for listening to members of communities regarding TCP3. We really need to keep politics and politicians out of the drawing of district maps.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sheri Burden
Swan Lake, MT

Sincerely,
Sheri Burden
22141 Old Mill Rd Swan Lake, MT 59911-7865 sheridanb@montana.com

Sherley, Laura

From: byrnejudy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Judy Byrne <byrnejudy@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 9:21 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Dear Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Thank you for your hard work on the map for legislative districting. You have been responsive to public comment and used that comment to create TCP-3. Now the legislature, through JR 8, wants to change what you and we have created.

The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps. I urge you to support TCP-3 as presented. It balances compactness, keeps communities whole, and avoids partisan favoritism. It is a good map that meets every criterion set.

You have done good work, and I hope you will not be swayed from it.

Sincerely,
Judy Byrne
3657 8th Ave S Great Falls, MT 59405-3431 byrnejudy@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: dapc3@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Debra Caffrey <dapc3@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please approve the tentative legislative map outlined by the District and Apportionment Commission in December. It is fair and meets all criteria and goals set by the Commission.

Sincerely,
Debra Caffrey
1745 W Kent Havre, MT 59501
dapc3@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: only1tigress@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Colette Campbell
<only1tigress@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for the very important work you are doing for the future of our great state.

Please reject the attacks on a map that reflects public comment over the last several months.

TCP-3 keeps communities whole and avoids bipartisan favoritism.

This map is critical to ensuring all Montana voices can be heard in their legislature.

Thank you for all your time and attention to this very important matter.

Colette Campbell

Sincerely,
Colette Campbell
180 Tower Rd Belgrade, MT 59714-8503
only1tigress@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Catharine Carey

From: Catharine Carey cgc57@bresnan.net
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Please adopt map TCP-3 without changes.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: danlizzie@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Dan Carlson-Thompson
<danlizzie@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.I am writing in support of TCP-3
Thank you

Sincerely,
Dan Carlson-Thompson
617 E Broadway St Helena, MT 59601-4311 danlizzie@msn.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Catharine <cgc57@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: redistricting map

Please adopt Tentative map 3 without changes suggested by the partisan legislature.

Sherley, Laura

From: yowiman@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Wayne Challeen
<yowiman@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:18 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

Sincerely,
Wayne Challeen
3619 Sheridan Ave Butte, MT 59701-4046
yowiman@hotmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: ajclinch@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Adam Clinch <ajclinch@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 9:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the state of Montana and its citizens through your efforts on the Commission.

As you are aware, the Montana Constitution created this Commission to ensure a map that is fair and reflective of the Montana held by every citizen, not just the legislators. Please do not allow corruption into our state by allowing for legislators to draft their own lines and take the power and representation from the citizens of our great state.

Especially important is the suggestion eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please say no to politicians who try to take the voice from the people native to this land.

As a 4th generation Montanan, I take pride in that our state has always stood by the values of fairness, balance, and equal voice. I hope you provide the same for the next decade by supporting TCP-3.

Sincerely,
Adam Clinch
4 Kevin Ct Helena, MT 59601-0345
ajclinch@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Constance M. Cole

From: Constance M. Cole dcoole@mt.net
Residence: Helena

Message:

Please adopt Tentative Map 3 without substantive changes. Montana's redistricting process will define House and Senate legislative districts for the next ten years. This is a critical decision for Montana's future and it's imperative that the map chosen is the most representative option.

--

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

DATE: February 7, 2023
TO: Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission (the “Commission”)
FROM: City of Colstrip (“Colstrip”)
RE: Tentative Commission Plan 3 and SJ 8/House District Proposal 4

Colstrip submits this document as its public comment on Tentative Commission Plan 3 and SJ 8, which was recently passed by the Montana legislature.

Colstrip is **IN FAVOR OF** Tentative Commission Plan 3 and **STRONGLY OPPOSES** SJ 8 and House District Proposal 4, for the reasons set forth below.

Colstrip Resolution 2022-17 (attached) was passed by the Colstrip City Council on November 7, 2022. The Resolution was previously provided to the Commission, and is critical to the Commission’s analysis. The Resolution explains Colstrip’s request to be in a single legislative district and included with the City of Forsyth, which is the County Seat of Rosebud County. The Resolution details the rationale for this request, including concerns related to the continued operation of the power plant, the remediation process, concerns of the municipal water supply, jobs, and other economic factors that the Colstrip shares with the City of Forsyth.

The Commission proposed Tentative Commission Plan 3 to the Legislature. Tentative Commission Plan 3 places Colstrip and Forsyth together in HD 37, and satisfies Colstrip’s concerns.

Senator Jason Ellsworth of Hamilton is the primary sponsor of SJ 8. The Joint Select Committee on Redistricting – a committee of six members – amended SJ 8 to include a Republican-majority recommendation to re-draw districts in and around Rosebud County “to reflect the House District Proposal 4.” Under House District Proposal 4, Colstrip is not included in the same House District as Forsyth, but instead is included with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

House District Proposal 4 is not what Colstrip wants. According to conversations with Rosebud County Commissioners, the City of Forsyth, and Northern Cheyenne tribal leaders, House District Proposal 4 is universally opposed by all that it would impact in Rosebud County.

None of these impacted parties were notified about amendments to SJ 8 and the affect they would have on the proposed house districts. None were given an opportunity to be heard by

the Joint Select Committee, the Senate State Administration Committee, the House State Administration Committee, or either chamber of the Legislature.

During the Senate Administrative Committee meeting, Senator Ellis remarked that there was not adequate public notice, nor was this process done in a way that allows the public to participate or know what is going on. She was correct.

SJ 8 passed the House and Senate on a party-line vote. This was not a bipartisan bill.

Colstrip asks the Commission to reject SJ 8, in particular with respect to redrawing the districts that include Rosebud County.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-R17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLSTRIP
TO NOT DIVIDE THE CITY IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the City of Colstrip is the location of a major power plant for the production of electricity across the state of Montana and the region; and

WHEREAS, as the continued operation of the power plant, the remediation process, and the uninterrupted Municipal water supply to the City of Colstrip has been the subject of major legislation in the state of Montana (See MCA 75-8-110); and

WHEREAS, the proposed shutdown of Colstrip Units 3 & 4 would result in the estimated loss of 3,300 jobs, the loss of more than \$5 billion in household income and a decline of State economic output over \$12.5 billion (University of Montana Economic Study, June 25, 2018); and

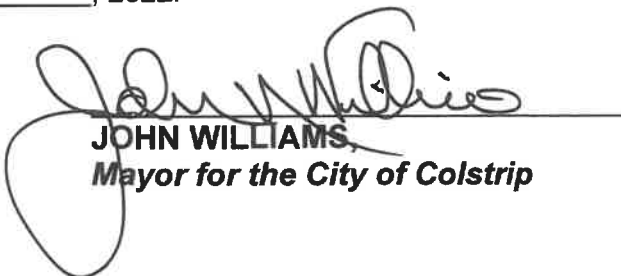
WHEREAS, there has been a continuous working economic relationship, such as railroad transportation and other economic relationships between the City of Colstrip and the Forsyth community, which is the location of the County Seat of the County of Rosebud; and

WHEREAS, it is stated in the Montana State Legislative Goals that the Commission shall attempt to minimize dividing Cities, Towns and Counties when possible as well as keeping communities' economic interest intact; and

WHEREAS, the previous legislative districts and the current proposals have divided the City of Colstrip as an entity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Colstrip, having considered the strong statewide economic impact of Colstrip, the ongoing challenges of energy diversification and the protection of the municipal water supply, the entity of the City of Colstrip shall be placed in a Legislative District which keeps the vital economic impact of the Colstrip Power Plants in a single Legislative District and with strong consideration for the inclusion of the County Seat of Forsyth in that District.

PASSED this 7 day of November, 2022.


JOHN WILLIAMS
Mayor for the City of Colstrip

ATTEST:

Michelle Richards, City Clerk/Treasurer

Sherley, Laura

From: cookmd@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Maury Cook <cookmd@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:17 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

The Montana Constitution was created as an Independent Commission to specifically empower citizens, not Legislators, when developing district maps. Please don't allow Montana politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation.

Sincerely,
Maury Cook
711 Mill St Butte, MT 59701-6708
cookmd@bsd1.org

Sherley, Laura

From: beckycrane51@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Rebecca Crane <beckycrane51@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. I appreciate your consideration of the input of Montanans, not just politicians. 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.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Crane
15 Velva Dr Kalispell, MT 59901-6327
beckycrane51@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: rebecca.croghan@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Rebecca Croghan
<rebecca.croghan@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 7:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.I am a resident of Belgrade and am writing in support of TCP-3. Thank you for all your hard work on this final map. I know that you have put in countless hours listening to public comment and appreciate that you have incorporated public comment into TCP-3. As a citizen, I have appreciated having a voice throughout this process. I hope that the voice of a few legislators does not outweigh the voice of the many citizens who have provided public comment throughout this process. 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.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Croghan
804 Colorado St Apt B Belgrade, MT 59714-4149 rebecca.croghan@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: cubdog@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tom Cabbage <cubdog@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you Montana independent Districting and Apportionment Commissioners for all you hard work! I know it has been a difficult and time consuming process the hear the public comment and continue to listen to your fellow Montanans voices about this process. Your role has been a thankless one and I would like to encourage you to stick with the proposed map TCP-3 without changes as it reflects Montana, our diverse voices and views and promotes a balanced and fair way to ensure everyone is represented and voices loud and quiet are heard.

Please stick to the map that has been approved and do not be swayed by those who would work to ensure they have a seat or that their views are represented more than others in this process.

Again thank you,

Sincerely,

Tom Cabbage

2814 3rd Ave N Great Falls, MT 59401-2954 cubdog@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Alice Dailey

From: Alice Dailey daileyalice76@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:

Map TCP-3 for legislative districts seems the best to me. Please use that one.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: 3dallings@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tamara Dalling
<3dallings@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

. Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3.

The Commission should not give more weight to the input of politicians than members of the public who have been testifying and writing the commission for months.

The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps.

Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation.

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.

Sincerely,

Tamara Dalling

7 Gardiner View Rd Gardiner, MT 59030-7701 3dallings@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: corinneday@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Corinne Day
<corinneday@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your hard work preparing a districting map for Montana. I am opposed to the changes recently put forth by the legislature and encourage you to stick with the original plan put forth in December. As an educator who works on the Crow Reservation, I am especially concerned about recommended changes that would dilute minority voting power. Montana's Native groups have already suffered far too much historical trauma and silencing of their way of life - to dilute their voice even further is unconscionable.

TCP-3 provides for fair apportionment and has already received public input. Please stick with this plan.

With regards,

Corinne Day

Sincerely,
Corinne Day
1631 Cook Ave Billings, MT 59102-5119
corinneday@pryorstaff.org

Sherley, Laura

From: dcdellwo@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Doug Dellwo Dellwo
<dcdellwo@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: TCP-3 is the best choice

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for doing this most important job. I am amazed at the great work Montana citizens have done with our Constitution. To create a citizen commission to decide on redistricting was genius. It was also respectful of the citizens of the state, recognizing that politicians represent us and are one of us not somehow better than us. You must feel very proud to have been chosen to do this job and it seems to be one you have taken seriously.

I would like you to choose TCP-3 for a couple of reasons. One reason is that it seems to keep the communities in which people live whole for the most part and at the same time respects Native communities and recognises our need as a state to have native voices present in seats of power.

Secondly, being a native Montana and also one who recognises that demographics change, I respect the diverse voices in an increasingly more diverse state and encourage you to choose TCP-3 as the best choice for a fair redistricting that reflects this in a fair and balanced way.

Again, thank for taking this job on and taking it seriously.

Doug Dellwo

Sincerely,
Doug Dellwo Dellwo
903 5th Ave Helena, MT 59601-4443
dcdellwo@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: pdiedrich959@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Pam Diedrich <pdiedrich959@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I want to urge you to adopt the Tentative Commission Plan-3, TCP-3, House and Senate redistricting maps as they stand. I believe the maps meet the criteria for competitiveness of districts. Most important I feel the maps avoid partisan favoritism. Thank you for all you work on the Montana Legislative redistricting maps, and for the many hours the Redistricting Commissioners spent listening to public input on this issue.

Thank you,
Pamela Diedrich

Sincerely,
Pam Diedrich
2031 Utah Ave Butte, MT 59701-5850
pdiedrich959@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: pkdoyle10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Doyle <pkdoyle10@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 3:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.I appreciate the time and effort you've put into creating a fair, balanced legislative map and hope you can support map TCP-3 without any additional revision. I think, because it is a population equivalent, contiguous, map, complying with the federal Voting Rights Act & our state constitution it is worthy of acceptance.
Again, thank you for all your work for our voters!

Sincerely,
Patricia Doyle
395 Tie Chute Ln Florence, MT 59833-6536 pkdoyle10@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: robyn@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robyn Driscoll <robyn@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:15 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you all for the hard work you have put in on first the congressional maps, and now the legislative redistricting maps. The map that went before the legislature is fair and meets the criteria and goals set by the Commission. I appreciate that Chair Smith made clear that before accepting any legislative recommendations, more weight would be given to those that are not based on either party's wish list, but instead on bipartisan suggestions. Please adopt TCP-3.

Sincerely,

Robyn Driscoll

Sincerely,
Robyn Driscoll
404 Houle Dr Billings, MT 59102-4861
robyn@robyndriscoll.com

Sherley, Laura

From: tdukart84@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Laura Dukart <tdukart84@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 3:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please support the TCP-3 map, as it is without revisions from state legislators, who have their own political agendas in mind. I am especially concerned about legislators' recommendations for HD 42, and the effect it would have on Native representation.

Thank you for being an independent commission, who does not allow partisan favoritism when making this important decision. Thank you for your hard work and for listening to the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Laura Dukart

421 Beaver Creek Rd Wibaux, MT 59353-8056 tdukart84@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: allisoncur10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Allison Duncan <allisoncur10@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Greetings Commission Members,

I am writing today to ask you to pass TCP-3. As a public school teacher, I am concerned that the proposed changes in Joint Resolution #8 will give more power to legislators to make and pass laws that the majority of Montanans do not support. The balance of power should stay balanced, so that everyday Montanans like myself feel like they have a say in their state government. TCP-3 has been thoughtfully and meticulously crafted after much public comment. It should stay as it is because the citizens of Montana have spoken and we should have more say than legislators.

Thank you for your time

Allison Duncan

Sincerely,
Allison Duncan
110 N 6th St Manhattan, MT 59741-2224
allisoncur10@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:02 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marilyn P Eberly

From: Marilyn P Eberly eberlymarilyn@yahoo.com
Residence: KALISPELL – [FLATHEAD]

Message:
The tentative map 3 is fair and should be adopted.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elaine Eidum

From: Elaine Eidum eeidum@yahoo.com
Residence: Helena, MT 59601

Message:

I support redistributing Tentative Map 3 and ask that you vote for map 3. Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: wanderingdaisy95@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kate Eisele <wanderingdaisy95@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:12 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your time and effort on developing a final map. I appreciate you listening to the voters and coming to a solution that avoids partisan favoritism. I think that TCP-3 reflects the desire for compactness of voting districts while keeping communities whole. This is important to making sure all Montanans have a voice in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Kate Eisele

356 Buffalo Dr West Yellowstone, MT 59758-9005 wanderingdaisy95@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Susan Epstein

From: Susan Epstein shrop@mt.net
Residence: MT

Message:
Please support tentative map 3 as it was presented in early January.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 11:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carl D Esbjornson

From: Carl D Esbjornson cresbjornson@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

NO partisan redistricting! Redistricting absolutely must be non-partisan. The Republican super majority does not reflect the actual vote distribution of Montana as it is and, along with over 300,000 other Montana voters, I have zero representation in the Montana legislature which only represents very conservative Montana voters and excludes the concerns of moderates and progressives. I feel like I live in a dictatorship and not a free democratic society. I would hope redistricting reflects the needs of all Montanans by a more representative legislature that protects the sizable minority from the abuses and tyranny of a supermajority.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: facey_tom@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tom Facey <facey_tom@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please support and vote for TCP-3. A vote support of TCP-3 will give citizens a larger voice in the redistricting process over that of legislators when drawing district maps.

Thank you for your hard work on this process. I realize that you have spent time away from your home, family and work.

Sincerely,

Tom Facey

418 Plymouth St Missoula, MT 59801-4133 facey_tom@hotmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary Fahnestock-Thomas

From: Mary Fahnestock-Thomas maryft@charter.net
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

I support Tentative Map 3 and think it more fairly represents Montana than the alternatives. Please go with Tentative Map 3!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: ja_ferguson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jennifer Ferguson
<ja_ferguson@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 6:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Citizen participation is essential to a democratic process. Districting completed by an independent commission assures voters that districts are designed fairly. Legislators make many decisions impacting the future of our state, but this decision is not appropriate for them to make, to alter or to influence. I hope the commission will proceed with TCP-3. Thank you for your work!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ferguson
518 S 4th St W Missoula, MT 59801-2630
ja_ferguson@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: toddfinstad@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mitchell Finstad
<toddfinstad@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Hi,

I am writing in support of the redistricting map. You have done a fair job in creating the map and listened to a lot of public input. Please do not let political pressure to affect your decision.

Thanks for all your fair and impartial work.

M. Todd Finstad

Sincerely,

Mitchell Finstad

1023 W Diamond St Butte, MT 59701-1401

toddfinstad@hotmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Denise Fisher

From: Denise Fisher adfisher486@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston

Message:

Please support Map TCP-3. This is the fairest, non-partisan map for the state to find equal representation based on the people that live in the state. All voices need to be heard and represented in the legislature. We need compromise, the ability to work through issues and not a super majority that is going to take away rights to inflict there own on individuals in the state.

Thank you
Denise Fisher

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:05 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Candace Marie Forrette

From: Candace Marie Forrette hills2prairie@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

Please adopt Map 3. This is the best of the bunch and will serve the people of Montana.
Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: cfraziermt@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Catherine Frazer
<cfraziermt@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 7:19 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Hello,

I am writing in support of the legislative district map TCP-3.

Sincerely,
Catherine Frazer
63 Spring Creek Rd Absarokee, MT 59001-6222 cfraziermt@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: suecfurey@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sue Furey <suecfurey@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3 which is the best legislative map for Montana. The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will be able to draw legislative maps, not the elected legislature. Please don't allow legislators to draw their own seats and change the map.

Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation.

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.

Sincerely,
Sue Furey
427 E Beckwith Ave Missoula, MT 59801-4426 suecfurey@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Linda Gabel

From: Linda Gabel lindagabel08@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman Montana

Message:
To the Redistricting Commission:

Please adopt Tentative Map 3. I appreciate all the time and work that has gone into reviewing various maps and feel strongly that a map which represents the % of each party according to voting records is more important than 'compactness.'

Thank you for your time.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:10 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Laura Gerlach

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

Message:

adopt Tentative Map 3 without substantive changes. Our current legislation body does not represent the public of MT. We are a republic, represented by you our legislators. By population-49% republicans, 30% democrats by population. Our current legislators leave democrats sadly out of representations. Fix the maps!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: john_getty@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of John Getty <john_getty@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

TCP-3 represents a fair and consistent compromise among all of the constituencies in Montana. Please support this version of the districting maps.

And thanks for your service.

John Getty

Sincerely,
John Getty
225 Friendspring Rd Whitehall, MT 59759-8694 john_getty@ieee.org

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 12:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Rochelle Gravance

From: Rochelle Gravance rmg13@hotmail.com
Residence: Columbus, MT

Message:

Montana Districting and Apportionment Committee,
Tentative Commission 3 is a fairly decent compromise.

The split isn't as even as it could be but it is far more reflective of the 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: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Catherine Grott

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

Message:
Tentative Map 3 is fair and should be adopted.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 9:43 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth P Gundersen

From: Elizabeth P Gundersen lizgunmontama@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:
I support Map 3 –

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: cnd2543@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kari Gunderson <cnd2543@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:02 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Commission members,

I am writing to you from Swan Valley, MT where some of us live in Missoula County and others live in Lake County. I urge you to give more weight to members of the public like myself who have been testifying and writing the commission for several months. The MT Constitution created this Independent Commission so citizens like myself will have more say than legislators over district maps. I urge to you not allow politicians to draw their own seats and change the map. Native American Tribes are often disenfranchised when it comes to voter suppression and this should be corrected in the final map. Please reject these attacks on Native representation which is critically important to our democracy. I do not want to see gerrymandering that has taken place in states like Wisconsin that strongly favor Republican politicians and leave many voters inadequately represented.

Thank you for the time and energy you have devoted to this final map. Thank you for listening to all Montana citizens.

Sincerely,
Kari Gunderson, PhD.

Sincerely,
Kari Gunderson
PO Box 1008 Condon, MT 59826-1008
cnd2543@blackfoot.net

Sherley, Laura

From: Ann Hallowell <ann@hallowellco.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 11:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: map TC-3

Dear Redistricting committee,

I support map TC-3. This map keeping our area mostly intact.

Thank you,

Ann Hallowell

Livingston, MT 59047

Sherley, Laura

From: Laura Halverson <tlaurah@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Support Plan 3

Please support Commission Plan 3. It is the most fair redistricting plan by far. Laura Halverson 1649 Windrow Dr B3
Bozeman Mt. 59718 Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: ELIZABETH HALVERSON

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

Message:

Tentative MAP 3 is best. Please vote FOR MAP 3 to preserve and protect "one person, one vote" / THANK YOU

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:26 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Cathy Hammer

From: Cathy Hammer Sledgetime@msn.com
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

I support Tentative Map 3 and feel it fairly represents Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: mharpold3@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marjorie Harpold <mharpold3@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for your hard work to craft a fair and workable redistricting plan for Montana. I believe it needs to be adopted as is. Please do not let politicians overrule the wishes of the citizens. Thank you Sincerely, Marjorie Harpold

Sincerely,
Marjorie Harpold
3130 Saint Johns Ave Billings, MT 59102-6624 mharpold3@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:20 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jennifer Harrington

From: Jennifer Harrington jjharrington.harrington747@gmail.com
Residence: Clinton, MT

Message:

Tentative Commission Plan 3 includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle and shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

For a legislature to truly represent Montana, its makeup should reflect the voting patterns of the state. While the Tentative Commission Map still provides some Republican advantage and doesn't reach a fair 43-57 split in the state, it is far more reflective of the state than the current legislative map that is 10 years out of date.

The Tentative Commission Map incorporates public comment gathered from all over the state and balances criteria while not unduly favoring either party like Montanans deserve.

The Commission Map achieves all of the goals this Commission set out to accomplish and Montanans are better off that so much consensus was built into the final map.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Barbara R Harris

From: Barbara R Harris barb.harris@bresnan.net
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Tentative Map 3 is fair and should be adopted. Much thought has already gone into it.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 1:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: ELIZABETH M HARRIS

From: ELIZABETH M HARRIS sometimesunshine@msn.com
Residence: BOZEMAN

Message:
Please support Tentative Commission 3.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: huckleberryth@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Teresa Hartford
<huckleberryth@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3. I appreciate your commitment to legislate fairly.

Sincerely,

Teresa Hartford
Kalispell

Sincerely,
Teresa Hartford
133 Cardiff Ave Kalispell, MT 59901-2751 huckleberryth@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: myelvis0854@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lucy Hernandez <myelvis0854@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Please make a fair map for us to follow

Sincerely,
Lucy Hernandez
3211 3rd Ave S Billings, MT 59101-3801
myelvis0854@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 7:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: FW: Map proposal presented during Select Committee on Districting and Apportionment.
Attachments: Gallatin Proposal East Side.JPG; Gallatin Proposal Zoomed Out.JPG; Gallatin Proposal Zoomed In.JPG

From: Hinkle, Jedediah <Jedediah.Hinkle@legmt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 11:06 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel <Rachel.Weiss@legmt.gov>
Subject: Map proposal presented during Select Committee on Districting and Apportionment.

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission members,

During the Legislative Select Committee on Districting I provided a map for proposed changes to Gallatin County. I proposed this map as an example on how Gallatin County can be drawn in such a way as to improve on the commissions adopted and also constitutionally mandated criteria. As you are well aware, once you change a district line, there is a ripple effect that often happens whereby other districts need to also be changed to meet the population goal for each district. This map proposal has been created in such a way as it does not affect the surrounding districts, it keeps their outer borders intact. Therefore, a map like this can be incorporated into Gallatin County without creating a ripple effect. This also serves as proof that the current tentative adopted map 3 can be redrawn by the commission in specific areas to improve on the adopted and mandated criteria such as recommended in the legislatures resolution SJ8.

In the attached map you will find:

1. It only splits Bozeman between 6 districts (The current Tentative Map 3 splits Bozeman between 8 districts).
2. Eliminates one district being split by a county line.
3. Districts identified in SJ8 not currently compact because they are drawn as narrow and elongated, are made compact in this map proposal.
4. District 57 which includes most of rural Park County in this map is drawn to include rural portions of Gallatin County (South East of Bozeman) rather than the city of Bozeman, leaving this rural ranching farming community intact. This map also makes HD57 more compact and contiguous than the current tentative Map 3.
5. This map creates a northern rural district north of Belgrade and remains north of interstate 90 so that it does not creep into the city of Bozeman. Therefore, keeping communities of interest intact and this particular district more compact.
6. This map also keeps Manhattan and Three Forks together in the same district as how they are currently represented.
7. Retains Belgrade as its own distinct intact district exactly as the amendment adopted by the commission lays out in the current tentative map 3

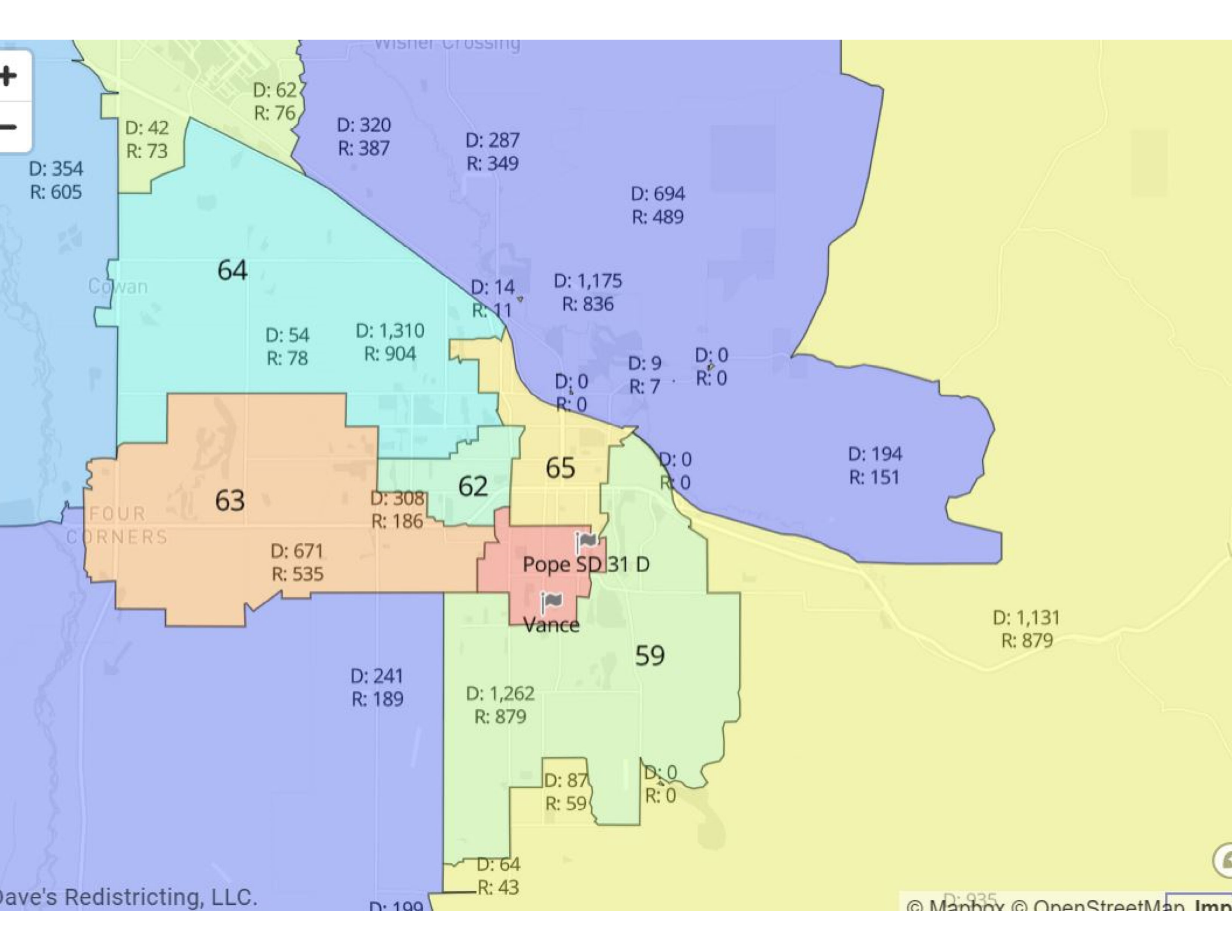
Commissioner Smith during our select committee hearing talked much about adopted criteria. I suggest that the criteria adopted by the Commission should be applied equally and consistently across the state. In Tentative Map 3, Gallatin County and Missoula County for example are drawn much differently than other areas of the state whereby districts in these counties are drawn into elongated finger districts and cities have a greater number of splits than necessary.

Please consider this map example provided you in understanding how Gallatin County can be drawn to both adopted criteria standards and constitutional mandatory criteria.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

Emails to and from legislators involving legislative business may be subject to public disclosure under the [Right to Know](#) provision of the Montana Constitution and [Title 2, Chapter 6, part 10, MCA](#). This may include the sender, recipient, content, and attachments.



D: 354
R: 605

D: 42
R: 73

D: 62
R: 76

D: 320
R: 387

D: 287
R: 349

D: 694
R: 489

64

D: 14
R: 11

D: 1,175
R: 836

D: 54
R: 78

D: 1,310
R: 904

D: 0
R: 0

D: 9
R: 7

D: 0
R: 0

63

D: 308
R: 186

62

65

D: 0
R: 0

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R: 151

FOUR
CORNERS

D: 671
R: 535

Pope SD 31 D

Vance

59

D: 1,131
R: 879

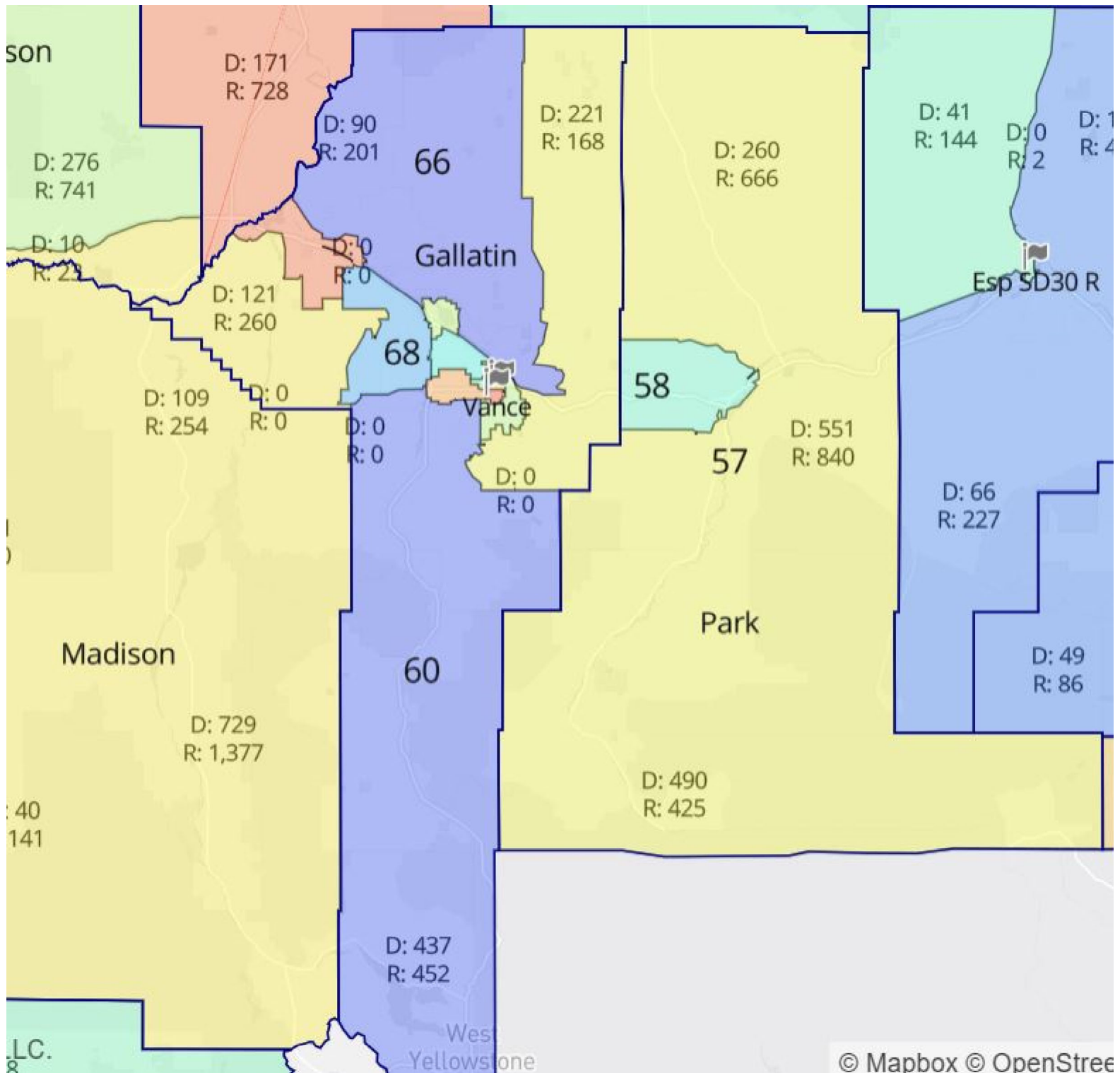
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R: 189

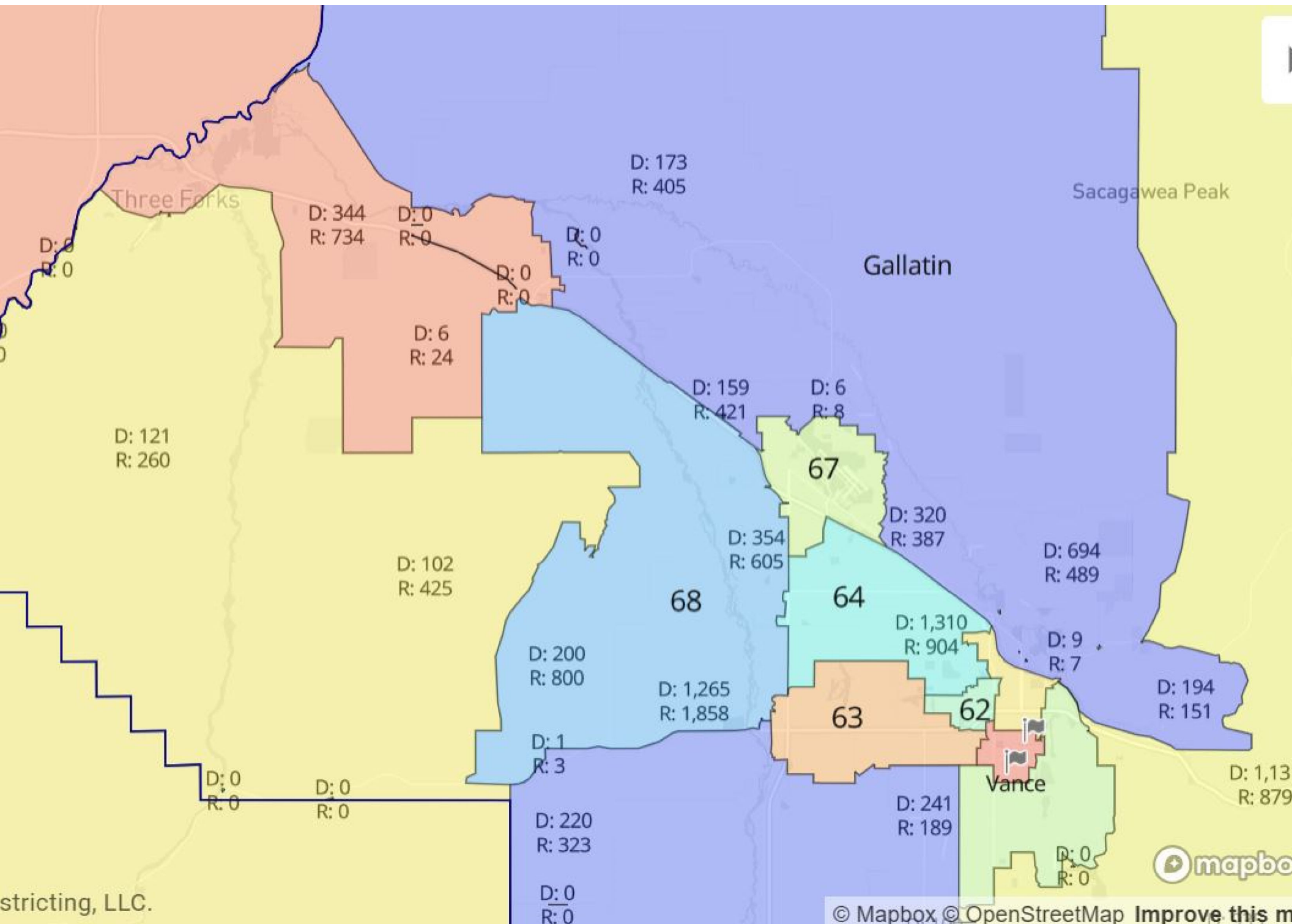
D: 1,262
R: 879

D: 87
R: 59

D: 0
R: 0

D: 64
R: 43





Sherley, Laura

From: mrshlad@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Melissa Hlad <mrshlad@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3.

Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

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 for your service.

Sincerely,

Melissa Hlad

54871 US Highway 2 Nashua, MT 59248-9139 mrshlad@outlook.com

Sherley, Laura

From: sheilamt1632@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sheila Hogan <sheilamt1632@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

After a long process filled with public comment, Montana's independent Districting and Apportionment Commission adopted a tentative legislative map in Dec. This map is fair and meets all criteria and goals set by the Commission.

Sincerely,
Sheila Hogan
2110 E 6TH Ave Helena, MD 59681
sheilamt1632@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Barbara Holmes-Smith

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

Message:

I write to encourage the adoption of Map TCP-3. This appears to be the most fairly-drawn option that will best allow representation of all Montanans. Thank you for all your hard work on this project, and I hope you will always consider the varied populations throughout our state, so they all have a voice.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: violetolivia@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Violet Hopkins
<violetolivia@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 6:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

This map meets every criterion and goal set by the Commission. It is population equal, compact and contiguous, and complies with the federal Voting Rights Act and our Montana Constitution. Please reject party favoritism and attacks on native representation and vote to adopt TCP-3.

Sincerely,
Violet Hopkins
548 Colorado Ave Missoula, MT 59802-5501 violetolivia@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: jhowemt@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jeff Howe <jhowemt@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:12 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the hard work that resulted in the fair and citizen supported TCP-3. Please don't allow politicians to redraw this map for partisan purposes. I fully support TCP - 3 and hope you will continue to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Jeff Howe

Stevensville, Montana

Sincerely,

Jeff Howe

390 El Capitan Loop Stevensville, MT 59870-6004 jhowemt@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Chris Hunter <chbabahunter00@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Plan 3 support

Hello

I am writing to support the Commission's Plan 3 and opposition to SJR 8.

Thank you

Chris Hunter

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: karenjallings@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karen Jallings
<karenjallings@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final districting map. It is gratifying to see the independent districting commission work the way our constitution intended it to and that the voices of those who commented publicly were listened to. TCP-3 checks all of the required boxes of population equality, compact and contiguous. Thank you for your work on this! Please do not give politicians more say than the members of the public. These politicians should not be able to draw their own districts and change this map. Keep communities whole and avoid partisan favoritism so that all Montanans voices can be heard in their Legislature.

Sincerely,
Karen Jallings
2244 Sturnella Ln Belgrade, MT 59714-7721 karenjallings@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 9:36 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Alison C James

From: Alison C James alisoncaryl@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:
Tentative Commission 3, please. It's a good compromise. Thank you!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: jenningsg92@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Gerry Jennings <jenningsg92@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thanks for all the work on this. I know it has been huge. I went to the session in Great Falls a few months ago. I have to tell you that I really appreciate your letting Arlyne Reichert go beyond time limit. Everyone in the room loved hearing her tell the history of the Montana state constitution and how it has affected our redistricting. Fairness is such an important part of our election process, and I feel that what you are offering is the most fair of all those that had been presented.

Sincerely,
Gerry Jennings
317 Fox Dr Great Falls, MT 59404-3835
jenningsg92@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Rebecca Johnson

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

Message:

Please adopt Tentative Map 3 without substantive changes. It is very good for Montana to have an independent redistricting commission that works hard to draw fair district maps that encourage election of representatives who will listen to their constituents. Map 3 will help limit the number of extreme partisan candidates who wreck havoc on a functioning representative government.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary I Johnson

From: Mary I Johnson mjirish@gmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Please adopt tentative Map 3 without any substantive changes. It is important that Montanans votes are not compromised by biased districts. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary I Johnson

From: Mary I Johnson mjirish@gmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Please adopt tentative Map 3 without any substantive changes. It is important that Montanans votes are not compromised by biased districts. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:42 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Clare Marie Kearns

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

Message:

I support MAP TCP-3. This map appears the fairest in representing the various political views of all Montanans.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Cathy Kendall

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

Message:
Please support Tentative Map 3 as it fairly represents Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: kristeen.keup@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of K Keup
<kristeen.keup@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:37 AM
To: Districting
Subject: I Support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

As a born and raised Montanan, I fully support a fair legislative Montana map.

I appreciate your independent, non-biased, thoughtful listening in order to make this happen.

Please adopt the fair map, TCP-3, that you committed to in December, 2022.

TCP-3 balances compactness, keeping communities whole, and avoiding partisan favoritism. This balance is critical to ensuring that all Montanans can be heard in their Legislature.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

K Keup

2523 Yellowstone Ave Billings, MT 59102-3852 kristeen.keup@fulbrightmail.org

Sherley, Laura

From: suekimmet@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Susan Kimmet
<suekimmet@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for all the effort you and others have put into the redistricting map. Please see that public opinion is considered when making a final decision. I sincerely hope that the end result will be fair and balanced, not intended to favor one party over the other.

Sincerely,
Susan Kimmet
312 1st St S Sunburst, MT 59482
suekimmet@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: cmkivi@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Colleen Kivi <cmkivi@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.First, thanks for all the hard work that went into TCP-3! Please vote to establish this map created by the Independent Commission so that I and other Montanans can feel secure that we are represented equally-that's my hope! Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Colleen Kivi
522 4th Ave SW Great Falls, MT 59404-2932 cmkivi@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: anna.klene@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Anna Klene
<anna.klene@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:58 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Commission,

I write to thank you for working on the district maps, with the many hours of public comment and debate. The Independent Commission process established by the Montana Constitution is important to helping citizens have control over what happens with so many issues.

In particular, TCP-3 manages to keep Native representation viable in House District 42 on the Crow Reservation, and keeps compactness, communities mainly in the same district, and ensures that all Montanans can be represented and have a strong voice.

Sincerely,
Anna Klene
2525 Briggs St Missoula, MT 59803-1023
anna.klene@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: havrekoffler@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Dan Koffler
<havrekoffler@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:54 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Montana needs fair representation!

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I support the map. Don't let outside, out of state, interests at the behest of the ultra rich dictate Montana's future. We need fair representation and progressive taxation to benefit the state as a whole.

Sincerely,
Dan Koffler
727 2nd Ave Havre, MT 59501-4901
havrekoffler@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: konesky@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Arienne Konesky
<konesky@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for the long hours you've worked on the MT districting map! I hope you continue to work towards a fair map that supports the public's agenda , and not a political agenda. TCP-3 is a good balance to ensuring all of Montana has a seat at the table.

Thank you !

Sincerely,
Arienne Konesky
1517 Eden Rd Great Falls, MT 59405-8311 konesky@3rivers.net

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Emily Krieger

From: Emily Krieger emeelee1@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Tentative Commission Plan 3 includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle and shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

For a legislature to truly represent Montana, its makeup should reflect the voting patterns of the state. While the Tentative Commission Map still provides some Republican advantage and doesn't reach a fair 43-57 split in the state, it is far more reflective of the state than the current legislative map that is 10 years out of date.

The Tentative Commission Map incorporates public comment gathered from all over the state and balances criteria while not unduly favoring either party like Montanans deserve.

The Commission Map achieves all of the goals this Commission set out to accomplish and Montanans are better off that so much consensus was built into the final map.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: lamar@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sharon Lamar <lamar@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 8:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. The Commission should not give more weight to the input of politicians than members of the public who have been testifying and writing the commission for months. The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps. Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map. Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation. 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.

Sincerely,
Sharon Lamar
PO Box 1077 Condon, MT 59826-1077
lamar@blackfoot.net

Sherley, Laura

From: marklannen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mark Lannen
<marklannen@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear members of the committee

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3.

The Commission should not give more weight to the input of politicians than members of the public who have been testifying and writing the commission for months.

The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps.

Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation.

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.

Sincerely,

Mark Lannen

Sincerely,
Mark Lannen
1714 Schilling St Missoula, MT 59801-5232 marklannen@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary LaPorte

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

Message:

I am writing to express my support for TCP-3 proposed redistricting map. I believe that this is as fair a map as we can achieve in Montana. Thanks to all of the Commission members for all of your hard work!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: chandralind@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Chandra Lind
<chandralind@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for your careful work on the redistributing map. I especially appreciate your nonpartisan representation that puts the people of Montana and our constitution before the preferences of individuals in the legislature. With that in mind, I was disappointed to see the change in mind for the Crow reservation. Please leave HD 42 as is rather than taking a step backwards.

With gratitude,
Chandra Lind

Sincerely,
Chandra Lind
535 Oxford Dr Bozeman, MT 59715-1788
chandralind@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: josephlloyd@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joe Lloyd
<josephlloyd@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission, please support TPC3. It is a fair and balanced map. Please don't give politicians the opportunity to pick their set of voters. That would be absurd. TPC3 is a fair deal for all involved. No party or group gets any favoritism. That's the way it should be.

Sincerely,
Joe Lloyd
2701 Central Ave Great Falls, MT 59401-3920 josephlloyd@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: nancyloeza@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nancy Loeza
<nancyloeza@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 6:23 PM
To: Districting
Subject: I support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Dear MT Districting and Apportionment Commission, Thank you for putting in hours of service for Montanans. Thank you for considering each of our viewpoints as you complete this work. Map TCP-3 well represents Montanans in accordance to our constitution, and I appreciate your intent to give everyone a voice in this great state. It's complicated work to design a map that represents the whole state of Montana, yet this balance is critical so that we can be heard in our legislature. You've worked to ensure that Native representation is established, and that no one community receives more representation than another. Partisan politics have damaged our state, and amidst all the noise from a few, many are never heard. I support the map you have designed and I hope you will adopt it. Again, thank you all!

Sincerely,
Nancy Loeza
2807 Allison Ct Bozeman, MT 59718-6053
nancyloeza@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: psslma@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sue Lorang <psslma@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.To the members of the commission. I feel the map the commission has developed is fair and meets the criteria and goals set by the commission. I urge you to maintain this fair map and adopt it for the next 10 years. Thank you for the many hours of work you have devoted to this project.

Sincerely,
Sue Lorang
1373 Eden Rd Great Falls, MT 59405-8321 psslma@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: 7patld@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Pat Ludwig <7patld@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.please stay withTCP 3 plan as seems fair for all as many have testified. Do not let Legislators change to give unfair advantages.

Sincerely,
Pat Ludwig
611 1st St W Chester, MT 59522
7patld@itstriangle.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Madden

From: Elizabeth Madden bethmadden64@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I write to urge the Redistricting Commission to adopt Tentative Map 3 as it was presented in early January. I have been involved in the process and commented the whole way along, and you have done a good job with coming up with Map 3. What a difficult process. This Map 3 does give as advantage to Republicans beyond their percentage of voters, but it is as fair as can be expected. The legislature is making all kinds of demands for change, but in truth, Montanans are happy with this map. You have our support. Thank you for your work on our behalf.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sally S. Magalsky

From: Sally S. Magalsky sallysdm@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston, MT

Message:

Requesting the use of Map TCP-3 as you proceed with the redistricting proceedings scheduled for February 10, 2023. This is Sally S. Magalsky and Joseph J. Magalsky, both registered voters in HD59 in Park County commenting on the redistricting proposal: please use Map TCP-3.
Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 11:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marty Malone

From: Marty Malone dogrockranch@gmail.com
Residence: Pray, MT

Message:

I support the map submitted by the Montana Legislature that protects the rural vote.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: theresamcgeary@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Theresa McGeary
<theresamcgeary@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I have lived and raised my children here in Montana for the past 22 years. I sincerely hope that that the map TCP-3 which balances compactness, keeping communities whole, and avoiding partisan favoritism will be adopted. This balance is critical to ensuring all Montanans can be heard in their Legislature.

Sincerely,

Theresa McGeary

220 Pattee Creek Dr Missoula, MT 59801-8735 theresamcgeary@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 8:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Patrick McGuffin

From: Patrick McGuffin mcguffin3@msn.com
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

I support Tentative Commission 3, it's the least harmful of all the proposals.
Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Janet McMillan

From: Janet McMillan janetmcmil@gmail.com
Residence: Greenough MT

Message:

I support choosing Tenttive Map3 as it is, because it looks to me like it represents Montana fairly and accurately.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Janet McMillan

From: Janet McMillan janetmcmil@gmail.com
Residence: Greenough MT

Message:

I support choosing Tentative Map3 as it is, because it looks to me like it represents Montana fairly and accurately.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: btmcmorr@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia McMorris
<btmcmorr@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.TCP-3 balances compactness, Keeping communities whole, and avoiding partisan favoritism. This balance is critical, to ensuring that all Montanans can be heard in the legislature.

Sincerely
Patricia McMorris

Sincerely,
Patricia McMorris
5320 Frontier Dr Billings, MT 59101-8917 btmcmorr@msn.com

Sherley, Laura

From: duane@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Duane Millette <duane@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 7:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Do not allow politicians to pick their voters. That flies in the face of "We the People".. Voters should pick their Representatives. If you have to cheat to win maybe your divisive, unpopular policies need to be reconsidered. All citizens should be able to easily participate in our democracy. If we loose it we will never regain it! Duane Millette

Sincerely,
Duane Millette
PO Box 2065 Whitefish, MT 59937-2065
duane@djmillette.com

Sherley, Laura

From: nancy@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Nancy Millette <nancy@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 6:43 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please keep districting fair, equitable and representative for all voters across Montana. We should serve as an example to other states....not fall in line with extremism. We should become the United States of America...not the states of America.

Sincerely,

Nancy Millette

132 Ridge Run Dr Apt B Whitefish, MT 59937-9105 nancy@djmillette.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 7:51 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Thomas Millett

From: Thomas Millett simplytom65@yahoo.com
Residence: Marion, MT

Message:
Commissioners,

Please take into consideration the redistricting recommendations in SJ8.

This is what a majority of the people want as expressed through their ELECTED representatives.

Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: bullheadm@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Terry Minow
<bullheadm@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for your hard work on redistricting. It is a painstaking, grueling process. I admire you for listening to and reading hours of testimony and public comment. I am proud of Montana's citizen driven, non-partisan process for drawing our maps. I know other states look to us with envy.

I am pleased that the TCP-3 map continues to value Native representation. I am also pleased that you chose to value citizen input over that of partisan legislative input. I ask you to continue to do so in your final map.

Thank you again for your good work.

Sincerely,
Terry Minow
502 Lower Valley Rd Boulder, MT 59632-9728 bullheadm@aol.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Ed Moeglein <montanamoegy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting of Lewis and Clark county

I saw the democratic plans for redistricting Lewis and Clark county, making two small districts inside the immediate Helena area and the remainder of Lewis and Clark county in another single district.

Bonds and Bills passed by the two smaller districts vs one very large district can get measures passed by inner city districts in Helena, Missoula, Billings, Bozeman, areas that the remainder of their county like Lewis and Clark would be on the tax hook for projects benefiting the inner cities, being county or state taxes that would then be applied to the remainder of the county.

That would be Taxation without representation and favor the inner cities versus the vast majority of rural Montana area and population.

That would be like eliminating the electoral college so New York, and California could rule the country and rural less populated states would pay for the waste of big city and big populated states that are driving down this country.

No to the Democrats redistricting!

Ed Moeglein

PO Box 110

Wolf Creek Mt. 59648

Sherley, Laura

From: brendamoen691@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brenda Moen <brendamoen691@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 9:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please Support TCP-3 Redistricting Map as Designed

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you so much for all of the time and effort you have spent creating a fair map by taking to heart the goals established at the outset and responding accordingly to input from the citizens of Montana. Our Montana Constitution made your work independent from partisan politics specifically to empower our citizens over any legislative body and the TCP-3 map does just that. It is just to listen to Montanans who have been offering input for months. This map is proof that the process works as it was designed. Please do not let politicians change the work you have done by suggesting changes that would undermine your thoughtful work in listening to the voices of our citizens. I support TCP-3 as a fair and balanced map that will serve Montana well. Thank you for listening to the people of Montana.

Sincerely,

Brenda Moen

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

Sherley, Laura

From: pauln427@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Paul Neidhardt <pauln427@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final redistricting map. I appreciate the time you took to listen all of the public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3.

I also appreciate that you are listening more to the voters, not the legislators, and would ask that you continue to do so. This is in line with our great Montana Constitution, an Independent Commission created specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps. I would ask that you please disallow any politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map over the will of the people.

Montana would take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation and let the Native voices be heard.

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 for your time and hard work.

Sincerely,
Paul Neidhardt
2244 Sturnella Ln Belgrade, MT 59714-7721 pauln427@icloud.com

Sherley, Laura

From: tnichol24@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Trevor Nichols <tnichol24@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:09 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your time on this matter. I want to emphasize the importance of making sure the public and constituents are represented first and foremost in districting as opposed to the elected officials. The Montana Constitution seeks to provide this by ensuring an Independent Commission sets legislative maps to give the public power over those politicians currently in office. Please uphold the interest of Montana citizens and the Montana Constitution.

Sincerely,
Trevor Nichols
1007 Powers Blvd Belgrade, MT 59714-7702 tnichol24@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: jfrogden@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jennifer Ogden <jfrogden@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:54 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I am writing in support of TCP-3 in the interest of it being more fair and equal, compact and contiguous, and generated as per the guidance of our excellent Montana Constitution. Thanks for the work being done on this map.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ogden
PO Box 1043 Hamilton, MT 59840-1043
jfrogden@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Evelyn Oleary-Bennett

From: Evelyn Oleary-Bennett evyoleary@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:
Please go with tentative map #3, with no changes

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: cougarenglish@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Casey Olsen
<cougarenglish@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3. The Commission should not give more weight to the input of politicians than members of the public who have been testifying and writing the commission for months. The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps.

Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map. Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation. 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.

Sincerely,
Casey Olsen
430 B St Columbus, MT 59019-7174
cougarenglish@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2023 10:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Andrea Olsen

From: Andrea Olsen SenatorAndreaOlsen@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I am writing to continue my request that the districts be numbered as closely as possible to their previous numbers. This is not a request about the maps lines, but rather the identification of the district by number. I was elected to represent SD50 this election, and the core of current SD50 is continuing as I think should be named SD50. Currently, I am switched exactly with Senator Morigeau, and not one voter is remaining in the district the voted in, so switching – not the location, but just the name of the district for Senator Morigeau and I would be an improvement for our voters. I believe there are others that also might be better to remain the same district numbers that are not remaining... Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: matt.d.olson78@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Matthew Olson <matt.d.olson78@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 6:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please vote to adopt TCP 3. It's fair, representative, and does not favor one party over another.

Sincerely,
Matthew Olson
548 Colorado Ave Missoula, MT 59802-5501 matt.d.olson78@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marty onishuk

From: Marty onishuk monishuk@hotmail.com
Residence: Missoula, mt

Message:
Tentative 3 is fair

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: ofamily17@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Shelley O'Rourke <ofamily17@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for all your hard work on the redistricting map. What an undertaking it has been for you! TCP-3 has it all- it's compact, it keeps communities whole, and it avoids partisan favoritism. Members of the Montana should definitely have more say over the map than politicians.

Sincerely,

Shelley O'Rourke

Sincerely,
Shelley O'Rourke
4 Meadowlark Rdg Great Falls, MT 59405-5532 ofamily17@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Paul Pacini <ppacini47@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: A Fair Map

I am writing to you to ask that you adopt Tentative Map 3 without substantive changes. It appears to most fairly distribute the vote.

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: jparker3095@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julie Parker <jparker3095@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:05 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please support TCP-3.

As a 5th generation Montanan from homesteading families, I have seen how effective the Montana legislature can be when both sides work together to improve our state. This happens when political elections are fair and highly competitive.

The vast amount of public input should drive this decision instead of politicians with an agenda. Further, this map addresses the concern with previous maps that attack our native American citizens as well as giving unfair advantage to one party over another.

Thank you for your hard work on this well designed map so we can return to the grassroots ideas that have made this state great and worked well in the past with healthy and balanced political debate and ideas.

Julie Parker
Formerly from Dillon, MT
Now living in Missoula, MT

Sincerely,
Julie Parker
3095 Duncan Dr Missoula, MT 59802-3273
jparker3095@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:15 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Patricia

From: Patricia wichitapurvis@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

The Commission has spent a year traveling the state of Montana listening to constituents and their concerns and requests for redistricting. This information was used in making the decision to recommend map TCP-3. This map most fairly represents the information gathered. It is time the Legislature supported the wishes of Montanas.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 8:24 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kathy Paxton

From: Kathy Paxton kathydpaxton@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Redistricting in Montana is long overdue. While not perfect, Tentative Commission 3 is an acceptable compromise.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: ckpeeps@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christy Peeples <ckpeeps@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you so much for all your time and effort on this committee!

The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission specifically so citizens will have more power than Legislators over district maps. Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

The Independent Commission has done a good job. Please don't allow changes to be made by politicians.

Thank you for your time and effort!

Christy Peeples

Sincerely,

Christy Peeples

42 Denver Ave Kalispell, MT 59901-9012

ckpeeps@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Clara Pincus

From: Clara Pincus clarapincus@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Mt

Message:

Dear Commission members,

I am writing in support of Tentative Map 3. The presentation in early January showed it to fairly represent Montana. Thank you for serving on the commission.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 2:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Becky Piske

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

Message:
Dear Redistricting Commission,

Please adopt Tentative Map 3 as it was presented in early January. This is the best map we have for ensuring fair representation over the next 10 years for all Montanans.

Please exert your authority in supporting Map 3.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Becky Piske
Helena

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Becky Piske

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

Message:

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Committee,

Please support the Tentative Commission 3 as a decent compromise. It isn't quite a fair split, but it is far more reflective of the state than the current map, which is 10 years out of date.

Thank you for your service.
Please vote for map #3.

Sincerely,
Becky Piske
Helena

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kathy Powell

From: Kathy Powell powellgriz@icloud.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

I urge the Commission to adopt Tentative Map 3 as it was presented in early January.
Supporting this Fair Map is important for a fair voice from ALL in the voting districts in Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: debopowers@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Debo Powers
<debopowers@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

The Montana Constitution created an independent commission so that Citizen's would have more voice than legislators. There have been lots of public comments in favor of a fair map for months. Please do not give in to legislators who want to create districts for their own personal gain. We need a fair map!

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: jjprice2013@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jeanette Price <jjprice2013@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Dear legislators,

Thank you for your hard work on making a fair map. I think the TCP-3 is a fair map that will lead to fair elections. Thank you for your service and I support the map as it is a fair reflection of Montanans.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Price
911 Jensen Rd Columbia Falls, MT 59912-9197 jjprice2013@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: melissa.quigley@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Melissa Quigley
<melissa.quigley@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

First, I want to thank you for all the hard work you've put into TCP-3. The time and energy has been greatly appreciated! Second, I want to extend my support and ask you to vote for TCP-3. This is the correct map for Montana at this time. It encompasses the testimonies from citizens around the state. And lastly, this map allows the citizens of Montana to maintain their power over the legislature, as our State of Montana's Constitution desires. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Melissa Quigley
418 S Fee St Helena, MT 59601-5504
melissa.quigley@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: k.a.ralph@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathleen Ralph <k.a.ralph@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Stay the Course on TCP-3 Legislative Map, Please!

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I appreciate all your work in developing the legislative re-districting map. I urge you to trust in your reasoned considerations and keep the map that the Commission developed without any changes suggested by legislators. The purpose of creating the Commission was to eliminate politics as much as possible from the process of redistricting; letting individual politicians insert changes now is contrary to the original intent.

TCP-3 provides much needed balance and should not be tampered with. We need to keep entire communities within the same district and avoid partisan favoritism.

Please stick to your guns and retain TCP-3 with no changes.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Ralph
220 N 4th St Columbus, MT 59019-7282
k.a.ralph@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: ljmhc406@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lindsey Ratliff <ljmhc406@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Please Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for all your hard work on redistricting and ensuring lines are drawn fairly and efficiently. As a lifelong Montanan from both Fairfield and currently Havre, I value the independent mindset of our commission and believe this map most appropriately reflects the changes in population in MT as well as avoiding favoring any one political party. This is a fair and well drawn map. Voters should pick their politicians, not the other way around and I believe this map does our state and citizens justice. Well done and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Ratliff

Sincerely,
Lindsey Ratliff
736 1st Ave Havre, MT 59501-4402
ljmhc406@gmail.com



Big Sky Country
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Frank J. Smith
House District 31

DURING THE SESSION
State Capitol Building
PO Box 200400
Helena MT 59620-0400
Phone: (406) 444-4800
leg.mt.gov

HOME ADDRESS
PO Box 729
Poplar MT 59255
Phone: (406) 942-0615
clairena@hughes.net

February 2, 2023

Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission
Montana State Capitol
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chair Smith and Commissioners:

I support the tentative map sent to the legislature that keeps reservations together for house and senate seats. The tentative map is like the one I supported in Billings for Fort Peck and the areas I currently represent. I also support keeping all three reservations along the Hi-Line together in a senate district and have represented this area during my eight years in the senate.

I also oppose the redistricting resolution from the Legislature that passed. I voted against the resolution in committee and on the floor and then mistakenly voted yes on third reading. I asked that I be allowed to change my vote since it was a mistake, but Republicans said they would object so I could not correct it. Please keep the plan as is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank J. Smith".

Frank Smith

Sherley, Laura

From: SHEILA RICE <sheilaricemt@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Montana Legislative Districts Map

Commissioners, thank you for your hard work, long hours and careful deliberations of the proposed legislative districts. As a member of the 2000 commission, I understand the complexities of your decisions and I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I write in support of your proposed plan #3. This plan meets all of the criteria and rules that you have laid out and have been mandated for you. I especially support Plan #3 because of the minority-majority districts included. A legislature that looks like Montana, that includes all Montanans is the legislature most likely to enact laws that make sense for Montana.

Please support plan #3.

Sheila Rice
406-868-7933

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sherley, Laura

From: mrobertsonlawoffice@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Matthew Robertson
<mrobertsonlawoffice@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I support the districting proposal put forward to the committee. It fairly and accurately puts all candidates into representative districts without bias for any particular party or political perspective. Having balanced and objective representation should be the standard for all districts to the extent possible based upon the data available to the committee. Please vote to confirm the districts as drawn by the committee.

Sincerely,
Matthew Robertson
51 Old Ulm Cascade Rd Cascade, MT 59421-8341 mrobertsonlawoffice@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: rellison7695@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robin Rose <rellison7695@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 4:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please don't change the map

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

Sincerely,
Robin Rose
11 N Hauser St Anaconda, MT 59711-9339
rellison7695@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: prosenleaf1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Rosenleaf <prosenleaf1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:28 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Supporting TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.I believe that input from regular citizens of Mt should be as meaningful as that from committees. In that vein, I am writing to tell you that I am in favor of the TCP-3 map. It seems the most fair, avoiding partisan favoritism. Thank you for the time and energy you have expended on this project.

Sincerely,
Patricia Rosenleaf
618 30th St S Great Falls, MT 59405-3317 prosenleaf1@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: tricialynnrummel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tricia Rummel
<tricialynnrummel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3.

Sincerely,
Tricia Rummel
1170 Forestvale Rd Helena, MT 59602-6821 tricialynnrummel@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: pschills@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Paul Schilling <pschills@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:13 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for you work on the redistricting.

It's very important to our state to have fair elections and not favor one party.

Sincerely,

Paul Schilling

711 S Illinois St Conrad, MT 59425-2614 pschills@centurylink.org

Sherley, Laura

From: jpsmtoh@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of John Schmid <jpsmtoh@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Please keep the redistricting model that you have. It appears to me that it's fair to all Montana's voters

Sincerely,
John Schmid
PO Box 308 East Glacier Park, MT 59434-0308 jpsmtoh@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: pschmidt1604@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Margaret Schmidt <pschmidt1604@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please vote for TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thank you for putting in the hours of hard work listening to public comment on TCP-3.

I ask you to vote FOR this map, because it meets all of your commission's criteria.

This is important to me because in the 33 years I have lived in Montana, I have come to love this state for its people, its way of life and its natural beauty. I want to have a say in how we keep our state beautiful.

By voting for this map, you will be honoring the Montana Constitution's goal of giving a voice to MT Citizens when it comes to choosing our own legislators. We want to choose our politicians rather than letting politicians choose their electors.

The other benefit of TCP-3 is that it rejects attacks on native representation. And it avoids partisan favoritism.

Thanks for reading this.

Sincerely,
Margaret Schmidt
806 W Hallmark Ln Missoula, MT 59801-8678 pschmidt1604@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: schant80@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tom Schmit <schant80@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 5:10 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for all your hard work on Montana's Districting Commission. I've spent many hours watching the televised broadcast of your discussions and the related public comment. I view myself as an independent voter with centrist views and believe that compromise is absolutely essential to serving the will of the electorate.

Clearly your hard work, public input and compromise is reflected in TCP-3. I urge you to resist any overtly partisan, last minute undermining of TCP-3 by the Legislature. TCP-3 reflects the input of the citizens of Montana the Montana Constitution. Montana is counting on the commission to adopt TCP-3 and reject the undue partisan influence from individual politicians in the legislature advancing their short sighted agenda's.

Sincerely,
Tom Schmit
308 Thebian Ln Hamilton, MT 59840-3437
schant80@live.com

Sherley, Laura

From: boxcanyon15@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jeff Schultz <boxcanyon15@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

The TCP-3 district map is fair and balanced. I respectfully ask that you support it. Thank you for your service.

Jeff Schultz
Belgrade, MT

Sincerely,
Jeff Schultz
211 N Davis St Belgrade, MT 59714-3820
boxcanyon15@aol.com

Sherley, Laura

From: lschuman1@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Leo Schuman <lschuman1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 5:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please Support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Hi. Thank you for listening to regular folks, and helping build us up as local communities. There is so much division these days. I appreciate your willingness to help bring us closer together as a State.

Sincerely,
Leo Schuman
511 W 6TH Helena, MT 59601
lschuman1@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Darien G Scott

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

Message:

TCP 3 is the most equitable of the maps presented. It gives both parties an equal chance.

--

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

Montana State Senate



The Treasure State

SENATOR JASON ELLSWORTH
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

HELENA ADDRESS:
PO BOX 200500
HELENA MT 59620-0500
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

January 19th, 2023

HOME ADDRESS:
1073 GOLF COURSE RD
HAMILTON, MT 59840

Commissioner Maylinn Smith
Presiding Officer
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Commissioner Smith,

Thank you and the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission for your time and efforts in redrawing the political boundaries of congressional and legislative districts for Montana.

We understand the challenge of this task and know your intentions are to draw fair lines ensuring all Montanans have equal opportunity to representation. We believe your current proposal falls short of that goal.

The current map as drawn is not geographically compact. In certain areas populous contiguous territory is being bypassed to reach distant populous areas. Specifically in Lewistown, Missoula County, Gallatin County and Yellowstone County surrounding areas.

We ask you to consider the recommendations and proposed changes to the map made by the Montana State Senate Joint Select Committee on Redistricting to ensure a more contiguous map and provide for territory with reasonable access between population centers in the districts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Ellsworth", written over a horizontal line.

President of the Montana State Senate, Jason Ellsworth

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "K. Bogner", written over a horizontal line.

President Pro Tempore of the Montana State Senate, Kenneth Bogner

Majority Leader of the Montana State Senate, Steve Fitzpatrick

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Fitzpatrick", written over a horizontal line.

Montana State Senator, Dan Bartel

Dan Bartel

Montana State Senator, Bob Brown

Bob Brown

Montana State Senator, Mike Cuffe

Mike Cuffe

Montana State Senator, Chris Friedel

Chris Friedel

Montana State Senator, John Fuller

John Fuller

Montana State Senator, Bruce Gillespie

Bruce Gillespie

Montana State Senator, Carl Glimm

Carl Glimm

Montana State Senator, Greg Hertz

Greg Hertz

Montana State Senator, Steve Hinebaugh

Steve Hinebaugh

Montana State Senator, Dennis Lenz

Dennis Lenz

Montana State Senator, Theresa Manzella

Theresa Manzella

Montana State Senator, Tom McGillvray

Tom McGillvray

Montana State Senator, Wendy McKamey

Wendy McKamey

Montana State Senator, Forrest Mandeville

Forrest Mandeville

Montana State Senator, Mark Noland

Mark Noland

Montana State Senator, Keith Regier



Montana State Senator, Walt Sales



Montana State Senator, Dan Salomon



Montana State Senator, Jason Small



Montana State Senator, Jeremy Trebas



Montana State Senator, Barry Usher



Montana State Senator, Shelley Vance



Montana State Senator, Terry Vermeire



Montana State Senator, Jeff Welborn



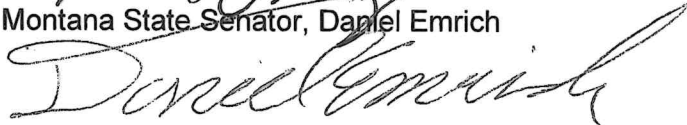
Montana State Senator, Daniel Zolnikov



Montana State Senator, Mike Lang



Montana State Senator, Daniel Emrich



Matt Regier, Speaker of the House House District 4 Flathead County

My name is Matt Regier, a resident of the Flathead Valley and the Speaker of the Montana House of Representatives. First of all, thank you all for the time you are putting into the monumental task before us. With this map proposal, several communities and cities will be impacted by the proposed map, both urban and rural. Additionally, the proposed map violates several rules in my community: 1. Plan 3 splits several municipalities in half. Municipalities were separated when drawing House districts, which led to more "safe seats" when Senate districts were paired. This does not add competitiveness to the districts, but rather reduces the voice of each voter. 2. Plan 3 separates communities of interest. The growing community of the Flathead has been divided to create favor to Democratic districts. The community of Whitefish was split to achieve the Democratic goals of getting two House seats and a Senate seat. 3. Plan 3 violates the rule of being compact and contiguous. The communities of Columbia Falls and Whitefish were combined for creation of a Senate seat. These are two, very separate communities. The plan proposes blending areas of different demographics, lifestyles, occupations, and economic interests. Plan 3 disenfranchises the residents of Montana by cutting counties into multiple districts, splitting the municipalities, separating communities of interest, and connecting communities that are great distances apart in interests, mileage and driving time. Plan 3 must be revised to rectify the problems created for Montana.

Thank you,

Matt Regier Speaker of the House

Good afternoon, I oppose the map submitted by the Redistricting Commission. I do not believe it reflects the compact and contiguous requirements required by the state Constitution. I am also concerned with the combination of the communities of Whitefish and Columbia Falls. I request the commission revisit this decision.

Tony Brockman, Representative - HD9
Montana House of Representatives
406.219.7121
Tony.Brockman@LegMt.gov

Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the Joint Committee,

I would just like to include this very informative article from the Frontier Institute breaking down the politics of a gerrymander, the metrics used, and how the current map is far from "fair" as some have suggested. The article is a bit dated, as it was written in November when there were four proposed maps. The metrics will be slightly off considering the Belgrade amendment. But the biased tactics behind our heavily gerrymandered map still stands despite this fact. I think this article is a must for the entire committee to read.

Rep. Caleb Hinkle

MONTANA REDISTRICTING ANALYSIS

BY SEAN TRENDE

INTRODUCTION

In light of the 2022 election results which appear to show Republicans have secured a supermajority of seats in the Montana state legislature, I have been asked to review the underlying partisanship of four maps submitted to the state's independent redistricting commission and to determine if they comply with the guidelines proposed by the commission. In particular, I was asked to evaluate whether the maps may be classified as political gerrymanders, and/or whether they appear to be drawn primarily to benefit one party over the other. I was asked to use metrics used in court cases to date. This analysis will help inform Montanans about the possible makeup of future legislatures based on the proposed legislative redistricting maps and, by extension, the types of policy changes that Montanans might be able to expect from their government in the coming years.

Courts have generally used two approaches to determine whether a map is a partisan gerrymander. The first approach can broadly be thought of as a "partisan fairness" metric. These metrics compare electoral outcomes in districts to various theories of what a "fair" map might look at. I examine two commonly utilized "partisan fairness" metrics: The efficiency gap and the median-median score. The second approach instead uses computer simulations to explore what maps in the state that are drawn without reference to partisanship might look like. It then compares proposed or enacted maps to this simulation, to determine whether those maps are outliers. I conclude that maps 1 and 4 do not appear to be drawn primarily to benefit one party and are not political gerrymanders, regardless of the metric employed. Maps 2 and 3, however, do appear to heavily benefit the Democratic party.

THE EFFICIENCY GAP

The efficiency gap was proposed by Eric McGhee in a 2013 article in *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. It is motivated by the following intuition: When a party seeks to draw a gerrymander, it does so by attempting to "waste" as many of the other party's votes as possible. It does that in two ways. First, the party tries to create as many districts that will narrowly elect its candidates as it can. When this happens, the votes of electors who support the other party's candidates become distributed inefficiently: They are cast in districts where they do not convert those votes to seats. Second, in places where the redistricting party *must* create a

district won by the other party, it does so by packing as many voters as possible into that district.

Thus, “wasted votes” are those votes that are either cast in a district where they don’t lead to the party capturing a seat, or those votes cast for a party beyond that which is needed to win the seat. So if 100,001 votes are cast in a district, and a party wins 50,000 votes, it loses the district by a vote and wastes 50,000 votes. If it wins 50,001 votes, it wins the district, and doesn’t waste any votes. If it wins 100,000 votes, it would have been better off if some of those votes were spread into other districts, making them competitive; it wastes 49,999 votes.

The efficiency gap looks at the “net” wasted votes for each parties. If more Republican votes are wasted than are Democratic votes, a positively-signed efficiency gap is created, suggesting pro-Democratic bias. If more Democratic votes are wasted than Republican, a negatively-signed efficiency gap is created. The net wasted votes are then divided by the total number of votes cast, creating a metric that can be thought of as the percentage of votes cast in a state that are, on balance, wasted for one party or the other. The more one party’s votes are wasted, the more the efficiency gap grows.

One of the upshots of the efficiency gap is that it awards a “winners’ bonus” to the party that wins seats. That is to say, it does not proceed according to proportionality (nor do any of the metrics proposed in courts). This is in line with a voluminous body of political science work suggesting that single member districts do not naturally produce proportional representation. That is to say, on balance – though this is not always the case – maps drawn without respect to politics will tend to produce non-proportional outcomes. For the efficiency gap, it tends to award two percent of the seats for every percent of the popular vote a party wins beyond 50%. Notably, at 50% of the popular vote, the party would be entitled to 50% of the seats. As a theoretical matter, then, the efficiency gap always results in the party that wins a state’s popular votes winning control of the chamber.

The efficiency gap has been subjected to a number of criticisms, including by myself, but there are three important leading criticisms. First, the efficiency gap is unduly sensitive to the 50% mark. The example from the earlier paragraph illustrates this nicely. A party that wins 50,000 votes wastes 10s of thousands of votes, but a miniscule change in the political environment leads to the party not wasting any votes. A shift of this magnitude can have a significant impact on the overall efficiency gap score. You can imagine a world where a party gets 49% of the vote in one election, resulting in a large efficiency gap against it, while in the succeeding election it receives 51% of the vote, resulting in a large efficiency gap against the other side.

In the hypothetical world upon which the efficiency gap is based, this isn’t a problem, since the gerrymandering party dictates where the votes go. But the frame for the efficiency gap assigns too much agency to the gerrymandering party. That party can’t assign actual votes. It can take a guess as to how votes will go, but can’t know for certain. In the absence of such information, a true gerrymander would try to build in a cushion in a district; the goal wouldn’t be 50%+1 districts, but rather districts where the party wins 55 or 60% of the vote.

Additionally, the efficiency gap doesn’t take into account a state’s political geography. That is to say, some states will tend to naturally produce large efficiency gaps due to partisans being concentrated in one location. Indeed, the legal test for the efficiency gap suggested by McGhee in a subsequent article, co-authored with

Nicholas Stephanopoulos, specifically empowers a government to rebut a claim that it created an unconstitutionally large efficiency gap by demonstrating that its efficiency gaps are due to compliance with legitimate redistricting considerations or the state's underlying political geography.

Finally, the efficiency gap doesn't answer the question "how much gerrymandering is too much." Indeed, it is on these shoals that the federal challenge to the efficiency gap founded in 2019. Although plaintiffs in cases have suggested various thresholds to answer the question "when does an efficiency gap become too large," including a proposed threshold of 0.07 for legislative maps, it is never entirely clear where those thresholds should be located.

MEAN MEDIAN

Another partisan fairness metric is the "mean median" metric. The mean median metric simply looks at a party's statewide vote share and subtracts the party's median district vote share. It is motivated by the notion that things that happen at the extremes of a map do not matter much, particularly for legislative districts. Instead, what we are most concerned about is ensuring that the middle district is one that is in line with the state's underlying partisanship. That is to say, in a 99-seat chamber, the partisanship of seat number 50 is far more important than the partisanship of the 99th most Republican seat, because seat number 50 determines who controls the chamber. By ensuring that a party's performance in seat number 50 lines up with the party's statewide performance, the mean median score limits a party's ability to gerrymander *control* of the chamber to its benefit, even if it might gerrymander the size of its majorities. The mean median score, however, suffers from many of the critiques above.

EVALUATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MAPS UNDER PARTISAN FAIRNESS METRICS

Critiques aside, the mean-median and efficiency gap scores have been utilized by experts in the field and accepted by some courts. I've calculated the mean-median and efficiency gap scores for the proposed submitted plans. To calculate the scores, I have taken the races that the redistricting commission has identified as appropriate for measuring partisanship, and calculated vote totals in each district for each map. I then calculated the appropriate mean median and efficiency gap scores using the statistical programming package R.

As you can see, Plans 1 and 4 create small pro-Republican efficiency gaps, which are below the thresholds proposed by Courts for identifying a gerrymander. Plans 2 and 3, however, create significant pro-Democratic efficiency gaps. Indeed, they are as large as the efficiency gaps created by the state of Wisconsin's plan which was at the center of the *Gill* litigation did in 2014.

The mean-median scores are a bit of a mixed bag. Plans 1 and 4 create modest pro-Republican mean-median scores, while Plans 2 and 3 create modest pro-Democratic mean-median scores. It is worth observing, however, that the median-median score is problematic once a state's partisanship exceeds 55% for one party or the other, as is the case here.

Mean-Median and Efficiency Gap Scores, Proposed Montana Plans

Plan	Efficiency Gap	Mean Median
Plan 1	-0.022	-0.027
Plan 2	0.099	0.029
Plan 3	0.100	0.014
Plan 4	-0.033	-0.038

SIMULATIONS

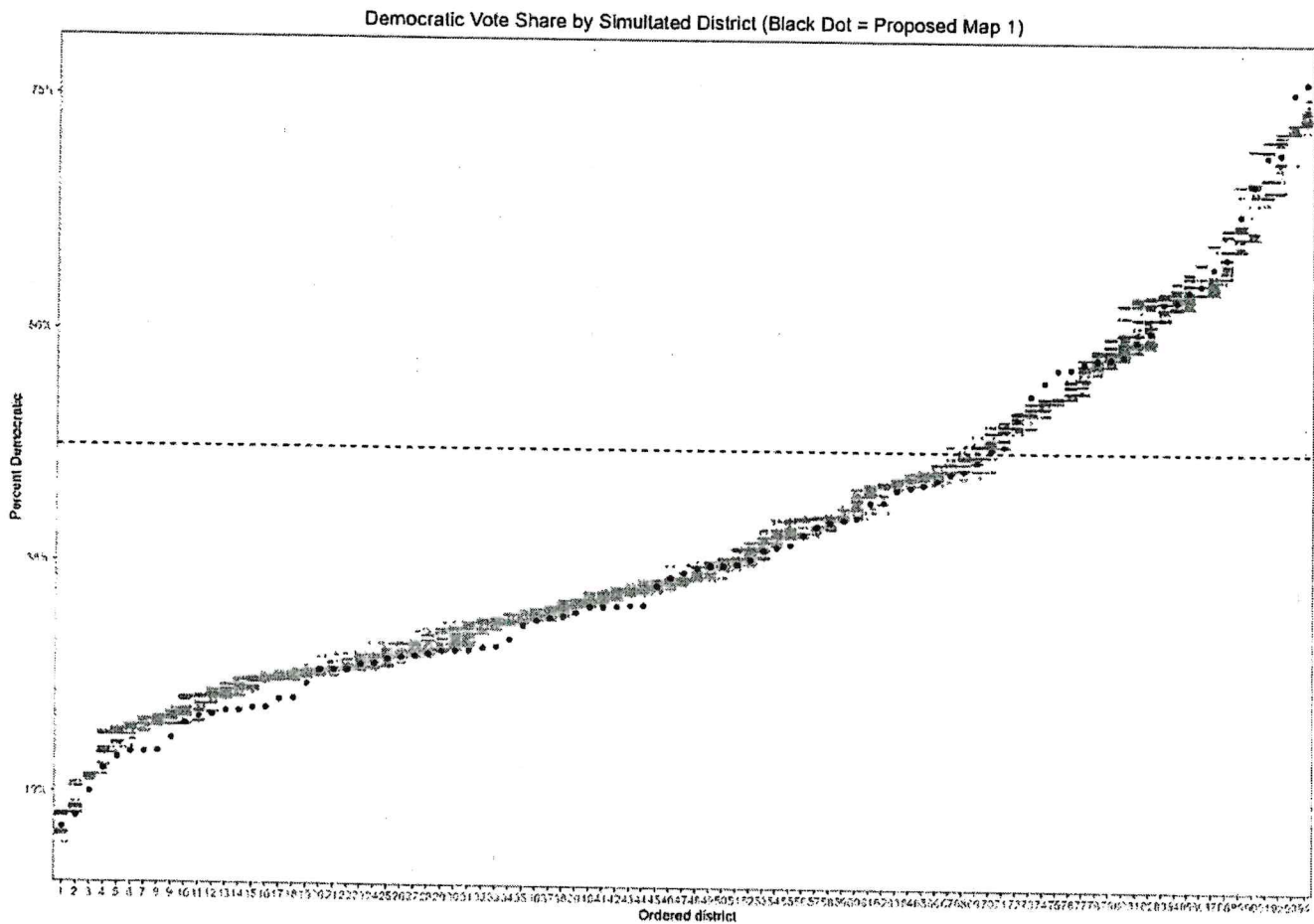
A competing approach is to use computer simulations to identify what maps drawn without respect to politics would look like, and then compare proposed or enacted maps to those simulations. This is a technique I've utilized in various courts, including New York and Maryland. While the details are quite complicated and beyond the scope of this paper, the idea is this: A computer draws maps with the same basic parameters as the map drawers, but it does not have access to partisan data. In other words, it attempts to mimic the approach the map drawers would have taken if they were truly drawing maps without partisan information. If the proposed/enacted maps resemble the computer-drawn maps, we can conclude that the maps were, in fact, drawn without excessive reliance on partisan data. If, however, the produced maps *do not* resemble the computer-drawn maps, those maps were likely drawn with excessive reliance on partisan data.

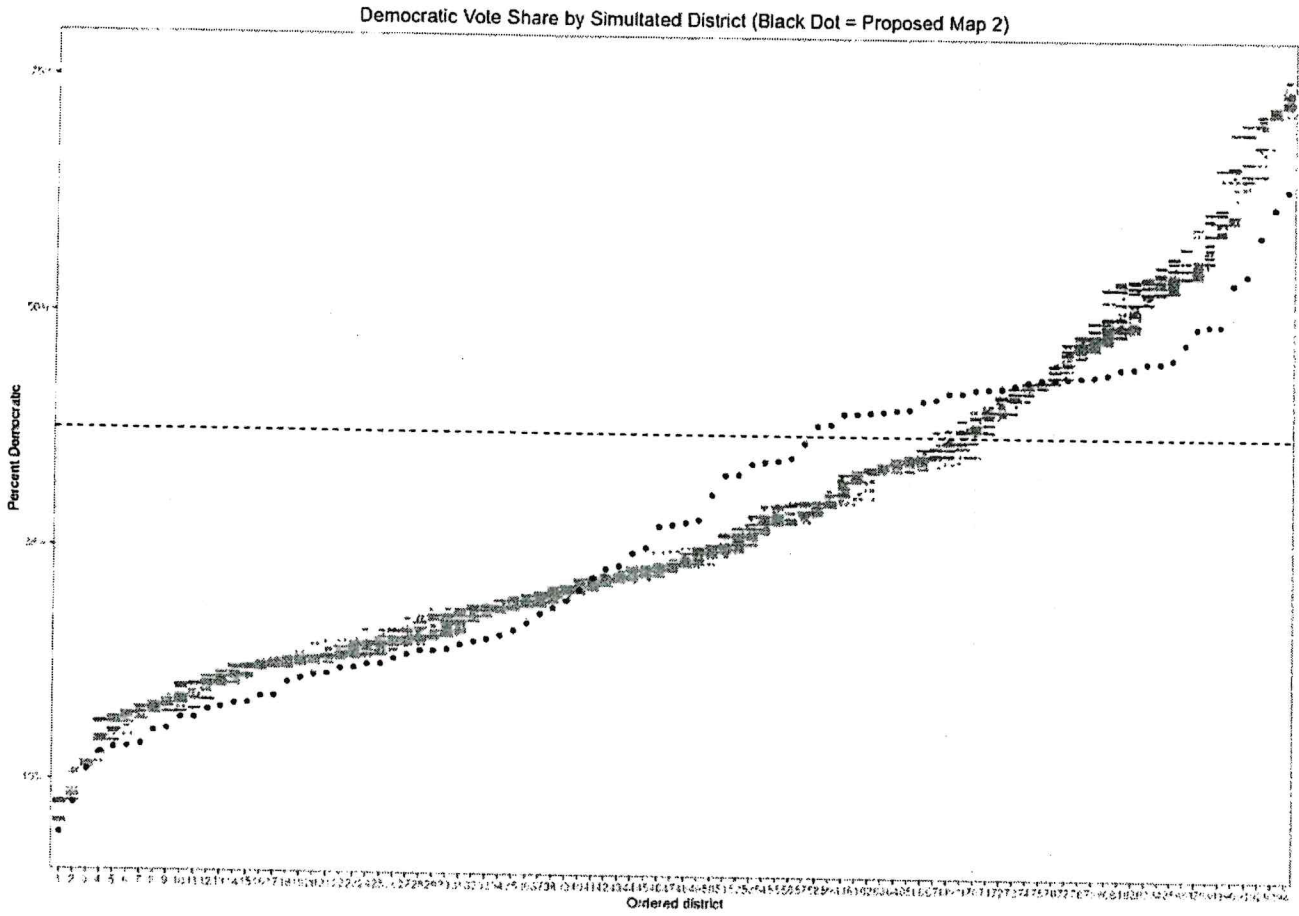
Here, the computer was instructed to take the 43,717 Montana census blocks with some population (unpopulated blocks were merged with neighboring blocks for computational efficiency purposes) and to build 1,000 maps according to the following rules: Counties could not be split more than once, districts must be drawn to be compact, and the Voting Rights Act must be followed. There are a number of ways to facilitate the last parameter, but the most straightforward way is to "freeze" certain minority-majority districts in place. For purposes of this simulation, I instructed the maps to ignore the blocks in districts 15, 16, 31, 32, 41, and 42 of proposed Map 2. This ensures that every map in the ensemble has six majority-minority districts, which mirror the districts suggested in Map 2. This is a touch unfair to maps one and four, which have their own sets of slightly different "ability-to-elect" districts, but probably suffer only slightly in the comparison.

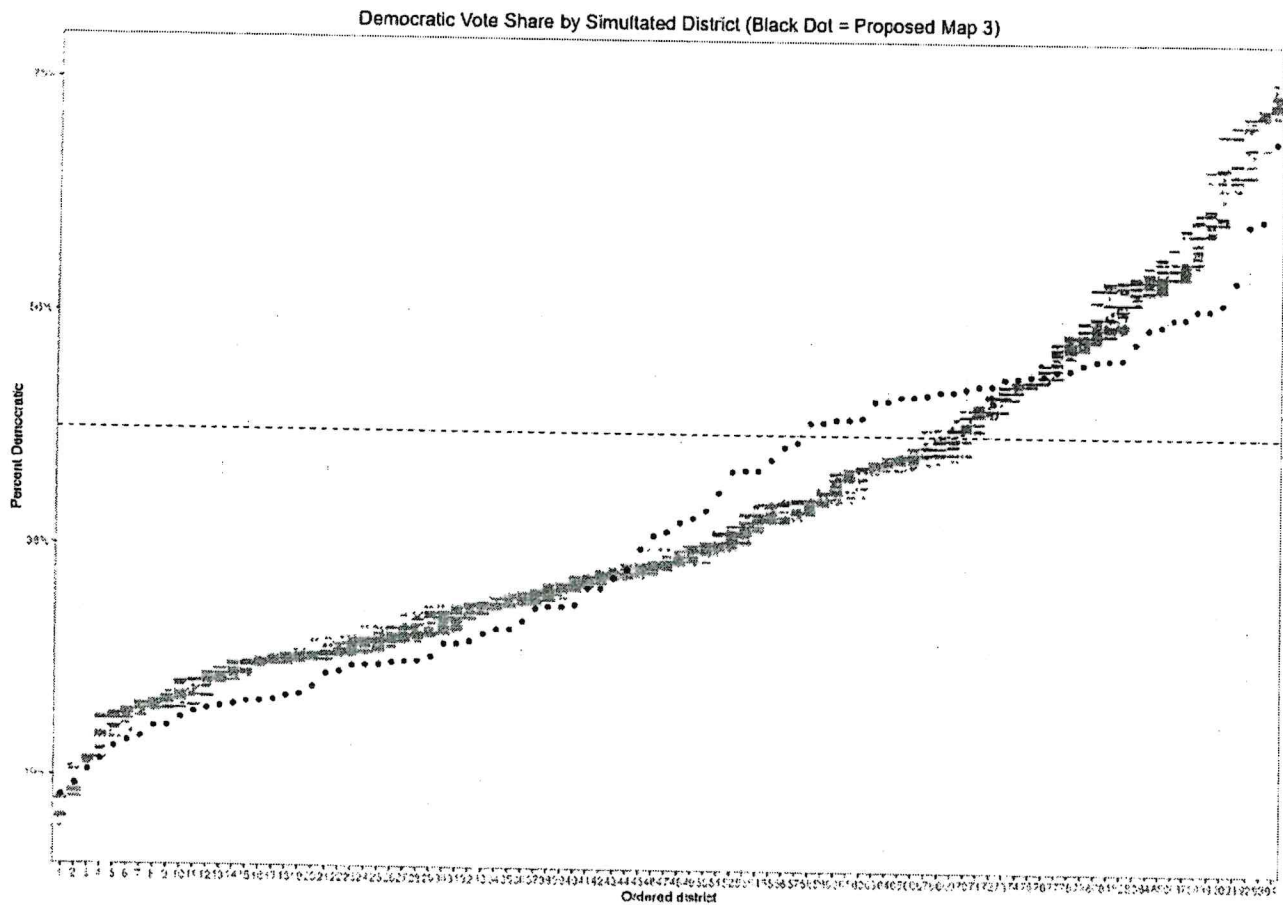
The results once again suggest that Maps 2 and 3 are partisan outliers, while Maps 1 and 4 more carefully follow the partisanship of the state. One way to display the data are with dot plots. The idea is as follows: The program takes the first map, looks for the most heavily Republican district, and finds the partisanship of that district. A dot is then placed on the map at that level of partisanship. It then does this for all 1,000 plans, so that the left-most column shows the partisanship of the most heavily Republican district in all 1,000 plans.

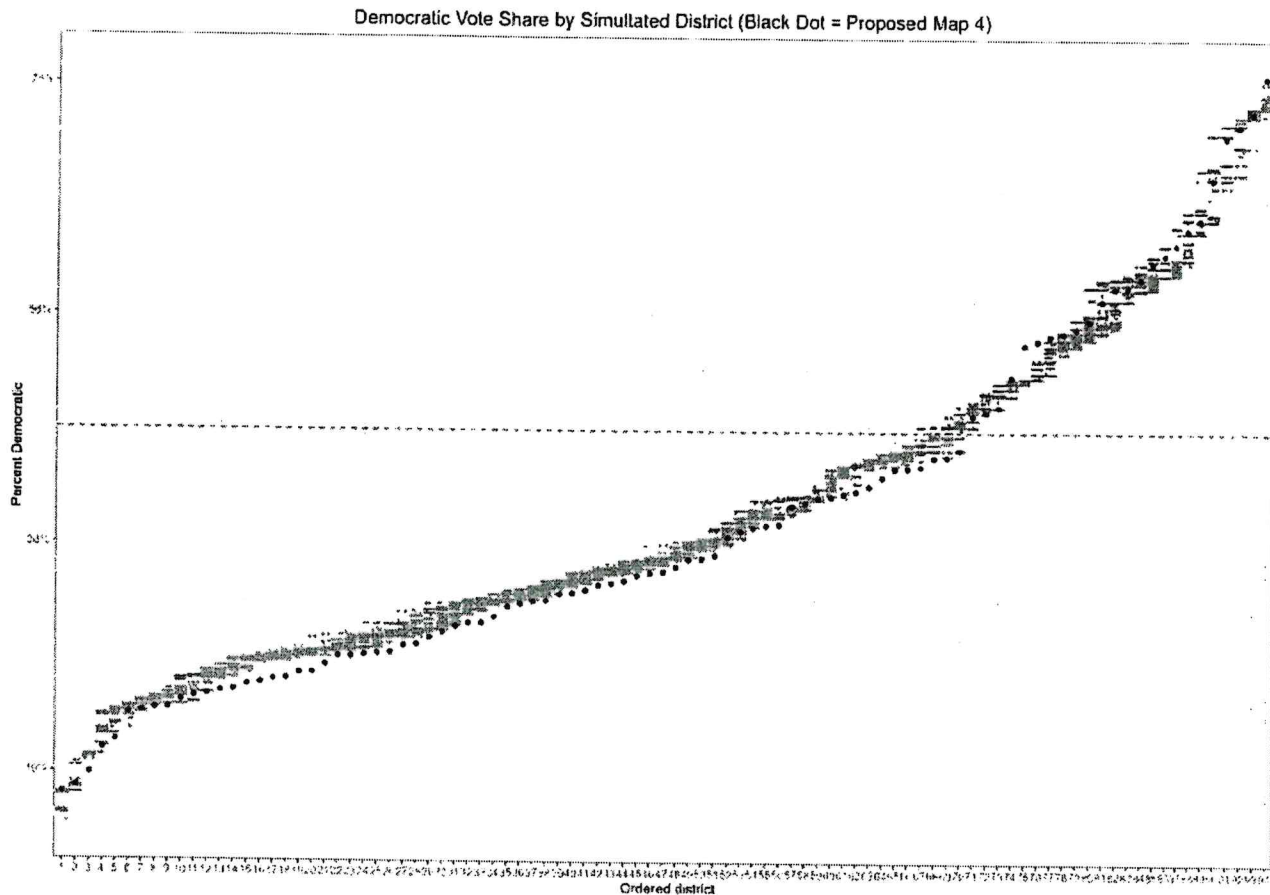
It then does the same things for the second- third- and fourth most heavily partisan districts, and so forth.

The following four charts compares the outcomes of the simulations to the four plans. For each proposed map, the partisanship of the most-Republican district, second-most-Republican district, and so forth, is reflected by a black dot. If a dot falls within the range created by the ensemble, the district roughly reflects what the ensemble produced. If it falls outside the range, it is an outlier, at least with respect to maps drawn without respect to politics.









As we can see, maps 1 and 4 reasonably follow the distribution of districts produced by the politics-free maps. Two and three do not. Moreover, the latter two maps deviate in a very particular fashion. The maps roughly follow the distribution that we would expect in the reddest districts. Once we begin to approach more competitive ranges, however, a particular pattern emerges. Districts that we would expect to be strongly Republican are pushed more heavily toward equality, or even into the Democratic-leaning range, while naturally occurring Democratic districts are made much more Republican.

This pattern is the “DNA of a gerrymander.” Heavily Democratic areas are cracked – but not too much – so that Democratic partisans can be spread into otherwise-Republican areas of the state, creating more districts with a Democratic lean than we would expect from a neutrally drawn map with no intention to benefit a party. It is a small wonder, then, that these districts produce strong pro-Democratic efficiency gaps.

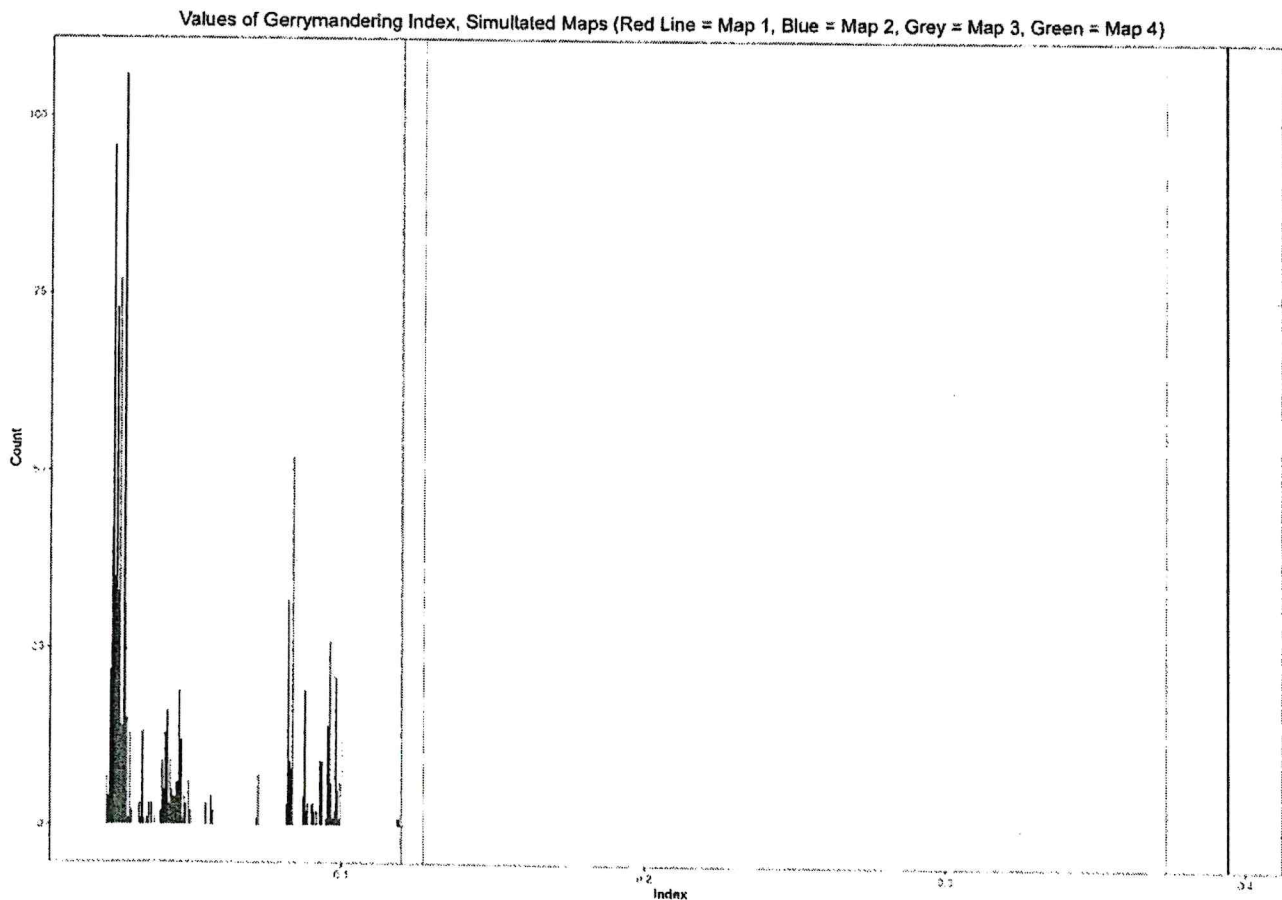
We can consolidate these into a single view by employing the “gerrymandering index,” proposed by Bangia et al (2017) and endorsed by McCartan & Imai in their paper setting forth the algorithm used to generate the districts in this report. To calculate the gerrymandering index, we take the ranked partisanship data from above for the maps, then create an average partisanship score for each one of the ranks. In other words, we look to see what, on average, the most heavily Republican district looks like in a map drawn without respect to politics, what the second-most heavily Republican district looks like, and so forth. We then see, for each proposed map, how far its ranks deviate from the respective averages. So, for example, if the 3rd most Republican district in the map ensemble is, on average, 25% Republican, and a proposed map has a 3rd most

Republican district that is 26% Republican, the deviation is one percent. On the other hand if the 50th most Republican district in the random ensemble has a partisanship of 48% Republican, and it is drawn to have a partisanship of 60% Democratic, the deviation is 12%. To emphasize large deviations (and to make them all positively signed) these values are squared and added together to give us a sense of how far maps drawn without respect to political data will tend to vary naturally from expectations. The square root is then taken, which puts us back on the percentage scale.

Overall, this gives us a sense of how far the maps, taken as a whole, deviate from what we would expect a map drawn without respect to politics would be. The larger a plan's gerrymandering index is compared to the gerrymandering indices produced by the politics-free ensembles, the less credible the argument is that the map was not drawn to bolster one party's prospects.

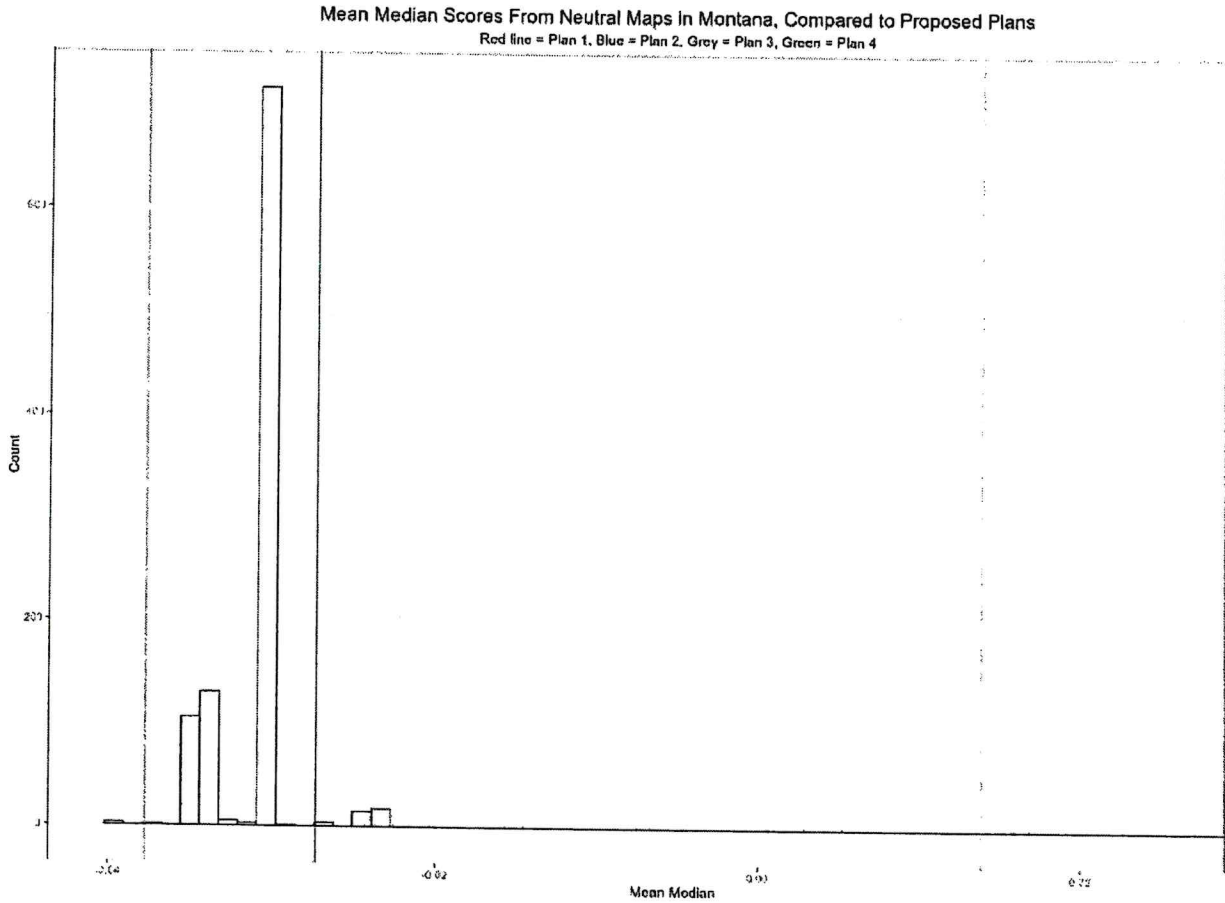
The results here are striking. Maps 1 and 4 are on the fringes of the distribution of the neutrally-drawn maps. It is notable, however, from the plots above that the deviations produced by those maps occur in safely Republican territory; Map 1 in particular shows almost the exact same distribution in competitive districts as does the neutral ensemble. This may be an outgrowth of Maps 1 and 4 using slightly different configurations of minority-majority districts.

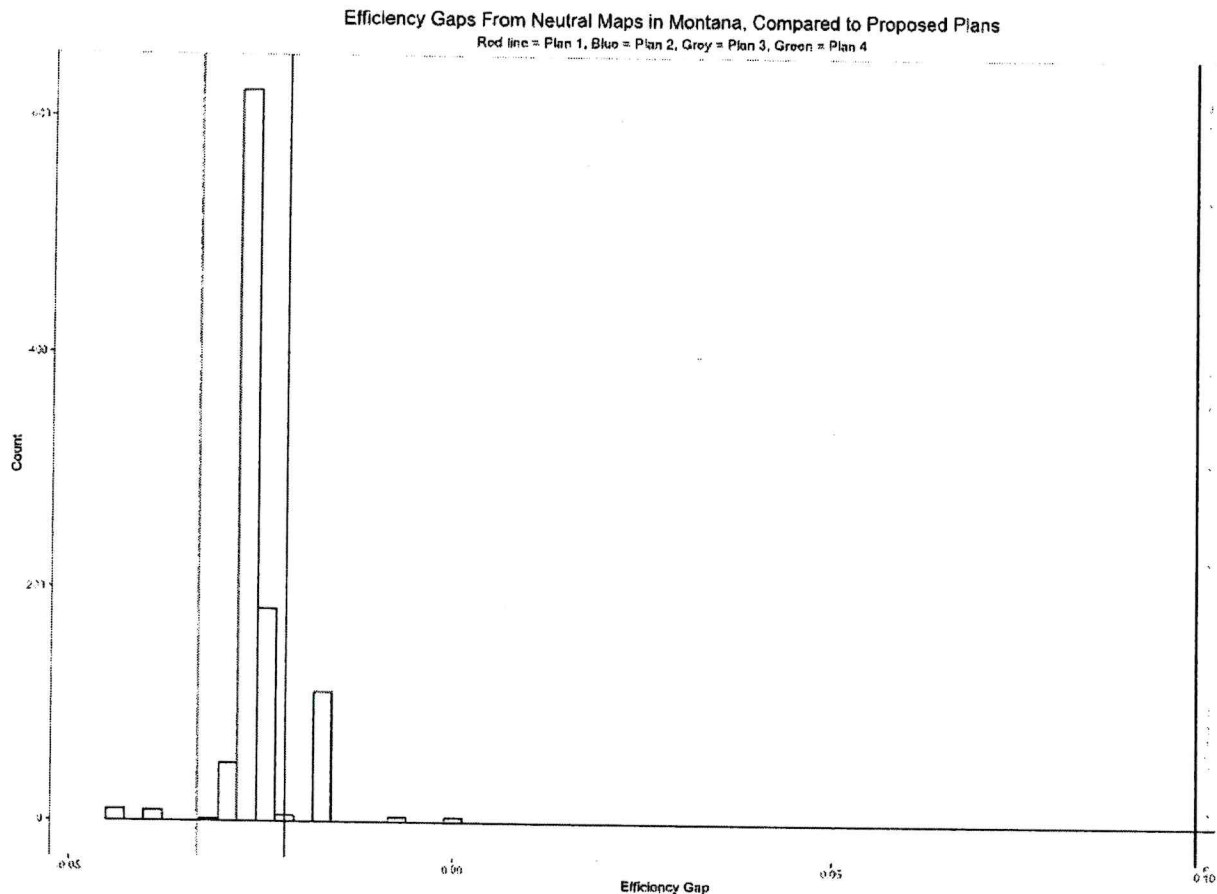
Maps 2 and 3, however, are extreme outliers. Their gerrymandering indices look nothing like those produced by politics-neutral maps. The inference drawn here is that they are not politics-neutral maps; they are drawn to help Democrats.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Finally, we can remedy at least one of the drawbacks of the partisan fairness metrics by looking at the efficiency gaps and mean-median scores produced by the neutral ensemble, and comparing it to those produced by the proposed maps; this allows us to view the range of efficiency gaps against the backdrop of the state's political geography:





As you can see, the slight Republican bias from the mean-median scores and efficiency gap scores is replicated in the ensemble maps, which tend to produce slight Republican advantages. This is because Democratic partisans in Montana are increasingly concentrated in a handful of counties. As an example: half of Joe Biden's vote total from 2020 was cast in just 9 counties; those same counties accounted for less than a third of Donald Trump's vote totals. In a system of elections based on single member districts, this will inevitably work against Democrats, particularly as the state becomes more Republican overall.

In other words, the proposed maps may have similar mean-median scores in absolute terms, but the scores in maps 2 and 3 are not reflective of the underlying partisanship of the state. The scores for maps 1 and 4 are not.

CONCLUSION

No matter how one looks at it, the same conclusion flows from the data. Maps 1 and 4 produce small efficiency gaps, resemble the partisanship of maps drawn without heavy reliance on partisan data, and produce efficiency gaps similar to those produced by maps drawn without heavy reliance on partisan data. The same cannot be said about maps 2 and 3, which consistently present as outliers. It appears, based upon the data, that they were drawn primarily to benefit the Democratic Party. Depending on which proposed legislative redistricting map is eventually adopted by the commission, Montanans might expect significant differences in the partisan makeup of future legislatures.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sean Trende is a visiting fellow for Frontier Institute. He is also the senior elections analyst for RealClearPolitics and a non-resident fellow for the American Enterprise Institute. He is the author of “The Lost Majority: Why the Future of Government Is Up for Grabs and Who Will Take It,” and co-authored the Almanac of American Politics 2014. Before becoming a full-time political analyst, Sean practiced law for eight years at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and Hunton & Williams LLP, where he represented clients in a variety of contexts, from state trial courts to the Supreme Court of the United States. Sean earned a juris doctorate from Duke University, a master’s degree in political science from Duke University and bachelor’s degree from Yale University.

Senator Carl Glimm

5107 Ashley Lake Rd

Kila, Mt 59920

RE: Redistricting Special Select Committee

Dear Honorable Members of the Special Select Committee on Redistricting,

I represent Senate District 2 for Montana in Flathead County. Under the new redistricting maps, the north part of Flathead County is split into new Senate districts that run east west. This is contrary to what the districts are now and don't keep the like associated communities together. School Districts, phone prefixes, areas of commonality are more aligned in the north south variation. The new version has a house district that runs from the Continental Divide almost to Eureka. The other house district which ties Whitefish and Columbia Falls together, but separates them from the edges of Columbia Falls on one end, and actually

splits part of Whitefish on the other end, this is not how the communities see themselves.

I would request that the districts be drawn to run North/South again, like they are now. It makes the communities more represented by like groups. And the population should work just fine, as you are working with just 4 house districts and would not have to reach outside of this area to fix it.

I would also like to point out that compact and contiguous, are the requirements and that competitiveness, is just a made-up issue to game the system for one party's gain.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senator Carl Glimm

Senate District 39's proposed changes do not make sense because as it is currently situated it is compact and has a constituency that is well represented as it is. Taking away Granite and Powell counties while adding Butte – Silver Bow not only disrupts the current compactness of the district. This makes it increasingly difficult to stay in contact with constituents. Having a large spread-out district makes it more difficult to go door to door to discuss issues with constituents there by making it harder to represent them. If the proposed district stands it will potentially leave many Montanans without their voice being heard.

Another reason why this change would be detrimental to the area is that this would put two different communities with different interests together. The current district is predominantly rural but again this change would fundamentally change the district by adding a large urban area. Rural and urban areas have different needs and interests. By putting these two different regions together it would be extremely difficult to represent these communities well. Many interests between these two communities' conflict with each other and that would make it nearly impossible for any elected official to represent their constituents.

There are also many reasons in the community as to why this new district just does not make sense. Our sanitation department has always been a tri-county operation between Powell, Granite and Deer Lodge Counties. These three counties have always worked closely together in the past. Anaconda Deer Lodge County administers Public Health services and programs to our sister counties. This district would separate Deer Lodge from the other two counties, again making it harder for a Senator to take into account the interests of this community.

Additionally, the State Prison and Hospital are both in the current district. The new district would split these two up. These two facilities are closely linked and are important to the state. They should be under the same representation to ensure that they are could neighbors for members of the community, but also that they continue to serve the state well.

Sen. Terry Vermeire

The new redistricting map has taken HD97, currently comprised of rural residents, and split it in two districts. One partnering the rural residents with urban residents. To accomplish this in one district they skipped over county neighborhoods, used HWY93 as the "contiguous connection", other wise a river crossing would be necessary, and placed city of Missoula neighborhoods as part of the district. They even went so far as to place a one block neighborhood on the left side of the road, all other neighborhoods are on the right had side of the road (39th).

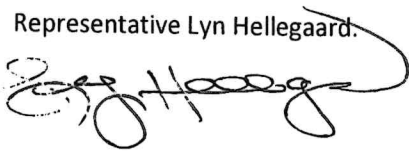
The other half of the new district is comprised of county and city residents. City and County residents are inherently different in tax liabilities, zoning, and lifestyles to name only a few differences. Not to mention the city residents have a far greater say in the political arena, as they can vote on Mayor, City Council, and all county races. Rural residents can only vote on County Commissioner races. The current legislative districts still give the residents of my district a voice. The new map completely silences them.

The new map will create unimaginable problems for Election Administrators having to deal with legislative races, encompassing multiple counties. Since they will be held in different counties, will the races be considered separate, coordinated between counties, or jurisdiction based on the largest population distribution in the district? Consider the additional costs associated with the multiple county scenario.

I would suggest we work off the current map, moving boundary lines to accommodate population growth. Not changing the district numbers, as the 2024 legislative races would have no incumbents running, confusing the public, as incumbent voting records do play a role in research done by the electorate.

Sincerely,

Representative Lyn Hellegaard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyn Hellegaard", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Rep Terry Falk
House District 8
Redistricting: Concerned especially for the western half of the state
January 17, 2023

Map 11 from way back in November 2021 was the best choice as it preserved and met the criteria the Commission unanimously adopted at the start of the redistricting process.

We in the legislature who really care about this state and its people know that we want us to keep Montana... Montana. The current map you are putting forth doesn't do that.

Legislative districts should be compact and contiguous. They aren't in this map.

The west side of the state and all the towns in that area need to remain together. I do believe that some towns were divided from what I saw. But since I am not an expert on this, it seems that simple things like Schooling of children was not considered when small cities were kind of chopped off.

Thank you

Rep Terry Falk

Chair, I am saddened by the path this commission has taken, that, in my opinion, will lead to further fracturing of our political and social fabric. I'm speaking specifically to the division of communities of interest to facilitate political advantage.

All Montanans would be better served if the commission members couldn't even use "precinct political leanings" to construct their maps. The fact that you do, is symptomatic of what is wrong with our political system. The ends do not justify the means.

Instead we should be guided by, as we have been for most of fifty years, the principles of compactness, contiguousness, communities of interest, and population equality. For example, my hometown Big Timber is proposed to be in the same House district as Belt and Denton. I would venture to say that most residents of Big Timber have never even been to Denton and/or Belt. However, I can tell you, without any fear of contradiction, nearly all Sweet Grass County residents have been to Livingston, sometimes multiple times a week. Why is that? It's because they are part of our community of interest. We doctor there. We play sports there. We have cooperative participation agreements with Park High School for soccer, wrestling, and softball teams. We share many other common interests; many Livingston residents are employed at the East Boulder Mine. Many Big Timber residents work at various Livingston businesses. We shop in Livingston, we buy cars there, and we get them repaired there. We hire plumbers, dry-wall contractors, and electricians from the various ends of Park County. Sometimes they hire trades people from Big Timber to work on the homes up and down the valley.

Because we share this community of interest, we have for generations married cross county neighbors, and as a consequence, share many, many, extended family members across county lines. We have very much in common with our neighbors in Clyde Park, Wilsall, Emigrant, and Gardiner. Conversely, it would be an anomaly for us to have widespread similar connections with the good people of Belt, Stanford and Denton. I could go on and on but I won't.

To further solidify those cross community and Yellowstone Valley interests, since 1974, we have shared state legislators. Sometimes those legislative leaders have been from different parties, and sometimes from different counties, but they all have shared the same broad community of interest, the same family connections, and the same social fabric. Preceding your work here, is a fifty year history of area legislators working together in Helena from varied perspectives, for the broad interests of the families that currently reside in Park and Sweet Grass Counties. We are on a first name basis with each other, and with our constituents, and we are comfortable talking to each other, and that, Madam Chair is a good thing.

I believe the time to work together, to do better for us, is right now. You can choose to uphold and enhance the social fabric that glues our communities together. I'm asking you to do that. Don't unnecessarily divide us; even though an out of state mapping program makes it easy to do, and maybe, even makes it seem like it's a good idea. It's not. In your quest to be "fair", don't ignore the reality on the ground.

Don't ignore the people I care about, the people you care about, in drawing a map that eviscerates their community connections. Thank you for considering my views and the views of the majority of this part of the Yellowstone valley. Protect them as if they were part of your own community. Thank you.
John Esp .Big Timber

01-17-2023

Name: Senator Tom McGillvray

District: Montana Senate District 23

Members of Legislative Redistricting Committee

I have long been involved in local elections in Yellowstone County, nearly 20 years. Over those years, the redistricting committee has done fair work in Yellowstone Co.

However, the current map is bewildering. There are basic rules the redistricting committee has:

- No plan may be drawn to unduly favor a political party.
- The committee may consider keeping communities of interest intact.
- The committee may consider competitiveness of districts.
- Each district shall consist of a compact district.

It is clear, that SD 21 was drawn for political reasons. We all know that. It is also clear that communities like Barney, Fort Smith, Lodge Grass, or Lame Deer have little in common interest with Billings or the Briarwood community.

Should a Senator from Billings win this seat, they will have little common interest with the eastern parts of SD 21. Should a Senator from Barney be elected, they will have like dissimilar interests with the down-town areas of Billings or Briarwood.

This needs to be corrected.

Sincerely,

Sen. Tom McGillvray

SD 23 Billings



MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE

MONTANA STATE CAPITOL
PO BOX 200500
HELENA MT 59620-0500
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

January 17, 2023

To the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting:

I wish to remind the committee that competitiveness is a discretionary criteria, but compactness is a mandatory criteria.

When I see a proposed district that stretches from the southside of Billings to the Wyoming border and includes Crow Agency and Ft. Smith it is obvious this was not done for the purpose of compliance with the VRA, but that it was instead done for the purpose of increasing the democrat population.

This drastic change does not take into consideration Blue Creek as a community of interest with Billings. While residents in Blue Creek pride themselves on their independence, they are often connected with Billings by a shared interest in employment, recreation, and education.

One of the beautiful things about what we do as citizen legislators is that we know the areas we are from – we're here to represent our neighbors and the interests of our communities that immediately surround us. Drawing lines that effectively lump the southside of Billings and Blue Creek in with Sheridan Wyoming, does a disservice to all the communities in this district.

The breadth of this proposed district clearly ignores the mandatory criteria laid out in the constitution. I request that you carefully review all districts that clearly alienate communities of interest and extend far beyond anything we can rightfully consider compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Vinton".

Sue Vinton
House Majority Leader – HD 56

Representative Rhonda Knudsen

House District 34

Testimony Regarding Roosevelt County

My concern about the proposed districts is that they are not compact in a functional sense, and I believe that the communities of interest are being done a disservice due to the lank nature of districts 28 and 29. They were not drawn with compactness at the forefront of the decision-making process. Instead, they were drawn with competitiveness in mind.

As its drawn, there are two districts that will run from North Dakota - to West of Ft Benton and they are not functionally compact. These were clearly designed with competitiveness in mind, favoring the democrats, rather than compactness – which is required criteria.

Additionally, the boundary line between HD 29 and HD 30 is confusing. The small rural communities of Culbertson and Bainville belong in HD 29. The boundary line splits school districts, conservation districts, weed districts, fire districts, hospital district and arbitrarily cuts a small slice of a rural county and joins it with Sidney, the largest city in the area.

Because competitiveness was used as the primary criteria Eastern MT House Districts were moved and realigned with the outcome of 4 House republicans being redistricted.

I urge you to review these districts and keep in mind the communities of interest which have been stretched far across MT and how that will impact their representation in Helena.

Rep. Rhonda Knudsen



MONTANA STATE SENATE

Senator Keith Regier

Senate District 3

DURING THE SESSION

State Capitol Building
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500
Phone: (406) 444-4800
Web: leg.mt.gov

COMMITTEES

Judiciary - Chair
Education and Cultural Resources
Energy and Telecommunications
Rules

HOME ADDRESS

1078 Stillwater Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone: (406) 756-6141
Keith.Regier@legmt.gov

Re: redistricting recommendations

January 16, 2023

Chairman Cuffe,

The proposed map from the Redistricting Committee splits the current SD#2 and SD#3 in half to create an urban district and a rural district that runs east and west. By doing this, the communities of Whitefish and Columbia Falls are split in half.

Whitefish school district stretches south; almost to Kalispell. This is a heavily populated rural district that has close ties to Whitefish. This rural area shares the same zip code, telephone prefix and fire districts with Whitefish.

Columbia Falls school district stretches south; close to Kalispell. This also is a heavily populated rural district that has close ties to Columbia Falls. This area shares the same zip code, telephone prefix and fire districts with Columbia Falls.

Staying close to the current SD#2 and SD#3 and have those districts run north and south would fit the compact, contiguous and equal in population required by the Constitution. Splitting communities is not in the best interest of the state of Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Regier".

Keith Regier

Representative Fiona Nave
House District 57

This commentary addresses proposed districts in Eastern Montana.

I have spent quite a bit of time with the redistricting software and understand how difficult this is to do. However, these districts clearly are designed with other than the agreed-upon requirements in mind.

First, these districts are not compact. In particular, proposed Districts 31 and 32 do not appear to need to be drawn as such long thin strips giving the area around them.

Second, the requirements of the commission state:

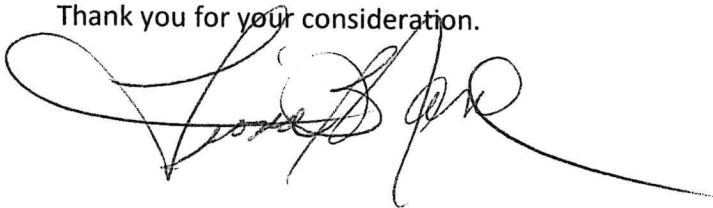
- Protection of minority voting rights are guaranteed in Article II, Section 4 of the Montana Constitution and through compliance with the Voting Rights Act. No district, plan, or proposal for a plan is acceptable if it affords members of a racial or language minority group "less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice." (42 U.S.C. 1973). Race cannot be the predominant factor to which traditional redistricting criteria are subordinated. (Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630 1993).

While I certainly have no objection to the tribes participating fairly in our elections, I do object to violation of the above highlighted guideline giving the reservations in Montana enormous prominence compared to the area surrounding them. This racially-based gerrymandering removes many current legislators by eliminating their districts, and clearly does not represent the political character of Montana.

Some of the commissioners have stated openly that they would redistrict to force a certain percentage of Democrat districts, which is unfair and not representative of the citizens of Montana.

I reject the proposed map Tentative Commission Plan-3.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Nave', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Steven Galloway
HOUSE DISTRICT 24
Comments on Cascade County and other areas

Dear Select Committee Members,

I am writing to the committee to express my *concern* for the redistricting plans for Senate District 13 and HD19 and HD20 in the new proposal from the Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission. The Montana Constitution has established that redistricting must align with the following criteria: “*Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory*”, “*All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable. (Mont. Con. Art. V, Sec. 14(1).)*” and “*protection of minority voting rights. (Art. II, Sec. 4.)*” The proposed redistricting plans for SD13 seem to ‘*not fully align with specific criteria listed*’, and as a result, I ‘*do not support*’ the proposed changes to Cascade County and surrounding areas. It leaves a donut hole in the middle of SD13. HD19 and HD20 were rectangular in design following mail routes and represented a variety of neighborhoods. Now they are designed as squares that are favoring a party. Please review and adjust these non-conforming designs.

The committee encouraged the public to submit maps! Only to not even consider them. I personally submitted a map that took well over a hundred hours to develop. It seems it was a total waste of sacrificed time! The current map is not even recognizable to the ones proposed when the committee toured the state for input. What was the point if they were just going to put out a political skewed map of districts.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Representative

STEVEN GALLOWAY

HD24 GREAT FALLS

CASCADE COUNTY

1/17/2023

Rep. Bob Phalen HD 36

With the proposed map my district would put Rep Lu HD 35 & myself against each other. I reject this map wholeheartedly, because the people of eastern Montana need representation too.

Thankyou committee for your work and make sure we get contiguous boundaries & fair also.

Rep Bob Phalen HD 36

The proposed map does not meet the standard that redistricting is supposed to be held to by law. A map like this does not get created without the use of gerrymandering. State law requires legislative districts to be contiguous and compact. The proposed map does not reflect that requirement.

Many of the districts also separate communities that should be represented by one elected official. There are many towns that are divided multiple ways, again splitting up communities that have common interest, and therefore should be kept together. Many districts would now have urban and rural communities blended together. This would make it extremely difficult for an affected elected official to work with constituents because their interests' conflict between rural and urban areas.

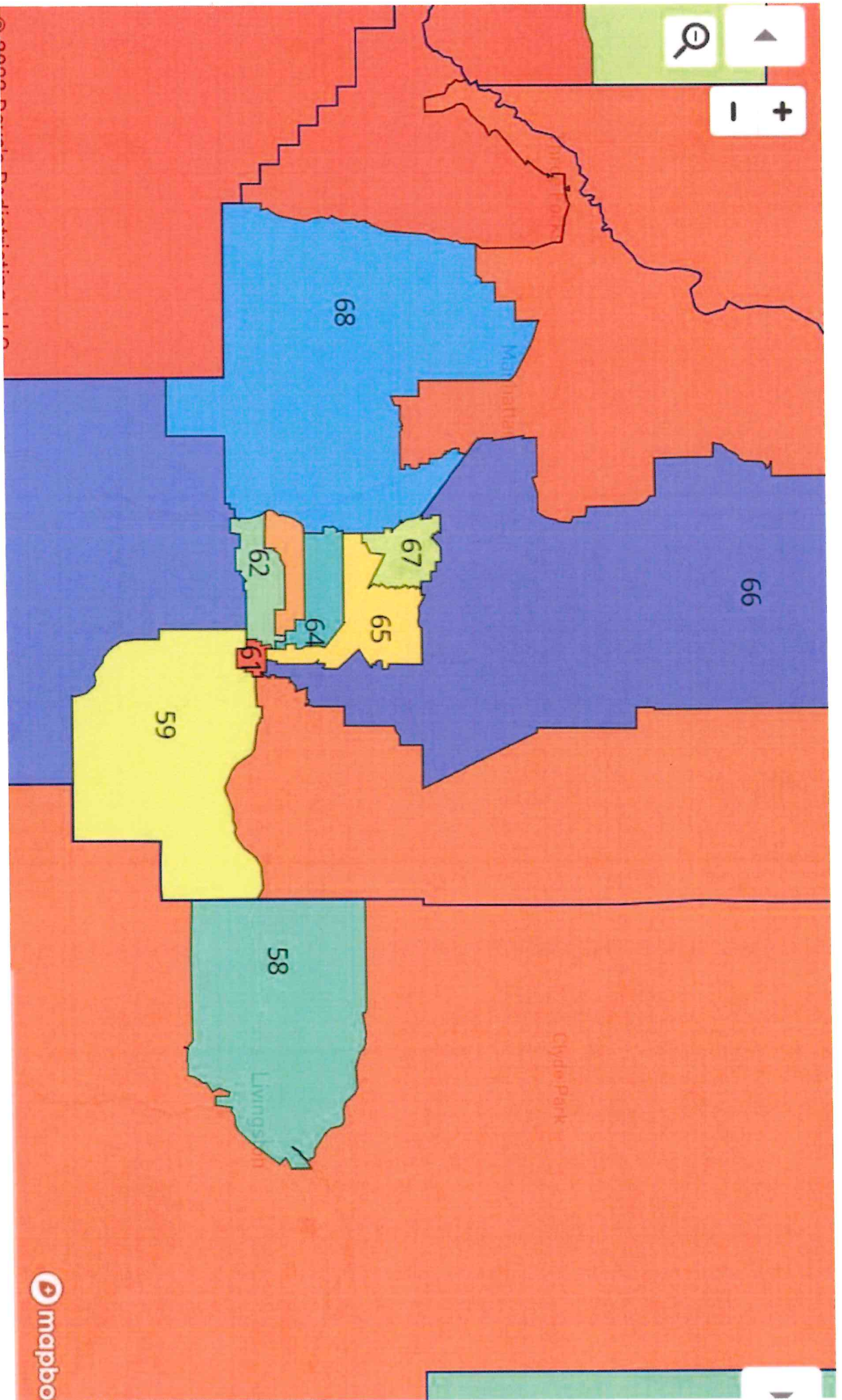
Some of these districts have become incredibly large due to the gerrymandering. The problem is that this puts many communities with different interests together. That is problematic because it becomes increasingly difficult for elected officials to know what is important to their constituents.

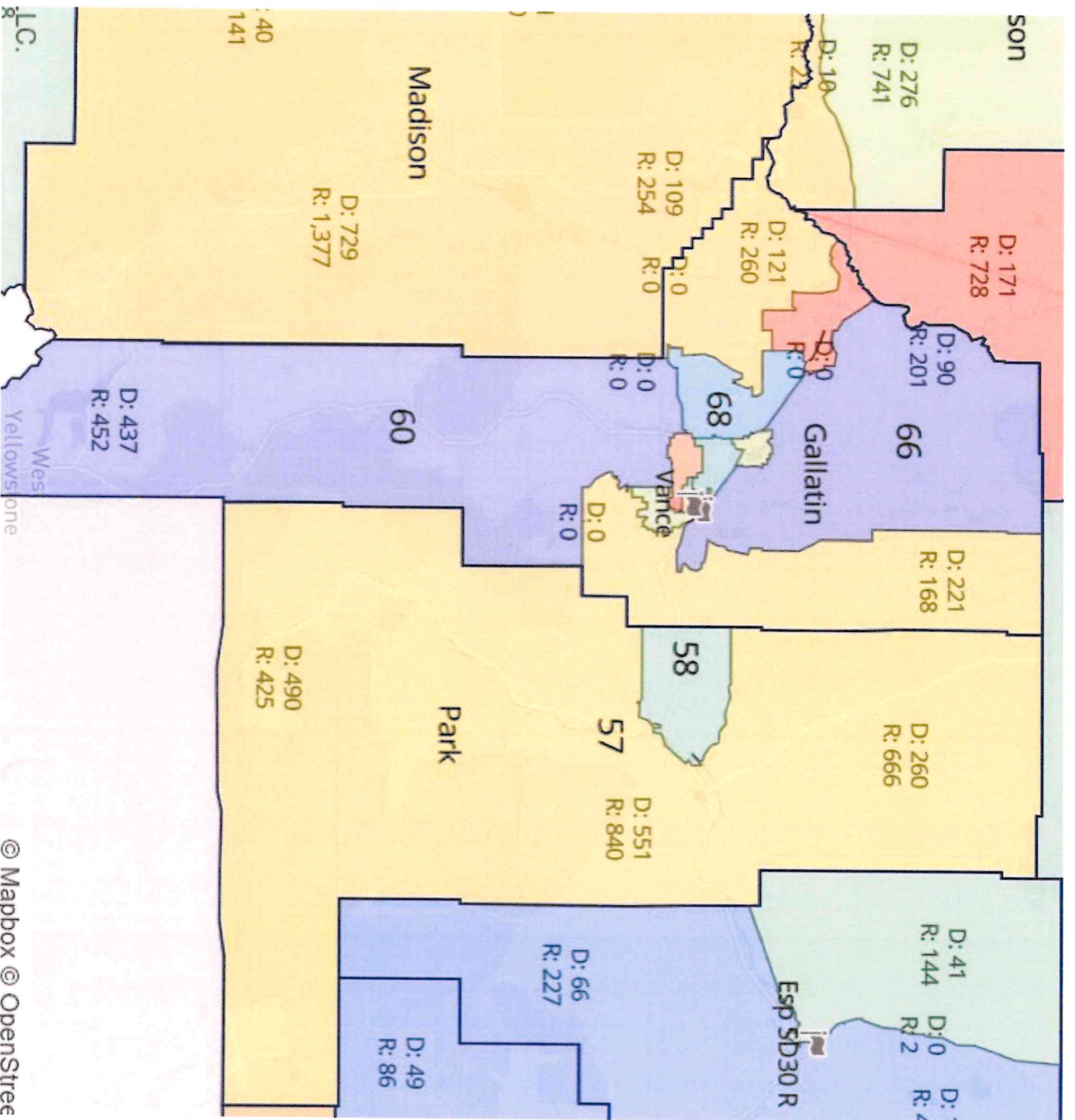
Additionally, it makes it extremely difficult to stay in touch with all the constituents in some of these districts. Many representatives will walk door to door during elections to meet with voters and find out what is important to them. Some of these districts make it nearly impossible to have that expectation. Without the ability to visit with different constituents across these districts it becomes much harder to know the issues that a representative should be trying to address when they make it to the legislature.

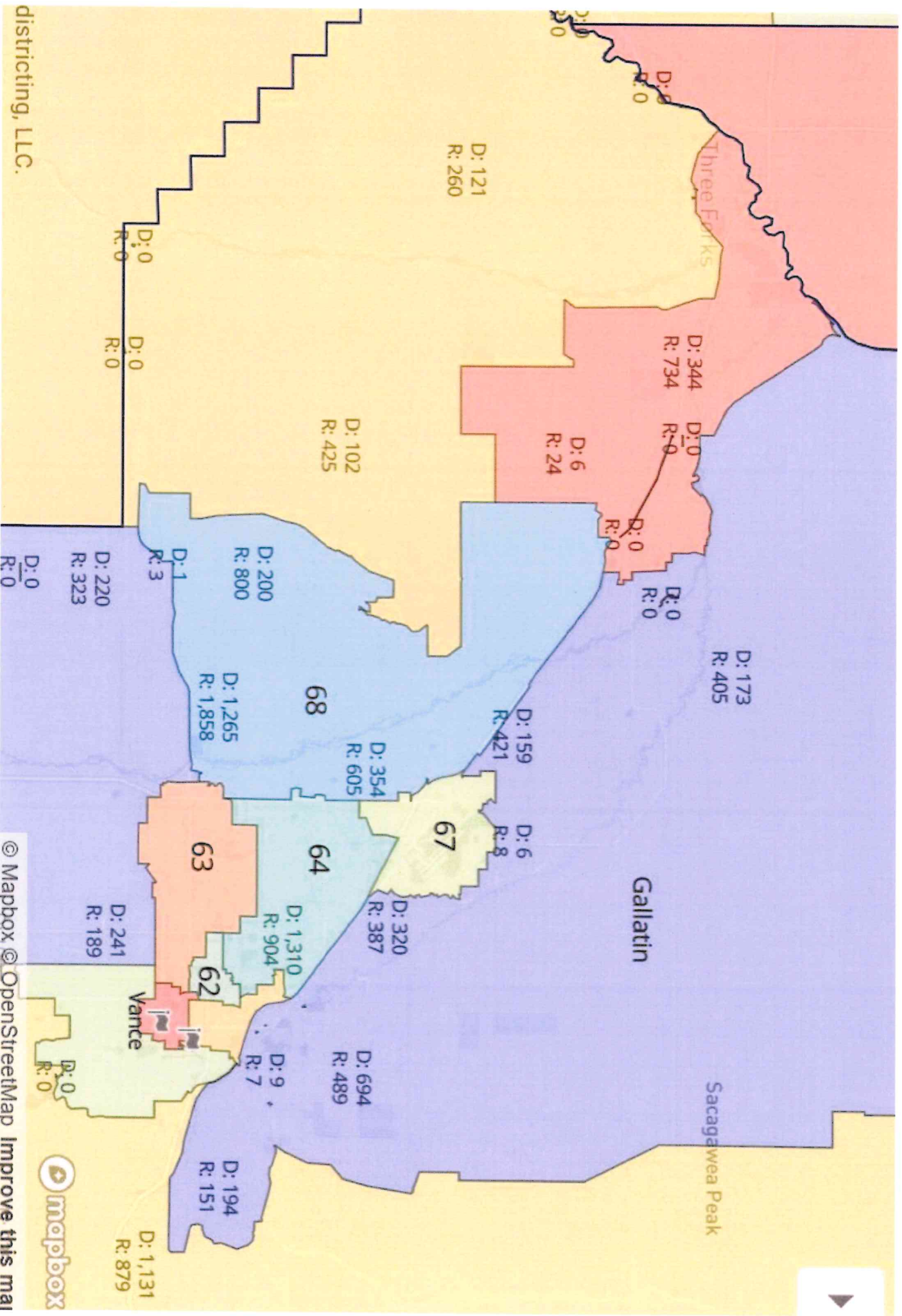
Theresa Manzella

Montana State Senator SD 44

Maps given to JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
by Rep. J. Hinkle



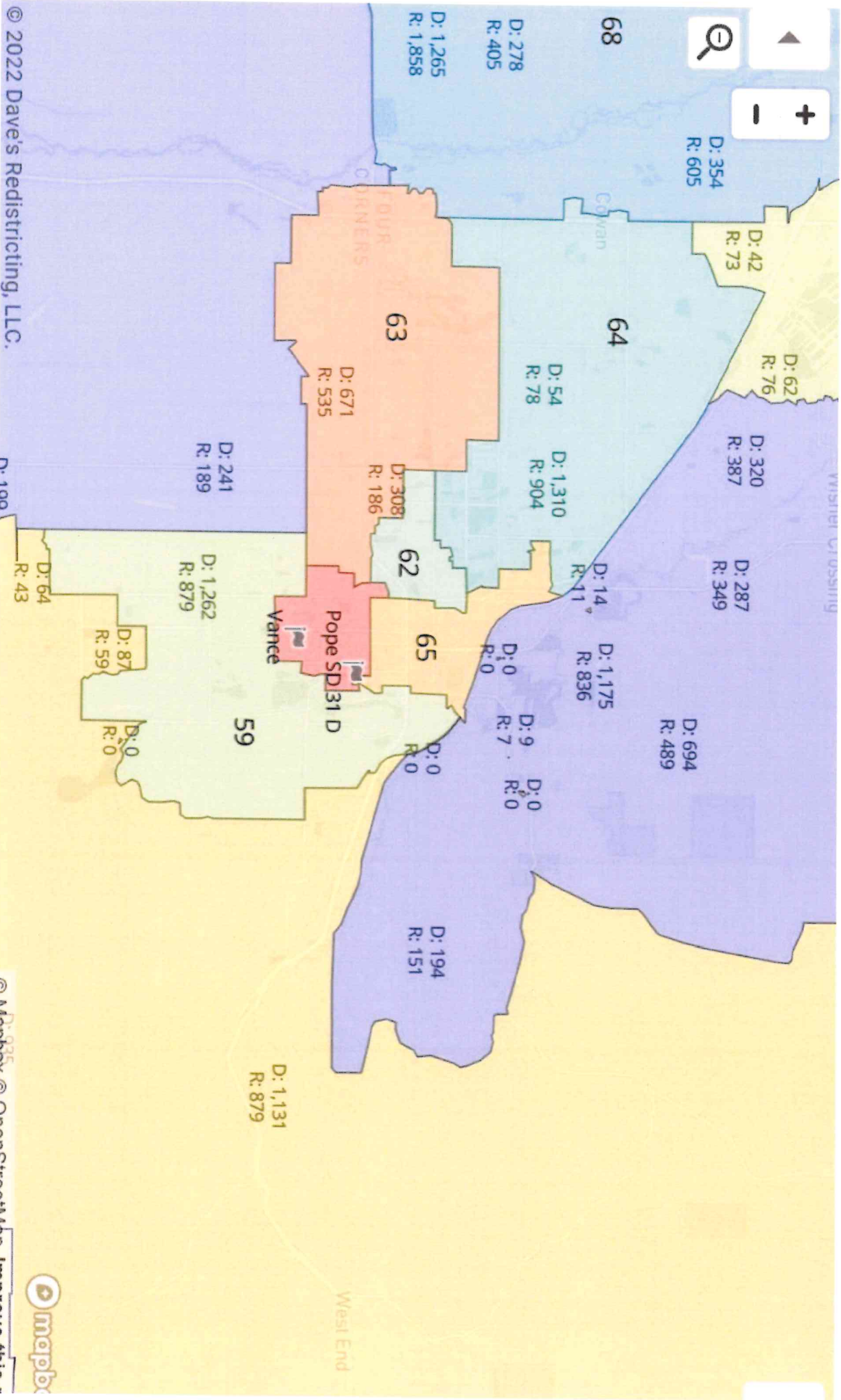




districting, LLC.

© Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map





Sherley, Laura

From: Mary Sexton <msexton@3rivers.net>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Support Commission Plan 3

Hello Commissioners:

I strongly support Commission Plan 3 and oppose SJ 8. The division of Teton County is fair.

Mary Sexton
Former Teton County Commissioner

<https://d36urhup7zbd7q.cloudfront.net/343f053c-ed8f-45fc-8e41-136436fd94be/0D06D6CB1F0747518E2E76C648E3D9AF.format_png.resize_200x.jpeg#logo>

Mary Sexton
406 590-2751 | Msexton@3rivers.net
Choteau, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sher

From: Sher ehretlou@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:
Please adoptTCP-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: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Pamela Shore

From: Pamela Shore pamelashore@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Support Tentative Map 3. I believe this is the best choice.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Pamela Shore <pamelashore@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Support Tentative Map 3

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to support the selection of Tentative Map 3. Stop the Anschluss. We need open healthy political debate between the parties. This map appears to provide the best chance.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

Pamela Shore
pamelashore@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:58 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Harlan W Shropshire

From: Harlan W Shropshire hwshrop@gmail.com
Residence: HELENA

Message:
I support TCP3

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 3:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jeannie Siegler

From: Jeannie Siegler csiegler@montana.com
Residence: Huson, Montana

Message:

As I made a public comment last fall I am writing in FAVOR OF MAP 3 which allowed for redistricting numbers to reflect the percentage of party vote in previous statewide elections.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: marilynsiroky@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Marilyn Siroky
<marilynsiroky@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I support TCP-3. Drawing a legislative map is a difficult task for the Commission. At this point after the process of considering much public comment, I feel that the Commission's Legislative map TVP-3 best represents public input and the goals set by the Commission.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Siroky
4595 Green Meadow Dr Helena, MT 59602-7120 marilynsiroky@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: sandy.squillace@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Sandra Squillace
<sandy.squillace@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map. Montana should not take a step backward by eliminating majority-minority seats from the map, like the legislative recommendations suggest you do for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation. Please reject these attacks on Native representation. 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.

Sincerely,
Sandra Squillace
7129 Avery Ln Missoula, MT 59803-9538
sandy.squillace@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: kstanford@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Karin Stanford
<kstanford@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Please Keep TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I am writing to make my comments to the members of the Montana Redistricting and Apportionment Commission. I believe that TCP-3 is a fair and nonpartisan solution to dividing Montana up into balanced House and Senate Districts. Public comments are more important than political partisan favoritism. Your fair-minded approach to this map will allow Montana to function fairly and equitably as possible for the next ten years.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment and dedication to working through this difficult task for all Montana citizens.

Respectfully,
Karin Stanford
420 Dry Gulch Rd.
Stevensville, MT 59870
(406)777-3212
kstanford@cybernet1.com

Sincerely,
Karin Stanford
420 Dry Gulch Rd Stevensville, MT 59870-6024 kstanford@cybernet1.com

Sherley, Laura

From: wstanford@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Wayne Stanford
<wstanford@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:38 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Please support TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I believe that the work the Commission has put into TCP-3 reflects much of my concerns about redistricting Montana. Your careful consideration and the comments from our citizens input should carry more weight than political biases which may come from the Montana Legislature.

Keeping communities together and keeping a balanced compactness are important. Please keep TDP-3 as your final decision.

Respectfully,
Wayne Stanford,
Past Member of the Montana House of Representatives
420 Dry Gulch Rd.
Stevensville, MT 59870
406-777-3212
wstanford@cybernet1.com

Sincerely,
Wayne Stanford
420 Dry Gulch Rd Stevensville, MT 59870-6024 wstanford@cybernet1.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 2:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carol Stewart

From: Carol Stewart clsinny@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I believe that tentative map 3 fairly represents Montana and should be adopted. Please!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: ptstrand@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Peter Strand <ptstrand@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 6:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Thanks so much for all your work on redistricting! This obviously isn't easy.

Please stick to what you have already figured out: Don't allow politicians to draw their own seats and completely change the map.

Sincerely,
Peter Strand
411 W Olive St Bozeman, MT 59715-4547
ptstrand@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: C. David Swanson

From: C. David Swanson swansoni@wispwest.net
Residence: Livingston MT 59047

Message:
Dear Commissioners:

I recommend that the Commission use Map TCP-3. I appears to me to be the most equitable arrangement for redistricting.

Best Regards,

David Swanson

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: telling.becky@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Becky Telling
<telling.becky@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 8:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for all the time and consideration that you put into finding the best scenario for the most representative map for Montanans. Most importantly, thank you for listening to the hours of public comment. It's wonderful when elected officials listen to us-Montanans who do what we can to make a living in this wonderful state.

I'm an educator; we teach our future about how critical it is to listen to everyone's voice to ensure that the best solution is created that benefits the most people. I feel that the process used to create TCP-3 did just that. Please vote to keep this map. It's what Montanans asked for.

Sincerely,
Becky Telling

Sincerely,
Becky Telling
915 E Glendale St Dillon, MT 59725-3209 telling.becky@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: mbtelling@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Mike Telling <mbtelling@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 9:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that Montana can have a map of fair legislative districts. Please don't allow partisan politics override the will of the people to have fair representation.

Sincerely,

Mike Telling

Dillon, Montana

Sincerely,

Mike Telling

915 E Glendale St Dillon, MT 59725-3209 mbtelling@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: cthennis@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Christine Thennis
<cthennis@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 6:37 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

. I support the current map drawn because it represents the population of Montana voters. Please do not put yourselves as legislators over the interests of the Montana public. I have lived here most of my life and appreciate how both Democrats and Republicans have worked together to make Montana amazing

Sincerely,
Christine Thennis
34 N Benton Ave Helena, MT 59601-6210
cthennis@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Margaret Tonon

From: Margaret Tonon peggy.tonon@gmail.com
Residence: Hamilton MT

Message:

I urge support of Tentative Map #3 as being the most fair for the citizens of Montana. Thank you very much for your consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: jennietranel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jennie Tranel
<jennietranel@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I am writing in support of TCP-3. Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats, which would be self-interested and undemocratic. Montana's Independent Commission ensures citizens have a voice in district lines and helps avoid partisan favoritism. Please support this map. Thank you for your hard work on this.

Sincerely,
Jennie Tranel
1213 S 4th Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-5559
jennietranel@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marilyn Gail Trenfield

From: Marilyn Gail Trenfield 57pogeno@gmail.com
Residence: St. Ignatius, Montana

Message:

I am writing to urge you to adopt Tentative Commission Plan 3 without substantive changes.

As we hear from both parties, the purpose of the Legislature is to represent the people's will. It is critical, therefore, that a legislature's makeup reflect the voting patterns of the state.

While the Tentative Commission Map still provides some Republican advantage and doesn't reach a fair 43-57 split in the state, it is far more reflective of the state than other plans. It incorporates public comment gathered from all over the state, and does not strongly favor either party. It includes major compromises from both parties, and is reasonably balanced. Consensus is built into this map.

It should not be changed now because some politicians feel they should be able to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: jurbach68@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of jennifer urbach <jurbach68@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 10:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3. Hi! My name is Jennifer Urbach, and I am a special education teacher in Kalispell. I have been following this important redistricting plan because it so largely impacts working class families, and we all deserve a fair say in all political outcomes that will affect our safety, our salaries, our working conditions, etc. Thank you for your hard work on the final map. You have listened to hours of public comment and thoughtfully incorporated much of that input into TCP-3. Please use our input, and do not allow politicians to draw their own seats, and completely change the map. Thanks for supporting all of us!

Thanks for your consideration,
Jennifer Urbach

Sincerely,
jennifer urbach
259 Lion Trl Whitefish, MT 59937-8436
jurbach68@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 12:27 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gail Waldby

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

Message:

Tentative Commission 3 is a decent compromise. It isn't quite a fair split, but 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: amandawalsh12@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Amanda Walsh <amandawalsh12@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Please keep fair and balanced districting as was recently created with the input of Montana citizens. All Montanans deserve equitable voting rights. Thank you for not switching the map to only reflect what politicians want. Let's keep Montana a just place to live and vote.

Sincerely,
Amanda Walsh
251 Preston St Missoula, MT 59804-1128
amandawalsh12@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 9:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Scott Weaver

From: Scott Weaver sweaver00@hotmail.com
Residence: Hamilton, Montana

Message:

I am writing you to show support for the tentative commission plan. The Commission's compromise map that was submitted to the Legislature for comments balances all the adopted goals of the Commission. The Republican Legislature's resolution recommends changes to further advantage their party at the expense of criteria and consensus work – and that's wrong.

Politicians shouldn't get to draw their own districts. Please don't adopt changes because of political pressure from political power players.

Please adopt the map that is fair to all Montanans. Don't let one party redraw to benefit their party and incumbents.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 11:26 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sas Weber

From: Sas Weber sas@stuartweber.com
Residence: Belgrade MT

Message:

Tentative Plan 3 includes major compromises from both parties. It shouldn't be changed now because the majority party wants to pick their voters. It's not perfect but is ore reflective of the state than the current map. Since it incorporates public comment gathered from all over the state and balances criteria while not unduly favoring either party, I think TCP-3 achieves all the goals the Commission set out to accomplish. And consensus was built into the final map, which is beginning to feel like a rare commodity.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: jlweigand@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jennifer Weigand
<jlweigand@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 9:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Independent Districting and Apportionment Commissioners:

Thank you for the many hours you have spent thoughtfully listening to public comment. The TCP-3 map meets every criterion and goal set by the Commission. It is population equal, compact and contiguous, and complies with the federal Voting Rights Act and our Montana Constitution. It is also reflective of the public comment the Commission received throughout this process.

I ask that you vote AGAINST Joint Resolution 8. Please do not give more weight to the input of politicians than members of the public.

The Montana Constitution created an Independent Commission to represent all Montanans. Please don't allow politicians to draw their own seats to favor one political party over another.

The legislative recommendations for House District 42 on the Crow Reservation is a step backward for Montana and are an attack on Native Representation.

TCP-3 is a FAIR map to represent all Montanans. Please do not allow a political party to interfere with the hard work of the Independent Commission and create favoritism for one party over the other.

Thank you again for all of your efforts to represent Montanans in fairness.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Weigand

592 Cypress Rd Helena, MT 59602-9442

jlweigand@yahoo.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2023 8:18 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kate Weiss

From: Kate Weiss kweiss45@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Tentative Commission 3 is a reasonable compromise. Though not quite fair it is a great improvement on the current state of affairs.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2023 4:16 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary Wellemeyer

From: Mary Wellemeyer mwellemeyer@yahoo.com
Residence: Columbia Falls, MT

Message:

I'm always worried about gerrymandering. It's great we have a nonpartisan commission to draw these boundaries — that's the Montana way! And it's great that you take public comments and suggestions. I hope you will resist any temptation to let members of a single party rearrange the map so it works better to elect their members. Let's have free and fair elections that give every voice a chance to be heard! Thanks for your work on behalf of all of us.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Chuck Wheeler <sagebrushgoldens@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting comment

I strongly believe Tentative Map 3 should be adopted without substantive changes. I believe it best represents Montana out of all the iterations. Please adopt Map 3!

I attempted to use your system to comment but it appeared my comment never went through. The message was "please try again later"

Charles W. Wheeler, PhD
45502 Back RD
Ronan, MT 59864

Sherley, Laura

From: Mandy Wick <mandywick101@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Map

**Please support Commission Plan 3 and oppose GOP SJ8
Amanda Wick**

Sent from my iPad

Sherley, Laura

From: Lora Wier <lorawier@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 11:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: 2020 Districting Commission

Please support Commission Plan 3 and oppose GOP SJ8

Lora Wier
Choteau , MT

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jean Zankner

From: Jean Zankner jzankner@gmail.com
Residence: Billings Montana

Message:

Commission Members, Please support Tentative Map 3. While appears to give one party a small advantage it is fairer than the others. Thank you, Jean Zankner

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2023 7:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jean Zankner

From: Jean Zankner jzankner@gmail.com
Residence: Billings Montana

Message:

Commission Members, Please support Tentative Map 3. While appears to give one party a small advantage it is fairer than the others. Thank you, Jean Zankner

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

Sherley, Laura

From: lenzee75@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Lena Zeeck <lenzee75@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: In Support of TCP-3

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.Dear Representatives

Please adopt map TCP-3 as our voting district map. It is the most fair map that is nonpartisan that allows the voters to pick the politicians instead of the politicians picking the voters. Please keep map TCP-3 the way it is.

Sincerely,

Lena Zeeck

8555 N Montana Ave Helena, MT 59602-8320 lenzee75@gmail.com