

*Office of Park County Clerk & Recorder*

414 East Callender Street Livingston, Montana 59047

Denise Nelson  
Clerk/Election Administrator/Surveyor  
(406) 222-4117

March 26, 2012

Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission

P O Box 201706

Helena MT 59620-1706

Re: Support of Communities 100 Plan

Please support the Communities Plan for Park County. The Communities 100 Plan presents clarity and logic, regarding the mostly urban Livingston districts. It keeps the City of Livingston as one area and includes the area of development around Livingston intact. It recognized shared urban and suburban communities of interest in the area.

Like the current districts, the Communities Plan allows Park County legislators to listen to diverse interests from within the county, rather than forcing them to narrowly focus on residents from within city limits or solely concentrate on those outside city limits. These proposed legislative districts would each contain area populations with common interest that would generate necessary community dialogue in legislative contests.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Denise Nelson

Clerk & Recorder

# Park County GIS Department

Phone: 406-222-4197  
Fax: 406-222-4109  
Email: [gis@parkcounty.org](mailto:gis@parkcounty.org)

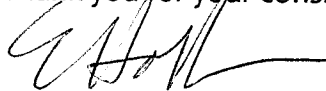
3/29/2012

In regards to: Re-Districting

The Park County, Montana GIS Department and would like to thank the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission for its hard work in developing alternatives for Montana House Districts.

After review of the plans, the Park County GIS Department would like to go on record in support of the Communities 100 Plan. At the county level, we are tasked with developing alternatives for Precinct Redistricting. At Park County, we are striving to meet the same criteria as the State plan, and in doing such, our preliminary assessments of the population equality, recognition of communication and transportation networks, political and geographical boundary balance and protection of communities of interest is best met by the Communities 100 Plan. This office believes that the Communities 100 Plan best utilizes the geographic boundaries of Park County as well as keeping political boundaries such as the City of Livingston and smaller communities of Wilsall, Gardiner, Emigrant and Pray intact. The protection of contiguous political boundaries is important for Park County, in particular, including the City of Livingston within one House District, and splitting as few school districts as possible. If the Communities 100 Plan is not the chosen Plan, Park County would like to encourage other plans to include the City of Livingston, in its entirety, within one House District. We would also like to encourage the state to incorporate the 2012 City of Livingston City Limits into its plan development rather than the Census Bureau 2010 City Limits.

Thank you for your consideration,



Erica Hoffman  
GIS Manager

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I hear the Democrats are once again pushing a map that gives them the most seats possible in the Legislature. They based most of their line drawing on election results and how people vote, not on important things like keeping counties together, population equality and making sure that urban, suburban and rural differences are respected.

Recognizing that our county is too large to be kept together, it is best to keep the urban area of Livingston in one district and combine the rest of the county with parts of Sweet Grass County and even the area of Gallatin County that is east of the Bridger Mountains. However the county is split, please be sure to put both Park County districts together in a Senate seat.

We urge the chair of the commission to reject the Democrats map because it does not appear to keep communities together. It just seems to benefit Democrats at every step. The Urban/Rural map and the Subdivision maps are the best starting points.

Name: Michelle De

Address: 388 Old Clyde Park Rd  
Livingston MT 59047

Email Address: m/recandon@aol.com

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Name: KEVIN W FUNK

Address: 2476 East River RD  
Livingston MT

Email Address: Kfunk@wispwest.net

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Name: James Waldky

Address: 614 S 12<sup>th</sup>  
Livingston MT

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name:

Diane Zanetti

Address:

498 Daisy Dean Rd  
WILSONT, 59086

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: Luis L Fremont

Address: 498 Dassy Dean Rd  
Wilson, MT 59086

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Hello, my name is Nancy Robertson (spell) and I live at 76 Hitching Post Road south of Bozeman.

I have studied each of the plans designed to redistrict Gallatin County and the state of Montana. I am most impressed by PLAN #1 submitted by the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder's team because its nine legislative districts are closest to the ideal population of 9894 people. This plan keeps communities of interest together so that urban and rural residents, whose needs are not always the same, will each have a representative in Helena.

Thank you for this opportunity. I hope you will include The Clerk and Recorder's PLAN # 1 in your final state plan.





## GALLATIN COUNTY

311 West Main, Rm. 306 • Bozeman, MT 59715

F. Legislature  
County Commission

William A. Murdock  
Joe P. Skinner  
Steve White

COPY

Phone (406) 582-3000  
FAX (406) 582-3003

March 1, 2012

Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Legislative Services Division  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Committee Members,

We have just met with Gallatin County Clerk & Recorder Charlotte Mills regarding the proposed new legislative boundaries in Montana and Gallatin County specifically. After reviewing the plans proposed by Gallatin County and your own Legislative Services Staff we support the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder's Office Plan #1 for the area within the bounds of Gallatin County.

There are several reasons for using this plan in Gallatin County. The county population of 89,513 is almost evenly divisible by the ideal population goal set by the Districting and Apportionment Commission of 9,894. Dividing Gallatin County into 9 legislative districts would have each district contain roughly 9,946 people. This results in an average deviation from the ideal population of only one-half of one percent. The plan as submitted has actual deviations for the nine districts that range from .08% to 1.08%. This is well below the required 3% threshold.

Having all the districts in Gallatin County wholly contained in the county assures that the county will be represented by Gallatin County residents with the interests of their fellow residents in mind.

The various plans put forth by the Districting and Apportionment Commission have a minimum of 3 and sometimes 4 multi-county legislative districts shared with Gallatin County. There could be as few as 7 legislators representing the people of Gallatin County. This would result in the citizens of Gallatin County being underrepresented in the Legislature.

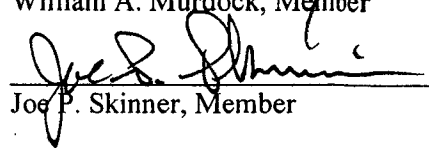
If it is necessary that Gallatin County share legislative districts with neighboring counties, then we believe that no more than two districts should be shared. To accommodate this plan, it appears on some of the plans that areas could be swapped out, so that three shared districts become two with one wholly contained district.

Furthermore, some of the areas of the proposed legislative districts may be too small to allow for proper ballot rotation of the candidates for those districts. When it comes to creating the precincts within the house districts, the small size of a shared district in the county may make it difficult to create effective voting precincts.

Sincerely,  
Gallatin County Commission

  
R. Stephen White, Chair

  
William A. Murdock, Member

  
Joe P. Skinner, Member

April 13, 2012

Districting & Apportionment Commission,

My name is Shelley Vance and I have a little over 30 years experience in Montana districting and apportionment. I started working as a deputy Clerk and Recorder in Gallatin County in 1981 and from 1989-2006 was the Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder. I offer my comments not only from my professional experience, but also as a citizen of Montana.

Based on my personal experience with the citizens of Gallatin County and the mandatory criteria required of you, I have three main points:

Population Deviation

I fully embrace the "one person, one vote" philosophy and therefore suggest that high emphasis should be placed on the lowest population deviation possible – ideally equal or 1%.

Geographic Boundaries


Lines should be drawn along established roads and streets where possible. Lines should not cut over mountain divides, or cut through rivers and lakes.

Community Interests

Municipal boundary lines should be followed as much as possible to acknowledge interests of urban citizens and also the interests of rural citizens.

I believe the submittals from the Gallatin County GIS office and the Clerk and Recorder's office merit consideration as they address the points I made previously.

I recognize the challenge you have in serving on this Commission, and thank you for the opportunity to offer suggestions.



Shelley Vance  
305 Stillwater Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 587-8608