

Rationale for Deviations from Ideal Populations -- Draft Checklist

Summary: In May 2010, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission adopted mandatory and discretionary criteria to guide redistricting. The mandatory criterion regarding population equality requires the commission to provide a written explanation of the mandatory or discretionary criteria that justify each deviation from the ideal population for a district. The explanations must be included in the written record that accompanies each district description in the commission's report. (Ideal populations: 9,894 for a House district; 19,788 for a Senate district.)

House District: _____

Explanation(s) for deviation: Please check as many as apply

Mandatory criteria

_____ 1. Population equality and maximum population deviations.

Additional comments: _____

_____ 2. Compact and contiguous districts.

Additional comments: _____

_____ 3. Protection of minority voting rights and compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Additional comments: _____

_____ 4. Race cannot be the predominant factor to which the traditional discretionary criteria are subordinated.

Additional comments: _____

Discretionary criteria

_____ 1. Following the lines of political units.

Additional comments: _____

_____ 2. Following geographic boundaries.

Additional comments: _____

_____ 3. Keeping communities of interest intact.

Additional comments: _____
