

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

2 INTRODUCED BY J. ELLSWORTH

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PLAN TO THE  
6 MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION.

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8 WHEREAS, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission submitted its legislative  
9 redistricting plan to the Legislature on January 6, 2023, as required by Article V, section 14, of the Montana  
10 Constitution; and

11 WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution requires the Commission to submit a proposed plan to the  
12 Legislature for recommendations to alter the proposal; ~~and~~

13 ~~WHEREAS, the Montana Constitution mandates that districts must be as equal in population as is~~  
14 ~~practicable and be compact and contiguous; and~~

15 ~~WHEREAS, the Commission established a maximum average standard deviation of plus or minus 1%,~~  
16 ~~which surpasses the standards of the 2013 Commission, which maintained a standard deviation of 3%; and~~

17 ~~WHEREAS, the Commission formed districts that successfully comply with all requirements of the~~  
18 ~~federal Voting Rights Act and that protect the voting rights of minority populations; and~~

19 ~~WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Commission's tentative map does not meet Montana's state~~  
20 ~~constitutional mandate of compactness in urban areas in Missoula County, Lewis and Clark County, and~~  
21 ~~Gallatin County; and~~

22 ~~WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Commission's tentative map does follow its own criterion for~~  
23 ~~functional compactness in several areas around the state; and~~

24 ~~WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to minimize the splitting of~~  
25 ~~municipalities whenever possible, such as the city of Whitefish; and~~

26 ~~WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to consider~~  
27 ~~competitiveness of proposed districts; and~~

28 ~~WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its mandatory criterion for keeping~~

1 ~~communities of interest whole; and~~

2 ~~WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not apply its criterion consistently when drawing~~  
3 ~~legislative districts; and~~

4 ~~WHEREAS, the Legislature finds the Commission did not follow its criterion to keep communities of~~  
5 ~~interest intact when pairing House districts into Senate districts, including in Flathead County and districts in~~  
6 ~~Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, and Jefferson Counties.~~

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8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
9 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 (Refer to Introduced Bill)

11 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

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13 In an era of significant political division, Montana's elected representatives still believe in working  
14 together. After evaluating the public comments and reviewing the proposal of the Montana Districting and  
15 Apportionment Commission, the bipartisan members of the Legislature agree to the following changes to the  
16 Commission's tentative map:

17 (1) redraw as necessary to keep Broadwater County whole;  
18 (2) redraw as necessary to keep Musselshell County whole;  
19 (3) in the greater Pablo area, include in House District 11 the area south of Pablo Road West and  
20 north of Carbine Road with Montana Avenue as the eastern boundary;

21 (4) redraw as necessary to keep Georgetown Lake with Granite and Powell Counties;  
22 (5) redraw as necessary to keep House District 84 wholly contained within Lewis and Clark  
23 County; and

24 (6) redraw House District 41 to include 22 Upper Road, Hardin, and House District 91 to include  
25 35566 Terrace Lake Road, Ronan.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be kept on file with the Secretary of State  
27 and that copies be sent by the Secretary of State to the presiding officer and each member of the Montana  
28 Districting and Apportionment Commission.

AMEND