



# Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

**MAYLINN SMITH**  
Presiding Officer  
Arlee, MT 59821

**JEFF ESSMANN**  
PO Box 80945  
Billings, MT 59108

**JOE LAMSON**  
612 Touchstone Court  
Helena, MT 59634

**KENDRA MILLER**  
3734 Potosi St.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**DAN STUSEK**  
3477 Birkland Drive  
Helena, MT 59602

**COMMITTEE STAFF**  
RACHEL WEISS, Research Analyst  
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst  
K. VIRGINIA ALDRICH, Staff Attorney  
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

November 9, 2021

President Mark Blasdel  
Legislative Council Presiding Officer  
State Capitol  
Post Office Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear President Blasdel,

After considering public input and expert advice, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission (Commission) has determined we need to hire outside technical and professional consultants to assist us with our state legislative redistricting tasks. Specifically, the Commission is seeking technical assistance to reallocate state prisoners to their last-known residential address prior to incarceration. We also seek expert assistance to conduct a racial bloc voting analysis to determine how best to comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

The 2021 Legislature appropriated \$101,000 to the Commission to cover salary, per diem, and other travel expenses related to its meetings this interim. However, the budget did not include money to hire the expert assistance we now find necessary. We respectfully request that the Legislative Council allocate \$40,000 of the Legislature's emerging issues fund to the Commission to fund racial bloc voting analysis project work and \$10,000 for the prisoner reallocation project.

Sincerely,

Maylinn Smith, Presiding Officer

Jeff Essmann, Commissioner

Kendra Miller, Commissioner

Joe Lamson, Commissioner

Dan Stusek, Commissioner