

TALKING POINTS ON REDISTRICTING 2000

Population of the state of Montana (based on the 2000 Census) -- 902,195 persons

Number of U.S. Congressional Districts 1 House of Representatives
2 Senate

Number of Legislative Districts 100 House of Representatives
50 Senate

Ideal Population of Legislative House District 9,022 persons

Ideal Population of Legislative Senate District 18,044 persons

Redistricting Authority Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission -- a five-member commission, none of whom may be public officials. Four members are appointed by the majority and minority leaders in each Montana legislative house in the legislative session preceding the decennial census. The four members appoint a fifth who serves as presiding officer. If the members are unable to do so, the presiding officer is selected by the Montana Supreme Court. (Article V, section 14, Montana Constitution. Title 5, chapter 1, part 1, MCA.)

Mandatory Criteria

- Population equality and maximum population deviation from ideal of plus or minus 5%
- Compact and contiguous districts
- Protection of minority voting rights and compliance with the Voting Rights Act
- Race cannot be the predominant factor to which the traditional discretionary criteria are subordinated

Discretionary Criteria

- Following the lines of political units
- Following geographic boundaries
- Keeping communities of interest intact

Starting Point Glacier County (and adjacent Flathead and Lake Counties, as necessary) to proceed in a clockwise motion throughout the state. The Commission will proceed along the Hi-Line, including Cascade County, to Eastern Montana. Following the completion of Eastern Montana, the Commission will proceed west through Southcentral Montana, then north through the western third of the state

Deadlines for filing plans

- Congressional districting: 90 days from receipt of census data (plan adopted April 18, 2001)
- Legislative districting: 30 days after receipt of Legislative recommendations in first regular session following receipt of census data (by March 17, 2003)

Effective dates of plans

- Congressional plan: effective for filing for general election in 2002
- Legislative plan: effective for filing for general election in 2004

Population database P.L. 94-171 data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau

Geographical database Redistricting Census 2000 TIGER/Line files. The TIGER/Line files are extracts of selected geographic and cartographic information from the Census Bureau's TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing) database.

Redistricting software AutoBound: An ARCVIEW Business Extension by Digital Engineering Corporation.