Timeline of Events

April 1, 2010: U.S. Census occurs
April 8, 2010: Public hearing, Helena
April 12, 2010: Public hearing, Missoula
April 19, 2010: Public hearing, Billings
April 27, 2010: Commission meeting to adopt districting criteria
April 1, 2011: U.S. Census data available to commission
April 2011: Commission staff prepare congressional plans; commission holds public hearings, adopts congressional plan, and files plan with Secretary of State’s Office
May 2011-Dec. 2012: Commission staff analyzes Census data and population changes, commission begins legislative redistricting, holds public hearings, adopts a plan to submit to the Legislature

Jan. 2013: Commission submits legislative redistricting plan to Legislature for review (by the 10th session day); Legislature must return plan with recommendations within 30 days of submission
Feb.-March 2013: Commission acts on recommendations if desired, files plan with Secretary of State’s Office; plan becomes law and commission is disbanded

2014: Candidates for legislative office run to represent constituents in the newly adopted legislative districts

A Citizen’s Guide to Legislative Redistricting & Apportionment

For a more detailed version of this map, visit nris.mt.gov/gis/legislat/2009/
“One person, one vote” is a basic concept of our American form of democracy. It means that, in our representative government, every citizen of voting age is entitled to have an equal say in how we’re governed. It ensures that every citizen’s vote will count the same.

Districting: The drawing of new political boundaries based on changes in population.

Redistricting: The process of assigning seats in a legislative body (such as Congress or a state legislature) among established districts (such as states).

Apporition: The process of assigning seats in a legislative body (such as Congress or a state legislature) among established districts (such as states).

Communities of interest: Geographical areas, such as neighborhoods or regions of a state, where the residents have common political interests that do not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of a political subdivision, such as a city or county.

Compromise: Having a minimum distance between all parts of a constituency (a circle, square, or hexagon is the most compact district).

Contiguous: All parts of the district are connected at some point with the rest of the district.

Dedication: The measure of how much a district or plan varies from the ideal.

District: The boundaries that define the constituency of an elected official.

Montana’s Commission

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The recently appointed Districting and Apporition Commission has decided to hold public meetings early in the process to give Montanans a chance to share their ideas and opinions on the redistricting criteria before the commission begins to map new legislative districts.

“Redistricting is a process of assigning seats in a legislative body (such as Congress or a state legislature) among established districts (such as states). The process helps to ensure that each state is divided into districts that are as nearly equal in population as practicable. Although this may sound simple, there are many criteria that commission members must consider. These include requirements laid out in the U.S. and Montana constitutions and in various court rulings over the years.”

Joe Bannister

Appointed by: Senate Majority Leader Jim Peterson

89 Whitetail Lakeside, MT 59629 (406) 697-0568 jbennion@mt.gov

Appointed by: House Minority Leader Scott Sales

Jon Bennion

Appointed by: House Minority Leader Carol Williams

Appointed by: Senate Majority Leader Jim Peterson

Appointed by: Senate Majority Leader Jon Clausen

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This document is free to redistribute for non-commercial, non-profit purposes. Reproduction of this material is encouraged. Redistricting: The drawing of new political boundaries based on changes in population.

Redistricting: The process of assigning seats in a legislative body (such as Congress or a state legislature) among established districts (such as states).