

Communities 100 Plan:

Integrates Montana communities of interests within multiple criteria.

The Communities Plan recognizes the diverse communities of interests residing throughout Montana. The plan meets all mandatory criteria and balances the discretionary criteria to keep communities of interests intact.

Communities of interests are based upon Indian reservations, urban interests, suburban interests, rural interests, neighborhoods, trade areas, geographic location, communication and transportation networks, media markets, social, cultural and economic interests, or occupations and lifestyles.

The Communities 100 Plan offers :

- **Population Equality:** All districts comply with the mandatory population equality criteria upholding the constitutional provision for one person, one vote. The plan has a relative mean deviation of 1.18%.
- **Protection of Minority Voting Rights:** Members of racial and language minority groups are afforded equal opportunity to participate in the political process. The plan recognizes the long-standing and unique communities of interests among Montana's American Indian communities and complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act.
- **Compact and Contiguous:** All districts are contiguous. Functional compactness is achieved through recognized travel, transportation, and communication networks within specific geographic areas.
- **Political and Geographic Boundaries:** The plan utilizes geographic boundaries and balances conflicting political boundaries, such as counties, cities, towns, community areas, and school districts. A maximum number of small towns and communities are kept intact.
- **Communities of Interest:** The plan respects communities of interest so that the Montana Legislature represents and reflects the diversity of Montana's citizens and communities.
- **Fair and Competitive Districts:** Consistent with Montana's independent spirit, the plan promotes fair and competitive districts to increase the chances candidates, regardless of party affiliation, can compete based on the strength of their ideas and campaign efforts.

The Communities 100 Plan was requested and developed by Commissioners Pat Smith and Joe Lamson.