

Kolman, Joe

From: j w [jwright68@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 11:29 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: New Idea on Map

Dear Redistricting and Apportionment Commissioners ,

After watching the video of the February 17, 2012, meeting i was impressed with the strengths of the different maps. I have concluded that your staff may draw a new map based on three of the previous maps. Here are the new map's characteristics:

1. Base the cities/urban districts on the **Urban Rural 100 Map**
2. Base the rural districts on the **Subdivision 100 Map**
3. Base the majority Indian districts on the **Communities 100 Map**

You could name this the **Subdivision 200 Map** and hopefully it will provide a new consensus across party lines.

Thank you,
Mr. John Wright
Cascade, MT

Weiss, Rachel

From: LINDA L VAUGHEY [lvaughey@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 12:46 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: Fwd: Redistricting

Begin forwarded message:

From: Hal Seward <hal2golf@aim.com>
Date: February 20, 2012 11:56:17 AM MST
To: bennionjw@aol.com, lvaughey@aol.com
Cc: potlucklist@gmail.com
Subject: Redistricting

Mr. Bennion & Ms. Vaughey,

I am a resident and voter in Granite County. I live approximately 8 miles South of Philipsburg. I have lived full-time in Montana for two and a half years and voted in every election. I have noticed that the current districting basically shuts out Philipsburg and Granite County from having a voice in the House and Senate races. Having us paired with the greater Anaconda area puts all the voting power in their hands. Not only do we have no chance of electing someone from our area but we really have no impact on the election. I'm not sure what the solution is, that is why we have committees like yours, but I do know that something needs to be done to give us a voice in state elections and politics. Philipsburg may not have a large population but were are a county seat and should have a voice in how the state is managed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your service to our state!

Hal Seward
hal2golf@aim.com

Weiss, Rachel

From: Regnier, Jim
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 7:29 AM
To: Doyle Tanner
Cc: bennionjw@aol.com; Vaughey, Linda; Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission); Smith, Pat; Weiss, Rachel
Subject: RE: Shaw v Reno and mentoring Native American youth

Dear Mr. Tanner; thank you for your interest in the Commission's work. I recall your comments at the Helena hearing and note with interest your observations regarding Shaw v. Reno and the topic of the Native American undercount. I will be interested in the comments given by our Native American population as we progress around Montana holding our public hearings. I know our entire commission is committed to making sure that we comply with the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Supreme Court decisions interpreting the Act. I have copied our legislative services staff with your email and my response so it is part of our public record. When our Commission starts the actual mapping of the majority/minority districts, your comments as well as the other public comments on this issue will be again considered. Thanks again for your interest and input.

From: Doyle Tanner [doyletannerjr@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Regnier, Jim
Subject: Shaw v Reno and mentoring Native American youth

Dear Chairman Jim Regnier:

Mentoring Native American youth and economic development will solve the Native American under representation problem. The 2003 Montana Redistricting Plan violates the 1993 Shaw v Reno Supreme Court Decision and has never been challenged in US Federal Court.

The solution to Native American under representation is economic development on the reservations and mentoring young Native Americans on and off the reservations. As a government official, university professor, and very respected community leader; you could have a massive influence in providing mentoring programs for gifted Native American youth. Your closeness to the Flathead Reservation and your position at the University of Montana could really make you affective in establishing programs to mentor Native American youth.

In the last redistricting meeting in Helena, Senator Essman and Commissioner Lamson had an argument regarding the possible under count of Native Americans. As Essman pointed out, there is a significant amount of the Native American population that is too integrated into the general population to form minority districts with this population. Billings, Missoula, Lewis and Clark County, and Cascade County have significant Native American populations. In the future, this trend will probably continue because there is a lack of economic opportunities on the reservations.

The US Supreme Court has ruled that states need to start making progress towards desegregation in forming legislative districts. The 2003 Montana Legislative Redistricting Plan was never challenged in Federal Court. The 1993 plan was challenged in US Federal Court. In *Old Person v Brown* 312 F3d 1036 (2002), the US Federal Appeals Court ruled that the 1993 plan was appropriate. That plan had 5 minority house districts and one minority senate district. The American civil Liberties Union appealed the case for *Old Person* to the US Supreme Court, which refused to hear the case 124 S. Ct. 566 Supreme Court of the United States. That was because of the Shaw v Reno US Supreme Court decision.

The present plan has too many house and senate districts. The Shaw V Reno 509 U.S 630 (1993) Supreme Court decision said that redistricting bodies cannot reach too far to find minority voters. In my emails to Commissioner Lamson, I said that the commission could only legally form 5 house minority districts and one senate minority district. This is justified under Shaw v Reno because the commission's plan is reaching too far across territory that does not have a significant Native Americans. There are very few Native Americans between the Flathead and Blackfeet Reservations. This is also the case between the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Reservations. Also the Flathead Indian district is a partial majority white district, which is paired with a partial majority Blackfeet Indian district on the Blackfeet Reservation to form a Native American majority districts. The second district is a Blackfeet majority district. These two Indian districts are paired to form a Blackfeet Indian majority senate district. The present plan violates Shaw v Reno and has never been challenged in US Federal Court.

This 2003 plan was challenged in Montana State Court regarding assigning hold over senators. In Wheat v Brown 320 Mont. 15, the Montana Supreme Court ruled that the redistricting commission has the authority to assign hold over senators. The state legislature does not have this authority. You were a justice in this case.

Mentoring Native American youth and economic development will solve the Native American under representation problem. The 2003 Montana Redistricting Plan violates the 1993 Shaw v Reno Supreme Court Decision and has never been challenged in US Federal Court.

Thank You,

Leo Tanner

28517 Rocky Point Road
Polson, MT 59860

February 18, 2012

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59860

Dear Commission Members:

I have been a resident of Lake County and the Mission Valley for over fifty years. I have watched the valley change over the years from one of mainly agriculture and timber to one with a more varied economic base. Through this period of change the community has been held together by a common representative in the Montana State Senate. This should continue.

Furthermore, legislative districts should be drawn in such a way so that they represent a community as a whole and not fractionalize it. This includes consideration in regard to the commercial trade area, school districts, county government, media outlets and topographic differences.

Do not split the north portion of Lake County into a district that has mostly Flathead County influence.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Jarecki". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely".

Chuck Jarecki

Dear Montana Reapportionment Commission,

Chouteau County is currently split into three different house districts despite being far under the number of people for one House district. We know that a small part in the northeast may have to go to another House district, but we urge the commission to keep the rest of the county whole if at all possible. Our county is our community.

I have heard that the Montana Democratic Party is up to the same old tricks that it did last time when it gerrymandered the best map it could make for their party. I don't see how this is even possible given the fact that using statistics and election data is not part of the Commission's criteria. If it's not already, this practice should be illegal! Please reject maps that use these methods and make the criteria you developed the way you judge plans.

I hope the Commission will truly take into account the public's input into the process.

Sincerely,

Name:

Emy Rominger
Emy Rominger

Postal address:

449 Rominger Ln
Flowerie, MT 59440

email:

GRIZMORTGAGE@YAHOO.COM

Dear Montana Reapportionment Commission,

Chouteau County is currently split into three different house districts despite being far under the number of people for one House district. We know that a small part in the northeast may have to go to another House district, but we urge the commission to keep the rest of the county whole if at all possible. Our county is our community.

I have heard that the Montana Democratic Party is up to the same old tricks that it did last time when it gerrymandered the best map it could make for their party. I don't see how this is even possible given the fact that using statistics and election data is not part of the Commission's criteria. If it's not already, this practice should be illegal! Please reject maps that use these methods and make the criteria you developed the way you judge plans.

I hope the Commission will truly take into account the public's input into the process.

Sincerely,

Name:

Dean Rominger
Dean Rominger

Postal address:

Rominger
449 Rominger Lane
Flowerce, Mt. 59440

email:

grizmortgage@yahoo.com

To the members of the Redistricting Commission,

I understand there are proposals before the commission for new legislative boundaries that used election results as a basis for drawing lines. This may be something that is common in Washington, D.C., New York or California, but it's not the Montana way.

I believe it is impossible to follow the criteria you adopted while also taking into account political data. Relying on statistics about how areas vote lead to many of the problems of the current map: urban domination of suburban and rural areas, unnecessary splitting of counties and cities, and inconsistent application of deviation. Please do not adopt any map that uses such statistics or has any resemblance to the current map.

It appears the commission has at least three good proposals put together by non-partisan staff members (urban-rural, deviation, subdivision). For Dawson county, it makes sense to keep it all together and add neighboring Wibaux County. Combined, the two counties would make a House district within the acceptable deviation range.

Thank you for your work and for listening to regular Montanans. Please stay away from manipulating lines for political purposes and stick to the state constitution.

Yours Truly,

(NAME):

Walter Firebaugh

(ADDRESS):

501 River Rd.
Glendive, Mont 59330
406-365-5839

(EMAIL):

Mail to:
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, Mt. 59620-1706

To the members of the Redistricting Commission,

I understand there are proposals before the commission for new legislative boundaries that used election results as a basis for drawing lines. This may be something that is common in Washington, D.C., New York or California, but it's not the Montana way.

I believe it is impossible to follow the criteria you adopted while also taking into account political data. Relying on statistics about how areas vote lead to many of the problems of the current map: urban domination of suburban and rural areas, unnecessary splitting of counties and cities, and inconsistent application of deviation. Please do not adopt any map that uses such statistics or has any resemblance to the current map.

It appears the commission has at least three good proposals put together by non-partisan staff members (urban-rural, deviation, subdivision). For Dawson county, it makes sense to keep it all together and add neighboring Wibaux County. Combined, the two counties would make a House district within the acceptable deviation range.

Thank you for your work and for listening to regular Montanans. Please stay away from manipulating lines for political purposes and stick to the state constitution.

Yours Truly,

(NAME):

La Donna Wootan

(ADDRESS):

1616 S. Newlan
Glendive, MT 59330

(EMAIL):

Mail to:
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, Mt. 59620-1706

To the members of the Redistricting Commission,

I understand there are proposals before the commission for new legislative boundaries that used election results as a basis for drawing lines. This may be something that is common in Washington, D.C., New York or California, but it's not the Montana way.

I believe it is impossible to follow the criteria you adopted while also taking into account political data. Relying on statistics about how areas vote lead to many of the problems of the current map: urban domination of suburban and rural areas, unnecessary splitting of counties and cities, and inconsistent application of deviation. Please do not adopt any map that uses such statistics or has any resemblance to the current map.

It appears the commission has at least three good proposals put together by non-partisan staff members (urban-rural, deviation, subdivision). For Dawson county, it makes sense to keep it all together and add neighboring Wibaux County. Combined, the two counties would make a House district within the acceptable deviation range.

Thank you for your work and for listening to regular Montanans. Please stay away from manipulating lines for political purposes and stick to the state constitution.

Yours Truly,

(NAME):

SEAN WOOTAN

(ADDRESS):

616 SOUTH ADELAN

GLENDIVE, MT 59330

(EMAIL):

Mail to:
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, Mt. 59620-1706

Dear Montana Reapportionment Commission,

Chouteau County is currently split into three different house districts despite being far under the number of people for one House district. We know that a small part in the northeast may have to go to another House district, but we urge the commission to keep the rest of the county whole if at all possible. Our county is our community.

I have heard that the Montana Democratic Party is up to the same old tricks that it did last time when it gerrymandered the best map it could make for their party. I don't see how this is even possible given the fact that using statistics and election data is not part of the Commission's criteria. If it's not already, this practice should be illegal! Please reject maps that use these methods and make the criteria you developed the way you judge plans.

I hope the Commission will truly take into account the public's input into the process.

Sincerely,

Name:

Diane Walker

Postal address:

123 Walker Lane
Floweree, MT 59440

email: dynamite@3rivers.net

Dear Montana Reapportionment Commission,

Chouteau County is currently split into three different house districts despite being far under the number of people for one House district. We know that a small part in the northeast may have to go to another House district, but we urge the commission to keep the rest of the county whole if at all possible. Our county is our community.

I have heard that the Montana Democratic Party is up to the same old tricks that it did last time when it gerrymandered the best map it could make for their party. I don't see how this is even possible given the fact that using statistics and election data is not part of the Commission's criteria. If it's not already, this practice should be illegal! Please reject maps that use these methods and make the criteria you developed the way you judge plans.

I hope the Commission will truly take into account the public's input into the process.

Sincerely,

Name:

Alvin W. Deck

Postal address:

Alvin W. Deck
53 A Deck Drive

Flowerlee MT

59440

email:

AV Deck @ 3 Rivers, NET

PHILLIPS COUNTY

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TROY BLUNT
RICHARD DUNBAR
LESLEY ROBINSON
Clerk & Recorder
MARIAN S. EREAUX
Treasurer/Assessor
JEAN MAVENCAMP
Sheriff/Coroner
SCOTT MORAN



Clerk of Court
IRIS ROBINSON
Superintendent of Schools
VIVIAN TAYLOR
County Attorney
EDWARD A. AMESTOY
Justice of Peace
GARY A. TAYLOR
District Judge
JOHN C. MCKEON

PO BOX 360, MALTA, MONTANA 59538

February 27, 2012

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena MT 59620-1706

RECEIVED
FEB 28 2012
Montana Legislative
Services Division

Dear Commission Members,

We are writing in regards to the maps of the proposed districts. Phillips and Valley counties were split north and south in the last redistricting. It did not meet mandatory criteria as being a functional area in terms of travel, communication and geography. It did not identify clear lines of school district or county lines. Nor did it represent similar rural, social or economic interests of the people.

Enclosed is a map Phillips County supported last time that keeps the counties whole. None of the maps currently presented have any changes to the district that are positive to our county.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Troy Blunt, Chairman



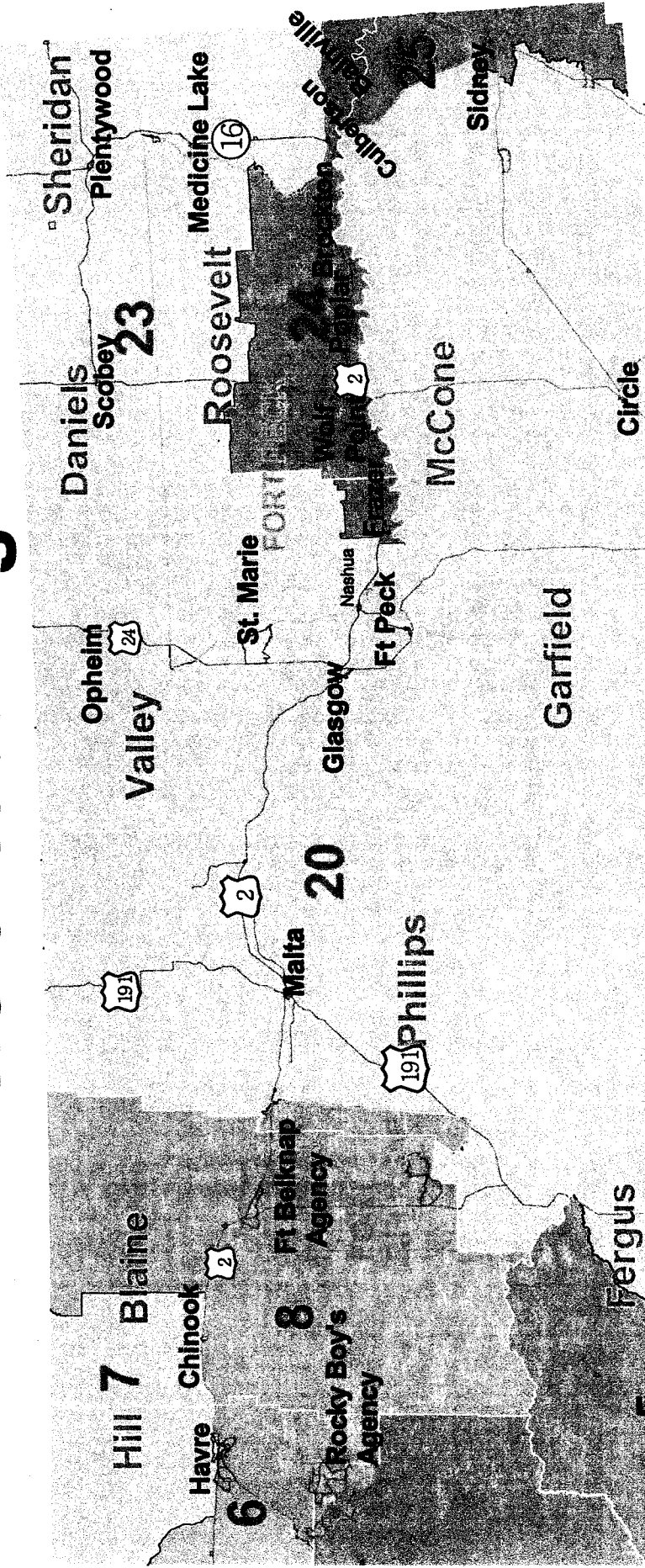
Richard Dunbar, Member



Lesley Robinson, Member

Plan 200

Northeast Region

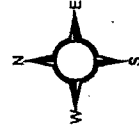


Counties

Proposed House Districts

Roads

Reservations



MARCH 2, 2012

Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Chairman Regnier and Commissioners,

I am writing to object to two of the proposed maps.

The map titled "Existing" is very close to our current situation. I do not feel that the current districts represent the communities and the neighborhoods of Great Falls and have not done so in the previous ten years. These legislative districts cut neighborhoods into slivers that have little in common.

The new "communities 100" proposal is even worse. Malmstrom Air Force Base has very little in common with a population cut from the center of town. Also separating Valley View from Riverview and instead placing Black Eagle and Riverview together is just backwards from what truly are neighborhoods, as we that live in Great Falls would tell you.

Please disregard both of these maps when making your final decision.

Please consider the Great Falls Chamber Map. I feel this map reflects the Great Falls Community.

Thank You,



Connie L Tryon
317 Heather Lane
Great Falls, MT. 59405

Weiss, Rachel

From: Robert L Hawks [senator.robert.hawks@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:24 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Redistricting

Dear Commission members,

The Gallatin County Plan, essentially, politically neuters the City of Bozeman urban population. The Legislative Staff Plan carries no coherent logic for the urban boundaries that relate to the flow of Bozeman community life, that I am able to glean.

The Communities 100 Plan presents clarity and logic regarding the mostly urban Bozeman districts. They are laid out referencing the major transportation corridors, recognizing their common school and commercial district interests, and their tie to the city core. These proposed legislative districts would each contain diverse urban area populations with common interests that would generate necessary community dialogue in legislative contests.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bob Hawks

Weiss, Rachel

From: Karalee Bancroft [carolineranch@wildblue.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 2:55 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Redistricting Jefferson County

Dear Montana Districting and Appointment Commission:

I strongly object to redistricting Jefferson County, particularly those proposals which would basically divide the county in half, throwing half in with Butte and the other half in with Helena. This would, in effect, give Jefferson County residents no voice in choosing representatives who understand our rural lifestyle and needs. Voters in these two major cities would overshadow JeffCo residents' votes for any candidates representing rural interests...an entirely unnecessary move more harmful to the interests of ALL Montanans than beneficial.

Please leave the districting of Jefferson County the way it is currently.

Thank you,

Karalee Bancroft
Caroline Ranch
Boulder, MT

Dear Commissioners,

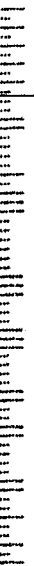
Please support the Communities Plan for Missoula County. It keeps all small towns intact in the county and recognizes shared urban and suburban communities of interest in the area. The Communities Plan reflects the importance of heavily traveled transportation networks in the region. These transportation networks play an important role in commerce and trade. Like the current districts, the Communities Plan allows Missoula County legislators to listen to diverse interests from within the county, rather than forcing them to narrowly focus on residents from within city limits or solely concentrate on those outside city limits.

Teresa K Henry

204 Chestnut St

Missoula, MT 59801-1809

5362081706 8901



Districting & Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706