

**BLAINE COUNTY
CLERK AND RECORDER/ASSESSOR
SANDRA L. BOARDMAN
P. O. Box 278
Chinook, MT 59523-0278
(406) 357-3240
(406) 357-2199 Fax**

March 20, 2012

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

RECEIVED
MAR 26 2012
Montana Legislative
Services Division

Dear Commission Members:

This letter is in response to the proposed legislative districts for Blaine County.

Existing Plan: Support of the existing House District 32 and 34 as the boundaries match up with the precinct lines.

Communities Plan: Not in support of this plan as it splits Precinct #10 into three different House Districts which will make it difficult for the election judges to determine which ballot the voter should receive and will create the possibility of voters receiving the incorrect ballot. The Chinook Elementary School District Southern Border was used but the entire south Blaine County attends the Chinook High School so their community interest would be with Blaine County. This plan puts 70 Blaine County residents into House District 29 with Fergus and Chouteau Counties which they have no community interest with because their interest would be with Blaine County. The boundary change around the Harlem area will also be difficult to describe. This plan will make it difficult to administer the elections with the proposed boundary changes for such a few amount of people.

Deviation Plan: The boundaries around Chinook and Harlem would be difficult to determine and describe. This plan also splits the voting precincts which would create multiple ballot types for the same precinct which could create the possibility of voters receiving the incorrect ballot.

Subdivision Plan: This plan changes the boundary in the Harlem area which splits the voting precinct. The Harlem Subdivision Plan separates people that live north and east of Highway 2 and north of the river to the Phillips County line from the Harlem area which really have ties to the City of Harlem. This plan makes drastic changes to our boundary and makes administering elections difficult for a small number of people.

Urban Rural Plan: This plan splits the precinct to have more than one house district southeast of Harlem which only includes less than 10 people into this boundary change. We would like to see rather than using the Powell, Ekegren, Matador and Savoy Roads, to use the current boundary rather than make those substantial changes for 8 people. It looks like the Harlem Elementary School District line was used in determining this boundary which does not coincide with the voting precinct line and all of the kids in this area would be attending the Harlem High School.

Most of the above plans are using school district boundary lines which do not line up with voting precinct lines that are used for elections. With using school district boundary lines rather than precinct boundary lines it causes more than one house district within a voting precinct and a huge possibility of error with the voters receiving the incorrect ballot to vote. Please consider developing a plan using precinct boundary lines. The changes in the proposed plans drastically change and will make it difficult to administer the election and make the job of the election judges challenging for such a small amount of people.

Thank you for your time and consideration and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I am also enclosing a copy of our current precinct map.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Boardman
Blaine County Clerk & Recorder/Election Administrator

