

Dear Mr. Chairman,

If you want proof that the "Communities plan" put forward by the Montana Democratic Party in 2000 and 2010 is not based on communities, look no further than Missoula County. The lines and boundaries within the county have no resemblance whatsoever on communities, neighborhoods or existing political subdivisions.

This is an attempt by one party to totally dominate the legislative seats within a county. Over the last 8 years under the current map, only one seat has shown to be a place where a Republican can win. All nine other are solidly Democrat because they all originate from the center of the city of Missoula. I find it laughable that Democrats claim their map produces "fair and competitive" results. Not fair for Republicans, Independents, suburban or rural voters.

I urge the commission to look over and study many of the existing lines we have for neighborhoods, city wards, and school districts. In Missoula County and City we have distinct areas like Miller Creek, Target Range, Orchard Homes, the downtown, the Northside, the University area, the Rattlesnake, East Missoula, Frenchtown, the Seeley-Swan and so on. You should do your best to keep these areas separate, and recognize the interests of rural, suburban and urban voters. They have different priorities and would benefit from separate representation.

Please reject maps authored by the Montana Democratic party since they only seek to dominate our county. I urge the commission to look at the Urban-Rural 100 plan and the Subdivision 100 plan. Those are good starting points.

NAME: CARL R. FLOOD

ADDRESS: 11695 O'KEEFE CREEK BLVD.
MISSOULA MT, 59808

E-Mail: No

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MAY 14 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division


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Please reject maps authored by the Montana Democratic party since they only seek to dominate our county. I urge the commission to look at the Urban-Rural 100 plan and the Subdivision 100 plan. Those are good starting points.

NAME: John R. Libatush 

ADDRESS: 4889 Alex Lane #1

Missoula, MT

E-Mail: 1-jrd@brbman.net

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MAY 14 2012
Montana Legislative
Services Division

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 9:30 AM
To: 'Cal Cumin'
Cc: Weiss, Rachel; Field, Dawn
Subject: RE: Redistricting

Thanks Cal. I will make sure your email is entered into the record.

Joe Lamson
Commissioner

From: Cal Cumin [<mailto:c-cumin@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 7:31 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Redistricting

Commissioner Lamson:

I support the Communities Plan.

Cal Cumin
9433 Hwy 87
Shepherd, MT 59079

Weiss, Rachel

From: Pat Smith [patsmith@graywolfmt.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 1:54 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Redistricting

From: Cal Cumin <c-cumin@hotmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 7:32 AM
To: "Smith, Pat" <patsmith@mt.gov>
Subject: Redistricting
Resent-From: <patsmith@mt.gov>
Resent-Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 7:33 AM

Commissioner Smith:

I support the Communities Plan.

Cal Cumin
9433 Hwy 87
Shepherd, MT 59079

May 14, 2012

Dear Commission,

I'm writing to voice my opinion on the redistricting process. It seems absurd that one political party should be charged with redistricting. Is the word gerrymandering?

Please, I urge you to reject the 'Communities plan'.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Marble
Roberts, MT 59070

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MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.

The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose for the Montana Democratic Party. The new map should have no resemblance to the current map, because it inconsistently ignores existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those.

Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME: Amy Seymour Amy Seymour

ADDRESS: 27 Gibson Rd.

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Joliet, MT 59041

PHONE: 912-3260

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Sincerely,

NAME:

Gerry Abel

ADDRESS:

418 Granite Peak Dr.

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Columbus MT 59015

PHONE:

406 321-2093

RECEIVED

MAY 16 1992

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Sincerely,

NAME:

Gratta Haines Duff

ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 574

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Abbeville, Mt 59001

PHONE:

406-328-7202

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Sincerely,

NAME:

Judy Manweiler Judy Manweiler

ADDRESS:

9987 U.S. hwy 212

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Joliet, MT 59041

PHONE:

860 1251

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME:

Kelly Resley

ADDRESS:

66 Granite Rd

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Joilet, MT 59641

PHONE:

406 855-5088

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

May 11, 2012

to: Montana Redistricting Committee

from: Pat Plowman
PO Box 173
Boyd, MT 59013

subject: Montana Redistricting Map

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I have just seen the maps below:

<http://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2011-2012/Districting/Maps/Urban-Rural-100/urban-rural-100-statewide.jpg> I smell crony politics. Please reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. This defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, following existing subdivisions (counties are good).

The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose. The above map ignores communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those. Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. I encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort!

Sincerely,

Patricia Plowman

Arthur & Patricia Plowman
962-3383



RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

April 23, 2012

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.

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Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME:



W. (Wayne) Allen Hill

ADDRESS: P. O. Box 707

Red Lodge, MT 59068

EMAIL: hillajj@q.com

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MAY 15 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

To the Members of the Montana Redistricting Commission:

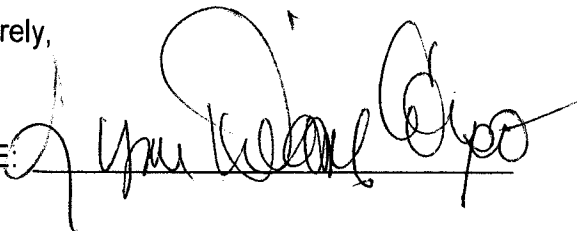
Although most of the residents in Yellowstone are part of the city of Billings, not all of them are. There are distinctions between urban, suburban and rural areas. I believe the urban-rural map recognizes these differences and keeps communities within the county and city together. It preserves traditional neighborhoods, follows subdivisions like schools districts, and has compact and contiguous districts.

Two other proposed maps, the Existing District Map and the Lamson-Smith Democrat plan are both poor choices for the city of Billings and Yellowstone County. Both have very non-compact districts. Both cut through and across neighborhoods and communities within the city. Both were developed at one point in time by the Montana Democratic party as a way of bolstering their chances in legislative elections. The commission should reject these two maps as bad starting points for a new map. Political data and election results should not play a role in the development of legislative lines.

If you pay attention to neighborhood task force lines, school districts, city wards and other political subdivisions, both parties should have a reasonable chance of electing voters. The key is having candidates that work hard and reach out to voters rather than drawing districts where the outcomes are certain to go to one party or the other.

Sincerely,

NAME:



ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 996
Big Timber, mt. 59011

EMAIL:

Decon @ mtintouch.net

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

To the Members of the Montana Redistricting Commission:

Although most of the residents in Yellowstone are part of the city of Billings, not all of them are. There are distinctions between urban, suburban and rural areas. I believe the urban-rural map recognizes these differences and keeps communities within the county and city together. It preserves traditional neighborhoods, follows subdivisions like schools districts, and has compact and contiguous districts.

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Sincerely,

NAME:

James L. Colap

ADDRESS:

*P.O. Box 996
Big Timber, MT. 59011*

EMAIL:

Decoy@mtstouch.net

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

100%

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

If you are going to consider the three discretionary criteria you set up at the beginning of this process, you will understand why none of these proposals make any sense.

- 1.) Following the lines of political units. Jefferson County is about 1,500 people over the ideal district size. Since our existing district is most of Jefferson County, we should start there and make every effort to keep Jefferson County as whole as possible, the remain population staying with its Community of Interest in Madison County.
- 2.) Following geographic boundaries. The Continental Divide separates Jefferson and Butte/Silver Bow Counties. That is a very distinct geographic boundary between our counties that should be respected.
- 3.) Keeping communities of interest intact. Many people live in Jefferson County because they don't want the impacts and influences of urban areas. Most of Jefferson County should be one district, with an area of the county South of Interstate 90 remaining as part of the district that represents Madison County. The Whitehall Elementary and Whitehall High School District both include portions of Madison County. The Jefferson Valley Rural Fire District also extends into Madison County. Kids from Jefferson County participate in 4-H and the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. Jefferson and Madison Counties share an MSU Extension Agent. In short, Southern Jefferson County and Northern Madison County are clearly a "Community of Interest", and should remain together.

Jefferson County is located between three large urban counties, Lewis and Clark, Butte/Silver Bow, and Gallatin. It is important that we keep our own district so that we can maintain our proud identity. Please keep Jefferson County as whole as possible and allow a portion of Southern Jefferson County to remain with their "Community of Interest" in Northern Madison County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name Bill J. Kenworthy
Address PO Box 321 Whitehall - 59759

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Name

Jan Burnett

Address

Box 522 Whitehall, MT 59759

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P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

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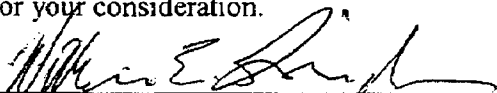
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Thank you for your consideration.

Name



Address

289 McKeown Ln, Cardwell, MT 59721

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P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

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Name Martha Amute

Address PO Box 109 Whitehall, MT 59759

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districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

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Thank you for your consideration.

Name Carolene Hall

Address 44 Kaddy Ln - Box 176 Whitehall MT 59711

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P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

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Name Kenneth Edsall

Address 44 Kaddy Ln Box 176 Whitehall MT