

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Regina Plettenberg <rplettenberg@rc.mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 05, 2012 9:45 AM  
**To:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Subject:** Ravalli County  
**Attachments:** MX-M753N\_20120905\_083345.pdf; MX-M753N\_20120905\_083421.pdf

<<MX-M753N\_20120905\_083345.pdf>> <<MX-M753N\_20120905\_083421.pdf>>  
Rachel,

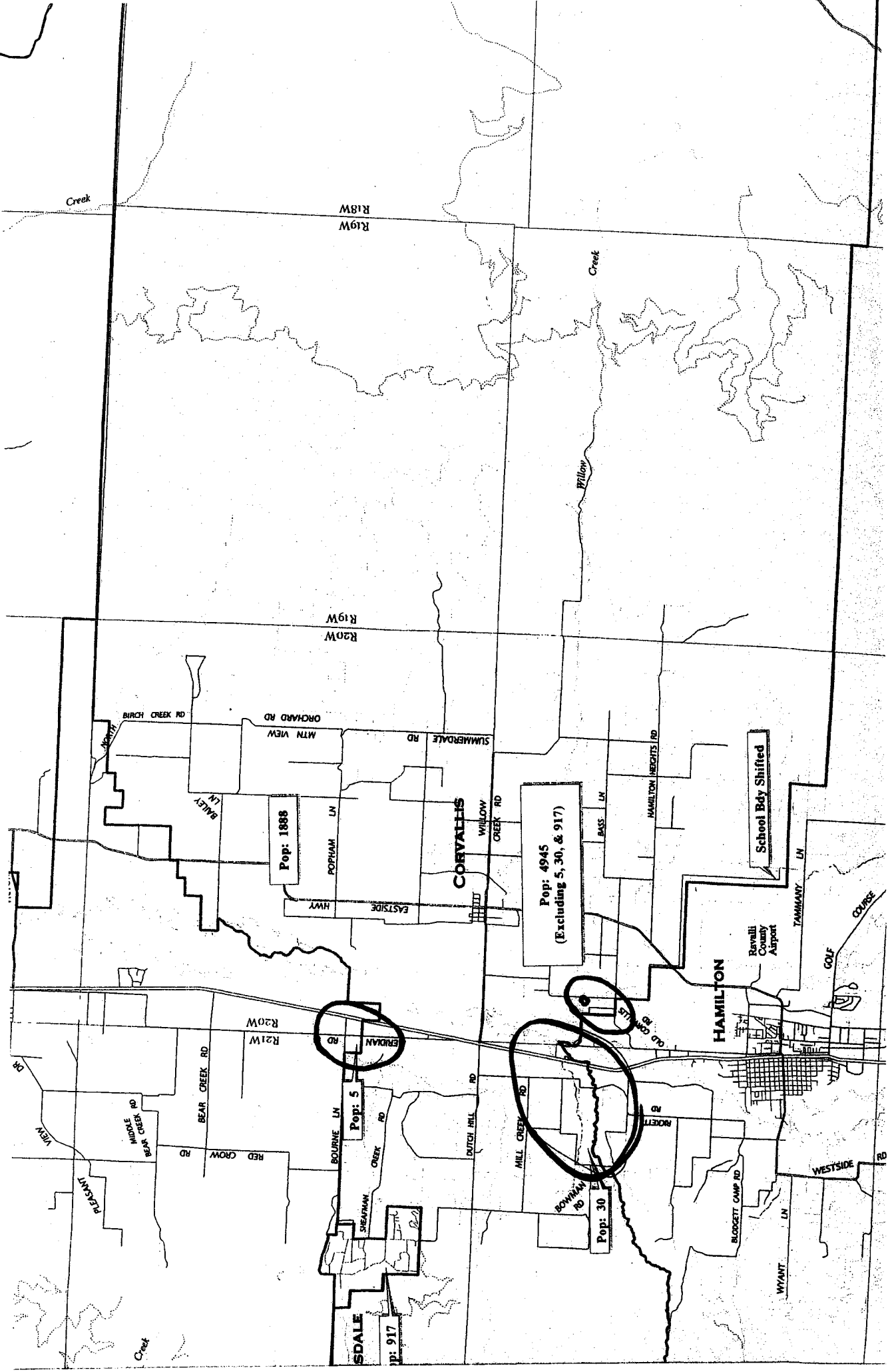
Thank you for sending the shape file of the most recent proposed house/senate map. As you know, I like to form my precincts by school district, since I use mostly school gyms as polling places and it seems to be the easiest way for voters in our area to know where they vote.

In over-laying the school districts over the house districts, I have just a few areas of concern, five actually.

- 1) Between Florence and Stevensville there is one stranded person out there, I was hoping we could clean that up.
- 2) In Lone Rock, the school district boundary splits a census block. We estimate about 42 voters in the purple area. This is the most difficult area, any suggestions?
- 3) Between Corvallis and Victor there are five voters.
- 4 and 5) on the north side of Hamilton in the house district that surrounds the town, I would like to clean that line up to match the school district boundary, which only affects 30 people.

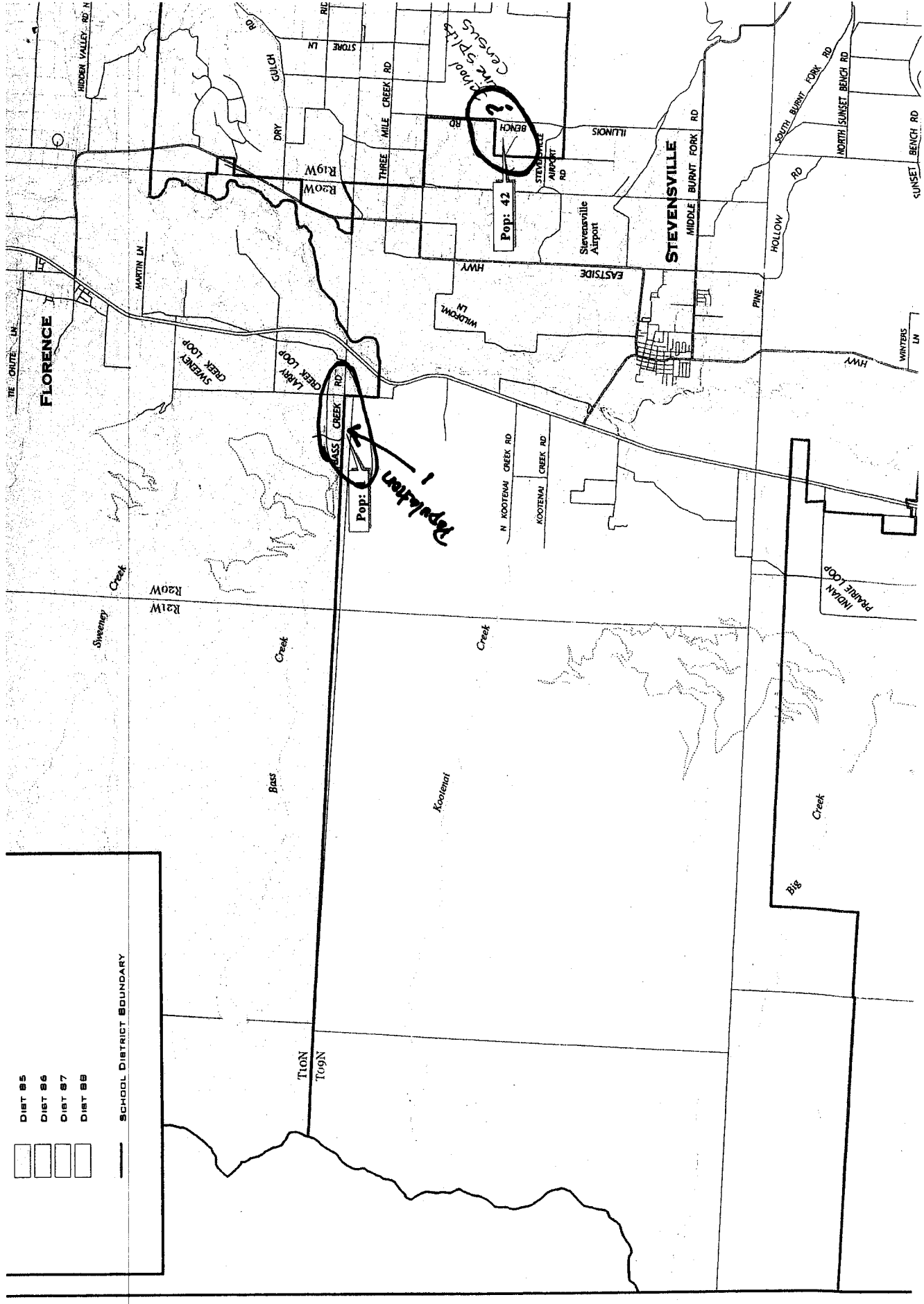
Cleaning these areas up will not affect the overall totals much at all but will make my job a lot easier. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Regina Plettenberg  
Ravalli County Election Administrator



- DIET 85
- DIET 86
- DIET 87
- DIET 88

SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY



**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Regnier, Jim  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2012 7:07 PM  
**To:** Vaughey, Linda; Smith, Pat; Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission); bennionjw@aol.com  
**Cc:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Subject:** FW: Bigfork district  
**Attachments:** Flathead Map.pdf

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**From:** Scott Reichner [sreichner@centurytel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2012 3:35 PM  
**To:** Regnier, Jim  
**Subject:** Bigfork district

Honorable Regnier and esteemed committee,

I realize the tremendous work that this committee has done over the past several months. I sincerely thank you for your effort.

I would only ask that you would consider a minor amendment on the attached map of the Bigfork district. I would ask that you would extend the Bigfork districts southern border to the Flathead Indian Reservation line instead of the Lake county line (see attached map). Woods bay, Yellow Bay and all of other subdivisions south of the Lake County line and up to the Reservation line are considered Bigfork. The bus route picks up children who attend Bigfork Schools and the people along with mail service is from Bigfork. It's as natural a division line between the two communities as you can find.

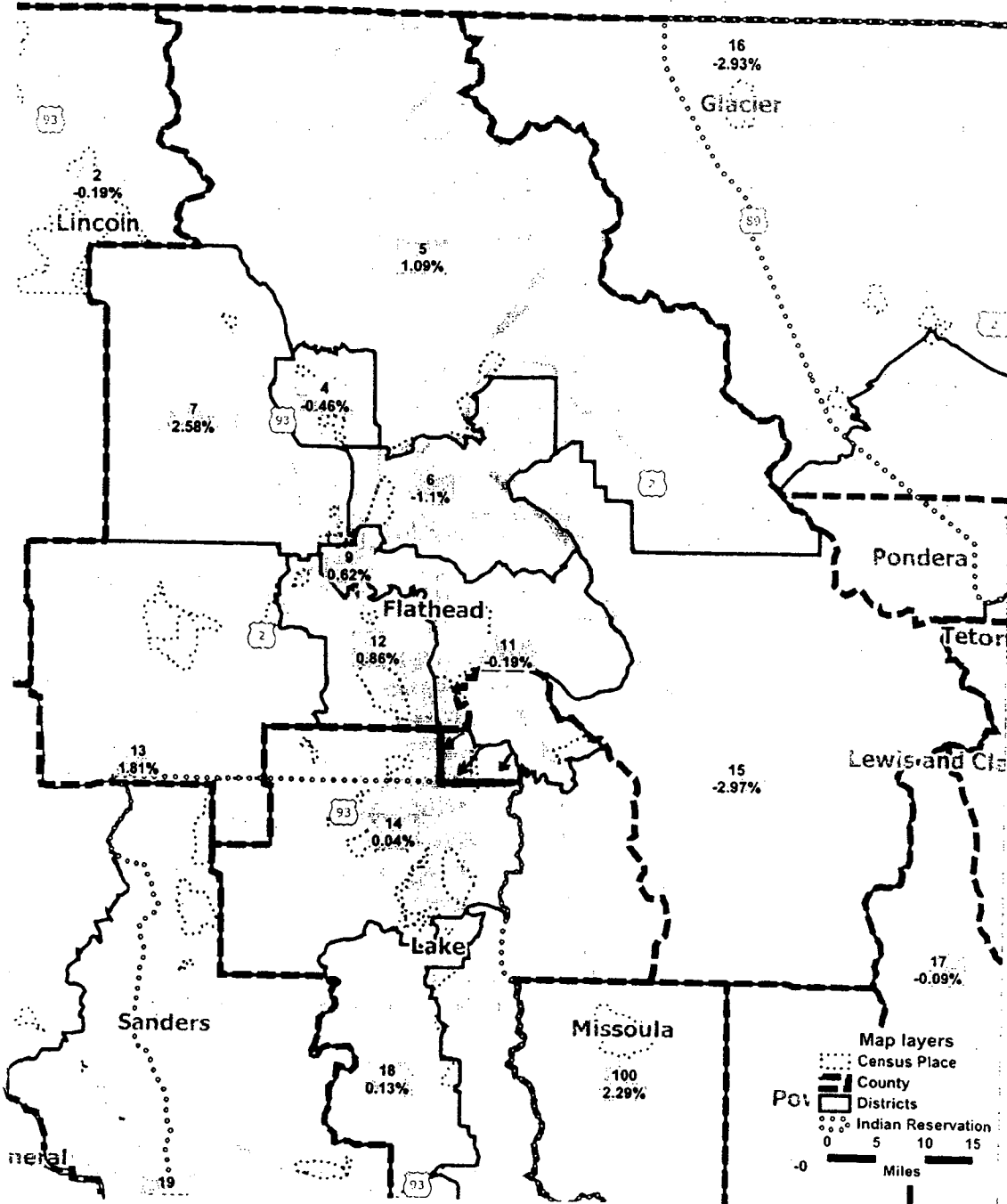
Thank you for your time. I am so very thankful for the great bi-partisan work that your committee is performing.

Yours truly,

Rep. Scott Reichner  
Bigfork  
406-253-3929 cell

Tentative Commission Plan (as adopted 8/17)  
Flathead County

Legislative  
Services  
Division



# City of Livingston

**City Manager**

*Edwin R. Meece*

(406) 222-2005 phone

(406) 222-6823 fax

[citymanager@livingstonmontana.org](mailto:citymanager@livingstonmontana.org)

[www.livingstonmontana.org](http://www.livingstonmontana.org)

**Chairman**

*Steve Caldwell*

**Vice Chairman**

*James Bennett*

**Commissioners**

*Adam Stern*

*Mel Friedman*

*Bill Spanring*

Districting and Apportionment Commission *Incorporated 1889*  
Legislative Services Division  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

September 5, 2012

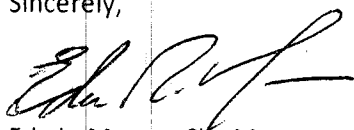
Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I am aware that the Park County GIS staff has recently sent the Commission information regarding the City of Livingston's current boundaries, as they differ from the tentative redistricting plans. I would also like to voice the City's concern and ask the Commission to please consider updating the plan to reflect the current city limits.

As the tentative districting map currently stands, a few of Livingston's most recent annexed areas are not included in the City as it is currently outlined. See attached Map 1, showing the most current City boundaries, which was sent by Park County GIS at the beginning of August. The area of most concern lies along the eastern city line, shown on the attached Maps 2 and 3. These two areas were annexed in 2006 and 2007 and are the only areas which appear to lay outside District 59 in the tentative plans. While this area appears large, the current proposed district excludes a mere three registered municipal voters from the rest of the City and places them into an entirely separate district. This boundary causes several administrative inefficiencies, such as election reporting on the SRS system and extra costs for ballots and programming, as well as leaves the three citizen's voting records easily identifiable.

I ask the Commission to please consider updating the proposed districting plan to include the current city limits of Livingston and adjusting District 59 to include the recently annexed areas. While keeping our political and community units intact is within your discretion, adopting this change would advance our community interests, voter anonymity and administrative efficiency at the local and state level. Further, given the few residences involved, I do not foresee a problem for the Commission with any of the applicable mandated directives, population deviation or otherwise, in effecting this change. Please let me know if there is any other information or other way I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

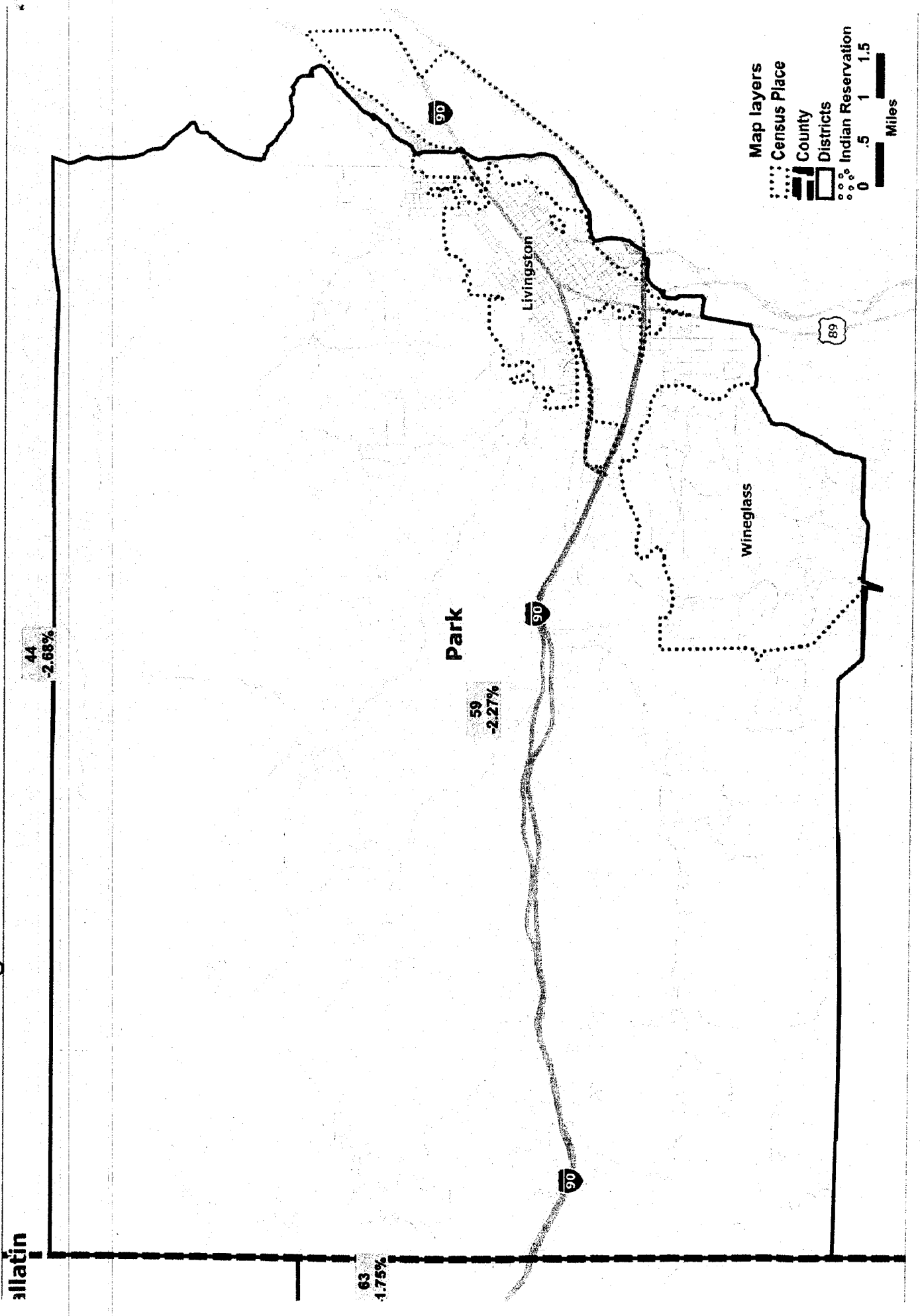


Edwin Meece, City Manager





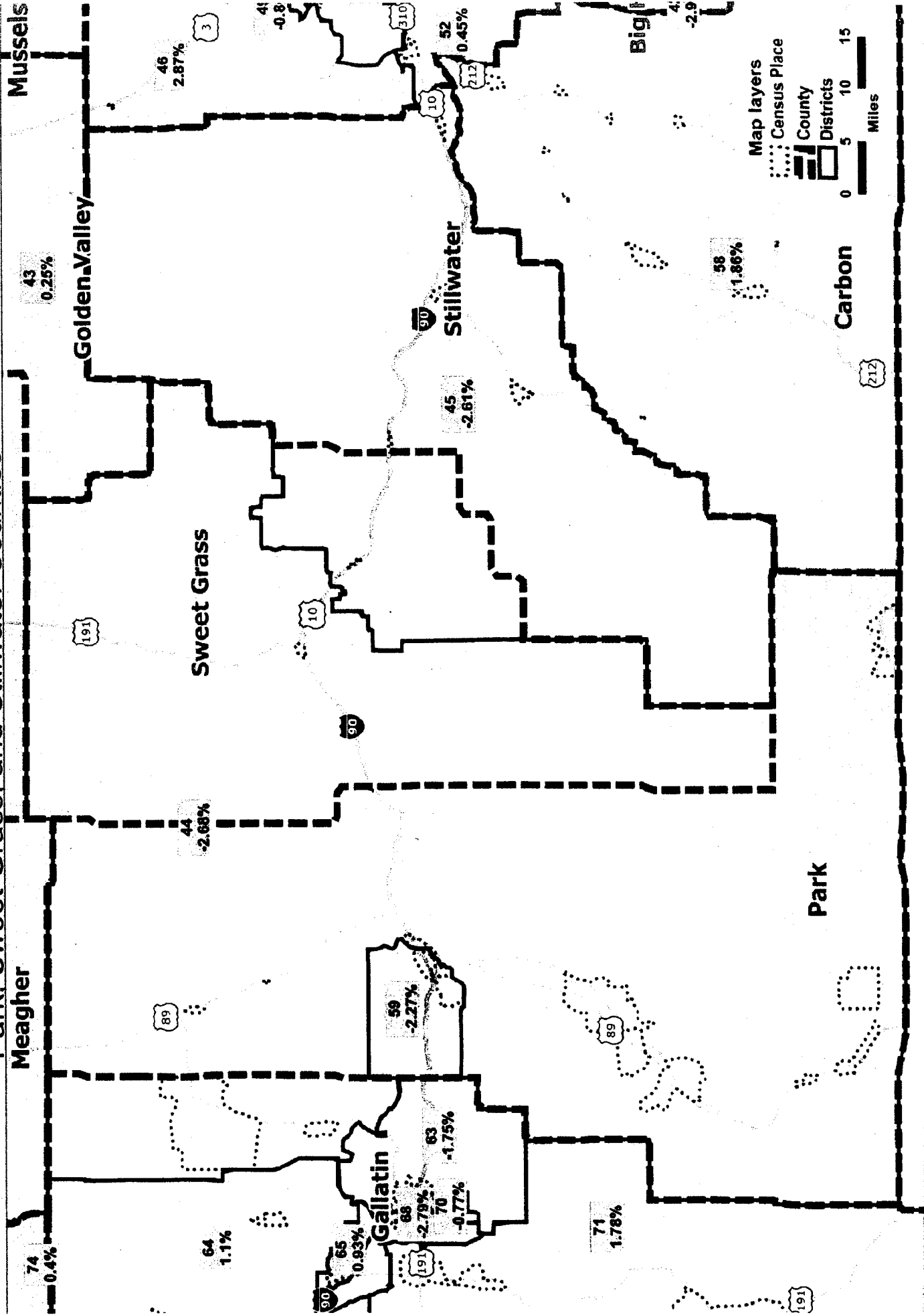
# Tentative Commission Plan (as adopted 8/17) Livingston





# Tentative Commission Plan (as adopted 8/17) Park, Sweet Grass, and Stillwater Counties

Legislative  
Services  
Division



**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** lola Galloway <Ingdreams@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 15, 2012 7:52 PM  
**To:** Redistricting; Judy Tankink; Sheridan Buck; Wendy G. McKamey; Lee Janetski; Lola Galloway; Cleve Loney; Debie Briscoe; Terry Christensen; twocampers@myexcel.com; Romelle Kafka; Marilyn Swensen; Susan Porter; Stuart Eschenbacher; Aline V. Christenot; arla hannah; Wanda Peterson Askeland; Eric Bakly; Katie Bailey; Joe Briggs; Eric Buhler; Cory Mckinney; Jenny Caldwell; Diane Tingey; Richard Swensen; Fred Fairhurst; Hugh Galloway; Amy Christensen; Nancy HEYDON  
**Subject:** redistricting house seats FYI

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing this in response to the vote on redistricting Cascade County House Seats.

I find the vote to accept the proposed House districts in Great Falls/Cascade County appalling. This is a great example of gerrymandering.

1) The decision to structure a house district should not be based on who lives in the district but by the community concept of that area of the county. An example: **House seat #26** includes part of west side Great Falls, west of Great Falls north of the Sun River, Sun Prairie, Vaughn and the north side of Highway #89 including Greenfield bench. House district #26 should be everything west of Great Falls' city limits north of the Sun River, following Highways 200 and 89 from Great Falls to county lines by Augusta, Fairfield and Bowman's corner. My proposal is the rural area of House #19 should be combined with the rural area of House #26 and made into one House district. My reasoning is:

- a) When portions of a city are intentionally added to the rural areas, the rural areas' voice is never heard.
- b) The overpowering city voters take away the rural representation because they view life from a city concept not a rural concept. **AND THIS IS NOT CORRECT REPRESENTATION.**

2) When Great Falls has such confusing districts as the proposed, voters don't even know what district they live in. This proposal has the downtown of Great Falls divided into 4 different districts. No wonder we can't get people out to vote, they don't even know who is running in their district.

3) Campaigners don't even know where to campaign without following a detailed map because it doesn't make sense how the district is laid out. I call this gerrymandering: a practice that attempts to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating geographic boundaries to create partisan or incumbent-protected districts.

In my opinion, you should almost be able to draw a square or circle on a city/county map and most of a district should fall within the lines, not a jot here and turn there to heavily sway the district's political outcome. Shame on you for playing politics, when you should represent this country as fair and non partial.

LOLA Galloway, 202 Sun Prairie Road, Great Falls, MT 59404 (406)727 4963

# MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

P.O. BOX 278

VIRGINIA CITY, MT 59755

## Commissioners

David Schulz  
Dan A. Happel  
James P. Hart

e-mail: [madco@madison.mt.gov](mailto:madco@madison.mt.gov)  
[www.madison.mt.gov](http://www.madison.mt.gov)

Phone: (406)843-4277  
Fax: (406) 843-5517

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August 14, 2012

District & Apportionment Commission  
Legislative Services Division  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Re: Redistricting plans for Madison County

Members of the Commission:

The Madison County Board of Commissioners is sending this letter as a response and protest to the numerous proposals to change the configuration and demographics of Legislative District 71. According to census figures, Legislative District 71 as it is currently configured will fit well within the acceptable deviation with only very minor adjustments. The attempts to remove Big Sky, Whitehall and Cardwell from District 71 and add areas of Butte/Silver Bow or Gallatin Counties appear to us as inappropriate.

Madison County is a very rural and conservative county that has developed an identity based on its sense of community, shared vision and traditional values. Madison County, and more specifically Legislative District 71 voters, are not pleased with attempts to change our identity. That identity includes the communities of Cardwell, Whitehall and Big Sky.


Since Butte/Silver Bow seems to lose population on an ongoing basis because of its "unique" identity and is currently worthy of only 3.4 delegates, it would appear to us that the process of rounding would dictate that they deserve one less delegate than they currently have. Why the attempts to round up to capture people that have comparatively little political or cultural identities in common with their Butte counterparts?

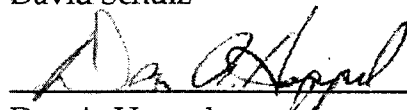
Moreover, much of the Bozeman political identity thinks and votes differently than the large majority of Madison County residents.

If the Commission wishes to fairly represent District 71 in its redistricting efforts, please leave us alone and use the Existing Plan, or as a last alternative, the Criteria Plan as the basis for your efforts. Mr. Lamson commented on Butte television recently that one of the redistricting plans presented is highly skewed for political reasons. Although his comments were directed toward the Criteria Plan, the Communities Plan appears to us to be a much greater threat to responsible representative government and should be judged with a very circumspect eye.

Please consider our strong opposition to proposals that change our current Legislative District for unwarranted reasons.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Chairman  
David Schulz

  
Commissioner  
Dan A. Happel

  
Commissioner  
James P. Hart

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Helen Bode <lovinghim51@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 15, 2012 6:10 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Voting Redistricting of Gallatin County

Dear Commission to Redistrict:

I understand the redistricting for voting has been set in motion, and I would like to ask you not to change our voting areas to include other counties inside of Gallatin County for this purpose. That would not work well for most people, and there is a better plan that has been presented that should be adopted. I respectfully ask that you use that plan, for the sake of all voters in this area.

Thank you so much!

Helen Bode  
4175 River Rd.  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Ph: 618-971-9338

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Meggen Ryan <m.ryan@montana.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2012 9:28 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Cc:** Meggen Ryan  
**Subject:** public comment

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,  
Thank you for putting in long hours and careful thought to the redistricting process. I live in Missoula County and I realize a tentative plan was chosen for my area earlier this week.

I live in Evaro and am glad to see that all five proposals reunite our community. It is incredulous that the previous 2002 Commission split our representation in half based on Hwy 93.

Of the five proposals presented on the web-site, I believe the Subdivision proposal best fits the Evaro area population of both American Indian and 'other than American Indian'. I would hope you consider this in your tentative plans.

Thank you,  
Meggen Ryan  
17925 Beargrass Mountain Rd  
Evaro, MT 59808  
406-726-3722 h  
406-207-0596 c  
[m.ryan@montana.com](mailto:m.ryan@montana.com)

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Alan Doane <cowpokes@midrivers.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2012 7:36 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Dawson and Wibaux counties

I believe Dawson and Wibaux counties should be one district.  
many many people of Wibaux county work and shop and do business in Glendive,  
at the same time many people of Dawson county do the same in Wibaux,  
making us essentially one community, please keep our Community intact!

Thank You for this Consideration

Alan Doane  
268 road 521  
Bloomfield MT 59315  
406-583-7546



**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Dick Rasmussen <dands@3rivers.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Dis. # 71

I am resident of #71. I cannot find a map of the old dis. #71 to compare to the suggested new/revised district #71s'. as I understand it there is more than one suggested revision. Why not put the different revisions side by side in order to help understand them

To split up the "Ruby Valley" (Silver star, Twin Bridges, Sheridan, Alder, and Nevada/Virginia city would break up a very cohesive group that work together very well. Surely that must be a part of your consideration.

Thanx  
Dick Rasmussen  
P O Box 484  
Twin Bridges, Mt.  
59754

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** doubleo@itstriangle.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 23, 2012 12:39 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** comments

I looked at you new districts and feel you were not listening when you were in eastern MT. We wanted ours to run N & S. The rat tail that runs north of the Missouri is a real disfunctional district. We want to be in with the people of our areas not in where there are only reservations and a few of the rest of us. We don't even have rep. that will call or recognize our views. We want to be in with the town that we do business with. Cut the tail off the rat.

Vicki Olson  
24114 Content Rd  
Malta, MT 59538

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** debnpete@q.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 25, 2012 5:25 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Cc:** goodwind1.duane@gmail.com; debnpete  
**Subject:** Redistricting Marginalizes Colstrip

I have reviewed the Redistricting Commission 8/17/12 tentative plan maps on the Commission website. In the House District 38/41 map, Colstrip is sliced up like a Thanksgiving turkey, having confusing boundaries, without much logic.

To me, the proposals only function serves to balance north and south Rosebud County populations. However, since the county is tentatively split between 2 House districts, I fail to see why that is so important. And, if population balance is critical, why is Colstrip tentatively split between 2 House districts with such a disparity in population?

The Commission maps list proposed Districts 38 with a +.74% median population, and District 41 with a - 2.98% median population. That's almost 4% differential between the 2 proposed districts, seemingly stretching the idea of balanced districts to its limits.

It would seem to me, that including the whole Colstrip area ( per the Commission 8/17/12 Colstrip specific map), in District 41, would greatly balance the population differential between these 2 districts.

I have lived, and worked in Colstrip for 35 years, 11 months, and I have seen Colstrip interests marginalized time after time. And while I would never presume that each and every resident has absolute commonality of interests, we ought to be represented for, and able to vote our community interests.

Being a mining, and industrial town, in the midst of a rural area, Colstrip interests are not always the same as our rural neighbors.

Colstrip interests are neither superior, or inferior, to our neighbors, but do sometimes differ.

In that regard, I believe that we have a right to be, and should be, represented as the community we are, not separated by a street map .

To be so arbitrarily split up, dilutes our ability to affect our future, and to speak with common voice and similar values.

I oppose the current 8/17/12 tentative redistricting plan, and ask that it be adjusted to reflect Colstrip and immediate sub-divisions as a whole community, in one common House district.

Thank you,  
Lawrence "Pete" Peters  
Colstrip, Montana  
406-748-3319

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Fred Thomas <FThomas@wsi-insurance.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** Weiss, Rachel; Redistricting  
**Cc:** 'Bob Lake'; Edward Greef; brootldry@montana.com; NBALLANCE@aol.com; connell4hd87@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** RE: Ravalli County/Hamilton pdfs

Rachel,

Thank you again for the data you sent us. We have reviewed the data for the Bitterroot and do find issues with the tentative Plan adopted.

This tentative District 86 was created in the last apportionment cycle to create a political driven outcome at election time. I had And still have great hopes that we will have a fair plan that follows the constitution and puts Montana Citizens first not a Political party.

Our concerns center around HD 86 having a key Corvallis area population that is practically not contiguous with the rest of the District to the South. There is no reason to draw an island inside Ravalli County to create or continue to create a district That does not comply with the constitution.

All our County Commission district lines run east to west and nicely create districts for the commission. The purpose of those Districts was to fairly and nonpolitically create districts to represent the county citizens.

The plan submitted early this year by the Ravalli County Legislative Delegation was the best plan taking into consideration The local citizens. This current plan tentatively adopted by the commission is drawn by outsiders to create a political outcome.

We respectfully ask that we be given the opportunity to meet with the commission to discuss the Ravalli County house District plan,

Thank you,  
Fred Thomas and the rest of us

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**From:** Bob Lake [<mailto:lakemill@montana.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 17, 2012 10:08 AM  
**To:** Edward Greef; Fred Thomas; [brootldry@montana.com](mailto:brootldry@montana.com); NBALLANCE@aol.com; [connell4hd87@yahoo.com](mailto:connell4hd87@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Re: Ravalli County/Hamilton pdfs

Fred, thanks for your continuing efforts on the redistricting maps. The proposed modification only changes the West Corvallis and Pinedale current problem of being included in a non-contiguous with Darby to the same situation by being included with Stevensville. I believe that we should ask for a reconsideration and connect Pinesdale with Hamilton(contiguous). The barrier still exists with the Blodgett Creek point that isolates a portion of the Southern district

from the Northwestern corner of the district unless you pass through the Hamilton district. I believe that we should request a meeting with the commission to explain our concerns. I would like to hear their reasons for the current configuration  
Bob

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**From:** Weiss, Rachel [<mailto:RWeiss@mt.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2012 12:55 PM  
**To:** Fred Thomas  
**Subject:** Ravalli County/Hamilton pdfs

Hello Mr. Thomas,

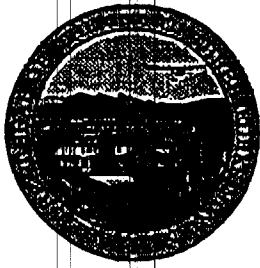
Thanks for your patience. I've attached two pds, one of Ravalli County and one of Hamilton. We'll try to have more documents posted when we can. Please note everything is tentative so these lines can and may change. Let me know if you have any questions and feel free to provide comments to the Districting Commission at [districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov) or by using the address listed below.

Thanks,

Rachel Weiss

Research Analyst  
406-444-5367  
[rweiss@mt.gov](mailto:rweiss@mt.gov)

Montana Legislative Services Division  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620



**City of Three Forks**  
**PO Box 187**  
**Three Forks, MT 59752**  
**Phone/Fax (406) 285-3431**



**RECEIVED**

August 14, 2012

AUG 27 2012

Montana Legislative  
Services Division

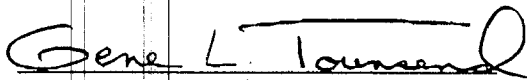
Nichole Brown  
Broadwater County Planner and  
GIS Administrator  
515 Broadwater  
Townsend, MT 59644

Dear Ms. Brown,

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Three Forks City Council voted to go on record to support the subdivision 100 plan, presented by you as proposed by Broadwater County Commissioners. This plan will add a portion of Gallatin County, which includes Three Forks and Willow Creek, to go along with Broadwater and Meagher Counties.

Thank you for taking the time to make your presentation at our City Council meeting, we appreciate your efforts on this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Gene L. Townsend, Mayor

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Tim Tharp <ttharp@sunburst.k12.mt.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2012 8:50 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Proposed Maps

To Whom It May Concern,

I want to express my support for the proposed maps for North Central Montana. The proposal has all of Toole County in the same district and a quick view of the region indicates that county lines are pretty much followed where possible. Thank you for the time and effort in this process.

Tim

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*Tim Tharp, Superintendent/HS Principal*

Sunburst Public Schools  
P O Box 710  
Sunburst, MT 59482

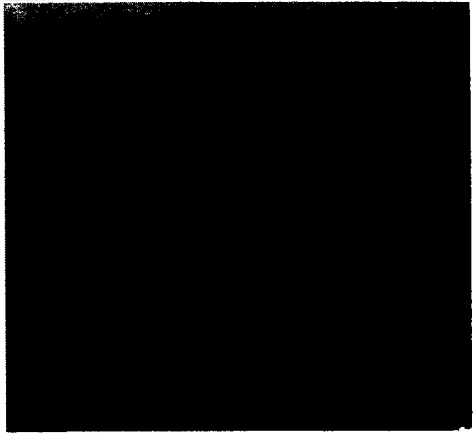
(w) 406-937-2811

(f) 406-937-2828

(h) 406-937-4500

(c) 406-788-3168

<http://www.sunburstschoools.net>



**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Pat Ingraham <pathd13@blackfoot.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2012 2:41 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Tentative Commission Plan

Dear Commissioners,

I was greatly disappointed by the Commissions tentative plan for Sanders County. As it stands, Sanders County mirrors your Communities Plan, which was the plan I spoke against during your Missoula hearing as the worst possible plan for Sanders County. I fail to understand what criteria you used to justify this end result, as it does not follow any of Sanders County political units or subdivisions, we do not share geographic nor physical boundaries with the communities of Marion or Kila (as these communities lie between Libby and Kalispell) and there are no contiguous boundaries nor communities of interest. Yet, the communities of Plains and Hot Springs, which are in the current House District 13 and located in Sanders County are removed and replaced with those communities of Marion & Kila.

Your proposed boundaries, if unaltered will ultimately disenfranchise a block of residents/electors as not only will distance (from Thompson Falls in either direction through Libby or Kalispell is approximately 120 miles one way) separate them from having frequent or more personal contact with their representative, but being a smaller block, with little in common with the remaining part of HD 13 find their not receiving the representation that they so deserve.

I would ask your reconsideration and possible redesign that would place Plains & Hot Springs back in HD 13 and place Marion & Kila in those communities that they share common interests and boundaries. Sincerely,  
Representative Pat Ingraham