

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Regnier, Jim  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2011 7:01 PM  
**To:** Harriet Karst  
**Cc:** Weiss, Rachel; Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission); bennionjw@aol.com; Vaughey, Linda; Smith, Pat  
**Subject:** RE: Redistricting

Dear Ms. Karst; thank you for expressing your concerns and interest in the redistricting process. I have taken the liberty of forwarding your email to the other Commissioners and our legislative services staff. Please rest assured your comments will be taken into consideration when we address the districting of the Sunburst area.

The redistricting process is controlled by our federal and state constitutions as well as court decisions interpreting the pertinent provisions. I invite you to visit our web site (google Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission ) and refer you to the mandatory and discretionary criteria we must follow in the process. Population equality in the districts is one of our biggest challenges, especially in a state such as ours where the population is not evenly distributed. However, your concerns are important because they fall into the category of "community of interests." The type of concerns you have expressed will most definitely be considered when we address the Sunburst area.

Between now and January 2011 our staff will be preparing draft maps of proposed districts. In 2012 we will be conducting public hearings throughout Montana on the maps which will be available on our website. I urge you to follow the process and publicly express your concerns when we conduct the hearing for your geographic area.

Thank you for your interest. We really appreciate the concerns and input from folks throughout Montana. Best regards, Jim Regnier

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**From:** Harriet Karst [harriet@northerntel.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2011 1:29 PM  
**To:** Regnier, Jim  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I live in Sunburst, Montana located in Toole County. Many in my town as well as people from Shelby work either at the border in Sweetgrass or in the surrounding areas of Toole County. In the last redistricting the town of Sunburst was deemed to be put in the same district as Cut Bank and Browning.

I want to protest this as I feel that we no longer have representation in the district assigned. We have nothing in common with either Cut Bank or Browning nor will it be likely that a representative would ever be elected from this town. We need to be included in the Toole County district where we have been assigned before, in which we have common problems and common solutions.

Population alone should not be the sole criteria for a district but adequate representation of common interests should be considered.

Thank-you.

Harriet Karst  
POB 93  
205 1st Street N  
Sunburst, MT 59482

July 22, 2011

Dear Redistricting Committee,

I have been waiting 8 years to register my complaint!!!

In 2003, after living 20 years in a large home in Helena, we decided to 'downsize' and moved to the Fox Ridge area. The first time we voted in our new precinct (83), I did not vote for the representative, as I had not heard of either one of the candidates that were on the ballot. After the election, I called the office of voter registration, and discovered that our representative was from Harlowton and our precinct took in 5 counties.....Golden Valley, Wheaton, Meagher, Broadwater and Lewis and Clark. This is absolutely ludicrous.

Someone who lives in Harlowton is not aware of any issues or concerns his constituents in our area (Helena) may have and he could probably care less.

A precinct should represent a community that has common issues and concerns. I can understand where there may be two counties in a precinct particularly when the town they represent is in close proximity to both of them.

I certainly do not think the District lines should be drawn to get the bulk of Republicans in one area and the bulk of the Democrats in another area. Let the chips fall where they may, and have the representatives represent their community. Regardless, if the representative is Republican or Democrat, the community would at least be represented by someone who is knowledgeable and cares about the issues and concerns of his or her community.

Shortly after this first encounter, I told Joe Mazurek about my dilemma, and he said, "Darien, you should have voted for the Democrat." For the record, I am a registered Democrat, but must admit, I have been known to vote for the 'person' and not the party.

I sincerely hope you can fix this absurdity and let us in this part of Lewis and Clark County have better representation in the legislature.

Sincerely,

Darien Scott  
4071 Fox Hollow Dr.  
Helena, MT 59602  
406-443-7572  
[darien637@msn.com](mailto:darien637@msn.com)

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Kevin Niehenke [K.Niehenke@womack-machine.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 6:20 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Redistricting Commission,

In the past, certain parties have used the redistricting process to try to bias legislative elections in their favor. District lines should be drawn in a way that is not designed to advantage either party. Using election results or political data to design districts to achieve a certain outcome is bad for Montana. Please be fair when drawing up the district lines.

Thank you,  
Kevin Niehenke  
Big Timber

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**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Bryce Miller [bambryce@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 14, 2011 8:14 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Redistricting comment

Hello,

My name is Bryce Miller and I live in the Target Range neighborhood in Missoula (part of House district 97). The boundary of the district does not really keep the principle of "community of interest" intact. For example, the Target Range area on the west side of district 97 is **rural**. But, the district stretches east all the way to the University of Montana area which is **urban**.. Also, Target Range is outside of Missoula city limits whereas the rest of the district is in the city limits..

Please keep this in mind when redistricting.

thanks Bryce

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Rep. Mike Miller, HD84 [Mike4HD84@blackfoot.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 1:32 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Honored Commission Members,

I am the representative from House District 84. I feel this district is a great example of what not to do this next redistricting cycle. The following are the reasons I believe this, along with suggestions to help more closely meet the redistricting guidelines and requirements:

While the District may be contiguous on the map, I cannot drive from one end to the other, on pavement, without leaving the district. Once I reach Macdonald Pass on the Powell County side there is no way to get to the North Helena Valley without leaving the District. Once I get to Lincoln, to continue on to another 40-50 miles of the District, I have to use gravel roads to stay in the District and to go around Lincoln.

The towns of Ovando (Powell County) and Lincoln (Lewis & Clark County) are divided with only small portions (about 50 voters ea) in HD84 - the remainder are in HD17, along with Augusta. This breaks up those communities into two separate districts.

There are 17 Precincts in HD84. These people do not share the same political concerns and issues with their more distant neighbors. An example would be Pct 16 in Powell County (the town of Racetrack) and the people in Lewis & Clark County Pct 43 (the town of Craig). Nor do they share the same issues with the majority of the northern Helena Valley, Marysville, Canyon Creek, Silver City, or Helmsville. The residents of the Helena Valley, which includes portions of several of the Helena districts, do not share the same political concerns and issues as do the people that live in the downtown area of Helena. They certainly are not part of the same community or neighborhood.

The rural population of Lewis & Clark County makes up about 80% of the population in HD84 with most of the rural population in Powell County making up the remainder. I can certainly understand that in rural areas, multiple small communities must be combined with other small communities over a large distance. But breaking those small communities apart does not make sense.

In my opinion, it would be more logical, and more in complying with the requirements to keep like communities and neighborhoods together and to make districts compact and contiguous, to combine all of Powell County with all of Granite County to form one district that would more closely reflect neighborhoods and communities that share similar political concerns and issues. The new district would be large in area at just over 4000 sq. mi. and would contain just over 10,000 people - well within the 3% deviation that you have adopted. It would be possible to drive from one end to the other on pavement.

This would then make it possible to create a new district in the north Helena Valley, removing those communities and neighborhoods from being grouped with areas of downtown Helena. Rather than having Austin Road (a rural gravel road) as a boundary, it would be possible to consider the much more traveled Hwy 12 beginning at the top of Macdonald Pass as a boundary if you needed to add more population to achieve the requirement.

Respectfully,

Mike Miller  
Representative, House District 84

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Ed Argenbright [mtbirdwatchers@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2011 1:13 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Redistricting issues

Dear Sirs: I'm writing to express concern about issues related to your committee's process and deliberations. Having served in state government as State Superintendent of Public Instruction and in the appointed position of Commissioner of Political Practices I definitely recommend you depart from the political process used after the 2000 census. In talks with members of the legislature at that time, both Democrat and Republican, the process evolved into the notion of maintaining a favorable district for reelection, depending on the inclusion of this voting bloc or that voting bloc. This is not the way it should have been done. Fairness dictates using communities of interest, so those can be represented by their elected legislators. An example of this would be asking a city resident with no background in agriculture to be elected to represent a significant portion of his agricultural district.

I believe the drawing of districts after the 2000 census relied on votes of 3 to 2 with Democrat appointed members getting the Supreme Court appointee to join in their gerrymandering based on maximizing Democratic voting blocs. Certainly the current makeup of your committee with a former member of our Montana Supreme Court acting as the leader and the balance to the political appointees is a fresh start. I'm hopeful this process will be fair and impartial to both political sides. It is vital that our citizens have confidence in our system and the old method didn't contribute to that. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ed Argenbright Ed.D.

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Sandy Welch [welch@acrossmontana.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:36 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Redistricting Commission,

As you begin your work in creating the new election districts in Montana I believe:

1. Population equity should be a top priority. Last time all of the districts for Flathead County were overpopulated. This deprived our community of an appropriate voice in the past legislative sessions. There is no reason for any area of the state to inequitably suffer on such a broad scale.
2. Lines should maintain natural communities of interest. Lines should follow county lines, other political district lines, city limits, etc. In order to have the greatest voice, communities should be represented as cohesive units whenever possible.
3. Partisan outcomes should not be used to create seats for party politics to dominate. Communities of interest will elect whoever represents them best and should not create areas for parties to count on and other areas to focus election efforts in swing districts.

Thank you for your dedication to such an important endeavor.  
Sandy Welch  
Martin City

Sandy Welch  
[welch@acrossmontana.net](mailto:welch@acrossmontana.net)  
[welch4mt@gmail.com](mailto:welch4mt@gmail.com)  
823-0564

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Gilda Clancy [g-clancy@peoplepc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 8:27 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** District 79

Dear Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

In making your evaluations and changes, I have a concern about District 79 in which I live.

At the present the district is not a "compact district" which I understand is a mandatory criteria in developing boundaries.

Also, I believe in the north valley, there are different concerns from those in the southern part of my district, such as sewer and water issues.

There is no rhyme nor reason to the way my district's boundaries are set up at the present time. Therefore, I am asking you to re-consider its boundaries.

Sincerely,

Gilda Clancy  
4620 Independence Drive  
Helena, MT 59602  
406-443-7657

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## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Ruth Baker [clerkrecorder@rangeweb.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 10:38 AM  
**To:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Subject:** RE: Public input on legislative redistricting

I appreciate the work you are doing to help make this process less painful for the State of Montana. I also thank Joe for coming to the Clerk & Recorder's Convention to talk with us about the process and the possibilities of change that are out there.

Treasure County is a small county in the middle of two house and one senate district, and we would appreciate being left whole. The expense of elections with split districts is more than a small county can easily absorb, and we ask for the committee to leave us whole. Our senate district also happens to be within the 3% plus or minus, with no changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Ruth L. Baker  
Treasure County  
Clerk & Recorder/Clerk of District Court/Election Administrator

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**From:** Rachel Weiss [mailto:rweiss@mt.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 10:22 AM  
**To:** clerkrecorder@rangeweb.net  
**Subject:** Public input on legislative redistricting

TO: Election administrators, party central committees, legislators, county commissioners, and other interested organizations and individuals

FROM: Rachel Weiss and Joe Kolman, Research Analysts

RE: Public input on legislative redistricting

As legislative research staff supporting the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission, we're contacting you with more information about the commission's activities and to urge you to provide input to the commissioners on how legislative redistricting might or should affect your community.

In July, the commission voted to hold hearings in the spring and summer of 2012 on draft maps of new legislative districts. This fall, as part of map preparation, staff will travel to counties across the state to share information regarding the commission and to gather ideas for new boundaries. Although staff will not be able to visit every county, we do hope to visit enough to represent a good cross-section of Montana's diversity.

Even if staff doesn't visit your area, you can still provide written comment and attend the commission's public hearings in 2012. The commission is encouraging interested individuals and organizations to e-mail or mail with comments. All written comments will be distributed to each commissioner and become part of the official record. More importantly, your comments give the commissioners a local view that they can use when developing and judging maps.

When providing comments, please remember that the commissioners must follow state and federal laws pertaining to redistricting. Their mandatory districting criteria follow those laws, while their discretionary criteria are traditional redistricting principles selected by the commission to provide further guidance on where to draw new lines. A list of these criteria and a one-page document about providing comments are available at the commission's web site, [www.leg.mt.gov/districting](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting).

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** mattrosendale@midrivers.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 12:08 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting Commission information

Rachel,

I don't anticipate many changes in Eastern Montana Districts as our population has not experienced any dramatic changes. That being said, it would be nice to try and keep districts along county lines wherever possible. For example, House District 37 and 38 include the vast majority of Dawson County. This means Senate District 19 does as well. But there is a very small section of Western Dawson County that is not included in either House District, which in turn prohibits it from inclusion in the Senate District (19). That means those voters in that small area are forced to rely on representation from Representatives and Senators that differs from the balance of the county. Additionally, whether it be perceived or factual, those voters feel their needs are not understood or addressed as effectively as their neighbors who receive representation from county residents.

Thank you for your consideration, MMR Matt Rosendale State Rep. HD 38

Glendive-Wibaux  
1954 Hwy. 16  
Glendive, Mt. 59330  
406-687-3549

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Champ Edmunds [champbuglesmn@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 12:31 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Rachel; Kolman, Joe  
**Cc:** Field, Dawn; Fox, Susan; Jon Bennion; Aaron Flint; Alan Hale; Amy Fisher; Amy Olson; Nancy Ballance; Carmine Mowbray; Pat Connell; Laurie Clark; Carl Graham; Dan Kennedy; Kris Hansen; Krayton Kerns; Ryan Osmundson; Ryan Zinke  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting Commission information

The commissioners did not follow the laws that are in place 10 years ago, which are the same today, so why should we expect that they will follow the law this time around?

### Rep. Champ Edmunds (R)

Montana House of Representatives  
District 100  
Committee Assignments 2011  
Appropriations  
General Government

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=814079717>

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**From:** "Weiss, Rachel" <RWeiss@mt.gov>  
**To:** "Kolman, Joe" <jkolman@mt.gov>; "Weiss, Rachel" <RWeiss@mt.gov>  
**Cc:** "Field, Dawn" <dfield@mt.gov>; "Fox, Susan" <sfox@mt.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 9:07 AM  
**Subject:** Redistricting Commission information

**TO:** Montana Legislators  
**FROM:** Rachel Weiss and Joe Kolman, Research Analysts  
**RE:** Public input on legislative redistricting

As legislative research staff supporting the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission, we're contacting you with more information about the commission's activities and to urge you to provide input to the commissioners on how legislative redistricting might or should affect your community.

In July, the commission voted to hold hearings in the spring and summer of 2012 on draft maps of new legislative districts. This fall, as part of map preparation, staff will travel to counties across the state to share information regarding the commission and to gather ideas for new boundaries. Although staff will not be able to visit every county, we do hope to visit enough to represent a good cross-section of Montana's diversity.

Even if staff doesn't visit your area, you can still provide written comment and attend the commission's public hearings in 2012. The commission is encouraging interested individuals and organizations to e-mail or mail with comments. All written comments will be distributed to each commissioner and become part of the official record. More importantly, your comments give the commissioners a local view that they can use when developing and judging maps.

When providing comments, please remember that the commissioners must follow state and federal laws pertaining to redistricting. Their mandatory districting criteria follow those laws, while their discretionary criteria are traditional redistricting principles selected by the commission to provide further guidance on where to draw new lines. A list of these criteria and a one-page document about providing comments are available at the commission's web site, [www.leg.mt.gov/districting](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting).

Also, if you are interested in receiving further updates about the redistricting commission, please sign up to receive e-mailed updates. **E-mailed updates are the best way to learn about commission activities and upcoming redistricting hearings in your area.** Sign up at [www.leg.mt.gov/districting](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting).

Although staff will be contacting local officials as they set up travels, don't hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns, or to see if and/or when we plan to visit your area. Rachel Weiss is available at [rweiss@mt.gov](mailto:rweiss@mt.gov) or 406-444-5367; Joe Kolman is available at [jkolman@mt.gov](mailto:jkolman@mt.gov) or 406-444-9280.

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** flyingd@q.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2011 9:44 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** redistricting

Please use city limits as a boundary. Seely Lake, Bonner, Milltown, etc have very different views than people inside the city, and we would like to have our own views represented.

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Clancy Kenck [cbkenck@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 23, 2011 11:31 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** redistricting

Your committee is charged with redistricting Montana. Please be mindful to keep neighborhoods as one of your top priorities. Urban and rural voters have different views, so the districts should be drawn to allow like minded people to elect a representative who will carry their voice to Helena.

I know this will take extra effort, but the effort will result in fairness for the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Clancy Kenck  
2813 Queen St.  
Missoula, Montana 59801

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Michael McCullough [mmm1@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2011 10:20 AM  
**To:** Districting

Please don't use the current districts as a starting point. They force rural voters to compete with urban voters, and lose our voice.

Michael M. McCullough

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Webmail rusv [rusv@bigsky.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2011 11:05 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** re-districting for the Missoula County

--The districts should limit the influence of city voters over the suburban and rural parts of our County. The interests of rural areas are different from downtown, and I'd like to see districts that keep the two areas distinct and separate. I'm tired of the influence that those in the city have over the very different set of issues of the rural areas.

Harold VanOverbeck, 18860 Moonlight Drive, Frenchtown, MT



**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** jvfmslamt@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2011 12:49 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Missoula County Districts

As you redraw the boundaries for House Districts within the County of Missoula, I urge you to correct inequities and illogical divisions created in the wake of the 2000 Census.

One of the worst instances is House District 91 which combines voters in rural areas and unincorporated towns **EAST** of the City of Missoula with the community of Lolo **SOUTH** of Missoula. These areas are literally separate "islands" with differing (sometimes contradictory) public concerns and preferences. On a map, they appear connected, but in reality are joined by a strip of mountainous, uninhabited land. It's very unfair to voters, candidates and elected representatives to force these disparate and disconnected groups into the same District.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jane VanFossen  
1322 Khanabad Drive  
Missoula, MT 59802  
406-549-8232

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Trish Auras [trishauras2@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2011 9:35 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** fairness in districting

--The map should limit the influence of city voters over the suburban rural parts of our area. The interests of rural areas are different from downtown, and we'd like to see districts that keep the two separate.

Patricia A. Auras  
1726 De Foe  
Missoula, MT  
59802

406 5436596

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Connie Wardell [cwardell@usadig.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2011 10:41 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Comments on Redistricting

Please continue to consider the integrity of larger communities rather than parceling out portions of districts to other counties.

Yellowstone County has a population that supports 14 House districts and 7 Senate districts within our county. The rural counties surrounding our County really do not like being a minor part of an urban district. It makes little sense to combine the urban counties with large rural areas (one of our Senate districts extends all the way to Miles City.) There is no common interest and so the legislator falls back on Party politics to determine their vote. If the legislators represent a common geographic/geopolitical structure like a county, they will be more bound to vote the interests of their residential county.

Rural areas are better represented by combining many rural counties. This gives them a rural legislator who lives and understands their needs. That legislator will be able to be in touch with his constituents by attending various Ag meetings (Stock Grower, Irrigation meetings) and not basically trying to go door-to-door in both rural and urban areas. The result can be true representative government.

Frankly, it might result in adequate funding for AA School districts if we had representation by County.

Connie Wardell  
School District Trustee  
Billings Public Schools

[cwardell@usadig.com](mailto:cwardell@usadig.com)

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** James H. Sadler [jimsadler@bresnan.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2011 11:03 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** redistricting

To Whom this may concern. I live in the Target Range area. We have our own small school district, water district, farmers market as many of the homes are located on small acreages and do small scale farming. We have very little in common with the University District. The house District I live in goes from Higgins Avenue all the way to Clements Road. Our legislature Michelle Rhinehart is a fine young woman who does a good job representing the University point of view. Where am I on her list of priorities. My neighbors and I need to be represented by someone who understands the independent nature of the Target Range folks and how we fight tooth and nail to keep the city from annexing us. Rhinehart does not have a clue what we are talking about. It is not her fault as she lives in the urban area and her associations are with other urban University people. This is like we are oil and they are water. Things do not mix. Please help us and draw a district where our rural and small farming issues can be the focus not just University funding. Jim Sadler, 1220 Clements Road, Missoula, Montana 25 years at this location, 6 generations in Montana.

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Barbara Ford [bford1935@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2011 2:17 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Redistricting - Missoula

To the Commissioners:

Please consider the redistricting process in Missoula. The boundaries as they exist now are very unfair. Using the city limits would meet the needs of the city rather than the rural areas of Seeley Lake, Bonner, Milltown, etc.. I would like to see these areas as separate from the city.

Thank you.

Mrs. Barbara Ford  
Missoula, Montana 59803

TO: Chairman Regnier and members of the Redistricting Committee and staff

FROM: Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

RE: Comments regarding mapping procedures

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to comment prior to the creation of the redistricting maps. It is our hope that the commission will work to create legislative districts that are based on communities of common interest. To that extent, we would ask that you disregard current legislative lines when creating the 2014 maps and simply start with a clean slate.

Although we recognize that this method may create some confusion for carry-over legislators, we feel it would allow the people of each district to be better represented. For example, the communities of Dutton and Seeley Lake are on opposite sides of the continental divide, have very different economies, one exists in the trade area of Great Falls, the other in Missoula; their sports teams would never meet prior to a state tournament – and they share a legislator. We would ask that you avoid this type of district when creating the new maps.

We would like to suggest the following guidelines when creating the new maps:

First, begin with the Indian Reservations creating districts that are as compact as possible while still insuring that they are fairly represented at the Legislature.

Move on to the seven major cities in Montana. We recommend creating legislative seats in these cities based on existing neighborhoods. In Great Falls, that would mean following the lines of the current neighborhood council districts and/or the grade school boundaries. These are groups of people that often work together and have common interests unique to the same area of town.

Understanding that there is a need for population deviation in order to get to logical geographic boundaries (city limits, the river, the interstate), we would prefer that the deviation be as low as possible in all districts in order to insure fair representation over the next decade.

After the seven major cities are completed, we would suggest that you move next to towns that have what are classified as "Class A" schools by the MHSAA. Many of these towns are large enough to have their own legislator and then a second representative for the surrounding rural areas. We would encourage you to make these rural districts so that they follow the school district and the general trade region for each community.

Moving back to the seven major cities and their surrounding areas, we urge you to create legislative districts using those areas of high population just outside city limits combined with the trade area and school districts of common interest. For example, the communities that are on the west side of Great Falls are very different than those on the east. By creating a district that encompassed the very far west

end of Great Falls (outside city limits), the areas of Sun Prairie, Vaughn, Sun River and Simms – you would be creating a reasonably compact area that have common schools, churches and places of work and trade. The same could be said going all four directions outside of Great Falls. We believe this is likely true in all of the seven major cities in Montana.

In the interest of creating compact districts that are contiguous and still maintaining communities of interest, we would suggest you finish the mapping of Montana with the following items in mind:

1. Keep rural counties whole as much as possible. If one county has enough population to justify a legislative seat, keep them whole. If two or three neighboring counties can be put together to create a seat, do so.
2. When creating larger districts, attempt to create them in a manner that they share a trade area (Billings, Great Falls, Bozeman); that they are all in a common MHSA district; or that they all share in a Montana Association of Counties regional district. This would ensure that even in a large district, the residents have something in common besides their state of residence.

In closing, the Great Falls Chamber strongly believes that people are best represented when legislative districts are created so that voters can elect someone from their own neighborhood who understands their community. This is accomplished when lines are drawn based on existing communities of interest that are as compact and contiguous as possible.

Thank you again, for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to participating as you proceed.

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** palomasolo@blackfoot.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2011 8:56 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** redistricting

Howdy!

Please refer to city/town limits when defining voter districts. The interests of city dwellers are not necessarily those of their rural neighbors. Therefore in the interest of equality before the law, keep the political subdivisions as clearly separate as the limits of cities and towns.

Thank you,  
Dick Wells, HD 13



**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Gloria Roark [zibec@q.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2011 11:15 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Cc:** Gloria Roark  
**Subject:** Re-Districting

The redistricting should take into consideration the rural and suburban areas that are not a part of the city. Currently people in the city impact the out-lying areas, which is not fair. Urban voters have no voice currently.

Along the same lines, the University district and students impact property owners, as their interests are totally different, and the students especially are not burdened by property taxes either. Many of these people are here temporarily as they attend the University.

City Council seats and neighborhoods should be noted, as well, when using city limits as a boundary.

Please don't use the current districts as a starting point.

And, lastly, most people do not know the district in which they are located. The average person should be able to easily access maps to clarify.

Sincerely,

Gloria & Doug Roark  
10079 Miller Creek Road  
Missoula, Mt. 59803

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"I dream of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of Earth." Abraham Lincoln

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Margaret Juneman [jamjuneman@montana.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2011 7:16 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Re-Districting

Please keep in mind city residents and rural residents have different interests and needs.  
Please create boundaries in a way to entitle each group to have representation.

Thank you.  
Mrs. Joseph Juneman  
Rural property owner

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Gloria Roark [zibec@q.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2011 8:48 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re-Districting

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**From:** "Margaret Juneman" <[jamjuneman@montana.com](mailto:jamjuneman@montana.com)>  
**To:** [districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov)  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 27, 2011 7:16:08 PM  
**Subject:** Re-Districting

Please keep in mind city residents and rural residents have different interests and needs.  
Please create boundaries in a way to entitle each group to have representation.

Thank you.  
Mrs. Joseph Juneman  
Rural property owner

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"I dream of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of Earth." Abraham Lincoln

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Maggi Dunakin [mdunakin@itstriangle.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 28, 2011 6:50 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** redistricting

To Whom it May Concern,

I am hoping that in your quest to redistrict, you are aware that we in the rural areas are being diminished as to our voice in matters that affect us. When the urban areas are given more emphasis, a louder voice, or folded into our districts as if we are of one mind, our rural concerns fall through the cracks.

I would like to suggest that you take this opportunity to keep the districts "clean and clear" as our opinions differ greatly from the urban areas in Montana. As property owners in the great agricultural/ rural areas of one of the few "free" states left, we would certainly appreciate due consideration be given to our needs, opinions and lifestyle.

As redistricting will have a huge impact in our representation for quite a long time, I ask you to take as much time as is needed to study existing affiliations and differing opinions that are largely regional and ensure that we are all represented as fairly as possible. Please give consideration to current city council districting and the particular culture each neighborhood has adopted.

Please help us not to lose our voice.

Sincerely,  
Maggi Dunakin  
Reed Point, MT

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Rena Wetherelt [letfreedomring.2010@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 6:45 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** redistricting

Dear Redistricting Committee,

Please consider neighborhoods when redistricting. Downtowners should have a representative. A bedroom community east of town should have a resident representative and so on. Thanks,

Rena Wetherelt

Precinct Representative

Republican Party