



# Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

## Commission members:

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## Staff:

Rachel Weiss  
Research Analyst  
Joe Kolman  
Research Analyst  
Ginger Aldrich  
Attorney  
Laura Sherley  
Secretary

## MINUTES LOG

November 1, 2019  
Room 137, Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

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### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

SHEILA STEARNS, Presiding Officer  
JEFF ESSMANN  
JOE LAMSON  
DAN STUSEK  
KENDRA MILLER

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED**

### **STAFF PRESENT**

RACHEL WEISS, Research Analyst  
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst  
GINGER ALDRICH, Attorney  
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

### **VISITORS' LIST** ([Attachment 1](#))

### **AGENDA** ([Attachment 2](#))

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

The commission adopted operating procedures and voted to allow proxy votes.

## **CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, and ROLL CALL**

10:02:14 Commissioner Stearns called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and reviewed the agenda and meeting procedures. The secretary took roll ([Attachment 3](#)).

## **UPDATE ON FEDERAL CENSUS AND STATE OUTREACH**

10:07:36 Mary Craigle, Bureau Chief, Research and Information Services, Montana Department of Commerce  
10:09:20 Vicki McIntire, Deputy Regional Director (Denver Region), U.S. Census Bureau  
10:10:18 Emilie Saunders, Communications Director, Montanan Department of Commerce  
10:10:35 Erin Fashway, GIS Coordinator, Montana State Library  
10:11:38 Panel presentation ([Exhibit 1](#))

## **Commission questions**

10:13:15 Commissioner Stearns asked what the expected number of individuals is to have self-responded by May 2020.

10:15:07 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

## **Commission questions**

10:30:01 Commissioner Essmann asked if the department reached out to senior citizens centers to advertise 2020 census jobs.

10:32:35 Commissioner Lamson asked how seasonal residents participate in the census.

10:35:40 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

## **Commission questions**

10:38:03 Commissioner Essmann asked how seasonal vacancies can be reported.

10:40:25 Commissioner Miller asked if the real-time response website is live.

10:42:09 Commissioner Stusek asked where interested persons should apply for census jobs.

10:43:40 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

## **Commission questions**

10:47:09 Commissioner Stearns asked if the presentation will be available after the meeting.

10:49:32 Commissioner Lamson asked if there are an appropriate amount of resources to carry out the 2020 census.

10:50:33 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

## **Commission questions**

10:51:25 Commissioner Essmann asked if county precincts have been properly mapped out.

10:52:30 Commissioner Stearns asked for clarification on boundary lines.

10:55:43 Commissioner Essmann commented on the list-based property tax system.

10:57:39 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

10:58:41 Commissioner Stusek asked when the commission will receive new apportionment data.

11:00:01 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

11:03:48 Commissioner Lamson asked the panel to comment on the security measures used to protect personal census information.

11:07:13 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

11:18:09 Commissioner Stearns asked if the state had a significant undercount in the last census compared to other states.

11:20:05 Panel presentation continued (see Exhibit 1).

**Commission questions**

11:29:11 Commissioner Essmann asked how the census intends to count in tribal counties.

11:35:07 Commissioner Miller asked if address canvassing will it continue through April 1st considering new construction.

**BREAK** (Reconvened at 11:56 a.m.)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MAPPING PROCESS**

12:00:01 Dr. Michael McDonald, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida ([Exhibit 2](#))

**Commission questions**

12:24:48 Commissioner Stusek asked Mr. McDonald to comment on mandatory public participation in commission meetings.

12:29:21 Commissioner Miller asked how district lines are adjusted in the District Builder application.

12:31:34 Commissioner Miller asked if the application considers travel times across districts.

12:34:17 Commissioner Lamson asked if anyone can use District Builder.

12:37:32 Commissioner Essmann asked how other commissions are using District Builder establish districting criteria.

12:41:08 Commissioner Essmann asked Mr. McDonald to discuss the value of public comments on specific regions rather than the entire state.

12:45:00 Commissioner Essmann asked if District Builder was presented and used at the NCSL June 20-23, 2019, Redistricting Seminar.

12:47:29 Commissioner Stusek asked Mr. McDonald to compare Maptitude and District Builder.

## **Public comment**

None

**LUNCH** (Reconvened at 1:27 p.m.)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS**

13:28:00 Ms. Weiss reviewed the meeting packet (**Exhibit 3**).

## **Columbus redistricting seminar recap**

13:30:50 Commissioner Stusek (**Exhibit 4**)

## **Update on redistricting software selection process**

13:34:37 Mr. Kolman

## **Commission questions/discussion**

13:39:52 Commissioner Stearns asked which mapping program the commission had chosen.

13:41:03 Commissioner Essmann asked if the commissioners will receive individual NCSL logins.

13:41:37 Commissioner Essmann commented on the districting software the commission will use.

13:45:37 Commissioner Miller asked Mr. Kolman to comment on the different districting softwares and if there is an add-on cost for public to submit maps on Maptitude.

13:49:00 Commissioner Essmann commented on the features of various software and testing the districting applications.

13:49:40 Commissioner Stearns asked staff to review the districting software and give suggestions to the commissioners.

13:52:51 Commissioner Lamson commented on the different districting programs available and what software the 2010 commission used.

13:55:45 Commissioner Stearns asked when the staff plans to choose a districting software.

13:57:34 Commission discussion on congressional districts data.

## **Update on commission budget and calendars, meeting and hearing scheduling, prospective timelines**

14:03:33 Ms. Weiss

14:05:26 Commissioner Stearns (**Exhibit 5**)

## **Commission questions/discussion**

14:11:33 Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Weiss to comment on the costs of public meetings hosted in Helena versus meetings held out of Helena.

14:12:58 Commission discussion on commission public hearings and meeting dates.

## **Draft commission operating procedures**

14:41:00 Ms. Weiss (**Exhibit 6**)

14:45:40 Ms. Aldrich

Commission discussion

- 14:46:10 Commissioner Stearns asked the commission to discuss the draft operating procedures.  
14:46:54 Commissioner Lamson asked for clarification on proxy votes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

**MOTION**

- 14:48:24 Commissioner Essmann moved to allow proxy votes.

**DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION**

- 14:48:44 Commissioner Lamson  
14:50:23 Commissioner Essmann  
14:52:12 Commissioner Stearns

**VOTE**

- 14:52:19 The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.  
  
14:52:45 Commissioner Stearns asked Ms. Aldrich to clarify proxy vote procedures.  
14:53:47 Commissioner Stearns adopted voting action options without an objection.  
14:54:13 Commissioner Lamson asked if public testimony by phone will be allowed.  
14:57:07 Commission discussion on public testimony.

**MOTION**

- 14:59:27 Commissioner Miller moved to adopt the commission operating procedures.

**VOTE**

- 14:59:39 The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- 15:00:31 Commission discussion on future agenda items and meeting dates.  
15:08:12 Commissioner Essmann asked that districting criteria discussion be added as an agenda item in future meetings.  
15:10:12 Commission discussion on the commission calendar and seminar dates.  
15:13:04 Commission discussion on districting software.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- 15:13:37 Commissioner Stearns adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

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