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Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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January 14, 2022

TO: The State-Tribal Relations Committee (STRC)
FROM: Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst, Legislative Services
RE: Redistricting update

At your organizational meeting, the STRC asked for periodic updates on Montana redistricting. This memo is the first update since the [October 2021 meeting](#).

On November 12, 2021, the five-member redistricting commission [submitted](#) its plan for Montana's [two congressional districts](#) to the Montana Secretary of State. The commission held 7 public meetings from September to November to consider draft plans and public feedback. The new districts will be used for the primary and general elections held this year.

While the commission had a 90-day deadline set by the Montana Constitution to complete congressional districts, it has more time to create the 100 state house districts and 50 state senate districts. The Montana Constitution requires the commission to submit a state legislative redistricting plan to the Legislature in the first regular session after Census data is available. The 2023 Legislature will have 30 days to return the plan to the commission with recommendations. After that, the commission has another 30 days to file a final state legislative plan with the Secretary of State. Those state legislative districts will be used for the 2024 election.

The commission met in early December 2021 to approve two requests for proposals (RFPs) for consultants. One RFP asks for technical assistance to reallocate prisoners from the locations where they were counted during the Census process to the prisoners' last known residential address. The second RFP seeks a consultant to perform a statistical racial bloc voting analysis for the commissioners to consider when drawing and analyzing state legislative district plans. According to language in the second RFP, the "findings of the racial bloc voting analysis will help the Commission to better understand voting patterns and differential turnout rates of unique racial and/or ethnic groups across Montana and assist in determining Montana's obligations in adherence to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act." At the time of this update, the commission is in the middle of the procurement process and has not yet hired contractors.

Maps, links to redistricting materials, and a sign-up for emailed updates on commission activities are available at the commission's website, mtredistricting.gov. Please call me with any questions, 406-444-5367.

Montana Congressional Districts

Adopted November 12, 2021

