



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

MAYLINN SMITH

Presiding Officer
Arlee, MT 59821

JEFF ESSMANN

PO Box 80945
Billings, MT 59108

JOE LAMSON

612 Touchstone Court
Helena, MT 59634

KENDRA MILLER

3734 Potosi St.
Bozeman, MT 59718

DAN STUSEK

3477 Birkland Drive
Helena, MT 59602

COMMITTEE STAFF

RACHEL WEISS, Research Analyst
JOE KOLMAN, Research Analyst
K. VIRGINIA ALDRICH, Staff Attorney
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

October 4, 2021

TO: The State-Tribal Relations Interim 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. First, some background. In Montana, congressional and state legislative redistricting is performed by a five-member citizen commission created by the Montana Constitution, the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission (MDAC). The first four commissioners are appointed by legislative leaders in the session prior to the decennial Census. Those four commissioners have 20 days to select a fifth member, who also serves as the presiding officer. If the first four cannot agree on the fifth, the Montana Supreme Court picks the fifth member. The Legislative Services Division provides staff assistance for the commissioners.

For the first time since Montana lost its second congressional seat after the 1990 Census, the state has enough population to have a second seat in Congress. Because the Montana Constitution requires the MDAC to complete congressional redistricting in 90 days after the Census data is available, the commissioners are focusing on that task this fall. The 90-day deadline is November 14, 2021. The commissioners will meet on Oct. 5 to review congressional maps submitted to it by the public and to select several of those maps. Those selected maps will be the focus of a public hearing on Oct. 19. The commissioners will meet again on Oct. 21 in a work session to select a map for an additional public hearing on Oct. 30. That is also the date the commission plans to adopt a final map for the two districts.

Once congressional redistricting is completed, the commissioners will turn their attention to the state legislative districts. The commissioners will work through 2022 to create a state legislative redistricting plan that it will submit to the 2023 Legislature for review and comment. After considering the input from the 2023 Legislature, the commission will adopt state legislative districts in late winter 2023. For reference, the 2010 Districting and Apportionment Commission adopted districts in mid-February 2013.

More information about the commission, its adopted criteria and goals for congressional and state legislative districts, meeting materials, and submitted congressional maps is available at the commission's website. You can also direct questions to commission staff.

Commission website: <https://mtredistricting.gov/>

Commission staff: Rachel Weiss, 406-444-5367, rweiss@mt.gov or Joe Kolman, 406-444-3747, jkolman@mt.gov



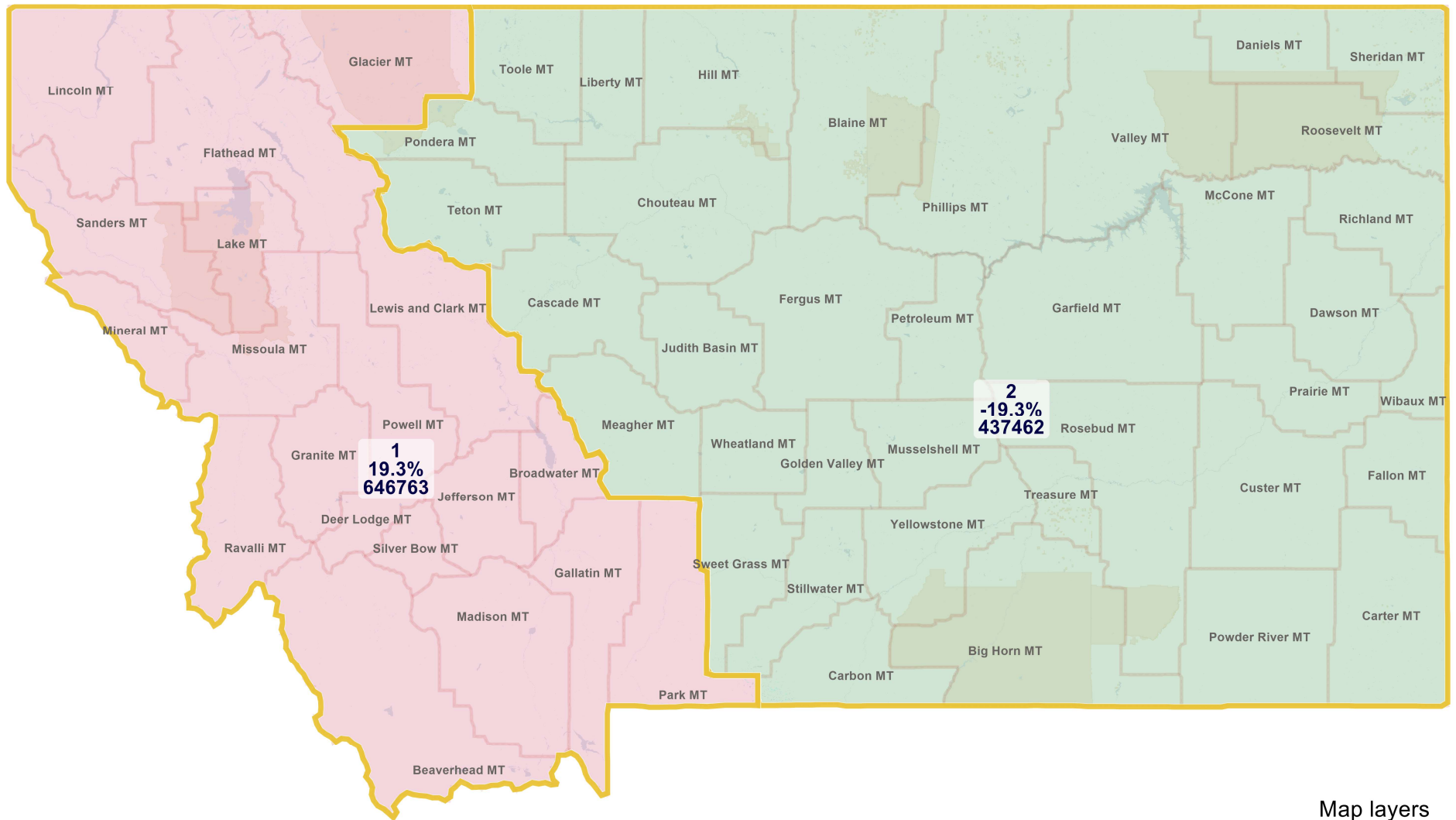
2021 CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING TIMELINE

Date	Event/Action
April 1, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal decennial census
August 12, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.L. 94-171 Legacy Format Summary Files released to states
August 17, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of 90-day timeline (commission received PL data in usable format)
September 15, 2021 by 5 p.m. MDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission deadline for the public to submit Congressional maps (This is a "soft" deadline. It allows the commissioners time to review the maps prior to selecting maps on which to seek public comment. However, the commission will always accept public submissions.)
September 17, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission meeting to view submitted Congressional maps
By September 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.L. 94-171 User-Friendly Format Summary Files delivered to official state recipients
October 5, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission meeting to select Congressional maps on which to receive public comments
October 19, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing on selected Congressional maps
October 21, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission meeting to select a tentative final Congressional map
October 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing on tentative final Congressional map Commission to vote on final map
<i>November 9, 2021</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserved for additional hearing if needed
November 14, 2021 By 90 days from receipt of Census data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90-day deadline to file plan with Montana Secretary of State

The new congressional districts will be used in the 2022 elections.

Last updated 8/26/2021

2020 Population of 1980 Montana Congressional Districts



Ideal district size for 2020 Congressional District is 542,113 people.
The percentage in the label reflects the 1980 district's deviation from the 2020 ideal size.

Data Source: 2020 U.S. Census

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