

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between
November 12 and 5 p.m. on December 9

Distributed electronically December 9, 2021

From: [Austin Asbury](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dec. 10 meeting
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 10:11:24 AM

I am against counting inmates from their residence before they were incarcerated. They live at the prison and that's where they should be counted by the census and that data used in the redistricting.

As far as Native Americans are concerned, as far as I know they could have all been counted either by personal visits, mailed or online means. My husband and I completed the census online. If the residents were not counted because of their failure to avail themselves of one of these measures then the burden falls on them if the census figures are lower than what they should be. You have to go by the numbers on the census, not a guess.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Henry Begler](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Saturday, November 20, 2021 9:20:06 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Henry Begler
801 Cherry Ave
35 years at this address

Map 11

Competitive district

Thank you for your time and hard work

Regards,
Henry Begler
801 Cherry Ave
Helena, MT 59601

From: [Erika Berglund](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Thursday, November 25, 2021 1:49:54 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Erika Berglund and I live in Missoula, MT. I have lived here for the past 5 years and plan to stay in Montana for the foreseeable future, as I have undeniably fallen in love with this place. I work for a small social science research firm based in Bozeman, studying public health and food systems. Many of our projects are based in Montana, including projects that support state government.

I am writing today to tell you that I support proposed map 11.

I support map 11 because it doesn't favor one political party over another, which, as I understand, is one of the Commission's primary goals in selecting a map. I believe it is important that Montanans are able to voice their opinions based on the issues at hand, not solely on the positions of one particular political party. I urge you to select map 11.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Erika Berglund
1539 S 11th St W
Missoula, MT 59801

From: [Jamie Bonilla](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 2:48:47 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Jamie Lee Bonilla, I reside in Great Falls and also have residence in Helena. I lived in Montana my whole life.

Map 11

Does not favor one political party

Thank you for your service!

Regards,
Jamie Bonilla
712 54th St S
Great Falls, MT 59405

From: [Richard Brewis](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021 6:24:16 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Rich Brewis, Bozeman Montana, lived here for a little over a year

I support map 11. It is a more balanced and fair map.

It doesn't unduly favor one particular party, industry, or type of community.

Thank you,

Regards,
Richard Brewis
336 Greenway Ct
Bozeman, MT 59718

From: [Mary Campbell](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 2:48:51 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Mary Campbell, and I have lived in Yaak, Montana for 23 years.

I favor Map11.

Map 11 doesn't favor one party over the other.

Thank you for receiving my comment.

Regards,
Mary Campbell
34902 Yaak River Rd
Troy, MT 59935

From: [Mary Cornell](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Sunday, November 21, 2021 6:59:57 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Mary Cornell and I live at 629 4th Avenue East in Kalispell. I have lived in Montana for 26 years and raised two children here. I am writing today to urge you to approve Map 11 for the voting redistricting. I urge you to approve this map because it will preserve and promote the independent Montana voter. It does not favor party lines but rather the independent voter that is what makes Montana unique and preserves the traditional Montana spirit.

If Montanans are going to elect republicans, democrats, libertarians, or independents, let that come out in the votes rather than drawing lines on a map that favor one party over another.

Please select Map 11. Thank you for the work you do for our state.

Mary Cornell

Map 11

It doesn't favor one party over another and preserves Montana's independence

Thankyou for your time spent on this issue and for your service.

Regards,
Mary Cornell
639 4th Ave E
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Jesse DeVoe](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Monday, November 22, 2021 5:04:51 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello, my name is Jesse DeVoe. I've been a resident of Montana, living in Bozeman for the past 17 years.

I want to endorse the selection of map 11 given it is the least likely to favor one political party over the other, and makes a competitive district.

Thanks for your time and your consideration.

Regards,
Jesse DeVoe
716 E Peach St
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Henry Dykema](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 4:39:03 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello:

My name is Henry Dykema and I have lived in Carbon County for the last 30 years. In that time, I have watched the majority party change many times due, I believe, to relatively fair districting. I urge the committee to adopt map 11 as their redistricting map because it better represents the will of the people rather than the Party and is more representative of the individuality of the Montana electorate

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Henry Dykema
67 Verneti Rd
Red Lodge, MT 59068

From: [Sally Ericsson](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Sunday, November 21, 2021 8:53:57 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Commissioners,

Thanks much for your thoughtful work on the proposed congressional districts. I live in Flathead County.

Map 11 is more balanced than the other map. It is more competitive which is essential in the politically toxic atmosphere in Montana right now. It also keeps Bozeman and the surrounding communities facing the same issues together.

While Map 11 carves up Flathead County, where I live, I think that that will not have much of a detrimental impact on the county and its residents and communities.

Map 11 is more fair, balanced and will result in more competitive elections where voters will feel like they have a voice.

Again, thanks for your service.

Regards,
Sally Ericsson
744 Twin Bridges Rd
Whitefish, MT 59937

Nov 8, 2021

Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission

P.O. Box 201706

Helena, MT 59620

I VOTE FOR

PROPOSAL 10

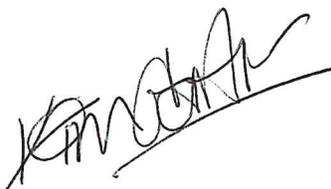
Thank you,

Kim GARTNER

1918 7th ST W Apt 2

Billings, MT 59102

406-256-0370



From: [Chris Grove](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please select redistrict using Map CP11
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:32:57 PM

Commissioners,

Please use redistricting Map CP11, this appease to be the most objective and fair map considered by the commission.

As I advocated in my previous email, voting districts should be drawn with ONLY the objective of equalizing population and simplifying/minimizing the perimeters of the districts. The existence, and use, of “big data” is a temptation to create districts that corrupt our democracy. I sincerely hope that the Commission has avoided this.

Creating fair and objective voting Districts is actually a rather simple GIS exercise. A geographic information system such as ArcGIS, using ONLY the constraints of equalizing population (equivalent to equalizing representation) AND minimizing perimeter, will produce objective and fair districts.

Again, I must emphasize that delineating districts with the intent of creating political advantage will only empower the extremists and further polarize our politics. Ultimately, it is to the benefit of both political parties, and all citizens, to empower moderate views. This is accomplished by objective, nonpartisan, delineation of voting districts.

Lastly, I strongly encourage an objective, transparent, and nonpartisan method of redistricting. Please be prepared to disclose methods and data used to create the redistricting maps considered by the Commission. To do otherwise corrupts our democracy, weakens the Republic, and diminishes our Nation.

From: [Joe Lamson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Friday, November 12, 2021 4:35:16 PM

From: "FRANCINE HAGAR" <FRANCINE.HAGAR.484656476@p2a.co>
To: "Joe Lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 2:04:30 PM
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Francine Hagar and I am writing as a long time resident of Montana, having moved here in 1966; with two exceptions, one due to the Vietnam war (1969-72) and another for my husband's work stint in Alaska (1999-2007).I have lived in Gt Falls, Missoula, Conrad, Augusta, Arlee and have lived for the last 13 years in Bigfork.

I strongly urge the adoption of map 11, which is the fairest option.

Map 11 it is the fairest option and does not favor a political side.

Thank you for your service to the state of Montana and for being open to receive comments from the citizens of this great state.

Regards,
FRANCINE HAGAR
1290 Swan Horseshoe Rd
Bigfork, MT 59911

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

From: [Edwin Halland](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re-districting 2022
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 11:22:29 AM

Dear Re-Districting Committee,

When drawing State Legislative Districts, please take STRONGLY into consideration:

Under Mandatory Criteria, Keep The Reservations Intact while complying with the the four items on the Mandatory Requirements List. Remember that under item 2, protection of minority voting rights, "Race cannot be the predominant factor to which traditional Redistricting criteria are subordinated". No Gerrymandering!!!

Also, under Goals For Legislative Districts, Please eliminate the last item.

Do Not make competitiveness of districts a goal. You draw the lines, the voters will decide what is competitive.

You Have our Prayers and comments,

We'll finish up in 2022.

Merry Christmas.

Edwin D. Halland

From: [Sarah Hamblock](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Sunday, November 14, 2021 1:20:01 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commission,

My name is Sarah Hamblock. I was raised in Butte and am now living in Helena. My family Homesteaded on the Hiline, so I am lucky to be a fifth generation Montanan.

I support Map 11 because it is politically competitive and doesn't favor one party over another.

It is important that Montana is politically dynamic, and I believe more competitive districting is the way we get there.

Thank you for taking public comment. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute.

Regards,
Sarah Hamblock
106 Alta St
Helena, MT 59601

Oct 26-2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment
Commission.

I am writing to say that Congressional
Proposal II is the only redistricting
map that should be considered.

sincerely,
Mailee HaraKel
Billings Montana

From: [Erinn Hermsen](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Friday, November 19, 2021 12:04:48 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Erinn Hermsen and I'm a graduate student at MSU. I've lived in Bozeman for 2.5 years!

Map 11

It doesn't unfairly favor one political party

Thank you for all you do!

Regards,
Erinn Hermsen
103 Paisley Ct
Bozeman, MT 59715

4210 Sacramento
Butte, Montana 59701
October 27, 2021
(406) 494-2997

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
PO Box 201706
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Districting

We reviewed the information regarding the two maps for congressional districts. Although both maps look reasonable, we feel that the final map nominated by the Democratic members of the State Committee more reasonably reflect the areas indicated.

If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Sincerely,


Joe and Mary Pat Kasperick

From: [Jessica Kehoe](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021 3:30:17 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Jessica Kehoe and I've been a resident of Missoula since 2003.

I support map 11 to allow for more competitive elections.

Thanks for your time and service.

Regards,
Jessica Kehoe
622 Dearborn Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

From: [douglas kikkert](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Sunday, November 14, 2021 6:34:06 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Cheryl Kikkert formerly from the Bitterroot- 30 years - in Cliton last 14 years.

I support map #11 because it is the fairer of the 2 options...it doesn't favor one party. As Montanans we don't want thay!

As mentioned earlier. It is fairer....a more competitive district. More bipartisan...thats important!

Thank you for your consideration and work. God bless Montana.

Regards,
douglas kikkert
101 7th St
Philipsburg, MT 59858

From: [Joe Kurcinka](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 2:29:59 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Joe Kurcinka. I live at 1810 Kenyon Drive in Bozeman Montana.

I am writing simply to request that you vote for Map 11.
I believe this is the option that doesn't favor one political party. We have an opportunity with map 11 to divide our state in a long lasting, fair manner.

Simply include all of Flathead county in the eastern region.
Map 11 with the minor adjustment of Flathead county
in entirety to the eastern region give us a fair map for both parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to input.
Joe Kurcinka

Regards,
Joe Kurcinka
1810 Kenyon Dr
Bozeman, MT 59715

From: [Henry Lischer](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 3:19:57 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Henry Lischer, and my wife and I own a home in Nye (which we purchased in 1997).

I support adoption of map 11 because it is the more fair option.

The best map is one that does not favor one political party over another.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Henry Lischer
18 Waldstein Ln
Nye, MT 59061

From: [Beth Loehnen](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Friday, November 26, 2021 1:34:52 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Beth Loehnen is my name. I have lived in Missoula for 44 years.

I support Map 11.

It makes a competitive and thereby fair district.

Thank you for your contributions to this project.

Regards,
Beth Loehnen
845 Wyoming St
Missoula, MT 59801

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David Mihalic
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 11:49:04 AM

From: David Mihalic davemihalic@bresnan.net
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I have received the notice of the December 10th, 2021 Commission meeting, that casually notes the agenda includes requests for proposals for "racial block voting" and "prisoner reallocation" for consideration in state legislative district redistricting. The notice invites this comment, yet there is no further information, nor on the Commission website any easy way for the public to see the "proposed language" that the Commission agenda states will be reviewed. Merely attaching the letter to the Legislative Council Presiding Officer requesting funding for "how" to "reallocate" released prisoners or "how" to comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act with no further information is not enough information to give informed comment. I protest this cavalier approach to public involvement and suggest the Committee give adequate notice to the public that INCLUDES the details, language, and background on the agenda topics they intend to discuss. Merely stating a phrase such as "racial block voting" or "prisoner reallocation" without any other detail or way to review such detail is irresponsible – especially when the phrase, unexplained, to the public causes all kinds of questions, most immediate of which is, "what are they thinking?"

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

From: [Ross Monasmith](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Selection of Congressional Map
Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 10:50:02 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Ross Monasmith. I'm a resident of Butte, Montana, and have been living in Western Montana for the last 15 years.

I am writing to offer my support, as a constituent, of selecting Map 11 for redistricting the MT congressional divide.

I believe Map 11 will result in the most fair and balanced outcome for Montanans, and ensure that each of the two congressional seats is subject to a competitive race.

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,
Ross Monasmith
2835 Moulton St
Butte, MT 59701

Gayle North
Fri 10/29/2021

Commissioner Miller,

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are bad ideas for redistricting as they are based on trying to carve out specific party districts and do not comply with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

Please throw out these two new maps and select map CP-1 as it's the best map that adheres to the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle North



187 A Golf Terrace
Bigfork, MT 5991
406-250-4038

GNunlimited@gmail.com

Gayle North
Fri 10/29/2021

Commissioner Lamson,

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are bad ideas for redistricting as they are based on trying to carve out specific party districts and do not comply with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

Please throw out these two new maps and select map CP-1 as it's the best map that adheres to the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle North



187 A Golf Terrace
Bigfork, MT 5991
406-250-4038

GNunlimited@gmail.com

Gayle North
Fri 10/29/2021

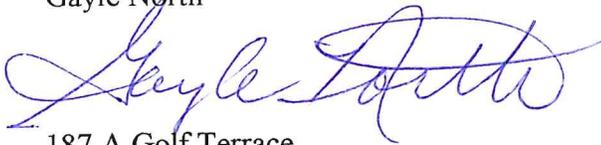
Commissioner Essman,

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are bad ideas for redistricting as they are based on trying to carve out specific party districts and do not comply with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

Please throw out these two new maps and select map CP-1 as it's the best map that adheres to the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle North



187 A Golf Terrace
Bigfork, MT 5991
406-250-4038

GNunlimited@gmail.com

From: [Stephanie potts](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Thursday, November 25, 2021 2:05:16 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello my name is Stephanie Potts, I live in Gallatin County and I've been a Montana resident for 11 years.

I support map 11 because it creates a competitive district and also because it keeps Gallatin County within one district.

I think it is very important for the democracy in our state that we have a competitive district, and as a Gallatin County resident I believe it makes sense that Gallatin County remain within one district.

Thank you so much for serving on the commission and for taking my comment into consideration

Regards,
Stephanie potts
73 Arrowwood Dr
Bozeman, MT 59718

From: eric.knutson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: *** ACTION ALERT - SUPPORT TO CHAIR OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION ***
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 5:57:43 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Julie Reffner
Date: Fri, Nov 12, 2021 at 9:19 PM
Subject: Fwd: *** ACTION ALERT - SUPPORT TO CHAIR OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION ***
To:

Please read and send emails per Tracy's suggestion!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Penny Jarecki
Subject: FW: *** ACTION ALERT - SUPPORT TO CHAIR OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION ***
Date: November 10, 2021 at 7:36:12 AM MST
To: marlo maddy, Dorothy Ashcraft, Julie Reffner

Hi Marlo, Dorothy, Julie,

I am suggesting that this message from Tracy be forwarded to all the members of the Lake County Republican Women. As Republicans we are warned that we have to "stand up" for our beliefs. In my opinion, this is one of those times.

Penny

From: Lake County Republican Central Committee
[\[mailto:LCRCC.MT@protonmail.com\]](mailto:LCRCC.MT@protonmail.com)
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 5:47 PM
Subject: Re: *** ACTION ALERT - SUPPORT TO CHAIR OF DISTRICTING COMMISSION ***

----- Original Message -----

On Monday, November 8th, 2021 at 3:52 PM, Tracy Sharp
<theknowbetters@gmail.com> wrote:

Here's her address! Sorry I forgot that. Way too much

going on today....

Maylinn Smith - Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov

On Mon, Nov 8, 2021 at 3:42 PM Tracy Sharp
<theknowbetters@gmail.com> wrote:

America First Patriots,

I've just received word that the BLM/ANTIFA Democrats are trying to "cancel" Maylinn Smith, Chair of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission (MDAC) due to her selection of Map 12 (CP12) last week. At this point, I don't know what "cancel" means, but we must send her personal emails of support directly to her thanking her for her wise decision. It is going to be tough for her to withstand *the firestorm of leftist activist hate* that is about to be brought down on her head, so *shore her up with emails of support!*

Below is what I wrote. You can steal from it as you see fit, modify it so it is your own, and zap it to her.

Tomorrow is an important day in the lives of all Montanans. We must continue to fight *to stop the steal*, so *support the chair*, testify, and send off support for Map 12 to the committee. It is never too late as long as it is before the meeting!

Tracy

*****My Comments to Madam Chairman
Maylinn Smith *****

Madam Chairman Smith,

I wanted to personally thank you for the way you have conducted these hearings. In the beginning, I had my doubts. However, I now am convinced that you have preserved and enhanced your reputation through the evenhanded manner in which you have conducted these proceedings.

When there wasn't enough public comment in the beginning, you adjusted and changed the format to allow comments. When absurd north-south gerrymandered maps were presented, you were instrumental in seeing that they were pushed aside in favor of a sensible east-west split. When the final absurdity of putting Flathead County and the Blackfoot Reservation (but not the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)) in the east, you saw through the obfuscated reasoning put forth to justify such a split and agreed to CP 12.

CP12 is right (if not perfect) and it *looks* right. No one viewing this map from outside of Montana would look at CP12 and say, "What the heck happened there!?" No, instead the east-west split

along the Rocky Mountains and near the Continental Divide line looks, seems, and is sensible. Clearly the entire way of life west of the mountains is different than that of our friends on the other side of the mountains. Our interests, needs, and even our weather are different in the west. Our communities of interest must be tied together so that representation, Democrat or Republican, can understand and court the shared voting interests of all of us on this side of the divide.

I applaud the way you have handled this tremendous responsibility, and you have earned my respect and admiration. Well done, and we will stand with you in weathering the complaints and abuse likely to come your way for having selected a map you truly believed to be legal, constitutional, and in the best interests of all Montanans.

Tracy Sharp

Polson, Montana

From: [Greg Rice](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 6:34:59 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Greg Rice. I have been a resident of Lincoln County for 44 years.

I support Map 11.

I support Map 11 because it creates at least one congressional district that would be competitive.

Thanks so much for all you do!!

Regards,
Greg Rice
1020 Idaho Ave
Libby, MT 59923

From: [Cecily Ryan](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 8:04:57 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Cecily Ryan
Kalispell
2018

Map 11

Redistricting should represent a cross section of voters: not favoring any political party.

I certainly appreciate all your time and effort on behalf of all Montanans

Regards,
Cecily Ryan
100 Leah Ann Ln
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David A. Skinner
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 2:52:45 PM

From: David A. Skinner daskinner@centurytel.net
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

Madam Chair and select Commissioners,

I would like to congratulate the Commission, especially the Chair, for finally settling on Map 12 amended. Not perfect, but not egregious, either. I am much more optimistic about the final outcome of this process than I was prior.

Now the legislative process starts and I have a suggestion, given the crazy level of totally unjustified and tangential bickering exhibited prior to Map 12 being selected.

Our state-legislative-level districting should first be broken up in the following manner:

There are 100 representatives and 50 senators. Based on population-only, I feel it wisest to initially break down the legislative districts into 10 compact/contiguous units with an over/under of one percent, possibly with the western or "growing" sub-units adjusted to be "under" by a percent in order to account somewhat for growth or lack thereof.

Five of these initial units can be in the "western" Congressional, five in the Eastern, all covering 10 House and 5 Senate seats.

Thereby, equivalent representation for each Montana voter becomes the baseline, and further, there's no messing around where the 10/5 shuffle affects adjacent "one of ten" clusterings.

Within each of ten, there will of course be local squabbling over "communities of interest," but any spillover effects will be minimized, including major gerrymandering efforts.

Overall, however, an initial breakdown based on the simple concepts of population, plus compactness and contiguity, will establish firm, rational sideboards on the overall discussion AND empower the citizens of each of these sub-regions. This is what Montana voters desire AND DESERVE after decades of unjustified power-mongering silliness. Keep it simply simple.

Thank you, and please,

Dave Skinner

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

From: [Fred Spataro](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 6:59:57 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello,

My name is Fred Spataro. I live in Missoula and have been a Montana resident since 2005.

I support map 11. There should be the least amount of party lean in the accepted solution.

Please ensure that competition between parties is the highest priority. Protectionism is not an American trait.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns and be involving involved in this important process.

Regards,
Fred Spataro
606 N 3rd St W
Missoula, MT 59802

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dennis M. Taylor
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:53:36 PM

From: Dennis M. Taylor dmt4mt@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

I have been pleased that all of our Commissioners, regardless of party affiliation, have worked hard to ensure that Montana continues to support the one person, one vote principle. Please continue to ensure that this principle remains strong in your efforts this year and beyond. I am writing to applaud your commitment to the long overdue prisoner reallocation process. Please ensure that our state legislative districts are based on actual populations. All Montanans deserve to have an equal voice in our government regardless whether they have a prison in their community or not. Prison gerrymandering hurts everyone who does not reside in a community with a large prison. Indigenous Montanans are overrepresented in our state prisons. It is long overdue to implement prisoner reallocation and end prison gerrymandering. Please ensure that incarcerated Montanans have an equal say in our government and our democracy. By ending prison gerrymandering, you can ensure that your redistricting process fully complies with existing Montana law. Montana Annotated Code § 13-1-112(2) states that “an individual may not gain or lose a resident while... being confined in any prison.” Please make this a reality by supporting the prisoner reallocation process. Thank you all for your hard work.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (<https://mtredistricting.gov> [mtredistricting.gov])

From: [Dustin Walters](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 4:44:58 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

My name is Dustin Walters and I live in Missoula, where I have resided for 22 years. I have two children and raise my family here. Redistricting is important for me as it helps shape Montana's future

I support map 11

Map 11 seems to be the least politically influenced map and it evenly distributes the population

Thank you for your time and considering my comment

Regards,
Dustin Walters
1309 Stanley St
Missoula, MT 59802

From: nitzitapii@gmail.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on districting
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 10:33:38 AM

I have been following the districting efforts of Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission with interest. My interest is focused on how the districting will affect the tribal/reservation vote. I favor having the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in the West, which I believe is favored by the Democrats. That would put at least two of the seven reservations in the west.

Susan A. Webber, SD8
Browning, MT 59417

From: [Daniel Weber](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021 7:09:04 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am 69 years old and have been a MT resident my entire life. Born in Glasgow; I've now been living in Missoula since 1974.

I support Map 11.

Map 11 is the only map that is a competitive district for differing political views. Montana is more diverse than our current representation.

Thank you for your service to our great state.

Regards,
Daniel Weber
149 Meadowlark Ct
Missoula, MT 59803

From: [Thula weisel](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 3:35:08 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am recently retired, moving back to Montana after 25 years as a public research professional in Seattle.

I am a fourth generation Montanan and deeply committed to the health and welfare of this state, it's lands and peoples.

After careful review, I support map 11 since it reflects the least amount of bias. Montana has been and I hope can continue to be, an independent leaning state focused on issues and individuals not politics

It reflects the least amount of bias

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments and for your service for this state

Regards,
Thula weisel
619 Pattee Canyon Rd
Missoula, MT 59803

From: [Harold Williamson](#)
To: [Joe Lamson](#)
Subject: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps
Date: Monday, November 22, 2021 6:34:03 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Harold (Hal) Williamson moved to Whitefish in 2015.

I have reviewed the two final districting proposals and I favor 11 because it avoids splitting communities and creates a politically competitive situation.

Thank you for respecting my opinion.

Regards,
Harold Williamson
580 Monegan Rd
Whitefish, MT 59937