

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5:00 p.m. on December 8 and 11:59 p.m. on
December 9, 2022

Distributed electronically December 10, 2022

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Robert F. Albers

From: Robert F. Albers BOBA59803@yahoo.com
Residence: Missoula , MT 59803

Message:

Please, Please would take into consideration all our Voters in the rural areas of OUR Great State. The Farmers and The Ranchers are Vital to Montana and our way of life. You , We need to Protect them. Please don't disenfranchise Them
Thank you

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 5:58 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Shannon Andres

From: Shannon Andres d.andres@bresnan.net
Residence: Clancy, MT

Message:

I see Map HDP98 cuts MT City in half which violates the rule of keeping communities of interest together. It also puts Basin and Bernice in with Seeley Lake instead of Boulder. This makes no sense since Basin, Bernice and Boulder are small, rural towns right next to each other and Seeley Lake is over 2 hours away. That seems to be a very deliberate act of making rural areas uncouncted and inconsequential. Please reconsider this very biased map that will ruin Montana's rural towns.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Avila

From: Elizabeth Avila ulicny7@msn.com
Residence: Ronan MT

Message:

We need to include the entire reservation in the redistricting map for our area to be more equitable.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Starr Backen

From: Starr Backen libbyacct@gmail.com
Residence: Libby, MT

Message:

My thoughts are simple. Redistribution – city vote one district county vote one district state vote one district. Count everyone’s vote! Don’t divide any of us.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tammi Baer

From: Tammi Baer honeybeemaria73@gmail.com
Residence: Pablo Montana

Message:
To whom it may concern

I would like to ask that you do not split up Polson in districts 88 and 89 we need to remember that these are communities of interest. People have been known to look the other way when districts have been divided up instead of remaining contiguous. They are supposed to be compact and make it easy for voters to vote. To split up Polson shows intent to not keep in good faith our MCA Title 5-1-115. To blatantly disregard the requirements when they can so easily be met causes great concern for the citizens. I have watched how many times these mapping sessions have shown that people will do ridiculous things to bend and twist the true intent of our laws. I am asking that you honor your duties to the public by honoring my voice and the voice of others who have tried to take our valuable time to speak on this issue. As I attend church on Saturday I am unable to vocally testify so please accept this written form. Thank you for taking time to consider me and my family in this matter

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: julie waters-barcomb

From: julie waters-barcomb julie@barcomb.org
Residence: Libby

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

—

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Evan Barrett <evanbutte@bresnan.net>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Legislative Reapportionment

Members of the Reapportionment Commission –

I strongly recommend final adoption of the tentative final house map adopted the other day, subject to consideration of Legislative comments after your formal submission to them.

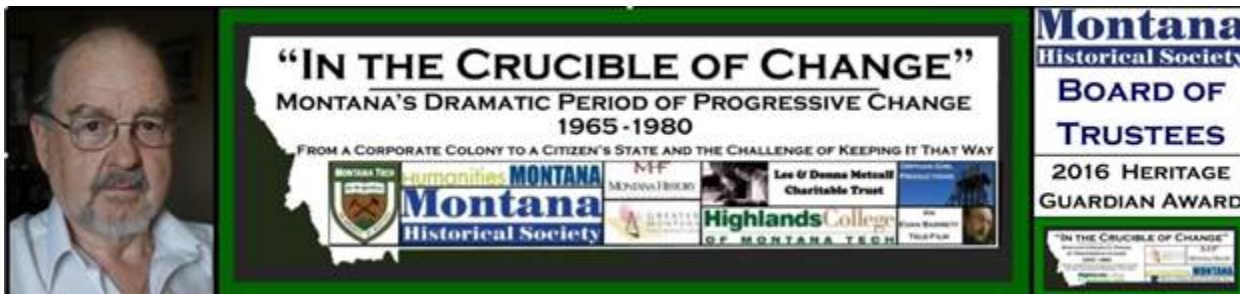
Seems to me that this map is a compromise. Further, it splits the fewest counties, it's 60-40 party split roughly reflects the voters of Montana (though I'd like it to be closer to the real 57-43 competitiveness), and it meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission, especially as it relates to the population variable. And, after all, isn't that what "one man, one vote" is all about.

Thanks for your efforts. **Adopt it as it currently stands.**

Tap 'er light!



Evan currently is Vice Chair of the "Friends of the Montana Constitution" and was also on the Executive Committee of the "Montana Constitutional Convention Celebration Committee." He lives in historic Uptown Butte, having retired several years ago after 47 years at the top level of Montana government, politics, economic development and education. He is an award-winning producer of Montana history films who continues to assist with community development, write columns and record commentaries, and occasionally teaches Montana history.



Evan Barrett, 807 West Silver – Butte, MT 59701
Home Phone: 406-782-4671 – Personal Cell: 406-490-4349
Personal Email: evanbutte@bresnan.net
Montana Tech Email: ebarrett@mtech.edu

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 6:24 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Winona Bateman

From: Winona Bateman winonas@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Please support the proposed map, HDP-8!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Theodore Beebe

From: Theodore Beebe tedbeebe3@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Upon evaluation of the House District Proposal Map, HDP-8, I urge the commission to reject it. Review of the map containing Gallatin County clearly shows House Districts 47, 48, 49 50, 51 have not been apportioned fairly. More specifically, districts in and around Bozeman and Belgrade have been cut into slivers connecting the two towns. This is a clear example of "pinwheel gerrymandering." Again, I urge the commission to reject this map and draw one that is compact and will better represent voters

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Barbara Benish

From: Barbara Benish bbenish59@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please choose the map which more closely aligns with Montana's Republican to Democratic split, 57-43! The Democrat's submitted a map which does more closely fit this R- D split at 60-40 split.

Respectfully, Barbara Benish

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jennifer Bernard

From: Jennifer Bernard jennsteingruber@hotmail.com
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

The map presented is clearly not a compact district. Bozeman and Belgrade have been split into slivers, connecting the two towns. This map is textbook pinwheel Gerrymandering, not acceptable, and fails to follow the law for drawing up redistricting lines. It has failed in keeping communities together. This is blatant vote and power grab. Please reject this plan and draw a map that is compact and more effectively represents all our voters. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Patricia M Betcher

From: Patricia M Betcher tpatsyb@yahoo.com
Residence: Choteau

Message:

I support Map HDP8.

To me, it clearly meets the previously dopted criteria & goals and is the choice for Montanas.

--

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

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR BUSINESS.



Dear Members of the District & Apportionment Commission,

On behalf of the 470 businesses represented by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce we want to submit comment in opposition to the proposal of redistricting the community of Big Sky, Montana.

As you know Big Sky is split between both Gallatin and Madison counties and we make up approximately 80% of Madison County's property tax base.

We understand that there is a proposal on your agenda to move the entire Madison County portion of Big Sky and combine it with the Gallatin County legislative district. It is our opinion that this would be a major detriment to our community and make this an even a more difficult situation for our community.

Having common legislators that represent Big Sky and Madison County further aligns our interests. The proposed district changes would separate us from Madison County, and eliminate our representation with state legislators from a county that makes up half of our Community and to which our tax dollars provide substantial support.

The current and former legislative delegations from both Madison and Gallatin Counties have represented us extremely well. They have made themselves available and are frequent visitors and listeners to the issues our community faces.

The split between Madison and Gallatin County lines has always existed and always will. I understand that the District & Apportionment Commission has historically looked to avoid splitting counties and communities where possible. However, given the uniqueness of the Big Sky Community being unincorporated and split between two counties, representation in the State Legislature from both counties is very important to the Community and its residents. The Commission should look to make changes where necessary. This is not only unnecessary, but extremely undesired. If this change were to be approved, our community would be further severed from Madison County which would be a major detriment to the citizens of our community.

We appreciate your attention to our request.

Sincerely,

Katie Grice
Board Chair of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
Katie.Grice@boyneresorts.com

Brad Niva
CEO of Big Sky Chamber of Commerce
Brad@BigSkyChamber.com

Sherley, Laura

From: cbicreek@stignatius.net
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting map

Importance: High

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

Catherine and Robert Billie
61938 Telcostair Lane
St. Ignatius, MT 59865

Sherley, Laura

From: Lorene Bishop <mtmaui5@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting proposal

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

Thank you!

**Lorene Bishop
43300 Liddell Lane
Dayton, MT 59914
406-885-3070**

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Keith Blaylock

From: Keith Blaylock kblay211@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

To: Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

Dear Commissioners,

After reviewing the map choices I prefer map HDP-8 as I believe it is the most equitable. As a Montanan I believe in equality and fairness.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
Keith Blaylock

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:32 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carole Boerner

From: Carole Boerner carole.boerner@gmail.com
Residence: BILLINGS

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Blaine C. Bradshaw

From: Blaine C. Bradshaw bcbadshaw@hotmail.com
Residence: Drummond

Message:
To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that the Georgetown Lake area should be included with the rest of Granite County in HD 62. Historically and culturally speaking, Georgetown has always connected with Granite County. A significant portion of the area is part of Granite County and included in the Granite County Hospital District. The Georgetown area is rural like Granite County. I respectfully request the Commission reconsider their plan and include Georgetown Lake area in HD 62. Thank you for our consideration.

Sincerely,
Blaine Bradshaw, Granite County Resident

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Glenda Bradshaw <bradshaw@mt.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting map preferred

Dear Commissioners,

Proposed redistricting map, HDP-8, is the best option for Montana because it does not unduly favor one party over another and reflects accurate representation for Indigenous communities in our state. Please select HCP-8.

Sincerely,

Glenda Bradshaw
430 S. Lamborn St,
Helena, Montana 59601

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 4:06 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carol S. Buchheit

From: Carol S. Buchheit 2csbuch@nemont.net
Residence: Fort Peck, MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: John Bundy

From: John Bundy bundyj@duck.com
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

I appreciate that the commission has struggled to come up with a variety of maps. It infers that differing perspectives and opinions have been shared and discussed. Map 8 is my preferred option.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Christina Calabrese

From: Christina Calabrese ccalabrese@lonemountainland.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Members of the District and Apportionment Commission, thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment on the proposed redistricting of the Big Sky Area. As someone who works in Big Sky, I can attest that dual representation by our Madison and Gallatin County legislators is vital to our community's progress. From the County to the State level, it is this shared support that allows us to think holistically about our needs and our future. I therefore do not support the proposed redistricting, as it would almost certainly leave the Madison County portion of Big Sky in limbo, isolated from the rest of the County in which it nevertheless resides and to which it is intrinsically tied.

With sincere appreciation for your consideration,

Christina Calabrese
Vice President of Design
Lone Mountain Land Company

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 5:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Barbara Calahan

From: Barbara Calahan barbaracalahan7@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Dear Re-Districting Committee Members,

I really am amazed that we are still needing to continue to send messages about the same thing. I am told that HDP 8 is your current proposal. Looking at that it appears you took absolutely nothing regarding the law into consideration when you drew the lines. Keeping communities such as urban communities vs rural communities vs college communities together to most accurately represent each area is what the law requires. You have not done that with HDP 8. The Central Valley of Helena, the North Valley of Helena, Birds Eye, East Helena, none of those districts have anything to do with downtown Helena or the South Hills. East Helena needs to be it's own district. The East Valley, the North Valley, the Central Valley should not contain any part of the City of Helena. East of I-15 and north of Custer, east of Mountain Meadows should be East Helena and it's own district. None of Mountain Meadows or South Hills should be included with the district in East Helena. You have done exactly what the law tells you NOT to do. You have broken up urban areas and pieced them together with surrounding rural areas. You did the same thing Billings and Bozeman. This map represents gerrymandering at it's finest and I believe you can do better. HDP 8 should absolutely not pass as the redistricting map, because it violates the law in a variety of ways. Disappointed to say the least. Sincerely, Barbara Calahan

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Thomas Camel <tomcamel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: an email in support of HDP8

I support the tentative house map because it splits the fewest counties. The 60-40 split roughly reflects the voters of Montana and meets the criteria and goals of the commission. It's a fair compromise. Please pass the tentative final house map as is.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 5:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gail Keil Carter

From: Gail Keil Carter gailcarter@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls, Montana

Message:

Please urge the commissioners to pass HDP8 as it is. They have put a lot of time and expertise into it and I believe it is as fair to every one concerned as it can be.

--

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

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation
Tribal Complex, Highway 93 North
P.O. Box 278, Pablo, Montana 59855-0278

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Commissioner Maylinn Smith, Chairwoman
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, Montana 59620-1706

December 9, 2022

**RE: Public Comment on House District Proposed Map 8
Submitted via email**

Dear Chairwoman Smith and Commissioners,

Please accept this letter in support of this Commission's House District Proposed Map 8 (HDP 8). Throughout the redistricting process the CSKT comments have focused on compliance with the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973 (VRA) (re-codified at 52 U.S.C. 10301). One of this Commission's four mandatory criteria for state legislative district selection is protection of minority voting rights guaranteed in Article II, Section 4 of the Montana Constitution, which includes compliance with the VRA. This means that "[n]o district, plan, or proposal for a plan is acceptable if it affords members of a racial or language minority group 'less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.'" (See, criteria adopted by the Commission, July 2021, quoting the VRA).

The Flathead Reservation currently has one majority-minority House District (HD 15). This "Indian district" runs along the eastern sections of the Flathead Reservation and heads north to include parts of the Blackfeet Reservation. The late CSKT Chairman Micky Pablo envisioned a district within the Flathead Reservation that could reflect and represent the Reservation's Native population. Over the last two redistricting cycles it has provided a reliable opportunity for Native voters on the Flathead Reservation to have an Indian representative in the Montana State House and Senate. In previous comments and testimony the Tribes urged this Commission to keep the joint CSKT-Blackfeet Indian district intact, something that HDP 8 has done. (HD 15 is designated HD 100 under HDP 8). The Flathead and Blackfeet Reservations are the geographically closest Indian reservations to each other. There is a large Blackfeet population that lives and works on the Flathead Reservation, and there are many mixed tribal families. During this Commission's U.S. House redistricting process in 2021, there was bipartisan agreement that these two Indian reservations were geographically and culturally tied, and should be considered a community of interest in a shared congressional district. The same holds true for the state redistricting process, and the CSKT supports the retention of this CSKT-Blackfeet Indian district.

The Tribes are also supportive of the newly configured HD 75. This district joins portions of north and northwest Missoula County with part of the south and southwestern Flathead Reservation. The Tribes believe these are also communities of interest, as Missoula County extends into the Flathead Reservation, and many CSKT members live, work, attend school, and utilize services in Missoula County. The configuration of HD 75 reflects the connection between this portion of the Flathead Reservation and the Missoula area.

Finally, the Tribes want to remind this Commission that as it finalizes the next Montana legislative map, it is guided by the criteria and goals established by the Commission at the beginning of this process. The Tribes encourage this Commission to remain mindful of its inherent authority under the Montana Constitution, Art. V., Part 5, Sec. 14(2) to do the work of districting and apportionment for the state of Montana. While the Montana Legislature is free to offer suggestions for what redistricting criteria should be utilized, *e.g.* Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115 (“Redistricting Criteria”) this Commission is not required to follow such statutory criteria. The Tribes hope this Commission will not get distracted by general references to the alleged illegality of Commission maps that fail to adhere to criteria established by the Montana Legislature.

The CSKT appreciates the diligent work of the individual Commissioners, and the Tribes are aware of the sincere effort put into reaching a compromise legislative map. With regard to the proposed legislative districts in and around the Flathead Reservation the Tribes believe that HDP 8 meets this Commission’s criteria and goals, and complies with the VRA. The CSKT supports adoption of HDP 8.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to contact us if any Commissioner has any questions, or needs clarification of the Tribes’ comments.

Sincerely,

The Tribal Council of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Tom McDonald, Tribal Council Chairman

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 5:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Julie Curd

From: Julie Curd jcurdcpa@aol.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I like the idea of competitive districts. This is why we have elections in the first place. Elections should be competitive!

--

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

Redistricting Commissioners,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the tentative redistricting Map No. 8.

HDP 8 splits the fewest counties of any of the eight proposed maps, splitting 29 counties in comparison to the 31 made by HDP 7. By doing this, more counties are kept intact as are the shared interests within those counties.

HDP 8 has more competitive districts (10) than HDP (7). In addition to those ten competitive districts, one half of those districts have been regularly held by each party. As a candidate who recently won a race in a highly competitive district, knowing that I faced a serious challenge forced me to work hard in reaching out to voters of all political stripes. In legislative districts where one party is dominant, candidates are not politically pushed to seek the support of or address the issues facing minority party and independent voters. Competition is absolutely critical in a democracy.

HDP 8 also meets compliance with the Voting Rights Act and Montana's Constitutional requirement to give our Native American population fair representation. Montana has worked hard over the past 50 years to meet this obligation and any plan which moves to dilute these voters' impact is not acceptable.

Finally, this map is a compromise in reaching all the goals and criteria set forth by the Commission in the early stages of the redistricting process. Please adopt the HDP 8 map in establishing Montana's legislative districts for the next ten years.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and I do encourage the committee adoption of HDP 8.

Respectfully submitted,

Willis Curdy

Willis Curdy, Senator-elect, District 49

Sherley, Laura

From: Jim Delzer <jim@delzerbiz.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Proposed Redistricting Big Sky & Madison County

December 9, 2022

Members of the District and Apportionment Commission,

My name is Jim Delzer, and we have multiple businesses in Big Sky that serve customers in both Gallatin and Madison Counties. We have had a family presence in Big Sky since the resort opened in 1973 and have had a business here in some form for over 35 years. At the time county lines were drawn, who would have ever figured a resort like Big Sky would have come into existence.

Big Sky is a unique community in that, as you know, it is split between two counties, and is an unincorporated area. As such, we have no local governing municipality but have been able to cohesively navigate our way through substantial growth and change. With what was once a small mountain village, now has become a world-renowned destination. Both counties have had to adjust to an unanticipated development and growth. Because of this growth, both counties benefit greatly from the tax base, with Madison County realizing a substantial portion from the Big Sky area.

I was recently made aware that there is a proposed change to our legislative districts that would take the entire Madison County portion of Big Sky and combine it with a Gallatin County legislative district. While that might seem to make logical sense for some things, it is my opinion that this would be a major disadvantage to the residents and businesses of Big Sky as a whole.

Having common legislators that represent Big Sky and Madison County provides state representation in the two counties in which our community resides and pays taxes. Our legislative delegations from both Madison and Gallatin Counties have represented us extremely well. They have made themselves available and are frequent visitors and listeners to the issues our community faces.

Given the uniqueness of the Big Sky Community being unincorporated and split between the two counties, representation in the State Legislature from both counties is critical: thereby, serving the needs of our residents in both counties.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter and my concerns.

Sincerely,

Jim Delzer
Delzer Diversified, LLC
Jim@DelzerBiz.com

Sherley, Laura

From: songlady@3rivers.net
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: teton county redistricting

To whom it may concern.

Received our local paper on a Thursday Dec. 8. Read about redistricting and saw that comments closed prior to reading. Noticed that comments will be given to committee members prior meeting. Sounds like decision has been made. Dilute rural voice even more.....not a good plan. Need to leave Teton county whole so they can at least have some voice in the process. It's a long ways between light bulbs as it is but appears you want to accelerate the flyover theory. If allowed as proposed rural voice will be very small.

Ross Depner
281 22nd Rd. Northwest
Dutton MT. 59433

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Laura Dever

From: Laura Dever lewdever@gmail.com
Residence: Polson, MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a functional compromise. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Wendy Dodson

From: Wendy Dodson cuhead1971@gmail.com
Residence: Troy, MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Bayard Dominick <bdominick@lonemountainland.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:23 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Big Sky Legislative Districting - Opposition to proposed change

Members of the District & Apportionment Commission,

I am Bayard Dominick, I have lived in Big Sky for nearly 10 years, in addition to working in Big Sky, I have been on the Big Sky Transportation District for the last 7 years

I recently learned that there is a proposed change to our legislative districts that would take the entire Madison County portion of Big Sky and combine it with a Gallatin County legislative district.

I strongly oppose this change, it would be real problem for our community and minimize our representation as a Community.

Big Sky will always be a part of Madison County. It is imperative that we continue to have representation from a Madison County based legislator. The proposed district changes would separate us from Madison County, and eliminate our representation with state legislators from a county that makes up half of our Community and to which our tax dollars provide substantial support.

The current and former legislative delegations from both Madison and Gallatin Counties have represented us extremely well. They have made themselves available and are frequent visitors and listeners to the issues our Community faces.

The split between Madison and Gallatin County lines has always existed and always will. I understand that the District & Apportionment Commission has historically looked to avoid splitting counties and communities where possible. However, given the uniqueness of the Big Sky Community being unincorporated and spilt between two counties, representation in the State Legislature from both counties is very important to the Community and its residents. The Commission should look to make changes where necessary. This is not only unnecessary, but extremely undesired. If this change were to be approved, our Community would be further severed from Madison County which would be a major detriment to the citizens of our community.

Thank you very much for serving the Great State of Montana and for considering my comments!

Sincerely,

Bayard Dominick
Vice President, Planning and Development
406-250-2920 mobile



Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:57 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Karla Doncaster

From: Karla Doncaster krdoncaster@live.com
Residence: Choteau, MT

Message:

I do not approve of the Committee's draft map of the proposed redistricting that would divide Teton County. This is very clearly a weakening of the voice of Teton County voters. Dividing this established voting district, that mainly votes for limiting government and diluting it with a voting district that often votes to expand government, is clearly a strategic move to disenfranchise Teton county voters. This is a uniquely interconnected region with environmental, social, historical, and economic relationships that are not shared with East Helena and cannot be fully represented without Power and Dutton communities. The Committee's action of approving the draft map, an action divided along political alliances, along with the complete exclusion of representation from any person from District 17, is very un-democratic. All secrets will be headline news. Extortion and bribes make smart people fools. This redistricting will lead to instability. Keep Teton County whole.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kelsey Doncaster

From: Kelsey Doncaster kndoncaster@msn.com
Residence: Choteau, MT

Message:

I do not support the proposed redistricting of Teton county that would divide its representation. We need to retain our rural communities and not be overrun by the urban sprawl of suburban Helena. We have adequate representation in the current HD 17. Dividing this established voting district, that mainly votes for limiting government and diluting it with a voting district that often votes to expand government, is clearly a strategic move to disenfranchise Teton county voters. This is a uniquely interconnected region with environmental, social, historical, and economic relationships that are not shared with East Helena and cannot be fully represented without Power and Dutton communities. With this proposed new split and realignment Teton county, which is rural, will not have adequate representation and become second class citizens to those in Helena Valley. We need to have equal and fair representation by keeping Teton County whole.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: pkdoyle10@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Patricia Doyle <pkdoyle10@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 5:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Writing in Support of Legislative Map HDP-8

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

.I'm so pleased to learn of the recent support for Map HDP-8 by commissioners. I believe this alternative would be fair in its provisions for equal population participation and being representative of people residing within whole communities. In addition it appears the map reflects public comments recently given. The fact that it complies with the Federal Voting Rights Act, as well as our state's Constitution is compelling. Thank you for the effort and energy you have given to address this issue.

Sincerely,
Patricia Doyle
395 Tie Chute Ln Florence, MT 59833-6536 pkdoyle10@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 5:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Judy L Doyle

From: Judy L Doyle spazzzz_2001@hotmail.com
Residence: BELGRADE

Message:

I am writing in response to the proposed Map 8. Specifically HD 47 and HD48. Belgrade is not Bozeman. Our community feel is BelGreat. We have own concerns. Belgrade is not a retirement community. The workers of Bozeman got forced out, to Belgrade. Our needs are very different. The representative of Belgrade needs to live in the here, to understand our needs. Belgrade crossed 10,000 in population, with the last census. That is what you have aimed for in each district. Leave Belgrade out of Bozeman on the map.

Judy L Doyle
1706 Drummond Blvd
Belgrade, Mt 59714
406-600-8054

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Tim Drain <t.drain@naturalretreats.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 5:00 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Opposition to Big Sky Resididtricting

My name is Tim Drain and I have worked and lived in Big Sky, MT for 12 years. I have managed businesses operating in both Gallatin and Madison Counties and have served on the Visit Big Sky Board of Directors for 6 years and am now in my first year of serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

To explain some of the nuances of Big Sky, we are an un-incorporated area that is bifurcated by the Madison/Gallatin County line. As such, we are governed by both Counties. We spend an equal amount of time working with both Counties on topics that affect our Community. In addition, our small portion of Madison County represents approximately 80% of Madison County's property tax base.

It was brought to my attention this week that there is a proposed change to our legislative districts that would take the entire Madison County portion of Big Sky and combine it with a Gallatin County legislative district.

This would be a MAJOR setback on the governance of our Community.

We will forever be part of Madison County. Having common legislators that represent Big Sky and Madison County further aligns our interests. The proposed district changes would separate us from Madison County, and eliminate our representation with state legislators from a county that makes up half of our Community and to which our tax dollars provide substantial support.

The current and former legislative delegations from both Madison and Gallatin Counties have represented us extremely well. They have made themselves available and are frequent visitors and listeners to the issues our Community faces.

The split between Madison and Gallatin County lines has always existed and always will. I understand that the District & Apportionment Commission has historically looked to avoid splitting counties and communities where possible. However, given the uniqueness of the Big Sky Community being unincorporated and spilt between two counties, representation in the State Legislature from both counties is very important to the Community and its residents. The Commission should look to make changes where necessary. This is not only unnecessary, but extremely undesired. If this change were to be approved, our Community would be further severed from Madison County which would be a major detriment to the citizens of our community.

I apologize I will not be able to attend your Saturday meeting as I have a prior commitment that I cannot move. I would be happy to speak with any of you further on this topic. All of my contact information is below.

Thank you very much for serving the Great State of Montana and for considering my comments!

Tim Drain
Regional Manager-Business Development; Licensed Property Manager
Natural Retreats-Big Sky

M 406.209.2782

11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 207, Big Sky, MT 59716

Open The Door To More

Call to book your vacation
888.451.0156 | NaturalRetreats.com



Sherley, Laura

From: Robyn Driscoll <robyn@robyndriscoll.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting Maps

Honorable Chair and Commissioners of the Redistricting Committee:

I served in our state legislature from 2005-2015, in both the House and Senate. My Senate District was comprised of two House districts that had a large portion of the south side of Billings. According to real estate data provided by the Billings Association of Realtors at the time, I represented the largest number of off reservation Native Americans in the State of Montana, and my door knocking felt that to be true. Including part of the Crow Reservation with south Billings is a natural fit, and I agree with Map #8 which does just that. Thank you for all of your hard work on creating fair districts that represent every day Montanans.

Sincerely,

Robyn Driscoll

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Stacey Dunn

From: Stacey Dunn lovesdirt@gmail.com
Residence: Polson, MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:24 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jack Dyer

From: Jack Dyer jddyer6@msn.com
Residence: Three Forks

Message:

"The new district map for the Bozeman/Belgrade area (is clearly not a compact district, as it effectively eliminates Belgrade votes by flooding it with Bozeman voters. If this map is adopted our state will remain gerrymandered for the next 10 years. Bozeman and Belgrade have been split into slivers, connecting the two towns. This is textbook pinwheel Gerrymandering. and should not be allowed to continue to be fair to the Belgrade community.. Please reject this map and draw a map that is compact and will represent voters better."

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:12 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Shelley Eisenrich

From: Shelley Eisenrich seisenrich@gmail.com
Residence: Hot Springs MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

From: [Sally Ellestad](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: Comment on redistricting
Date: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:38:14 AM

This map is clearly not a compact district. Bozeman and Belgrade have been split into slivers, connecting the two towns. This is textbook pinwheel Gerrymandering. Please reject this map and draw a map that is compact and will represent voters better

Sally Ellestad
Legacy Logistical Systems, LLC
An agent for RoadMasters Transport, a Division of
Bennett Truck Transport, LLC
406-696-1949

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 6:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Cindia Ellis

From: Cindia Ellis cindia@midrivers.com
Residence: Miles City Montana

Message:

In my opinion Map 8 should not be the only map brought forward for decision making. Map 8 appears to gerrymander the larger population cities in Missoula, Park and Gallatin by setting them into a more spoke-like pattern thus diluting more rural communities of interest. I believe that Map 7 should also be brought forward for consideration to inform a fair redistricting without gerrymandering.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Victoria Emmons

From: Victoria Emmons victoriaemmons@mac.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I respectfully request of the Commission to avoid disenfranchising rural voters and Republicans in Missoula County by eliminating any possibility that a Republican might win a legislative seat in our area. The current proposed map would restrict Republicans from winning and leave Republicans like me with no one to voice their opinions. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: joe erickson <j.e.erickson@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Voter map of Bozeman and Belgrade Montana. Gerrymandering?

This map doesn't not represent Bozeman and Belgrade. It clearly slivers Bozeman and Belgrade in to one spread out district. It in no way defines compact districts. This blatant gerrymandering map will serve only to render Belgrade votes ineffective. It needs to be redrawn. I'm so sick of the double standards and elections and districts designed to favor one side. This is a disgrace. Shameful. Whoever drew this should be absolutely ashamed of themselves and at the very least be fired.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Joe Erickson, Belgrade Montana

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: William Everett

From: William Everett beverett@adlc.us
Residence: Anaconda, MT

Message:

I am the elected Chief Executive Officer for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, midway through my second term. In 2022, two republicans were selected to represent the districts incorporating Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. I have had extensive contact with these two individuals during the past month and am pleased with their commitment assisting the County.

Then, I discovered that the Redistricting Commission has effectively eliminated our capacity to have these delegates reelected by the proposed currently proposed boundary changes. Given the strong Republican majority in the State of Montana, designating Anaconda-Deer Lodge County as a safe Democratic seat will ensure that this county is effectively unrepresented in the legislature for the next ten years.

I offer you a win-win proposal.

First, move the western boundary of HD57 to the east approximately one mile so that all of Georgetown Lake, including its east shore, and attach it to HD62 (Granite and Powell counties). This will add about 100 people to that district. This step will shift the block of mostly Republican voters at Georgetown Lake into HD62. This area of Anaconda-Deer Lodge is closely connected with Granite County; socially, culturally, and politically. Most of the children from Georgetown Lake attend school in Philipsburg, and that act alone strongly ties the lake to Granite County. This boundary remodification will also move Representative Fitzpatrick's home into HD62, where he can represent fellow Republicans. This frees up HD57 for the Democrats who should be able to elect a Democratic representative while, at the same time, ensure that Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has the opportunity to be served by Representative Fitzpatrick, who has business interests in Anaconda.

Second, when designing the Senate seats, I urge you to connect HD62 with HD57. This will create a competitive Senate seat for both the Republican and Democratic candidates must compete for office on the basis of their ideas and what they can do for the District.

Thank you.

William Everett, CEO, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:11 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Susan Ewing

From: Susan Ewing susanewing.mt@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I'm writing to urge you to pass the Tentative Final House map that is currently on the table. It seems like the fairest one, because it splits the fewest counties, reflects the 60-40 split reality of our state, and meets the goals and criteria of the Commission. I know this has been a long, hard process, and I appreciate all the work that has gone into it, because this is so important to the future of our state—and honors our state's history by not letting one party, or set of politicians, run away with all the influence. Thank you for considering my opinion.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Lannie <lanfehlberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting maps

Thank you so much for your hard work on the tentative final House map. I am a 16 year resident of Eureka, Montana. After looking over the maps, I support HDP8 because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a reasonable compromise and represents the best option for Montanans. Please pass the tentative final house map as it is now. Thanks again.

Lannie Fehlberg
Eureka, Montana
lanfehlberg@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Denise Fisher

From: Denise Fisher adfisher486@gmail.com
Residence: livingston

Message:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show support for the CP1 map to be used in the next elections. From what I am able to see and read about this map, this is the best map for all of those that live in this state regardless of political party. This map allows for competitive districts and does not favor one party over the other. This map doesn't divide counties or districts as some of the other maps do. This maps will allow Native districts to elect those that will represent them and will not divide their vote. The goal should be that every vote matters. If a party can not win fairly and based on their platform then they don't deserve to win. It's all about the messaging but we need to start with a fair playing field.

This commission was set up to keep both parties interests in mind but not to favor one over the other. If one party wants to be the bully and not play fairly, that is what this commission is suppose to moderate.

Please accept CP1 as the map as we go forward.

Thank You

Denise Fisher
Livingston, MT

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 10:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Steve Fitzpatrick

From: Steve Fitzpatrick fitzpatrick@bresnan.net
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

I am writing to submit comments on behalf of myself, Sen.-Elect Wendy McKamey, Rep. Ed Buttrey, Rep. Josh Kassmier, Rep.-Elect George Nikolakakos, Rep. Fred Anderson, Sen. Brian Hoven, Cascade County Republican Party Chair Cyndi Baker, and former Rep. Roger Hagan. Collectively, we have all been active in Cascade County politics for many years and several of us represent large portions of Cascade County.

We are writing to provide comments on the proposed map for Cascade County. We are not offering or expressing any opinions on other parts of the proposed map.

Overall, we believe the map for Cascade County looks good. For the most part, we believe the districts represent communities of interest in Cascade County and different neighborhoods in Cascade County. In our opinion, the map for Cascade County could be adopted as proposed and would do a good job of representing communities of interest and neighborhoods in Cascade County.

Throughout this process, our objective has been to ask the redistricting commission for districts which better reflect our neighborhoods and community. For twenty years, the commission has used strip shaped districts which do not represent neighborhoods in Great Falls. It is nice to see a map which does not contain those types of districts.

If the commission is interested in considering some amendments to the map, Sen. Fitzpatrick has submitted a proposal to Legislative Services. It is map PM-H15. The proposals we are making are intended to better align the districts to keep communities of interest whole. We would not recommend any other changes to the map besides those being proposed by Sen. Fitzpatrick. We are concerned any wholesale changes would disrupt what is a good set of districts in Cascade County.

In terms of the specific districts, we do not believe any changes are necessary to Districts 11, 12, 13, and 14. District 11 encompasses the downtown area. This is a community of interest which should remain whole. District 12 encompasses an area roughly between 15th Street and 38th Street. We believe this central Great Falls district includes a community of interest and would benefit from having a representative dedicated to it. District 13 includes the area around Malmstrom Air Force Base. Many of the people who live near Malmstrom live and work at the base. Thus, District 13 forms a good community of interest. District 14 includes the Black Eagle and Riverview areas of Great Falls. Black Eagle is generally considered part of the Riverview area. Black Eagle and the Riverview area share a community of interest and should be kept together. It should be noted all of these districts are competitive and any changes to these districts would make them less competitive.

If the commission wants to consider amendments, for District 10, we would recommend a small change which moves areas of 38th and 39th Streets South and 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Avenues South from District 9 into District 10. This area includes housing located within the City of Great Falls. The reason for this proposal is that it would keep the neighborhood whole. Otherwise, this small area of housing in the City of Great Falls will be included in a district which stretches far out into the county. To compensate for the change of these areas, we would recommend moving several

census blocks near Gibson Flats Road into District 9. These areas are primarily rural and fit better with a more rural oriented district. These changes should not have any impact on the political orientation of the district.

Likewise, for Districts 8 and 9, we would recommend moving the boundary lines for more of an east/west split between the districts. This would move the Stockett/Sand Coulee area along with areas on the south side of Great Falls into District 8 and Ulm, Vaughn, and Sun Prairie into District 9. The idea is to keep communities of interest whole. In our opinion, the Sun River Valley (Manchester to Simms) should be contained in a district and Cascade and Ulm should be also contained in a district instead of being split up into multiple districts. Moreover, we believe it is important Cascade County has a rural district. Approximately 25% of the population of Cascade County lives in rural areas. Many of these areas include small towns and rural subdivisions. We believe these parts of Cascade County benefit by having a Representative and a Senator who can focus on rural issues. These changes will have no effect on the political orientation of District 8 and District 9. The rural portions of Cascade County are strongly Republican. Moving the boundaries to better reflect communities of interest will have no effect on the political orientation of these two districts.

Finally, for District 15, we believe this district is well designed and represents a community of interest on the west side of the City of Great Falls. We do not believe this district needs any significant changes and if any changes are made, the changes should be relatively minor in scale. Thus, we have suggested only a few minor changes to District 15 in the proposed amendment. These changes are being recommended primarily to make the two rural districts more compact and to keep several neighborhoods whole. We are recommending that the commission remove a small chunk of the northern part of the district west of Interstate 15 and north of the Sun River into the adjoining district. We believe this neighborhood along the north side of the Sun River should be kept whole. On the east side of the district, we are recommending pulling the district across the Missouri River to add portions of the City of Great Falls to District 15 from the rural district. This will allow an area located within the City of Great Falls to be included in a Great Falls based district. Moreover, this area has previously been combined with the Fox Farm area in prior districts. We do not believe this will have any effect on the competitive balance of District 15.

For Senate pairing we believe the following districts should go together if the map is not changed:

Districts 11 and 12 – This will create a downtown Senate district which will enable a Senator to represent the core of Great Falls.

Districts 9 and 10 – We believe the southside of Great Falls would match well with the rural parts of the county. Historically, these two areas were combined into a Senate seat. This would also allow Sen. McKamey to live in her Senate seat. The two elementary schools (Sunnyside and Mountain View) located south of 10th Avenue South extend into District 9.

Alternatively, Districts 10 and 13 would also make a good pair. This would create a compact Great Falls based district. This should also create a somewhat competitive Senate seat. The people who live in these districts send their children to many of the same schools including East Middle School and Great Falls High School.

Districts 14 and 15. We believe the Riverview seat and the Fox/Farm west side seat form a good community of interest. The people who live in these districts send their children to many of the same schools including North Middle School and CMR High School. Although the data on Dave's redistricting says these districts lean Republican, we believe this Senate seat could be competitive with a strong Democratic candidate.

Districts 8 and 9 – This would create a more rural oriented district. We believe a more rural oriented district would make a good community of interest.

Districts 8 and 13. If Districts 9 and 10 are paired together, this would be a good option. This would create a Malmstrom/rural Cascade County/Choteau County seat. It would be more compact than a Districts 8 and 9 Senate seat. The orientation of this district would be military and agriculture. There are military and agriculture facilities in both districts and thus would make a good community of interest.

If the map is altered, it may make sense to pair District 14 with District 9.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate the effort of the commission on this task.

Steve Fitzpatrick – fitzpatrick@bresnan.net

Wendy McKamey – wsgmckamey@gmail.com

Ed Buttrey – ebuttrey@mtbus.net

George Nikolakakos – george.niko@outlook.com

Cyndi Baker – cyndiann101@hotmail.com

Brian Hoven – brian@hovenequipment.com

Roger Hagan – rahagan@msn.com

Fred Anderson – professorchevy@hotmail.com

Josh Kassmier – jkassmier@live.com

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Glen Fowler

From: Glen Fowler glen@glen-fowler.com
Residence: Livingston, Montana

Message:

Thank you for setting up this remote access. I look forward to speaking at tomorrow's meeting on Redistricting

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:34 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Yvonne Geisel

From: Yvonne Geisel mykinc@gmail.com
Residence: CHOTEAU

Message:

I would like to voice my support of the compromise map HDP8. It's the most fair option presented. Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:34 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Yvonne Geisel

From: Yvonne Geisel mykinc@gmail.com
Residence: CHOTEAU

Message:

I would like to voice my support of the compromise map HDP8. It's the most fair option presented. Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Kevin Germain <kgermain@lonemountainland.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Opposition to proposed legislative district changes for Big Sky

Members of the District & Apportionment Commission,

My name is Kevin Germain and I have worked in Big Sky, MT for 20 years. I have been an elected member of the Big Sky Resort Area District, currently serving my second term.

To explain some of the nuances of Big Sky, we are an un-incorporated area that is bifurcated by the Madison/Gallatin County line. As such, we are governed by both Counties. We spend an equal amount of time working with both Counties on topics that affect our Community. In addition, our small portion of Madison County represents approximately 80% of Madison County's property tax base.

It was brought to my attention this week that there is a proposed change to our legislative districts that would take the entire Madison County portion of Big Sky and combine it with a Gallatin County legislative district.

This would be a MAJOR setback on the governance of our Community.

We will forever be part of Madison County. Having common legislators that represent Big Sky and Madison County further aligns our interests. The proposed district changes would separate us from Madison County, and eliminate our representation with state legislators from a county that makes up half of our Community and to which our tax dollars provide substantial support.

The current and former legislative delegations from both Madison and Gallatin Counties have represented us extremely well. They have made themselves available and are frequent visitors and listeners to the issues our Community faces.

The split between Madison and Gallatin County lines has always existed and always will. I understand that the District & Apportionment Commission has historically looked to avoid splitting counties and communities where possible. However, given the uniqueness of the Big Sky Community being unincorporated and spilt between two counties, representation in the State Legislature from both counties is very important to the Community and its residents. The Commission should look to make changes where necessary. This is not only unnecessary, but extremely undesired. If this change were to be approved, our Community would be further severed from Madison County which would be a major detriment to the citizens of our community.

I apologize I will not be able to attend your Saturday meeting as I have a prior commitment that I cannot move. I would be happy to speak with any of you further on this topic. All of my contact information is below.

Thank you very much for serving the Great State of Montana and for considering my comments!

All the best,
Kevin Germain

kgermain@lonemountainland.com
(406) 580-6986

Kevin Germain
Lone Mountain Land Company
C: (406)580-6986
kgermain@lonemountainland.com



Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gary Goettel

From: Gary Goettel garygoettel@yahoo.com
Residence: Great Falls MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Margaret Good <mm.good@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:29 PM
To: Districting
Cc: John and Katharine Stowe; Kevin Germain
Subject: Opposition to proposed legislative district changes for Big Sky

Members of the District & Apportionment Commission,

My name is Margaret Good and I have owned property in the Madison County side of Big Sky for over 30 years. I am strongly opposed to the redistricting efforts of placing the Madison County portion of Big Sky under the Gallatin legislative district. I and others from our area have worked closely with the Commissioners of Madison County to make positive changes to our area of Montana and believe that they understand the concerns of those of us living in Big Sky, Madison County. I am currently serving on the Madison County Planning Board and feel that our needs are better met as part of Madison County.

I agree with Kevin Germaine that this would be a major setback for the residents and owners of property in our area. Our tax dollars support Madison County and we should remain part of Madison County. There is NO reason for us to be combined at any level with Gallatin County. This redistricting will cause confusion and diminish our ability to deal with the agencies that we currently fund via our taxes.

Sincerely, Margaret Good

Sherley, Laura

From: Mark Good <mgood91700@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Comment on redistricting maps

Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Committee,

I support the HDP8 map as it is currently drawn. While not perfect from my perspective, the HDP8 map reflects the voters of Montana and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. It seems to me like a reasonable and fair compromise.

Mark Good
Box 192
Ulm, MT 59485

Sherley, Laura

From: graffiti2893@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Thomas Graff <graffiti2893@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: I am writing in Support of Legislative Map HDP-8

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I have followed Montana politics for approximately 50 years now, and I have deep-seated respect for the best of the Montana spirit that I have experienced over that half-century. Senator Mansfield, to draw on memories that I have, gave us a sterling example of being fair-minded, inclusive, and respectful of his colleagues. Although that spirit has gotten submerged in our current noisy partisanship, I still have hopes that the best examples of public service in our state's history will once again come to the fore. I have hopes that my grand-children will experience the spirit of public discourse that we have seen in many times over the decades. I am writing because I think that HDP-8 will give us the best chance to retain a sense of fairness in our legislative districts.

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties and keeps communities of interest together, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. The legislature should reflect all Montanans. Please adopt an equally fair map for the Senate districts. Please don't let politicians looking for short term gains make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

When I attended the hearing in Missoula, I really did feel as though you were listening to our comments. Thank you again for your very important work.

Sincerely,
Thomas Graff
824 Beverly Ave Missoula, MT 59801-5916 graffiti2893@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Bowen Greenwood

From: Bowen Greenwood bowen@greenwoodformontana.com
Residence: East Helena, MT

Message:

The proposed new legislative districts for Lewis and Clark County are an obvious attempt to gain partisan advantage rather than serve the people of my community. The communities of interest between the valley and the urban core of Helena are vastly different. This map, though, drags the urban core of Helena as far out into the valley as humanly possible. There can be one and only one reason for this: to give the Democrat-leaning urban core voters as much power as possible.

The commission should fix this map. It should be easy to make districts that are compact, contiguous, and take into account communities of interest. The current map does none of those things. It is built to achieve a partisan gain for Democrat candidates, and not for any other purpose.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Pam Guschausky <guschauskypg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:41 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistributing

Thank you for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map. Please don't let politicians make the map worse for Montana. Please pass as is.

Pam Guschausky
1523 1st Ave S
Great Falls

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:08 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Lana c Hamilton

From: Lana c Hamilton Hamiltonlana@ymail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Please make your decision for redistricting include rural areas!!! This is Basic to the American values of our History as a Nation.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 4:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Holly Hart

From: Holly Hart hdeeh5@protonmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

The proposed map is clearly not a compact district. Bozeman and Belgrade have been split into slivers, connecting the two towns. This is textbook pinwheel Gerrymandering. Please reject this map, and draw a map that is compact and will represent voters better.”

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: chaverlandt@3riversdbs.net
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting map

District and Apportionment Committee Members:

I urge you to PASS the tentative final house map HDP8 as-is. HDP8 reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a good compromise.

Thank you,

Carol Haverlandt
Ulm, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: Janet Henderson <janethend1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:26 AM
To: Districting
Subject: redistricting

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your work on a difficult task. Your tentative approval of the HDP8 map is a heartening reflection of Montana voters and an important compromise I urge you to make final, without further changes.

Respectfully,
Janet Henderson

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Joseph Hiatt

From: Joseph Hiatt joegobble@yahoo.com
Residence: MISSOULA

Message:

Do not disenfranchise Republicans and rural voters in Missoula County by eliminating any possibility of Republicans winning legislative seats here.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Patrick Hill <indigenous1955@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 8:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Tentative Final House map

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

Kind regards,
Patrick J. Hill
Chairman Big Horn County Democrats
Big Horn County
Hardin, MT

Sherley, Laura

From: Linda Hill <crowrez1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 8:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Tentative Final House Map

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

**Best regards,
Linda Hill
Big Horn County
Hardin, MT 59034**

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Eric Hinebauch

From: Eric Hinebauch eric.hinebauch@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls MT

Message:
MT Districting & Appointment Commission:

I would like provide comment on the proposed redistricting map, the tentative map looks good. My comments only pertain to Cascade County and the City of Great Falls. I would like to advocate for Amendment PM-H15 to the proposed map. I believe this proposal would better represent the voters of Cascade County and Great Falls.

Thank you for your consideration!
Eric Hinebauch
Great Falls City Commissioner

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: hipplerju@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Julie Hippler <hipplerju@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Writing in Support of Legislative Map HDP-8

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

I am writing in hopes that you will choose Map HDP-8 for redistricting. This map is a good compromise that meets all of the adopted criteria and balances everyone's goals. Please avoid making changes to further advantage one party over another.

Sincerely,
Julie Hippler
622 Clark Ave Billings, MT 59101-1613
hipplerju@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: John R Hoffland

From: John R Hoffland johnhoffland17@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Dear Redistricting Commission,

I am writing in support of Tentative Map CP-1, which would determine Montana's future legislative districts.

I support the Tentative Map CP-1 because it creates compact, contiguous districts with more competitive districts. I believe this will be healthy for our democratic system and is in the spirit of the Montana Constitution's support of citizens' participation in our democracy.

Thank you,

John Hoffland, 220 Adams St, Helena, MT 59601

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Ramona Holt

From: Ramona Holt holtranch@gmail.com
Residence: Lolo, Montana

Message:

It appears to me that this current map pretty much eliminates the possibility of any Republican winning a legislative seat in Missoula County. I think that lines can be drawn to more equally distribute the voters.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Patricia Hosley <phosley@att.net>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: HDP8

I'd like to encourage passage of the newly adopted redistricting plan. The boundaries seem far more logical than the previous plan. I would like to think that this compromise will encourage more equal representation as well as fair competition and debate, perhaps proving that our democracy is still vital. Gerrymandering in some other states has resulted in division and tribal politics. While Montana is a considered a conservative state, I have found historically that it has promoted a kind of individualism of which to be proud. Let's set an example by carrying on in that tradition. Thank you for your attention.

Patricia Hosley
705 50th St. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
phosley@att.net

Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 6:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Johnelle Howanach

From: Johnelle Howanach luvyums@juno.com
Residence: Great Falls, Montana USA

Message:
HDPH would seem to be the best option for everyone.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:08 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Geraldine M Jennings

From: Geraldine M Jennings jenningsg92@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls MT

Message:

The commissioners have worked hard on this. I attended a presentation in Great Falls a while back, and I realize that they are taking this very seriously. I urge the commissioners to pass the tentative final house map HDP8 as is. As I look at the map it appears equitable to both sides. That is certainly, what we want to serve our voters in Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gerry Jennings

From: Gerry Jennings jenningsg92@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls, MT

Message:

I support the HDP8 map for the redistricting of the state of Montana. I feel that it is fair and equitable, and that there was much compromise on both sides to produce this.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 4:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Hugh A Jesse

From: Hugh A Jesse lindamjesse@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

The maps proposed by the democrats for Missoula put urban and rural areas in the same districts. This type of grouping does not meet the goal of grouping communities of the same interests together. The democrats maps for Missoula would disenfranchise rural voters.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:30 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kathryn L Johnson

From: Kathryn L Johnson kljohnson_22@yahoo.com
Residence: Polson, MT

Message:

The current map is very unacceptable to residents of Polson, such as myself. It splits the community! It also groups the communities of Pablo, Ronan, Charlo, and St. Ignatius with Missoula. Folks who live in Lake County consider these communities all one community when we attend events, concerts, etc.

The current map has very long distances for districts 88 and 89! I don't want to drive to Somers to vote, when I live in Polson! Somers should be grouped with Kalispell due to the closeness of the two towns.

It seems like Lake County and Flathead County have been split up, also, with the map. This truly does not make sense to me. Please rectify these problems for the final map!

Sincerely, Kathryn L. Johnson, Polson Resident

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Scott Johnson <scott@luvmt.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Districting

Members of the District & Apportionment Commission,

My name is Scott Johnson and I have lived, worked and raised my family in Big Sky, MT for almost 35 years.

It was brought to my attention this week that there is a proposed change to our legislative districts that would take the entire Madison County portion of Big Sky and combine it with a Gallatin County legislative district. Please understand that our small portion of Madison County represents approximately 80% of Madison County's property tax base.

Does the term "Taxation without representation" ring a bell? Unless you are planning on annexing everything into Gallatin County (including our tax base), then I cannot understand why this would even be considered.

This would be a MAJOR setback on the governance of our Community.

Thank you very much for serving the Great State of Montana and for considering my comments!

All the best,
Scott Johnson

406.570.7064

Sherley, Laura

From: cfbayj@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carol Junkert <cfbayj@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:34 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Writing in Support of Legislative Map HDP-8

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

. I support legislative map HDP-8. It is fair and represents cooperation and collaboration. Please accept it.

Carol Junkert

Sincerely,
Carol Junkert
2828 S 7th St W Missoula, MT 59804-2024 cfbayj@icloud.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kevin Kaltschmidt

From: Kevin Kaltschmidt kevkaltschmidt@gmail.com
Residence: Whitefish, Montana

Message:

I am a lifelong resident of Whitefish, went to grade school, and high school and participated in sports as a Whitefish Bulldog. To say there is a rivalry between Whitefish and Columbia Falls is an understatement. I am a proud Bulldog and always will be as I still call Whitefish my home. To put Whitefish and split it up to be with Columbia falls is completely asinine. We should have our Representative to the state Legislature and Columbia Falls should have theirs. We are different towns always have been and always will be. Thank you for hearing me out.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Debbie Kaltschmidt

From: Debbie Kaltschmidt dkaltschmidt@yahoo.com
Residence: Whitefish, Montana

Message:

I live in Whitefish and have for 30 years..my sons went to school here and we are a community. Why is the commission splitting our town? We are proud of our heritage here and we are a community of interest which I know is one of your goals. We have a totally different community than Columbia Falls and we deserve our own representative. Columbia Falls should have their own as we both do now. Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: VELVA kanter

From: VELVA kanter kvelva@yahoo.com
Residence: Frenchtown MONTANA

Message:

We are asking that the commission not disenfranchise republicans and rural voters in Missoula County

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Patti Prinkki Keebler <pjk1254@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Legislative redistricting

As a resident of Carbon County, I'm writing to support the Tentative Final House map, a compromise map. It meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission, splits the fewest counties, and its 60-40 split roughly reflects the voters of Montana. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans.

I urge you to pass the Tentative Final House Map as is, and thank you for your hard work as a member of the Commission.

Patti Prinkki Keebler
PO Box 35
Roberts MT 59070
406-431-1554

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:35 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Evan Koch

From: Evan Koch evankoch94@yahoo.com
Residence: Belgrade, MT

Message:

I live in Belgrade and my district has parts of downtown Bozeman in it? This map is going to unfairly eliminate my voice, which definitely doesn't match with the vast opinions in downtown Bozeman. Such a blatant example of the corruptive nature that the Left seems to just emanate anymore.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:26 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Vondene Kopetski

From: Vondene Kopetski vondene@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Missoula County shouldn't be treated any differently than the other counties in the redistricting process because that would be discrimination. Missoula should have districts that are compact, contiguous and contain communities of like interest just like those in the rest of the state. Redistricting shouldn't have anything to do with political divides, in fact politics shouldn't be a factor. Districts should be decided based on the required criteria. Period.

Since the last redistricting ten years ago, we've seen districts that were originally designed to favor one political party or the other actually elect someone from the other party. Montana is growing and no one knows what the population will be in ten years nor what political party new residents will support. That's why it's prudent and smart to create districts now that are specific to the required criteria only which is fair and objective and will allow for the projected growth of our state.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Nathan Kosted

From: Nathan Kosted nathan.kosted@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Max A Krantz

From: Max A Krantz diamond6cattle@outlook.com
Residence: Charlo. MT

Message:

I'm against redistricting , Both political parties need to work in a fair and balance districting to represent the people of Montana. If we the people want our younger citizens to look up to our elder leaders to lead this state beyond our years. balance is needed. Question, do we live in a black box or do we light the candle and move forward towards greatness, from our prairie lands to are mountains all citizens must be protected under Montana's laws. The current proposed map divides my neighbors and I in who we vote for. The current map puts Lake County in districts that include the Rattlesnake area of Missoula as well as Browning. Neither of these areas are similar to Lake County– There is no ag in the Rattlesnake. At certain times of the year, it is impossible to travel from Lake County to Browning, thus limiting our elected state officials ability to represent all of these areas equally.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Dennis LaBonty <lg36738@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:23 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting

Commission

I support the Tentative Final House Map. Thank you for your hard work on this project. The Commission, with this map, divides the fewest counties; best represents the tribal colleges; and meets the charges and goals of the Commission. Thank you again for representing the voters of Montana.

--

Dennis LaBonty
lg36738@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: MSG John Laigaie

From: MSG John Laigaie msglaigaie@yahoo.com
Residence: Philipsburg

Message:

I do NOT approve of the redistricting of Philipsburg/Georgetown Lake. This kind of gerrymandering is NOT appropriate. This is Montana, not Chicago, this kind of thing is not wanted here.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mike Lang

From: Mike Lang mike.lang@legmt.gov
Residence: Malta, MT

Message:

I have tried and asked staff to help with redistricting thoughts to no avail.

So here is a thought. I have been in the legislature since 2013. Campaign trips and constituent questions presently make it hard for the Milk River to Glasgow district area to be of the community they live in. Trade and social values are split with present SD 17.

The program has parameters and rules but I wish to put forth a corrective challenge. If in new redistricting one would turn south at the town of Dodson, MT, split the town, south onto #240, then turn east on South Wagner Road, and proceed east till it joins #363, which ends south of Malta. Then follow a set of legally described sections lines to the east until the Tampico Road, which is west of Glasgow. present and new district would proceed along Tampico road into Glasgow. I have no idea about the population statistics but I'm sure they could be worked out. As we call it the Muskrat district would have the hip portion trimmed by not following HWY 2 as it presently does. I can be reached at 406-654-7357 Thank you. This move would help make my North Montana communities.

--

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

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Public Hearing December 10
Comments from Nancy Leifer
President, League of Women Voters of Montana

Dear Chairman Smith and Commissioners:

Thank you for all of your hard work! Drawing districts that fairly represent Montana's diversity while complying with mandated criteria is a difficult task. The League of Women Voters appreciates the effort and compromise that have led to Map CP-1.

The League supports Map CP-1.

Map CP-1 does the best job of meeting the state and federal mandated requirements of all of the maps considered by the Commission in the recent working session. Map CP-1 complies with the requirement for contiguous districts. Map CP-1 complies with the Voting Rights Act by including 6 Native American majority districts. According to the metrics calculated in Dave's Redistricting, Map CP-1 is the most compact. For this metric, higher numbers indicate more compactness. Map CP-1 has the highest compactness rating at 55.

Map CP-1 goes beyond mandated criteria to also better address three of the discretionary goals adopted by the Commission through a unanimous vote of Commissioners from both parties:

- Minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations when possible.
- Consider competitiveness of districts when drawing plans, (e.g., to make districts politically competitive rather than "safe" for a particular political party).
- No plan may be drawn to unduly favor a political party.

In terms of minimizing divisions of cities, counties and reservations, Dave's Redistricting has a metric that addresses splitting with higher numbers reflecting less splitting. Maps CP-1 has the highest rating at 68, eleven points better than the next Map.

The League analyzed the maps using the Commission's chosen 10 elections and definition of competitiveness to assess competitiveness. Map CP-1 has the highest number of competitive districts with 10. More competitive districts are better, as they encourage voter participation and responsiveness to voters from candidates and office holders.

The League also used the 10 elections chosen by the Commission to assess unduly favoring a political party. Map CP-1 comes closest in the likely election of the 2024 Montana House to proportional representation of the 57%/43% vote share of Republicans/Democrats in recent elections. The League found that Map CP-1 has 55 districts that favor Republicans, 35 districts that favor Democrats, and 10 competitive districts which are split evenly with five slightly more Republican and five slightly more Democrat. Projecting the election, the 2024 House would

have 60 Republicans and 40 Democrats. Republicans would have 3 seats beyond the number proportional to their share of voters.

The League of Women Voters supports Map CP-1 because it does better job of meeting mandatory requirements and a better job of also addressing discretionary criteria established by the Commission.

Turning to the question of pairing House districts to create Senate districts, we encourage the Commission to incorporate three concepts:

1. Pair majority minority districts with each other to allow for the potential to elect a Senate candidate of choice for Native Americans. Native Americans constitute 7.8% of the state's population per the 2020 census. For proportional representation, this would mean four Senators. Paired Native American districts would offer the potential to elect three Senate candidates of choice.
2. Minimize undue advantage to one political party by pairing remaining districts to allow the Senate to reflect partisan voting shares, with approximately 29 Senate districts likely to go Republican and 21 Senate districts likely to go Democrat.
3. Include competitive districts by using the Commission's definition of competitiveness and pairing one Republican district with one Democrat district where possible, perhaps pairing an urban and suburban/rural district.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

Sherley, Laura

From: Stuart Lewin <stuartlewin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: I support HDP8 house map as is without any changes

To whom it may concern,

I support HDP8 house map as is without any changes

stuart lewin
615 Third Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 10:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marga Lincoln

From: Marga Lincoln margalincoln@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:
Dec. 8, 2022
Dear Redistricting Commission:

I'm writing in support of Tentative Map CP-1, which would determine Montana's future legislative districts.

Map CP-1 creates compact, contiguous districts, as required by the Montana Constitution, while also creating at least 10 competitive districts.

CP-1 respects county and city boundaries, while roughly reflecting the current political parties' vote shares. It also meets the requirements of the Voting Rights Act, protecting Native Americans' ability to elect tribal candidates.

Map CP-1 creates more legislative districts that are politically competitive than other proposed maps. To me, this is critical for a healthy democracy. It's clear from reading Montana's Constitution that Con-Con delegates wanted to encourage Montanans to be active and enthusiastic participants in their government.

This is reflected in the language throughout the Montana Constitution, as well as their ensuring such designated powers as citizen referendum, initiative and local government review.

Therefore, I believe it is in the spirit of our Constitution and the intent of the Con-Con delegates to maximize fairness during the redistricting process by drawing legislative district boundaries that ensure more voters will be heard. CP-1 does that.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:25 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Joseph E Loos, Jr

From: Joseph E Loos, Jr joeloos7245@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

I have been following the commissions progress with great interest, and I am glad to see that they have finally put forward a fair plan in HDP 8. Thank you for your hard work as you have struggled to bring your differences to a conclusion. I urge support of this plan.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:39 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Helena Lovick

From: Helena Lovick helenalovick@gmail.com
Residence: Great Falls, Montana

Message:

I would like to thank the commission for their hard work redistricting our legislative maps. I support the HDP8 map because it has nice compact districts in my town, Great Falls. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as-is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:36 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marcia Lushbaugh

From: Marcia Lushbaugh marcialushbaugh@gmail.com
Residence: Billings MT

Message:

I would like you to adopt the HDP8 map as the most fair and competitive.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Cherie Bowman-Lyons <cherietom@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: HDP8

Please pass tentative version of HDP8 as is. It is a good compromise in a much too partisan time.
Cherie and Tom Lyons
1526C Meadowlark Dr
Great Falls MT 59404
406-788-3717

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:52 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Madison County Board of Commissioners

From: Madison County Board of Commissioners madco@madisoncountymt.gov
Residence: Virginia City, Montana

Message:

The Madison County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the proposed legislative redistricting that affects our county. We feel that this is something that should be discussed at length with us before any changes are made. It is readily apparent that the proposed HD 44 favors a Democratic leaning district, by including part of Madison County that includes the Big Sky developments. Leaders in Big Sky have notified us that they also strongly oppose this proposal. The proposed HD 55 divides Madison County that includes a significant part of the Big Sky development. Removal of this part of Madison County out of HD 55, requires the expansion of the district into Gallatin County and the city of Three Forks. These areas should be in a district that has demographics in-line with other Gallatin valley districts. As proposed the mandatory criteria of 'each district consisting of compact territory' is ignored. This proposal does the opposite. Please consider the input from Madison County leaders and residents before making changes that would permanently affect Madison County's representation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dan Allhands, Ron Nye, and John Heckler
Madison County Board of Commissioners

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Rebecca Mapston

From: Rebecca Mapston rebeccamapstonforhd94@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula Montana

Message:

Please do not disenfranchise Republicans and rural voters in Missoula County by eliminating any possibility of Republicans winning legislative seats here, which they have done with their current map submitted for approval.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:15 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Viola Yolanda Talamantes-Matt

From: Viola Yolanda Talamantes-Matt yolliem8@gmail.com
Residence: Pablo, MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: D Craig McClure <dcraigmcclure@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Districting
Subject: 2024 MT redistricting

Thank you for all your hard work and effort to try and give all Montana voters a fair and balanced voice in our elections. I support HDP8 as the tentative final House map which splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana and meets the criteria and goals of the committee. HDPT represents a good compromise.

D Craig McClure, 1207 11th Ave E, Polson MT Sent from my iPhone

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 5:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marlene McCluskey

From: Marlene McCluskey mmcc@bresnan.net
Residence: Clancy MT

Message:

My name is Marlene McCluskey. I am a resident of Montana City in Jefferson County.

Proposed Map HDP8 map (Map HDP8) violates the rules because it splits a municipality, separates communities of interest, and violates the rule of compactness and contiguous. It is bad for the residents of Jefferson County.

1. Map HDP8 splits the municipality of Montana City in half. The residents of Montana City are in a small rural community which encompasses both the West and East side of the Interstate. Map HDP8 puts most of Jefferson County in HD61 and then takes the West Half of Montana City and puts it in HD68. By doing that, the residents of Montana City are not kept together – the residents in West Montana City are in HD68 and the residents of East Montana City are in HD61.

In looking at Dave's Redistricting, when adding in the city layers, it incorrectly identifies the municipality of Montana City and cannot be relied upon to represent the idea that Map HDP8 keeps the municipality of Montana City together.

2. Map HDP8 separates communities of interest in Montana City. The residents of the West half of Montana City are separated from the residents in the East Half of Montana City when Montana City is split into two districts. Map HDP8 puts the West Half of Montana City in the same HD as West Helena and North Helena in Lewis & Clark County. This violates the rule of keeping communities of interest together.

3. Map HDP8 separates the communities of Basin and Bernice from Boulder. Map HDP8 puts Basin and Bernice in HD62 which extends all the way from Bernice and Basin in Jefferson County to Seeley Lake in Missoula County! Basin, Bernice and Boulder are small rural municipalities within 10 minutes of each other. The drive from Bernice to Seeley Lake is 2-1/2 hours! This makes no sense!

4. Map HDP8 violates the rule of compactness and contiguous. The Representative from HD62 (formerly HD80) would represent residents of 4 counties (whereas currently represents 2 counties) by adding in small pieces of Jefferson and Missoula Counties. The Representative of HD62 would have to drive through six (6) other districts! to serve the communities of West Montana City, Basin and Bernice. The towns of Bernice and Seeley Lake are separated by 147 miles on the fastest route!

Map HDP8 disenfranchises the residents of Jefferson County by cutting the county into three districts, splitting the municipality of Montana City, separating communities of interest throughout Jefferson County, and connecting communities that are great distances apart in interests, mileage and driving time. Map HDP8 must be revised to rectify the problems created for Jefferson County.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:14 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tom McGillvray

From: Tom McGillvray tvmcgillvray@gmail.com
Residence: Billings

Message:

I write to you to ask that you consider scrapping the current map, CP-1 HDP-8.

This legislative map is clearly partisan and inconsistent with the redistricting commission's goal of "no plan may be drawn to unduly favor a political party".

By your own rules, districts are required to be compact. "The Commission shall consider the district's functional compactness in terms of travel and transportation, communication, and geography"

Bozeman is an example. There are 8 House districts that touch into the heart of Bozeman and then fan out in crescent shapes from there. These districts were clearly designed to favor the Democrat party. Missoula is designed similarly.

In assigning holdover senators, senators should be assigned to districts, that reflect the districts where they were elected so voters who voted for them will have Senators they elected.

Thank you.

Tom McGillvray
Billings MT

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Margarita McLarty <mclarty1@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 10:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Tentative final map

OK, you hard working Montanans; you have done an amazing job with the tentative final map – now hold firm and no more tweaking. The 60/40 split is a pretty fair representation of the populace, and keeping counties, communities, tribal areas as much intact as possible is an heroic accomplishment. Thank you,

Margarita McLarty
85 Chicory Road
Livingston, MT 59047

Mclarty1@outlook.com
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Ken Miller

From: Ken Miller Kendmiller57@earthlink.net
Residence: Laurel

Message:

The goal of maintaining communities of interest has been disastrously ignored. Because humans will never be able to draw the lines without partisan errors, a computer program should be used with the goals programmed to give us the fairest, non-partisan results.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Duane Mitchell

From: Duane Mitchell nce20201@gmail.com
Residence: Sidney

Message:
Honorable Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on this committee, WHAT A TASK.

That being said, as a Richland County Commissioner myself, I would like to understand the reasoning behind every proposal you have suggested. All eight redistricting maps split up Richland County.

It is important to understand that 42% of the entire oil and gas revenue for the whole state of Montana comes from Richland County. With the way the county is divided up on the proposed maps, it doesn't appear the southern portion of the county has the same economic interest as the northern part. This is inconsistent with the third bullet point in your "Goals for Legislative Districts" section. As is occupations and life styles in the same section of your criteria.

Competitiveness of districts is going to be another significant issue because there are vast differences between Dawson and Richland counties. High school sports just to name one. The agriculture base is another important aspect that must be considered, as well as the entire economic bases for both counties.

I would appreciate it very much if Richland County had Just one Representative in Helena. As would numerous other Richland County voters.

Lastly, I understand the population goals can range from 95% to 105% is it possible to have the districts in Eastern Montana work at the lower percentile? In short, that would greatly help our rural voters be more fairly represented in Helena.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on these vitally important issues.
Respectfully,
Duane Mitchell, Richland County Commissioner

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:27 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary Ellen Morrison

From: Mary Ellen Morrison tootisme@gmail.com
Residence: HELENA

Message:

I have not been able to find a map that shows the proposed state legislative districts for my area. Currently, the city of Helena is divided and each section is paired with a section of the north Helena Valley. The voters in the sparser valley population are outvoted by the dense population in the city. Basically, we have been disenfranchised by this districting. The districts are supposed to respect similar areas. The only reason to pair areas of the city with areas of the valley is to get more Democrats in the legislature. Please keep valley areas together in districts rather than pairing us with the city which is a more urban area. The valley is probably more politically diverse than the city and we deserve to have legislators that represent us, rather than the voters in the city.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Terri L Nelson

From: Terri L Nelson tlynn_49@hotmail.com
Residence: Great Falls, MT

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Newsom

From: Elizabeth Newsom wijim.7@juno.com
Residence: Missoula MT

Message:

The Democrat map forces urban and rural areas to be in the same districts, which defeats the goal of grouping communities of interest together. The current map disenfranchises 40% of rural voters and Republicans in Missoula County by eliminating any possibility of Republicans winning legislative seats.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Newsom

From: Elizabeth Newsom wijim.7@juno.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

The current proposal disenfranchises 40% of rural voters and Republicans by eliminating any possibility of Republicans winning legislative seats. In forcing rural and urban areas to be in the same districts, the Democratic map fails in grouping communities of interest together.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jon Olsen

From: Jon Olsen jolsen@lonemountainland.com
Residence: Big Sky

Message:
Subject: Opposition to proposed legislative district changes for Big Sky

Members of the District & Apportionment Commission,

My name is Jon Olsen and I have worked in Big Sky, MT for close to 20 years. I serve on multiple boards in Big Sky, including The newly formed Gallatin Canyon Sewer District as well as the Big Sky Parks and Recreation Board.

To explain some of the nuances of Big Sky, we are an un-incorporated area that is bifurcated by the Madison/Gallatin County line. As such, we are governed by both Counties. We spend an equal amount of time working with both Counties on topics that affect our Community. In addition, our small portion of Madison County represents approximately 80% of Madison County's property tax base.

It was brought to my attention this week that there is a proposed change to our legislative districts that would take the entire Madison County portion of Big Sky and combine it with a Gallatin County legislative district. This would be a MAJOR setback on the governance of our Community.

We will forever be part of Madison County. Having common legislators that represent Big Sky and Madison County further aligns our interests. The proposed district changes would separate us from Madison County, and eliminate our representation with state legislators from a county that makes up half of our Community and to which our tax dollars provide substantial support.

The current and former legislative delegations from both Madison and Gallatin Counties have represented us extremely well. They have made themselves available and are frequent visitors and listeners to the issues our Community faces.

The split between Madison and Gallatin County lines has always existed and always will. I understand that the District & Apportionment Commission has historically looked to avoid splitting counties and communities where possible. However, given the uniqueness of the Big Sky Community being unincorporated and spilt between two counties, representation in the State Legislature from both counties is very important to the Community and its residents. The Commission should look to make changes where necessary. This is not only unnecessary, but extremely undesired. If this change were to be approved, our Community would be further severed from Madison County which would be a major detriment to the citizens of our community.

Thank you very much for your service and for your consideration of my comments

Jon Olsen

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Liana Orsolini

From: Liana Orsolini lorsolini1@gmail.com
Residence: Condon, MT

Message:

So unfair to lump Missoula county (90% conservative) with wildly liberal Missoula. Thanks for shutting down the county voice and removing Democracy from rural Missoula county with your redistricting scheme.

--

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

December 8, 2022

To Montana Redistricting Commission

Comments from David Patterson, Missoula, on proposed plan TCP1

I watched most of the Commission meetings last week and I thank you for the hard work that you have put into this process. I have learned much about Montana by watching your discussions and better appreciate the difficulties in developing a redistricting plan for such a large and diverse state.

I support the adoption of the Commission's TCP1 proposal as is. It is short of proportionality for Democrats, but better than plan HD7 in this respect. It has more competitive districts than plan HD7, satisfies the requirements of the Voting Rights Act relative to Native populations, and has a degree of compactness as good as any other plan. I honestly would prefer to see a plan that is more closely proportional but given the distribution of voters and geography, this plan is acceptable. I urge the Commission to resist tweaking the plan in any way that makes it less proportional or destroys the careful balance between competing interests that this plan achieves.

Below are some further comments on this plan. I know that much of this is familiar turf for the Commission, but I want to show that my opinion is based on serious thought and research about the proposals.

Proportionality

Number 1 on the commission's list of goals for state legislative districts is "No plan may be drawn to unduly favor a political party." "Unduly favor", by most people's definition, means that the number of representatives in a party is proportional to that party's statewide electoral support as nearly as possible. Because of the geographical distribution of voters of different parties in Montana, it is not easy to draw maps that satisfy other criteria and are proportional or close to it. But it's not impossible, as evidenced by TCP1. It's irrelevant that it's easier to draw maps that favor Republicans. The goal is the fairest map possible and there is no reason to accept a less fair map than TCP1.

Commissioner Essman said that he would like to see more proportional representation in Missoula for Republicans. I agree, just as I'm sure Democrats in northeast and northwest Montana would like to see more proportional representation there. Unfortunately, that's not possible in those areas because of the geographic distribution of Democratic and Republican voters. You should not penalize a party for where its voters happen to live; do not sacrifice proportionality statewide to achieve greater proportionality in a few regions. The House and Senate are not divided up by region; they vote as single bodies. Proportionality statewide must trump proportionality by region.

Commissioner Stusek mentioned that HD7 received a rating of 96% for proportionality in Dave’s Redistricting App (curiously, it now says 99%; I’m not sure why). This is based on a complicated metric which assumes an involved model for how votes vary from election to election. There is no clear interpretation of that score. But it is clear that HD7 is far from proportional as it predicts only 33 seats for Democrats, far below proportionality. I don’t put much stock in the 96% (or 99%) rating.

Supermajority

The 2/3 threshold for supermajority in the legislature is a critical threshold that should only be exceeded when a party actually has the support of 2/3 of the voters in the state and not simply because of redistricting. It is vitally important that the redistricting plan protect against this possibility through a proportional plan.

Competitiveness

Using the Commission’s definition of a competitive district as one that, according to previous election results, would have voted for the Democratic (or Republican) candidate between 3 and 7 times in 10 previous statewide elections, TCP1 has 10 competitive districts.

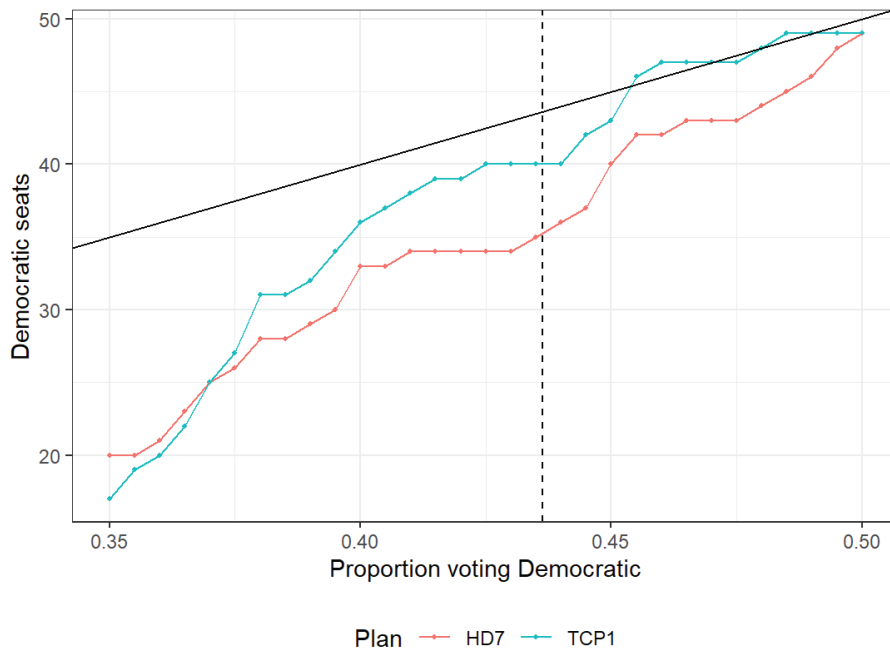
Plan	Democrat	Competitive	Republican
HD7	34	7	59
TCP1	35	10	55

However, a table of the exact number of the previous 10 elections that would have been won by the Democratic candidate in each district for each plan reveals something else. All 7 competitive districts in HD7 lean Republican (with 3 or 4 Democratic wins) while exactly half of TCP1’s competitive districts lean Republican and half lean Democratic. In addition, HD7 has 65 districts which voted the same way in all 10 elections, while TCP1 has only 54.

Plan	Number of Democratic “wins”										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
HD7	48	2	9	5	2	0	0	0	6	11	17
TCP1	43	4	8	5	0	0	1	4	4	20	11

Uniform Partisan Swing

A uniform partisan swing plot asks what would happen if the proportion of voters for one party increased or decreased uniformly across the state. The following graph uses the 16.20Comp composite vote, but graphs using the 10 individual races give similar results. The dashed vertical line shows the actual value of the statewide proportion Democratic (as a proportion of the total Democratic and Republican vote) which is 43.6% for the composite vote. The y-values for each point are the numbers of Democratic seats that would be won under each plan. The solid black line represents exact proportionality.



First, it is clear that plan TCP1 underrepresents Democratic voters with an estimated 40 Democratic seats at the historic vote proportion (43.6%), but is still significantly more proportional than HD7. By this analysis, TCP1 would become approximately proportional if Democratic support increased a couple of percentage points uniformly, but would never exceed proportionality. If support decreased uniformly, it is difficult to maintain proportionality, but TCP1 does a better job than HD7.

Compactness

The commission’s definition of compactness talks about “functional compactness”. None of the compactness metrics in Dave’s Redistricting App measure functional compactness in any way so I would not rely on them too much. They don’t take into account travel times, geography, or the distribution of voters within a district. Large uninhabited areas in a district make it appear less compact than it really is by these measures. The compactness measures also rely only on the shape of a district, not the size. An elongated district in a city has much less effect on functional compactness than an elongated district in eastern Montana. Functional compactness is also not something that can be judged by simply looking at a district (the You Know It When You See It standard). Your discussions in the committee were much more useful for judging compactness than any numerical measure available.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 6:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Katie Pellett

From: Katie Pellett kpellett@3rivers.net
Residence: CHOTEAU

Message:
Please support the compromise map HDP8. It is fair and reasonable.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 6:24 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jane Pierce

From: Jane Pierce janeipierce@yahoo.com
Residence: Missoula MT

Message:
I believe HDP-8 would be the fairest plan, so I support it.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:53 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mike Rausch

From: Mike Rausch mlrausch@yahoo.com
Residence: Great Falls, Montana

Message:

Thank you for drafting a map which has districts which look like our city's neighborhoods. I like the districts you have put together for Great Falls, but I think the Great Falls map could be improved if you made the changes in submitted map 15. Generally, I think districts should not cross the Missouri River. However, the area to the south of Great Falls on both sides of the Missouri River is a similar community of interest and it makes sense to cross the river at that point.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:29 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: James P Reardon

From: James P Reardon jpr195557@gmail.com
Residence: HELENA

Message:

Dear Commissioners, I would urge you to adopt the current tentative commission proposal 1 in it's current form. As a resident of the current HD 80 I have not seen a legislative candidate on my door for the last 10 years denying many voters in the current district unfair representation in the legislature. The current makeup of the district as a multi county district does not reflect The growth of the current district. The majority of the growth has bee in Lewis & Clark County with the majority of residents having direct ties to the City of Helena for both work and services. I believe the current proposal will make HD 63 a more competitive district and allow for better candidates and representation in future Legislatures.

I would also recommend that the new proposed HD 63 be paired with another Lewis & Clark county district to create a new Senate District. Voters in Lewis & Clark Counties votes should not be diluted by pairing our House Districts with a rural multi county district.

In closing thank you all for your work on this difficult project and remember your work is to benefit all the people of Montana not one political party over the other.

James P Reardon

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: SHEILA RICE <sheilaricemt@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Legislative maps

Thank you for your many months of work on these maps and your careful consideration of the immense number of possibilities. I write today to support the maps currently being promoted by the Commission. No map is perfect; but the current map are the best of all those under consideration.

Sheila Rice
406-868-7933

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:51 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: David W Rowell

From: David W Rowell dave@elk-hunting-tips.net
Residence: Seeley Lake, Montana

Message:

The commission is clearly trying, again, to disenfranchise Republicans and rural voters in Missoula County by trying to eliminate any possibility of Republicans winning legislative seats in this county, which they have done with their current map. This kind of gerrymandering must be prevented.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Brenda Rowell

From: Brenda Rowell brendamarlene@live.com
Residence: Seeley Lake, MT

Message:

Redistricting like this is almost as bad as voter fraud and cheating which the left like to do. If you can't win elections honestly redistrict and cheat so you can! We need justice in our state once again.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 5:29 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Yvonne Rudman

From: Yvonne Rudman ymrudman@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I'm writing in support of HDP8 for the following reasons:

- it splits the fewest counties,
- it has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and
- it meets all the criteria and goals set by the Commission.

This compromise map, developed in a bipartisan spirit, shows agreement between the two parties. I hope the good work of the Commission will not be a casualty of short sighted politicians wanting to alter it which will result in worse elections for Montanans of both parties.

Please pass the Tentative Final House Map HDP8 as is.

-

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:02 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Susan M Russell

From: Susan M Russell susanrussell74@gmail.com
Residence: Bonner, MT

Message:

Please do not take away our voice in Missoula County. Dense areas continue to make decisions for the rural areas. We have no representation anymore in Missoula County.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Walt <waltsales4montana@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Pairing

I would like to thank you all for taking the time to read and understand my thoughts on the impact in pairing my local House district as you settle on a map. I am sure you will receive many comments, I will be brief. Under the proposed map, and following your goal of keeping communities interest intact, the following pairs seem to fit well.

Districts 53,54
16,54

I have shared the same great qualities that make this one of the best seats in the Senate with a large agricultural base and several small-town communities. This consideration will help the Senator express our shared ag heritage and values that have been represented in Helena for many generations.

Thank you for your work and consideration moving forward.

Walt Sales
Senate District 35

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:33 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: MARY L SCHELLE

From: MARY L SCHELLE MARYSCHELLE@GMAIL.COM
Residence: BILLINGS MT

Message:

PLEASE ADOPT HDP8. IT IS THE MOST ENCOMPASSING AND FAIR REPRESENTATION OF MONTANANS.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: PATRTICK L SCHELLE, D.O.

From: PATRTICK L SCHELLE, D.O. plschelle@gmail.com
Residence: BILLINGS MT

Message:

HDP8

HDP8 IS THE ONLY SUBMITTED MAP THAT IS THE MOST FAIR AND NON-PARTISAN. THIS IS THE ONLY MAP THAT FAIRLY REPRESENTS THE PEOPLES OF MONTANA ALL OF THEM. IT IS SURELY NOT PERFECT, BUT SEEMS THE BEST THAT HAS COME UP. I SUPPORT ADOPTING HDP8

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: versever55@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of David Severson <versever55@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Writing in Support of Legislative Map HDP-8

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Redistricting Commission and a Final House map. I have followed this process and feel that map #8 is the best and most representative for all Montanans. It splits the fewest counties, roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise and that is good. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.
Dave Severson

Sincerely,
David Severson
2417 42nd St Missoula, MT 59803-1165
versever55@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sonia Shearer

From: Sonia Shearer soniamaxfield@hotmail.com
Residence: MISSOULA

Message:

Do not disenfranchise Republicans and rural voters in Missoula County by eliminating any possibility of Republicans winning legislative seats here.

Thank you!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Beth Sirr <healthempowers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:09 AM
To: Districting
Subject: My public input on Montana redistricting map

To Whom it may concern:

First, thank you for your dedication and work on the Tentative Final House map and finding a compromise that works to achieve fairness for all Montanans.

I support the map because:

- *it meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission;**
- *it splits the fewest counties, and;**
- *it has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana.**

I think we all deserve to have a government that can and will represent the best interests of all of us.

Please, pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

**Beth Sirr
1290 Story Mill Rd.
Bozeman, MT
59715**

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jeffrey Smith

From: Jeffrey Smith yswolfhowl@gmail.com
Residence: Polson

Message:

—

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Vicki Southard

From: Vicki Southard choteauvicki@yahoo.com
Residence: Choteau, Mt

Message:
Support for HDP8

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: John Souza

From: John Souza maineak01@yahoo.com
Residence: Belgrade, MT

Message:

This map is clearly not a compact district. Bozeman and Belgrade have been split into slivers, connecting the two towns. This is textbook pinwheel Gerrymandering. Please reject this map and draw a map that is compact and will represent voters better.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 5:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Courtenay Sprunger

From: Courtenay Sprunger courtenaysprunger@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

Looking at all the potential maps, I think it's critical we have a solution that maintains communities of interest and maintains contiguous lines for each of these districts; I support the maps that do this. The map put forward for consideration by the committee has created districts that seem oddly apportioned, often with physical barriers, that would make it difficult for a representative to cover the entire district to speak with constituents. We need to do better – one of the best parts of living in this state as that we have always had access to our elected leaders, particularly at the local and state level. That, and maintaining communities of interest should be top priorities – I simply don't see that occurring in numerous districts throughout the state. In the Flathead County, where I am a Representative-Elect, House District 98 pulls together the City of Whitefish and the City of Columbia Falls. These areas have significantly different social economic and cultural differences – as someone who grew up in this area, I can say that placing them together is a disservice to both. Missoula seems to have similar issues with long, awkwardly shaped districts side-by-side versus creating more contiguous lines – I'd like to see this rectified. Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 8:47 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Judy Staigmiller

From: Judy Staigmiller judyannst@gmail.com
Residence: BOZEMAN

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Dale F Steingruber

From: Dale F Steingruber Dsteingrubermt@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade, Montana

Message:

Dear Bozeman/Belgrade Redistricting Committee, the redistricting map is a clear a t of Gerrymandering, robbing the more rural districts of their Constitutional rights for voter representation. Flooding a smaller area w/ votes from a more populated is taking control of the whole of districts by using the power of populated areas to exercise authority beyond proper boundaries! Please do your job for the of the county not just Bozeman. Reject maps that don't represent rural communities!!! We all have a voice that needs to be honored and respected.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:12 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jesse Stovall

From: Jesse Stovall jthebodystovall@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

This map is clearly not a compact district. Bozeman and Belgrade have been split into slivers, connecting the two towns. This is textbook pinwheel Gerrymandering. Please reject this map and draw a map that is compact and will represent voters better

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: john stowe <piedmont_roadie@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting

I agree with Kevin Germaine that this would be a major setback for the residents and owners of property in our area. Our tax dollars support Madison County and we should remain part of Madison County. There is NO reason for us to be combined at any level with Gallatin County. This redistricting will cause confusion and diminish our ability to deal with the agencies that we currently fund via our taxes

Sent from my iPhone

John Stowe

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 8:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Will Swearingen

From: Will Swearingen wds59hp@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Commissioners, I am writing to support the Tentative Final House map. I believe this map achieves a good balance between compactness and competitiveness, has a partisan split that accurately reflects the current Montana electorate, splits the fewest counties, and is an overall good compromise. Please approve this map as is. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:31 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Erin Taylor

From: Erin Taylor irishladd67@msn.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

The map that has been shown to us is not a compact district. Bozeman and Belgrade have been splintered together to connect both towns. This looks like it has been contrived to manipulate political parties for voting. If you are a true American and believe in what is righteous please do not allow this map to be put into place. Please draw a map that makes sense and doesn't reflect an attempt to keep certain people in power. We need a map that will represent the voters.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Mary Thibaudeau

From: Mary Thibaudeau purplemaryt@aol.com
Residence: Great Falls, MT 59403

Message:
Please pass HDP8 – I support this totally!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 9:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Eric Tilleman

From: Eric Tilleman eslasht@gmail.com
Residence: Cascade, MT

Message:

Vaughn, Sun Prairie, and Ulm should be in the same district as Cascade, Simms, and Fort Shaw.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: John Trehwella

From: John Trehwella jktmjt@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, Montana 59102

Message:

Thank you for your work on this redistricting. Please pass the redistricting as is.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Trehwella

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 8:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Alice Tully

From: Alice Tully atully4@msn.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

The redistricting should be competitive for all and not favor one party over the other. The map put forward by Democrats forces rural and urban areas to be in same districts which does not meet the goal of grouping communities of interest together and disenfranchises rural voters.

The proposed Democratic map has districts that are not compact nor contiguous. The proposed map makes it more difficult for an elected legislator to travel to meet with constituents with some districts miles longer than they would be if contiguous.

The proposed map looks like Democrats are intentionally gerrymandering Montana to win seats. A repeat of ten years ago.

Please consider revised proposals from the Missoula County Republicans for house districts that addresses the Commissions criteria by keeping communities of interest together.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Rick VanAken <rdv59047@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:07 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Support Tentative Final Map #8

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission.

This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans.

Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

Rick VanAken
220 West Montana St.
Livingston, MT 59047

rdv59047@gmail.com

--

Rick VanAken
email: rdv59047@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: Rick VanAken <rdv59047@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Support Tentative Final Map #8

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map.
I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission.
This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map Dear Commissioners,worse for Montanans.
Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.
-

--
Rick VanAken
email: rdv59047@gmail.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tyler Vance

From: Tyler Vance tylervance31@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman Montana

Message:

This is clear wagon wheeling gerrymandering of our voting districts. Clearly an attempt by the left wing bureaucrats to usurper their authority and take away the voice of rural people and giving it all to the urbanite Democrat voters. We won't comply or forget about the scum that go forward with this.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Stephanie J Brancati

From: Stephanie J Brancati stephaniejeannefox@gmail.com
Residence: Big Arm, MT

Message:

It's been a lot of work and thought to get to the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties and cities, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map HDP-8 as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gail Waldby

From: Gail Waldby gwaldby@pat7.com
Residence: Livingston

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a compromise. Please don't let meddling politicians make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 7:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Bridget Wanderer

From: Bridget Wanderer bridgetrhye@msn.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

The redistricting as proposed would eliminate the possibility of Republican representatives or senators being elected in Missoula County. First, how sad that the Democrats feel they must artificially skew the vote to win and are willing to do so. Second, it truly creates a situation where a vote for a Republican legislator truly does not count—confirming the sentiment "my vote does not count". Why are not people and ideas not coming forth to win or lose on merit instead of political tricks? The Democrats are displaying cowardice and a complete distrust of the system of "one person, one vote".

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Chris Warden

From: Chris Warden ckwarden@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

In a number of places this map appears to create districts to maximize the vote for political constituencies in ways that blatantly violate the commission goal to “attempt to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations when possible.”

This is especially true in Missoula where House Districts previously in the city and county have been re-drawn like large octopus arms to mix in rural voters across four adjacent counties with the heavily Democrat voting base of the City of Missoula. These new districts rob rural voters in Western Montana of a voice in state government and will lead to further division because these districts divide long-standing communities of interest. Given the crossing of mountain ranges and valleys, the new maps would also create severe logistical challenges to whoever is elected that will further undermine their ability to serve and hear from those they represent.

The commission considered similar maps during the congressional redistricting and the chair wisely chose to avoid allowing such blatant political gerrymandering. This restored voter confidence in our commission-based process and led to an election where voters more readily accepted the outcomes. Approving this map would produce the complete opposite and lead to ten years of increasing division in the many western Montana communities that would be disenfranchised by this map.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Gordon Whirry <gwhirry@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 9:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Support HDP8

I urge your support of the HDP8 redistricting map. This most fairly represents Montana voters and is a reasonable and workable compromise.

Gordon Whirry
1912 4th Ave N, Great Falls, Mt 59401

Sherley, Laura

From: Mike Wilcynski <mwilcynski@moonlightbasin.com>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 3:50 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Opposition to the proposed legislative district changes for Big Sky

Member of the district and appointment commission,

My name is Mike Wilcynski and I have been a resident of the Big Sky community for 20 years. I have raised my family in the Big Sky, Mt and have been an active participant within the community and beneficiary of the growth over the years.

Big Sky is a unique community; un-incorporated and bifurcated by the Madison and Gallatin County lines. Having representation from both counties has benefited our community significantly over the years. Adjusting the legislative district lines will add another layer of complexity to how we are governed. Representation from Gallatin county exclusively when the tax base is generated from both Madison and Gallatin counties would be a significant set-back. We need representation from both counties- I encourage you to maintain the current district boundaries.

Thank you,

Mike Wilcynski | General Manager



Moonlight Basin
66 Mountain Loop Rd
P.O. Box 161514
Big Sky, MT 59716

C : (406) 209-4367
O : (406) 924-1403

WWW.MOONLIGHTBASIN.COM

NOTICE: This email message and all attachments transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the addressees and may contain legally privileged, protected or confidential information. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by email reply and please delete this message from your computer and destroy any copies.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Donna Williams

From: Donna Williams dwilliamshome@charter.net
Residence: Great Falls

Message:

Thank you so much for your hard work on the Tentative Final House map. I support the map because it splits the fewest counties, has a 60-40 split that roughly reflects the voters of Montana, and meets all the criteria and goals of the Commission. This map is a good compromise. Don't let busloads of partisan politics pull you off task. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 7:07 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Marjii Wronko

From: Marjii Wronko mjwronko@gmail.com
Residence: Belgrade,MT

Message:

I am a voter in the Belgrade Mt district and I do not want my district blended with Bozeman district.

Respectfully,

Marjii Wronko

--

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