

# Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between 5:00 p.m. on December 13 and 11:59 p.m. on  
December 14, 2022

Distributed electronically December 15, 2022

Proposed Map HDP8 map (Map HDP8)

We, the People, and as Citizens of the Great State of Montana, hereby stand  
in OPPOSITION of  
Redistricting Map HDP8 due the Splitting of Municipalities, Separates Communities, Violates the rule of  
Compactness and Contiguous in various districts in the State of Montana

	Print Name	Signature	Address	City	Zip
1	DOYLE RATER		724 PINTAIL CT	HELENA	59602
2	Tim Wheel		1850 Easy St	Helena	597004
3	Jill Sark		6475 Foxwood Ct	Helena	59602
4	Zack Wirth		2020 Chevallier	Wolf Creek	59648
5	Patricia J Wirth		2020 Chevallier Dr	Wolf Creek, MT	59648
6	SAMUEL ROWE		5558 RACINE Home Loop	Helena	59602
7	Sandra Holland		1307 Warehouse Ave	Helena	59602
8	David Ralph		1812 Wilder Ave	Helena	59602
9	HEIDI FRIEDLAND		1209 N. OAKS ST	Helena MT	59601
10	Jacob Corcoran		3244 Legacy Loop	Helena	59602
11	Catherine Corcoran		3244 Legacy Loop	Helena	59602
12	Berkey Stockton		1430 Boston Rd	Helena	59602
13	TOM Stockton		1430 Boston Rd	Helena	59602
14	STACY BRIESE		Po Box 1473	Boulder	59632
15	Donna Efford		5353 McKeigh	Helena	59602
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	Print Name	Signature	Address	City	Zip
1	SKYLER EFFORD	<i>Skylar Efford</i>	5353 LANE MCHUGH	HELENA	59602
2	David P. Johnson	<i>David P. Johnson</i>	1306 Lumberman	Helena	59601
3	Mike Bachman	<i>Mike Bachman</i>	730 Valleyway	Helena	59602
4	Rachel Phillips	<i>Rachel Phillips</i>	7265 Raven	Helena	59602
5	Jake Phillips	<i>Jake Phillips</i>	7265 Raven	Helena	59602
6	Valarie Manolovits	<i>Valarie Manolovits</i>	3355 Kathryn loop	Helena	59602
7	Jane Ford	<i>Jane Ford</i>	19 Willow ave	Helena	59602
8	Aaron Nelson	<i>Aaron Nelson</i>	4060 Remington St	E Helena	59635
9	Elizabeth James	<i>Elizabeth James</i>	7246 Oxford Dr	Helena	59602
10	Ruth Rater	<i>Ruth Rater</i>	724 Pintail Ct	Helena	59602
11	Nathaniel Bunker	<i>Nathaniel Bunker</i>	78 John G. Mine Rd	Helena	59602
12	Paul McKelroy	<i>Paul McKelroy</i>	4000 U.S. Hwy 12	Helena	59601
13	Sandy Bunker	<i>Sandy Bunker</i>	18 John G. Mine Rd	Helena	59602
14	Matt Hopper	<i>Matt Hopper</i>	76 Antelope Rd	Townsend	59641
15	Bonnie Stevens	<i>Bonnie Stevens</i>	2400 York Rd	Helena	59602
16	Bari Parvian	<i>Bari Parvian</i>	1155 Guthrie Blvd Apt 4	Helena	59602
17	Mackenzie Way	<i>Mackenzie Way</i>	5910 Aaron Drive	Helena	59602
18	Tanya Truseck	<i>Tanya Truseck</i>	1159 Cold Westwood	Helena	59602
19	Cathryn Truseck	<i>Cathryn Truseck</i>	920 Silhouette St Helena, MT	Helena, MT	59601
20	Patti Meek	<i>Patti Meek</i>	7260 Gr. Meadow	Helena	59602
21	Shirl Shelley	<i>Shirl Shelley</i>	2047 N. East Chance Gulch 335	Helena	59601
22	Karen O'Donnell	<i>Karen O'Donnell</i>	3216a Harness LP	Helena	59602
23	Linda McCamey	<i>Linda McCamey</i>	5080 Arrowhead Dr	Helena	59602
24	Robert McCamey Jr	<i>Robert McCamey Jr</i>	5080 Arrowhead Dr	Helena	59602
25	Kathy M. Collins	<i>Kathy M. Collins</i>	902 Menlo Park Road	Helena	59602

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	Print Name	Signature	Address	City	Zip
1	Brett Norling	Brett Norling	226 Ohana Ct	Helena	59602
2	Vicki Norling	Vicki Norling	226 Ohana Ct.	Helena	59602
3	Barbie Parriman	Barbie Parriman	320A Conroy Dr	Helena	59602
4	Kathy Gowans	Kathy Gowans	2875 Punkie Plwy	Helena	59601
5	Cynthia Howell	Cynthia Howell	5925 Delray	Helena	59602
6	Maxine Faurie	Maxine Faurie	1158 Cobblestone 7204 Rosemary Dr.	Helena	59602
7	Colleen Jiffun	Colleen Jiffun		Helena	59602
8	Mary Beth	Mary Beth	2005 PROJECTIVE	HELENA	59601
9	Marianne Westman	Marianne Westman	930 Idelwild court	Helena	59601
10	Aaron Dodge	Aaron Dodge	91 West Prairie Rd.	Helena	59602
11	JERRY E. STIER	Jerry E. Stier	PO Box 5774	HELENA	59604
12	W. J. Prossitt	W. J. Prossitt	920 Silverette	Helena	59601
13	Bonnie Waddell	Bonnie Waddell	40 Woodland Park App	Clancy, MT	59634
14	Paul Waddell	Paul Waddell	40 Woodland Park App	Clancy	59634
15	TAMM MUCHT	Tamm Mucht	1506 Cole Ave	Helena	59601
16	Casey Bate	Casey Bate	1506 Cole Ave	Helena	59601
17	Cathy Milligan	Cathy Milligan	795 Woodland Hills Rd	Helena	59602
18	CARSON MILLIGAN	Carson Milligan	795 WOODLAND HILLS RD HELENA	HELENA	59602
19	Rhonda Burnett	Rhonda Burnett	50 Park Dr.	Clancy	59634
20	Anna Sharon Madsen	Anna Sharon Madsen	49 Maggiet Hill Rd	Clancy	59634
21	Monique Guille	Monique Guille	5950 Elk Run Rd	Helena	59602
22	Donna Tennison	Donna Tennison	3630 York Rd	Helena	59602
23	TAMMY BAXTER	Tammy Baxter	3852 Bison Dr	Helena	59602
24	Tara Lobato	Tara Lobato	3360 Van Raven	Helena	59602
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	Print Name	Signature	Address	City	Zip
1	Raymond Rutherford	Raymond Rutherford	1599 Valley Forge Rd	Helena	59602
2	Bonnie Rutherford	Bonnie Rutherford	1599 Valley Forge Rd.	Helena	59602
3	Rick Friesen	RFriesen	6131 Glass Dr	Helena	59602
4	Zanne Friesen	Zanne Friesen	6131 Glass Dr	Helena	59602
5	Rhonda Baxter	R Baxter	8676 Green Meadow	Helena	59602
6	Bryan Baxter	Bryan Baxter	8676 Green Meadow	Helena	59602
7	SCOTT PHILLIPS	Scott Phillips	5050 BUCKMOUNTAIN DR, HELENA, MT 59	HELENA	59602
8	Karen L. Rasmussen	Karen L. Rasmussen	2047 N. East Chance Gulch #333	Helena	59601
9	Sam Moore	Sam Moore	1450 Boston Rd	Helena, MT	59602
10	Julie Moore	Julie Moore	1450 Boston Rd	HELENA MT	59602
11	Leslie L. Elford	Leslie L. Elford	5353 McHugh Lane	Helena MT	59602
12	Patricia Patterson	Patricia Patterson	1306 Waukesha	Helena MT	59601
13	CYNTHIA HAMMOND	Cynthia Hammond	1020 Vallejo Rd	Helena, MT	59602
14	ROBERT HAMMOND	Robert P. Ham	1020 VALLEJO RD	HELENA, MT	59602
15	Mark McGuire	Mark McGuire	6335 Raven Rd	Helena MT	59602
16	Julie McGuire	Julie McGuire	6335 Raven Rd Helena	Helena MT	59602
17	STEPHEN BANKER	Stephen Banker	78 JOHN G. MINE RD	HELENA MT	59602
18	Diane Anders	Diane Anders	703 9th Ave	Helena MT	59601
19	Joseph Elford	Joseph Elford	2830 Tea	Helena MT	59602
20	CYNTHIA HOY	Cynthia Hoy	26 JACK FARM	TOWNSEND MT	59644
21	Arlison Dunbar	Arlison Dunbar	543 CANTON RD	HELENA	59602
22	Madison Jorgensen	Madison Jorgensen	1312 Phoenix Ave APTA	Helena	59601
23	Steven Allen	STEVEN ALLEN	2120 E Broadway	Helena	59601
24	KELLY ALLEN	Kelly A. Allen	2120 E Broadway	Helena	59601
25	Aiken Bleak	Aiken Bleak	2995 Prospect Ave #22	Helena	59602

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1	JOEL JAMES	Joe James	7246 Oxford Dr	HELENA	59602
2	Gaylene Nelson	Gaylene Nelson	4060 Remington St.	E. Helena	59635
3	Randy Johnson	Randy Johnson	93 Lynn Dr	Helena, MT	59602
4	Mike Smith	Mike Smith	104 <sup>th</sup> St E. Helena 59635	East Helena	59635
5	Bob LaFontaine	Bob LaFontaine	4995 N Montana Ave	Helena	59602
6	Loretta Tucker	Loretta Tucker	1616 Leslie Helena, MT	Helena	59601
7	Janice M Smith	Janice M Smith	104 <sup>th</sup> St 412 Riggs E.H. MT	East Helena	59635
8	Brenda Thomas	Brenda Thomas	5619 Kerr <sup>drive</sup>	Helena	59602
9	Eli Ediger	Eli Ediger	5050 Kerr Dr	Helena	59602
10	Baruch Ediger	Baruch Ediger	5619 Kerr Dr	Helena	59602
11	Coden Sammons	Coden Sammons	4306 Goodwin Dr	Helena	59602
12	Sheldon Jorgensen	Sheldon Jorgensen	1312 Phoenix Ave	Helena	59601
13	Laura Rear	Laura Rear	95 Ponderosa Rd	Clancy	59634
14	Terry Deagles	Terry Deagles	Box 387	Jefferson City	928 9259836
15	Barbara Golden	Barbara Golden	5850 Black Mt dr	Helena	59602
16	Wendy Jorgensen	Wendy Jorgensen	1 Jackson Ct Rd <sup>Box</sup> 2057	MT City	59634
17	Pettip Starr	Pettip Starr	3535 Baxter	Helena	59602
18	RICHARD STARR	RICHARD STARR	3535 BAXTER	HELENA	59602
19	Aaron Herriges	Aaron Herriges	209 Butte Rd	ETHA	59635
20	Tracy Morand	Tracy Morand	4 Oak Circle	Helena	59601
21	Jo Morand	Jo Morand	4 Oak Circle	Helena	59601
22	sarah morand	sarah morand	4 oak circle	Helena	59601
23	Linda Melaney	Linda Melaney	3807 Halberg Dr	Helena	59602
24	Brett Wall	Brett Wall	1626 Flower east	Helena	59601
25	SHERRY REYNOLDS	Sherry Reynolds	46 Greenwood Tr	Clancy	59634

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1	Eric Much		1506 Cole Ave	Helena	59601
2	Austin Much		1506 Cole Ave	Helena	59601
3	Suey Kneeder	Suey Kneeder	3401 Alhambra Blvd	Clancy	59834
4	Kali Curless	Kali Curless		Helena	59601
5	Nathan Nelson		822 Abbe St	Helena	59601
6	Dani Norling		57 Rock Ridge	Clancy	59634
7	SPENCER SEVERIN		57 ROCK RIDGE DRIVE	CLANCY	59634
8	Shannon Courtney		1120 1/2 E Clark St	East Helena	59601
9	Terri Barney		3885 Trappers Tea	Helena	59602
10	Gordon Lant Barney		" "	"	"
11	Alonara O'Leary		822 Sonoma Dr	Helena	59601
12	Brian O'Leary		822 Sonoma Dr	Helena	59601
13	Gina Reilly		832 6th Ave	Helena	59601
14	Matt Furlong		3885 Kim Dr	Helena	59602
15	Brenton Craggs		655 Legend Loop Apt. C-109	Helena	59602
16	Aaron Leas		118 Dudley St #2	E-Helena	59635
17	Anstie Anderson		3140 Aviz St Apt A	Helena	59602
18	Mary Tappan		6050 Willow Crk	Helena	59609
19	DOUG TAPPAN		"	"	"
20	Pam Swalve		412 W Custer Ave	Helena	59602
21	Brian Swalve		"	"	"
22	Jean Johnson		1890 Sierra Rd E	"	59602
23	Bridge Leland		1801 Choleau	<del>Helena</del> Helena	59601
24	Amy		826 Broadway	Helena	59601
25	Steve		"	"	"

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Diane W. Bayuk

From: Diane W. Bayuk entremom3@yahoo.com  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Thank you for your 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. Do not allow meddling politicians to make the map worse for Montanans. Please pass the Tentative Final House Map as is.

Thank you.

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:07 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Laurie Bishop

From: Laurie Bishop lauriefbishop@gmail.com  
Residence: Livingston, MT 59047

Message:

While I have already provided comments to the Commission regarding the logic of the connection between Park and Gallatin counties in Map 8's HD 42, I wanted to add an additional bit of information I happened upon this week. In speaking with a Park County employee working on emergency services I learned that the rural fire district in Sedan, on HWY86 in northern Gallatin County, provides the first line of emergency response for the Wilsall area in northern Park County. In fact, while the dept is in Gallatin County, the fire district address is technically in Wilsall. From an emergency services perspective, it was made clear that this is another strong connection between northern Park and Gallatin Counties.

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 1:31 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: David K Brooks

From: David K Brooks dkbrooks52@gmail.com  
Residence: Three Forks, MT

Message:

I take this opportunity to express my displeasure with the proposed changes due to redistricting requirements. This statement is in regard to the proposals for Gallatin County. The proposed new districts clearly violate The Commission's criteria for drawing districts. Criteria #2 states in effect that ",,,towns should not be divided..." Criteria #3 reflects that the new district should be "...compact territories and keep communities of interest intact..." The proposals for new districts in the Bozeman and Belgrade areas as well as the rest of Gallatin County are the textbook definition of "gerrymandering." These proposals MUST be rejected and the Redistricting Commission is encouraged to follow their own criteria.

It is recognized that this is a thankless procedure, required by statute, and not everyone will be satisfied with the final result. However, it is felt that most citizens of this state will accept the results if the CRITERIA are followed.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.  
-D. K. Brooks

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 9:00 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Milee Dailey

From: Milee Dailey mileedailey@gmail.com  
Residence: Pray MT

Message:

The commission's proposal to adopt House District 42 in HDP -8 map is totally inappropriate for the people of Park County. IT is contrary to several of the Goals the Commission published.

The current House District 59 is comprised of mainly ranch families and small acreage owners who have common goals. It is more important to the people of Park County to have a representative from the County and not from Gallatin County. Do not adopt HDP 8

Thank you

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

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 1:20 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Robert Dougherty

From: Robert Dougherty rob.fatcatdesign@gmail.com  
Residence: Big sky, mt

Message:

Please do not split up Big Sky / Moonlight. These two communities are directly related to one another, physically, economically, services and as a community. There is no good reason to split off Moonlight and make it a part of the Madison district.

Sincerely Yours  
Robert

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:17 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Donna Elford

From: Donna Elford donnakze@gmail.com  
Residence: Helena

Message:

Dear Chairman & Commissioners

My name is Donna Elford, and I am the President of the Women's Republican club of Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, Jefferson Counties, and I testified before you last Saturday.

I forgot to submit my letter on Saturday, I had not planned to attend the meetings but was registered on zoom to speak, however I was inundated with calls and emails from my club members.

I am forwarding letters that have been sent to Me, there is great concern in our state over the map that is presently being considered.

Please see the attached petition with 140 signatures with the letters that 144 residents in Montana that are in opposition to redistricting map HDP8.

I have not yet put this out to all my club members but will be reaching out to them.

Please reconsider, as this map does not meet the needs of the citizens of Montana, have we not had enough communities being divided with Covid and the current Political climate.

Thank you for your time and attention on these grave concerns from the people of Helena East Helena Townsend, Clancy, Boulder and Basin our communities .

respectfully

Donna Elford

PS I have not been able to find how to submit letters or petitions on this linck, I will sent them to Rachel's email

Thank you again

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:24 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: John Esp

From: John Esp johnesp2001@yahoo.com  
Residence: Big Timber MT

Message:

Madam Chair,

I am saddened by the path this commission has taken, that, in my opinion, will lead to further fracturing of our political and social fabric. I'm speaking specifically to the division of communities of interest to facilitate political advantage. All Montanans would be better served if the commission members couldn't even use "precinct political leanings" to construct their maps. The fact that you do, is symptomatic of what is wrong with our political system. The ends do not justify the means.

Instead we should be guided by, as we have been for most of fifty years, the principles of compactness, contiguity, communities of interest, and population equality. For example, my hometown Big Timber is proposed to be in the same House district as Belt and Denton. I would venture to say that most residents of Big Timber have never even been to Denton and/or Belt. However, I can tell you, without any fear of contradiction, nearly all Sweet Grass County residents have been to Livingston, sometimes multiple times a week. Why is that? It's because they are part of our community of interest. We doctor there. We play sports there. We have cooperative participation agreements with Park High School for soccer, wrestling, and softball teams.

We share many other common interests; many Livingston residents are employed at the East Boulder Mine. Many Big Timber residents work at various Livingston businesses. We shop in Livingston, we buy cars there, and we get them repaired there. We hire plumbers, dry-wall contractors, and electricians from the various ends of Park County. Sometimes they hire trades people from Big Timber to work on the homes up and down the valley.

Because we share this community of interest, we have for generations married cross county neighbors, and as a consequence, share many, many, extended family members across county lines. We have very much in common with our neighbors in Clyde Park, Wilsall, Emigrant, and Gardiner. Conversely, it would be an anomaly for us to have widespread similar connections with the good people of Belt, Stanford and Denton. I could go on and on but I won't.

To further solidify those cross community and Yellowstone Valley interests, since 1974, we have shared state legislators. Sometimes those legislative leaders have been from different parties, and sometimes from different counties, but they all have shared the same broad community of interest, the same family connections, and the same social fabric.

Preceding your work here, is a fifty year history of area legislators working together in Helena from varied perspectives, for the broad interests of the families that currently reside in Park and Sweet Grass Counties. We are on a first name basis with each other, and with our constituents, and we are comfortable talking to each other, and that, Madam Chair is a good thing.

I believe the time to work together, to do better for us, is right now. You can choose to uphold and enhance the social fabric that glues our communities together. I'm asking you to do that. Don't unnecessarily divide us; even though an out of state mapping program makes it easy to do, and maybe, even makes it seem like it's a good idea. It's not. In your quest to be "fair", don't ignore the reality on the ground. Don't ignore the people I care about, the people you care

about, in drawing a map that eviscerates their community connections. Thank you for considering my views and the views of the majority of this part of the Yellowstone valley. Protect them as if they were part of your own community.

Thank you.

John Esp .Big Timber

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 11:03 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Erica Perlman - Hensen

From: Erica Perlman – Hensen ericaperlman@gmail.com  
Residence: Big Sky, MT

Message:

Please make all of Big Sky vote in the same district. Our community has the same interests and concerns regardless of which side of the county line we live on. It would much better for all of Big Sky to vote together. Government should best represent communities. Voting together would be the best representation of our community. Thank you.

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



## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:32 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Jamie L Isaly

From: Jamie L Isaly jamie.isaly@gmail.com  
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I am taking the opportunity to add additional public comment in reference to a question that was asked by Commissioner Essmann during the December 10th public hearing.

I did make a public comment on December 10, 2022 via zoom, however as I was listening to the comments I wanted to respond to a question that Commissioner Essmann asked of Representative Laurie Bishop (HD60) after she made her comments. He basically was wanting her thoughts on the idea of proposed HD42 stretching westward into the "Center" of Bozeman, and that then bringing in a population of individuals that might not be aligned with the rest of the district. I just wanted to point out that the current House District (59) and SD-30 also stretched into Gallatin County to a certain degree. While the proposed HD 42 does stretch further West and South into Bozeman. It really just touches the far Northeast part of the city. Most of the added area to proposed district 42 into Gallatin county are rural neighborhoods that actually look very similar to what we now see in Paradise Valley South of Livingston, and increasingly what we are seeing in the Shields Valley in the Eastern part of the proposed district.

I also want to note that people that live in the proposed district 42 are generally going to be much more aligned to the Livingston/Bozeman area than they were with the Sweet Grass County/ Big Timber area that was part of the current District 59. The Bozeman/Livingston regions are where they go to shop, seek services, recreate etc.

I believe the proposed map HDP-8 provides a much better solution for the areas surrounding Livingston, and Park County, and successfully represents the population in the North East section of Gallatin County.

Thanks for your hard work on this difficult task,

Jamie Isaly

Candidate for SD-30

27 Quinn Creek Rd

Bozeman, MT 59715

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 15, 2022 6:44 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** FW: opposed to proposed redistricting Map HDP8

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**From:** Donna Elford <[donnakze@gmail.com](mailto:donnakze@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:21 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Rachel <[Rachel.Weiss@legmt.gov](mailto:Rachel.Weiss@legmt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: opposed to proposed redistricting Map HDP8

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

**From:** Sharon Kuenzli <[sharon.kuenzli@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.kuenzli@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Sun, Dec 11, 2022, 8:38 PM  
**Subject:** opposed to proposed redistricting Map HDP8  
**To:** Ruth Rater <[rrater406@gmail.com](mailto:rrater406@gmail.com)>, Donna Elford <[donnakze@gmail.com](mailto:donnakze@gmail.com)>

Dear Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my opinion on the redistricting process results.

I am very much opposed to proposed redistricting Map HDP8 for the following reasons:

Map HDP8 is BAD for Montana! It splits municipalities in an unfair manner. Residents of small rural communities are divided by Interstate highways as well as other geographical barriers.

Cities and towns should not be split into different districts! The integrity of a city or town should be maintained within one district.

Map HDP8 puts part of a city in one district, while another part of the same city is in a different district. By doing that, the residents of Cities are divided into different entities – the residents in West Montana City, for example, are in HD68 and the residents of East Montana City are in HD61. Having this small city in two different districts is schizophrenic.

Splitting up municipalities causes further fractures to our communities that are unnecessary and unfair, instead of keeping communities of interest together which is one of the important rules for redistricting!

As well as making the district impossible for its House Representative to travel through it on a regular basis to become familiar with the constituents and their needs and interests, HPD8 creates a district so huge in geographic size that there is no chance for community within the district!

Within these proposed districts, there are small rural municipalities within 10 minutes of each other, and others that are 2-1/2 hours away from each other! This is unreasonable!

Representatives would have to drive through many other districts to serve the communities that are located in their

own district with the HDP8 map. This makes no sense whatsoever!

Districts should be comprised of a consolidated area, not little pockets of land here, there, and everywhere! Dividing them up the way HDP8 proposes, makes about as much sense as dividing up the State of Montana into fifty little pieces located throughout the other fifty states America.

The proper representation of people cannot possibly happen using this technique! Additionally, folks in rural communities will lose any voice they once had due to being lumped together with large urban areas.

HDP8 violates the rules because it splits municipalities, separates communities of interest, and rather than following the rule of compactness and contiguous communities, it promotes division and spread to the point that the communities will no longer be recognizable as communities!

I would be much more likely to support HDP7, which will ensure communities are contiguous and condensed into more maintainable communities.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Kuenzli  
406-422-6765

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:20 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Marty Malone

From: Marty Malone dogrockranch@gmail.com  
Residence: Pray, MT

Message:

Changing District 59 to eliminate Sweetgrass County and include a part of Gallatin County violates a mandate of the Commission to avoid geographical barriers that divide a District. The new proposed District 42 will be comprised of rural values from Park County with the urban values of Bozeman. There is absolutely no community connection between the two counties except for commerce. The proposed change violates all the published goals of the Commission. Including the first goal. If this proposal is adopted, the citizens of either Gallatin or Park/Sweetgrass will not have any connection with their legislator. (Depending on which County the legislator is located)

I would urge the commission to reconsider this move that will harm the citizens of both Counties.

Thank you

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing regarding the currently proposed state legislative re-districting map. From the Congressional re-districting process, it is my understanding that districts are to avoid splitting municipalities or separating communities of interest while maintaining compactness and contiguousness.

As a resident of Jefferson County, it appears HDP8 splits the municipality of Montana City in half which is a small rural community that encompasses both the West and East sides of Interstate 15. Map HDP8 puts most of Jefferson County in HD61 and then takes the West half of Montana City and puts it in HD 68 which does not keep the residents of Montana City together thus violating the goal of keeping a community of interest together.

Additionally 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 a few minutes of each other whereas Bernice is 147 miles and 2 ½ hours away from Seeley Lake.

Map HDP8 also violates the rule of compactness and contiguous. The Representative for HD 62 would represent the residents of 4 separate counties by adding in small pieces of Jefferson and Missoula Counties and would require the Representative to drive through 6 other districts to serve the communities of West Montana City, Basin and Bernice.

Map HDP8 cuts Jefferson County into three districts, splits the municipality of Montana City, separates communities of interest throughout Jefferson County and connects communities that are great distances apart in interests, mileage and driving time. Map HDP8 needs to be revised to alleviate the problems it creates in Jefferson County.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Sharon Nason

1 Rustlers Fork

Clancy, MT 59634

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:34 AM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Terri L Nelson

From: Terri L Nelson tlynn\_49@hotmail.com  
Residence: Great Falls, MT

Message:

Dear Redistricting Committee Commissioners:

Thank you for asking for input regarding the formation of Senate Districts for Montana's new legislative map. Please combine HD 11 and HD 12 together to form a competitive Great Falls Senate district.

Great Falls is a purple town and your map honors that fact by providing purple House districts. Please continue honoring your competitive criteria by creating a competitive Senate district for Great Falls.

Thank you!

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**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Carol L Peterson <wowmontana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 11:37 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Proposed Map 8

I consider this proposal a bad idea for MT voters. Please reconsider.  
Carol Peterson

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 8:53 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Gayleen Pirtz

From: Gayleen Pirtz gayleenm51@gmail.com  
Residence: Pray, MT

Message:

The commission's proposal to adopt House District 42 in HDP -8 map is contrary to several of the Goals the Commission published. And a mandatory criterion of avoid a geography challenge.

The current House District 59 is comprised of mainly ranch families and small acreage owners who have common goals. I would urge the Commission to rethink making urban Bozeman part of the proposed District 42.

Thank you

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## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** Niki Sardot <live@redquillranch.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:28 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** Dec 15 mtg Consideration

Dear Committee,

Re-districting is the utmost important issue locally in Montana.

Fair and equal representation for ALL citizens or gerrymandering will be glaringly visible.

No district shall be divided by insurmountable geological characteristics.

No district shall have its groups divided It has been said that at a recent meeting the goal was to make CERTAIN that no Republican ever be elected again in Missoula.

I call 'F O U L'

Niki Sardot

Sent from my iPhone

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 8:41 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Cheryl Standish

From: Cheryl Standish cstandish01@gmail.com  
Residence: PRAY mt

Message:  
The redistricting map is a very bad idea

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

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 6:10 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Patti Steinmuller

From: Patti Steinmuller psteinmul@msn.com  
Residence: Bozeman, montana

Message:

I support consensus map HDP-8 and especially support keeping entire Big Sky together in one house district as HD 44 as indicated on map HDP-8 and as indicated for all Gallatin County in this map. It is much more preferable for common interests of Big Sky constituents to be represented by a single representative. This district would also include Gallatin Gateway where I formerly lived before moving to Bozeman 6 yes ago. So, I'm familiar with this districts and common interests.

Another reason to keep Big Sky together in one district is to avoid any possible changes to others districts in Gallatin County. Please preserve HDP-8 as is only with only minor adjustments that may be considered collaboratively by commissioners in the best interests of Montanans.

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

**Sherley, Laura**

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**From:** Mary Tapper <mtapper12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 4:17 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** HDP8 Map

Dear Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

My name is Mary Tapper, and I am a resident of Lewis and Clark County. I was present at the meeting on December 10, and heard the comments made by those in attendance and on Zoom.

From the comments I heard on December 10, these are my observations and comments:

- This map does not meet the goal “to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties. . . .” Numerous people commented that cities and towns are divided for no purpose other than for political reasons. While some commented that the cities and towns divided in the map were minimal, if you live in one of those areas, it is not a small matter and this goal should not be disregarded.
- Similarly, this map does not meet the goal of “keeping communities of interest intact.” Numerous people commented that urban and suburban interests, school districts, and demographics, among other criteria, were not considered in this map.
- Several people commented that the districts drawn should not favor politicians. However, it is important to consider the amount of time and distance a politician must cover in order to meet with and become informed on the issues affecting his or her constituents. To have a district that extends over several counties with differing communities of interest is preposterous. As several people commented, those living in rural areas of the state are disenfranchised when distance prohibits their representatives from traveling to sparsely populated corners of their district.

I appreciate the Commission’s time and hard work in the districting process. **However, I urge you to REJECT the HDP8 map and consider the public comments to change it in order to meet the goals for the legislative districts.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mary Tapper

## Sherley, Laura

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**From:** MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 8:42 PM  
**To:** Districting  
**Subject:** MDAC Comment from: Billy Watson

From: Billy Watson brw549@bellsouth.net  
Residence: Livingston Montana

Message:

I am adamantly opposed to map 8 and any future redistributing. The current maps are best for Montana

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