

Plan	Opinion	Comment	Name	Email	City
TCP1 (Public)	Like	<p>I support this consensus map. I live in what would be new HD 42 encompassing the most east part of Bozeman and extending eastward toward Livingston and north and south into rural areas and tourist towns. Although a challenge as a large geographical area, interests in common are very likely to increase in the future and encourage constituents and legislators to consider the needs and concerns in common of the entire district. For the same reason, I support the districts that connect Belgrade and Bozeman where common interests regarding transportation, housing, and recreation are increasing as well as opportunities for collaboration. This map is geared for the future and will do well serving constituents throughout the state.</p> <p>I have done additional research regarding the growth of Gallatin County to try and better understand this travesty of a gerrymandered mess. The argument that the "rural divide" between the "urban" center of Bozeman and the "rural" areas has eroded through growth is a red herring. While the "rural" growth of the area IMMEDIATELY surrounding Bozeman is likely urban sprawl, there are wide swaths of Gallatin County where the rural area is distinct and where other communities and municipalities have differing interests and their own unique characteristics.</p> <p>Bozeman proper is comprised, primarily of Census Tracts 5.05 (Pop. 6750); 11.02 (Pop. 5049); 11.01 (Pop. 5,335); 10.01 (Pop. 3608); 10.02 (Pop. 5,113); Tract 8 (Pop. 2328); Tract 9 (Pop. 4176); 7.03 (Pop. 2126); 7.04 (Pop. 4338); 7.01 (Pop. 3399); Tract 6 (Pop. 2860); 5.06 (Pop. 6713); 5.07 (Pop. 4537) and then surrounded by "rural urban sprawl" into Tract 5.02 (Pop. 8247 - comprising Four Corners and South of Bozeman) and Tract 5.04 (Pop. 2690). This "urban+ sprawl" is equal to about 67,269 citizens, this would allow the creation of essentially 6 districts that would be filled citizens that have common interests all centered on the city of Bozeman. However, the proposed districts show 10 different districts that ALL run into Bozeman City limits. Essentially expanding the "urban sprawl" of Bozeman to include, primarily, areas around Belgrade and all of rural Park County.</p> <p>You cannot tell me that rural Park County is an extension of Bozeman and that the Shields Valley is "not readily distinguishable from urban areas."</p> <p>If we look at Belgrade, it is primarily made up of Census Tracts 1.04 (Pop. 4057) and Tract 1.05 (Pop. 4925) and then includes the surrounding exurban areas (where Belgrade school districts encompass, and the residents consider themselves residents of Belgrade) including Tract 2.01 (Pop. 6119) and includes the larger parts of Tracts 2.02 (Pop. 5898) and Tract 1.01 (Pop. 6362). This is a total population of 27,361. Even if you broke some of the developments between Bozeman and Belgrade and put them into a Bozeman District, there are AT LEAST 2 districts that should be assigned solely to Belgrade.</p> <p>Belgrade is distinct community with the 8th largest school district and 8th largest municipal population. It is growing and its growth, while related to Bozeman, has its own unique challenges. You can CLEARLY divide between where AT LEAST Belgrade City (and the areas west) exist and where Bozeman begins. To do anything BUT allow Belgrade to have its own districts would be to contort reason in the face of partisanship. We deserve better as Montana and this Commission can do better than act so blatantly partisan.</p>	Patti Steinmuller	psteinmul@msn.com	Bozeman
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