

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received on December 15, 2022

Distributed electronically December 16, 2022

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 5:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: William F Amrine

From: William F Amrine billamrine@gmail.com
Residence: Saint Ignatius

Message:

I've watched all-day and have heard district 100 addressed only 1 time and that was to say the CSKT comments prevailed. Would you please explain why the numerous public comments regarding the compactness concerns were not addressed and considered. The political lean, party and tribe are not an issue for me, just a reasonable chance for local representation without massive effort due to travel and time concerns. Thank you. Bill Amrine St Ignatius.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Geraldine Beck

From: Geraldine Beck gerriebeck1948@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

As a member of Montana NOW I support HDP8 which was adopted by the Redistricting Commission.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 4:08 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jennifer Boyer

From: Jennifer Boyer boyerfarm51@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

For HD 44 it is important to keep Big Sky as a single community and it makes sense to have it included in HD 44 because the access and services are connected through 191. Community issues are best solved as a cohesive unit that can work with a representative and streamline coordination.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 9:49 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elton Dodge

From: Elton Dodge chaco234ed@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston Montana

Message:

I believe the redistricting of Park County, Gallatin County and Sweetgrass counties to be unfair and unnecessary.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 6:25 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Romulo Faria

From: Romulo Faria rafaria@yahoo.com
Residence: Livingston MT

Message:

The Commission proposed Map 8 is combining Livingston with Easter Bozeman, which really have not much in common. The idea is to have the interests of the different communities be represented and I don't think this redistricting complies with this. We don't want redistricting for political expediency.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:04 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: LORENTS GROSFIELD

From: LORENTS GROSFIELD lorents@mcn.net
Residence: BIG TIMBER, MT 59011

Message:
December 15, 2022

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I am third generation of my family living on a ranch in northwestern Sweet Grass County.

In the 1990s through 2022, I served three terms in the Montana Senate. Back then my Districts included the entirety of Park and Sweet Grass Counties, with the Livingston area being one House District, and the rest of Park and all of Sweet Grass being the other House District. Park and Sweet Grass have always had a lot in common and for decades have shared House and Senate seats (with minor changes in the District boundaries every 10 years). In the last Apportionment, part of Stillwater County was added. This was logical as the added portion was very near Big Timber.

Going back to even before I-90 was built, the people of Park and Sweet Grass Counties rarely traveled north for supplies, medical needs, or virtually anything else. And they certainly didn't travel south for these needs, as that is Yellowstone Park. So it was, and still is, traveling east to Billings or west to Bozeman on US Highway 10, and later, I-90. We frequently traveled to or through each other's counties, and still do. The connection is solid in so many ways. As just one example, I remember my three boys going back-and-forth to Livingston (and vice versa) for summertime Little League baseball games.

Now, your House District Proposal 8 abandons over three/fourths of Sweet Grass County (and all of Park County), and puts Big Timber and a small part of northwest Sweet Grass County with counties to the north almost all the way to the outskirts of Great Falls (within about 10 miles) and to the Missouri River (within about a mile and a half). We have very little connection to this whole area, and voters in those counties have very little connection to Sweet Grass or Park.

I understand that Apportionment is a difficult undertaking (I participated heavily in the 2010 process), but I don't see that as an excuse to forget about decades of good and productive relations between these two countries. Please find a way to keep us together—Park and Sweet Grass are southcentral Montana, not central Montana. There's a big difference.

Thank you,
Lorents Grosfield

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Lauren Gette-King

From: Lauren Gette-King gettekinglauren@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

I am writing to oppose the massive changes in the amended and changed Legislative Redistricting Map shared today, December 15, 2022, that will harm the voters, candidates, and elected Representatives of all parties. We need to support HDP8, the map tentatively adopted by the Redistricting Commission on December 5th.

I urge the Commission to approve the December 5th tentative adopted Map HDP8.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 8:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Theodore Keith Kulaga

From: Theodore Keith Kulaga gmeadow@wispwest.net
Residence: Livingston, Montana

Message:

I believe legislative proposal #8 is an extremely poor idea for our area. We need to keep our rural areas intact for our rural interests and not invaded by city areas from a neighboring county. Our current districts in Park and Sweetgrass counties have served us well for many years and should remain as they are. Respectfully, Dr. Theodore K. Kulaga

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:54 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Damion Lynn

From: Damion Lynn lynn.damions@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

The amendments to HPD-8 proposed in the 12/15/22 meeting are sweeping changes that should not be accepted. They provide an undo advantage to one party and do not reflect the communities as the original HDP-8 does.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:47 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jenna Martin

From: Jenna Martin jennamartinphoto@gmail.com
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I urge the commission to pass the map (HDP8) that was presented in the last discussion. This is the fairest map we have seen yet.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Margarita McLarty

From: Margarita McLarty mclarty1@outlook.com
Residence: Livingston (17 miles south: rural Paradise Valley)

Message:

The December 5 map looks quite fair and equitable, the December 15 map throws the whole process backwards into divisive favoritism and much less cohesiveness for communities. Please look forward to how your actions affect the credibility our government receives from its' citizens, and return to the December 5 map.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:31 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Margarita McLarty

From: Margarita McLarty mclarty1@outlook.com
Residence: Livingston, Montana

Message:

Please return to the tentative map of December 5. The latest version guarantees divisive favoritism and sundered communities and will serve to damage the respect our citizens hold for our government.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 7:18 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Rita Rozier

From: Rita Rozier rtrozier@gmail.com
Residence: Livingston

Message:

Thank you for all your work in creating a map that meets the criteria of being as equal in population to one another as possible, compact and contiguous, and in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act, which protects minority representation.

As a Livingston resident, I wanted to give my input on our close ties to Gallatin County and our lack of ties to Big Timber. A large proportion of Livingston residents work and shop in Bozeman, and that is reciprocated by Bozeman residents, particularly in regards to employment. For example, I work at a small law firm in Livingston and one of our five staff members commutes over Bozeman pass. In past, my husband and I commuted the other way for more than five years, often using the Streamline Bus that brought workers back and forth over Bozeman Pass. I do not know of any Big Timber/Livingston commuters. Please consider that in regards to our voting district. Thank you!

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Yvonne Rudman

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

Message:

RE: Support for HDP8, the map tentatively adopted by the Redistricting Commission on December 5th.

The amended Dec. 15th Map will create more unfairness to voters, candidates and elected Representatives with massive changes across 80% of Montana featuring a partisan divide including Helena and Lewis and Clark CO, Livingston and Park CO, Yellowstone CO, Bozeman and Gallatin Co.

Keep elections on a level playing field. Democracy benefits all, A balance of power among political parties brings workable solutions to society.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Earl S. <outlook_D10A5E9ACA0BD759@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 9:58 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistrting

Please pass the tentative final house map HDP8 as-is.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:00 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Lynea Seher

From: Lynea Seher lynea@mtpersonnel.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

After the hard work this commission did, don't throw it out. Support HDP8

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Julia Shaida

From: Julia Shaida juliashaida1@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I urge the commission to adopt HDP8 in the form it was submitted on Dec.5. I am particularly concerned that Big Sky be kept in one house district and that the overall map not provide undue advantage to either party.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 3:20 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Patricia A Simmons

From: Patricia A Simmons psimmons100@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Outrageous changes made to the previous plan that I wrote preferring. Stop cowtowing to the Republicans who already control everything in Montana and keeping Montanans know the benefits of Democrats, like Integrity, compassion, love the Earth, care about everyone – not just the wealthy.
Go back to the plan before last Saturday!!!!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 9:54 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Janis L Strout8

From: Janis L Strout8 janchangethatworks@yahoo.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I strongly oppose this amended Legislative Redistricting Map version shared today, December 15, 2023. These changes to HDP8 will make changes to 80% of the criteria contained in the approved tentative Map HDP8 and will create more harm by increasing the partisan divides and basic unfairness in our Elections process and should not go forward. I am very concerned how these changes will impact 80 of Montana voters and their elected Representatives in areas of Bozeman and Gallatin CO, Helena and Lewis and Clark Co as well as Park County. Plus the negative impacts on rural districts in Montana.

Therefore, I urge your strongest approval of the Legislative Restricting map (HDP8) approved by the Commission on December 5th which is a compromise that meets all of the adopted criteria and balances goals. Making changes to further advantage one party at the expense of meeting the criteria is wrong.

The HDP8 map splits the fewest counties and municipalities of any proposal that has come before the Commission.

It's important to keep communities together and this HDP8 map does that. In fact, it keeps communities of interest together that were split on the Congressional map, like Park County and Bozeman.

This HDP8 map does give a partisan advantage to Republicans but they keep moving the goalposts and demanding more. This version HDP8 was shared by the Commission on December 5th.

The House map HDP8 is a compromise, and it gives Republicans a slight partisan advantage, but I really applaud the commissioners for finding areas of compromise and consensus – the two final maps from both parties came close to each other in many areas of the state through the consensus process.

The Senate map shouldn't be drawn to unduly favor either party.

The Senate pairings should follow the Commission's adopted criteria and goals just like the House map.

Incumbent protection isn't part of the criteria and neither are maintaining cores of existing districts to satisfy politicians. The map should be drawn for the people of Montana based on adopted criteria, not politicians' preferences.

Both the House and Senate are statewide maps, and the districts should fairly match the overall partisanship of the state so all so the Legislature reflects all Montanans. HDP8 does that and I urge your strongest support to adopt this Legislative Redistricting Plan.

Thus, I oppose the massive changes in the amended map shared today, December 15, 2023 and urge you to adopt the tentative adopted HDP8 Redistricting Commission criteria contained in HDP8.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Janis L Strout

From: Janis L Strout janchangethatworks@yahoo.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

I strongly oppose this amended Legislative Redistricting Map version shared today, December 15, 2023. These amendments will change the criteria in 80% of the Districts contained in the HDP8 and create more harm by increasing the partisan divides and basic unfairness in our Elections process and should not go forward.

I am very concerned how these vast vchanges will impact voters and their elected Representatives in areas of Bozeman and Gallatin CO, Helena and Lewis and Clark Co as well as Park County. Plus the negative impacts on rural districts in Montana.

Therefore, I urge your strongest approval of the Legislative Restricting map (HDP8) approved by the Commission on December 5th which is a compromise that meets all of the adopted criteria and balances goals. Making changes to further advantage one party at the expense of meeting the criteria is wrong.

The Commission's December 5th adopted HDP8 map splits the fewest counties and municipalities of any proposal that has come before the Commission.

It's important to keep communities together and this HDP8 map does that. In fact, it keeps communities of interest together that were split on the Congressional map, like Helena, Park County and Bozeman.

This HDP8 map does give a partisan advantage to Republicans but they keep moving the goalposts and demanding more. Today's amended Legislative Redistricting Map is yet another example.

The House map HDP8 is a compromise, and it gives Republicans a slight partisan advantage, but I really applaud the commissioners for finding areas of compromise and consensus – the two final maps from both parties came close to each other in many areas of the state through the consensus process.

The Senate map shouldn't be drawn to unduly favor either party.

The Senate pairings should follow the Commission's adopted criteria and goals just like the House map.

Incumbent protection isn't part of the criteria and neither are maintaining cores of existing districts to satisfy politicians. The map should be drawn for the people of Montana based on adopted criteria, not politicians' preferences.

Both the House and Senate are statewide maps, and the districts should fairly match the overall partisanship of the state so all so the Legislature reflects all Montanans. HDP8 does that and I urge the Commissioners' strongest support to adopt this Legislative Redistricting Plan.

Thus, I oppose the massive changes in the amended and changed map shared today, December 15, 2023 that will harm the voters, Candidates and elected Representatives of all Parties.

Therefore I urge the Commission to adopt the tentative HDP8 adopted on December 5th upholding agreed Legislative Redistricting Commission criteria.

Thank you.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:46 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth Swartz

From: Elizabeth Swartz betsy@betsyswartz.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:

I am writing to Oppose the massive changes in the amended and changed Legislative Redistricting Map shared today, December 15, 2022, that will harm the voters, Candidates and elected Representatives of all Parties. We need to support HDP8, the map tentatively adopted by the Redistricting Commission on December 5th.

Today's amended Dec. 15th Map will create more unfairness to voters, candidates and elected Representatives with massive changes across 80% of Montana featuring a partisan divide including Helena and Lewis and Clark CO, Livingston and Park CO, Yellowstone CO, Bozeman and Gallatin Co.

I URGE the Commission to approve the December 5th tentative adopted Map HDP8.

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Bethanie Wanberg

From: Bethanie Wanberg bcwanberg@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula MR

Message:

Just a note: YOU all are AMAZING hard working-an impressive in every way! Thank you so much for your efforts to bring a by partisan result!!

If i can interject one thought to this morning's discussion- please don't feel bad that a large number of districts were changed, even by the tiniest amount. Every time a line was changed or a neighborhood included, it wd by necessity effect atleast 2 districts, right? So the 80% could easily be 40 changes- and most don't change much of any significance!!

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