

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 8 a.m. on December 19 and 5 p.m. on December 20,
2022

Distributed electronically December 20, 2022

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Dan Bartel

From: Dan Bartel barteldjb@gmail.com
Residence: Lewistown mt

Message:

Please look at the issue you created by gerrymandering up the city of Lewistown. Please put us back whole or at the least split us down main st.

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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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 2:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Janet S Blackler

From: Janet S Blackler yourtaxadvisor@hotmail.com
Residence: BIGFORK

Message:

- Republicans continue to use this process to try to gain undue advantage. They've completely disregarded the adopted criteria now in favor of incumbent-preferred districts.
- The House and Senate plans give Republicans more than their statewide share of the vote, with their party being favored in 60 House seats and 31 Senate seats with only 57% of the vote.
- This map includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle and shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.
- This compromise map balances the adopted goals of the Commission. Making changes to further advantage one party at the expense of meeting the criteria is wrong.
- This plan takes into account public comment from all over the state, and while it's not possible to make everyone happy, this map does the best job of incorporating ideas from the public that worked within the framework of your adopted criteria and goals.
- One of the best features of the Montana Constitution is that politicians don't get to draw their own districts. Please don't adopt changes because of political pressure from political power players.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kathryn Bramer

From: Kathryn Bramer bramerames@man.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

I support the final map proposed by the Commission. I believe it is fair and offers the opportunity for competitive campaigns for legislative seats. Thank you for the thoughtful efforts of the Commission.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 5:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tony Brockman

From: Tony Brockman Tony.Brockman@legmt.gov
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

Good afternoon, First, I am writing to ask the Redistricting Commission to reconsider its decision to place the communities of Columbia Falls and Whitefish in the same legislative district. I ask the commissioners to remember Columbia Falls and Whitefish are entirely separate communities and thus need separate representation in our state legislature.

Secondly, I would ask the Commission to look at Tentative Commission Plan-2's numbering system in Flathead County. In a few short weeks, I will represent House District 9, North Kalispell and the unincorporated community of Evergreen in our state legislature. The Commission's Tentative Commission Plan-2 proposal dlightly changes the district assignment from 9 to 8 in 2024 while not changing other Flathead County districts, like downtown Kalispell (HD7). The Commission's slight change will lead to significant voter confusion for my constituents and current House District 8 voters heading to the polls in 2024. In the Commission's recent HDP8 proposed map, the Commission's numbering system swapped all Flathead district numbers significantly enough to limit voter confusion. Under HDP8, the current House District 9 was reassigned as HD94. I, and my constituents, would be okay with this large of a number swap.

I ask the Commission to maintain the same numbering system (keep HD9 and other Flathead districts the same in 2024) or completely swap the numbers as they did in HDP8. The proposed numbering system in Tentative Commission Plan-2 needs to be a more significant move for voters to take note of. The proposed numbering system in Tentative Commission Plan-2 will cause unnecessary voter confusion in 2024.

Thank you for your time in reading this concern. – Tony

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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: Monday, December 19, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carol S Buchheit

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

Message:

The map under consideration should not be changed. It includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle. It shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Virginia Caplette

From: Virginia Caplette vjennac@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

As a 49 year resident of Gallatin County, and one that appreciates how Montana used to honor some diversity of opinion, I ask that you adopt the 2022 Redistricting MAP MDP8 because it keeps communities together, best meets Redistricting Commission criteria of fairness of competitive Districts and has Party representation proportionate to population, all good for Democracy.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tim Cook

From: Tim Cook timcook89@icloud.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

This map looks to fail the mission of “not divide cities” part of Bozeman is lopped in with Clyde park, wild al and much of the land south of Livingston. Would those voters not be better served by an elected representative that is focused on each areas priorities separately?

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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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 11:02 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Susan Cottingham

From: Susan Cottingham 6752cott@gmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

I support the current holdover assignments and the Helena Senate pairing plan

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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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:03 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Lucy B. Dayton

From: Lucy B. Dayton lbd@mt.net
Residence: Helena, MT. 59601

Message:

I support the proposed Helena senate pairings and holdover assignments. These pairings are critical for ensuring the statewide plan fairly represents all Montanans.

Please do not change.

Thank you.

Lucy Dayton

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:03 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Lucy B. Dayton

From: Lucy B. Dayton lbd@mt.net
Residence: Helena, MT. 59601

Message:

I support the proposed Helena senate pairings and holdover assignments. These pairings are critical for ensuring the statewide plan fairly represents all Montanans.

Please do not change.

Thank you.

Lucy Dayton

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Randy Dix

From: Randy Dix attfish@aol.com
Residence: Helena, Montana 59601

Message:

I support the proposed Helena senate pairings and holdover assignments. These pairings are critical for ensuring the statewide plan is fair and represents all Montanans. I do not support a proposed pairing that would flip one of the Helena Democrat seats to the Republican 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: Monday, December 19, 2022 7:01 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Dan Eakin

From: Dan Eakin centralwolverine07@gmail.com
Residence: Sidney, MT

Message:

Madame Chair and Commission members,

Under Section 5-1-115 (2), MCA, the four requirements for drawing legislative maps are listed in order of their importance. First is being as fair and equal as practicable while following the Voting Rights Act and the one-person, one-vote standard for meaningful representation. I believe this CP-2 does meet that.

Second is the requirement for following historical voting patterns. I believe this map meets that while still accounting for future growth across the state.

Third in importance is the districts being contiguous. This CP-2 meets that for both the House and Senate.

Fourth in importance is compactness. I believe this map does the best job at meeting that requirement, and is fair to both major parties. Therefore, this map should move forward.

This map includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle and shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

This compromise map balances the adopted goals of the Commission. Making changes to further advantage one party at the expense of meeting the criteria is wrong and nationally embarrassing.

This plan takes into account public comment from all over the state, and while it's not possible to make everyone happy, this map does the best job of incorporating ideas from the public that worked within the framework of your adopted criteria and goals.

One of the best features of the Montana Constitution is that politicians don't get to draw their own districts. Please don't adopt changes because of political pressure from political power players.

Thank you again for your consideration of my comments and for all your hard work, both on camera and behind the scenes. Please move this map forward.

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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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 12:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Steve Fitzpatrick

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

Message:

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.

We want to thank the commission for considering our recommendations and adopting a map which creates legislative districts which represent communities of interest in Great Falls and Cascade County. We believe the design of the legislative districts in Cascade County will enhance allow each neighborhood and community within the county to have strong representation in Helena.

Steve Fitzpatrick, Wendy McKamey, Roger A. Hagan, George Nikolakakos, Brian Hoven, Fred Anderson

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 5:24 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Carrie Gandy

From: Carrie Gandy teamgandy@hotmail.com
Residence: Reed Point Montana

Message:
Madam Chair and commission members:

I am writing in response to viewing the latest redistricting map that is being considered for Montana. Although some changes made in the tentative maps during this process have been beneficial, I feel that the latest map is still deficient. The primary reason is that the redrawn districts in Park, Gallatin and Missoula counties are outright "taking" legislative seats from a Republican representative and "giving" it to a democrat. It is estimated that this will benefit democrats by as many as 12 seats to the positive. This is just not right. Any redrawn district should at least allow the district to remain in the hands of the party that had recently won it or be competitive for both parties. I recommend redrawing at least these three counties so that districts that are Republican or democrat remain so. Outright taking of a seat and giving to the other party is downright wrong.

Thank you,

Carrie Gandy

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Kim Gillan <kjgmontana@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:20 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Support of current legislative map, including current Helena Senate pairings

I am writing to share my input on the proposed legislative maps. I encourage its adoption, as the Helena Senate pairings and holdover assignments are fair. While individuals may not agree 100% on these issues it is important to look at these in the context for the totality of Montanans. As a former Billings legislature of 16 years, it was important to consider for some policy decisions, the totality of Montana rather than through the narrow lens of my district.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kim Gillan, Red Lodge MT

House. 1997 to 2004
Senate 2005 to 2012

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kathleen Grant

From: Kathleen Grant 2kathygrant@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Thank you to the committee for your work. As a resident of HD79 I request that our senate pairing remain as it is currently. We are more closely associated with our current pairing than the district in Drummond. We have strong ties to Helena by geography, education, employment, recreation, etc. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sandie Hammer

From: Sandie Hammer sandie@sandiehammer.com
Residence: Polson, MT 59860

Message:

I am from Lake County. This committee has turned the gerrymandering up to a new level. 12 seats turned from Republican to Democrat, giving them an unfair advantage. This is still a Republican state! We are used to bias in Lake County, against 75% of the MT citizens but you are using your position to change MT elections. This is so unfair.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Rusty and Pat Callbeck Harper

From: Rusty and Pat Callbeck Harper rusmlbc@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

The final proposal is a good one, with bipartisan support. Please do not give in to attempts to alter it for partisan purposes.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: clch4@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carleen Hathaway <clch4@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:52 AM
To: Districting
Subject: Writing in Support of Legislative Map HDP-8

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners (via email),

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the work you have put it his arduous task of creating an equitable legislative map.

The goals and criterion set by the Commission have been met with this new map. You have attentively listened to one argument after another for or against the map as drawn. And in the end were able to create a map that took ideas from both sides of the aisle, showing no favoritism. Our constitution does not allow politicians to choose their voters, therefore I am encouraging you to adopt the map as drawn without bowing to further political pressures to make changes.

I live in an area (West Mullan Rd in Missoula) that will pull like neighborhoods together, not draw lines separating us.

Again, I greatly appreciate your work and dedication to a fair and equitable process and urge you to make no further changes to the drawn map due to political pressures.

Sincerely,
Carleen L. Hathaway
1965 Hummingbird Dr
Missoula MT 59808
406.396.2324

Sincerely,
Carleen Hathaway
1965 Hummingbird Dr Missoula, MT 59808-1035 clch4@aol.com

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:20 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Lyn Hellegaard

From: Lyn Hellegaard lhellegaard@msn.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Putting the community of Lolo with neighborhoods in South Missoula is egregious on its face. To think that the neighborhoods of a city have anything in common with a small rural community is ill conceived. The city portion of the district has a different tax structure and obligations than the Lolo, they get to vote on the Mayor, Lolo does not, their votes for County Commissioners outway Lolos, they don't have to bus their kids to High School as does Lolo, and the Missoula neighborhood has a larger commercial business base.

Gerrymandering the districts to give Democrats "assured seats" is insulting, if they can't win on their policies, then change the policies to align with Montanans rather than disenfranchising voters.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:59 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Steve Hicks

From: Steve Hicks stevehicks@yahoo.com
Residence: White Sulphur Springs

Message:

I am opposed to the redistricting since it is not impartial and favors one side much more than the other side. Please keep it neutral.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Chris Hunter

From: Chris Hunter chbabahunter00@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

As a 40 year resident of Helena I am writing to support the Helena Senate pairings and holdover assignments for Helena Senate Districts 40, 41 and 42.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my comments.

Chris Hunter

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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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 1:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tony Jewett

From: Tony Jewett tonyjewett1@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:
Greetings Re-Redistricting Commissioners:

I'm writing to express my support for your recent decisions regarding Senate district pairings. In this morning's paper it was encouraging to see that the Commission was able to unanimously vote for the pairing plan forth – an unusual moment in the Commission's work within this full process. It is concerning therefore to hear that the adopted Helena Senate pairings are receiving partisan objections that could undermine the fair and balanced decisions already been made. Therefore I looked at the adopted maps and boundaries and see little reason to change what has been put forward, and urge the Commission to not do so. The plan recognizes established Helena communities of interest. It also does not unduly favor any political party. Those arguing for changes to the Helena plan are all representatives of the GOP – a single party, and their proposed changes would unduly favor that party. The current plan and the proposed Helena districts contribute to a statewide plan that fairly represents all Montanans and I urge you to stand by your decisions to that end and adopt the Helena pairings.

Sincerely and thank you —

Tony Jewett

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Holly Darlington Kaleczyc

From: Holly Darlington Kaleczyc hkaleczyc@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please support the proposed Helena senate pairings and holdover assignments. These pairings are critical for ensuring the statewide plan fairly represents all Montanans. Helena has already been thrown into the Eastern Congressional district while having little in common with communities in the eastern part of of Montana. Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Stan Kaleczyc

From: Stan Kaleczyc skaleczyc@icloud.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

Please support the current proposed map of legislative districts. As drawn, it creates fair representation for all Montanans.

Please reject any efforts to change the pairings and holdover assignments for senate districts in Helena. The current proposal fairly and appropriately reflects the demographics of the Helena area, which meets the goals which redistricting is intended to achieve.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:18 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Nathan Kalkofen

From: Nathan Kalkofen nkalkofen@gmail.com
Residence: Lolo MT

Message:

The proposed representative map is WRONG for Montana!! Why are uou putting Lolo in with south Missoula?!? We do not want anything to do with tge residents of Missoula city and have completely different ideas about the future of our respective geographic regions. Please, go back to the drawing board and keep this state red!!! Thank you.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Kathryn Kern

From: Kathryn Kern katykern77@gmail.com
Residence: Red Lodge, MT

Message:

Republicans continue to use this process to try to gain undue advantage. They've completely disregarded the adopted criteria now in favor of incumbent-preferred districts.

The House and Senate plans give Republicans more than their statewide share of the vote, with their party being favored in 60 House seats and 31 Senate seats with only 57% of the vote.

This map includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle and shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

This compromise map balances the adopted goals of the Commission. Making changes to further advantage one party at the expense of meeting the criteria is wrong.

This plan takes into account public comment from all over the state, and while it's not possible to make everyone happy, this map does the best job of incorporating ideas from the public that worked within the framework of your adopted criteria and goals.

One of the best features of the Montana Constitution is that politicians don't get to draw their own districts. Please don't adopt changes because of political pressure from political power players.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 10:53 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Patty Kincheloe

From: Patty Kincheloe pattykincheloe@icloud.com
Residence: Eureka, MT

Message:

The redistricting that I an seeing does not seem at all to reflect our state and its needs. I am so tired of political ideology changing things. Born and raised a strong Democrat but things like this make me feel that the next time I may never vote for a single Democrat. Perhaps I am getting older and more conservative but wow is our country changing.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Scott Kreamer

From: Scott Kreamer highplainsmarketing@earthlink.net
Residence: Red Lodge, Montana

Message:

Slicing and splitting congressional districts to benefit one political party over another is not acceptable because you are dividing a community of like minded people with common values and life perspectives who elect and expect representation by a legislator that will promote and vote their interests.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 12:48 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Helena Lovick

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

Message:

Thank you for your hard work redistricting our maps. I'm asking you to support the Tentative Commission House Plan 2 (TCP 2) and Tentative Commission Senate Plan 2 (TCP 2). These maps are a good compromise. Let's get this done!

--

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

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Public Hearing December 21
Comments from Nancy Leifer
President, League of Women Voters of Montana

Dear Chairman Smith and Commissioners:

The task of drawing legislative maps that fairly represent the people of Montana requires rebalancing at the state level. Current districts are no longer representative of Montana's population. That's why we take a census count every 10 years, and then have a redistricting commission redraw legislative districts to align with the changes in population.

Thank you for taking on this task of redrawing Montana's legislative districts. The League of Women Voters appreciate the many hours of time each of you have invested in this process. We also appreciate the openness of the Commission to public testimony and the high degree of respect for those testifying evidenced by the Commission.

Montana's population is shifting from eastern to western, from rural to urban. The new districts in Map TCP-2 will likely result in a legislature that does not look like the one about to convene in Helena. This is not surprising. The current legislature has been elected from districts that no longer fairly represent Montana's population.

Looking at the table prepared by Commission staff and presented at the June 3, 2022, Commission meeting, thirty-four House districts were underpopulated by at least 5%, and of these thirty-four, twelve exceeded 10% deviation with the greatest deviation at 24.35% below the population amount for a district using the 2020 census. These 12 districts have more representation in the current legislature than has been allowed under federal law.

Twenty-three House districts were overpopulated by 5% or more, and of these twenty-three, twelve exceeded 10% deviation with the greatest deviation at 64.55% more than the population amount for a district using the 2020 census. The next four districts at 45%, 34%, 26% and 25% also exceed the 24.33% highest deviation for the under-represented districts. These twelve districts have less representation at the legislature than has been allowed under federal law.

The current legislature is a product of districts that give too much representation to largely rural districts that have lost population, while under-representing districts that have gained population that are urban or adjacent to growing urban communities.

The League supports Map TCP-2 to correct this imbalance and more fairly represent Montana's current population.

Map TCP-2 meets the mandatory requirements for compactness, contiguity and the Voting Rights Act.

Map TCP-2 maintains six House majority minority districts and pairs them to make three majority minority Senate districts.

Map TCP-2 maintains the same rating for compactness as Map TCP-1 and almost the same rating for minimizing splitting, both of which are better than Maps 5, 6 and 7.

The League analyzed map TCP-2 using the Commission's chosen 10 elections and definition of competitiveness to assess competitiveness. Map TCP-2 has nine competitive House districts and three competitive Senate districts.

Map TCP-2 is close to meeting the Commission goal of not unduly favoring one political party. It approaches the proportional representation of the 57%/43% vote share of Republicans/Democrats in ten recent elections selected by the Commission as representative of statewide elections. The League found that Map TCP-2 has 56 House districts that favor Republicans, 35 House districts that favor Democrats, and 9 competitive House districts that are split with four slightly more Republican and five slightly more Democrat. Projecting the election in 2024, the House could have 60 Republicans and 40 Democrats. Republicans would have 3 seats beyond the number proportional to their share of voters.

Map TCP-2 is close to partisan proportional representation in the Senate, with 29 districts that favor Republicans, 18 that favor Democrats, and three that meet the Commission's definition of competitive, of which two slightly favor Republicans and one is evenly split between Republican and Democrat. A 57%/43% partisan representation in the Senate would have 29 Republicans and 21 Democrats.

The League of Women Voters supports Map TCP-2 because it meets the mandatory requirements and addresses discretionary criteria established by the Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:03 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Donna Lee Martin

From: Donna Lee Martin donnalee6259@gmail.com
Residence: Libby, Montana

Message:

Agian, I want to commend the hard work of the Commission and to applaud the commitment of the Chair to reach a reasonable compromise based on the pre-approved criteria. Although the current map is slightly more favorable to the Republican Party than the just previous one, it is reasonable and should be adopted as is.

I personally know that the input of Montana citizens has been given full consideration since several of my comments regarding Lincoln County were incorporated into the final maps. And, as far as I know, Lincoln County wasn't necessarily a county of concern or controversy. Not everyone can be satisfied in a state as geographically large as Montana, especially with the variations of population density across the state.

You did a good job! Please be satisfied with this FINAL proposal.

Sincerely,

Rev. Donna Lee Martin
406-291-1187

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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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 7:59 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Roberta McCanse

From: Roberta McCanse robertamcc8@gmail.com
Residence: Libby, Montana

Message:

It is time to resist pressure from politicians who wish to pick and choose their own voters. Let's quit fooling around with this plan and keep district distribution as fair as it can be for the time being.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 2:21 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Joan A Miles

From: Joan A Miles joanmiles03@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Please support the proposed Helena senate pairings and holdover assignments. The plan should not unduly favor a particular political party. As proposed, the Senate districts for Helena will ensure a totality of a plan that fairly represents all Montanans. Furthermore, the voices of Helenans were silenced when we were placed into the Eastern Congressional district. Please ensure that we have at least a potential voice in our state Legislature by adopting this particular plan. Thank you for your consideration.

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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: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Terry Nelson

From: Terry Nelson terryndar@hotmail.com
Residence: Stevensville

Message:

As an observer of this process, I have recently been very disappointed in the final few meetings of the Commission. It appears that the only goal that the two Democrat Commissioners and now the Chair have is solely to steal at least 12 seats from the current Republicans. The MANDATORY CRITERIA seem to mean nothing as do any of the goals other than the Democrat interpretation of "No map to be drawn to unduly favor a party". When every proposed change is met with the question "Does this change the political makeup of the district" it is evident that there is only one mandatory criteria, make sure the map is gerrymandered to get democrat seats wherever we can. To prove this, I would like to propose the following map which only changes the new 90, 91 & 99 districts.

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/b3d951e8-3234-472b-8b33-63d8b478e05e>

While this is not the only place which desperately needs correcting it is one of the most glaring. There is no way you can justify putting the Rattlesnake in Northeast Missoula with Ronan while bypassing Frenchtown and Western Missoula. This completely disregards Mandatory Criteria of Functional Compactness and Contiguous. It also totally disregards the goal of Communities of interest. My map puts the Rattlesnake back in with Missoula while picking up some of the Frenchtown area to be mapped with Ronan.

If it is the goal of the Commission to follow the mandatory criteria and balance the goals, you will make this change. If it is only to look out for the Democrats you will leave the map as is.

I would also still like to object to being packed into a greatly overpopulated R district in Ravalli while many D districts are severely undercounted. It is a US and Montana Constitutional Right for equal representation. The overall map has R districts overpopulated by around 1650. Over half of that number is overpopulated from Ravalli County.

I would also like a full accounting of the back room meetings. Montana has great public sunshine meeting laws so that the citizens can see the sausage getting made. The last few meetings have been less than transparent and I believe a totally different map and outcome would have come from disclosing ex-parte discussions between the Chair and the Commissioners. Back room deals were not supposed to be the way Government runs in Montana.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 10:39 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Senator-Elect Andrea Olsen

From: Senator-Elect Andrea Olsen AndreaOlsenHD100@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Good morning.

Thank you for your service to this process.

As you assign recently elected legislators to their districts, please know that I have consciously and purposely ran for office in the district I live in because this is the district I am from and that I know. Therefore, as the person who has represented the previous HD100 for 8 years, and elected to serve in the Senate for the next 4 years, I request to be placed as the person representing the district I live within, which according to the newly drawn maps, would be SD48.

As the new district SD50 contains not one household previously in SD50, I also would request that the committee consider switching the names "SD50" and SD48" so that they at least contain some of their previous district households. Maybe this would eliminate the confusion for some.

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: Monday, December 19, 2022 3:19 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Daniel E. ONeil

From: Daniel E. ONeil danoneil@reagan.com
Residence: Reed Point, MT

Message:

Madam Chair and commission members:

I am writing in response to viewing the latest redistricting map that is being considered for Montana. Although some changes made in the tentative maps during this process have been beneficial, I feel that the latest map is still deficient. The primary reason is that the redrawn districts in Park, Gallatin and Missoula counties are outright "taking" legislative seats from a Republican representative and "giving" it to a democrat. It is estimated that this will benefit democrats by as many as 12 seats to the positive. This is just not right. Any redrawn district should be competitive for both parties or at least allow the district to remain in the hands of the party that had recently won it. I recommend redrawing at least these three counties so that districts that are Republican or democrat remain so. Outright taking of a seat and giving to the other party is downright wrong.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 3:42 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jolene Regier

From: Jolene Regier regierjolene@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

Madam Chair, members of the committee.

The proposed maps split both communities of Whitefish and Columbia Falls. The Whitefish school district currently shares some of the same cooperative fire districts, zip codes and the students at Olney -Bissell K-8 school attend Whitefish High. Similarly, Columbia Falls includes K-8 Deer Park district, also shares the same zip code and cooperative fire districts. In addition, both changes proposed would combine urban with rural and split ties to their communities. I request leaving these communities intact The proposed map is wrong for Whitefish and Columbia Falls.

Thank you,

Jolene Regier
Kalispell, MT

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:38 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Keith Regier

From: Keith Regier keithregier@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

The current proposed map divides the communities of Whitefish and Columbia Falls. The rural area to the south of each of these towns contains citizens with strong ties to those towns. School districts, fire districts, zip codes and telephone prefixes are the same. A change to the proposed map to put the southern rural area with each town would still meet the population requirement and keep common interest communities together.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 11:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jerry Schillinger

From: Jerry Schillinger j8960@midrivers.com
Residence: Circle

Message:

The current maps put forward by the commission are a total assault on the political voice of rural Montanans. The gerrymandering of urban districts out into rural areas has clearly no other purpose than diluting rural Montanans already diminished voice. It is shameful and should not move forward. Maps 2, 4 or 7 are clearly superior

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 9:49 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Andrew Schwartz

From: Andrew Schwartz s1andrew2@yahoo.com
Residence: lolo Montana

Message:

Lolo Should not be lumped into a district with any land in the city limits of Missoula. Though Lolo is not incorporated we are a town with a distinctly different political stance and thought process than the city of Missoula currently holds.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 10:16 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: David A. Severson

From: David A. Severson versever55@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Thanks for your work on redistricting. It is much appreciated!

I know this has been a lot of work, but you are almost done.

In that regard, please use as much of your current map as you can, because it includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle and shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

Your compromise map balances the adopted goals of the Commission. Making changes to further advantage one party at the expense of meeting the criteria is wrong.

This plan takes into account public comment from all over the state, and while it's not possible to make everyone happy, this map does the best job of incorporating ideas from the public that worked within the framework of your adopted criteria and goals.

One of the best features of the Montana Constitution is that politicians don't get to draw their own districts. Please don't adopt new changes because of political pressure.

Thanks again for all your work!

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 1:22 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Sheila Ann Shapiro

From: Sheila Ann Shapiro sheshapiro@centurytel.net
Residence: Whitefish, MT.

Message:

I am a longtime MT resident (43y) and want to express my gratitude for all the very important work done by the Commission. I am proud to live in this state for many reasons, especially for Our strong constitution and bipartisan history. And I dearly hope these values will continue and Our voting integrity will not be compromised by power grabs or greed.

Sincerely,

Sheila Ann Shapiro WHCNP, RNC

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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: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:18 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Jason Stephenson

From: Jason Stephenson jasons8166@yahoo.com
Residence: Hardin MT

Message:

District lines should be the county lines, their should be at least one representative per county, & after that another representative per 100,000 residents. This map is nothing more then trying to rig the election in favor of the Democrat party, it splits counties, it combines counties, which means only the most populated county will actually have representatives.

Montana citizens demand true representation not this election rigging that you have going on with this map.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 11:22 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Gail Waldby

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

Message:

Madam Chairman and Members:

Republicans continue to use this process to try to gain undue advantage. They've completely disregarded the adopted criteria now in favor of incumbent-preferred districts.

The House and Senate plans give Republicans more than their statewide share of the vote, with their party being favored in 60 House seats and 31 Senate seats with only 57% of the vote.

This map includes major compromises from both sides of the aisle and shouldn't be changed now because politicians want the power to pick their voters instead of voters picking their elected officials.

This compromise map balances the adopted goals of the Commission. Making changes to further advantage one party at the expense of meeting the criteria is wrong.

This plan takes into account public comment from all over the state, and while it's not possible to make everyone happy, this map does the best job of incorporating ideas from the public that worked within the framework of your adopted criteria and goals.

One of the best features of the Montana Constitution is that politicians don't get to draw their own districts. Please don't adopt changes because of political pressure from political power players.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Nonie A. Woolf

From: Nonie A. Woolf woolfnonie@yahoo.com
Residence: Browning, MT 59417

Message:

Adopt the 2022 Redistricting MAP MDP8 (adopted tentatively on December 5th) or any amended MAP that will be recommended to the 2023 MT Legislature because it keeps communities together, best meets Redistricting Commission criteria of fairness of competitive Districts and has Party representation proportionate to population, all good for Democracy.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 8:58 AM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Hugh Zackheim

From: Hugh Zackheim montanazac@mac.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I strongly support the proposed Montana Senate pairings and holdover assignments for Helena-area Senate Districts 40, 41 and 42. These are geographically sensible, and contribute substantially to establishing an appropriate balance of political interests in the greater Helena area.

Thanks to the Redistricting Commission for your good work overall during the past year on the very difficult assignment of redistricting Montana.

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