

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received on February 11, 2023

Distributed February 11, 2023

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2023 11:44 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Janice R Benham

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Janice R Benham janharry.benham@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I have looked at the list of proposed changes to Map 3, and I do not have the knowledge to comment on all of them. But as changes are considered, I would wish the Commission to hold to the overall party split shown by the agreed upon data from past elections. Map 3 comes fairly close to creating districts that reflect the percentages of Republican and Democratic voters, and I would not like to see this skewed any further from the breakdown from the past election data. It seems to me that the overall fairness statewide is of key importance, as that will highly influence the makeup of the legislature and allow citizens to feel that they are fairly represented.

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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: Saturday, February 11, 2023 12:51 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Tony Brockman

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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

Message:

Good afternoon Commissioners, I am Tony Brockman, and I represent House District 9, north Kalispell and the unincorporated community of Evergreen. I'm writing today regarding the numbering system for the proposed map (TCP-3). The proposed map slightly renumbers my district from HD9 to HD8, while leaving HD7 (downtown Kalispell) unchanged. This inconsistent slight change is not enough difference, especially for my constituents and voters in the northwest part of my district who border the current House District 8. This inconsistent small renumbering change will lead to voter confusion heading into a new map and the 2024 Presidential Election.

If the Commission changes the numbering system for TCP-3, I ask them to make a consistent drastic change to limit voter confusion. For example, change the current House District 9 to future House District 91, renumbering all districts in a 180-degree manner. A drastic renumbering of all districts makes more sense in voters' minds than inconsistent slight adjustments here and there.

Thank you for your time today and your service to our state.

Tony Brockman, Representative
Montana State Representative, District 9
P: 406.219.7121 | Tony.Brockman@legmt.gov

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Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <contact@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Chelsea Culpon

From: Chelsea Culpon wstrncowgirl@hotmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Hello Commissioners,

I've been listening most of the day, today, 2/10. I do not know if the districts for East Helena but have been fixed but I hope that they have been.

East Helena should have its own districts. It should not include the upper east side and south side of Helena.

East Helena has had democrat representation long enough for the Senator and Representative to flip flop seats due to term limits.

Please make East Helena it's own, compact, distinct district.

Thank you,
Chelsea Culpon
Helena MT

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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: Saturday, February 11, 2023 2:43 PM
To: Districting
Subject: MDAC Comment from: Chelsea Culpon

From: Chelsea Culpon wstrncowgirl@hotmail.com
Residence: Helena MT

Message:

Madam Chair and Commissioners,

I keep hearing "the public has had plenty of time to weigh in." Although technically true, the public is very busy.

We are working, raising kids, volunteering, taking care of elderly parents, homeschooling and home-working, we are shoveling our sidewalks and in rural areas we are plowing our country roads because the county provides no service.

The current map is horrible and it has been horrible SINCE DECEMBER. Despite "ample time" and lots of comments, the map remains horrible.

The breakdown of Montana political parties is not 60-40. When given a viable, amazing candidate, LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY vote 35% to an Independent.

Independents usually vote democrats when not given a viable alternative, but that doesn't mean the state is 40% democrats.

Where are the competitive districts for Independents? Where is the Independent Commissioner on this Commission?

Specifics: the Helena area is ludicrous. It has been for 20+ years and even a Democrat politician/candidate provided public comment this fall or in December to this effect.

Why isn't the Democrat representation of East Helena opposing this map? If they truly believed in East Helena and believed in the intelligence of East Helena than they would demand that East Helena not be swayed by the .05% income earners living in some of the newest and largest homes in the south east sliver Helena.

Belgrade being downgraded to only 1 Representative seems ludicrous but if it was a COMPROMISE than please recognize that compromises are being made.

Will continue tuning in as I prepare our taxes, feed the kids lunch and live RF e busy lives that we live that prevent us from sending enough comments for this Commission to hear us.

Conscientiously,
Chelsea Culpon
Helena MT
REGISTERED INDEPENDENT

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Greg Oblander <chiropracticfan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting for Yellowstone county

Commissioners,

Thank you for your continued efforts to come to resolution on redistricting. I just now am able to look at the newest proposal for Shepherd. As a Rep. from current HD 40 it seems more logical to add Yellowstone Co to the east along Huntley, Worden, Pompeys Pillar then to go North almost to Lewistown above Golden Co.

I would recommend another adjustment to keep these like areas together. This would be more in line with traffic flows and living in similar areas for representation.

Please give this consideration.

Thank you,
Rep. Greg Oblander

Sherley, Laura

From: j w <jwright68@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2023 2:23 PM
To: districting@mt.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Possible Compromise

The Democrats get Northern Missoula district and Republicans get Whitefish and Columbia Falls split.

Thank you,

John Wright

Lincoln County, MT

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