

# Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between midnight on November 8 and  
10 a.m. on November 11

Distributed electronically November 11, 2021

**From:** [Teresa Asleson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:43:31 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the new proposed maps for our Congressional districts.

I support Map #11 for the following reasons:

- This plan closely follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach perfect population equality.
- As has always been the case when Montana had two congressional districts, the deep economic connection between Livingston and Bozeman is respected under Proposal 11, ensuring district lines don't divide the flows of workers, innovation, and dollars between the two communities.
- This map keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, making sure that most commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace.
- This map keeps the union towns of Helena and Butte together, as every redistricting plan in Montana has previously done.
- This map keeps all of the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line intact, where agriculture remains such a vital part of the local economy. Rural interests are an important part of Montana's diversity and heritage that should be kept together for a stronger voice in Congress.
- Native voters are empowered under this plan, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, meaning that every candidate has to rely on Native votes to win the district. Non-competitive districts don't elevate voices and ensure accountability in the same way.
- Areas that heavily rely on ski tourism to support the local economy are kept in one district, forcing a Congressperson to pay attention to the needs of areas that use the winter outdoor recreation to drive economic growth.

I oppose Map #10 for the following reasons:

- This plan breaks with the Historical precedent in Montana by separating the towns of Helena and Butte, diluting union strength and breaking apart a community of interest that's existed for over a century.
- This plan creates two Republican districts, which unduly favors one party. With two congressional districts now instead of one, a fair map includes one competitive district that either party can win.
- This plan dilutes the power of Montana farmers and ranchers by breaking up the Golden Triangle and critical grain and cattle producing regions in Montana. This is cracking the farm and ranch vote pure and simple.
- This plan separates commuters that live in Jefferson county from the place where so many of them work in Helena. This is clearly breaking apart a community of interest.
- This plan splits the towns of Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway even though there is no clear reason to do so since Gallatin county could have been split in such a way to keep them together. This is a partisan cut of Gallatin County designed to crack apart Democratic votes and splitting two small towns for no reason violates your criteria on minimizing the unnecessary division of towns.
- This plan separates Park and Gallatin County from one another, cutting apart an area with vital economic connections and shared interests. Plan 11 better acknowledges this community of interest.

I appreciate your time and attention to this very important effort for the future of our state.

Teresa Asleson, Helena MT

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Christopher Averill](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - CP12  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:53:28 PM

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Madam Chair and Members of the Commission -

I feel compelled to make my voice heard regarding the redistricting process after hearing some comments this morning from both one of the members of the Legislature and a member of this own Commission. I'm a newcomer to Montana. My wife and I moved here earlier this year, and we are proud and happy to be here. We don't live in a million-dollar home in Paradise Valley or the Flathead, we live in a working class community in the Helena area. Of course, I recognize that we, as newcomers, are part of the reason that Montana is in the position of earning a second Congressional seat - doubling our representation in the U.S. House - but also making your job more difficult.

From the outset, it has been clear that the Chair led this Commission with professionalism and fairness as cornerstones of her approach. It's also equally clear that one side of the Commission worked toward compromise throughout the process, and to put their efforts behind prioritizing the statutory obligations of this Commission versus prioritizing the discretionary goals that the other side attempted to make the primary mission of their efforts in order to, in essence, gerrymander one of the two districts to their partisan favor.

Today, you are faced with a choice - proceed with the compromise map of CP12 after a lengthy, thorough, constructive, and engaging process, or scuttle this progress in the name of vaguely defined competitiveness because one side isn't confident in their ability to win elections. I urge you to stay the course and pass map CP12 as is.

The Chair recently commented that "with the right person, you could have a competitive district." Candidates matter. As we just saw in Virginia, Republican Glenn Youngkin will soon be governor because he appealed to the constituencies necessary to win election in a state that has been trending consistently blue in recent years. Even looking at Congressional district-level data, he earned more votes in places where Democrats are currently elected to Congress.

Additionally, as was pointed out in a recent AP story on the Commission, "the chosen map is very similar to the one used the last time Montana had two congressional districts." As we've seen, population growth has been strongest in Western Montana. This trend will likely continue. With Democratic strongholds like Bozeman, Missoula, and Butte remaining in the western district, as they were previously, Democrats - with a quality candidate who can appeal to the majority of Montanans - have just as good a shot to win a Congressional race as anywhere else, if they invest in quality candidates and promote an agenda that appeals to

Montanans.

Map CP12 is a reasonable map that is the result of true compromise. It does not disenfranchise anyone, despite the hysterics of some. It does not "unduly favor" any one party. It is based in reality. It contains multiple Tribal Nations within the borders of each district. It keeps as many communities of interest intact as possible. It splits only a single county, and does so with the expressed support of members of those communities. And most importantly, above all, it is Constitutional. CP12 should be the map to guide our Congressional districts for the next decade.

Thank you for your difficult work on behalf of Montanans.

Sincerely,

Chris Averill  
East Helena, MT

**From:** [Kelly Baraby](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO to map 12, be fair!!!!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:38:14 AM

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kelly barby  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 7:40:50 AM

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From: Kelly barby kbaraby@gmail.com  
Residence: Jefferson City, Mt

Message:

This is a very important issue to split fair based on votes and parties, 12 does NOT represent this state fairly.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Phiiip Leroy Barney  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:11:03 AM

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From: Phiiip Leroy Barney barnowitz@yahoo.com  
Residence: Polson, Montana

Message:

This is an historic opportunity to do the right thing for the people of Montana Having' lived in both Eastern and Western Montana, it is very plain that there are vast geographic, climate cultural and economic differences between the regions, justifying an Eastern and Western Congressional Districts. Of the maps proposed for the districts, the CP-12 map fulfills the criteria best.

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



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lisa Bennett  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:01:14 AM

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From: Lisa Bennett bennet0707@gmail.com

Residence: Red Lodge MT

Message:

There is no need to split Pondera county. There also is no reason to separate Gallatin and Livingston counties. I recommend Pondera completely be in the western district, Gallatin and Park in the eastern district and Lewis and Clark.

To balance the population you can add Lewis and Clark to the western district and divide Lewis and Clark, if needed, to balance the population in each district.

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

**From:** [Karen Buley](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional districts  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:49:50 AM

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Dear Commissioners:

CP 12 does not align with the goals your Commission adopted in July.

- No plan may be drawn to unduly favor a political party.
- The Commission will minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts when possible.
- The Commission will try to keep communities of interest intact.
- The Commission may consider competitiveness of districts when drawing plans.

In addition, CP 12 had less public support than CP 11.

My friend's father, Maurice Driscoll, was a delegate at Montana's 1972 Constitutional Convention. That 100-member cohort unanimously created the bipartisan Districting and Apportionment commission. Please continue the legacy of those 100 men and women in creating fair and equitable governing districts across Montana.

Also in 1972, my father, Dan Antonietti, was adopted as an honorary chief into the Blackfeet Nation. Please, too, give thoughtful consideration to our tribal nations. CP 12 would put all of them in noncompetitive districts that unduly favors the same political party.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Buley

**From:** [Richard Burke](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting map  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 2:05:55 PM

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To the Redistricting Commission,

Please add our names to those advocating for Map # 11 instead of Map #12. We are Gallatin County Democratic voters, and strong supporters of competitive, rather than pre-determined Republican, U.S. House districts for Montana.

Sincerely,

Richard Burke  
Ellen Trygstad  
4801 Aspen Lane  
Bozeman MT 59715  
(406) 582-7624

**From:** [cgc57@bresnan.net](mailto:cgc57@bresnan.net)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] map 12  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:30:59 AM

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Map 12 does not provide for the possibility of political competition. A large minority (+45%) of Montanans should have the possibility of some representation in Congress. Please reconfigure a map that is impartial, not partisan. Sincerely, Mr. & Mrs. Robin Carey

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gary Carlson  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:04:47 AM

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From: Gary Carlson garykcarlson11@gmail.com  
Residence: Corvallis, MT

Message:  
Commissioners. Our best to you today. Hopefully, you will approve CP#12 for our new districts.

Thank You.

Gary K. Carlson  
Former House Candidate

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

**From:** [Julie Coate](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Thank you  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:18:40 AM

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**Thank you, Maylinn Smith, for supporting CP-12. It seems like it is the most fair in regard to preventing gerrymandering.**

**This last election was an international embarrassment because of the massive election fraud that occurred in nearly every state. Gallatin County, where we live, had the worst fraud in Montana.**

**Anything we can do to decrease the fraud and make the voting process free, fair and HONEST is a step in the right direction.**

**Thank you for having moral courage. I am praying for you.**

**Sincerely,  
Julie Coate  
Bozeman**

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nicholas Dobbel  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:22:36 AM

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From: Nicholas Dobbel [njdobbel@gmail.com](mailto:njdobbel@gmail.com)  
Residence: Roberts MT.

Message:  
Commissioners, please continue to support map CP12 as it is the only fair way to split Montana, and prevent gerrymandering. Again, CP12 is the only fair way to split Montana.

Nick Dobbel  
Roberts MT

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Trudy Eden  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:27:41 PM

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From: Trudy Eden [trudyeden142@gmail.com](mailto:trudyeden142@gmail.com)  
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

Map 12 does not create competitive districts, one of the key goals of this commission. Democracy depends on fair districting. Only Map 11 will give Montana districts that are competitive. Please, correct the error of choosing Map 12 by reversing it and selecting Map 11.

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



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sharon Fulton  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:04:57 AM

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From: Sharon Fulton [sfulton@bresnan.net](mailto:sfulton@bresnan.net)  
Residence: Polson mt

Message:

Please go with map #12 that keeps Flathead County, the Blackfeet and Flathead reservations in the west..

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

**From:** [Sue Furey](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:52:26 AM

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Hello, I'm disappointed that your commission ignored the goals set up by the committee itself. Choice #12 ignores the native voice, splits labor heavy districts and does not represent the state equally. Your group needs to go back and discuss a more appropriate way of representing Montana. Proposal 11 looks to be the best for all citizens

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Deb Gale  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:10:53 AM

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From: Deb Gale [galemt@cybernet1.com](mailto:galemt@cybernet1.com)  
Residence: Corvallis

Message:

Map 11 is the only map that best meets the evaluation criteria agreed to by the commission. Look carefully and honestly at the maps and you'll see that Map 11, compared to the other, obviously fulfills the objective of keeping the fairest amount of competitiveness for at least one district. The commission agreed to choose an option that maximized competitiveness. How can the commission ignore that commitment? It is basic to a healthy functioning democracy. Competition makes politicians explain and promote their policies to convince voters that their approach best serves the interest of the public. Too many people these days vote along party lines without thinking about reasonable alternatives. A healthy debate and competition based on ideas, actions and policies gives voters the opportunities to consider alternatives.

Also, Map 11 does the least amount of division of communities of interest and does not create artificial lines between the district that are designed to weaken the voting power of one party or the other. I urge the commission to honestly follow their own selection criteria and choose Map 11 as the most fair option for Montana's congressional district representation.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gil Gale  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:59:20 AM

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From: Gil Gale [galemt@cybernet1.com](mailto:galemt@cybernet1.com)  
Residence: Corvallis

Message:

I have reviewed the map proposals and strongly think that Map 11 is the only map that best meets the evaluation criteria agreed to by the commission. Map 11 clearly fulfills the objective of keeping the fairest amount of competitiveness in at least one congressional district. Democracy is strengthened when politicians compete for votes based on policy, programs and actions that benefit the welfare of the people. Democracy is weakened when any one party maintains an automatic monopoly on power because they don't have to compete with people holding different views on best policies. Map 11 produces at least one more competitive congressional district that will compel politicians to clearly articulate to the people why their policies are better than the opposition. The people deserve to hear the details of their positions.

Map 11 also does the best job of keeping communities of interest intact by not drawing artificial lines of separation within counties and communities. It does not gerrymander or try to give one party a political advantage by splitting the voter demographic.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Maura Ganz  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:52:56 PM

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From: Maura Ganz [nmaura17@gmail.com](mailto:nmaura17@gmail.com)

Residence: Missoula

Message:

Boooo! What happened to this State? What happened to the respect between the parties, the interest in fairness, that led to the creation of the strongest State constitution in the United States? I'm a native born and I say shame on you, Maylinn Smith!

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

**From:** [General Info](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#); [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov);  
[Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public comment against CP 12  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:23:41 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

I would like to bring your attention to the following examples about gerrymandering. I would like to point out that both maps 2 and 3 are gerrymandered. Even though map 2 has perfect rectangles, it is still gerrymandered to favor the current, majority party. The fairest, most equitable map is map 1 where the like minded "residents" /colors are grouped together. By grouping the most like minded residents together residents have a better chance of electing officials that actually represent them.

I would like to remind you that this process for drawing districts was meant to be fair and draw competitive districts and not favor one party, even if one party is currently in the majority.

FIGURE 1

## A guide to redistricting

Three examples of how to divide 50 people into 5 districts

Let's say there is a town with 50 residents and five seats on the town council. Each district should have 10 people so that each elected official represents the same number of people—this is the concept of "one person, one vote." Of the 50 town residents, 60 percent are members of the blue party and 40 percent are members of the orange party. In a fair system, they should be able to compete for and win representation for their different views on the town council. But that depends on how the districts within the town are drawn. These maps show how districts can be drawn to facilitate equitable results or to favor one party.

50 people total:  
■ 60% ■ 40%



1

Map with equitable representation

■ = 3 districts ■ = 2 districts



In Map 1, the people who support the blue and orange parties are able to elect blue and orange representatives in equivalent numbers to their populations.

2

Map that is compact but unfair

■ = 5 districts ■ = 0 districts

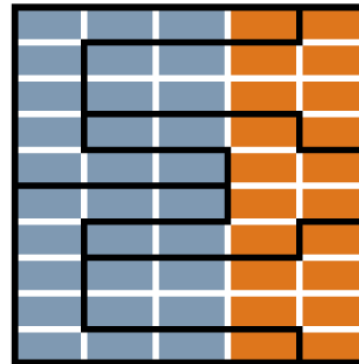


In Map 2, if each of the five districts is drawn to have 60 percent blue and 40 percent orange supporters, then blue candidates are likely to win every election, leading to a council with 100 percent blue representatives and no one representing the orange view.

3

Map that is not compact or fair

■ = 2 districts ■ = 3 districts



In Map 3, the districts have been drawn so that even though the town as a whole has a majority of blue party supporters, the blue supporters have been packed into a supermajority of fewer districts. The overall smaller number of orange supporters have been spread out to form a majority in a greater number of districts, which allows them to capture a majority of the town council with fewer supporters in the town.

Source: Christopher Ingraham, "This is the best explanation of gerrymandering you will ever see," *The Washington Post*, March 1, 2015, available at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wnk/wp/2015/03/01/this-is-the-best-explanation-of-gerrymandering-you-will-ever-see/?utm\\_term=.77289c539ec3](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wnk/wp/2015/03/01/this-is-the-best-explanation-of-gerrymandering-you-will-ever-see/?utm_term=.77289c539ec3).

CAP

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/redistricting-and-representation/>  
[\[americanprogress.org\]](https://www.americanprogress.org)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debbie Hagan  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:17:16 AM

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From: Debbie Hagan [6hagans@gmail.com](mailto:6hagans@gmail.com)  
Residence: Plentywood, MT

Message:  
Please hold strong for CP12!

Montana's grassroots values need to continue to have a voice.

In our last major election, it was evident how a majority of our state came together to elect multiple candidates that stand for our values, have our back, and go to bat for us.

Please keep Montana's voting districts in CP12 fashion.

Thank you.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bill Harris  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:50:28 AM

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From: Bill Harris harrisbill50@gmail.com

Residence: Circle

Message:

Please stick with CP12; it is the only option that doesn't violate gerrymandering rules. It is the perfect common ground for proper representation.

Thank you.

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

**From:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:42:34 AM

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**From:** "Zelinda Hart" <Zelinda.Hart.484607344@p2a.co>  
**To:** "Joe Lamson" <joe.lamson@mtleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 4:36:56 PM  
**Subject:** [spam]Public Comment for Final Maps

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

This is Zelinda Hart residing at 7117 King Ave West, in Billings, Mt. I have lived here for 40 years.

I urge you to select map 11 as it seems most balanced between both parties and not favoring one above the other.

It's important to have fair representation chosen through fair districting. ALL Montana citizens' votes should count and districts should reflect that value.

Thanks for your time and service. Thanks too, for considering each and every citizen when making important choices for our future.

Regards,  
Zelinda Hart  
7117 King Ave W  
Billings, MT 59106

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: KATHLEEN SUSAN HASSAN  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:30:29 AM

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From: KATHLEEN SUSAN HASSAN [kathyhassan@blackfoot.net](mailto:kathyhassan@blackfoot.net)  
Residence: Trout Creek, Montana

Message:

I strongly urge the Redistricting Commission to adopt map CP12.  
CP12 is the closest to being fair after the other preferred maps did not pass approval.

Please adopt CP12.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nikki Helms  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:55:18 PM

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From: Nikki Helms [bnninmt@yahoo.com](mailto:bnninmt@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

I would like to thank Maylinn Smith for approving the map which satisfies the qualifications for re-districting set up by the legislature of Montana. She did her State proud.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: CHRISTOPHER HILL  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 8:43:54 AM

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From: CHRISTOPHER HILL wenceslas.gk@gmail.com  
Residence: TROUT CREEK Montana

Message:

You must me joking? Have what one or two counties elect a democrat because we have had enough dysfunctional liberals abandon their former home states running from the government they elected to come here and repeat the pattern? HELL NO! We moved here because Montana was red from Washington where an out of control state government was destroying a state. I lived without representation for over two decades because Californians migrated and performed their dysfunctional pattern. Now they are here doing it again! HELL NO!

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Rebecca Johnson  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:09:22 AM

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From: Rebecca Johnson [rebeccainmt@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccainmt@gmail.com)  
Residence: Montana City

Message:

I think the commission did a great job of providing transparency of the meetings by allowing so much public comment during the process. Thank you. I think the commission failed on its goal of "No plan may be drawn to unduly favor a political party." I think the following sources clearly indicate that Western District will strongly favor the Republican Party. Cook PVI Score of R+6.5 for Western District. [538.com](https://www.538.com) [[538.com](https://www.538.com)] puts Western District at +10 for Republicans. Fair maps shows past elections for this district would have gone to Republicans 4 out of the last 6 congressional elections with 2020 being the last election won by Rosendale. It is a shame that Montana will have two non-competitive districts where almost half of the population of Montana voices will not be heard. No one wins in a state when voices are silenced. It is a sad day for Montana. Please do better for legislative redistricting by seeking more sources when defining competitiveness. I would love to see politicians have to work for votes by listening to their constituents which is the goal of competitive districts.

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

**From:** [Churchducky](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:36:44 PM

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Proposal 11 is the most fair for all of the citizens of Montana. Please reconsider.  
Thank you,

Chris Kappes  
P.O. Box 1244  
Lolo, Mt 59847

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android \[play.google.com\]](#)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robin Kent  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:27:37 AM

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From: Robin Kent [robin.kent@rocketmail.com](mailto:robin.kent@rocketmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

Hello Redistricting Commission. Near as I can tell, you're not meeting the criteria you established at the beginning of the process with Map 12. I hope you will abandon Map 12 and try again with a map that doesn't unduly favor a political party and considers keeping communities of interest intact and ensuring the competitiveness of districts. Thank you for being part of the solution....

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



**From:** [Ruby](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Congressional redistricting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:49:17 PM

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I am writing to urge all of you to favor map 13 over map 12. In all honesty, map 11 was the best one, and if I could urge you to vote for that, I would. By rejecting it, the two remaining choices are both flawed, but map 13 is less flawed. Map 13 is much more competitive, and that's what's really important in the coming years. Map 12 would ensure that nothing changes even as we as a state change. That's unfair to Montanans now, and Montanans in the future. Not to mention that map 12 seems to ignore the wishes of our Native American tribes, which is really unnecessary. Please reconsider.

Elizabeth Kestler  
Conrad, Pondera County

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Oh, I, I might be small  
But that doesn't mean I can't reach the sky  
Oh, I might trip and fall  
But that doesn't mean I don't know how to stand tall ~Olivia Lufkin

**From:** [eric knutson](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:52:36 AM

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This will be long, but hopefully readable.

With close to ten months into the Brandon (Biden) "administration", we have open borders, higher gas prices, supply line issues, rising inflation, to name the real issues, and we're told we all need to get vaccinated before things return to normal. Hmmm. Doesn't that sound fishy to you? Of course it is. These conditions mean things are going well only to a communist. Do you really think these Democrats, and a good number of Republicans too, are simply "ignorant", or "uninformed", about economics? They know exactly what they're doing, which is why they adopted this policy of stimulus checks for "unemployed" people. When you get to the point where there are plenty of jobs, and people still aren't working, you know it has to be because their "government money" makes work unnecessary for them, and that's exactly how the USA can be driven to bankruptcy, and ultimate dependence on Nations like China and Russia. Unearned "government money" leads only to decreasing supply, increasing demand, and higher and higher and higher prices. The law of supply and demand always kicks in. That's how we know that when they spout things like "redistribution of wealth", it sounds good, but in the real world, it always leads to redistribution of poverty. It's simple greed, power mongering, political thievery, which have always been the traits of Democrats, but when they tell us we have to get vaxxed before things will get better, it's unmistakable tyranny. The liberal colleges don't seem to teach something so simple. And Washington Republicans say NOTHING, and they do NOTHING. In fairness, some of them are verbally making some overtures, but do they really mean it, or do they just know it's safe for them to say the "right thing" when they know nothing will ever change. That's how Rino candidates "took back" the House in 2010, promising to repeal Obamacare, knowing all the while that Obama would never sign anything. These Rinos are DEVIOUS. At least the Dems have some transparency about their in-your-face corruption.

I still tune in to Fox News, and yesterday, Nov 9, Molly Hemingway had it right when she called the Republicans out for not doing what they should do. This is why I still watch Fox. Some of them actually get it right, but one still has to be careful. There's talk of a "red wave" in 2022. Oh boy. A majority of Rinos? The good part of this is that we see the people are waking up, but this has happened before, and the Rinos makes promises that never materialize. This is what was so appealing about Trump. He was rude, yes, but he didn't care which Party he aimed his "rudeness" at, and the majority of us knew he spoke for us. Majority? Yes. I believe he actually won the popular vote in 2016 if the votes were counted on a one-vote-per-registered-voter basis. I believe there was fraud, intended to get HRC "elected", but the number of Trump votes broke the algorithm that was in place then. It's the only thing that explains the shock we saw in the media. Do you really think anything else accounts for that? They can hate him all they want, but there was real shock and disbelief. I believe that only fraud, systematic electronic and old-style organic fraud, intended to sweep queen Hillary, who called us deplorables, into office, would account for that. If I've missed something, tell me what that is. Therefore, it only stands to reason that fraud was doubled down on in 2020. You can call it conspiracy theory, but there are just too many things pointing to it to call it coincidence.

For a bit of background, Anthony Fauci said, in his keynote address on pandemic preparedness at Georgetown U, on Jan 10, 2017, that the Trump administration would get a "surprise outbreak". Jan 10, 2017. That's ten days before Trump was inaugurated, and 2-1/2 years before covid hit. I have the video. I have the video. Repeat, I have the video. He knew it was coming. That alone blows any theory about "naturally jumping from bats to humans" out of the water.

Or did the bats tell him? And we've since learned about Fauci's lies concerning NIH funding of the gain-of-function research in the Wuhan labs. What more do you need to know that this pandemic is a plandemic, engineered by some not-so-nice people. This happened in China. Hello. The NIH was financially involved. Why? What good purpose is served by clandestine involvement in developing a new coronavirus? Whether it was intended or not, the covid fear mongering resulted in unconstitutional voting laws in the swing states. Doesn't that raise a flag? Of course it does. That alone should have been sufficient to challenge the delegates on Jan 6, but no, there was an "insurrection", allegedly organized by Trump himself, that resulted in the House "certifying" Brandon in the dead of night. And the Senate Republicans said NOTHING. We've since seen that Trump did nothing to incite anything, hence the deep state and the media were pushing their own conspiracy theory. Did you buy into that one? Most of us now know there was no real insurrection anyway, unless it was engineering by the deep state to cast further accusations against President Trump. Has this escaped your attention, because you watch only CBS?

I've used the current state of things in the USA to point out why I think there was fraud in 2020. So far I've touched on covid as a possible way to establish control over the people, through fear. Does that prove fraud? no, but it certainly suggests the deep state have no scruples whatsoever. Are there other factors that point to fraud?

\*Organic fraud has been going on for a long time now. Fraud is used in elections. Democracy, the favorite word of Democrats, is not really represented, no matter which side of the fence you're on. All that's different now is that technology has made electronic fraud much more practical (safer). If you know that fraud has always been used, why would you doubt that maybe the 2020 election was stolen? Do you think W stole Florida in 2000? I think so. The only real difference is that before Trump came along, all we had were "choices" between hand-picked deep state "candidates". In other words, the fraud was irrelevant as to who got "elected", because establishment R and D are no different when it comes to "protecting" individual liberty. They want us ALL under their collective thumb. Then, when Trump got elected, things got messy for the deep state. There's some pushback being done "by the book", but it's happening veeeeeeery slowly. Maybe too slowly. All I know is, Trump drew crowds of 50,000 in cornfields, and Brandon couldn't get 500 in major cities. He stayed in his basement. I think the fix was in, so he knew he didn't have to campaign. This is why I don't think the GOP will take back control in 2022. We'll see.

I'll get to Trump at the end of this.

\*There are plenty of reports about voting irregularities, enough to possibly swing the results, but these are dismissed as conspiracy theories, the favorite tactic of the deep state. The "Russia collusion" turned out to be something engineered by HRC herself. It's a conspiracy theory by whose standard? Here's a case in point, the 23,000 voters in Wisconsin with the same phone number. That's an obvious irregularity that needs to be investigated, but the explanation here, <https://leadstories.com/hoax-alert/2021/10/fact-check-23000-voters-registered-with-same-wisconsin-number-not-proof-of-election-fraud.html> [leadstories.com] attributes it to a "glitch". That fails to disprove anything, and in fact, only confirms the claim of 23,000 with the same phone number. It needs to be looked into. Before 2022.

\*The obvious desperation of the deep state to eliminate Donald Trump from society altogether speaks volumes. It doesn't prove voter fraud, but it surely says the Democrats/deep state would sink to that level, because voter fraud is pretty well established, and has been for decades.

\*The results of Seth Keshel and others are illuminating to everyone except for those who watch only CBS. Some people actually watch MSNBC. Wow.

\*The mere suggestion that fraud occurred in Counties that went Trump is met with resentment from election officials, who hold themselves "above reproach", for believing that the voting tabulators can't be connected to the internet. The verdict is still out on that in my locale, but it's

going slooooooow.

\*We're told the 2020 election is the safest and most secure in history. You really believe that one? The only way that's true is if it's the safest to get the Democrat trifecta. Something's definitely fishy here.

\*We're getting reports of more States than just Arizona who are demanding audits.

\*There are reports that SCOTUS is willing to at least hear some of these cases. Voter integrity is at stake here, and if the perpetrators can prevent it or stall it long enough, they will remain "in power" unless it gets fixed before 2022.

I understand, there's no actual bulletproof proof of fraud that would overturn anything, but there are sufficient irregularities to demand audits, and it's odds on that any fraud would have favored Brandon (anyone but Trump), and it keeps getting dismissed by those who call it the safest election in history. It stinks to high heaven.

I said I'd address Trump.

Up 'til the plandemic, he delivered and delivered and kept delivering on his campaign promises. That's near unprecedented. Does that offend you? Why, when all the Democrats and most Republicans did was to try anything, by hook or by crook, to get rid of him. Then came the plandemic, and his handling of covid is a question mark, but there's nothing to actually show he's complicit. I'm cynical enough to think he might be, but the attitude of the deep state toward him gives him the benefit of the doubt. He couldn't really have handled it any differently and maintain any "credibility". And now he's in the news again, despite attempts to make sure he's irrelevant. I give him no chance of winning in 2024 unless voter fraud is properly addressed before then. It will just be a repeat of 2020. We may see proof of that in 2022 if the Democrats keep control of both chambers despite Brandon's sinking numbers. The people want a return to a good economy, and jobs, etc, and they want Trump or someone like him. We'll see how 2022 goes.

Here are three links, all from Google, about the Montana redistricting due to enough people moving here to require an additional House Rep. Montana is generally red (reddish purple), and the deep state has Montana in it's sights, and this took participation by a lot of citizens to swing things. Our thanks to Maylinn Smith and Debbie Churchill. This activism will work in any State if enough people get involved.

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/dems-disappointed-final-montana-congressional-districts-81066887> [abcnews.go.com]

<https://nbcmontana.com/news/local/dems-disappointed-with-final-montana-congressional-districts> [nbcmontana.com]

<https://flatheadbeacon.com/2021/11/09/dems-disappointed-with-final-montana-congressional-districts/> [flatheadbeacon.com]

And it appears that officials are starting to pay attention to these voting tabulators, thanks again to people rising up and demanding action. That can work in any State, but people need to speak up. This is about voter integrity. If that's ignored, democracy is only a meaningless word to exploit the people, which is what modern politicians nearly uniformly do in Washington. If Chuck Schumer set foot on my property, he'd be escorted off at gunpoint.

<https://www.greatfallsribune.com/story/news/2021/11/09/county-elections-workers-montana-say-new-elections-management-system-needs-work/6357496001/> [greatfallsribune.com]

This is offered for proof that we won't let this issue rest.

Election Fraud by "Cruise Control (PID)" Update: Draza Smith and Jeff O'Donnell

<https://rumble.com/voh4hm-election-fraud-by-cruise-control-pid-update-draza-smith-and-jeff-odonnell.html> [[rumble.com](https://rumble.com)]

If you stay on the sidelines because you think you can't do anything alone, the solution is the Constitutional County. [www.theconstitutionalcounty.com](http://www.theconstitutionalcounty.com) [[theconstitutionalcounty.com](http://www.theconstitutionalcounty.com)]

If you want to see the video of Fauci predicting covid 2-1/2 years ahead of time, <https://ghss.georgetown.edu/pandemicprep2017/> [[ghss.georgetown.edu](https://ghss.georgetown.edu)] at 3:35 or so.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: shelly lustman  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:16:07 AM

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From: shelly lustman shelleyip@aol.com  
Residence: kalispell

Message:

please be advised that I Shelley Lustman residing in the flathead county strongly recommend CP MAP 12, Be sure to note that new laws have been enacted and you are charged with making sure they are followed,

Thank you in advance

--

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jenna Martin  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:21:44 PM

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From: Jenna Martin [jennamartinphoto@gmail.com](mailto:jennamartinphoto@gmail.com)  
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

Yellowstone National Park cannot, absolutely cannot be split into two different districts. A horrible, horrible, idea. Map 11 was by far the fairest split, but if 12 and 13 are the only remaining options, Map 13 is the most reasonable. Map 12 does not reflect the right balance of eastern and western issues across the state.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jacquie L Maughan  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 1:07:52 PM

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From: Jacquie L Maughan [jacquie.maughan@gmail.com](mailto:jacquie.maughan@gmail.com)  
Residence: HELENA

Message:

I am disappointed in your decision. From the public testimony both live and via zoom last week, it was clear that there are many Montanans who disagree with map 12.

I understood that you were planning to seriously consider public input. It seems that was just a false promise to distract the voters of Montana from your real agenda to gerrymander voting districts to assure that the Republicans can dominate our elections.

Shame on you!

Jacquie Maugan

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James M Miller  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:04:30 AM

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From: James M Miller miller1283@yahoo.com  
Residence: LaurelMt

Message:

I have looked at the maps and am favor CP 12.

--

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](https://mtredistricting.gov))

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Linda J Miller  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:13:12 AM

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From: Linda J Miller linda.miller2243@yahoo.com  
Residence: Laurel, Mt

Message:  
After studying the maps, I am in favor of proposal CP 12.

--

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

**From:** [Suzy Miller](#)  
**To:** [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Represent All Montanans  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:08:21 AM

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Please don't be concerned regarding Republican versus Democrat. Vote for a redistricting map that represents ALL Montanans. CP 12 makes it challenging for the voices of union workers and Native Americans to be heard. It is important that their votes count in an election.

I am a 3rd generation Montanan. My dad was a hard working union man. My daughter recently returned to our great state to work as a medical doctor. I understand that all people have different views - all important in a democracy.

Thank you,  
Suzy Miller

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joel & Linda Nelson  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:11:08 PM

---

From: Joel & Linda Nelson joel.nelson6916@gmail.com  
Residence: Kalispell, MT.

Message:  
MDAC Commission:

We officially go on record in support of Proposal 12 – CP 12 Map for the Montana Congressional Re-Districting. This proposed option is the fairest for dividing our our two Congressional Districts in the future for Montana. We feel this latest consensus driven re-districting map meets the Montana State Constitutional requirements of this process and is the best option for Montana citizens going forward. Our thanks to the Chairwoman and the Commission for their work and contribution in this process. We feel the outcome is the best for our great Sate of Montana. Thank you. Sincerely,

Joel & Linda Nelson  
29 Gray Hawk Court  
Kalispell, MT. – 59901  
(406) 890-2429  
E-Mail; joel.nelson6916@gmail.com

--

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

Gayle North  
Fri 10/29/2021

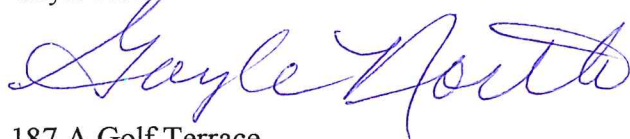
Commissioner Steusek,

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are bad ideas for redistricting as they are based on trying to carve out specific party districts and do not comply with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

Please throw out these two new maps and select map CP-1 as it's the best map that adheres to the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle North



187 A Golf Terrace  
Bigfork, MT 5991  
406-250-4038

[GNunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:GNunlimited@gmail.com)

Gayle North  
Fri 10/29/2021

Chair Maylinn Smith,

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are bad ideas for redistricting as they are based on trying to carve out specific party districts and do not comply with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements.

Please throw out these two new maps and select map CP-1 as it's the best map that adheres to the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gayle North

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle North". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

187 A Golf Terrace  
Bigfork, MT 5991  
406-250-4038

[GNunlimited@gmail.com](mailto:GNunlimited@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth A J Petrie  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:31:36 AM

---

From: Elizabeth A J Petrie [petrieclan4@yahoo.com](mailto:petrieclan4@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Thompson Falls, MT

Message:

After careful consideration, I believe CP-12 redistricting map is the fairest.  
thank you

--

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

**From:** [Dale Seifert](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [pococo@3rivers.net](mailto:pococo@3rivers.net)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Pondera County input on Congressional Boundaries  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:43:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [Congressional Boundary Line.pdf](#)

---

Please consider our recommendations.

Thank you

***Dale***

Dale J. Seifert  
Pondera County Commissioner  
20 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW  
Conrad, Mt  
(406) 271-4005 (Desk)  
(406) 289-0337 (Cell)



**Board of County Commissioners**

*Dale J. Seifert, Chairman*  
*Thomas A. Kuka, Member*  
*Jim Morren, Member*



*Pondera County*  
*20 Fourth Ave SW, Ste 205*  
*Conrad, MT 59425-2340*

*Phone (406) 271-4010*  
*Fax (406) 271-4070*  
*email: pococo@3rivers.net*

**PONDERA COUNTY MONTANA**

12 November 2021  
Montana Districting and Apportionment Committee  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Presiding Officer Maylinn Smith,

As amended map CP-12 splits two existing Pondera County election precincts. Because the original proposal only split one election precinct we feel that the amended map is a more serious encumbrance to the management of our elections than the original proposal. As such, the Pondera County Commissioners unanimously support returning map CP-12 to its original configuration and we ask that the committee carefully consider any changes made to existing state legislative districts so that they might align with the new congressional boundary where possible.

We thank you for your hard work and we ask that you consider our latest recommendation for map CP-12.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dale J. Seifert – Chairman Pondera County Commissioners

*11-10-21*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas A. Kuka – Pondera County Commissioner

*11-10-2021*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Morren – Pondera County Commissioner

*Nov 10 - 2021*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**From:** [Michele Puiggari](mailto:Michele.Puiggari@mtleg.gov)  
**To:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] redistricting map  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:59:14 AM

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Committee members, I am dismayed that Map 12 was forwarded to you for final consideration. Map 12 is not the best Map to meet the criteria that was set for Map creation. Map 11 is the best Map and the one that should be approved.

Map 12 is not the best choice because:

- The Commission's tentative final plan (Map 12) does not meet the goals the Commission set for itself.
- Republicans are favored heavily in both districts, all but ensuring a 2 Republican congressional delegation for the next decade. The plan is drawn to unduly favor a political party, and this Commission is going back on the promise it made when it passed its criteria.
- All tribes who spoke up on this critical issue, spoke with one voice. They wanted as many reservations as possible in a competitive district, and now their words are being twisted and used as a justification for a plan that puts every reservation in the state in a district where their Representative can ignore their voices. This is yet another example of Montana's government ignoring tribal voices. Recently the tribes favored Map 11 and this was ignored.
- The public record is clear. Map 11 had the most public support, yet this Commission is passing a **plan with little to no public record behind** it. That's wrong for this state.
- This plan separates Butte from Helena and Jefferson County, which has the effect of kneecapping the voices of organized labor in this state. This plan makes it harder than ever for the voices of working families to be heard.
- The greater Gallatin economy is severed under this plan. Townsend and Livingston belong with Gallatin County in a Congressional district. Our state's future will be increasingly driven by growth in the greater Gallatin economy. Intentionally chopping it up is the wrong decision for Montana.

This Commission should reconsider this tentative plan and adopt Map 11, that

meets all of the adopted Commission criteria and goals.

**Michele Puiggari**

*Puiggari & Associates  
3801 Milwaukee Ct.  
Missoula, MT 59808  
michele@mpuiggari.com  
505-690-4052*

**From:** [Mary Sand](#)  
**To:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please select CP 11 for redistricting!  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:32:14 PM

---

Please select Proposal 11, NOT any of the others, including CP 12, because, in the words of the Lake County Democrats, with whom I completely agree:

- The Commission's tentative final plan does not meet the goals the Commission set for itself.
- Republicans are favored heavily in both districts, all but ensuring a 2 Republican congressional delegation for the next decade. The plan is drawn to unduly favor a political party, and this Commission is going back on the promise it made when it passed its criteria.
- All tribes who spoke up on this critical issue, spoke with one voice. They wanted as many reservations as possible in a competitive district, and now their words are being twisted and used as a justification for a plan that puts every reservation in the state in a district where their Representative can ignore their voices. This is yet another example of Montana's government ignoring tribal voices.
- The public record is clear. Proposal 11 had the most public support, yet this Commission is passing a plan with little to no public record behind it. That's wrong for this state.
- This plan separates Butte from Helena and Jefferson County, which has the effect of kneecapping the voices of organized labor in this state. This plan makes it harder than ever for the voices of working families to be heard.
- The greater Gallatin economy is severed under this plan. Townsend and Livingston belong with Gallatin County in a Congressional district. Our state's future will be increasingly driven by growth in the greater Gallatin economy. Intentionally chopping it up is the wrong decision for Montana.
- This Commission should reconsider this tentative plan and adopt a map that meets all of the adopted Commission criteria and goals.

Sincerely,

Rob and Mary Sand  
951 Ronald Avenue, #203  
Missoula, MT 59801  
and  
76 Basin Street  
Basin, MT 59631

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Peter Schmidt  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:28:35 AM

---

From: Peter Schmidt [cdrekschmidt@aol.com](mailto:cdrekschmidt@aol.com)  
Residence: Gardiner, Montana

Message:

As a Park County resident for more than 40 years, I support the latest proposal, CP-12, which splits the proposed congressional districts along the Rocky Mountain divide. With the Yellowstone River flowing east through Park County, and the Missouri flowing east through Lewis and Clark County, both counties fit into the proposed Eastern District. Liberal residents of both Livingston and Helena who sought to gerrymander themselves into the Western District, are reminded that their counties, like other counties in the proposed Eastern District, voted Republican in the 2020 presidential election. Also, I have no objection in having Glacier County added to the Western District in order to have two Native American entities represented in each district.

--

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Flora Shultes  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 9:35:48 AM

---

From: Flora Shultes florashultes@gmail.com  
Residence: Lakeside, Montana

Message:

I strongly favor CP11. It's fair to both Republicans and Democrats in Montana, allowing for a competitive election for at least one of the seats.

--

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

**From:** [Jane Smith](#)  
**To:** [Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov](mailto:Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov); [Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov](mailto:Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov); [Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov); [Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov](mailto:Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov); [Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov](mailto:Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov); [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:05:58 AM

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Thank you for serving on the commission!

Please consider:

Creating at least one Congressional district that can be competitive between Republican and Democratic candidates, since this was one of the goals of the commission.

Including as many Native American Reservations in a competitive district, rather than diluting their votes by splitting them between districts.

Returning to Proposal 11, since it had the most public support.

Not districting at all, but having both Congressional seats represent the entire state – won by the candidates with the most votes and the second-most votes.

Jane Kapler Smith. Missoula, MT ([mtjanek@yahoo.com](mailto:mtjanek@yahoo.com), 406-728-4668)

**From:** [Cathy Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Cc:** [Jeffery Padgett](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map 12 should be adjusted to include Helena  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:09:24 PM

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If you can't include all of Lewis and Clark county, you should at least move the city of Helena to the west district. And possibly add the Blackfoot Reservation back into the eastern zone. It makes more sense to keep that reservation with the other 5 reservations.

I strongly think Helena should be in the western district, to keep the urban areas in like-minded district. Isolating them will nullify their vote. Please adjust the map if you're going to stick with map 12. Thank you.

Cathy Stewart  
1215 Powell St  
Missoula, MT 59802



**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carolyn Truscott  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:09:50 AM

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From: Carolyn Truscott lv4jsus@msn.com  
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

The figurative battle lines are being drawn for conservatives and liberals on our Montana state map. Most people aren't aware of this battle line, most people prefer to choose to ignore these political issues. But these figurative lines determine our representation in congress, and that's a big deal.

I choose to choose, and that is Map 12.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mikyla Veis  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:52:30 PM

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From: Mikyla Veis [mikylarae@gmail.com](mailto:mikylarae@gmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:  
Honorable members of the Committee,

I have read that the final map was created with the geographic boarder of the Continental Divide as the line dividing Montana's 1st and Montana's 2nd districts. As a life-long Montanan who spent nearly twenty years in Havre and nearly twenty years in Missoula I don't understand this map. The east and west of Montana have always been divided by the Rocky Mountain Front for me, and I'm sure for a great deal many others. This natural division between mountains and prairie could create two well-balanced districts, with Great Falls/Billings/Miles City/Havre/Lewistown and other smaller towns in one, and Missoula/Bozeman/Helena/Butte/Polson/Kalispell and other smaller towns in the other.

I hope the committee will reconsider their current division by the Continental Divide and instead look at this culturally and geographically significant division with the Rock Mountain Front.

Sincerely,  
Mikyla Veis

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mary Westwood  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:39:14 AM

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From: Mary Westwood mew528110@aol.com  
Residence: Billings

Message:

Honorable Chair Smith and Honorable Commissioners Essman, Lamson, Miller and Stusek,

Please alter the map you have selected to provide for at least one competitive district in Montana. I am a prairie girl and, though I like seeing mountains in the distance, I fully recognize that the Western Part of our state is different from where I live. But we are all Montanans and deserve a chance to have our votes count when we elect our next Congressperson.

Map 12, as currently configured does not create even one competitive district and, unfortunately, plays into the us versus them current philosophy of the Republican Party. Just this week I got two fear-based messages from my Republican Senator, one about education and one about taxes. Both contained misinformation which I could readily refute, but these efforts to divide Montanans from each other are disturbing and not in tune with Montana values of loving your neighbor no matter how odd he or she is.

I know you can begin to heal the divisions in our state that many have profited from and that it is your obligation to do so. Please tweak Map 12 to make at least one competitive district in Montana by including Helena in the Western District. Our state capital should have a chance to represent all Montanans and it is your duty to see that that is done.

Once again, gerrymandering can only be done by a political party in power who wields its influence to predetermine the outcome of elections. A redistricting commission that does not curb the power of the dominant political party by setting up a competitive district is not doing its job.

Thank you again as you battle fear and work hard to give every Montana voter a strong voice in our Congressional elections.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Westwood, Billings, Montana

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Wigton  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:15:48 AM

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From: Robert Wigton [rwigton@hotmail.com](mailto:rwigton@hotmail.com)  
Residence: Clancy

Message:  
Yes on MP-12  
Thanks so much!

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: susan m williams  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:38:51 PM

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From: susan m williams mtsuzq@gmail.com  
Residence: Lewistown

Message:

Concerning the redistricting of Montana into 2 Congressional districts, I believe Map 11 is the most fair and balanced map, giving the best voice to all Montanans. I live no where near the contested boundaries, so I have no skin in the game other than being a Montanan. Map 11 for the best choice!!

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

# Yellowstone County



COMMISSIONERS  
(406) 256-2701  
(406) 256-2777 (FAX)

P.O. Box 35000  
Billings, MT 59107-5000  
bocc@yellowstonecountymt.gov

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Chair Smith and Commissioners:

Thank you for your service to the State of Montana on the Districting and Apportionment Commission. Your job is an important one and we are encouraged by the work accomplished to date. Please accept this letter of comment from the Urban Counties Coalition of the Montana Association of Counties.

As you became familiar with your roles and responsibilities on the Commission you've been repeatedly directed to the provisions of Title 5, Chapter 1, Part 1. In summary, the districts must be proportional in geographic size and population. It appears your current versions honor that general provision. Additionally, we request that you keep the population centers as whole as reasonably possible. Please do not divide our communities when other alternatives are available to honor the size and population requirements of redistricting.


Furthermore, please keep partisan politics out of your decision-making process. Montana Code Annotated provides clear direction and 5.5.115 (3) is the area our comment is focused on.

- (3) A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress. The following data or information may not be considered in the development of a plan:
- (a) addresses of incumbent legislators or members of congress;
  - (b) political affiliations of registered voters;
  - (c) partisan political voter lists; or
  - (d) previous election results, unless required as a remedy by a court.

Montanans are excited to receive an additional U.S. House member, and Montanan's take pride in our election system and representative democracy. We encourage you to follow the law in your final determination of the congressional district mapping process. Please leave politics out of the decision of where to draw the line between two congressional districts that are equal in geographic size and population.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

  
Donald W. Jones, Chair

  
John Ostlund, Member

  
Denis Pitman, Member