

# Public Comments: M - Z

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Comments received between 11:59 p.m. on October 18, 2021, and 5 p.m.  
on October 20

Distributed electronically October 20, 2021

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jaime E MacNaughton  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:21:38 PM

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From: Jaime E MacNaughton [jaime@macnaughton.info](mailto:jaime@macnaughton.info)  
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:  
October 17, 2021

Montana Redistricting and Apportionment Commission  
Maylin Smith, Jeff Essmann, Joe Lamson, Kendra Miller, Dan Stusek  
[districting@mt.gov](mailto:districting@mt.gov)

Dear Commissioners;

My name is Jaime MacNaughton, I am an attorney who lives in Helena and someone who applied to be a member of the Commission. I was raised in Montana, and have lived over 35 years of my life in different communities across the state.

The Constitution of Montana requires equal population, compact and contiguous districts (Art. 5, Sec. 14). However, the Montana and US Constitutions also require “free elections” and include other constitutional rights such as equal protection, freedom of speech and assembly, and compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Competitiveness is being raised by the people of Montana is to protect against the unconstitutional goals of cracking and dilution of voting power as found in proposed CP Maps, 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9. Therefore, the Commission should discard them from consideration.

“The present of many uncompetitive districts in a state can be an indicator that district lines have been manipulated to ensure partisan advantage or protect incumbents”, “A Judges Guide to Redistricting”, a report prepared by the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, September 2021, (last accessed Oct. 19, 2021) p. 25. Montana only has two districts at issue here, but adopting a map which does not prioritize competitiveness in either district actually ensures one party’s gerrymandered advantage in both districts.

In fact, competitive districts provide voters with the ability to sway a district either way, and enhances the responsiveness of elected officials to their constituents. Competitiveness is a nonpartisan criteria to apply to the proposed maps, which enhances the fairness of an adopted map and should be taken into consideration by the Commission.

After looking at the proposed maps, I have ranked them based on the Montana and United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and considering arguments which will be made in court when the map which is chosen goes to court. The fact that the maps will be litigated says nothing about the hard work that you have put into this process, rather, it is an inevitable result of the redistricting process. Therefore, the Commission should do its best to adopt a map as litigation “proof” as possible by exercising their discretion in a truly non-partisan manner.

First Choice: CP-2, is the best map in following county lines and is compact and contiguous. It does vary by a total of 88 citizens, making it less equal in population than other proposals,

however it prioritizes the protection of minority voting rights by placing the majority of Montana's Tribal Nations in the same district and concentrating their vote to be roughly 10% of the district as a whole.

Second Choice: CP-6, is the best map in terms of equal population, varying by 1 citizen. However, CP-6 does split 3 counties, but does so along lines to keep two tribal nations intact as a communities of interest.

Third Choice: CP-8 is also a good map in terms of equal population varying by 1 person. The map does split four counties and Billings. However, having lived in Billings, the split as drafted does make sense to me in the urban/rural divide. It also places 4 tribal nations in one district and four tribal nations in the other, and are roughly equal in population.

HB 506 is not relevant to the decision you are making. In fact, it attempts to change the non-partisan nature of this Commission in determining the factors and criteria that it must follow, as set out in the Montana Constitution, Article 5, Section 14. Politicians and legislators are specifically prohibited from being qualified to sit on this Commission, so they cannot determine the seats they sit in. The right of the citizens is paramount to a legislative attempt to control what this Commission takes into consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of my analysis, and I wish you all the best of intentions in what can only be characterized as a difficult decision.

Jaime MacNaughton

I consulted [fivethirtyeight.com](http://fivethirtyeight.com) [[fivethirtyeight.com](http://fivethirtyeight.com)], the above referenced judicial handbook, the Brennan Center's Redistricting reports, the Montana Governor's office of Indian Affairs, Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission's website, and the Montana Free Press in forming the opinions expressed herein, which are entirely my own.

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

October 20, 2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
Submitted via email

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input during the redistricting process. I am writing to encourage the Commission to select a map that creates two districts that are very close in population, encourages political competition, and splits the fewest number of counties, cities, and reservations. Accordingly, I encourage the Commission to adopt proposed Map #2, which best abides by the Montana State Code and the Voting Rights Act, and meets the most the Goals for Congressional Districts adopted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission in July 2021.<sup>1</sup>

The Commission should adopt a map that splits the populations of the districts as equally as possible.<sup>2</sup> The most important criterion the development of legislative districts, which is subject to the Voting Rights Act, is to make the districts “as equal as practicable.”<sup>3</sup> Map #6 and Map #8 would create an almost equal population division, while Map #2 would create districts with a population difference of fewer than 90 people. Map #3 and Map #5 create the largest relative deviation in population among the proposed maps and should not be selected.<sup>4</sup>

The Commission must also try to split the fewest number of counties and cities as possible.<sup>5</sup> Coordinating district boundaries with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state to the greatest extent possible is the second most important criterion in the development of legislative districts.<sup>6</sup> Map #2 does not split any counties, while all other proposed maps split at least one county. As stated in the Goals for Congressional Districts, the Commission should also avoid dividing reservations.<sup>7</sup>

The Commission should adopt Map #2, Map #6, or Map #8 to allow for the best possibility of at least one competitive congressional seat and to avoid favoring any political party.<sup>8</sup> These maps fit with the Commission’s goals<sup>9</sup> and comply with the Voting Rights Act.<sup>10</sup> Only Map #2, Map #6, or Map #8 appear to create one politically competitive district, although Map #4 or Map #9 might create one slightly

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<sup>1</sup> “Goals for Congressional Districts,” Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission (July 2021), <https://leg.mt.gov/content/Districting/2020/Topics/Criteria/adopted-criteria-congressional-dac-july-2021.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Const. art. I § 2; Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115 (1), (2)(a).

<sup>3</sup> Voting Rights Act of 1965, Pub. L. 89-110, 79 Stat. 437; Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115 (2)(a).

<sup>4</sup> While the Commission would not violate Montana State Code by adopting either of these maps, they create the largest relative deviation. Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115 (1)–(2)(a) (“plus or minus 1% relative deviation from the ideal population of a district as calculated from information provided by the federal decennial census”).

<sup>5</sup> Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115 (2)(b).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* (“District boundaries must coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state to the greatest extent possible. The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district must be as small as possible.”).

<sup>7</sup> See note 1, *supra*.

<sup>8</sup> Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115 (3) (“A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress”).

<sup>9</sup> See note 1, *supra* (“The commission may consider competitiveness of districts when drawing plans”).

<sup>10</sup> See note 8, *supra* (“A district may not be drawn for the purposes of favoring a political party or an incumbent legislator or member of congress”).

competitive seat; all other proposed maps are likely to favor one party in both districts.<sup>11</sup> Competition within districts mean more engaged politicians, which is better for all Montanans.

The Commission must also choose a map that creates districts that are compact.<sup>12</sup> According to the Montana State Code, the compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of a district are equal.<sup>13</sup> Among the maps that divide the population equally and could create a competitive congressional seat, Map #4 comes creates the most compact district; however this criterion is last in order of importance in the development of legislative districts.<sup>14</sup> The Commission should first consider the criteria of equal population division and splitting the fewest number of counties as possible before considering compactness.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Mikayla Maier

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<sup>11</sup> “What Redistricting Looks Like In Every State,” FiveThirtyEight, available at <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/montana/> (last visited October 16, 2021).

<sup>12</sup> Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-115 (2)(c-d).

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*, at (c).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*, at (d).

**From:** [Wendy Marsh](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support Map CP2  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:36:39 PM

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Dear Commission Members:

Thank you for your work to develop our new Congressional District. It can't be an easy job in today's world.

I am hoping you will choose Map #CP 2 (two) as I would like to see population equality, competitiveness and non-county division.

It is important to me that as many Montanans as possible get their voices heard. I would like to see us be an American state, not a Republican, Democrat or Independent state. I am heart-sick over the bitter political divide.

Many thanks and blessings for all you do for us.

Wendy Marsh  
403 South Roberts St  
Helena, MT 59601

**From:** [ddmccammon@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ddmccammon@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Donna McCammon](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Cp4 is closest to historic map  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 7:14:22 PM

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Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I'm really tired of people trying to divide up the state in order to get a political advantage. I prefer to go back to an east-west map as close to what we used in the past..

A representative for the east part of the states needs to represent the east, not Bozeman, Butte, etc...which are in the western part of the state.

Sincerely,  
Donna McCammon  
2616 Bonnie Ct Missoula, MT 59803-2543  
[ddmccammon@gmail.com](mailto:ddmccammon@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Allison McCarthy  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:30:45 PM

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From: Allison McCarthy [mccarthy.learnandgrow@gmail.com](mailto:mccarthy.learnandgrow@gmail.com)

Residence: Bigfork

Message:

Hi. My name is Allison McCarthy, and I live in Bigfork. I have lived in Montana for almost 30 years.

Fairness is an important Montana value, and a value which is very important to me. Therefore, your goal of not unduly favoring a political party must be met with this redistricting!

I support maps 6 and 9 in order to meet the fairness criteria. These maps have the most integrity to meet all of your stated goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Curtis Meyer  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:01:21 AM

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From: Curtis Meyer [curtnro@yahoo.com](mailto:curtnro@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

I am Curt Meyer and live in Bozeman.

I am glad that the commission agreed on common goals to determine how make up new voting districts. I would like the commission to choose between maps 6 and 9. These are the only maps that accomplish most of your goals and seem the most non political and fair to me.

I support map 6 and map 9 because maps 6 and 9 are the best at keeping communities together instead of splitting them apart. They also seem to try to not favor any political party.

In these times when everything is so divided, I ask you to put party politics aside and make a common sense decision that is fair to ALL people.

Thanks for considering my point of view.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joshua Meyer  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 1:12:00 PM

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From: Joshua Meyer woshuajm@hotmail.com  
Residence: Bozeman

Message:

My name is Josh Meyer. I am a small business owner and an Assistant Teaching Professor at Montana State University, Bozeman. Although I currently live in Bozeman, I grew up in the Flathead Valley and have lived in Montana for most of my life.

I support competitive districts and not unduly favoring a political party. I believe prioritizing these two goals provides the most fair way to represent Montana's diverse perspectives.

I support maps 6 and 9. I support maps 6 and 9 because, out of the possible options, they create a competitive district; they minimize dividing cities, counties and reservations; and they keep communities of interest whole.

Thank you for considering my input.

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

**From:** [ALYSON.MIKE@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ALYSON.MIKE@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alyson Mike](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 5:55:39 PM

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Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Dear Commission Members,

As a lifelong, third generation Montana, the task ahead of you is so important. In reviewing the maps, my preference is Map 8 for the following reasons.

1. It creates an equal population in each district.
2. It is competitive from the perspective of the way it cuts across the state.
4. The Indigenous communities are then include in both districts where their voice should be included.

I appreciate your consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Alyson Mike  
PO Box 1924 Red Lodge, MT 59068-1924  
[ALYSON.MIKE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALYSON.MIKE@GMAIL.COM)

**From:** [mikotab@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mikotab@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Brigit Mikota](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 8:59:48 PM

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Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Map 2.

Sincerely,  
Brigit Mikota  
411 N Ewing St Helena, MT 59601-4039  
[mikotab@yahoo.com](mailto:mikotab@yahoo.com)

**From:** [Sherry Mitchell](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The best Map  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:24:58 AM

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Honorable Commissioners,

Thank you all for your services. I appreciate your willingness to do the correct thing while serving on the Redistricting Committee. I understand this task has a few challenges, however, The Constitution of the State of Montana, Article V section 14 does give the law very clearly.

HB 502 also has the intent of the legislature to help make your job easier.

Now your job is to do the right thing for all the citizens of Montana.

Map # 5 is the best choice.

Again I thank you.

Richland Count Commissioner  
Duane Mitchell  
221 Lincoln Ave. S  
Sidney, MT 59270-3924

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Morgan  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:50:15 AM

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From: Susan Morgan [confluence@rocketmail.com](mailto:confluence@rocketmail.com)  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

I think it is very important in a state with only 2 districts for the districts to be drawn so all the people feel some representation. If districts are drawn in a way it is expected to be no contest ever, it will discourage public participation and voting, and will harm the public process and decrease the chance of bipartisan cooperation.

Please choose one of the democratic presented options, though I think one with more straightforward lines is logical. I would feel differently if our state had many districts.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joanne MacConnachie Morrow  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:53:19 AM

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From: Joanne MacConnachie Morrow [morrowjoanne5@gmail.com](mailto:morrowjoanne5@gmail.com)

Residence: Niarada, Montana

Message:

I also think that there should be at least two of Montana's tribal nations in each district along with one of them being a competitive district at least.

Thank you.

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

**From:** [rnr](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Follow up to League of Women Voters Oct. 19 comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:25:40 PM

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The commission asked me to identify the source of the data the League of Women Voters Montana used to determine the competitiveness of the proposed maps. We used the data provided by [fivethirtyeight.com \[fivethirtyeight.com\]](#). Here is the link to their evaluation of the nine Montana maps under consideration: [https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/montana/\[projects.fivethirtyeight.com\]](https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/montana/[projects.fivethirtyeight.com]). Please let me know if you need any additional information from the League of Women Voters of Montana.

Rosanne Nash  
Board Member, League of Women Voters of Montana



**From:** [Marian Nichols](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Montana Apportionment 2021  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:44:33 AM

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Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Thank you for your work on this project!

Please consider Montana law as you apportion the voting districts.

The most common sense maps are CP 1, CP 3, and CP 7. I personally favor CP 1, due to its simplicity and fair division of voter numbers.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Marian Nichols  
3355 Hutton Road  
Helena, MT 59602

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bill Parker  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:10:23 AM

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From: Bill Parker bilpark@yahoo.com  
Residence: Lame Deer

Message:

My name is Bill Parker. Retired educator. Our home is on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and I am a Tribal member. My wife is a music teacher at Lame Deer Elementary School. We are strong advocates of creating voting districts that meet all criteria.

They are important criteria. Balance and fairness have always been important to Montana

We believe that maps 6 & 9 have the most balance and best meet the criteria and should be adopted Maps 6 & 9 best achieve a balance of all criteria

Thank you for your consideration. Your fairness will become a part of history that we will teach in our schools. Bill and Natalie

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

**From:** [tigersroar68@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tigersroar68@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Paul Parsons](#)  
**To:** [joe.lamson@mtleg.gov](mailto:joe.lamson@mtleg.gov)  
**Subject:** [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefullymap CP4  
**Date:** Monday, October 18, 2021 6:13:49 PM

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Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.CP4 looks the most balanced to me.

Sincerely,  
Paul Parsons  
100 Sunset Ln Troy, MT 59935-9555  
[tigersroar68@gmail.com](mailto:tigersroar68@gmail.com)

**From:** [C.B. Pearson](#)  
**To:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**Subject:** [spam]Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:15:35 AM

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Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

C.B. Pearson, Missoula County, Montana. I have been a Montana resident for 38 years. I have lived in Missoula city, and Helena.

My biggest priority is not unduly favoring a political party

I support maps 4, 6, 8 and 9. With highest support for Map 4 and Map 8.

Thank you for all of your efforts.

Regards,  
C.B. Pearson  
5141 Elk Ridge Rd  
Missoula, MT 59802

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dennis Petrak  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:42:27 AM

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From: Dennis Petrak wildbullc354@gmail.com  
Residence: Black Eagle

Message:

This is not a viable process to stabilize the current over gerrymandered state. Republican nationalists are trying to shift a strong democratic county away from the influence it should have by incorporating Republican strongholds into a totally different category! Keep it simple and stop talking bolderdash!

I have lived and worked in Cascade County for 42 years!

We are two distinct communities and should be represented by our own Senators and representatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [Becky Piske](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maps 2, 6 and 8  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 3:18:43 PM

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Dear Commission,

Thank you for your commitment to this task of setting redistricting our State of Montana.

MOST important is that there is competition between parties in choosing the representatives. Competition is a basis for democracy. Please make this a required condition of your choice for the redistricting map.

I like maps 2, 6 and 8 because of this priority of competitive races.  
I like map 2 because the divisions maintain county lines.

Regardless of your political bias, please consider that democracy DOES rely on fair elections, which require competitive races for elected officials. At this time when so many pillars of our democracy have been challenged, please step forward and vote on a map that works best TO preserve democracy.

Thank you and apologies for my late response.

Sincerely,

Becky J. Piske

303 State Street  
Helena, MT 59601-5788  
406.443.7730 home  
406.431.5624 cell  
[beckypiske@gmail.com](mailto:beckypiske@gmail.com)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Prime  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:05:38 PM

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From: James Prime jamgreg@msn.com  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is James Prime from Missoula. I have been a Montanan since 2015. Although not native to Montana, my regard for Montana grows every day and I plan to live here for the rest of my life. I love Montana and want to see her become an even better place to live.

I support all four goals that Montana's redistricting commission agreed are important. Particularly, I think it's important to keep politics competitive. This is the best way to maintain a responsive government to the people. Secondly, I think this should be done minimizing the splitting of counties, towns, & reservations.

Therefore, I support the Commission's map 9, or even better map 6, as the best way for Montana to keep its politics competitive while preserving local political interest. I like Map 6 the best because it keeps Missoula County intact and keeps Flathead Reservation intact while minimizing the division of Flathead and Lake Counties.

I want to thank the commission for their time, commitment to Montana's future, and for reviewing my comment.

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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: Brandon Prior  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:48:21 PM

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From: Brandon Prior [brandon.m.prior@gmail.com](mailto:brandon.m.prior@gmail.com)  
Residence: Alberton, Montana

Message:

I support Maps CP-4 and CP-8. The two primary goals of this commission in achieving a bipartisan solution is 1) establishing districts that are as equal as practicable, i.e. within a plus or minus 1% relative deviation from the ideal population of a district as calculated from the federal decennial census; and 2) creating district boundaries that coincide with the boundaries of political subdivisions of the state to the greatest extent possible. The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district must be as small as possible. In that light, both maps CP-4 and CP-8 create a politically competitive environment, and one that most importantly allows representation of those individuals within the district, to include, without limitation, ecological, economical, and native/tribal interests which differ between the proposed 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:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Christine Ravndal  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:40:14 PM

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From: Christine Ravndal [christine.ravndal@gmail.com](mailto:christine.ravndal@gmail.com)  
Residence: Townsend MT

Message:

I would like to submit my vote for the congressional maps proposed by the commission. My vote is for CP1. According to the Montana Constitution, the districts are to be split evenly. CP1 is evenly split, plus the districts are separated with a fairly straight line. It keeps things simple.

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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: Douglas Rhodes  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:08:39 AM

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From: Douglas Rhodes sunworks2000@hotmail.com  
Residence: Whitefish

Message:

My name is Douglas Rhodes, I live in Whitefish Montana...I have live here doing business as a sole proprietor for 40 years.

Not favoring a political party....districts should be cohesive keeping communities intact.

I support maps 6 and 9. Communities should not be split and should not favor any political party.

Thank You for your service that the districts represent the people of Montana regardless of their political views and that the people of this state are represented equally.

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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: Barbara Gregovich  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:43:00 AM

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From: Barbara Gregovich [bgbmontana1@msn.com](mailto:bgbmontana1@msn.com)  
Residence: Butte

Message:  
Barbara Gregovich, Butte MT

TRUE fourth generation Montanan. Great grandmother born and raised in 1884 in central Montana Territory. Her daughter, granddaughters and great-granddaughters (including me) EACH born and raised in Montana.

Not unduly favoring a political party

I support Maps 6 and 9. After reviewing all of the maps, I feel 6 and 9 meet all the criteria. Simply splitting the state in half like "the old days" does not reflect Montana's current populations and would unduly favor one party. Based on my knowledge of communities throughout and in every corner of the state, all of the Republican proposed maps would simply provide 2 Republican districts without any competitiveness between the parties.

Thank you so very much for the time you are all taking in this very important endeavor and for reviewing my comments.

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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: Deniece Rout  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:20:27 AM

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From: Deniece Rout [dhrou@yahoo.com](mailto:dhrou@yahoo.com)  
Residence: Bigfork, MT

Message:

I am against the re districting of the Kalispell County. If I must choose XI choose map #5.  
What you are doing is wrong. And harmful to our county.

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

**From:** [Nancy Sacry](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Representative Districts  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:15:11 AM

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It is only fair to ALL Montanans that the districts population be equal. Especially as it pertains to the larger population areas. To do anything where more of the major Montana cities are in one area silences the voices of native Americans, and rural communities.

I hope that in deciding this important issue, the committee will realize this is the only fair way to draw the map.

Nancy Sacry

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kim Schmidt  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:22:15 PM

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From: Kim Schmidt [1sacredearth@gmail.com](mailto:1sacredearth@gmail.com)  
Residence: Polson

Message:

My name is Kim Schmidt. Montana is my big love in my life. I have seen Montana grow since I immigrated from Germany 49 years ago. After living in the Pacific Northwest for a couple of decades I have returned to the last best place in 2002, never to leave again. Montana, is a place that gives me hope and sanity in a world that seems to become more and more psychotic. What is it in Montana that gives me this priceless gift? It is open wild nature. It is where I find myself again, it is where I can see systems actually working in beautiful synergy. It is where I have the peace to see again, what really matters. The most important thing we have is what makes us feel worth living. That thing is our public land, our habitat for other life to thrive, fresh air, freedom and pretty much everything that means anything to me. That is Montana for me and my family.

I think it is wrong to unduly favor a political party, and it is imperative that communities that belong together are not split up, like reservations, and counties and towns.

I believe that map 6 and 9 best meet the plans that I support. I choose these maps because they do not unduly favor a political party; They minimize splitting of counties, towns, and reservations; They keep communities of interest intact; and Competitive districts.)

Thank you for considering these important opinions that we the people offer you the public servants. It is the voice of the people that must speak.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kendra Selser  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:14:13 PM

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From: Kendra Selser nursekj@bresnan.net  
Residence: Helena

Message:  
Kendra Selser  
Helena, MT  
Life Long Montana Resident

Not unduly favoring a political party is the most important factor to me.

I support maps 6 & 9. These two maps seem the best to me.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Carolyn Sevier  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:19:54 AM

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From: Carolyn Sevier carolyn.sevier@gmail.com  
Residence: Billings, MT

Message:

I am in favor of CP 4 or CP 8 as the best chance for fair and equitable representation for all Montanans.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mark Sheets  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:43:37 PM

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From: Mark Sheets [msheets@blackfoot.net](mailto:msheets@blackfoot.net)  
Residence: Melrose

Message:

I live in Thompson Falls and have been a Montana resident for 63 years. I feel that the new district should meet all 3 criteria that the district required to.

Competitive districts, no political party should be given an advantage. They should earn any office they run for.

I support maps 6 and 9. They meet the criteria. These maps meet the criteria that they are required to.

Thank you for taking my comment into consideration.

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**From:** [Annick Smith](#)  
**To:** [Joe Lamson](#)  
**Subject:** [spam]Redistricting Maps  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:49:29 AM

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Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am Annick Smith, a senior and a widow with four grown sons. and I have lived on this homestead ranch up the Blackfoot for fifty years

My biggest priority is not unduly favoring a political party

I support maps 4, 6, 8, and 9.

I appreciate the chance to have my views considered and thank the commission for their hard work in coming to an equitable decision.

Regards,  
Annick Smith  
898 Bear Creek Rd  
MT 59823

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Arrick Swanson  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 10:59:52 AM

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From: Arrick Swanson [arrick@arricks.com](mailto:arrick@arricks.com)  
Residence: West Yellowstone

Message:

Hello my name is Arrick Swanson and I live in West Yellowstone. I love our wild places and our public lands.

I think its very important to keep our counties not split and to have competitive elections so that not one political party has an advantage and every persons vote counts.

I support maps 6 and 9. For the reasons of keeping elections competitive, not favoring a political party and minimizing splitting counties up these maps look better than others.

Thank you for hearing my concerns and giving them consideration.

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**From:** [Rebecca Tamietti](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Map 8  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:29:34 AM

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Hello, I believe map 8 is the best choice.

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jessica Valentine  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:41:37 PM

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From: Jessica Valentine [jesskvalentine@gmail.com](mailto:jesskvalentine@gmail.com)  
Residence: Plains

Message:

Hi there, my name is Jessica Valentine. I am from Plains MT.

To me it is very important that redistricting allows for fair and competitive elections. All parties should have a chance.

I think that options 6 and 9 are the options I support the most. I think these options are the most balanced.

Thank you for your time and consideration

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: BARBARA WALSH  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:51:29 AM

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From: BARBARA WALSH bw42844@aol.com  
Residence: Missoula

Message:

BARBARA Walsh I LIVE IN MISSOULA, Mt. Moved here because of the wildlife and beautiful spaces and mountains. People were friendly, I have been here for 40 yrs. Missoula and the University have kept up with national matters, stress openness and liberty to all who live in our area.

The political parties, not diving the state into their favor.  
But because of communities of interest in tact. , Matter a lot.

I support the maps of 6. And 9. . These best keep the state in a harmony section. The reservation need their communal area, so the can all  
Talk a s one voice,. All the cities and towns identified with their surrounding areas.

Thank you for reviewing my comments. Montana needs careful attention.

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[\[mtredistricting.gov\]](#))

**From:** [Sara Walsh](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Redistricting  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:20:45 AM

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I have already submitted a comment, but would note what the non-partisan research group FiveThirtyEight characterized the Montana Redistricting effort as follows:

"Democrats on the commission proposed maps that grouped liberal cities in western Montana together into a single seat, creating one competitive congressional district and one ruby-red district. Republicans, though, proposed maps that created a red western district and a red eastern one."

Don't let this be what happens to Montana. Minority voting rights must be protected and given at least a chance to have a voice.

I would support Proposed Maps #2, 6, & 9.

Thank you,  
Sara Walsh

Sara Walsh  
[swalsh@3rivers.net](mailto:swalsh@3rivers.net)  
406-562-3832 (Augusta)  
406-755-3661 (Kalispell)  
406-799-5202 (Cell)

**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gary Weiner  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:02:50 PM

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From: Gary Weiner [garyrweiner@gmail.com](mailto:garyrweiner@gmail.com)  
Residence: MT

Message:

Keep Gallatin and Missoula counties, and especially the 2 cities of Bozeman and Missoula, in the same district. They have a common political sentiment, and it would be inappropriate, contrary to your rules, and blatantly politically self-serving to split up the two.

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: James Y Wilson  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:50:54 AM

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From: James Y Wilson [jy@jywilson.com](mailto:jy@jywilson.com)  
Residence: Billings, Montana

Message:

I support Redistricting Map proposals 1 or 5. With the rapid population increase in the Bozeman area and the population decrease historically in Eastern Montana those options will provide the best balanced solution for the next ten years.

--

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: John Wilson  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:53:35 AM

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From: John Wilson jrwpod@hotmail.com  
Residence: Billings

Message:  
John Wilson  
I have lived in Billings Montana since 1996

Please do not gerrymander. Split the state simply in equal populations east and west. Let's cut out the games being played (such as Libby and Ekalaka in the same district)

I support map CP 1. CP 1 is on its face, the most straightforward and fair. Other maps show significant manipulation. This manipulation would only support presence of a bias.

Thank you for working to achieve a fair and non-biased goal!

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**From:** [MDAC](#)  
**To:** [Districting](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Tina Zenzola  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12:29:24 PM

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From: Tina Zenzola [tzenzola@gmail.com](mailto:tzenzola@gmail.com)  
Residence: Bigfork

Message:

Dear Commissioners, my name is Tina Zenzola and I live in Lake County. I care deeply for this state – the people and the beauty and wildness of the land.

In determining our states second congressional district, I feel it is critically important that we avoid favoritism of any particular political party. This is going to keep our local politics healthier and more responsive to the needs of communities. I feel it is important to avoid splitting counties and particularly reservations. I also feel it is important to keep communities of interest intact. This avoids diluting the voices of communities and allows for more representative governance. For similar reasons, I feel it is vitally important to keep districts competitive.

As such, I support maps #6 and #9. I believe these two maps best meet the criteria laid out by the commission as well as the four goals that I've identified as most important to me (i.e., not unduly favoring a political party; minimizing splitting of counties, towns, and reservations; keeping communities of interest intact; and ensuring competitive districts).

Thank you for the time and commitment you've devoted to this process. I also thank you for considering my input.

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