Public Comments: A - E

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission Comments received between 5 p.m. on October 27 and Noon on October 29, 2021

Distributed electronically October 29, 2021

From: <u>Jane Alford</u>

To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleq.gov; kendra.miller@mtleq.gov; joe.lamson@mtleq.gov; dan.stusek@mtleq.gov;

jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov

 Subject:
 [EXTERNAL] Maps CP 11 and CP 10

 Date:
 Friday, October 29, 2021 11:11:38 AM

Chair Smith and Commission Members,

Several comments about map CP 11 advocate placing Missoula and Gallatin Counties in the same Congressional District because the majority of voters in those Counties favor the same political party. Creating a Congressional District that favors political similarity instead of geographic proximity is literally gerrymandering. That fact warrants repeating: Creating a Congressional District that favors political similarity instead of geographic proximity is literally gerrymandering. I think you all know that map CP 11 is gerrymandering to favor Democrats in District 1 over republicans. Ethical Members of the Commission should reject gerrymandering and the blatantly gerrymandered Map CP 11.

I think you are all aware that the distance from Missoula to Kalispell is much closer than the distance from Missoula to Bozeman. I think you all know that it is gerrymandering to create a District with Kalispell and Billings, instead of Kalispell and Missoula. Kalispell was in the previous western Congressional District 1 with Missoula from 1919-1993 and for geographic compactness it should be again. Maps CP 1 and CP 10 are examples of geographically compact districts that you should support over Map CP 11.

Thank you for your time reading and considering my comments. Jane Alford Hamilton, MT

From: <u>Deborah Amesbury</u>

To: Districting

Subject:[EXTERNAL] Congressional DistrictDate:Thursday, October 28, 2021 5:35:38 PM

I support **Congressional Proposal 11** for several reasons. I feel it's more competitive and Lewis and Clark County has more in common with the other western counties.

Deborah Amesbury

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sean Andrachick

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:50:57 AM

From: Sean Andrachick andrachick@gmail.com

Residence: Marion, Montana

Message:

There should not be any carve outs for Dem districts. Carving out Whitefish so there is more "competition" is wrong.

--

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

From: MDAC
To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: CHRISTIAN APPEL

Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:32:55 PM

From: CHRISTIAN APPEL christianappel513@gmail.com

Residence: Bozeman

Message:

My name is Christian Appel. I am a native of Montana, born and raised in eastern MT. I have lived in Bozeman for the past 27 years and have been a small business owner since 2004. I currently employ 10 part-time and full time employees and offer healthcare services to members of Bozeman and the Gallatin valley. Some patient come from as far away as Park, Madison, Jefferson and Lewis & Clark counties.

I support Map 11. Map 11 keeps the Bozeman community and Gallatin county intact. I also believe this Map does not unduly favor one party over another.

Map 10 fails to meet a number of criteria set by the commission early in this process.

- 1. Map 10 divides the Bozeman community and the Gallatin county.
- 2. Map 10 is also a blatant attempt to favor one party over another.

I would like to thank the commission for the time they have committed to this very important process.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on MDAC (https://mtredistricting.gov [mtredistricting.gov [mtredistricting.gov] https://mtredistricting.gov_:!!GaaboA!6gQegKwm-5gFX3eaCfeXhCMhTi2DjNUk-8TeaaY7xHZftEQ0ESdSBe5 WRUBl7FXxw\$>)

From: Claire Arcenas
To: Districting

Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;

Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] comments on two new maps

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:38:49 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for soliciting public feedback on the two maps you are considering. I am writing in support of Map #11. I appreciate how it keeps Helena and Butte in the same district and how it doesn't divide towns in Gallatin County for no apparent reason. Moreover, it does well to recognize the close ties between Bozeman and Livingston by keeping them in the same district.

I urge you to support Map #11 and oppose Map #10.

Sincerely, Claire Arcenas 313 E Beckwith Ave. Missoula, MT 59801

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: David Aronofsky

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:06:56 PM

From: David Aronofsky aronofskydavid@gmail.com

Residence: Missoula MT

Message:

I am writing to urge the Commission not to approve either of the two maps being considered because I believe very strongly that no Montana county, including Flathead County, should be divided. The Commission seems so determined to make populations mathematically equal as the primary criterion that it has neglected altogether the three U.S. Supreme Court cases which have collectively upheld population deviations as high as 10 percent between and among districts if the reason for this deviation is to leave political subdivisions intact. Reynolds v. Sims (U.S. 1964); Wesberry v. Sanders (U.S. 1964); and especially Gaffney v. Cummins (U.S. 1973). Although it may well suit my own partisan interest to approve dividing Flathead County as proposed in Map 11, my personal partisan interest should not be a factor in drawing Congressional district boundaries. Let's assume a 5-6 percent deviation is legally permissible. If so, this should allow Flathead County to remain intact, perhaps by putting Flathead County into the eastern district and putting Cascade County (possibly along with Meagher County and maybe one other adjacent to Cascade) in the western district. The competitive impact might change somewhat, but not enough to matter legally and it would actually make the western district more competitive by about 10,000 votes based on 2020 election results moving Cascade and Meagher west. I find it troubling that one of the state's most Republican counties from a total vote standpoint gets divided when there can be one or more alternatives with greater competitiveness by leaving all Montana counties intact. I moved back to Montana from a Texas county nearly a perfect size for 2 Congressional seats which was carved into 5 and legislative districts carved into many more by sharing whole and mainly partial counties with little in common. This created voter and even candidate nightmares. As for compactness, Montana is a very large state not conducive to compact districts as we understand this term. Please rethink what appears to be an overzealous effort to match populations vote for vote and use some common sense. Also remember that our counties administer elections, so anything we can do to make this easier helps ensure election accuracy and integrity. Thanks for considering my views.

--

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

From: Charlene Iannucci

To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;

<u>Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:36:51 AM

Montana Redistricting Commission: 10/26/2021

My name is Gordon Ash; 2370 Foothill Rd. Kalispell, MT. 59901

I am a Montanan approaching 50 years of being an engaged Citizen.

The established criteria decided by you the Commission, for establishing a map, part of your decision process will include consider:

- 1. Equal population per District.
- Districts are contiguous and compact.
- 3. Districts are competitive such that there is political parity 50/50
- 4. Mapping will follow our National Voting Rights Act.
- 5. Districts are keeping Communities of Interest intact.

In earlier testimony and letters I am an advocate for Map Proposal 8. That proposed a North-South plan creating a competitive district that follows the Redistricting Commission criteria. The competitive North-South option ensures both representatives will have to represent diverse voices across Montana. This district would help to ease the perceived divide between Eastern and Western Montana; critically both Missoula and Bozeman Campuses will be in one District

It would have maximized the power of the Native vote, making both very competitive districts where both parties have to compete for every vote.

With your decision for proposals map 10 and 11 consolidating comments from letters and testimony I submit my endorsement for Map # 11. My rationale still includes my original advocacy for Map # 8 but will now emphasize #8 as my current priority. My rationale follows in that support of # 11:

- This plan closely follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach perfect population equality.
- 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.
- 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 still 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.

Thank you for your engagement and effort to provide a democratic foundation for Montana's redistricting responsibility. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to engage and provide comment in this process.

Gordon Ash

2370 Foothill Rd.

Kalispell, MT. 59901

From: Julianne Baker

Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov To:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map 11

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 7:51:33 AM

I support Map 11. Map 11 is fair.

Julianne Baker Gardiner, MT.

From: Karen Baker
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:41:20 PM

Karen Baker
Operations Manager/Legal Assistant
Western Montana Chapter
PO Box 17800
2681 Palmer, Suite K
Missoula, MT 59808
406/327-7886 ph
406/543-0944 fx

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this email message may be privileged or confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and delete the message from your system.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

This electronic mail message contains information which is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, photocopying, distribution or use of the contents of the received information is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please reply to the sender immediately and permanently delete this message and all copies of it. Thank you. Communication of electronic protected health information (ePHI) is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Act of 1996. Electronic mail (e-mail) communication is not encrypted or secure. The HIPAA Security Rule allows for patients to initiate communication of personal health information over this medium and for providers to respond accordingly with the understanding that privacy of communication is not guaranteed.

From: <u>Dolores Bandow</u>
To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:39:58 AM

Please support Proposal 10. Flathead in the west; Bozeman in the east. Thank you.

--

Dolores Bandow 331 B N. Higgins Ave Missoula, MT 59802

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Abbie Bandstra

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:22:20 PM

From: Abbie Bandstra abbie.bandstra@gmail.com

Residence: Livingston, MT

Message:

Having grown up in Livingston and lived and worked in Bozeman (and now living in Livingston again), I know the level of continuity that exists between these two communities for so many, not just as it relates to goods, but also services. As a former domestic violence advocate, I know many folks in need services and access to support that requires travel between our communities.

--

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Julie Bates

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 9:32:32 AM

From: Julie Bates juliewbates@yahoo.com

Residence: Kalispell MT

Message:

I support map # 11.

It is fairly drawn and meets the criteria of competitive races, allowing full democratic representation for all voters.

--

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

From: <u>Diane Bayuk</u>

To: <u>Districting</u>; <u>maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov</u>;

dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fair Maps

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:55:57 AM

Dear Montana Redistricting Commission,

Please vote for the most fair map, CP-11.

Of the two options, it is obviously the best.

It divides less than the other option.

And it is more competitive, a very necessary element.

Please vote for the map that will allow the largest number of Montanan voices to be heard through their elections. That map is CP - 11.

Thank you for your work on this effort.

Diane W. Bayuk Helena, MT

In case you haven't read the outstanding editorial on this subject by Hans Abbey of Billings, it is here:

https://helenair.com/opinion/letters/redistricting-panel-should-not-be-shy-of-political-competitiveness/article_6fefc021-adca-5311-851c-61aa6eadd299.html#tncms-source=login [helenair.com]

From: Lindsay Bell
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map 10

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 9:56:31 AM

Commission:

I ask that you consider Map 10.

Map 10 keeps the state districts balanced based on population;

Map 10 provides a better share of the Canadian border between districts than Map 11;

Map 10 better divides the state evenly in a geographic sense than Map 11;

Map 10 better shares our reservations between the districts than Map 11;

Map 10 allows a better chance for university students to have a voice in both districts, Map 11 does not do this.

MSU, historically, is a university established for Eastern Montana, and students at MSU share values and identify with our rural community, too, as many COME FROM rural Montana to attend MSU.

Also, BOZEMAN STILL REMAINS INTACT with Map 10;

All proponents of maps submitted via the Democratic Party have hitherto wanted our tribes to have representation in BOTH districts. What the democrats have now done is drastic and obvious gerrymandering.

Map 10 doesn't raise eyebrows; it isn't attempting an odd-shaped picture, including here and excluding there; none of the Republican-submitted maps have done this. The straight lines we have seen from Republicans are hardly suspect.

Please consider Map 10. Thank you,

Respectfully,

Lindsay Bell - Martinson

From: Mark Benedict

To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;

dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Input

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:54:01 AM

Dear Members of the Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission,

I am not a member of any political party and believe that our polarized political environment has brought serious problem-solving to a standstill in our society and in all levels of government *at the worst possible time*. I support CP #11 as the best of the two alternatives currently being offered. It does not appear to split communities, doesn't favor any party, and provides a better mix of urban & rural populations.

On a related note, if you want to quickly gain a fundamental understanding of the magnitude and seriousness of the problems facing humanity and our living planet, I encourage you all to watch the Netflix documentary: "Breaking Boundaries – The Science of our Planet". There is a preview on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Jq23mSDh9U [youtube.com]

Sincerely,

Mark B. Benedict 42207 Salmon Prairie Road Bigfork, MT 59911 From: Sue Bennett

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cp11

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 7:49:08 PM

I am very much in favor of CP11. Sue Bennett, Helena

From: <u>erikandbenson@everyactioncustom.com</u> on behalf of <u>Erik Benson</u>

To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov

Subject: [spam]Please choose the congressional map that disrupts the least.

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:54:32 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commission,

I am a lifelong Montanan and I'm old enough to remember when Montana had two Congressional Districts in the 1980s. Myself and many others are faced with rapid change and sometimes yearn for the good old days. Map #CP11 will closely resemble the old days when the boundary was only slightly different. It is my sincere wish that two compact, coherent, and competitive districts can emerge from this Commission. Please choose Map #CP11.

Best Regards,

Erik Benson

Sincerely, Erik Benson 632 S 4th St W Missoula, MT 59801-2628 erikandbenson@gmail.com From: Bigshot Rancher
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districts

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:52:17 AM

Let's make it fair and equitable. Possible to use original boundaries?

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android [go.onelink.me]

From: cbicreek@stignatius.net

Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov To:

[EXTERNAL] re MT redistricting proposals Subject: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:36:39 PM Date:

Importance: High

I have reviewed the two proposals and ask that you vote for Proposal Map #11as it seems the more fair and competitive map!

Thanks you for your consideration!

Robert and Catherine Billie 61938 Telcostair Lane, St. Ignatius MT 59865 Lake County, MT

From: Weldon Birdwell

To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Proposal 10

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 12:20:39 AM

Proposal 10 is clearly the best choice for the Commission. Not perfect but the best choice.

As the tribes had requested of this Commission, Proposal 10 places the Blackfeet and Flathead Reservations into the same district. Proposal 10 meets all the Commission's mandatory requirements. It does not unduly favor one party. There is no gerrymandering in Proposal 10. By largely following the continental divide, Proposal 10 creates two cohesive Congressional districts which contain communities with commonality of interest. That should be the ultimate goal of the Commission!

One alteration I would make to Proposal 10 is to place Pondera County in the Eastern District and compensate by moving a corresponding number of additional Gallatin County residents into the Western District. Alternatively, you might place Teton and Toole counties into the Western District and compensate with moving additional Gallatin County residents into the Eastern District.

On the other hand, Proposal 11 is a highly partisan effort to pack as many democrats as possible into a new Western District, while excluding republicans. This is not creating a "competitive district", it is a forced political farce.

Proposal 11 is an attempt to create a new district solely on the basis of political orientation. I believe the courts have found that is illegal. None the less, every single democrat proposal intentionally packed liberal communities into the Western District, while placing Kalispell in the 'East'. There is no rational reason for this placement except partisan politics. It is classic manipulation of the redistricting process. It's two-fold goals is to shield the announced democrat candidates from running against an incumbent republican Congressman, while forcing the announced republican candidates out of the new district. Further, how can anyone justify Whitefish in the 'West', Kalispell in the 'East', and Polson in the 'West'. Yes, the line must be drawn somewhere. Yet it should not be in the heart of the Flathead Valley and only a short hop from the Idaho state line.

Proposal 11, is slightly better disguised than Proposal 4 was. Yet Proposal 11 is still a distorted finger extended deep into Western Montana to scrape out potential republican voters in the Flathead valley from the Western District. It is clearly gerrymandering. I ask Commissioners Miller or Lamson, "What would you call a Proposal with a finger of the Eastern District which stretched across Bozeman all the way to encompass Butte?" You would call it offensive gerrymandering. If you were honest for a moment, you would also call it a mirror image of what you've done with Proposal 11.

Proposal 11 is not creating a "competitive district". You can't use the past two Presidential races as your guide to competitiveness, as those just so happen to be among the very best republican results in the past half century. Instead, review the 2018 Senate race, or 2016 Governor's races where you'll find your proposed Western District has an excessively strong democrat partisan slant.

In summary, please enact Proposal 10 (with, or without, the suggested modifications). Without question Proposal 10 is the best alternative.

Thank you for your consideration, Weldon Birdwell PO Box 10, Billings, MT From: <u>Laura Blatz</u>

To: <u>Districting</u>; <u>maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov</u>;

dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fair Map

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:31:07 AM

Dear Commission,

I would like to voice my opinion that map CP11 is a fair map because it does not unduly prefer one political party over another. The other one did not have that designation. this whole process has been to find as fair a map as possible for the new representative district. To choose CP11 will show Montanans and the rest of the country that Montana values fairness and equality. To choose the other map will show us all that Montana is NOT a place that values fairness and equality - and I would be truly disappointed in this group and wonder how on earth such a thing could happen in the heartland of America.

Thank you for your time.

Laura Blatz

From: John Bleicher
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 9:03:57 AM

As a lifelong and third generation Montanan, I am in favor of Proposal 11 for the Redistricting Plan. Thank you, Martha Lyden Bleicher

Sent from my iPad

From: blkwolf@montanasky.com

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP#11

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:41:58 PM

I urge support for CP #11, the only map that doesn't unduly favor one political party.

Sent from Mail [go.microsoft.com] for Windows

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sherry Bloker

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:11:44 PM

From: Sherry Bloker sherrybloker@gmail.com

Residence: Missoula

Message:

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I support Map 11 because it provides a US Congressional District in the western part of Montana that is at least somewhat competitive.

Map 10 unduly favors the Republican Party and therefore, does not meet the criteria set by the commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Wayne Tyler Boeck

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 6:47:58 AM

From: Wayne Tyler Boeck WAYNEBOECK@AOL.COM

Residence: HELENA. MT

Message:

I FEEL THAT CP11 IS A MORE FAIR AND BALANCED MAP AS ADDING THE CITY OF HELENA TO THE WESTERN DISCTRICT PUTS THE CITY IN WITH OTHER LIKE MINDED AREAS OF MONTANA.

--

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

From: Doug Bohn To: **Districting**

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Citizen comment

Friday, October 29, 2021 10:41:48 AM

CP-1 holds not only to common sense, it also upholds the Montana State Constitution, thereby lessening the possibility of having all this effort overturned in court at a later date.

This should not be a complicated process. Plain, simple, fair. That is what Montanans expect in all aspects of the law and their government.

Please demonstrate that common sense is still a Montana standard and adopt CP-1.

Doug Bohn P.O. Box 815 Victor, MT 59875

"In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution." -- Thomas Jefferson

"Besides the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation, the existence of subordinate governments, to which the people are attached and by which the militia officers are appointed, forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of." -- James Madison, Federalist No. 46, 1788

"We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution." - Abraham Lincoln

"When injustice becomes law resistance becomes duty." -Thomas Jefferson

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."-- Eph 6:12-13

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." --Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom of Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretence, raised in the United States." -- Noah Webster, An Examination of the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution, 1787

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Douglas F Bohn

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:45:17 AM

From: Douglas F Bohn bohnco@gmail.com

Residence: Victor

Message:

CP-1 holds not only to common sense, it also upholds the Montana State Constitution, thereby lessening the possibility of having all this effort overturned in court at a later date.

This should not be a complicated process. Plain, simple, fair. That is what Montanans expect in all aspects of the law and their government.

Please demonstrate that common sense is still a Montana standard and adopt CP-1.

Doug Bohn

--

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

From: <u>Barbara Bonifas</u>
To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Map CP 11

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:55:29 PM

Montana Congressional Districting Commission

My name is Barbara Bonifas and I am writing to express support for Map CP 11. It maintains cohesion for Lewis and Clark County with its Western Montana neighbors who work in Helena and share similar concerns for timber and natural resources as well as university demographics.

I have been honored to work and live in Montana and I vote in every election. This is a state that cherishes citizen involvement where candidates still go door to door to meet with their constituents. It is vital to maintain geographical cohesion for Montana cities and towns.

I urge your support for Map CP 11. Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Bonifas 421 Monroe Avenue Helena, MT 59601 barbarabonifas@gmail.com From: Kyle Borne
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana"s New district

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:43:17 AM

Greetings,

I've seen the two district proposals from each party and I don't like either of them. Each gives their party am edge making their candidates path to election smoother. I don't like comfortable or lazy politicians. I say we split the difference between the two districts and make each party work for their election. Comfortable politicians become entrenched swamp creatures and stop representing Montana and start being a slave to their national party.

Split the difference. Make them work.

Kyle Borne 96 Howard Beer Rd. Clancy, MT From: <u>Dana Boussard</u>
To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal 11

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 11:48:40 AM

Please make fair the redistributing vote. Proposal 11 will do that. We cannot have Montana a totally one sided state where no other opinions but right wing are heard

Thank you, D Boussard Arlee, MT From: Joanne Bowers To:

Districting
[EXTERNAL] Redistricting Subject:

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:29:58 PM

I feel option 11 is the fairest way to divide the state. Joanne Bowers

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Wendy Bowlin Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:11:56 PM

From: Wendy Bowlin wendyjoyrn@yahoo.com

Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Wendy Bowlin. I am a fourth generation Montanan, born and raised in Great Falls. I live in Missoula and am employed as an RN.

Map 11 best represents all of the commissions goals. I support Map 11. It is competitive which will increase collaboration and reduce polarization in the Great Sate of Montana.

Map 11 offers less splitting of communities than Map 10. It keeps several communities in Gallatin Co. communities intact.

Map 11 better honors communities of interest by: A) placing Lewis and Clark County in the western district, and Pondera in the East.

B) keeping the cultural bond of Butte, Helena, and Jefferson County whole.

Map 10 is not competitive therefore favors a political party which feeds into more polarization. This map is harmful to the well being of our state.

While both map 10 and 11 having splitting, Map 10 is splitting communities.

Map 10 ignores the long shared history of Butte, Helena and Jefferson Co. And it takes Pondera Co away from other agricultural counties.

My wish is for Montana is to increase collaboration, and reflect the widely shared values of all Montanans. Map 11 is the best choice for those goals and best follows the goals set by your honorable committee.

Thank you for your diligent, hard work and consideration of my comment.

--

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

From: Boyle
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map proposals

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:32:31 PM

Our state is totally off balance as the Republican party controls both the executive and legislative branches. In the last election there was not one Democrat elected to a state office.

Montana needs to be a two party state - the map proposed by the Democrats, that is, map proposal 11 would give the Democratic Party a fair shot at having representation in Congress Proposal 10 would ensure that Democrats will have no chance at ever being represented.

Please vote in favor of map proposal 11 presented by the Democratic Party! Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

From: <u>boylej@bresnan.net</u>

To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Congressional Districting **Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:51:45 PM

Any government works better with a balanced political assembly. At this time the state of Montana is terribly unbalanced with one party leading both the legislative and executive branch. Will we survive this political inbalance, time will tell.

If this committee selects map proposal 10 it would only add to the danger of one political party in the state of Montana in complete dominance. Would selecting map proposal 11 give our state at least a chance of rebalancing Absolutely!!!For the sake of Democracy please give Montana the chance to rebalance, select map proposal 11 Thank You

Jim Boyle, Missoula

Sent from my iPhone

From: <u>Jackie Boysun</u>
To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] District Maps

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:13:11 PM

I am writing in consideration of the redistricting. I feel the only way it would be fair and ethical to keep it North and South as much as possible and keep political perspectives out of the decision. As a tax payer and Montana voters I pray you consider my concern. Thank you

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Duane Braaten

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:57:41 PM

From: Duane Braaten duane0040@gmail.com

Residence: Kalispell

Message:

Duane Braaten born in Wolf Point MT in 1952. Moved to the Flathead Valley in 1963.

It was too blurry to read the numbers of the map. Like I said earlier I support a geographic split east/west with no counties being divided

The criteria should have nothing to do with political interests. It should be total geographic East/west. There is different concerns in each side of the state. Do not split counties. The 1% deviation will be wrong by the time the ink dries because of people moving.

Thank you for keeping politics out of this decision

--

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

From: Randy Bradley
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:27:52 AM

PLEASE support Proposal 11 for the integrity of Montana! My family and I are counting on you.

From: Kathy Bramer
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MT Congressional Districts **Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 9:42:51 AM

My name is Kathy Bramer and I am a 42-year resident of Lewis and Clark County. I strongly support adoption of proposed Congressional District Map #11. This map follows the Montana constitutional guidelines, has population equity, and addresses the need for competitiveness between political parties while ensuring fundamental fairness for all Montana voters. Thank you for your support of Map #11.

Kathy Bramer 520 N Benton Ave Helena MT 59601

Sent from Mail [go.microsoft.com] for Windows

From: Nancy Braun

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:37:41 PM

Please support map 11. That one seems to be the fairer one.

Thank you,

Nancy Braun 682 North Ave. West Missoula, MT. 59801

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Scotia Brosnan

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:54:47 PM

From: Scotia Brosnan colleendelong@protonmail.com

Residence: Kalispell Montana

Message:

Subject: Congressional Redistricting Map

Chair Smith and Commissioners,

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

Please discard 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.

Sincerely,

Scotia Brosnan 2146 Merganser Drive Kalispell Montana 59901 (406) 607-9429

--

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

From: Sally Broste
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support fpr CP-11

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:10:24 AM

We very much appreciate the effort that the Montana Redistricting Commission has done to create fair and functional congressional districts. There are many conflicting criteria you have had to juggle.

We support the CP-11 map.

This map draws on historical precedence, recognizes changing demographics, and maintains some competitiveness that is essential to a healthy democracy. In particular, we are pleased that the CP-11 map includes 2 indigineous populations in each district.

Thank you for all your work.

--

Sally & Nels Broste 188 Wild Rose Lane Whitefish, MT 59937 406-730-2270

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Lee Brown Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:48:18 AM

From: Lee Brown leejbrown@gmail.com

Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Lee Brown, raised in Conrad and currently living in Missoula. I have lived in Montana for all my 65 years.

I support CP-11 because it by far meets the state-based requirements of; contiguity, compactness, community of interest and political boundaries. As someone who grew up in Conrad and currently live in Missoula it seems absurd to include Pondera County in a western district, I appreciate both communities but to think that they would be in the same district as Missoula, Helena and Bozeman is silly. They are much more aligned with eastern Montana, Great Falls and Billings along with Kalispell. Because the size of our state and the distribution of our Native peoples reservations it was going to be difficult to contain them all in one congressional district, CP-11 does a better job. Also, if we truly want to keep districts politically competitive and motivate Montana citizens to vote, once again CP-11 is far better.

CP-10 fails to meet the state-based requirement, community of interest; it separates the two biggest university communities (Missoula and Bozeman) and it separates indigenous communities more than CP-11.

I appreciate your taking the time to read my comments(I don't envy you the consumption of all this time) and hope that you appreciate that as a 65 year citizen of this state living in numerous communities (Missoula, Miles City, Conrad, Bozeman, Power, Drummond...) I know and love Montana well and look forward to Montana maintaining its distinct position in this country as a state where we care for each other and don't get too wrapped up in hyper-partisan national politics. What a great opportunity you have to prove that Montana truly is, "The Last Best Place".

--

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

From: Pam Bryan
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting Congressional District Commission Proposal 11

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:38:20 PM

Dear Commissioners,

After carefully studying the maps for your Congressional District proposals 10 and 11, we strongly urge you to vote for Proposal 11. While recognizing that both proposals achieve parity in terms of numbers of people in each district, the way in which Proposal 10 proposes to divide the state does not achieve political "parity" where two parties can be competitive across the state.

Proposal 11 much more clearly reflects your originally stated goal of creating two competitive districts. It also draws a clean line through the state and in so doing, creates two compact districts that reflect Montana as it is currently evolving. We urge you to put partisan politics aside and vote for Proposal 11 which allows all the voices of Montana to be heard as the state moves forward once again with two Congressional districts. We thank the four of you for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

Bill and Pam

William L and Pamela R Bryan

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kevin Bueltmann

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:04:57 PM

From: Kevin Bueltmann kevinbueltmann@gmail.com

Residence: Bigfork

Message:

It makes the most sense to me to make boundaries bases on natural geographic boundaries such as mountains, rivers, & well established county lines. I also think that economic similarities should be taken into account in grouping areas, such as the tourism industry, farming, etc. Anything else, just seems to be based purely on politics.

--

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gloria Burgos **Date:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:46:00 AM

From: Gloria Burgos gloeski@gmail.com

Residence: Bozeman

Message:

Hello, my name is Gloria Burgos and I live in beautiful Bozeman!

I support MAP 11 because it is the fairest map of the 2 choices. Montana should continue to learn from its past: political shenanigans dont represent what people really want. Map 11 will keep districts competitive and not favor any political party. Its important that we as a state maintain our electoral integrity.

Map10 does NOT create a fair playing field politically in the state of Montana.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Gloria Burgos Bozeman

--

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

From: Martin Burke
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Proposed Congressional Districts

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 8:12:20 AM

Dear Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's two proposals (CP 10 and CP 11) for Montana's congressional districts. While neither proposal is perfect, I believe CP 11 is the better proposal as it, unlike CP 10, provides our state with a competitive congressional district, i.e. the Western District. Competitive congressional districts serve our democracy best. They foster accountability, encourage voter education and turnout, promote bipartisanship, motivate moderates to run for office, discourage extremism, promote vigorous public debate of proposed legislation and governmental actions, require greater engagement of elected representatives with their constituents, and emphasize for elected representatives the importance of working to represent all of the people of their congressional district. Because CP 11 creates the possibility of a truly competitive congressional district, I strongly support it and urge its adoption.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and many thanks to each of you for your hard work on behalf of the people of our state.

Sincerely, J. Martin Burke Missoula, Montana

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Julie Burris **Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:15:39 PM

From: Julie Burris iamyoursandyouaremine1@gmail.com

Residence: Columbia Falls

Message:

Do not re district Montana. We are a proud Republican conservative state. We like it that way. We will not comply with anything that takes us away from our constitutional rights as citizens of this great country. We voted out a democratic Governor and Congressman. They did not hold our values and way of life we as Montanan's hold dear. We object very strongly to being redistriced

--

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

From: Sandy Carpenter
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] For CP-11

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:35:37 PM

For one really good reason. I'm tired of being considered west Dakota. I'm in Montana and in the northeast. I'd like at least a chance to have competitive districts that will best represent the best of all Montana. Thank you

LAURA CATER-WOODS on behalf of laura cw From:

Districting; ", MayLinnSmith"@mtleg.gov; ", Jeff.Essman"@mtleg.gov; ", Joe.Lessman"@mt.leg.gov; ", Dan.Stusek"@mt.leg.gov; ", Kendra.Miller"@mt.leg.gov To:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] For Redistricting Proposal 11 Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:02:18 PM

In order to support competitive Congressional Districts, please support Proposal 11. It might not be perfect be would give more voters a voice.

thanks.

laura c-w Broadwater County

From: <u>Bill & Nancy Chalgren</u>

To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:18:42 PM

To the Montana Redistricting Commission:

I support map #CP11 for these reasons:

- 1) This map follows the historical divisions when we previously had two districts. Why change what worked before?
 - 2) This map does not divide communities or economic areas;
- 3) Map #CP11 means that each district must consider Native Americans in their representation;
 - 4) Map #CP11 favors the Republican party and comes close to gerrymandering.

For these reasons, Map#CP10 does not meet the criteria set up for Congressional Redistricting and should not even be considered!

I hope you will take these comments into consideration when making your decisions on Saturday.

Thank you for listening to the voters of Montana, Nancy Chalgren PO Box 583 Libby,MT 59923 406-293-7006

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Julie Chapman

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:37:52 AM

From: Julie Chapman julie@julietchapman.com

Residence: Huson

Message:

My name is Julie Chapman; I moved to Montana almost 20 years ago to be close to wildlife and nature. I value the independent spirit AND the sense of community here – that so many Montanans are invested in taking care of the land and the community.

I support Map 11 because it is the ONLY one that creates competitive districts. NO person should be able to win an election while ignoring the voices of tens (or hundreds) of thousands of Montanans! Map 11 creates competitive districts and does the best job of avoiding splitting up counties, towns, and reservations.

Map 10 does NOT create competitive districts. It is DEEPLY important to me – and to the future of our state – that there be no "safe seats". Gerrymandering and "safe seats" in other states have allowed extreme voices on both ends of the spectrum to pull us apart, preventing compromise and fostering lethal partisanship. I want to know my vote will count! Democracy is only possible when we all feel our votes count and voices are heard!

Thank you for considering my comments.

--

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

From: Tamara Choat
To: Districting

Subject:[EXTERNAL] Support for map CP 10Date:Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:33:13 PM

As small business owners in Eastern Montana, involved in the farming and ranching industry, and also involved in our rural community, Class C, school in Terry, my husband, Travis Choat, and I strong support the adoption of CP 10. We feel this map creates the most accurate division of our state and our communities.

Please vote for redistricting map CP 10.

Tamara Choat 74 Blatchford Rd, Terry, MT 59349 406.853.6040 tamarachoat@gmail.com From: <u>Charlene Iannucci</u>

To: <u>Districting</u>; <u>Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov</u>;

<u>Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:35:45 AM

My name is Pam Chute. I have been a resident of Flathead County and Kalispell for 73 years. I definitely approve of Map #11 over Map #10 as it seems to be the most fair and equitable for everyone in our state. The divisions set forth by Map #11 do not seem to overtly favor one segment of our population over another. That is so important! All of our Montana voting voices should be heard and taking part in the governing processes that affect our lives.

Thank you for your attention.

Please consider #11 as the better choice for Montana's redistricting.

Sincerely, Pam Chute 198 Granrud Lane Kalispell, MT From: Amy Cilimburg
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on congressional map **Date:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:56:03 AM

Dear Districting & Apportionment Commission -

I write to offer that map # CP 11, which includes both Missoula and Gallatin counties, is the best map for Montana, given the established Congressional Map Criteria and Goals. In short, map #11 offers better democratic representation because it is expected to be competitive. As you know, competitive districts are the healthiest for democracy -- more people are engaged and policy solutions are geared toward assisting the broadest swath of residents.

Thank you for your thoughtful work.

Regards,

Amy Cilimburg 1601 Tamarack St Missoula, MT 59802

cjdd72@charter.net From:

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:12:01 PM

Please vote for map 11 it is the fairest and best map that serves the people of Montana

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jevon Clark

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:53:57 AM

From: Jevon Clark jevon@kalispellvet.com

Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

I do urge you to keep Flathead County whole in redistricting and wish to be considered in the western district. If the committee wishes to lump some county from the western part of the state into the east then I nominate Missoula County.

--

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

From: todd cochran
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Congressional Districts **Date:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:33:26 AM

I support the congressional map proposed by the Montana Democratic Party members over the one proposed by the Republican members.

Montanans are best served when their way of thinking is consistent with that of their elected representatives.

In the Republican map, it does not make good sense at all to separate Bozeman from the rest of Gallatin County nor to include Pondera County in the "Western" district. I doubt that few residents of Dupuyer and surrounds think the way that residents of Bozeman and Missoula do.

In the Democrat map, it also does not make much sense to separate Whitefish from the rest of Flathead county. If that is done to balance the population in the two districts, perhaps that could be revisited. Since Gallatin and Missoula are two of the most rapidly growing counties, it might make sense to have the "Western" congressional district to be slightly under population now, realizing that this most likely will not be the case in ten years.

Also, for appropriate representation, Helena and Lewis and Clark County are best placed in the Western district, not the Eastern.

Thank you for your consideration.

Todd Cochran Missoula From: Kristen

To: Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts
Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:08:39 PM

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission,

Please support Proposal 11 for Montana Congressional Districts. It makes sense to follow the historic precedent of the 1980's Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach perfect population equality. It seems like the most fair way to represent areas in Montana.

Thank you,

Kristen Cogswell Red Lodge, MT
 From:
 Carol Collins

 To:
 Districting

 Subject:
 [EXTERNAL] #CP11

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:11:00 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the time and effort you are putting into this incredibly important new Congressional District in Montana.

I the support of Map #CP11. This map keeps Gallatin County intact and does not split the town of Big Sky where I live.

This map will make the district more competitive from the perspective of registered voters. Splitting Gallatin County in the manner proposed will add confusion and difficulty for voters and election officials. This does not seem to make sense.

Please choose the map that offers a more fair split as a starting point for this new district. Though Big Sky is in Gallatin and Madison counties with the way the county lines were drawn many years ago, it really a single unincorporated area that functions as a small town. Splitting it out for congressional representation would be very confusing for the residents.

Thank you for considering my comments when casting your vote in creating this incredibly important new district.

Please reach out if you have any concerns or questions about my comments.

Thank you Carol L Collins

Sent from Mail [go.microsoft.com] for Windows

From: Connie
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FOLLOW THE LAW...GO BACK TO MAP CP1

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 11:12:57 AM

How can you have numerous maps submitted, select 9, then throw them ALL OUT and pick (2) new maps?? Don't manipulate the process to achieve your desired results. The Montana voters are laser focused on your actions. FOLLOW the MONTANA LAW, MCA 5-1-115. Go BACK TO MAP CP1, WHICH MET ALL THE CRITERIA!

From: Connie
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] VOTE NO TO MAP 11.....

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 11:08:22 AM

Do NOT split Flathead County, vote NO re: Map 11. It fails to keep communities of interest intact and it would force our Congressperson to travel vast distances. Follow the Montana Law, MCA 5-1-115! MAP CP1 was the best and most fair.

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Amy Contrada

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 4:32:33 PM

From: Amy Contrada laurelamc@yahoo.com

Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

Please approve proposed redistricting Map 10.

Has the committee noticed there is a big mountain range — and that Kalispell is clearly on its west side? And that Flathead Co. is closely integrated with the other communities on the west side?

Proposed Map 11 is illogical. It could only make sense if there is some hidden political strategy.

--

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

From: Lee Cooper

To: <u>MaylinnSmith@mtleg.gov</u>

Cc: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] districting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:31:43 PM

Dear Ms. Smith,

We are writing in support of Map 11 in the forming of 2 Montana legislative districts. We remember when Montana had two districts that represented Democrats and Republicans fairly.

Map 11 looks like a fairer map, keeping all of Gallatin County together, as well as Park County. It keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, so that commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace. It keeps the union towns of Helena and Butte together, as other redistricting plans in Montana have done. And, it empowers Native American voters in competitive districts. All candidates will have to rely on these votes to win their district.

Please consider these issues in your decision. We also wish that Carbon County would be included in the Western District. Being in Eastern Montana means that our votes as Democrats will have no chance of making a difference. We have far more in common with Western Montana than Eastern Montana.

Sincerely,

Lee and Bill Cooper, Red Lodge, Montana

From: jac406@protonmail.com

To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Redistricting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 5:07:39 PM

Subject: Congressional Redistricting Map

Chair Smith and Commissioners,

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are terrible maps 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.

Jeff Coplen Concerned Montana resident

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Nancy Cormier

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 11:25:18 AM

From: Nancy Cormier ngcormier@outlook.com

Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

To the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission: I strongly support map 11 being selected for our new congressional districts.

--

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

From: D DAC

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

[EXTERNAL] Cp#11 Subject:

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:03:35 PM

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

Please vote for MAP Cp #11.

It is Population equal and the only map that doesn't unduly favor one political party.

Sincerely,

Diana Corzine Clancy, MT

From: Mark Cosner

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

[EXTERNAL] CP # 11 Subject:

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:09:02 AM

I urge you to support CP #11 as the best apportionment map.

Thank you.

Mark Cosner TRN-R190461 Cosner Comtech, Inc. 33 Lower Valley Road PO Box 96 Kalispell, MT 59903-0096 (406)752-8822

From: Susan Cottingham
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:34:03 AM

I strongly support proposal 11 which keeps Helena in the western district

Sent from my iPad

From: <u>Virginia Court</u>

To: <u>Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov;</u> <u>Districting</u>; <u>Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov</u>;

<u>Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting maps

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:37:25 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I have studied the process for the last several weeks noting the make-up of the map proposals and the narrowing down to 2.

I feel strongly that Map 11 will reflect the interests of all voters: rural, urban and native.

Map 10 would silence the voice of thousands of Montanans by effectively splitting up communities and areas with common interests leaving little representation for those voters/citizens.

Please select Map 11 which reflects what Montanans (Republicans, Democrats and Independents) have always strived for: A fair playing field and the opportunity to vote for the person who shares their values.

Sincerely,

Virginia Court 18 Heatherwood Lane Billings, MT 59102

--

Virginia Court 406-860-4644 virginiajcourt@gmail.com From: MDAC
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Laura Cova Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:21:00 PM

From: Laura Cova lauraleecova@gmail.com

Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Laura Cova. I am a current resident of Missoula, Montana and I am a fifth generation Montanan who grew up in the Flathead Valley.

I support Map 11. Map 11 does the best job keeping communities of interest intact by placing Lewis and Clark county in the Western District and Pondera in the Eastern District. Map 11 also creates a competitive district according to Dave's redistricting.

By placing Pondera in the Western district and Lewis and Clark County in the Eastern District, Map 10 ignores the culture of these communities.

Thanks for your consideration!

--

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

From: <u>jmcozzens@gmail.com</u>

To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fair Maps MT Vote

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:04:42 PM

I vote for CP #11 because it provides a better representation of the wishes of Montanans.

Thanks for giving individuals the chance to make our wishes known.

Jeannine Cozzens Billings, MT 59102 406.652.1145 From: Rick Craig
To: Districting

Subject:[EXTERNAL] congressional districtsDate:Friday, October 29, 2021 11:34:21 AM

Good day,

I'm writing to support the map proposed by the Democratic members of the map commission. Montana's urban population is under-represented, and this map will help correct that imbalance.

Regards, Rick Craig 1601 Tamarack St. Missoula 59802 From: John Crull

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

[EXTERNAL] Please accept CP #11 Subject: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:32:38 PM Date:

This is my request that the map #11 be accepted and mandated by the commission. It is the closest to equality of party, population and geographically logical.

John Crull Missoula, MT

Sent via my iOS device. Please excuse spelling, grammar, and brevity.

From: Mary Dalton
To: Districting
Cc: Mary Dalton

Subject: [EXTERNAL] support for proposal 11

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:14:22 PM

Please vote to accept proposal 11 for the "districting" for Montana's new House Congressional seat. This proposal makes the districts more competitive which I believe benefits all of us in the long term. It also places Lewis and Clark County in the Western District. I feel our needs in Lewis and Clark County are more compatible with the other more populated counties of the Western district than they are with the Eastern district. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary E. Dalton 421 Power Street Helena, MT. 59601 From: <u>kelly davidson</u>

To: <u>Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Districting; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov;</u>

<u>Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting map

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:53:16 PM

My name is Kelly Davidson and I have lived in Whitefish over 20 years. Thank you for your work on these issues. I support map #11 for many reasons but primarily because it supports the idea of capturing the voices of all Montanans and not prioritizing certain parties or populations. Democracy is fragile and to preserve it, it is important that everyone's voices are heard and that people have faith in the system. Thank you!

Kelly Davidson

From: dee anna To:

Districting
[EXTERNAL] Proposal 11 Subject:

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:54:42 PM Date:

Please for for proposal 11. Help keep us as a democracy. Thank you for considering my request.

From: MDAC
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Allison De Jong

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:46:02 AM

From: Allison De Jong llsndjng@gmail.com

Residence: Missoula

Message:

I'm Allison De Jong, and I've lived in Missoula for 16 years. I love Montana deeply and am thrilled that we will have, for the first time in my years here, two representatives in Congress.

I support map #11. Of the two options, map #11 provides the best opportunity for multiple perspectives and political parties to be represented. It does not unduly favor one political party, and keeps the western district competitive. While it does split one county, it does not split any towns or communities, and does a stronger job of keeping communities of interest intact. Keeping Lewis & Clark County in the western district honors and acknowledges the shared history and rich cultural connections of communities like Butte, Helena, and Jefferson County. Placing Pondera County in the eastern district respects its deep agricultural roots and connections to other agricultural counties in eastern Montana.

One of the things I love about Montana is that it is a diverse state. Rural, agricultural, urban(ish), wild, towns large and small, mountains, plains, rivers, hills...this state encompasses them all. It's exciting to have gained another congressperson, to have this opportunity for more accurate and diverse representation than we have with just one representative.

Map #10 doesn't give Montana that opportunity for diverse representation: it favors the Republican party in both districts, rather than giving the significant number of Democrats and Independents in our state the chance at a real voice in Congress. It splits not only Gallatin county but several communities in Gallatin County (Bozeman, Big Sky). It puts Lewis & Clark County into the eastern district, ignoring the shared culture and history of Helena, Butte, and Jefferson County. It is, simply, not the best of our two options.

Many thanks for your time, hard work, and consideration.

--

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

Donald DeLauder From:

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

[EXTERNAL] redistricting for political gain Subject: Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 6:50:16 AM

Any area in the USA should NOT be redistricted for political gain.

We support Map CP #11 for fair and unbiased elections

Mr and Mrs Donald DeLauder

From: <u>d37dellwo@everyactioncustom.com</u> on behalf of <u>Doug Dellwo</u>

To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov

Subject: [spam]Please be as equitable as possible. **Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:54:29 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

It seems to me the only equitable choice of these two maps is CP 11. Having Helena in the Western District just reflects the Geographic fact. The idea of breaking up counties is a bad one and this choice avoids it much more than the other choice. And breaking up cities is a ridiculous idea. Again, CP 11 is the only choice that avoids this mistake. It is unfortunate that other better choices did not make the final cut but you have this job and you all made these the final two. So, please choose the most equitable of the two and choose CP 11. By the way, thanks for taking this task on. I am sure that this has not been a fun job.

Sincerely

Doug Dellwo

Sincerely,
Doug Dellwo
903 5th Ave Helena, MT 59601-4443
d37dellwo@charter.net

From: Steve Dennison
To: Districting

Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essman@mtleg.gov;

Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Congressional Redistricting

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:23:38 PM

Members of the Committee:

My friend's letter enclosed, is so well written and express my thoughts completely and better than I could ever compose. Accordingly, please accept this as my thoughts and hope of how you devise the two new districts!

Steve Dennison 32345 Red Horn Rd St Ignatius, MT 59865 Stevedennison75@yahoo.com 213 507 5109

Members of the committee:

We and many others we know who will probably not write or comment, strongly favor the east-west split of the state as it was before when we had 2 congressional districts. This is logical and represents fairly a cross section of both parties.

We would hope that logic, fairness and reason will guide you in your decisions rather than blatant partisan politics which will generate a very strange, non uniform, and confusing district that makes no sense in any way.

Montana tradition going back to the establishment of so many county seats is for the people to have reasonable and ready access to government. The same holds true today. A uniform, contiguous, and geographically similar district makes sense. The continental divide is a logical boundary which is historically and politically the division of Montana into East and West.

These two areas, East and West are unique and different in many ways from geography, to climate, type of agricultural practice, economy, industries, natural resources and on and on. We are sure you already know this and hope that short sighted political manipulations will not overshadow fairness and reality. Most Montanans, regardless of party, favor fairness and practical realities. A gerrymandered manipulation of districts will only add to the already deep divisions in our society which are very contrary to Montana values. It worked well before so please don't "fix" it.

Thanks for your consideration and accepting this statement. Frank & Mary Mutch, 33678 N. Finley Point Rd. Polson, MT 59860 Tel: 406-887-2377 Frank is a 4th. generation Montanan and we are both very dedicated to the preservation of Montana values. Thanks

Steve Dennison

32345 Red Horn Rd St Ignatius, MT 59865 stevedennison75@yahoo.com 2135075109 From: <u>drm3591@blackfoot.net</u>

To: <u>Districting</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional maps

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:43:49 PM

We favor Map 11 as the most fair and equitable way to divide Montana into two congressional districts.

Pete and Karen DesRosier PO Box 285 Drummond, MT 59832 From: Chris Deveny

To: <u>Districting</u>; <u>Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov</u>;

<u>Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov</u>; <u>Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Select Proposal 11

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 7:14:07 PM

Dear Commissioners -

As a fourth generation Montanan I ask you to please do what is right and choose the most competitive congressional district for our state - **Proposal 11**. Not selecting proposal 11 will amount to unfair favoritism giving one political party a greater advantage over the other. The gerrymandering that would occur under alternative Proposal 10 would be harmful to Montana citizens and to our county's democracy.

Thank you for your work on this important commission.

Christine Deveny Helena, MT From: Phyllis Dorrington
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Districting

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:39:39 AM

To whom it may concern:

After much reflection, I believe District 11 is the equitable choice. It honors the past while looking toward the future of Montana. Thank you for your consideration. Phyllis Dorrington

--

Phyllis Dorrington

Email - phyllisdorrington@gmail.com

Helena, MT

From: <u>driscollmaureen748@everyactioncustom.com</u> on behalf of <u>Maureen Driscoll</u>

To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov

Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana"s Congressional Map Carefully

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:46:51 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I am a retired high school teacher, living the good life in Butte, MT. I am writing in support of Map #CP 11. The primary reason for choosing this map is that is offers some degree of competitiveness in the western district. I feel that the many urban areas in the west, including Butte, are not being represented by our current congressional representative. Map #CP10 would very likely assure another Republican seat with little or no competitiveness. There are many diverse groups of people in Montana and voters should have at least a minimal assurance of a competitive district race. Rep. Skeeves is entirely incorrect when he asserts that Montana is solidly a Republican state. Please choose Map #CP11 so that voters in the west can choose their representative, rather than the politician choosing his/her voters.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for serving on this commission and making some hard decisions. This is a wonderful opportunity for Montana to expand the representation of ALL Montanans. I urge you to finish the job by doing the right thing - selecting Map #CP11.

Thank you.

Maureen Driscoll

Sincerely, Maureen Driscoll 1932 Wall St Butte, MT 59701-5524 driscollmaureen748@gmail.com From: MDAC
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Casey R Drishinski

Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 11:02:45 AM

From: Casey R Drishinski caseyreagan@gmail.com

Residence: Conrad, MT

Message:

Dear Commissioners,

My husband and I farm and ranch just north of Conrad. We are concerned that map 10 cuts Pondera County off from the rest of the Golden Triangle and the Rocky Mountain Front. This does not seem consistent with the criteria of keeping communities of interest together. We do business and participate in events and organizations in Conrad, Choteau, Great Falls, Shelby and other places on the Hi-Line and in Central and Eastern MT. We are concerned that the important issues that impact our rural, agricultural county would not be prioritized and represented as effectively by a Representative from Western Montana who is tasked with the many concerns and issues facing the more urban and less ag-based part of our state — regardless of political party. We encourage you to support a final map that groups Pondera County with our rural, east-side, ag-based neighbors. Thank you. Casey Drishinski

--

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

From: Judy Dundas
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:11:01 PM

I support Option 11 because:

- -It does not favor one party
- -Keeps towns and Gallatin County intact
- -population size is equivalent Thank you.

Thank you.
Judith Dundas
Missoula MT

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Dunkum
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:28:34 PM

Please support CP 11, the only one that doesn't favor one political party. Thank you,

John Dunkum 601 E Beckwith Missoula 59801 Sent from my iPhone From: Judy Edwards
To: Districting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Preferred map

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:55:33 PM

I support Proposal 11. I do not think splitting up Gallatin County makes much sense. There will be many issues facing Gallatin Co and having a divided county will make it even harder to bring groups together to solve local issues if we already feel there is a "his side/her side" component with the congressional representation. We need to be able to rally around one primary person not two for federal assistance.

Yes there is the dividing of Flathead Co but I don't think the issues that will be before the communities will be a difficult as they will be in Gallatin County.

Please choose Proposal 11.

Respectfully, Judy Edwards From:

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

[EXTERNAL] MT congressional maps Subject: Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:36:09 PM

To the committee

I would prefer two at large congress-persons to represent Montana in Washington DC, but of the two maps I urge you to choose CP #11

Very Respectfully

William Eickman Gallatin County

From: <u>karen ekstrom</u>

To: <u>Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting maps for Montana Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:52:31 PM

Dear Districting and Apportionment Commission Members,

I am writing to express my support for proposed map #11. It keeps communities of interest together and is fairer and competitive.

I don't want to be lumped in with the eastern portion of the state. It makes no sense.

Thanks for your work on this.

Karen Ekstrom, Helena, MT

From: Jennie Ekwortzel

Districting; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov To:

[EXTERNAL] Maps Subject:

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:32:01 PM

Cp #11is the best for Montana. Please, vote for this as we need to have all Montanans fairly represented. Thank you, Jennie Ekwortzel

From: Henry Elsen

To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;

Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Plan 10 and 11 proposing new Congressional districts in Montana - favoring Plan 11

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:22:41 PM

Dear Commission Members:

As a long time Montana resident, I am writing in support of proposed Plan 11 for the creation of two congressional districts in Montana. I think Plan 11 is superior to Plan 10 for a number of important reasons, which follow.

I am a long time resident of Helena, and have done considerable professional work in Butte and the surrounding area. The Plan 11 map keeps these two towns with a wealth of historical and current interconnections, including labor/union and other issues, together, as, I believe, every redistricting plan in Montana has previously done. There are increasing amounts of commuters from Jefferson and Broadwater counties working in Helena. The Plan 11 map keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, making sure that most commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace. Indeed, Plan 11 closely follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach perfect population equality.

As a land owner and former resident of Whitefish, I think it makes a lot of sense to separate the Whitefish area from the rest of Flathead county. The two areas have very different political and social environments, and the greater Flathead area is more aligned with the eastern part of the State, politically and socially, than with the western area of Montana. Plan 10 would totally dilute the fast growing area of Whitefish's voice in the Montana political scene. On a larger scale, areas that heavily rely on ski tourism to support the local economy are kept in one district under Plan 11, forcing a Congressperson to pay attention to the needs of areas that use the winter outdoor recreation to drive economic growth.

I especially object to Plan 10's proposed division of the greater Gallatin and Park county areas in to two districts, As has always been the case when Montana had two congressional districts, the deep economic connection and other common interests 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. Plan 10's proposal to divide this area is an blatant attempt to neuter this area's rapidly changing and growing population to the advantage of the

Republican party.

Unlike the Plan 10 proposal, the Plan 11 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.

Many Native American voters are empowered under Plan 11, 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, such as those created by Plan 10, don't elevate NativeAmerican or other minority voices and ensure accountability in the same way.

Plan 10 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. Plan 11 creates a competitive district. Competitive districts are not a bad thing - competitive districts result in the need for those running for Congress to appeal to the center, and to govern for all of the district residents - not just appealing to the Republican base and ignoring the legitimate interests of other residents.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments. This decision is so important to the future of Montana. Please choose Plan 11 for a better, more balanced Montana.

D. Henry Elsen 901 Stuart St. Helena, Montana 59601 laroseelsen@bresnan.net From:

To:

[EXTERNAL] CP #11 Subject:

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:39:05 PM Date:

After reviewing the data,, and listening to the commission meetings, I urge you to support CP #11. It is the only map that doesn't unduly favor one political party.

Teresa Enger