

Public Comments: S - T

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5 p.m. on October 20 and 5 p.m. on October
27, 2021

Distributed electronically October 27, 2021

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kay Sanders
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 3:23:48 AM

From: Kay Sanders ksandy@fastmail.com
Residence: Kalispell Montana

Message:

Kalispell, Columbia Fall and Bigfork in the eastern district? It's such obvious gerrymandering.

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

From: [Jerelyn Sandtner](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:19:57 AM

Chair Smith and Commissioners,

The two new and recently 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.

Jerelyn Sandtner, 2170 Coon Springs RD, Kila, (406)-257-5135, jwsandtner@gmail.com

From: [Thomas Sather](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pro map #11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:52:03 PM

From what I can gather, this map 11 respects the cohesiveness of like communities and their ability to express their needs and values most fairly.

Tom Sather
POB 207
Hamilton MT 59840

From: [Satre, Kay](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comment on maps
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:56:50 PM

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I urge you to support the choice of Proposal #11 as we redraw our Congressional Districts for this coming decade. Proposal #11 offers a greater likelihood that the two Montana Representatives elected to Congress will represent multiple views and voices. It offers a greater likelihood that those running for these offices will have to listen to and speak with people from both major political parties. I believe this will encourage more voting across our state, by reinforcing our belief in the efficacy of voting AND by supporting the party system that has always been a foundation of our democracy. More than ever, we need to make sure that voting is encouraged among ALL citizens. I believe that Proposal #11 meets these concerns much more effectively than Proposal #10.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment throughout this process. This is HARD work that the Commission has undertaken for all of us Montana voters. The decision that you all make will be crucial, especially in these times of social and political polarization.

Sincerely,
Kay Satre
Helena, Montana

October 14, 2021

Chairman and Members Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I am a lifetime resident of Montana whose Great Grandparents settled in the Flathead Valley in 1891. I have voted in every election over the last 55 years, except one or two missed while I was serving overseas in the US Navy. I consider myself an independent voter, and have split my vote, rarely voting along party lines. The idea that you can analyze a bunch of data and predict how a bunch of independent voters such as myself will vote based on past elections is crazy. So this notion of considering "competiveness" as a criteria for drafting either Congressional or Legislative districts is nothing but partisan political nonsense and should be rejected.

I would also like reject the apparent notion of the Democrat appointees that they operate above the law, and answer to no one, including the legislature and people whom they serve and are accountable to. There should be no question that the Commission needs to act in accordance with Montana law unless and until such law is deemed unconstitutional.

Following are my comments on the nine proposals recently put forth by the Commission:

All maps submitted by Commissioners Lamson and Miller (CP 2, CP 4, CP 6, CP 8, and CP 9) should be rejected outright as clearly not meeting the mandatory criteria of compactness. While CP 9 seems to meet the criteria for the Western District, it is far from meeting it for the Eastern District.

Of the maps submitted by Commissioners Essmann and Stusek, CP 1 seems to me closest to the ideal map, best meeting all mandatory criteria. My only suggestion would be that all of Gallatin County should be placed in the Eastern District. As the fastest growing area in the state, placing it in the more sparsely populated Eastern District could avoid more drastic boundary adjustments in the future. Perhaps Liberty County and more of the western part of Cascade County could be included in the Western District, or the requirement of population deviation could be adjusted slightly with the expectation that the growth in Gallatin County would cause the Eastern District to catch up in population in a relatively short time. The second best map is CP 7, following more accurately the traditional view of Western and Eastern Montana. The other two maps, CP 3 and CP 5 are less preferable, but still vastly superior to all the maps submitted by Lamson and Miller.

Sincerely,



Gary Saurey
PO Box 2763
5200 Blankenship Rd
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

406-314-8382

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robyn Schanzenbach
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:53:57 PM

From: Robyn Schanzenbach rschanzenbach@gmail.com
Residence: missoula

Message:
i am fully in support of map 11

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jill E. Schaunaman
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:52:01 PM

From: Jill E. Schaunaman jillschaunaman@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman MT

Message:

Please approve the congressional districts as shown on map CP#11.
This is the map that meets the goal of being competitive.

Jill E Schaunaman

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

From: [Kaycee Schilke](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional District Proposals
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:08:35 PM

I believe Proposal 11 is the most balanced and equitable proposal. The other splits counties and doesn't seem balanced.

Karen J (Kaycee) Schilke
Misdoulay

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Darlene Schmid
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:23:15 AM

From: Darlene Schmid dar@bigsky.net
Residence: Missoula MT

Message:

While I would like to see more than one of the Native American reservations in each district, I believe even more that both Missoula and Gallatin counties (in their entirety) should be in the same district. As the main MT University communities they have very similar challenges that will need to be represented consistently. So I am in most agreement with the so called Democratic proposal map 11.

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

From: [DIANNA SCHMID](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Map 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:47:06 AM

Fellow Montanans,

Please register my support for Map #11 of the two remaining choices.

Thank you for your best efforts at ensuring fair representation of all Montanans.

Sincerely,

Dianna Schmid
223 Mansion Heights Drive
Missoula, Montana 59803

From: [Hal Schmid](#)
To: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Cc: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for CP 11 - Schmid
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:59:51 PM

October 27, 2021

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

Presiding Officer Smith and Commissioners Essman, Lamson, Stusek, and Miller:

I would like to voice my support for map CP 11.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and to briefly explain my position.

When I first viewed the final two map proposals, I was honestly a bit disappointed. There are certainly issues within each map proposed. Initially, my response was that Map 11 more closely aligned with my previous first choice, Map CP 4; however, it critically did not join the two Indian reservation communities. (I am including my October 16 email at the end of this email.)

I subsequently studied both Map 10 and Map 11, thought deeply about each of them, discussed them with others, and listened to and read other folks' comments. My biggest issue with Map 11 is still the separation of the Blackfeet and Flathead Indian Reservations, which was a major reason for my previous support for map CP 4. My biggest issue with Map 10 is the division and separation of communities in Gallatin County, which I previously opposed as well. Map CP 11 now keeps Gallatin County whole and also connects it with Park County. This is a plus for me.

This week, I read a response from Western Native Voice that the organization supports Map 11. That was certainly the strongest voice I needed to hear. But I also read statements from folks in Gallatin and Park Counties that supported their counties/communities remaining intact in Map 11 but not with Map 10. I have to agree with them as well. Gallatin and Park Counties should remain linked and intact.

Gallatin and Park Counties/communities, in many ways operate and function as one common community better than the various communities within the single Flathead County do, in my experience. I am involved with two organizations in Livingston and live in close proximity to Kalispell and Bigfork. As a native of Missoula and a nearly 40-year resident of Lake County, I

appreciate what and where Park and Gallatin Counties are growing. Given the choice, I would therefore suggest/recommend splitting Flathead County rather than split Gallatin and Park Counties AND split the various communities within Gallatin County.

I also see the strong role that linking Big Sky with Whitefish holds, as these are the two major resort towns in Montana. Livingston is also an old railroad town, as Whitefish was when I was growing up and as it in many ways remains today. The old Northern Pacific RR southern route is again being revitalized across Montana. My grandfather was a physician and chief surgeon at the NP hospital in Missoula. Livingston, Whitefish, and Missoula share this strong bond and future as well.

I therefore urge acceptance of map CP 11.

Again, thank you for the commission's diligence and cooperative work to follow Montana's constitution and federal law. I feel I have gotten to know each of you a little bit over the past couple years as I watched your meetings. You are an impressive group of Montanans. Thank you for your effort and your hard work. And thank you for the mud you've had slung your way yet not deviated from your path in leading Montana forward. In addition, I cannot praise your staff and your tech support enough. They have remained professional and unobtrusive while doing an excellent job in support of this mission.

Lemlmts. Thank you for the several opportunities to participate and be heard.

Please choose map CP 11.

Hal Schmid, Ed.D.

Arlee, MT 59806

hschmid@montana.com

Mailing address: PO Box 3603, Missoula, MT 59806

October 16, 2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

PO Box 201706

Helena, MT 59620-1706

Commissioners and Commission Presiding Officer:

To begin with, I admit that I find none of the forwarded nine maps completely satisfactory. No surprise. This is not an easy chore. I completely respect the efforts and discussions carried on by the five commissioners and as well as meeting management by Sheila Stearns and Maylinn Smith over the past several years. Thank you for your work on behalf of Montanans present, past, and future. And thank you for making the meetings available over the internet as well.

The map submitted by Western Native Voice comes close to addressing my concerns. I believe this is represented as the proposed Map 4. But it is still problematic, with the division of Flathead County—even though the division of one or more counties will certainly be required. However, counties are arbitrary political designations. The Rocky Mountain front is a very real boundary—impacting human communities environmentally, socially, economically, and thus politically as well.

Therefore, a map created in the past week or so by Blake Ciliwick comes a bit closer for me. Like Map 4, Ciliwick's map focuses, I believe, on the issues/concerns/criteria most pertinent to me while still addressing the required criteria that have been imposed—population balance, contiguous districts, and competitiveness. While the first two of these criteria are rather matter of fact, the last criterion becomes rather subjective and argumentative.

Still, the purpose of congressional districts is representation in Washington, DC. So my greatest concern is for honoring the representation of community voices in the districting process. In brief, I believe that the Blackfeet Reservation and the Flathead Reservation both need to be joined in the western district, and I believe that communities experiencing similar rapid growth and housing issues in the Rocky Mountains should have the ear of a single congressional representative—whether that be a republican, a democrat, a libertarian, a green party individual, or an independent such as myself.

In the case of the drawing of congressional districts, it is the competitiveness in the context of the issues that matters to me. Voices and long-term concerns need to be represented in this process. And those issues in the more controversial drawing of the current western district boundary are:

1. Available and affordable housing, which is most central to Bozeman, Missoula, and Whitefish (and Kalispell, in turn);
and
2. Indigenous (Blackfeet and CSKT) concerns with human, wildlife, and natural resource management in the Northern Rockies ecosystem for which they have traditionally and inherently been tasked with stewarding.

On top of this, broader community-voice issues include Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, wildlife management, watershed management, forest management and wildfire concerns, and continued population growth. The next census will undoubtedly find the western portion of the state has continued to increase in population over the eastern portion.

As for my background, I was born to, and raised by, very politically engaged and active parents in Missoula County. But I began my shift to an independent and non-partisan stand early on—November 4, 1964 while still in grade school. I am proud that Montana does not require partisan affiliation/registration in order to vote in primaries. For me, the issues and the candidates matter, not party loyalty.

I began voting in the 1970s, and the last Montana congressional district map—1982 to 1990—still holds as my ideal map. The Eastern Front of the Northern Rocky Mountains forms a physical as well as social and economic and political division in the state. I liked that boundary that included Blackfeet and Park County under the purview of the Western District congress person. I clearly felt that congressmen from the 1960s to 1990s had a clear constituency in Eastern Montana and Western Montana, with their constituents sharing very clear and common concerns—whether their viewpoints were conservative or liberal. Thus, the issues could be fairly debated and addressed. In Montana, that made these seats competitive to me.

Clearly, with continued growth in Western Montana, the 1990 map is no longer suitable. We've watched the district line move increasingly to the west from 1960, and it will likely continue to do so as the Western Montana grows in population in the future.

I sincerely hope that the commission finds a way to include the Blackfeet nation and the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes together, a way to link Bozeman and Missoula and Whitefish, and a way to ensure that common communities-of-interest are clearly represented in the new districting map—not divided so that their voices are diluted by being placed with others competing for the ear of a congress person.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate and be heard.

Hal Schmid, Ed.D.
Arlee, MT 59806
hschmid@montana.com

mailing address: PO Box 3603, Missoula, MT 59806

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Katherine Schmid
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:28:16 PM

From: Katherine Schmid kmsmtoh@gmail.com
Residence: East Glacier Park Village

Message:

Hello,

I've been a nurse at Indian Health Service and Browning for about fifteen years.

I'm quite concerned about the mapping of Montana districts in order to keep communities intact and in creating competitive districts.

I strongly support map 11. It will help our communities, counties, towns and reservations come together and heal. Districting is a big deal and I realize you have a big responsibility in making these decisions. In my mind your own goals point to the value of Map 11 over 10. If that is your criteria in choosing a map I do not see any other option.

I feel map 11 will only divide us further. I get quite frustrated at the division in our country. Map 11 will only make it worse.

Thanks for all the hard work you have put into this. I realize it is not any easy task.

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

From: [C Schmidt](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map districting.
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:37:32 PM

I wanted to write and contact you in support of map cp 11.

Thank you

Catherine schmidt

119 west 5th street

Red lodge mt 59068

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sue Schmidt](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylenn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:05:54 PM

So you've changed the maps yet again. The least objectionable of the two is map #11 since it does not divide a town or let one political party overrun either district. Please support #11 and make Montana elections fair for ALL.

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From: [Linda Schmitt](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pick Map 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:37:46 PM

Hello friends,

Greetings from the Bitterroot Valley. We settled here three years ago after 30 years of lengthy visits every year to Ravalli County. Back where we came from, we followed the stories of Jeannette Rankin, Mike Mansfield, Brian Schweitzer and Steve Bullock. In the US Capitol in Washington DC, we pointed with pride to the statue of Jeannette Rankin, one of the very few statues of women in the US Capitol. These leaders exhibited a care for even-handedness, respect for competing views and an awareness that all their decisions would have to be incorporated into the community. There may be grumbling or grumping in some quarters, but for the most part people put a lid on it.

Nowadays it's a much tougher scenario. We are afraid to put a Democrat bumper sticker on our vehicles. If I wear my "Montana Democrat" hat, people avert their eyes and some give me a middle finger. Not to mention the foul language vehicles display to show hate for our current President. The moderate Republicans we know don't know what to do. They can't believe their party has tipped over to acrimony and bullying. The leadership is unable or unwilling to corral the crazies. Tell me this is Montana, or some level of Dante's hell.

Are you going to make it worse or better? Don't kid yourselves: your decision will make a difference. Pick Map 11. At least inject some sanity in this troubled state.

Linda Schmitt
456 Weber Heights Rd
Corvallis, MT 59828
Linda D Schmitt

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Gail Schontzler
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 12:04:01 PM

From: Gail Schontzler gschontzler17@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

Please reject Map 10, which cuts Gallatin County in two, using unnecessary gerrymandering to benefit the Republican Party. Please adopt Map 11, which keeps Gallatin County together, and brings in Park County, where the tourism-based economy shares more interests with Western MT, and puts in the Eastern district Flathead County, which is more in sync with Billings. Thank you for rejecting earlier maps that would have cut Bozeman apart!

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

From: boxcanyon15@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jeff Schultz](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Keep Montana's districts balanced
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:41:06 AM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello. I respectfully ask that you vote for district map CP11. I believe this map gives Montana its best opportunity for balanced elections moving forward.

Thank your for your time.

Jeff Schultz,
Belgrade, MT

Sincerely,
Jeff Schultz
211 N Davis St Belgrade, MT 59714-3820
boxcanyon15@aol.com

From: [Nancy Schultz](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting maps
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:16:45 AM

I support keeping Gallatin County intact in the redistricting.
Nancy Schultz

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Leo Schuman
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:16:37 AM

From: Leo Schuman lschuman1@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Hi. I'm a native Montanan, who lives in Helena. Please keep our history intact. Please do not divide Helena away from our nearby neighbor, Butte. Particularly for the partisan political rationale driving the lines in Map 10 down the middle of a major county, and between two longstanding neighbor towns.

I support Map 11, because it keeps Helena and Butte intact as historic neighbors, and does not internally fracture Gallatin County. Map 11 minimizes internally fracturing a major county, and keeps intact the historic relationship between Helena and Butte.

Map 10 favors the Republican party by dividing Helena off from our cultural and historic "just down the road" neighbor, Butte. Map 10 also fractures Gallatin County, setting neighbors against each other. Please follow the rules. Please don't set neighbors against each other.

Thank you for your efforts, trying to come up with the best result for ALL Montanans!

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Christopher Scranton
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 8:43:31 AM

From: Christopher Scranton pcscranton@msn.com
Residence: Stevensville, Montana

Message:

The GOP has a stranglehold on politics in Montana. Now that we will have two districts I believe it is in the best interest of our state and democracy to make the districts competitive. I support the proposed district map that includes Bozeman and Missoula in the same map. The republicans would still have an edge in this district but there would at least be a chance for the other party candidate to win. Lack of competition breeds complacency. If a republican candidate is in a district where there is no competition and they are almost assured of a win no matter what they propose or stand for then they are less likely to listen to their constituents and consider opposing views. I feel that having at least one competitive district in Montana will create a more wholistic approach to government where every idea has a chance to be heard. Without viable competition elected officials often pay more attention to their donors instead of the people they are elected to represent.

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

From: [Eric Scranton](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A strong request for MAP CP#11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 2:37:38 PM

Members of the Montanan Districting and Apportionment Committee,

I am profoundly disappointed that other Map options that were by far preferable in meeting **your** stated criteria were not advanced.

Given the two options that have advanced it is clear that only one comes even close to meeting your own criteria.

MAP CP#11 is the only remaining map that does not unduly favor one political party.

In Montana, our leaders have never been allowed to pick their voters.

Let's not start now.

Thank you for your time,
Eric Scranton
Montana Voter

From: [PAM CHRIS](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed congressional districts
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:40:07 AM

After taking a close look at both maps I believe that the Democrat's proposal makes the most sense. We can either have a state that is ruled by one party or we can have a more competitive election process that is more democratic. I want my vote to have a voice. Thank you. Pam Scranton

From: [Lynea](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for map 11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:57:07 PM

This map divides the state population-wise fairly evenly and gives a more competitive district so there is a chance for a Democrat to be elected to Congress, the first since Pat Williams.

Lynea Seher

177 Mountain Lion Trail

Bozeman, MT 59718

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Bob Seibert
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:22:10 PM

From: Bob Seibert bsseibert@hotmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, Montana

Message:
Greetings,

I have lived in the Greater Yellowstone Area for over 30 years. I retired from the National Park Service and my last 14 years of my career were spent in Yellowstone National Park. I retired to Bozeman where I have resided for the last 16 years.

I support map 11 as a districting boundary that would best allow more competitive election contests.

I fail to see how map 10 supports the goal set forth by the election district committee. Splitting Gallatin County seems a contrived method of drawing district boundaries to stack the deck against one party.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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

From: nancyseldin@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Nancy Seldin](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Let's do what right for the citizens of Montana!
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 8:34:10 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

.Please adopt CP 11.

The two maps are similar in some ways but there are significant differences. For one thing map 11 does not split any towns, whereas CP10 splits two well populated towns in the Bozeman area. Map CP11 is closer to the 1980s map when we had 2 Congressional seats. Please go back to that.

Thank you.

Nancy Seldin

Sincerely,
Nancy Seldin
1970 Alvina Dr Missoula, MT 59802-3666
nancyseldin@yahoo.com

From: [Toni Semple](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 1:58:15 PM

Please opt for map number 11. It keeps communities with common interests intact.

Thank you,
Toni Semple

TS
Windfall
Livingston Montana

From: [Toni Semple](#)
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
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 12:27:23 PM

Dear People,

Please consider Map #11 for redistricting. It is the only one of the two that doesn't favor one party over another.

Thank you,
Toni Semple
Livingston, MT

TS
Windfall
Livingston Montana

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Stanley Senner
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:59:01 AM

From: Stanley Senner senner.family@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

The Missoulian recently reported that the Commission is essentially down to considering two maps, one each promoted by the Republican and Democratic members of the Commission. I was pleased to see that in both maps Missoula and Bozeman are kept in the same western district. Of the two maps, I generally favor the one offered by the Democrats, as it seems to provide the best opportunity for healthy competition between the two parties. This is key to me. Lewis & Clark and Broadwater counties should be in the western district, as should all of Gallatin County (the small Republican carveout in Gallatin Co. makes no sense). Where to put the Blackfeet Reservation is challenging. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Theresa E Seth
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 7:00:50 AM

From: Theresa E Seth tseth455@gmail.com
Residence: Gallatin Gateway MT

Message:

Thank you for considering my thoughts and thank you for serving on the commission.

I recommend map 8 because it gives voice to counties with a mix of rural and urban issues. The grouping of counties in map 8 deal with common issues and share more diverse values. Because of the diverse interests in these counties issues of concern need different solutions than areas where people more consistently hold the same values and economic concerns. The map also gives voice to the tribal nations. In a state like Montana with such a large land mass and an uneven distribution of people it would be difficult to create a “straight line” and give all communities of interest a voice.

Map 8 gives voice to our states diversity.

If map 8 is not selected then map 2 achieves similar goals but not quite as well.

I sincerely hope you will takes these concerns to heart.

Teri (Theresa) Seth

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

From: [David Severson](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:55:48 PM

Dear Commission members,

Thank you so much for your work on this project. I would like to comment that I SUPPORT map 11, as it seems to make the most sense to keep both major University towns in the same district.

Thanks again for your consideration.

Good luck in the final stages of your work.

Dave Severson
2417 42nd St.,
Missoula, MT 59803
406-251-9462

From: rachel.severson@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Rachel Severson](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please support Map #CP11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 5:20:56 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear commissioners,

I write to express my support for Map #CP11 as this option does not split any towns, it does not unduly favor one political party, and it only moves 1.5 counties from the historic congressional line. On the other hand, Map #CP10 splits Gallatin Gateway and Big Sky, favors one political party, and moves 4.5 counties from the historic congressional line.

Thank you for your careful and thoughtful deliberation on the congressional map.

Sincerely,
Rachel Severson
4870 Wornath Rd Missoula, MT 59804-9604
rachel.severson@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Micah Sewell
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:14:46 AM

From: Micah Sewell micah.g.sewell@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula

Message:

My name is Micah Sewell, and Im a resident of Missoula, MT.

I support map 11. It will create a competitive district where residents of Missoula (like myself), Bozeman, and Helena could have a representative who understands our values and the needs of our communities. Kalispell has a very different set of values that would be better suited in the states eastern district.

I do not support map number 10, as I feel it unduly favors the Republican Party and does not keep communities of interest intact to the degree that it should.

Thank you very much for your consideration and your good work.

--

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

From: [Janet Seymour](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District 11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 4:29:23 PM

Is right for Montana. It doesn't relocate Lewis and Clark county into the eastern part of the state which doesn't make any sense; it keeps Gallatin County in one piece.

Janet Seymour
3440 Ptarmigan Lane F1
Helena MT 59602
(406)465-3234

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Julie Shea
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 3:39:23 PM

From: Julie Shea jnshea@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Thank you for your time in considering my thoughts on this important decision for our state, and thank you for serving on the commission.

Upon review of the final MT redistricting map proposals, I support Map 8. It gives voice to counties with a mix of rural and urban issues. The counties grouped together under Map 8 deal with common issues and share more diverse values. Because of the diverse interests in these counties, issues of concern need different solutions than areas where people more consistently hold the same values and economic concerns. The map also gives a stronger voice to the tribal nations within our state. And this is an important feature of this proposal.

Montana is such a large vast state, with an uneven distribution of people. It would be difficult to create a "straight line" and give all communities of interest a voice. Map 8 lends better credence to our state's diversity of thought and cultures.

If map 8 is not selected, then I would support Map 2, which appears to achieve similar goals but not as well.

I sincerely hope you will consider my comments.
Thank you all, again.

Julie Shea
2113 Charlott Avenue
Missoula, MT

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: paul shefelbine
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 3:13:54 PM

From: paul shefelbine campmont12@yahoo.com
Residence: butte

Message:
Hello:

I am disappointed in the final maps chosen for consideration. However, we do have to make a choice..soon. I feel cp11 is the best choice as it is going to allow competitive elections. Cp 10 is clearly favorable to one party and would result in non-competitive elections for a long, long time. Look...Montana needs equal representation to remain the state it is. Just look at what has happened recently under our past and current leadership to get a taste of what the future holds for Montana and the United States. Do we really want the United States of Trump??????? Do we want the state of Montana to be the state of Giaforte as it currently is??? We have term limits for a reason and need election results to truly reflect the will of the people. To avoid this type of partisanship we need competitiveness in both districts so that Montana can be truly represented. Not all Montanans are republicans and not all are democrats. We have a mixture so lets have a good chance during elections of having the results be mixtures over time. Therefore, cp 11 is the best choice left albeit not the best from the original choices. Neither party should be favored by redrawing the districts unfairly.

Cp11 keeps areas together the best and actually makes Montana look equal in regard to how voters have historically voted. For example, Gallatin valley normally votes republican while the city of Bozeman votes democratic. See how this allows competitiveness?????? Pretty clear.

Sincerely,

paul

--

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

From: [Colin Sherrill](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:38:34 AM

I am writing to voice strong support for Congressional Proposal 11. It most accurately recreates what was the historical districting and creates the most balanced division. Thank you.

Colin Sherrill, MD

From: [Ronald Shorter](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:04:12 AM

I support map #11.

Ron Shorter
120 S 8th St, Livingston, MT 59047

From: donnashull@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Donna Shull](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]I support MAP #CP11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 9:43:03 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Hello.

My name is Donna Shull and I thank you for listening to my opinion about Montana Redistricting.

I am writing in full support of MAP #CP11.

MAP #CP11 seems like it is a better plan to keep the population of MT equal.

Lewis & Clark County is more in the Western part of the state and has always been viewed as in the western part of the state.

Splitting Gallatin County does not make any sense. We want to keep people together that identify with each other, not split them.

The best thing is to keep towns and counties together.

Approving MAP #CP11 only moves one and a half counties from the historic congressional lines, which seems more appropriate.

Thank you for considering my opinion and supporting the passage of MAP #CP11.

Donna

Sincerely,
Donna Shull
1311 E Broadway St Helena, MT 59601-5230
donnashull@hotmail.com

From: [Sherry Sides](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal 11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 2:34:01 PM

I support proposal 11 for the redistricting in montana.

Jack sides
66 bridle bit loop
Clancy mt 59634

From: [Jack Sides](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal 11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 2:30:35 PM

I believe Proposal 11 is the best option for Montana.

Sherry Sides
66 Bridle Bit Loop
Clancy MT 59634

From: [B & B Sims](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Map Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:36:58 AM

My wife and I believe that having a balance in our representative democracy is essential. Meaningful discourse and compromise is necessary to ensure policies driven by greed or power are exposed and replaced by pragmatic policies that serve the citizens of this great country. Our current Representative appears to favor authoritarian rule with little regard or understanding of the consequences. Climate change, Covid response, coordination with our foreign Allies who share Democratic values, are examples of interrelated complex needs currently being faced. There will be a guaranteed Republican Representative. We feel a balanced Montana Congressional Map would be beneficial to the State and the Nation. We strongly support the Democratic redistricting map.

/s/ Bruce and Barbara Sims
19380 Conifer Dr.
Huson, MT 59846

From: [michael alexander sirr](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Map Comment Submission
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:25:24 AM

To Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Gallatin County has never been divided before. We live one hundred yards from our neighbor. One of the new maps would put us in different Congressional Districts! Please don't do this!!! Michael Alexander Sirr M.D.

As listed on your own website:

Goals for Congressional Districts:

"The commission shall attempt to minimize dividing cities, towns, counties and federal reservations between two districts when possible."

From: [Trudy Skari](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districts Maps
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 6:02:13 PM

Thank You for the time and thought that has gone into the process of creating two Congressional districts in Montana that look to be somewhat competitive.

Please support the selection of map 11.

In looking at the map it seems to be balanced and representative of the diversity and needs of Montana.

Personally my roots are in North-central Montana. Our county was historically one that often flipped from East to West districts. I still own a farm in the eastern district, but find my self living in the west.

Even as we become two Montanas, we need to insure the election of the best candidates to represent the needs of the population of the state.

We owe it to our diverse population to reach a consensus that is workable for Tribes, Rural Communities, and those who live in our cities.

That only happens when we keep an open perspective on what will move us forward, in a way that respects our public lands, waterways ,

Infrastructure needs, and Healthcare access.

Map 11 successfully approach and supports the needs of the differences between the needs Western and Eastern Montana.

Thank You
Trudy Skari

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Constance Sladek
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 5:50:34 PM

From: Constance Sladek vayacondios5@cyberport.net
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

Dear Commissioners,

We must adhere to the Montana statutes and constitutional requirements and not go with our own personal whims. It is necessary for our Republic to survive. Those in office take an oath to uphold the Constitution.

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.

Respectfully,

Constance Sladek
555 Dawson Trail
Kalispell, MT 59901

406-257-4021
vayacondios5@cyberport.net

--

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

From: [Connie](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Redistricting Map
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 5:33:48 PM

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

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.

Respectfully,

Constance Sladek
555 Dawson Trail
Kalispell, MT 59901

406-257-4021
vayacondios5@cyberport.net

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Mike Slater
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:18:35 PM

From: Mike Slater mcslater59@gmail.com
Residence: Hamilton, MT

Message:

Congratulations to the Commissioners and thanks to the Mediator for getting so close to one map by consensus. However, it is no coincidence that the front page of the October 22nd Missoulian included both the redistricting story and yet another story about the GOP raising unfounded concerns about the outcome of the previous election. Based on a simple principle, the party that doesn't trust our existing election system shouldn't be allowed to decide what our system should be going forward. I appeal to our Mediator to weigh in on the side of the party that does still believe in democracy.

Regardless of where the line is drawn, the real issue for the next election is to overcome the lies and distractions promoted by a New York real estate con artist that have led many of the once rational voters in our state down the wrong path.

Let us hope that the next election is focused on what is right for Montana and not on a false narrative of a stolen national election.

Thank you for your consideration.

PS Also, in the interest of public safety, please ask people to stop flying giant flags from the back of their pickup trucks.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Marcia Slosson
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 3:50:26 PM

From: Marcia Slosson effjunior.marcia@gmail.com
Residence: Anaconda MT

Message:

I am in favor of a Western congressional district that includes Helena. It's healthy to have 2 competing ideologies, instead of one party dominating the entire state.

--

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

From: [BRIAN E SMITH](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map CP-10
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:04:35 PM

Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I'm writing to support a decision for map CP-10

Brian E. Smith

From: [BRIAN E SMITH](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map CP-10 (revised)
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:25:07 PM

Members of the Redistricting Commission:

I'm resubmitting my response due to my error in sending an earlier response moments ago before completing my thoughts.

Very simply, I support map CP-10 because I believe there needs to be a balance of the fastest growing areas of the State of Montana between the two districts. Therefore, retaining Gallatin County in the eastern district helps to achieve that balance. Map CP-11 retains the large majority of rapidly growing areas in the western district creating disparity between the proposed districts. This last year alone, there has been significant growth in the Flathead, Missoula and Gallatin County which has not been quantified in the last census. I believe it is important that future growth in the population of our state be a part of each district in Montana's representation in Washington DC.

Thank you,

Brian E. Smith
Cascade County
(406) 770-0749

From: [Bruce Smith](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MT voting districts
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 9:28:30 AM

I support alternative CP#11 of the two voting districts under consideration. It's the one that's within the competitive range.

Bruce Smith

305 Old Forest Creek Trail

Bozeman, MT 59718

From: [Standupformontana](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Map #11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:20:18 PM

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your service. The task to which you have been assigned is not an easy one. I appreciate your time and willingness to serve. As an election judge of more than thirty years I see that there is a fundamental principle at stake: the dividing line should be drawn so that voters can choose their representatives, not so that politicians can choose their voters.

The two stated goals of political parity and political competitiveness are especially important to me. To maintain political fairness, those elected should mirror the political makeup of the voters statewide to ensure that each political party will have representation in proportion to the party's overall share of voters. Creating districts that are politically competitive rather than safe for either party means voters will be more engaged. Representatives elected from competitive districts are more likely to be responsive to all their constituents' concerns. Competitive districts also encourage voter participation in elections.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to choose Map #11. This plan closely follows the historical precedent of the 1980s Congressional districts, moving only two counties to reach perfect population equality. Native voters are empowered under this plan, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, meaning that every candidate has to rely on Native votes to win the district. Non-competitive districts don't elevate voices and ensure accountability in the same way.

Please consider all citizens of our state when you're making your decision. Disenfranchising any voter because of their political leaning is just plain wrong.

Thank you.

Hope Smith 517 N Hauser, Red Lodge, MT 59068

From: [Marty Smith](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:32:02 PM

To whom it may concern:

Map 10 does not meet the 2 primary criteria for redistricting while map 11 does!

Map 10 guarantees single party rule while map 11 allows the possibility of competition.

Thank you for your consideration.

Martha V. Smith
11575 Chumrau Loop
Missoula, MT 59802

From: [Yvonne Snider](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:30:42 AM

I have just seen a map of the two proposed new electoral districts. I strongly urge you to choose Map 11 which keeps Bozeman and Livingston in the same district and more closely follows the historical map originally used.

Yvonne B. Snider
Belgrade. Mt.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elaine Snyder
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:09:54 AM

From: Elaine Snyder elaine-buckskin@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

I feel Map 11 BEST divides Montana into two competitive districts. It does follow the 1980's Congressional districts and keeps major western district cities and their surrounding communities in tact. I like at least Whitefish being still in the western district. I am from Flathead County.

Furthermore, I find Map 10 really does gerrymander especially with Pondera County. It is definitely not competitive or fair at all.

We as Montanans have diverse historic heritage, economic and community interest that need to be recognized and represented. PLEASE VOTE FOR MAP 11.

Thank you for listening and having this comment page. Elaine Snyder

--

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

From: [Kelvin Snyder](#)
To: dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#); jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] May #11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:00:33 AM

Commissioners,

Of the remaining options, I support Map #11.

Thank you,
Kelvin Snyder
223 Mansion Heights Drive
Missoula, MT 59803

--

Kel Snyder: Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Elizabeth sobba
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:10:50 AM

From: Elizabeth sobba Bethsobbapt@gmail.com
Residence: WHITEFISH montana

Message:

I do not support the splitting of flathead County for the redistricting map putting half of the county in eastern Montana. We are not contiguous or part of eastern mt. We are clearly western montana.

--

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

From: [linda sommerville](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REDISTRICTING
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:08:20 PM

Dear Commissioners

I (& my extended family) urge you to vote in FAVOR of map 10 & NOT 11.

thankyou, Linda Sommerville

From: [I. Edward Sondeno](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MT Congressional Districts
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:01:30 AM

Dear Committee:

The endless maps for MT's redistricting all seem tainted by gerrymandering by county by all parties. Rather than engage in more divisiveness, MT should simply elect two, State-wide, at-large rep's to Congress - the two top vote-getters, representing the entire State's population in both cases.

Thanks for your efforts in this unenviable process.

Respectfully,
I. Edward Sondeno
Bozeman

From: [Jim Soumas](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:30:43 PM

Though there does not appear to be much difference between the maps, I support and would vote for proposal 10.

Thank you for this opportunity.

James D. Soumas, Sr.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Cady E Sowre
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:26:41 PM

From: Cady E Sowre csowre@gmail.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I support Map 11; I don't believe Gallatin should be split up, and the peopling MT deserve competitive elections.

--

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

From: [Kris Spanjian](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Creating Congressional district
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 3:17:31 PM

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I urge you to accept map CP #11. It is fair, equal and doesn't automatically favor one party over the other.

Thank you,

Dr. Kris Spanjian
Billings

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Robert Speare
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:21:31 AM

From: Robert Speare spearer@outlook.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

I feel the proposed Congressional map 11 would be the fairest map for redistricting In Montana.

--

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

10/23/21
TO: Districting and Apportionment Commission

I am in favor of the map submitted by the Democratic members of the above mentioned Commission

Submitted by: Nicholas J. Spencer
281 N. Gold Creek Loop,
Hamilton, MO 64640

Nicholas J. Spencer

From: [Dawne Spilman Smith](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My Vote for Map
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 12:02:44 PM

Sirs/Madams:

I am a registered voter in Madison County and have lived in Montana for 56 years. I have voted in every primary and General Election since I turned 18.

Please support Map Proposal 11. It better represents Montana's citizens and is closer to being fair to all voters.

Thank you.

Dawne Spilman Smith
P. O. Box 66
123 Paradise Ln
Sheridan, MT 59749

From: susie@montana.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] new congressional districts
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:05:08 PM

I support redistricting based on map #1- I think it is fair and will represent the views of the Western Montana burgeoning diversity.

Thank you
Susie Spindler

From: [Beckie Squires](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:39:59 PM

I'm writing in favor of Proposal 11 and in opposition to Proposal 10 in order to ensure that ALL Montanans have a voice not just those of one party. Thank you.

Rebecca Squires
406-439-7309
1721 Karmen Rd
59602

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: [Kyle Stadel](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 7:52:45 PM

I think that congressional proposal 10 should be the map that is used for the new congressional districts. It makes the most sense between the two. Thank you

Kyle Stadel

From: lbcurlw@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jennifer Stadum](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map CP11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 4:42:12 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Choose Map CP11. I live in Lewis and Clark County and feel that Map CP 11 will guarantee more representation equally for Lewis and Clark and the rest of Montana. I also think it is important not to split any towns. Choose CP 11.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Stadum
1718 Walnut St Helena, MT 59601-1156
lbcurlw@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Judy Staigmiller
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:10:16 AM

From: Judy Staigmiller judyannst@gmail.com
Residence: BOZEMAN, MT

Message:

To those of you who are trying to draw a map that empowers conservative voters, I would ask that you remember that the political pendulum always swings back and forth. If you want both sides to play fair 10, 20, 30, 40 years down the road, both sides must play fair now.

--

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

From: kstanford@cybernet1.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please choose Map #CP11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:39:52 PM

Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself. I am a retired teacher, an eleven (11) year member of the Ravalli County Planning Board, past chair of the Ravalli County 4-H Council, 4-H Leader, and Montana's elected representative to the National Education Association Board of Directors.

Please support Map #CP11. Your final decision is extremely important to the state for the next ten (10) years. Map #CP11 does NOT split any towns like Map #CP10 does which splits Gallatin Gateway and Big Sky. Helena is included in the Western District in Map #CP11 which is positive. Map #CP11 also only splits one (1) county. It makes one of the two districts somewhat competitive while Map #CP10 definitely favors one political party. Please choose Map #CP11.

Thank you for the time that you have spent to make sure that ALL Montanans will be represented fairly.

Respectfully,
Karin Stanford

From: wstanford@cybernet1.com
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Select Map #CP11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:58:54 PM

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a 73 year old Montana native born and raised in the Bitterroot Valley. I am a retired educator, volunteer fireman, hunter education instructor, school board trustee, and past member of the Montana House of Representatives.

Please support Map #CP11 for redistricting. There are several reasons that this should be the redistricting map. First, it keeps Gallatin County whole and does NOT split any towns. Secondly, it does NOT favor any political party. Thirdly, it only moves one and a half counties from the historic 1980's Congressional Districts. Please support Map #CP11.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration.

Respectfully,
Wayne Stanford

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Richard Steffel
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:24:09 PM

From: Richard Steffel rgsteffel@charter.net
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Please select the proposed Congressional Map No. 11 for Montana. Such a new district would provide at least one potentially competitive district in the western district, which map No. 10 would not. If No. 11 is not selected, there would be little or no real potential competition allowing the possible election of democrats, and we might as well abandon the idea of establishing a new district and just continue our at-large all-Montana election but for two congress people. I support fair and non-gerrymandered elections, and I strongly urge you to select Map 11 to establish the new congressional district.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Del
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:39:22 PM

From: Del del.steiner@gmail.com
Residence: 595 Revolution Ave.

Message:

I would recommend that plan 11 be set for congressional districts. Thanks to your committee's work.

--

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

From: [Patti Steinmuller](#)
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] Montana Redistricting Comments _ Maps 10 and 11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:01:39 AM

I support map 11 and oppose map 10. My rationale is below.

Map 10: I oppose Map 10 because it violates a portion of the mandatory criteria for Congressional districts regarding compactness. For example, Map 10 places Bozeman, Four Corners, and Belgrade in the western district and most of the remainder of Gallatin County into the eastern district. Map 10 also splits Gallatin Gateway and Big Sky between the two districts. These separations are counter to the mandatory consideration of functional compactness in terms of travel and transportation, communication, and geography. Any profile depicting actual travel, transportation, and communication within the geographical areas of Gallatin County would reveal a complex maze of daily interactions. Thus, map 10 does not achieve this mandatory criterion.

Similarly, although Gallatin County and Park County share travel, transportation, and communication interest, the core business sectors of Gallatin County would be in the western district while the core business sectors of Park County would be in the eastern district. Thus, commonalities of compactness are again not addressed by east/west district separation of this map.

Regarding the goal of keeping communities of interest intact, having lived in rural Gallatin Gateway and now in Bozeman for a combined 30-year period, shared interests and commonalities of travel, transportation, communication, and economies exist throughout the county. Population increases throughout the county are magnifying these common interests. As the second largest county in the state in terms of population, the entire Gallatin County deserves to be in a single Congressional district where its commonalities can be well represented.

Regarding the goals for Congressional districts, this map contains two districts that unduly favor one political party, and does not maintain communities of interest intact, and lacks consideration of competitiveness in at least one of the districts.

Map 10 separates Pondera County (western district) from the other agricultural counties in the Golden Triangle (eastern district). The long agricultural history of the Golden Triangle counties is especially important to preserve as these counties jointly face the challenges of increasing drought and hot temperatures on their capacity to maintain agricultural production and economic sustainability.

Map 11: I first reason I support map 11 is because it adheres to all the mandatory criteria and meets the additional goal of a district that does not unduly favor a political party. Thus, one of the two districts would be politically competitive.

Additionally, having lived in in Gallatin County for 30 years, 24 years in Gallatin Gateway and 6 years in Bozeman, I favor map 11 because it maintains Gallatin County intact. Even considering the diversity within Gallatin County, residents of the county share many common interests, including travel, transportation, and communication. Population increases throughout Gallatin County are magnifying these common interests. As the second largest county in the state in terms of population, the entire Gallatin County deserves to be in a single Congressional district where its commonalities can be well represented.

Map 11 keeps Gallatin and Park Counties in the same district which share travel, transportation, economic, and communication interests.

Map 11 places Missoula and Bozeman in one district respecting the shared interest of the state's

two large universities and the shared interests of the young professionals who reside in these counties. Shared interest of ski areas and winter economies are additional commonalities. Map 11 maintains Jefferson and Broadwater counties in the same district as Helena in Lewis and Clark County so that common interests of transportation and economic endeavors reside in the same district.

Map 11 keeps the agricultural counties of the Golden Triangle and the Hi-Line intact. The long agricultural history of the Golden Triangle counties is especially important to preserve as these counties jointly face the challenges of increasing drought and hot temperatures on their capacity to maintain agricultural production and economic sustainability. They deserve a united voice.

Although map 11 splits Flathead County into eastern and western districts, the community of Whitefish shares common interests with the other areas in the western interest whereas Kalispell is more aligned with interests in the eastern district.

Map 11 is competitive politically which is desirable for constituents and encourages constituents to critically consider candidates. Candidates in competitive districts benefit by exposure to a diversity of viewpoints and perspectives. Election is likely to depend on the ability of candidates in competitive districts to best serve the interests of the entire district.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. Viewing the digital maps has been very helpful.

Sincerely,

Patti

Patti Steinmuller

Pronouns: she, her, hers

952 Knolls Drive

Bozeman, MT 59715-7430

406-219-2315

From: [Robert Stentz](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:57:05 AM

Coupling Flathead County with Ekalaka is just plain nuts! This long time Montanan votes to vehemently resist such power grabs...

Robert Stentz

Ronan Mt.

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Peter G. Stevenson
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:16:06 AM

From: Peter G. Stevenson pstevenson246@msn.com
Residence: BILLINGS, Montana

Message:

I support Congressional Proposal 11, which includes all of Gallatin County and Lewis and Clark County in the western district.

Thank you.

--

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

From: [Sarah Stewart](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please choose CP #11, the only map that doesn't unduly favor one political party.
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 12:05:16 PM

Dear Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission Members,
We are writing to ask that you make the new districting map as fair as possible so that no one political party is favored. This is the Montana way- fair and just and democratic.

This means that we ask that you choose map CP#11.

This is the fairest map, politically.

Thank you so much for your attention to our comments.

Sincerely, The Stewart Family

Gardiner, MT 59030

From: [Chapin Storrar](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting Map 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:43:01 PM

Dear Redistricting Committee Members:

As a citizen of Montana I am writing today to advocate for the newly created Map Number 11 to be Montana's next congressional map.

Map 10 has several problems and should be thrown out. It cuts through populous counties and divides communities of interest. In addition Map 10 is not population equal, and unduly favors one party (republican). These issues are against the expressly stated criteria and goals the committee agreed on for the process of redistricting.

On the other hand, Map 11 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together. Candidates will have to campaign (like a democracy requires) and they will have to meet with and listen to their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't. Map 11 is the most competitive map. It should be selected as it meets the goals of the committee and is the most fair to everyone. When maps are highly polarized it can suppress voter turnout from both parties because they think their vote doesn't matter anyway because they live in a red or blue district and it won't matter if they vote. Competitive maps promote transparency and the fundamental principles of democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chapin Storrar
Helena, MT

From: [Keif Storrar](#)
To: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Write today! Script, talking points, and updated email addresses
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:47:59 AM

Dear Redistricting Committee Members:

As a citizen of Montana I would like to advocate for the newly created Map Number 11.

Map 10 is not population equal and should be thrown out. This map slices through populous counties and divides communities and should be thrown out. Map 10 should be deemed uncompetitive as it is disproportionately likely to elect the same party (republicans) and not fair to the communities or constituents of this state.

Map 11 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together. Candidates will have to campaign (like a democracy requires) and they will have get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

This committee agreed to the following criteria in selecting a map:

- equal populations in each district
- compliance with the voting rights act
- districts that were compact and contiguous

This committee also had the following goals about the map:

- it cannot favor one party unduly
- it must minimize dividing towns, counties, and federal reservations
- it keeps communities of interest together
- and it is competitive (i.e. elected officials have to actually have to campaign and aren't just a shoe in).

Maps10 is the most competitive map. It should be selected as it meets the goals of the committee and is the most fair to everyone. By selecting highly partisan maps this committee downplays the role of democracy by not believing in the fact that all votes matter. When maps are highly polarized it can suppress voter turnout from both parties because they think their vote doesn't matter anyway because they live in a red or blue district and it won't matter if they vote. Competitive maps promote transparency and the fundamental principles of democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keif Storrar
Helena, Montana resident

From: [Alisa Storrar](#)
To: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] redistricting comment
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:29:43 PM

Dear Redistricting Committee Members:

As a citizen of Montana I would like to advocate for the newly created Map Number 11.

Map 10 is not population equal and should be thrown out. This map slices through populous counties and divides communities and should be thrown out. Map 10 should be deemed uncompetitive as it is disproportionately likely to elect the same party (republicans) and not fair to the communities or constituents of this.

Map 11 is population equal, adheres to county lines, is compact and contiguous, and keeps communities of interest together. Candidates will have to campaign (like a democracy requires) and they will have to get to know their constituents and will be held accountable if they don't.

This committee agreed to the following criteria in selecting a map:

- equal populations in each district
- compliance with the voting rights act
- districts that were compact and contiguous

This committee also had the following goals about the map:

- it cannot favor one party unduly
- it must minimize dividing towns, counties, and federal reservations
- it keeps communities of interest together
- and it is competitive (i.e. elected officials have to actually have to campaign and aren't just a shoe in).

Map 10 is the most competitive map. It should be selected as it meets the goals of the committee and is the most fair to everyone. By selecting highly partisan maps this committee downplays the role of democracy by not believing in the fact that all votes matter. When maps are highly polarized it can suppress voter turnout from both parties because they think their vote doesn't matter anyway because they live in a red or blue district and it won't matter if they vote. Competitive maps promote transparency and the fundamental principles of democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alisa Storrar
Helena, Montana resident

From: [Margaret Strainer](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP 11 the only fair choice
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 2:06:58 PM

Please choose CP 11 as it is the only fair choice currently on the table! Thank you! I will be watching....

--

Margie Strainer
406-755-0887
212 E. Nicklaus Ave.
Kalispell, MT 59901

From: [Kathleen Straley](#)
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 map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:01:41 PM

Please support Congressional Proposal 11 for the new redistricting map for the state of MT. It is extremely important that you recognize the importance of providing a voice to the the many different stakeholders in this state. Proposal 11 most effectively provides an opportunity for all these voices to be heard. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Kathleen and Stephen Straley
63569 Foothill Rd
St Ignatius MT 59865

From: [g.stranman](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Map proposals
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:19:40 PM

I am sure the commission is seeking a fair balance for both parties in the map proposals. It disturbs me that the Republican Senator and the US State representative immediately start raising claims of partisan gerrymandering and foul play. I seriously doubt that the commission is trying to stack the deck in favor of one or the other. Since Montana is predominately Republican anyway, they are just examining all possible combinations to try and achieve as close to a 50/50 split as possible.

If you look deeper into what the Republican Party supports in both national and state elections, it is in favor of restrictive voting measures, tougher registration policies and redistricting measures that favor their outcomes. In Montana, that would put the tribal votes in danger, because they tend to favor the Democrats.

If recent events mean anything, then if Sen. Daines and Rep. Rosendale are beating the drums about voter fraud and gerrymandering, they are behind it in some form or another

Thank you, Gale Strandlund, Froid MT 59226

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jon Straughn
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 6:23:54 AM

From: Jon Straughn j.straughn@gmail.com
Residence: Helena, Montana

Message:

Neither party should be playing political games. In fact, there are other parties as well that don't have a seat at the table.

We got another seat because of population count. In my opinion, the lines should be drawn based on evenly dividing population. It's fair and indisputable. Anything else is political gamesmanship. I think I can speak for a lot of people when I say Montana citizens are tired of gamesmanship. Representatives represent the people. Or are supposed to anyway. Not political parties.

Thanks,
Jon

--

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

From: [Laura Strong](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional redistricting maps
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:53:34 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing again to urge you all to choose the new redistricting map #11. It has the fairest representation of the remaining two maps.
Thank you for hearing my comment.

Sincerely,
Laura Strong
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

From: sondras@bresnan.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] re-districting map
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:51:57 PM

I vote for proposal 11

Thank you – Sandra Subotnick

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Kirk Sullivan
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:29:44 AM

From: Kirk Sullivan kirksully1958@gmail.com

Residence: Eureka, Montana

Message:

I recommend Map 11 for redistricting of Montana Congressional Districts. This appears to be the most fair expression for residents in Montana. Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Susan Sullivan
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:40:02 PM

From: Susan Sullivan grace_truth@hotmail.com
Residence: Kalispell, MT

Message:

Please leave the maps as they were when we had two representatives before.

Please do not split Flathead County in any way.

Bozeman and Missoula should not be in the same district as they are too many miles apart geographically.

Thank you!

--

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

From: ccsun09@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Christine Sundly](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Support Map Proposal CP11
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 5:00:07 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Congressional District Commissioners,

My name is Christine Sundly and I have resided in Great Falls these past 29 years. My husband and I moved to Montana from Wisconsin when my husband was stationed at Malmstrom AFB. I was an educator for 24 years and just recently retired. My husband and I enjoy the outdoors and love to fish and hunt. I am asking this commission to support Map Proposal CP11 as the final Congressional map for Montana. Map CP11 is very similar to the previous Congressional line, does not split apart any cities or towns, only moves 1 ½ districts from the historic Congressional line, and does not favor any political party unlike Map Proposal CP10. I am asking you to make the best choice for this wonderful state we live in by supporting Map CP11 and rejecting Map CP10.

Respectfully,
Christine Sundly

Sincerely,
Christine Sundly
1431 Country Home Ln Great Falls, MT 59405-8243
ccsun09@outlook.com

From: [Pete Surdock](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed congressional districts
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:42:52 PM

As a voter in Montana for 57 years, I support proposal 11.

Sent from my iPad

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sharon Sutherland
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 3:33:21 PM

From: Sharon Sutherland sharisuth@charter.net
Residence: Belgrade

Message:

Sharon Sutherland, I have lived in Belgrade, MT for 37 years, and owned a home for 40.

I support Map 11, because it is the only one that meets the criteria I consider important. Map 11 would not split Gallatin Co., and thus unduly favor the Republican Party.

I don't support Map 10 because it splits up Gallatin Co., and unduly favors the Republican Party.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

--

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

From: [Betsy Swartz](#)
To: maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; joe.lamson@mtleg.gov; dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Cc: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Writing in SUPPORT of Map #11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:05:11 PM

Hello Redistricting Commission:

Many thanks for your work on this issue....it's of vital importance to our state.

My name is Betsy Swartz, and I am a 28 year resident of Bozeman. I testified at the hearing last week *against* splitting up Bozeman and/or Gallatin County. Here is why I'm supporting Map 11:

I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL/MAP #11:

- This plan keeps with historical precedent and has moved only two counties to reach perfect population equality (from the time when we previously had 2 districts).
- 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. This is important as this industry is seeing a lot of change and workforce issues.
- 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. At one time, I lived in Bozeman and worked in Livingston. It's vital to keep these communities together.
- This map keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Helena, making sure that most commuters are kept in the same district as their workplace.
- This map keeps the union towns of Helena and Butte together, as every redistricting plan in Montana has previously done.
- This map keeps all of the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line intact, where agriculture remains such a vital part of the local economy. Rural interests are an important part of Montana's diversity and heritage that should be kept together for a stronger voice in Congress.
- Native voters are empowered under this plan, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, meaning that every candidate has to rely on Native votes to win the district.

Non-competitive districts don't elevate voices and ensure accountability in the same way. This is CRITICAL, and why I supported maps #4 and #8 in round one of the hearings. It's imperative that our Native citizens have a voice in the US House.

Here is why I DO NOT SUPPORT MAP #10:

- This plan breaks with the Historical precedent in Montana by separating the towns of Helena and Butte, diluting union strength and breaking apart a community of interest that's existed for over a century.
- This plan creates two Republican districts, which unduly favors one party, thus is against the redistricting guidelines. With two congressional districts now instead of one, a fair map includes one competitive district that either party can win.
- This plan dilutes the power of Montana farmers and ranchers by breaking up the Golden Triangle and critical grain and cattle producing regions in Montana. This is cracking the farm and ranch vote pure and simple.
- This plan separates commuters that live in Jefferson county from the place where so many of them work in Helena. This is clearly breaking apart a community of interest.
- This plan splits the towns of Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway even though there is no clear reason to do so since Gallatin county could have been split in such a way to keep them together. This is a partisan cut of Gallatin County designed to crack apart Democratic votes and splitting two small towns for no reason violates your criteria on minimizing the unnecessary division of towns. As I testified during the previous hearing, I am a 28 year resident of Bozeman. It would be disasterous to split Bozeman and/or parts of Gallatin County.
- This plan separates Park and Gallatin County from one another, cutting apart an area with vital economic connections and shared interests. These two communities work so closely together and should be in the same district.

Plan 11 better acknowledges this community of interest. I support Proposal #11.

Sincerely,

Betsy Swartz

310 Comfort Lane

Bozeman, MT 59718

406-580-4510

From: marshall.swearingen@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Marshall Swearingen](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Support CP11
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:26:43 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Livingston who works in Bozeman, I urge you to support the CP11 districting map. Many, if not most, people in Livingston work in Bozeman and have family there, and our political concerns are very much tied. Splitting Livingston from Bozeman in the districting does not make sense. Moreover, CP11 is very close to the 1980s districting, keep the splitting of counties and towns to a minimum, and makes for a competitive western district. Please support CP11.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

Marshall Swearingen

409 1/2 S 13th St Livingston, MT 59047-3324

marshall.swearingen@gmail.com

From: [Will Swearingen](#)
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 Proposed Congressional District Maps, CP 10 and 11
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:20:46 PM

Honorable Commissioners,

I'm writing to encourage you to adopt CP 11. I believe that his map is the best choice for the following reasons:

- CP 11 creates a competitive district in the West, with a solidly Republican district in the East. *By contrast*, CP10 creates two solidly Republican districts, violating the principle of not unduly favoring one political party.
- CP 11 keeps Gallatin County intact. In addition, it keeps Gallatin and Park counties in the same district, respecting their deep economic and cultural ties (as previous Congressional maps have always done). *By contrast*, CP 10 splits Gallatin County into two districts, and severs Bozeman from Livingston.
- CP 11 keeps the union strongholds of Butte and Helena in the same district, as all previous Congressional maps have done. *By contrast*, CP 10 divides this community of interest, diluting union strength.
- CP 11 keeps Jefferson and Broadwater counties together with Lewis and Clark County, ensuring that the many rural commuters who work in Helena remain in the same district as where they live. *By contrast*, CP 10 separates this community of interest.
- CP 11 keeps towns whose economies depend on ski tourism in the same district, which will help ensure that their shared interest is adequately represented by their Congressperson. *By contrast*, CP 10 divides this community of interest.
- CP 11 keeps the Golden Triangle “breadbasket” of Montana in a single district. *By contrast*, CP 10 breaks up this strong community of interest, weakening its voice in Congress.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opinion as a Montana citizen.

Sincerely,
Will D. Swearingen

From: [Herbert Swick](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on redistricting plans
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:19:05 PM

To the redistricting commissioners:

Thank you for the diligent work you have done to winnow many possible redistricting maps down to two. My comments are meant as constructive observations as you finalize your work.

I strongly support creating a map that allows as much opportunity as possible for one competitive district. The extreme partisanship that has come to characterize US politics in the last decade or so has had a serious, negative impact on our country, no matter which party happens to be in power at any given time. One could cite many specific examples of this at both national and state levels. I am struck by how often "Democrat" or "Republican" appears before someone's name, even when the issue being discussed has no political dimensions. Both "Republican" and "Democrat" have become pejorative terms, and that does a disservice to both of our major political parties. More importantly, it has led to a breakdown in civic discourse.

Over the next decade, before the next census and next redistricting, political power will inevitably shift from one party to the other. It always has, and it always will. In my opinion, the advantage of having at least one competitive district is that Montana would be better represented in Washington, in both the House and the Senate, because no matter which party was in power at any given time, Montanans' breadth of perspectives would more likely be represented. That would be true not only in votes on a particular piece of legislation, but more importantly on House and Senate committees in which so much important work occurs. Think of what Mike Mansfield accomplished for Montana as Senate Majority Leader, or what Steve Daines has done to represent our state as a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Herbert M. Swick, MD
4 Brookside Way
Missoula, MT 59802

406-542-6560
hmlswick@msn.com

From: [Anne Taylor](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Political districting
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:43:28 AM

I prefer the Democratic drawn map.

Anne Taylor
406-544-1672

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Joseph Taylor
Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 9:17:06 PM

From: Joseph Taylor taylorjtt0208@gmail.com
Residence: Frenchtown Montana, 59834

Message:

Of the maps between ten and eleven I prefer eleven. While I know that adding Flathead county to the Eastern district, like plan 11 proposes, would likely make Democrats less competitive in the Eastern district and republicans less competitive in the western district. However, I will be voting in the western district and think the people in Flathead county are wackos. I wouldn't mind if they lost the power to pick my representative. I'm sure the people in flathead county feel the same about those of us in Missoula and Gallatin county. I regret that my preference is a politically polarizing one when at this processes start I didn't want it to be, but it is my preference nonetheless. Thank you for your time.

--

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

From: [Debra Taylor-Cragg](#)
To: [Districting](#); maylinn.smith@mtleg.gov; jeff.essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
dan.stusek@mtleg.gov; kendra.miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CP#11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 9:05:39 AM

This one makes sense. Not an easy task to create a fair map, but this checks most of the boxes.

Debra Taylor-Cragg
2208 E. Vista Dr
Missoula MT

From: [Chuck Teague](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2021 Montana Redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:15:10 PM

TO: Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

Of the two Congressional maps shown in the Missoulian on October 22, 2021 we strongly support the Proposal 11. Both Proposals give the Republican party an advantage based on the last two elections, but Proposal 11 appears more proportional and fair based on the Vote in 2020.

My wife and I are long term voting residents of Missoula and vote for Proposal 11.

Thank you for striving for fairness,
Sincerely,

Charles and Margaret Teague
421 S 4th St W
Missoula, MT 59801

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Russ Tempel
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 9:57:16 AM

From: Russ Tempel Russ.Tempel@mtleg.gov
Residence: Chester Mt

Message:

I strongly feel splitting Gallatin Co. makes a better division of the State. Throwing Kalispell in the east does not make good policy, as it is closer to Idaho than Chester. Thank you for considering my input. Sen. Russ Tempel Dist. 14

--

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

From: [Stacy Tempel-StJohn](#)
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 Maps
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:13:47 AM

Dear Redistricting Commission,

I am excited that Montana will have another representative to represent the people of this great State. Now we are tasked with choosing a fair districting that evenly distributes the population between the two districts and that the districts have similar economies and interests so that the Congressperson can focus on those particular needs. As such, I urge you to adopt Map #11 for several reasons:

- 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, so that our Congressperson can pay close attention to the needs of that district 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 Helena and Butte together, as every redistricting plan in Montana has previously done.
- This map keeps all of the Rocky Mountain Front, Golden Triangle, and Hi Line intact, where agriculture remains such a vital part of the local economy. Rural interests are an important part of Montana's diversity and heritage that should be kept together for a stronger voice in Congress.
- Native voters are empowered under this plan, as there is a competitive district with a reservation, meaning that every candidate has to rely on Native votes to win the district. Non-competitive districts don't elevate voices and ensure accountability in the same way.

I urge you to oppose Map # 10 for the following reasons:

- This plan breaks with the Historical precedent in Montana by separating the towns of Helena and Butte, breaking apart a community of interest that's existed for over a century.
- This plan creates two districts, which unduly favors one party. With two congressional districts now instead of one, a fair map includes one competitive district that either party can win.
- This plan dilutes the power of Montana farmers and ranchers by breaking up the Golden Triangle and critical grain and cattle producing regions in Montana. This is cracking the farm and ranch vote pure and simple.
- This plan separates commuters that live in Jefferson County from the place where so many

of them work in Helena. This is clearly breaking apart a community of interest.

- This plan splits the towns of Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway even though there is no clear reason to do so since Gallatin County could have been split in such a way to keep them together. This is a partisan cut of Gallatin County designed to split two small towns for no reason and violates your criteria on minimizing the unnecessary division of towns.
- This plan separates Park and Gallatin County from one another, cutting apart an area with vital economic connections and shared interests. Plan 11 better acknowledges this community of interest.

Please support Proposal Map # 11 as it makes the most sense for Montana and its people.

STACY TEMPEL-ST. JOHN, ESQ.
FAIRCLAIM
LINNELL, NEWHALL, MARTIN & SCHULKE, P.C.
P.O. Box 2629
GREAT FALLS, MT 59403
(406) 454-5814
SSTJOHN@FAIRCLAIMLAW.COM

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From: [Judy Territo](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Redistricting maps
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:48:56 PM

Dear Chair & Commissioners:

The two newly proposed maps (CP-10 and CP-11) are awful 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 is "the best map" that adheres to the law.

Thank you.

Judy Territo

PO Box 644, Columbia Falls, MT. 59912

(406)212-0098

judyterrito@gmail.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Dr. Timothy W Tharp
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:33:34 AM

From: Dr. Timothy W Tharp timtharpmt@gmail.com
Residence: Savage

Message:

I am very disappointed in these final two options. There is NOTHING in law that says you should try to make 'competitive' districts. This process has become a joke and political gerrymandering.

I guess the lesser of two evils would be CP10 as Kalispell and Broadus should absolutely NOT be in the same 'compact' district.

--

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

From: [Anne Thomas](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021 10:52:18 PM

I support map 11. I live in Bozeman and I feel strongly that we shouldn't split Gallatin county.

Anne

From: [Annie](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Maps 10 and 11- Redistricting Comments
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:25:40 PM

Good Day:

I am writing to ask that you support Map 11 which keeps many vital Montana communities together; their economic connections intact. This is a **competitive** map and also follows closely the precedent set in the 1980s Congressional districts with population equality.

These maps must be competitive.

Map 10 unfairly represents one party over another and is not competitive. It creates two Republican districts which favor that party. A fair map would include one competitive district that either party can win.

Map 10 weakens the power of Montana farmers and ranchers by splitting grain and meat producing areas. It breaks apart regions of similar interests and economic connections. For example, Park and Gallatin counties which depend on one another; more affordable housing and the other, jobs. Please do not do this.

Map 11 is best choice and I request that this be the chosen map for voters in Montana.

Thank you for your time.

Annie Thomas
406-932-6445

From: [S. Thomas](#)
To: [Districting](#); Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov;
Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Map 11
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 8:43:01 AM

Dear Commissioners,
Thank you for your hard work in the districting process. These are my thoughts on the two remaining maps.

Map 11 is a competitive map that follows historical precedents from when MT used to have 2 Congressional districts. This map empowers Native voices as there is a district with a reservation ensuring candidates will need to vie for the Native vote. As a Helena resident and Union member, this map keeps Helena and Butte together as every prior redistricting proposal has done. Unlike Map 10, this map does not favor one party over the other. We must not allow partisan rule in our state for the next 10 years. A competitive map is a must. Map 11 is competitive and nonpartisan.

Sincerely,
Shannon K Thomas
Helena, MT

From: [Shauna Thomas](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting and Apportionment Comment
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:16:03 AM

Good morning.

I urge adoption of Congressional Proposal 11. Montana is a very large state and has different faces, democrat, independent and republican, depending on where you look. Certainly all voters should be represented in Congress, not just those of a single party.

Regards,

Shauna Thomas
5539 York Rd.
Helena, Montana

From: butterflies@bresnan.net
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional map finalists
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:33:02 AM

Hello,

In the reporting in Missoula, I have not seen a population figure for either of the two final maps being considered by the Commission. Since “apportionment” is supposed to be the key issue, I think that is a more important data point than what percentage Republican presidential candidates did better in each new district in the past two cycles. THAT appears to be politicizing the effort, rather than simply following the mandate that the districts be equal in population.

Can you give me those numbers so I can look at the maps in that context before I send a comment? It would be quite helpful.

Also, what was the point of ‘gerrymandering’ the piece of Gallatin County to capture Bozeman? Does that contribute in terms of equalizing population or is it for political reasons?

Thank you for helping clarify!

Fredericka I. Thompson
Missoula, Montana

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Trevor Thompson
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:01:40 PM

From: Trevor Thompson huskerpower5904@yahoo.com
Residence: Billings Montana

Message:

Map 11 is a terrible draw. Do not split counties. Fully against map 11

--

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

From: [Majesty Thompson](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ALERT:
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:02:02 PM

This is an email to say that I am voting “YES” for “Congressional Proposal 10”.

Sincerely,
Majesty Thompson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Charles Thorne
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:21:48 AM

From: Charles Thorne ckthorne@msn.com
Residence: Missoula, Montana

Message:

Madame Chairwoman,

I'm writing to support Congressional Proposal Map 11. Redistricting based on Map 11 would give those of us who do not identify as Republican, a better chance at representation that meets our needs and political leanings.

Thank you for your consideration of my input on this historical matter.

--

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

From: [Son of Thunder](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:20:49 AM

I live in Flathead County and no way do I want to be included with eastern Montana I want the Republican map the only one that looks anywhere near viable and fair do not put us and the democratically drawn map

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: RODNEY TINSETH
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:05:45 AM

From: RODNEY TINSETH 5TINSETH@GMAIL.COM

Residence: KALISPELL, MT

Message:

I'm messaging about the Congressional District Commission Proposal, the only sensible division is PROPOSAL 10 -CP 10.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Rodney Tinseth

--

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

From: [Tirrell Norma](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final congressional map proposals
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 11:34:05 AM

To the Redistricting Commission:

I applaud your perseverance and your attempts to keep your discussions civil and as apolitical as possible. But as Chairwoman Smith said last week, “Every line you draw has political implications and to think otherwise it’s just been either naive or unrealistic.”

To that end, I write in support of Proposal 11. Both maps favor Republicans as demonstrated by the outcome of the past two presidential elections. But the margin is slimmer in Proposal 11, giving Democrats at least an opportunity to compete in the new congressional district. I think that’s only fair.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Norma Tirrell
1202 Stuart St.
Helena, MT 59601

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Steven Torcoletti
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:54:04 AM

From: Steven Torcoletti torc@me.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:
Dear Committee,

I am recommending the adoption of the redistricting Congressional Proposal #11 for the State of Montana. I believe that Map #11 provides for the most fair division of the state into Eastern and Western Districts. I believe Congressional Proposal #11 will allow for a more evenly contested election in the western part of the state, which will allow for all Montanans to have a voice in the election.

Thank you,

Steven Torcoletti

1710 Lenore Ct
Missoula MT 59804

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

From: [Steven Torcoletti](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Districting Proposals
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:40:08 AM

Dear Committee,

I am recommending the adoption of the redistricting map Congressional Proposal #11 for the State of Montana. I believe that Map #11 provides for the most fair division of the state into Eastern and Western Districts. I believe Congressional Proposal #11 will allow for a more evenly contested election in the western part of the state, which will allow for all Montanans to have a voice in the election.

Thank you,

Steven Torcoletti

1710 Lenore Ct
Missoula MT 59804

From: eric.knutson
To: George.Torp
Cc: Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendia.Miller@meleg.gov; [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Redistricting maps
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:59:15 PM

Thanks for sharing!

On Wed, Oct 27, 2021, 12:57 PM George Torp <gtorp@bresnan.net> wrote:

Ladies and Gentlemen of the redistricting commission,

First I want to thank all of you for your very important service to our great State of Montana and to the United States of America with all citizens of every creed color or religion. My father was an immigrant (1917) and a good friend to Senator Mike Mansfield. Both are turning over in their graves as they watch what is happening to this still great country which is being taken over by some corrupt, money hungry socialists and politicians, that will do anything to end life as we know it and which I have enjoyed all of my 81 years.

I feel Montana is one of the few states in our nation that can place itself above all others and maintain a culture and living standard, outpacing all others. I Thank God ever day for leaders who can see the handwriting on the wall and are willing to fight to keep AMERICA GREAT!

With that said I count on you to overlook politics and do the right thing for all citizens or have your names on a list that caused the take down of this great land.

Personally I don't like either Map 10 or 11—probably would prefer Map 7 or return to the old map of 40 years or more.

In closing please read this writing I received a few days ago, written by Carl Ibsen, former Missoula Sheriff.

“Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men. Weak men create hard times.

Does anyone else think that this might be the future of our coming times? Can't help but think that we, as a people and a nation,

are in for some really bad times, which will be worse than the Great Depression. This has been coming for a few decades, but

has been highlighted by the administration of Dementia Joe, who is the PINO (President In Name Only). Whoever is pulling his

puppet strings is quickly destroying America. We may never recover. We, certainly, will not recover in my lifetime, since we,

apparently, are not willing to fight, in one form or another, for the survival of this once great country.”

What more can I add? It's not about Democrat or Republican, it's about survival of this great country and our way of life—freedom from ternary! Freedom to Worship, Thank God.

Submitted by George Torp, 3023 Martinwood Road, Missoula, 59802, 406-543-4228, gtorp@bresnan.net. Thank You

From: [Bill/Sarah Towle](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Cc: marylinn.smith@mtgov.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2020 redistricting
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:55:22 PM

We support map 11 based on fairness and population trends. Map 10 is a Trojan Horse with Kalispell in the western district.

Sarah P. Towle
William H. Towle
1825 Ronald Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

From: jennietranel@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jennie Tranel](#)
To: joe.lamson@mtleg.gov
Subject: [spam]Please Choose Montana's Congressional Map Carefully
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 4:43:33 PM

Dear Commissioner Joe Lamson,

I urge you to support Map #CP11 and reject Map #CP10. Keeping at least one district competitive so that our representatives have to work for our vote is healthy for democracy and prevents the extremism that is crippling Washington right now. Representatives need to be accountable to ALL of their constituents and will be more likely to listen to all voices if the districts don't create safe seats. Thank you for your time and service on this commission.

Sincerely,
Jennie Tranel
1213 S 4th Ave Bozeman, MT 59715-5559
jennietranel@yahoo.com

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Maureen Tremblay
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:02:06 AM

From: Maureen Tremblay maurentrem@gmail.com
Residence: Helena

Message:

Hello, my name is Maureen Tremblay and I am a resident of Lewis & Clark County in Helena, MT. I am a high school educator, coach, and active community member.

I support Map 11 because the capital city and Lewis & Clark County remains in tact with Western Montana, where it geographically resides. Map 11 is the only option that keeps counties of similar regions and economies together. Map 11 does not segregate Lewis and Clark County based on political agendas. The capital should not be separated from the region it resides in and be forced to assimilate with the Eastern Montana region, because of political preference.

I believe CP map 10 unfairly removes Lewis & Clark County from the district that it shares most similarities with the neighboring counties. As the capital, I believe Helena should be represented in the district in Western Montana, where it naturally resides. Grouping Lewis & Clark County with the eastern district removes it from the counties it is most similar to and communities of collaboration.

Thank you for your consideration and reviewing the interests of community members in Helena. This process should appropriately represent all citizens of Montana fairly and justly.

--

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

From: [Carolyn Troyer](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Final Congressional map proposals
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 2:40:53 PM

To the Redistricting Commission:)

I support Proposal 11 as the best redistricting choice. Helena and Bozeman should logically be in the western district.

Thank you,

Carolyn Troyer
2930 Big Timber Loop
Helena, MT 59601

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Jake Troyer
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:50:54 PM

From: Jake Troyer jake@sgcmontana.com
Residence: Helena, MT

Message:

I'm commenting in support of of map proposal 11 for the commission to pass. Thank you.
Jake Troyer

--

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

From: [Jack Troyer](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I support map 11
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:09:27 PM

Reasons: A major county like Gallatin should not be split as proposal 10 does. Also proposal 11 even though it leans Republican will be competitive enough that the representative will be more likely to have to listen to more views. In all cases eastern Montana will be hard right. Thank you for allowing comments.

Sincerely,
Jack Troyer
2930 Big Timber Loop
Helena, MT 59601

Sent from my iPad

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Ellen Trygstad
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 12:44:41 PM

From: Ellen Trygstad eltjupiter@gmail.com
Residence: Bozeman, MT

Message:

In a large respect, a US Representative advocates for communities for economically which includes land use. Urban issues are drastically different rural ones regarding labor, land, business dealings, commercial activity and oversight, and markets

In a sense, it could be prudent to have one representative, hopefully skilled and knowledgeable about rural lands -agricultural and wild – represent people outside urban centers. The second representative, hopefully skilled and knowledgeable about transportation, non-ag business, development issues, water, septic, etc would represent urban centers of towns that are not primarily rural.

This way, people could vote for experience – for a person who has training and knowledge about the specific issues of the economic sphere that dominates that geography.

To have equal population, the urban districts could be only as big as the downtowns and the periphery of people needed to make up the quota. So some suburbanites might find themselves in the rural district. Indeed, there are garden farms that are business that are on the immediate outskirts of towns so this step might be more accurate in terms of land use anyway.

Does this pit urban vs. rural? I don't know anything about the political distribution of parties for ag, but if one included large commercial plus small farms plus the land grant universities,, perhaps it would be about equal democrat and republican.

A rough equality is important so issues can be focused on to solve rather than be a reflection of party domination.

Just a thought. Grouping people seems to be pretty random, no matter which way you look at it, and it is a small populate, though a great deal of land. Certainly rural concerns and wild landscape are important to urban people, and urban development decisions (though not the Local Money) affect and are of interest to non urban center residents.

Just a thought for consideration.
Thank you for this opportunity.

--

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

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Sally Tucker
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 5:07:47 PM

From: Sally Tucker Kickingasparagus@gmail.com
Residence: Black Eagle MT

Message:

Thanks for focusing on population, Montana Constitution and the Law.

I Support maps:

- 1 accounts for future population growth
- 3 accounts for future population growth
- 7 best population balance and economic interests

I Oppose maps:

- 2 gerrymander no Canadian border
- 4 ridiculous gerrymander
- 5 ridiculous gerrymander
- 6 gerrymander no Canadian border
- 8 ridiculous gerrymander, no Canadian border, will upset tribes
- 9 gerrymander no Canadian border

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

From: [Sally Tucker](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO on CP10 & CP11; YES on CP1, with variance (counties intact)
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:45:08 PM

Greetings! Thank you for all the effort the commission has put in to this project.

From studying CP10 and CP11, it appears we are at an impasse. Neither of these choices fit the Constitutional criteria nor Montana Law.

I agree with Republicans that CP1 should be back on the table, with this variance: keep Cascade and Gallatin counties intact, and in the Eastern Congressional district.

This also should preserve tribal interests; minimize objections from affected citizens; and balance population and economic representation in the districts.

I realize this would make District 2's population more at the outset, but our population is in flux, and can reasonably expect growth in both districts.

I find it curious that supposedly progressive democrat representatives seem so obsessed with past voter patterns and 'communities of interest' - clinging to a static, decidedly non-progressive vision of Montana populations.

PLEASE, don't blind yourselves to the dynamic shifts in population, and expected future growth, as Montana's opportunities draw families and entrepreneurs to our state.

Looking forward to that actual progressive future, one could speculate (from today's new arrivals) that, under CP1, future growth will result in the most population-balanced choice.

Montanan Republicans are NOT HERE TO COMPROMISE OUR VALUES - despite the democrats' disingenuous rhetoric.

THE GOOD PEOPLE OF MONTANA expect this Commission to represent us with integrity. We expect our legislative representatives to follow the LETTER OF THE LAW, and abide by our Montana State Constitution!

Please, don't let us down; the behavior of democrats on this Commission has only reinforced the perception of lawless elitism in the democrat party. We the People only want the new Districts drawn according to population - as proscribed by the Montana State Constitution and Montana Law. Then let voters choose what is 'fair and competitive', as a true progressive future unfolds.

Thank you,
Sally Tucker
1914 Montana Ave
Black Eagle 59414

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Alice Tully
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 10:11:44 AM

From: Alice Tully atully4@msn.com
Residence: Missoula, MT

Message:

Map CP-10 keeps Flathead County in the western district and complies with Montana law and constitution.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

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

From: [Alene Tunny](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 3:51:29 PM

Dear Commissioner,

As a resident of Hamilton, Montana, I want to express my support for MAP 11 in the new state-wide redistricting plan for the US Congress. This appears to be the most equitable resolution for the new state-wide redistricting.

Thank you,
Alene Tunny
416 South 5th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
406 381 7819

From: [tom tunny](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE-DISTRICTING
Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021 12:02:09 PM

Dear Members of the Commission,

As a resident of Hamilton, Montana, I want to express my support for MAP 11 in the new state-wide redistricting plan for the US Congress. This appears to be the most equitable resolution for the new state-wide redistricting.

Thank you,
Thomas Tunny
416 South 5th Street
Hamilton, MT 59840
406 381 7819

From: austinturleymt
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
Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 2:31:00 PM

As a lifelong Montana resident and Stillwater County voter I am writing to ask you to support map #11.

Not only does map #11 approximate the historical precedent map of 1980s, it aligns cities and communities in a sensible manner.

Austin Turley
2031 Molt Rapelje Rd Molt MT 59057

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [MDAC](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Josh C Turner
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:52:12 PM

From: Josh C Turner turner.c.josh@gmail.com
Residence: Kalispell

Message:

there is no sensible reason to split the flathead county with half going to the eastern part of the state, the flathead is western montana.

--

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

From: [Anna Tuttle](#)
To: [Districting](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Redistricting Maps
Date: Monday, October 25, 2021 1:31:52 PM

Hello,

I am writing today to urge you to select a redistricting map that will fairly represent all Montanans. The maps should not be weighed in favor of either political party. I am asking you to please select map 11 and reject map 10. Our politicians need to be connected to their constituents and not simply be elected based on a map.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this issue. It is extremely important for all Montanans to be fairly represented in Washington. I urge you to please do the right thing for the future of our very special state, which is currently undergoing a tremendous amount of change.

Anna Tuttle
Hamilton

From: [Mike Tyler](#)
To: districing@mt.gov
Subject: congressional districts

Greetings from Moore. I want to know why we have to have 2 districts in the state for the election of representatives. This is totally stupid.

We do not for electing Senators and it works out fine. They represent the state fine and give us good clout when they work together. By having

2 districts for representatives, they can cancel each other out in voting. Just do away with all the problems with trying to have the 2 districts

and the democrats trying to outdo the republicans. What a waste of time. Better things to get to work on in the state. Just take to two highest vote

getters in an election. Have one election instead of two and save some money and time.

Richard Tyler