

Public Comments

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Comments received between 5 p.m. on September 15,
2021, and 11:59 p.m. on September 16, 2021

Sherley, Laura

From: Allison Dale-Riddle <allisondale@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submission of materials for 9/17 meeting
Attachments: ADR Redistricting Comment Examples 9.17.21.pdf

Chairwoman Smith and Commissioners:

I would like to submit the attached document as support for my comments at the redistricting meeting tomorrow.

Thank you,

Allison Dale-Riddle

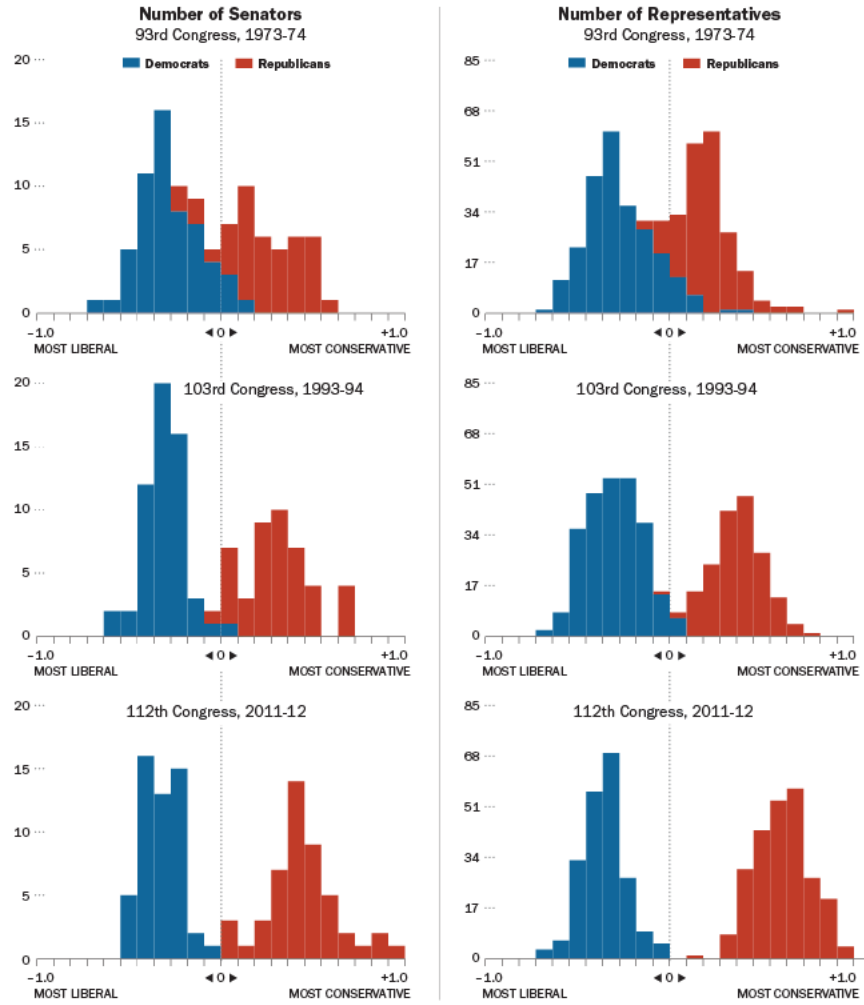
Allison Dale-Riddle
Data Examples for Reference during Public Comment 9/17/21

Example 1: This chart provides a visual representation of the ideological polarization in Congress and the decline of moderate centrists.

(Source: [Pew](#))

In Congress as Well as Public, the Center Increasingly Cannot Hold

Ideological scores of senators and representatives based on roll-call votes. Negative numbers represent liberal views and positive numbers conservative views



Sources: Royce Carroll, Jeff Lewis, James Lo, Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal, Voteview.com

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Example 2: This chart shows the number of crossover congressional districts by year. Crossover districts are districts that elected a Democrat while voting for a Republican for President (left) and districts that elected a Republican while voting or a Democrat for President (right). The number of crossover districts is at an all time low after 2020.

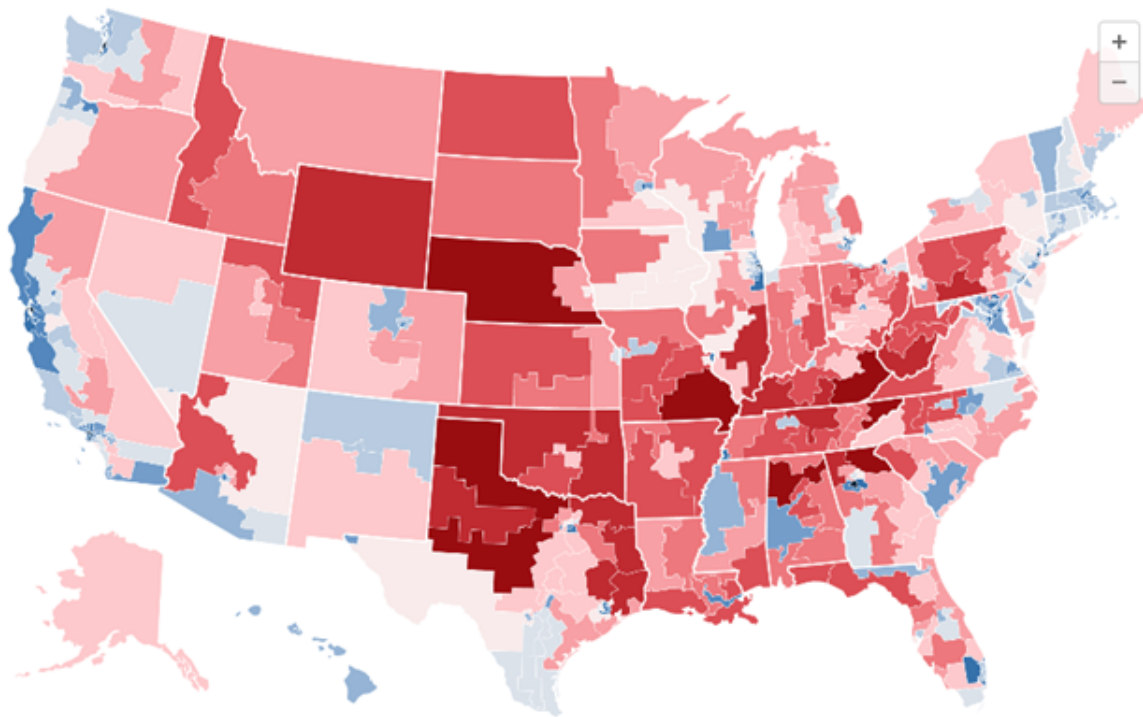
Year	GOP-district Democrats	Dem-district Republicans	Total
2000	46	40	86
2004	41	18	59
2008	49	34	83
2012	9	17	26
2016	12	23	35
2020	7	9	16

Source: Almanac of American Politics

Example 3: Cook Partisan Voting Index Calculation

	Montana AL	National	Difference
2020 Biden	41.6%	52.3%	-10.7
2020 Trump	58.4%	47.7%	10.7
2016 Clinton	38.9%	51.1%	-12.2
2016 Trump	61.1%	48.9%	12.2
Dem Average	40.25%	51.7%	-11.45
Rep Average	59.75%	48.3%	11.45

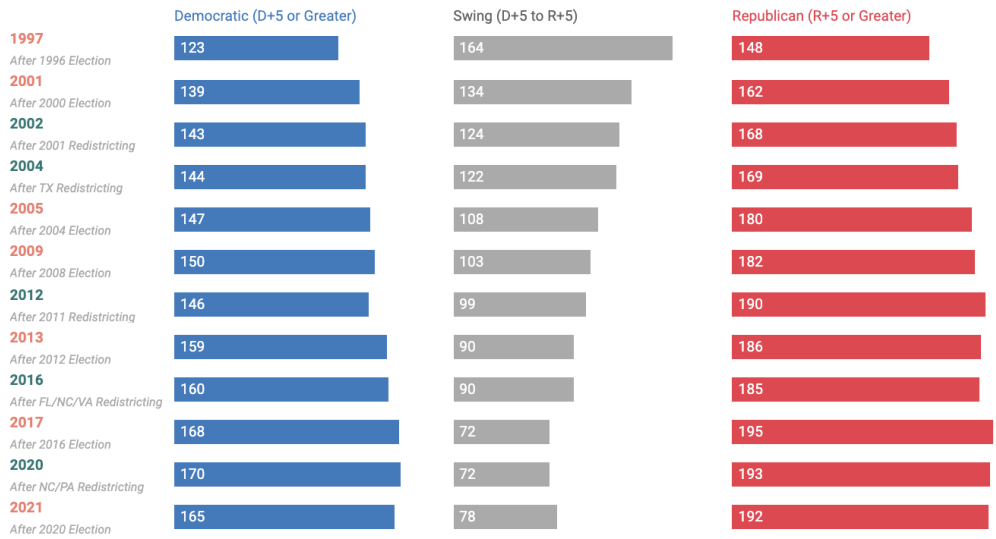
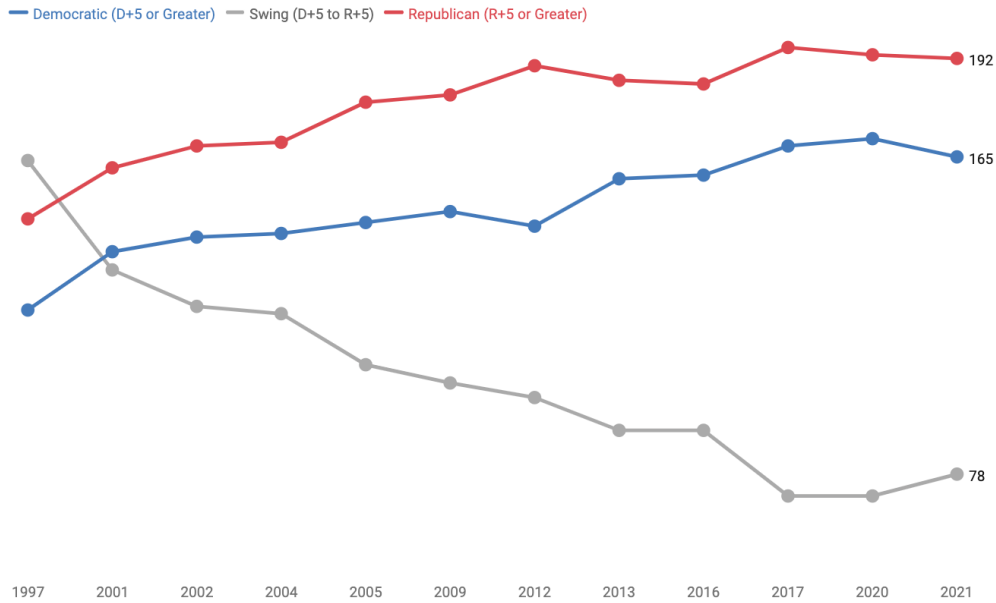
Montana AL Partisan Voting Index: R+11



Example 4: This chart shows the number of swing and safe seats by Cook Partisan Voting Index (PVI) by party over time.

Source: Cook Political Report

The Incredible Shrinking Swing Seat, 1997-2021



Example 5: Each one of these dots is a U.S. Congressional District, with the horizontal axis being the Cook Partisan Voting Index (PVI) and the vertical axis representing the two-party vote share in that district in 2020. The R² value (a statistical measurement that shows how much one value predicts another) of this correlation is .973, meaning it's more than 97% predictive of vote share. Competitiveness is measurable, and districts with a Cook Partisan Voting Index close to zero, meaning they favor neither party, are consistently and highly competitive.

Source: Cook Political Report House Popular Vote Tracker and Daily Kos Elections Presidential Results by Congressional District Tracker

Cook PVI vs Congressional Two Party Vote Share

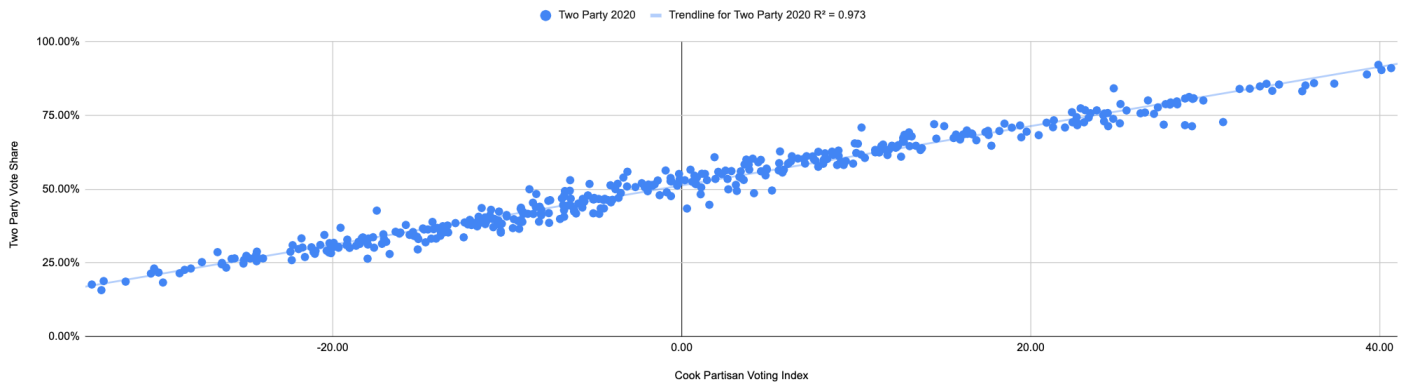


Exhibit 6: This chart shows the results of Congressional elections in districts of varying partisanship.

Source: Cook Political Report

Partisan Voter Index (PVI) Summary: 1996 vs. 2020

After the 2000 Elections

Click on the buttons below to switch the data set

After the 1996 Elections **After the 2020 Elections**

	Democratic-Held Seats	Republican-Held Seats	Totals
Democratic (D+5 or Greater)	164	1	165
D+10.0 or Greater	129	0	129
D+5.0 to D+9.9	35	1	36
Swing (D+5 to R+5)	56	22	78
D+2.0 to D+4.9	21	3	24
D+1.9 to R+1.9	27	7	34
R+2.0 to R+4.9	8	12	20
Republican (R+5 or Greater)	2	190	192
R+5.0 to R+9.9	2	55	57
R+10.0 or Greater	0	135	135

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Patrick Dougherty

From: Patrick Dougherty Residence: Helena

Message:

After submitting my Congressional District plan on 9/13/21, I realized I would need to be able to apply your "competitiveness criteria" to make sure my results matched yours. I have requested a shapefile of the Republican/Democrat competitiveness criteria data for the past two days without any results.

I have grave concerns about the legality of your plan reviews if you utilize "secret" data to eliminate certain plans and favor others.

I will be listening to the proceedings tomorrow, and if "competitiveness" is taken into consideration with any of the plans, without sharing the "competitiveness" data, I will file a complaint with the Secretary of State's office, and prepare a lawsuit and injunction request to be filed in District Court.

--

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

Sherley, Laura

From: Patrick Dougherty <patrickkdougherty@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 1:34 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Criteria Data Request

After submitting my Congressional Districting plan on 9/13/21, I realized I would need to be able to apply your "competitiveness criteria" to make sure my results matched yours. I have requested a shapefile of the Republican/Democrat competitiveness criteria data for the past two days without any results.

I have grave concerns about the legality of your plan reviews if you utilize "secret" data to eliminate certain plans and favor others.

I will be listening to the proceedings tomorrow, and if "competitiveness" is taken into consideration with any of the plans, without sharing the "competitiveness" data, I will file a complaint with the Secretary of State's office, and prepare a lawsuit and injunction request to be filed in District Court.

Patrick Dougherty

Sherley, Laura

From: MDAC <donotreply@mtredistricting.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MDAC Comment from: Debbie Hammond

From: Debbie Hammond
Residence: Malta

Message:

I am proposing that Montana be split along the Continental Divide. This will divide the state by population according to the state constitution. This proposed map is based upon population, not political data, and complies with Montana statutes and constitutional requirements. It creates East and West districts which follows historical precedent. The districts are compact and contiguous. It minimizes splits of cities and counties.

--

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

218 Pheasant Ridge
Polson, MT 59860
September 11, 2021

RECEIVED
SEP 16 2021
MONTANA LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

Kendra Miller
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT, 59620-1706

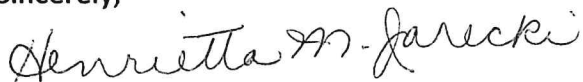
Dear Ms Miller:

I am writing to ask that Montana's future Congressional districts be based on the attached map for the following reasons:

- It is based on population, not political data.
- It complies with Montana's law and Constitutional requirements.
- It minimizes splits of cities and counties.
- It follows Montana's historical precedent of dividing our state into an Eastern district and a Western district with a north/south boundary.
- It recognizes the economic and population differences between Eastern Montana and Western Montana.

Thank you for our consideration of my opinion and appeal.

Sincerely,



Henrietta M. Jarecki

218 Pheasant Ridge

Polson, Montana 59860

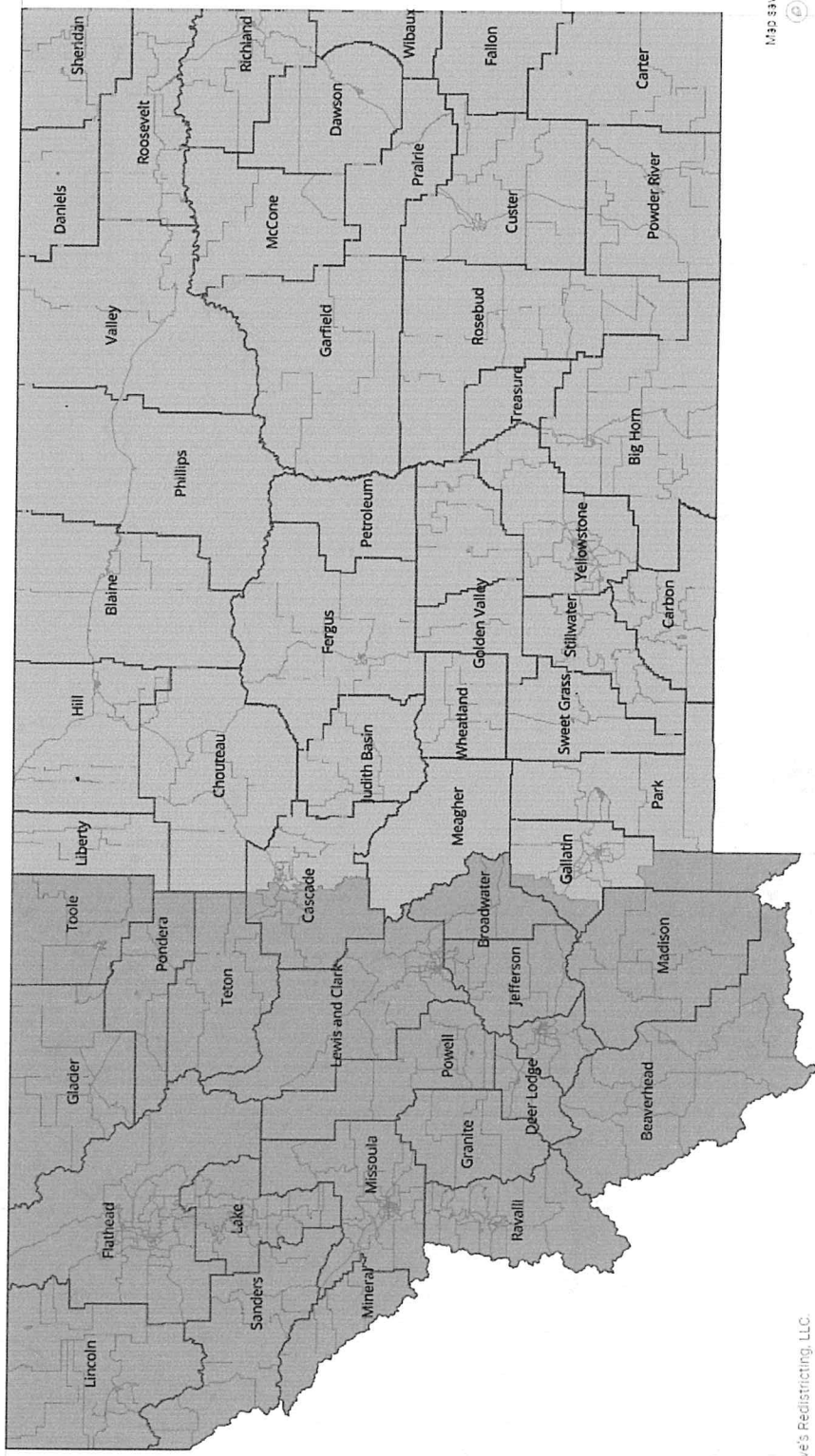
406-883-2248; pennymt@outlook.com

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Map Statistics Analyze

County City Precinct Block Tools

1	Montana	-191
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District Details		



Colors Background Map District Lines Labels Precinct Lines Labels County Lines Labels City Lines Landmarks

Custom Overlays Overlays No overlays added

218 Pheasant Ridge
Polson, MT 59860
September 11, 2021

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SEP 16 2021
MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Jeff Essman
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT, 59620-1706

Dear Mr. Essman:

I am writing to ask that Montana's future Congressional districts be based on the attached map for the following reasons:

- It is based on population, not political data.
- It complies with Montana's law and Constitutional requirements.
- It minimizes splits of cities and counties.
- It follows Montana's historical precedent of dividing our state into an Eastern district and a Western district with a north/south boundary.
- It recognizes the economic and population differences between Eastern Montana and Western Montana.

Thank you for our consideration of my opinion and appeal.

Sincerely,



Henrietta M. Jarecki

218 Pheasant Ridge

Polson, Montana 59860

406-883-2248; pennymt@outlook.com

Montana -191
541,922

District Selector
District Population Deviation

Un 0
541,922 -191
542,303 190

District Details

County City
Precinct Block

Tools

Colors

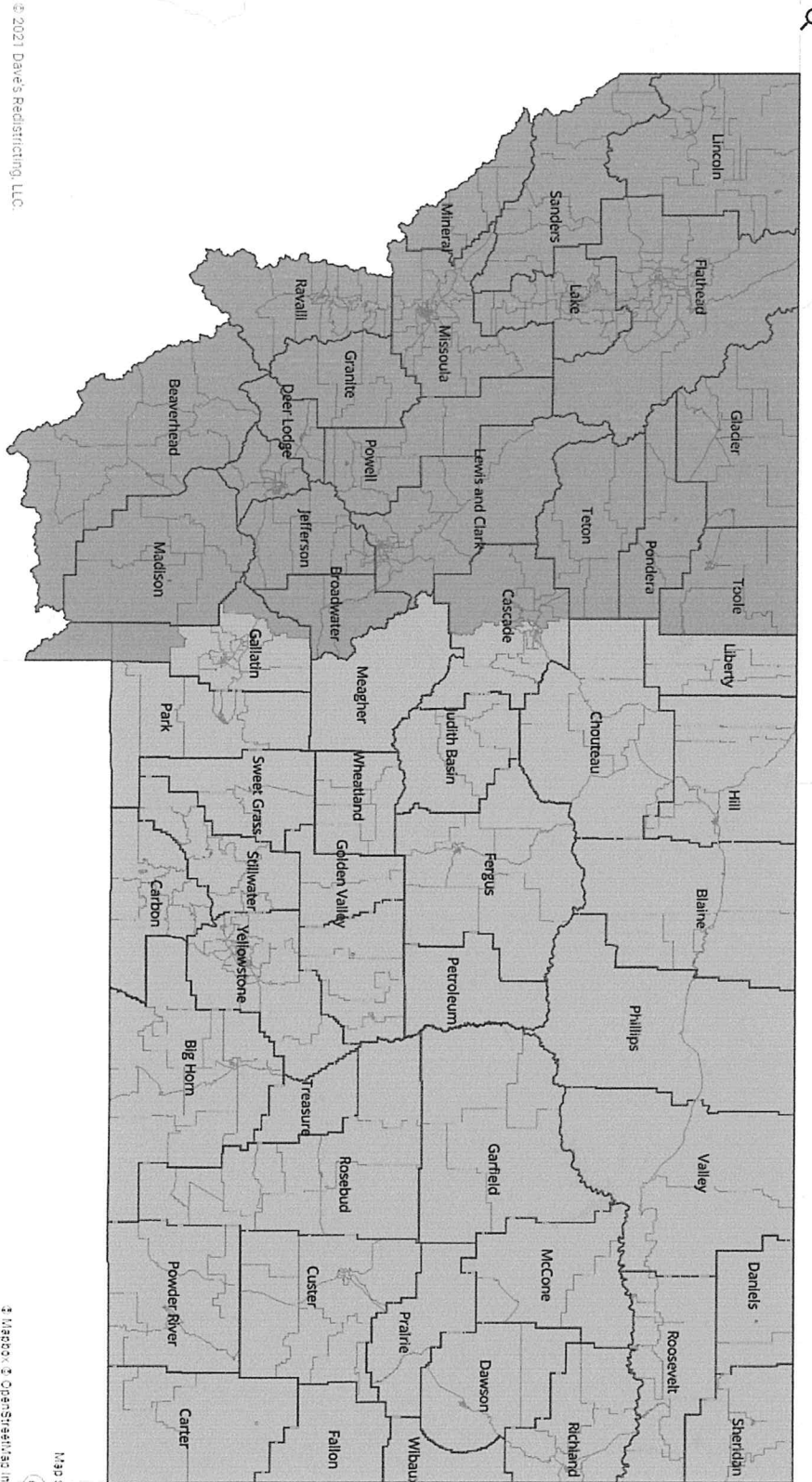
Overlays

- Background Map
- District Lines
- Labels
- Precinct Lines
- Labels
- County Lines
- Labels
- City Lines
- Landmarks

Custom Overlays

Overlays

No overlays added



218 Pheasant Ridge
Polson, MT 59860
September 11, 2021

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SEP 16 2021
MONTANA LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

Dan Stusek
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT, 59620-1706

Dear Mr. Stusek:

I am writing to ask that Montana's future Congressional districts be based on the attached map for the following reasons:

- It is based on population, not political data.
- It complies with Montana's law and Constitutional requirements.
- It minimizes splits of cities and counties.
- It follows Montana's historical precedent of dividing our state into an Eastern district and a Western district with a north/south boundary.
- It recognizes the economic and population differences between Eastern Montana and Western Montana.

Thank you for our consideration of my opinion and appeal.

Sincerely,

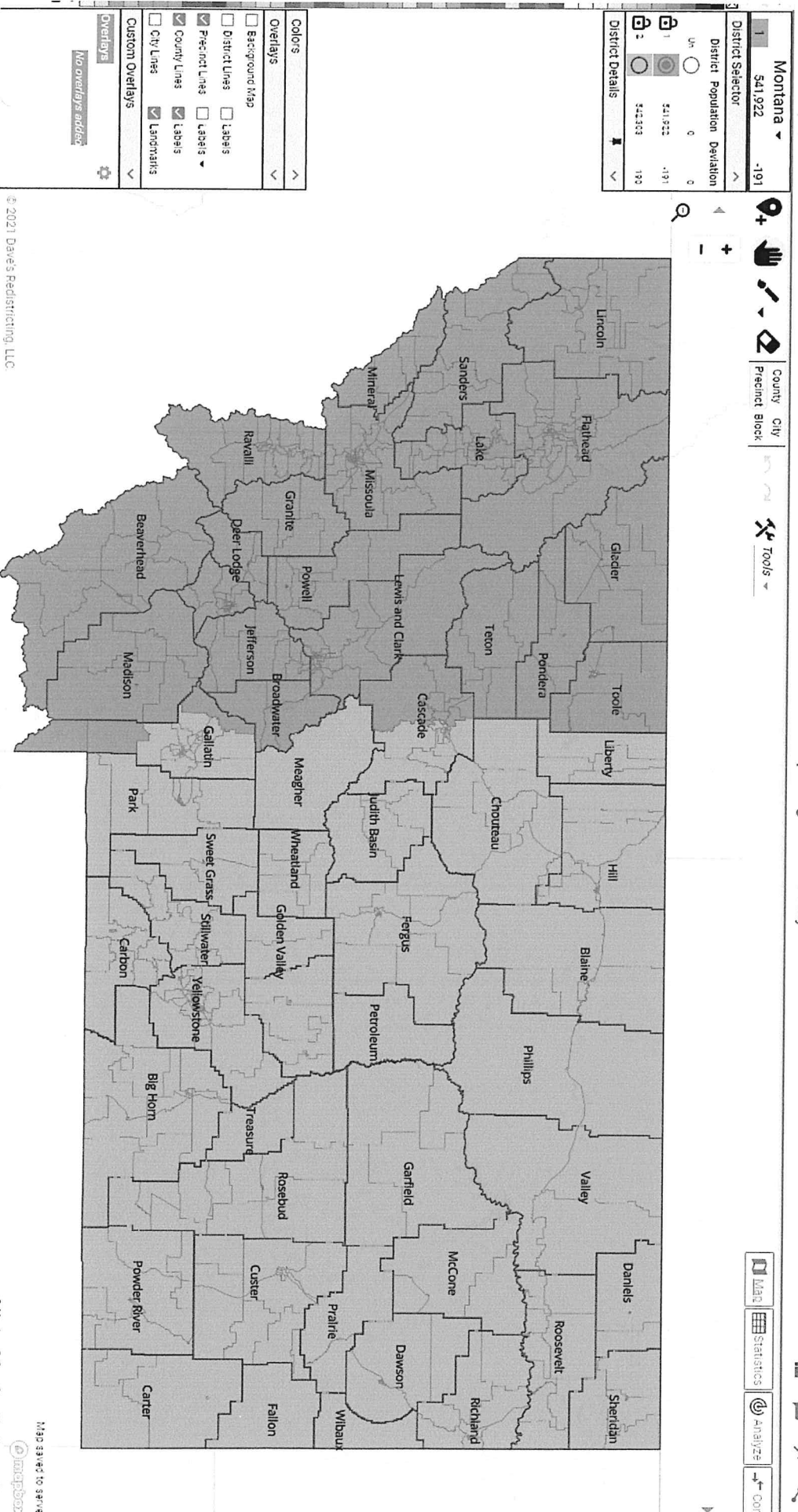


Henrietta M. Jarecki

218 Pheasant Ridge

Polson, Montana 59860

406-883-2248; pennymt@outlook.com



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218 Pheasant Ridge

Polson, MT 59860

September 11, 2021

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SEP 16 2021
MONTANA LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

Maylinn Smith, Chairman

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

P.O. Box 201706

Helena, MT, 59620-1706

Dear Ms Smith:

I am writing to ask that Montana's future Congressional districts be based on the attached map for the following reasons:

- It is based on population, not political data.
- It complies with Montana's law and Constitutional requirements.
- It minimizes splits of cities and counties.
- It follows Montana's historical precedent of dividing our state into an Eastern district and a Western district with a north/south boundary.
- It recognizes the economic and population differences between Eastern Montana and Western Montana.

Thank you for our consideration of my opinion and appeal.

Sincerely,



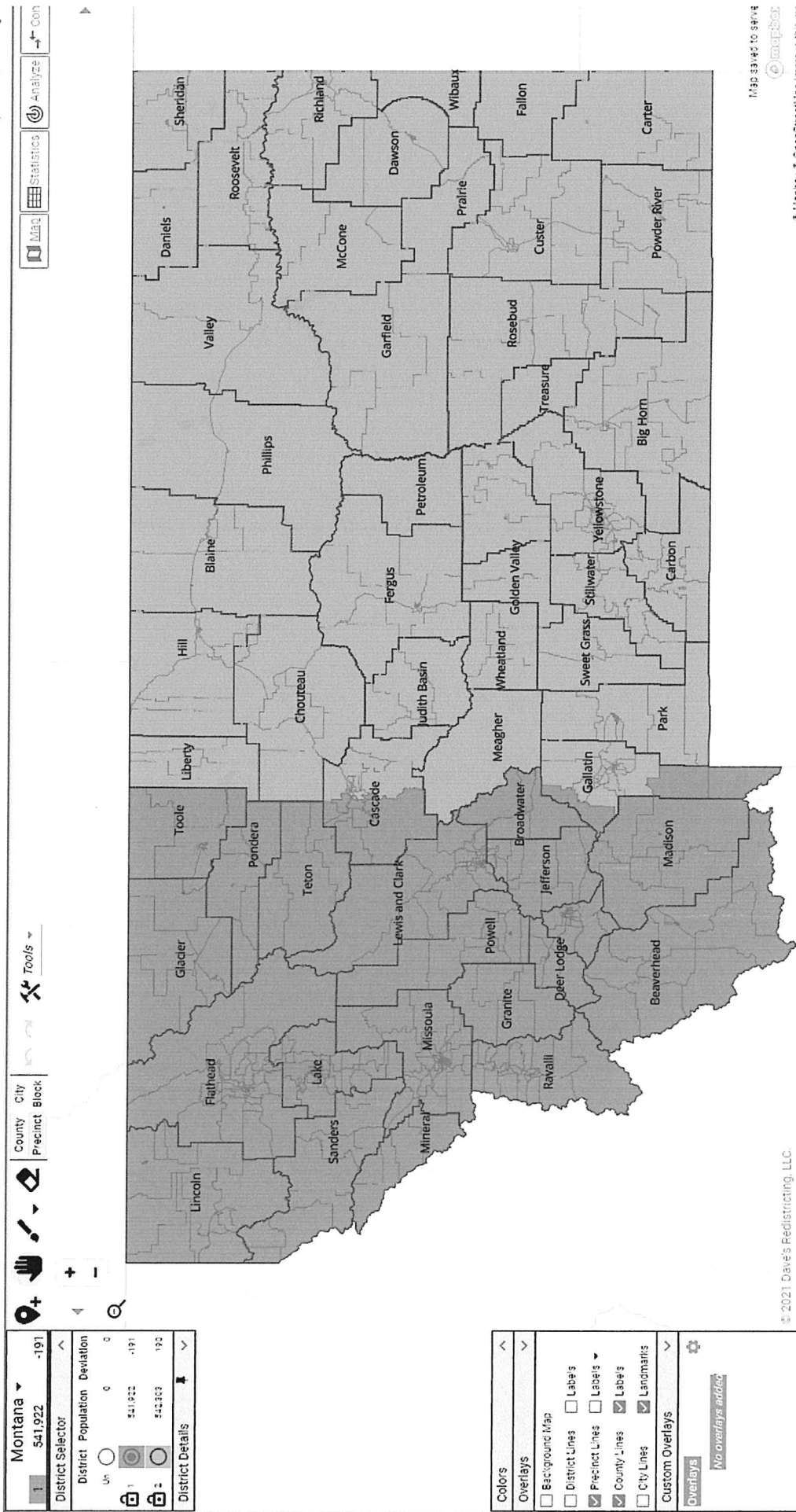
Henrietta M. Jarecki

218 Pheasant Ridge

Polson, Montana 59860

406-883-2248; pennymt@outlook.com

East West reservations Splitting Cascade only



218 Pheasant Ridge
Polson, MT 59860
September 11, 2021

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SEP 16 2021
MONTANA LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

Joe Lamson
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT, 59620-1706

Dear Mr. Lamson:

I am writing to ask that Montana's future Congressional districts be based on the attached map for the following reasons:

- It is based on population, not political data.
- It complies with Montana's law and Constitutional requirements.
- It minimizes splits of cities and counties.
- It follows Montana's historical precedent of dividing our state into an Eastern district and a Western district with a north/south boundary.
- It recognizes the economic and population differences between Eastern Montana and Western Montana.

Thank you for our consideration of my opinion and appeal.

Sincerely,



Henrietta M. Jarecki

218 Pheasant Ridge

Polson, Montana 59860

406-883-2248; pennymt@outlook.com

East West reservations Splitting Cascade only

Home Layers Measure Statistics Analyze Con

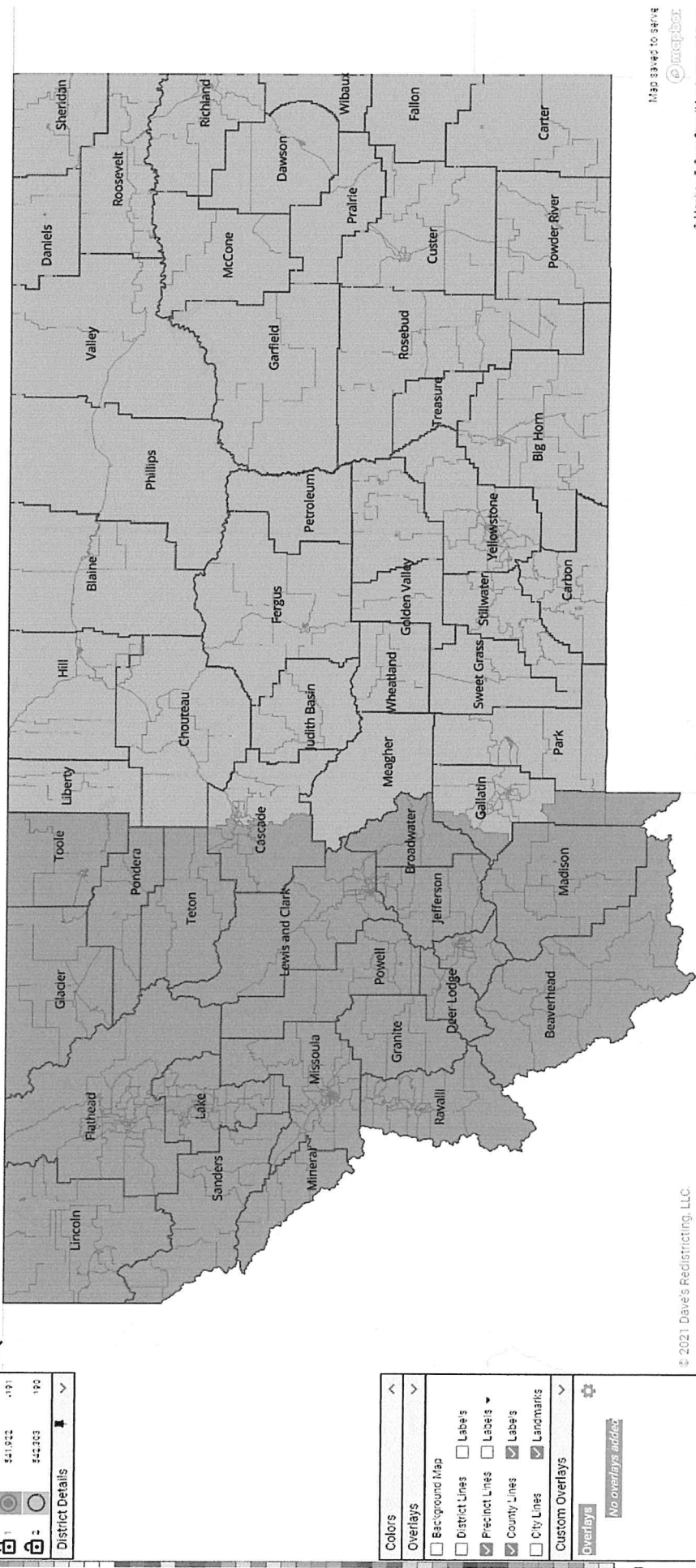
County City
 Precinct Block

Tools

+ -
 Search

District Selector
 District Population Deviation
 1 0 0
 2 541,922 -191
 3 542,303 192

District Details



Colors

Overlays

- Background Map
- District Lines
- Labels
- Precinct Lines
- Labels
- County Lines
- Labels
- City Lines
- Landmarks

Custom Overlays

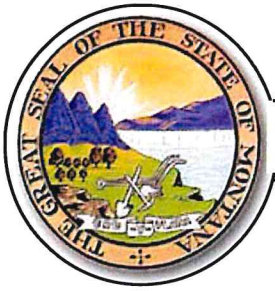
Overlays

No overlays added

Map saved to drive

Mapbox © OpenStreetMap Improve this map

© 2021 Dave's Redistricting, LLC



Lake County Commissioners

406-883-7204

Fax (406) 883-7283

LAKE COUNTY

106 4th Ave. E.

Polson, Mt. 59860

September 13, 2021

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

RECEIVED

SEP 16 2021

**MONTANA LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES**

Dear Committee Members:

The Lake County Commissioners are united in strongly recommending that your committee keep our County within a Western Montana Congressional District.

According to MCA 5.1.115 (2)(b), we believe Lake County should remain whole for the reasons listed:

1. *The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district must be as small as possible.....* Lake County contains all or part of four House districts and four Senate districts. The districts entirely within the boundaries of our County should remain in one Congressional District.
2. *MCA 5-1-115(2)(d), The districts must be compact, meaning that the compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and width of a district is equal.* Lake County is compact, making it reasonable to keep it whole.

The counties on the west side of the state have much different issues in general than the west side. The same is true for the west side. Commissioner Barron has lived on both sides of the state and often comments on how different the east and west is. "I've lived in Montana my entire life and traveled it extensively. When you cross the divide it's like entering a different country." A north/south line is a logical, common sense and fair solution.

Sincerely,
Lake County Commissioners


William Barron
Chairman

unavailable to sign

Steve Stanley


Gale Decker

Sherley, Laura

From: John Wise <johnhenrywise@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Districting; Maylinn.Smith@mtleg.gov; Jeff.Essmann@mtleg.gov; Joe.Lamson@mtleg.gov; Dan.Stusek@mtleg.gov; Kendra.Miller@mtleg.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congressional Districts
Attachments: East West splitting Cascade.pdf

Please consider the following when selecting Congressional map:

1. Do not create “competitive” districts – based on politics! The Congressional district lines should be drawn based upon Montana law, NOT gerrymandered based on political data.
2. The Congressional Districts should comply with Montana law and constitutional requirements. The Congressional District should be within 1% with rare exceptions of up to 3%. The map should minimize splits of cities and counties. The Districts should be compact and contiguous.
3. Precedent is an important concept that should guide the Commission. Historically, Montana Congressional Districts have been drawn to divide Montana into an East and West District, with the line going from North to South.

John H Wise

***"If we must die, we die
defending our rights."
SITTING BULL***

Sherley, Laura

From: Kendra Miller <kendra.miller@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Districting
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: REDISTRICTING - IMMEDIATE CALL TO ACTION
Attachments: Redistricting Email re Congressional Maps.docx; East West splitting Gallatin & Cascade.pdf; East West Continental splitting Gallatin.pdf; East West splitting Cascade.pdf

Please include for the public record. Thanks.

From: "Debbie Churchill" <debbie@mtgop.org>
To: "Kendra Miller" <kendra.miller@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:44:47 AM
Subject: Re: REDISTRICTING - IMMEDIATE CALL TO ACTION

Yes, thank you. I passed the word on.

On Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 10:54 AM Kendra Miller <kendra.miller@mtleg.gov> wrote:
Hi Debbie,

I wanted to make sure you're aware that the Districting and Apportionment Commission meeting on Friday the 17th is a Zoom-only meeting. Commissioners are participating remotely and there will not be staff in any meeting rooms at the Capitol.

The agenda and other details about the upcoming meeting can be found here: <https://mtredistricting.gov/september-17-2021-meeting/> [mtredistricting.gov].

-Kendra Miller

Date: September 13, 2021 at 10:08:00 AM MDT
Subject: Fwd: Fwd: REDISTRICTING - IMMEDIATE CALL TO ACTION

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Debbie Churchill <debbie@mtgop.org>
Date: Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 9:14 AM
Subject: REDISTRICTING - IMMEDIATE CALL TO ACTION
To: Debbie Churchill <debbie@mtgop.org>

Hi Montana Patriots!

THE TIME IS NOW. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

UPDATE:

The Redistricting Commission is accepting maps for the Congressional Districts. The Democrats have submitted hundreds of maps showing a Southwest district to combine

Bozeman and Missoula together. That is the only way they can gerrymander a district to have any chance of winning a congressional seat in Montana.

WHAT WE NEED TO DO:

#1 - We need an overwhelming number of people to submit proposed maps by 5:00 pm Wednesday, September 15th.

#2 - We need as many people as possible to attend the next Commission meeting and provide public comments in support of a traditional East-West map. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th @ 9:00 am at the State Capitol, Room 172.

STEP BY STEP PROCESS:

We NEED each one of you to do the following TODAY if possible:

1. Read the attached document for all information.
2. Submit your written comments TODAY. (Copy and paste the provided Comments on the attached document. We do not need original thought, we need sheer numbers to respond.)
3. Make a list of 10 people you know who you can ask to submit their comments by Wednesday, September 15th at 5:00 pm. Include their name, phone number and email address.
4. Forward this email and attached documents to all 10 people.
5. Follow up with a phone call to each person:
 - a. to make sure they received the email
 - b. help them through the process of submitting a map
 - c. find out if they are available on September 17th to attend in person or by Zoom

If you need help with making phone calls or emailing the information out, please provide me with your list of 10 people. We have volunteers who are willing to help. Call me on my cell phone.

Let's DO this!

--

Debbie Churchill
MTGOP Grassroots Director
1300 Aspen Street, Ste. B
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-6469 (office)
(406) 799-8506 (cell)
debbie@mtgop.org

--

Kendra Miller
Districting & Apportionment Commission | [<https://leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission/>]
kendra.miller@mtleg.gov

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