

REVISED DRAFT Language to Establish Procedures for Public Map Submissions  
For consideration at the commission's July 8-9, 2021, meeting

**VII. Public Map Submissions**

- A. The commission accepts redistricting plans drawn by individual citizens or organizations.
- B. Publicly submitted plans must comply with federal and state redistricting laws.
- C. For each submitted plan, an individual or entity must provide:
  - (1) current contact information for the individual or entity making the submission, including name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address;
  - (2) a description of what goals the individual or entity aims to accomplish in the plan; and
  - (3) a written explanation for each district in the plan of the mandatory and/or discretionary criteria used and how those criteria justify any deviation from the ideal district population.
- D.
  - (1) Although the commission encourages entities to submit electronic files, it will accept paper submissions.
  - (2) Submitted plans must be based on official Census geography (TIGER line) and P.L. 94-171 data.
  - (3) The commission staff will use Maptitude for Redistricting by the Caliper Corporation as their software for redistricting. Because redistricting plans submitted electronically must be imported into this software, the commission prefers that computer-drafted plans be submitted as equivalency files giving the census block to district assignments. These files may be submitted in .dat, .dbf., or .txt files.
  - (4) Plans may also be submitted as Esri Shapefiles (.shp) or Caliper data files (.cdf or .dbd).
- E. Although the commission must consider the statewide impact of any local or regional state legislative district map, the commission will accept partial local or regional maps.
- F. All plans submitted to the commission become part of the public record and are open to any member of the public. If requested by the commission, staff will contact each organization or individual submitting a plan to verify authenticity.
- G. The commission may revise the public map submission procedures at future meetings. If the procedures are revised, the commission staff will send out a notice to the commission's interested persons list (described in I.C. of these procedures) to inform the public of the revision.

### Language for Potential Amendments

Based on commissioner discussion at the June 10, 2021, meeting

**Amendment 1:** Focus on congressional plans until late 2021

Background: On June 10, the commissioners discussed when maps could be submitted.

Language: The commission will focus first on completing a congressional redistricting plan within the 90- day timeline required by the Montana Constitution and encourages the public to focus on congressional plans until late 2021. However, the commission will accept state legislative plans at any time.

**Amendment 2:** Use of publicly submitted map for hearings.

Background: The 2010 Commission adopted this language when it planned a series of hearings on statewide state legislative draft maps. Based on discussion at the June meeting, this language might not fit the current commissioners' plans for congressional maps or state legislative maps.

Language: If the commission wishes to use a publicly submitted plan as one of the several upon which it will seek public comment in a series of hearings, the plan must be offered for consideration by at least one member of the commission. The commission may hold a hearing to narrow the number of maps it will use for the public hearings. If the commission decides to use a publicly submitted map as one on which it will seek public comment, the commission may direct staff to review the map for accuracy and completeness (all blocks are assigned) and make nonsubstantive changes to ensure that the maps are consistent (district lines don't jump back and forth over highways or rivers with no population gains).

**Amendment 3:** Limiting number of maps that one individual/entity can submit

Background: On June 10, the commissioners discussed limiting the number of maps. Although the initial discussion indicated the commissioners might not want to limit submissions, the following draft language can be used to amend a limit into the procedures at the July meeting or in the future.

Language: An individual or an entity may only submit X plans.