### HISTORY OF STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTING CRITERIA IN MONTANA, 1974 – 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commission Year</th>
<th>Starting Point</th>
<th>Mandatory Criteria</th>
<th>Discretionary Criteria</th>
<th>Ideal HD Size</th>
<th># of Counties Below Ideal</th>
<th>Range of Deviation</th>
<th>Mean Deviation</th>
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| 1974            | Commission recommended using "the periphery of the state" because the various borders limit the options for districts  
"First districts drawn were rural and toward the boundaries of the state"  
"Last districts drawn were urban and well within the state"  
Started in NE corner | • "Substantial equality" of population/one man one vote  
• Keeping counties intact  
• Maintaining communities of interest  
• Considering on "a case by case basis" the following factors: "geography, trade areas, county lines, minorities, economic interests, rural-urban interest, district homogeneity" | 6,944 | 32 | 15.48% | +7.83% | -7.65% | HD: ± 3.43% SD: ± 2.94% | The Commission originally directed staff to split existing multi-member districts into single-member districts that had no more than a 10.9 percent deviation. This approach was abandoned after it created more problems than it solved. |
| 1980            | The Commission's report suggested starting in the rural, border areas, as had been done by the 1974 Commission.  
Started in NW corner | • Population equality, which the commission established as an overall relative range of 10% or ±5% from ideal average district population  
• Compactness  
• Contiguity  
• Consideration of existing governmental lines  
• Respect for geographic boundaries, especially the Continental Divide and the Missouri River  
• Consideration to existing legislative district boundaries, when practical  
• Senate district boundaries to follow congressional district division when possible  
• Consider communities of interest and defined communities of interest | 7,866.9 | 32 | 10.94% | +5.78% | -5.16% | HD: ± 5.14% SD: ± 5.04% | Commission abandoned criterion to have senate district boundaries follow congressional district boundary: impractical and "did not serve in the effectuation of a rational state policy."  
Discretionary criteria not prioritized.  
Included 6 House and 3 Senate districts in excess of the ±5% deviation (upheld by a federal District Court in McBride v. Mahoney. iv) |
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| 1990            | Northwest corner of the state with the end point in Yellowstone County | • Compactness and contiguity  
• Population equality  
• Maximum population deviation - relative population deviation from ideal population for an individual district may not exceed ± 5%  
• Final results of the 1990 census must be used to form plan  
• Protection of minority rights (may not dilute voting strength of racial or language minorities, compliance with section 2 of VRA) | • Consideration to local government boundaries  
• Consideration when practical to existing voting precinct lines  
• Consideration when practical to school district lines  
• Preserve communities of interest when possible  
• Respect geographical boundaries to the extent possible  
• Consideration to existing districts when practical  
• Political fairness, i.e., districts may not be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party or defeating an incumbent legislator | 7,990.65 | 31v | HD: Overall: 9.96%  
Max: +4.99%  
Min: -4.97% | Discretionary criteria were not prioritized.  
Staff used ARC/INFO software from ESRI. |
| 2000            | Glacier County (and adjacent Flathead and Lake Counties, as necessary), then proceeded in clockwise motion around the state | • Population equality and maximum population deviation (+/- 5%)  
• Compact, contiguous districts  
• Protection of minority voting rights and compliance with VRA  
• Race cannot be the predominant factor to which traditional redistricting criteria are subordinated | • Following lines of political units  
• Following geographic boundaries  
• Keeping communities of interest intact | 9,022 | 31vi | HD: Overall: 9.85%  
Max: 4.98%  
Min: -4.88% | Held 16 public hearings, including mandatory one in Helena.  
Staff used autoBound software from Citygate. |
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<td>2010</td>
<td>The Commission chose a statewide approach, taking public comment on 5 maps before adopting 100 House Districts.</td>
<td>• Population equality and maximum population deviation (+/- 3%)</td>
<td>• Following lines of political units</td>
<td>9,894</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>HD: + 0.91%</td>
<td>SD: + 0.76%</td>
<td>Held 3 public hearings on districting criteria selection prior to the availability of Census figures</td>
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<td>• Compact, contiguous districts</td>
<td>• Following geographic boundaries</td>
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