



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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REDISTRICTING NEWS *Update*

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Commissioner Greg Barkus has resigned effective upon the appointment of his replacement. Commissioner Barkus has filed for candidacy in Senate District 39 in Flathead County. Senator Fred Thomas, Senate Majority Leader, will be appointing his replacement from a district containing Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties.

The Commission met for its fifth and sixth public hearings on February 19 in Miles City (Southeast Region) and February 20 in Lewistown (Central Region). Written testimony will be accepted through March 13, 2002.

The dates for the Billings and Crow Agency public hearings have been changed to March 27 in Billings and March 28 in Crow Agency. On March 27, the Commission will hold an executive session at 3 p.m. and a public hearing at 7 p.m.. The public hearing at Crow Agency on March 28 will be held at 1 p.m. Meeting details will be included in the next newsletter. Written testimony will be accepted through April 18, 2002.

A mailing will be sent with maps, descriptions, and staff analysis to the Clerk and Recorders, Central Committees, and Legislators in the affected regions approximately two weeks prior to the hearings. The Commission will tentatively adopt plans for the Northcentral and Northeast Regions at its March 27 Executive Session in Billings. The next meetings are tentatively scheduled in late April or early May in Bozeman, Butte, and Helena. The next region to receive staff visits will be counties in Southcentral and Southwest Montana. Staff is visiting each area about two months in advance.

Regional maps of proposals for legislative districts for the Northcentral, Northeast, and Southeast Regions are available through the "Redistricting" link on the legislative website.

Please send all written testimony and correspondence to the Districting and Apportionment Commission, PO Box 201706, Helena MT 59620. It will be copied and sent to each Commissioner and the originals retained for the Commission's file. Please check the Commission's website for more information at the "Redistricting" link on the Legislative Branch website at leg.mt.gov. For more information, contact Susan Byorth Fox, (406) 444-3064 or sfox@mt.gov.

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