



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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REDISTRICTING NEWS

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On May 1, 2002, the Commission tentatively adopted Plan 300B, as amended, for the Southeast/Central and Southcentral Regions. This included the counties of Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Carter, Powder River, Big Horn, Treasure, Judith Basin, Fergus, Petroleum, Yellowstone, Carbon, and Musselshell Counties.

The "B" designation was in the Fergus, Chouteau, and Judith Basin Counties area and designated the plan that split Lewistown. This created a western house district that included Lewistown and the southern portion of Fergus County, the remainder of Chouteau County (most everything southwest of the Missouri River, excluding a small portion southeast of Fort Benton), and all of Judith Basin County. The other half of Lewistown and the northern half of Fergus County is joined with Petroleum, Garfield, and most of McCone County (excluding Circle).

Amendments were adopted for the Custer County and Miles City areas, and Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, Big Horn, Yellowstone, and Carbon Counties. Both the amendments and the adopted plans' overview and maps will be on the website by the end of the week. For hard copies, please contact Susan Fox.

The next region that the Commission will be considering is the Southwest Region. The counties included in this region are: Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Park, Gallatin, Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Madison, Beaverhead, Butte/Silverbow, Anaconda/Deer Lodge, Powell, and Granite Counties. The Commission will be holding **regional public hearings** on May 21 and 22 in:

May 21, 2002 Public Hearings

1 p.m.
Strand Union Building, Room 275
Bozeman

7 p.m.
Council Chambers
Butte

May 22, 2002 Public Hearing

1 p.m.
Room 102, State Capitol
Helena

A mailing for the Southwest Region has been sent with maps, descriptions, and staff analysis to the Clerk and Recorders, Central Committees, Legislators, and legislative candidates in the affected regions. The Commission will accept written testimony on the proposals through June 12, 2002, and tentatively adopt a plan for this region on June 17, 2002.

Regional maps of proposals for legislative districts for the Northcentral, Northeast, Southeast/Central, and Southcentral Regions are available through the "Redistricting" link on the legislative website. The Southwest Region maps should be available by the end of the week.

The staff will begin visits to the Western Region in June. The public hearings for the Western Region will be held August 12 and 13, 2002, with a tentative adoption of a plan for that region on September 16.

Dates to remember:

May 21-22 Southwest Region Public Hearings: Bozeman, Butte, Helena

June 12 Written testimony and amendments due

June 17 Executive Session: Adopt Southwest Region

August 12-13 Western Region Public Hearings: Kalispell, Pablo, Missoula

September 3 Written testimony and amendments due

September 16 Executive Session: Adopt Western Region

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@smt.gov.

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