

Conservative Voters – A Critical Issue of Redistricting.

Below is a letter from Debbie Churchill relating to drawing the lines for the Congressional districts in Montana. Simply put, this may determine whether our Western District is representative of Montana for the next decade. The committee leans towards Democratic favor. Only YOUR input may change this critical decision. In just a few minutes, you **can follow the step-by-step process below**. **Examples of comments** are below. Those I trust are favoring Maps 1 first and 5 second. You will be shocked at what the Democrats are trying to with some of these maps.

Redistricting Montana Congressional Districts Letter from Debbie Churchill, MT GOP Oct. 13, 2021

The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission met last week and put forward a total of nine maps for public comment. And while republican members of the commission put forward four maps that split the state into eastern and western districts and provide a balance between geographies, communities and populations similar to Montana's history with two districts (maps 1,3,5 and 7), Democrats proposed five partisan, gerrymandered maps that clearly draw one district in favor of their political party (maps 2,4,6,8, and 9).

Ways you can help:

1. Submit your written comments by ***THIS SATURDAY, October 16th no later than 5 pm***. Pick one map that you like and comment on it. Then comment what you dislike on each of the gerrymandered maps. So, you will comment on six maps total. Below is the process to do it, and many points you can pick from to make.

Step By Step Process For Submitting Comments:

1. Go to the commission website to submit your comments found [HERE](#).
 2. Click on the “Interactive Map” tab next to a map that you want to comment on. You will see either a red, green or yellow dot of comments already made. You can also read comments off to the right.
 3. Off to the right, click on the “Add Comment” button. Next, click anywhere on the map. It will bring up the form to fill out.
 4. Click either Like, Dislike or Opinion button. Continue filling out the form with your name, address, email and phone number. In the last box add your comments.
 5. Then click ADD COMMENT to submit.
2. **Rally together at the Capitol next Tuesday, October 19th at 9 am** as the Commission will be holding a public hearing on the nine proposed maps put forward. The meeting will be taking place at the State Capitol in Room 102 and will begin at 10 am. You can find the full agenda for the meeting [HERE](#).

3. Can't attend the meeting in person? Be sure to [register to attend virtually](#) ***no later than 5 pm on Monday, October 18th!***

The redistricting process will determine the political makeup of our state for at least the next decade, and possibly even longer. Your participation is **CRITICAL. We need your help to fight the gerrymandering by Democrats.**

Thank you for all you do and we look forward to seeing you next week!

Sample comments for consideration, not intended to be all-inclusive, can pick and choose the points most important to you:

Map 1 – I like this map because

- it allows for two reservations to be included within the western district, allowing for a stronger voice for the tribes in the new western district.
- the population deviation is just 1 citizen (0%), creating one of the tightest maps by that measure, and both districts are almost the same shape, allowing for compact and contiguous parameters to meet the legal requirements in Montana.
- there are split counties in Cascade and Gallatin, but it keeps both major cities intact in the eastern district (Great Falls and Bozeman).
- this map splits the fastest growing 4 counties evenly between the east and west districts, allowing for the best reflection of population growth over the decade.
- when you follow the commissions' illegal goals of competitive, it is the closest number of voters for each party using the 2016 Governor's race and the 2018 Senate race for each district. This is the most competitive map for both parties in the choices available.
- most closely resembles the historical divide Montana had for 80 years when we had two districts before, adjusting for population and tribe inclusion.

Map 2 – I dislike this map because

- it is one of the worst examples of gerrymandering one could draw. Although it meets the population deviation requirement at 175 citizens (.02%), it is a travesty of compactness and a contiguous nightmare. A candidate would have to traverse over 700 miles to get from Libby to Miles City, spending 10 hours of time, and when they got to either, the needs of both communities are polar opposites as well.
- it obviously breaks the law, violating 5-1-115(3b,c,d) because when you search the political affiliation of registered voters in the counties represented, it creates a very

strong democrat district in the SW, and a very strong Republican district everywhere else.

- this map creates only one congressional seat bordering the huge economic driver of Canada with the state.
- this map doesn't even begin to resemble the historical divide we had for 80 years with our previous two congressional seats, keeping communities of interest intact based upon the commonalities easily found in an east west divided map.
- it encircles Helena, Missoula, Butte and Bozeman to create a Democrat Super District, and should be voted "most likely to be sued by both the GOP and all Tribal governments" Map of 2021!

Map 3 – I like this map because

- it has all the characteristics of the CP-1 map, with a slightly larger population deviation at -560 (-0.1%). The only difference is the southern part of Gallatin around West Yellowstone and Hebgen Lake Estates will be in the western drawn map. Slight changes in the western parts of the county as well, but the cities of Great Falls and Bozeman remain intact and in the east.
- it does not favor a political party. Either district could be won by Republican or Democrat.
- it creates both districts of almost the same shape, allowing for compact and contiguous parameters to meet the legal requirements in Montana
- it splits the fastest growing 4 counties evenly between the east and west districts, allowing for the best reflection of population growth over the next decade.

Map 4 – I dislike this map because

- this gerrymandered map is the best example of violating keeping communities of interest intact. Kalispell is the county seat of government, is where all the airports reside, and is the social and economic hub for the county. When you look at the illegal criteria of competitiveness adopted by the Commission, the divide through the Flathead places all the strong republican precincts in the east, and the democrat ones in the west, linking them to the democrat strongholds of Helena with Butte and combines both major university town into one district. This has the double effect of dividing the political power of the strongest Republican county in the state. This obvious gerrymandering continues when you evaluate all the locations, creating another Democrat super district in the west, and a double digit political lead in the east for the Republicans.
- looking at future growth, this map will obviously favor the western district, and we can be sure the population will quickly ruin the equality of both these districts over

the next decade of growth. Let's vote this one "the most likely to render the Ravalli county Republican stronghold and the majority Democrat eastern tribes in Montana impotent in their new seats!"

- it has only one positive feature, allowing for two reservations to be included within the western district. However, that is outweighed because it violates the compact and contiguous tests with the partisan half taken from Flathead County, placing Kalispell in the eastern district.

Map 5 – I like this map because

- it is an attempt to get three tribes in the western district as its primary goal, and falls just under the requirement of .75%, with 7551 population deviation (.7%). It could be argued to fall just under our requirements for compact and contiguous in the effort to get three tribes in the west, splitting the Rocky Boy Reservation components in Hill and Choteau counties off.
- it also closely resembles the historical divide Montana had for 80 years when we had two districts before, adjusting for population and tribe inclusion.
- It allows for an even divide of the 4 fastest growing counties in Montana, 2 on each side, thus insuring the population growth in both seats would keep things even as we grow in the next decade.
- it definitely keeps communities of interest intact and doesn't split any reservations. Again, if we consider the illegal requirement of competitiveness adopted by the commission, both of these districts are very competitive based upon 2016 Governor and 2018 US Senate race results, allowing for either major party in Montana a chance for victory. This map could easily be "the great compromise map of the lot."

Map 6 – I dislike this map because

- it has almost all the failures of the CP-2 map, and is once again another violation of the legal requirements of compact and contiguous. Even though it complies with population deviation of 1 citizen (.0%), you have to drive through the other district to get to Mineral and Sanders counties.
- it splits Sanders County, only so you can maintain the boundary of the only Tribe in district (CSKT).
- Even though it splits up the 4 fastest growing counties evenly, it fails the communities of interest test and leaves one Congressman representing the Canadian interface.

- This map creates a Super Democrat District out of the west, and a super republican one, which by the way has all the other tribes in it, for the east. This one could be very competitive however for being voted “most likely to be sued by both the GOP and all Tribal governments” Map of 2021!

Map 7 – I like this map because

- It most closely resembles the historical east west divide Montana had for 80 years, with the north south line actually being the Continental Divide for most of its length.
- it is tied with CP-1 for being the most compact and contiguous map in the mix, weighing in at just 9 citizens in population deviation (.0%).
- it keeps all communities of interest intact the very best, with farming in the east and forestry in the west, splitting only Gallatin county north of the expressway through Bozeman.
- both districts have shared borders with Canada, as it should be.
- both of these districts are within single digits for either party based upon the 2016 Governor and the 2018 US Senate races data, creating the second best “competitive map” for both districts.

Map 8 – I dislike this map because

- it is another example of gerrymandering prowess, with the only legal component being the population deviation is 1 citizen (.0%).
- it has all the failures of CP-2, with the added insult of having just one seat border Canada and surprisingly, most of Idaho as well! This map does have the distinction of being the most in violation of compact and contiguous, as well as totally splitting communities of interest in the west.
- this map is the most radically different from our historical division of 80 years, and although it is an attempt to put two tribes in the west, it is the CSKT and the Crow, which have never been in the same community of interest (coal anyone?).
- this map literally splits the city of Billings from the West End, the Heights and Lockwood. This fiasco places almost all 3 of the 4 fastest growing counties in the state in one district, and there is no way that even pencils out over the decade for being fair with the potential growth.
- with the measure of competitiveness, this map gets the award for the most Super Democrat district in the new west, and the most super district for the Republicans in the east. These are double digit differences, so a sure lock for both parties.

Map 9 – I dislike this map because

- it has all the failures of CP-2 map, including its only saving grace is the legality of its population deviation being 1 citizen (.0%). The biggest stand out failure of this map is in violation of Federal Election Law, where it actually has no tribal nations in the new western seat. This failure is compounded by the illegal competitive measure, when one realizes the new eastern seat is a double digit percentage favorite for the Republican Party, when looking at the 2016 Governor and 2018 US Senate race results. It still creates a Democrat super seat with the same power house groups of Cp-2 for the new western seat.
- it is an obvious violation of compact, contiguous and communities of interest, as well as once again allowing only one seat to represent the critical interface with Canada. The historical map also has nothing in common with this map, and honestly this maps only distinction will be “the most likely to be rejected first at the next Redistricting meeting.”