

**DISTRICTING & APPORTIONMENT
COMMISSION**

PUBLIC COMMENT

**BILLINGS HEARING
APRIL 19, 2010**

JOHN FLETCHER
P.O. Box 8381
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 721-4269
fletcher@montana.com

April 11, 2010

Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Commissioners:

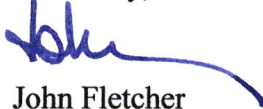
Please accept this letter of support for (1) using the current districts as you begin your consideration and (2) maintaining the traditional deviation in population for all districts.

I sincerely believe this is one of those ends-justifies-the-means situations. The last Commission's work produced excellent results regarding effective representation from communities of interest—our several reservations—which greatly improved the scope and manner of discourse in our legislative bodies. Sure, an effect for Missoula County is that residents of a portion of the county up Evaro Hill and Mercer are represented by legislators living in Heart Butte (HD15) and Browning (SD8). I sincerely doubt you will receive any complaints; county residents are proud to have our interests known and attended by Rep. Calf Boss Ribs and (especially!) Sen. Juneau. The districts may appear to have awkward-looking geographic boundaries, but their social integrity is evident.

Second, the spirit and intent of the Voting Rights Act are being met with accepting a +/- 5% deviation in population for all districts. Attempting to refine the numbers with a lower deviation is an exacting and probably futile exercise...and risks exposing the State to litigation from those who might see the results as having sacrificed—for very questionable reasons—the opportunities for significant minority participation which we've achieved.

I thank you for your service on the Commission in this present cycle and I appreciate your time and attention in this present matter.

Gratefully,



John Fletcher

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:04 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: redistricting

From: Molly Bradford [mailto:mhaislnut@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 8:51 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: redistricting

Dear Redistricting Commission:

It is a fundamental tenet of our democracy that each Montanan be afforded an equally meaningful vote. With this in mind, please consider the following comments on the criteria the Commission should adopt when drawing the new legislative district maps.

First, it is critical that all criteria be consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act. This means that the Commission must maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, which encourages and improves minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.

Second, it is of utmost importance to the integrity and legitimacy of our representative democracy that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices. Second, with the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway, it only makes sense to use current districts as starting points for redistricting. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering. Lastly, communities of interest should remain intact. We must not artificially divide and contort the political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain.

The importance of your task can not be overstated. Our very right to democratic self-governance depends on you.

Molly Bradford
Co-Owner, Director of Sales
HB Enterprises, Inc: MissoulaEvents.net, BozemanEvents.net, BoiseEvents.net, MissoulaIndoorAds.com

406.880.0880
mollymissoula@gmail.com

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:05 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Fair redistricting criteria

From: brianna.randall@gmail.com [mailto:brianna.randall@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 9:00 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Fair redistricting criteria

Dear Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for considering the following comments on criteria for drawing the new legislative district maps. I believe these will ensure that each Montana has a fair, equitable, and meaningful vote.

Please ensure that all criteria are consistent with the Voting Rights Act by maintaining the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts. This will encourage and improve minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.

Next, one of the most critical components of the Commission is to ensure the legitimacy of our representative democracy is making sure that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber due to district boundaries rather than the will of the voters in Montana. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices.

Lastly, please avoid artificially dividing political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain. It makes sense to use current districts as starting points for redistricting, especially based on the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering.

Thank you for taking on this important task of improving and maintaining Montanans' right to democratic self-governance and fair representation.

Sincerely,

Brianna Randall
2550 Gilbert Ave
Missoula, MT 59802

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:05 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Redistricting

-----Original Message-----

From: galextaft@gmail.com [mailto:galextaft@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Alex Taft
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 9:07 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Redistricting

Dear Redistricting Commission:

It is a fundamental tenet of our democracy that each Montanan be afforded an equally meaningful vote. With this in mind, please consider the following comments on the criteria the Commission should adopt when drawing the new legislative district maps.

First, it is critical that all criteria be consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act. This means that the Commission must maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, which encourages and improves minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.

Second, it is of utmost importance to the integrity and legitimacy of our representative democracy that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices. Second, with the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway, it only makes sense to use current districts as starting points for redistricting. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering. Lastly, communities of interest should remain intact. We must not artificially divide and contort the political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain.

The importance of your task can not be overstated. Our very right to democratic self-governance depends on you.

Alex Taft
332 S 1ST ST W Apt A
Missoula, MT 59801
406-218-8438

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:05 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW:

From: Luke Phinney [mailto:lphinney@oza.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 9:15 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject:

Joe,

Thanks for passing this on to the commission.

Dear Redistricting Commission:

Please consider the following comments on the criteria the Commission should adopt when drawing the new legislative district maps.

Please maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, not a 1% deviation.

Please consider that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices. Please use current districts as starting points for redistricting.

Thanks

Luke

Luke Phinney, Landscape Architect



OZ A r c h i t e c t s P C

125 Bank Street
Missoula, Montana 59802
(406) 728-3013 Fax (406) 728-9277
lphinney@oza.com
<http://www.oza.com>

P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:08 AM
To: 'Borgmann, Albert'
Cc: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: RE: Legislative Districts

Albert:

Thanks for the comment. I agree with you.

I'll forward it for the Commission record.

Joe Lamson

-----Original Message-----

From: Borgmann, Albert [mailto:albert.borgmann@mso.umt.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 9:22 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Legislative Districts

Dear Joe:

I'm very concerned that the districts be drawn fairly by the standards of representation and geography. Gerrymandering is an embarrassment to a democracy.

Best regards, Albert

Albert Borgmann

Department of Philosophy
The University of Montana
Missoula, MT 59812-5780

Phone: 406 243 2792

Email: Albert.Borgmann@umontana.edu

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:08 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Redistricting plans

From: Jerry O'Connell [mailto:joconnell@blackfoot.net]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 10:26 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Redistricting plans

Dear Redistricting Commission:

Please consider the following criteria drawing the new legislative district maps:

1. Maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, which encourages and improves minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.
2. The state-wide plan should be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices.
3. With the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway, you should use current districts as starting points for redistricting. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering.
4. "Communities of interest" should remain intact. We must not artificially divide and contort the political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain.

Our right to democratic self-governance depends on the success of your efforts. Don't blow it.

Sincerely,

Gerard ("Jerry") O'Connell
Deborah O'Connell
35701 Nine Mile Prairie Rd.
Greenough, MT 59823

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Districting -- voting rights

From: jessica stamler [mailto:jessica.stamler@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 10:51 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Districting -- voting rights

Dear Redistricting Commission:

It is a fundamental tenet of our democracy that each Montanan be afforded an equally meaningful vote. With this in mind, please consider the following comments on the criteria the Commission should adopt when drawing the new legislative district maps.

First, it is critical that all criteria be consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act. This means that the Commission must maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, which encourages and improves minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.

Second, it is of utmost importance to the integrity and legitimacy of our representative democracy that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices. Second, with the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway, it only makes sense to use current districts as starting points for redistricting. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering. Lastly, communities of interest should remain intact. We must not artificially divide and contort the political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain.

The importance of your task can not be overstated. Our very right to democratic self-governance depends on you.

Thank you,

Jessica Stamler
Missoula, MT

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Legislative Districts

From: Mary Caroline Temple [mailto:mcarolinetemple@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:51 PM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: RE: Legislative Districts

Dear Redistricting Commission,

It is a fundamental tenet of our democracy that each Montanan be afforded an equally meaningful vote. With this in mind, please consider the following comments on the criteria the Commission should adopt when drawing the new legislative district maps.

First, it is critical that all criteria be consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act. This means that the Commission must maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, which encourages and improves minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.

Second, it is of utmost importance to the integrity and legitimacy of our representative democracy that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices. Second, with the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway, it only makes sense to use current districts as starting points for redistricting. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering. Lastly, communities of interest should remain intact. We must not artificially divide and contort the political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain.

The importance of your task can not be overstated. Our very right to democratic self-governance depends on you.

Thank you for all your hard work and your consideration of the comments above.

Mary C Temple
Missoula resident

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:10 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Redistricting:

From: Jerry Ford [mailto:jford@montana.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Redistricting:

I would like to see the districts be as even as possible population wise, and represent a cross section of the public as much as possible. Thanks for your work. jerry

Jerry M. Ford

2003 & 2009 REALTOR OF THE YEAR

Commercial Broker

Lambros Real Estate ERA

3011 American Way

Missoula, MT 59808

406-532-9244 direct line

406-532-9330 fax

406-370-3408 cell

email: jford@montana.com

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:11 AM
To: 'bridget clarke'
Cc: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: RE: MT legislative districts

Thanks for taking the time to share your comments. I will forward them for the resord.

Joe Lamson

-----Original Message-----

From: bridget clarke [mailto:bclarke0@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 7:24 PM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: MT legislative districts

Dear Commissioner Lamson:

Please send this on to the commission overseeing redistricting. Many thanks!

Dear Redistricting Commission:

It is a fundamental tenet of our democracy that each Montanan be afforded an equally meaningful vote. With this in mind, please consider the following comments on the criteria the Commission should adopt when drawing the new legislative district maps.

First, it is critical that all criteria be consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act. This means that the Commission must maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, which encourages and improves minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.

Second, it is of utmost importance to the integrity and legitimacy of our representative democracy that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices. Second, with the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway, it only makes sense to use current districts as starting points for redistricting. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering. Lastly, communities of interest should remain intact. We must not artificially divide and contort the political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain.

The importance of your task can not be overstated. Our very right to democratic self-governance depends on you.

Sincerely,
B. Clarke
Missoula, MT 59802

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 5:03 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Please make legislative districts fair

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 5:00 PM
To: 'Jim McLean'
Subject: RE: Please make legislative districts fair

Thanks for your thoughtful comments. I'll make sure they are added to the record.

Joe Lamson

From: Jim McLean [mailto:jim@frenchtownpt.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 10:33 PM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Please make legislative districts fair

Dear Redistricting Commission:

It is a fundamental tenet of our democracy that each Montanan be afforded an equally meaningful vote. With this in mind, please consider the following comments on the criteria the Commission should adopt when drawing the new legislative district maps.

First, it is critical that all criteria be consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act. This means that the Commission must maintain the traditional plus or minus 5% population deviation for all districts, which encourages and improves minority participation in the democratic process. Some have recently suggested a 1% deviation, which will suppress minority participation. If a 1% deviation is adopted, the State of Montana would be forced to unsuccessfully defend this anti-democratic provision in what is sure to be a costly lawsuit.

Second, it is of utmost importance to the integrity and legitimacy of our representative democracy that the state-wide plan be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats control either legislative chamber simply due to district boundaries. Districts should be as competitive as possible to provide voters with meaningful choices. Second, with the 2010 U.S. Census currently underway, it only makes sense to use current districts as starting points for redistricting. This provides transparency for voters and decreases the appearance of gerrymandering. Lastly, communities of interest should remain intact. We must not artificially divide and contort the political boundaries of our communities simply for partisan gain.

The importance of your task can not be overstated. Our very right to democratic self-governance depends on you.

Jim M. McLean,

Box 851

Frenchtown, MT 59834

Phone: (cell) (406) 626-2471

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 8:20 AM
To: 'Jerry Navratil'
Cc: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: RE: comments re/redistricting

Thanks for your thoughtful comments. I'll make sure they are added to the record.

Joe Lamson

From: Jerry Navratil [mailto:gjmena@midrivers.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 5:10 PM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: comments re/redistricting

Hello, Joe: I believe that it is absolutely imperative that each Montanan is granted an equally meaningful vote in each and every election. I also discourage any effort to in any way dilute the + or - 5% deviation for all voting districts which provides protections for minority participation in every election. Montana has a rich heritage of democratic participation in elections at all levels. Let's not fritter away the high standards we've maintained to this date. Thanks for your hard work in this arena, Joe.

Jerry Navratil

Weiss, Rachel

From: Smith, Pat
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 8:45 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: redistricting comments

From: Jerry Navratil [gjmena@midrivers.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 5:15 PM
To: Smith, Pat
Subject: redistricting comments

Pat: Every ten years we face the same challenge of creating and maintaining representative districts in our state. To achieve the greatest possible representational equity it's really important that districts be drawn so that neither Republicans nor Democrats have a "leg up" from the get go. Let's use what we have as at least a starting point. Let's maintain reasonable boundaries that unite rather than divide. Best wishes for the job ahead.

Maryellen Navratil

**BLAINE COUNTY
CLERK AND RECORDER/ASSESSOR
SANDRA L. BOARDMAN
P. O. Box 278
Chinook, MT 59523-0278
(406) 357-3240
(406) 357-2199 Fax**

April 13, 2010

Montana Legislative Services Division
P. O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: Districting criteria

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to request that when you look at the proposed Legislative Districts in Blaine County that you keep each of my precincts whole and do not divide them. Blaine County currently has each precinct whole and we would appreciate you considering this for the future.

Thank you for your consideration to this manner and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sandra L. Boardman
Blaine County Election Administrator

RECEIVED

APR 15 2010

Montana Legislative
Services Division

April 14, 2010

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for taking public comment on the criteria you will use to determine Montana's next legislative districts.

The first and foremost criterion should be that partisan data should not be used in drawing district boundaries. Admitted partisan gerrymandering in the last redistricting cycle resulted in bitter animosity that has continued through the succeeding legislative sessions.

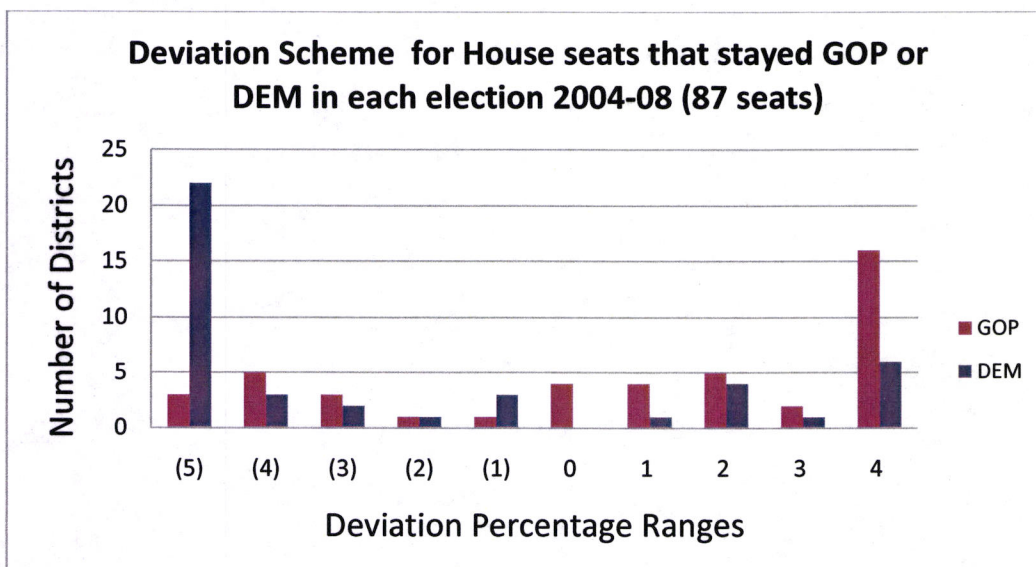
I have heard comments in the media that the redistricting process should be used to create parity between the political parties. That bit of rhetoric is incorrect. Unless there is an even split between voters of each party, the only way to create parity is to artificially give an advantage to one party and handicap the other. The natural result of partisan gerrymandering aimed at creating "parity" is to give the minority of voters over-representation in the legislature, and an under-representation for the majority of voters.

I've also heard said that the result of the last commission's work created a more competitive environment. That notion isn't supported by the facts. Under the current plan, only 13 House seats changed from one party to the other; compare that with 24 seats changing hands during the elections under the previous plan. What the last commission did accomplish was to create more safe seats, not more competitive seats.

I can see no compelling reason that this redistricting commission should give an advantage to one party or handicap the other. The notion that the commission should somehow create this supposed parity reeks of the worst type of political manipulation of the voting populace.

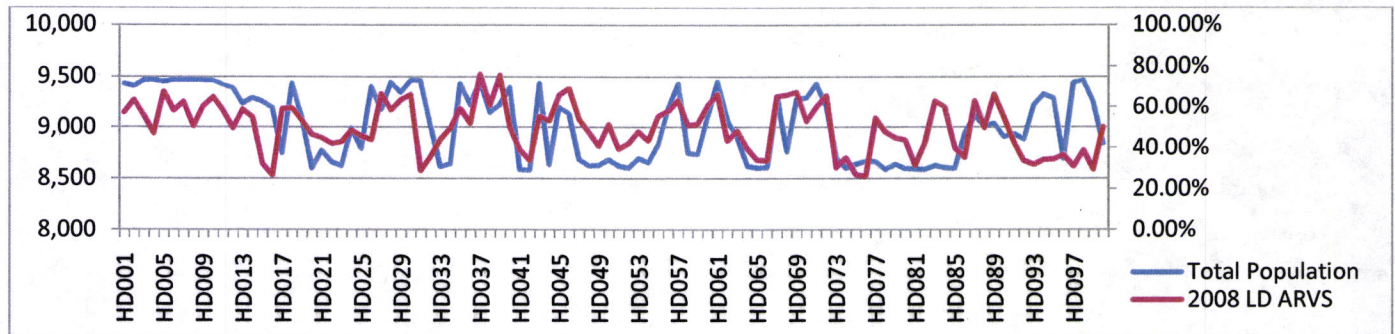
We can show how this was done in the last redistricting cycle. The chart below includes only legislative districts that were controlled by the same party in each of the elections under the current plan. The chart shows the number of seats, by party, in each percent-deviation ranges.

There were 22 seats with a deviation of between -4% and -5% that were controlled by Democrats in the elections following the last redistricting cycle; only 3 seats in this deviation range were controlled by Republicans. Conversely, 16 seats with a deviation of 4% or more were controlled by Republicans and only 6 by Democrats. What this illustrates is that Democratic-leaning districts were systematically under-populated in order to spread their vote to as many districts as possible, while Republican voters were crammed into over-populated districts to dilute their voting power.



Another visual representation of the inequity created by the last commission is to compare district populations with a measure of the party strength in each district, plotted in the graph below. The blue line represents the estimated population of each House district, based on census data. The red line represents a composite Average Republican Voting Strength (ARVS) of the districts, calculated by averaging percent-vote earned in that district by each Republican candidate on the ticket in 2008. The ARVS is a relative measure of how the "average" Republican candidate did in that district; identical results would result if calculated using Democratic candidates.

Where the peaks of the two lines overlap illustrates districts with high ARVS (strong GOP districts) and high populations. The overlapping troughs illustrate districts with low ARVS (strong DEM districts) and low populations. This graph shows, again, that Republican districts were systematically overpopulated and Democratic districts underpopulated in order to give an advantage to Democratic candidates.



I urge the commission to put on blinders to partisan data in the redistricting process and instead focus their attention fully on creating equal-in-population districts that keep communities of interest together.

Because the current legislative districts were created using partisan data, the existing districts should be abandoned and you should start with a clean slate.

Starting with a fresh map will also allow you to rejoin the many communities of interest that were split apart ten years ago. Keeping communities of interest together should be one of the most important criteria you use.

The next most important criterion I urge you to adopt is to use more equitable population deviation. The last commission used a deviation of +/- 5%. That may seem like a small degree of variance, but keep in mind that the population shifts in districts widen significantly over time.

Currently, the most-populous house district, HD 69 in Bozeman, has 9,061 voters. The least-populous district is HD 24 in Great Falls with 4,035 voters (current voter reg numbers may vary slightly). That makes one district over twice as populous as the other in terms of registered voters. Granted, your obligation is to draw districts not based on voter populations, but the point remains that some districts today are in gross proportion to each other.

By adopting a more-equitable population deviation, say of 1%, those proportions will be smaller in the future. Of course, there is the added challenge of creating Native-American-majority districts. However, the claim that a larger deviation is necessary to create Native-American-majority districts is simply false. It is a proven fact that it can be done with a 1%, or even smaller, deviation.

Sincerely,

Chuck Denowh
640 Leslie
Helena, MT 59601

Kolman, Joe

From: Weiss, Rachel
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 9:57 AM
To: Kolman, Joe
Subject: FW: Redistricting input:

From: Dennis Hicks [dhicks@lightwaveart.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 10:39 AM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: Redistricting input:

Dear Rachel Weiss:

I am unable to attend the redistricting hearing, but want to provide my input as follows:

1. Districts should be of equal size.
Example: One district should not represent 9,400 people and the next one right up the road, only represent 8,600 people.
2. No political data should be used to define districts. Districts should be drawn to represent people, not partisan politics. Ignore political maps. Ignore incumbent districts. Just population, period.
3. Restructure the current districts: The current districts divide communities in two, they have wildly varying population sizes. They are politically biased.
4. Make coherent and cohesive districts that are contiguous.

Thank you for considering my concerns in this important activity.

Sincerely,

Dennis

Dennis W. Hicks
LightWave Art
350 Lorenz Spur Drive
Hamilton, Montana 59840
(406) 961-0111

4/19/2010

Kolman, Joe

From: Kelly McCarthy [kelly@bigskytech.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 9:58 AM
To: Districting; Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission); Smith, Pat
Subject: Redistricting

Hello All,

I am an active independent, split ticket voter. It would seem to me that the best service we can provide when redistricting should be to leave politics out of it. A regions past voting trend should have no bearing on where the lines go. The federal guidelines are good and should be adhered to.

Thanx,

Kelly

4/19/2010

Kolman, Joe

From: John Doe [deltiologist25@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 6:38 PM
To: Districting
Subject: Redistricting criteria

To the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

Here is my input as a citizen concerning reapportionment criteria.

I like the idea of legislative districts being centered around communities of interest, which I believe you are already using as one of your criteria. I would like to suggest that you apply such criteria with respect to urban vs. rural differences. I notice that here in Great Falls, many districts include both. A given district includes a part of Great Falls, then stretches out for many miles into rural areas. I think a better idea would be to have urban districts whose boundaries follow the edge of the developed area and rural districts that are entirely rural.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,
Larry Dhooghe
1222 5th Ave. S. #1
Great Falls

4/19/2010