

FUTURE DECISION POINTS (September 24, 2009)

At future meetings, the Commission will need to decide how to tackle the redistricting process. This document is not meant to be a checklist of future choices, but simply a tool commissioners can use to begin to think about structuring the Commission's work for the next few years. Many of the decisions will provide guidelines to staff for assisting the commissioners and for organizing the redistricting process.

Decisions the Commission must make:

- Mandatory and discretionary redistricting criteria - mandatory criteria will be based on U.S. and Montana Constitutional requirements, any statutory requirements, and current case law.
- Starting point for redistricting and how to proceed with the mapping from the chosen starting point

Other possible decision points involve the process of redistricting:

- if, where, and when staff will make advance visits to regions to solicit advice and information and inform interested parties about the Commission's work;
- how should commissioners give input for the actual district line-drawing;
- how the plans should be prepared and presented by staff;
- how the Commission will accept public recommendations and suggestions and the deadlines associated with accepting these comments (in person, public meetings, through email/mail up to a certain point after a public hearing);
- if the Commission will accept 3rd party plans;
- if the Commission accepts 3rd party plans, how and when those plans must be submitted for review and consideration;
- how to conduct tentative adoptions of maps after they are created and presented to the public
- how amendments to plans or tentatively adopted plans should be offered;
- others?

Decisions already made:

- approved using *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure* as the Commission's official procedural guide for deliberations