

# Legislative Redistricting Update

**October 4, 2012**

**League of Cities and Towns**

**Rachel Weiss, Legislative Services Division**

# The Basics

- Legislative redistricting = redrawing boundaries of state legislative districts
- Happens every 10 years
  - adjusts the population after the decennial census
- Montana uses an independent commission
- Commission uses mandatory and discretionary criteria to guide line drawing
  - Mandatory criteria from U.S. and Montana constitutions
  - Discretionary are “traditional criteria” selected by commissioners

# Mandatory Criteria

- Population equality and maximum population deviation
  - Ideal state house district size = 9,894 people
  - Population deviation of +/- 3% (9,597 to 10,190)
- Compact and contiguous districts
- Protection of minority voting rights and compliance with the Voting Rights Act
- Race cannot be the predominant factor to which the traditional discretionary criteria are subordinated.

# Discretionary Criteria

- Following the lines of political units
- Following geographic boundaries
- Keeping communities of interest intact

# Recap: 2009-2010

- 2009
  - Commissioners appointed – 4 by legislative leadership; the presiding officer by MT Supreme Court
- 2010
  - 3 public hearings around state to gather comment on criteria
  - Adopted criteria

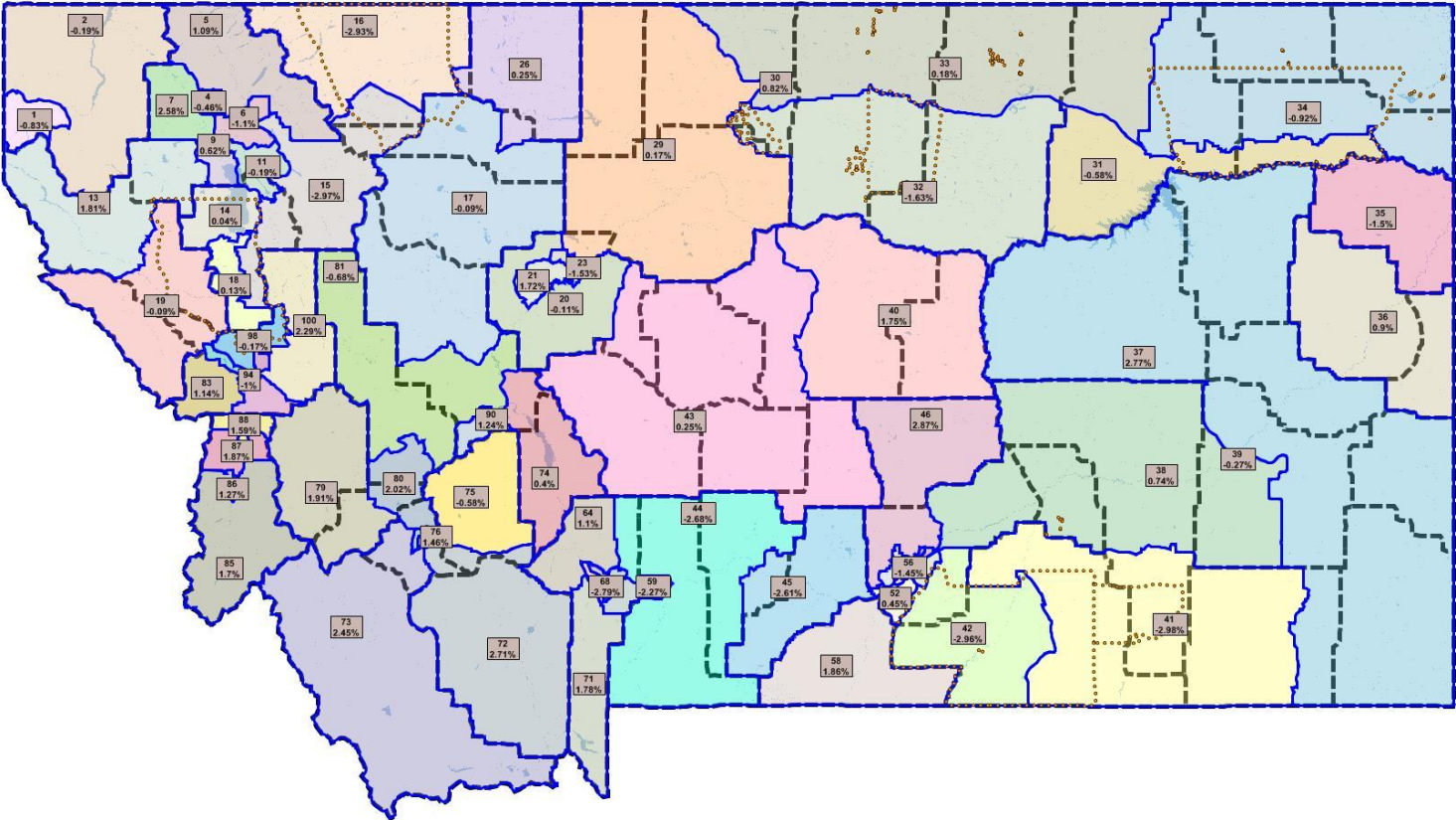
# Recap: 2011-2012

- 2011
  - Received 2010 Census data
  - Adopt congressional plan
  - Set operating procedures for legislative redistricting
  - Staff visits
  - Commissioners and staff begin draft plans
- 2012
  - 1 hearing to introduce and review 5 draft plans
  - 14 public hearings to gather comment
  - Adopted 100 House districts in August

# Tentative Commission Plan

- Tentatively adopted 8/17 by 5-0 vote
- House districts will be paired to form Senate districts
- Tentative!

# Tentative Commission Plan





# A Look Ahead– Upcoming Meetings

- October 25 @ 10 a.m. – conference call
  - Technical amendments, process for justifying deviations and creating senate districts
- November 15 @ 6:30 p.m. – public hearing in Helena
  - Comments on senate districts and assignments of holdover senators (those senators elected in 2012)
- November 30 – executive action (Time TBD) in Helena
  - Consider substantive amendments, adopt senate pairs
- December 19 – required public hearing on whole plan
  - Vote on plan to submit to 2013 Legislature

# A Look Ahead - 2013

- Submit plan by 10<sup>th</sup> legislative day
  - Session starts January 7
- Legislature has 30 calendar days to provide recommendations
- Commission has 30 calendar days to file plan with Secretary of State
- Commission is NOT required to make changes based on legislative recommendations
- Commission is dissolved upon filing plan

# What Can You Do?

- Review Tentative Commission Plan and tell the commissioners what you like and what you suggest be changed.
  - Visit [www.leg.mt.gov/districting](http://www.leg.mt.gov/districting) to see detailed maps
- Provide comment on what House districts might be paired to form a Senate district
- Testify at the November and December public hearings



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## Districting and Apportionment Commission 2011-2012

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Redistricting is the act of drawing new political boundaries. In Montana, the five-member Districting and Apportionment Commission has authority under the [Montana Constitution](#) to draw the boundaries of congressional and legislative districts every 10 years. Using population data from the most recent U.S. Census, the commission will draw districts with approximately the same number of people in them. The process must be completed by early 2013. Because Montana has only one congressional district, the commission will focus on redrawing state legislative district lines.

In early 2010, the commission adopted [districting criteria](#) to use when creating and judging maps; the commission's [operating procedures](#) provide more detail about how it will complete the redistricting task.

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- [Tentative Commission Plan](#) (as adopted 8/17)

### Meetings

Upcoming public hearings:

# www.leg.mt.gov/districting

## Click on Tentative Commission Plan

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## Tentative Commission Plan

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### Statewide View

- [State](#) (Google Earth - Requires download of Google Earth and File)
- [State](#) (Google Map -- Will be posted when available)
- [Statewide Map](#) (pdf - 8.5x11)

### Population Centers and Other Regional Views

**South East Region** (pdf)

- [South East Montana view](#)
- [Big Horn and Rosebud Counties](#)
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# Need help or have questions?

- Contact Rachel Weiss or Joe Kolman,  
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