



DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION ON AUGUST 17, 2021

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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Month, Day, Year]

Address information for Senator Tester, Senator Daines, and Senator Rosendale

Dear [Name],

The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission is the five-member, citizen commission charged by the Montana Constitution with drawing the state's congressional and state legislative district lines. One of the challenges we face is how to account for incarcerated populations as we draw those lines. While the U.S. Census Bureau (Bureau) counts prisoners as residents of the correctional facility in which they reside on Census Day, many of our stakeholders would prefer that prisoners be counted as residents of the places in which they resided prior to incarceration. We are currently exploring ways our state could gather that residential information and adjust the P.L. 94-171 data we that receive from the Bureau. However, we also recognize that our work would be simpler if Congress would enact legislation to require the U.S. Census Bureau to count prisoners at their home addresses rather than at correctional facilities and to allow prisoners to submit race, ethnicity, and address data through forms completed by the prisoners themselves when possible. These changes would create more complete, useful redistricting data for policymakers and line drawers.

[Other commission statements and requests?]

Thank you for your service and for considering our requests.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Maylinn Smith Commissioner Jeff Essmann
Presiding Officer

Commissioner Joe Lamson

Commissioner Kendra Miller

Commissioner Dan Stusek