



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

Commission members:

Janine Pease Pretty On Top
Presiding Officer
P.O. Box 447
Lodge Grass, MT 59050

Joe Lamson
612 Touchstone Circle
Helena, MT 59601

Jack D. Rehberg
2922 Glenwood Lane
Billings, MT 59102

Sheila Rice
913 3rd Ave.
Great Falls, MT 59401

Dean Jellison
116 Crestline Ave.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Staff:

Susan Byorth Fox
Research Analyst
John MacMaster
Attorney

REDISTRICTING NEWS

September 23, 2002

Vol. 1, Number 11

The Commission adopted Plan 300 as amended for the Western Region on September 16, 2002. Amendments were adopted for Ravalli, Missoula, and Flathead Counties.

Regional maps of the proposals and adopted legislative districts for the entire state and for each of the Northcentral, Northeast, Southeast/Central, Southcentral, Southwest, and Western Regions are available through the "Redistricting" link on the legislative website.

The Commission will not meet again until Tuesday, November 19, 2002, when it will hold a public hearing and an executive session on the pairing of the 100 house districts into 50 senate districts. Senate districts are required to be composed of two, contiguous house districts. The Commission is waiting until after elections to be able to take into consideration the 25 holdover Senators who will begin their first two years of the term under the existing plan and the final two years of the term under the newly adopted redistricting plan.

The Commission will hold a public hearing and executive session on the entire plan, all 100 House and 50 Senate Districts, on Friday, December 6, 2002. It is likely to be an all day hearing and the time will be announced as finalized.

The plan will be then submitted to the Legislature by the 10th legislative day and the Legislature has 30 days to comment. The Commission then has 30 days to finalize the plan and submit it to the Secretary of State, at which time it will become law. These districts will be in effect for the 2004 election.

Dates to remember:

- November 5** Election Day under the 1993 plan still in effect: VOTE!
- November 7** Deadline to submit suggested Senate Pairings
- November 19** Public Hearing and Executive Session on Pairing of House Districts for Senate Districts, 7 p.m., Capitol Building, Helena.
- November 22** Deadline for amendments to be submitted to receive staff support.
- November 27** Deadline for written testimony to be sent to Commission in advance of public hearing.
- December 6** Statutorily required Public Hearing and Executive Session on all 100 House and 50 Senate Districts, Capitol Building, Helena (time to be announced).

Please send all written testimony and correspondence to the Districting and Apportionment Commission, PO Box 201706, Helena MT 59620. It will be copied and sent to each Commissioner and the originals retained for the Commission's file. Please check the Commission's website for more information at the "Redistricting" link on the

Legislative Branch website at *leg.mt.gov*. For more information, contact Susan Byorth Fox, (406) 444-3064 or sfox@mt.gov.