



Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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REDISTRICTING NEWS

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The Commission will meet on Tuesday, November 19, 2002, to 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. As a part of the senate pairings, the Commission will assign 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.

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

State Capitol, Room 303 (Old Supreme Court Chambers)

7:00 p.m.

There are three options under consideration and maps and an explanation can be found on the Commission's website at <http://leg.mt.gov/redistricting.htm>. The Commission will be accepting public testimony and making its decision to prepare for the Commission's final public hearing, December 6, 2002, on the new districting plan before it is presented to the Legislature. If you wish to submit written testimony, please send your correspondence c/o Susan Fox who will assure that the Commission members each receive a copy and the original will be maintained in the permanent file. Amendments may be proposed, however, it is necessary that an amendment ensures that each house district that is affected has a contiguous alternate pairing suggested, as well as any potential holdover senator assignment that is affected.

After adoption of the senate pairings and assignment of holdover senators, 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 19** Public Hearing and Executive Session on Pairing of House Districts for Senate Districts, 7:00 p.m., Capitol Building, Room 303, Helena.
- November 22** Deadline for amendments to final plan to be submitted to receive staff support.
- November 27** Deadline for written testimony to be sent to Commission in advance of public hearing on entire plan.
- 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 correspondence to the Districting and Apportionment Commission, PO Box 201706, Helena MT 59620, or to sfox@mt.gov. It will be copied and sent to each Commissioner and the originals retained for the Commission's file. For more information, visit the redistricting home page at the Legislative Branch website

<http://leg.mt.gov/redistricting.htm> or contact Susan Byorth Fox.

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