



# CITY OF BILLINGS

**THOMAS W. HANEL, MAYOR**

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December 20, 2011

Mr. Jim Regnier, Presiding Officer  
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, Montana 59620-1706

Dear Mr. Regnier and members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

On behalf of the Billings City Council, I am pleased to present a Yellowstone County/City of Billings districting map and plan for your consideration. It received unanimous support from the Council. The map is presented in paper form to you and electronically to Rachel Weiss. Accompanying the map is an explanation of the boundaries for each of the proposed fifteen (15) House districts in Yellowstone County. This should assist you in determining whether the map/plan is consistent with the mandatory and discretionary criteria.

I am particularly pleased to point out that the map is supported not just by the Billings City Council, but also by the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners and by other community organizations. I believe that you will receive written, but separate, endorsements from those organizations.

If you have any questions about the map or boundary explanations, please contact Asst. City Administrator Bruce McCandless at 406 657-8222 or by email at [mccandlessb@ci.billings.mt.us](mailto:mccandlessb@ci.billings.mt.us).

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Hanel, Mayor  
City of Billings, Montana

C: Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst  
Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners



# Yellowstone County and City of Billings

## Districting Plan and Map Boundary Explanations

The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission adopted its mandatory and discretionary criteria in May, 2010. A significant feature of the adoption is that any deviation from the ideal population of 9,894 people per House District requires an explanation. The City of Billings and Yellowstone County approved a map/plan for Yellowstone County and it accompanies this document. This document explains the reasons for any district that deviates from the ideal population.

The proposed map/plan conforms to all of the mandatory and discretionary criteria that the Commission approved, except for absolute population equality. The Commission established a 3%+/- population deviation allowance. The map/plan conforms to that limitation as well as the following locally adopted criteria which repeat or support the Commission's other criteria.

- Keep population within +/- 3% of the ideal House District population of 9,894 – actual variation is <2%
- Do not dilute minority voting rights
- Must use 2010 Census block boundaries
- Use City limits where possible (political boundary)
- Identify and map communities of interest, such as
  - Planning neighborhoods
  - School district boundaries in the rural parts of the county (also a political boundary)
  - Elementary school attendance boundaries in the urban areas
- Identify and use major physical/geographic features and barriers as district boundaries, such as
  - Arterial streets, connectors and highways
  - Major irrigation ditches, canals and creeks
  - Yellowstone River
  - Rims
  - Railroads
- Keep all districts within Yellowstone County, if possible (political boundary)

The proposed districts are identified as D1 – D15. That is a function of the mapping software and is not a recommendation for actual House district numbers. In all cases, the boundary descriptions generally begin at the northwest corner of the proposed districts and follow the boundary in a clockwise direction.

District D1: This is the southeast part of Billings and Yellowstone County. Beginning at the intersection of the Canyon Creek Elementary School District and River Road, the northern boundary follows main roads or state highways (Fritz, Keller, Hillcrest) and the Yellowstone River from the S. Billings Blvd. Bridge to the eastern edge of the Lockwood Elementary School District boundary. The east and south boundaries follows the northern border of the Crow Indian

Reservation and the Canyon Creek Elementary School District boundary to the point of beginning.

District D2: D2 is the South Park or South Side neighborhood. Beginning at the intersection of the Rimrocks and N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street (arterial and MT Hwy 3), the northern border follows the Rimrocks to Main Street (MT Hwy 87) and MT Hwy 87 to its intersection with the Yellowstone River. The south and east boundaries follows the Yellowstone River to its intersection with Washington Street. The west boundary includes I-90, Sugar Ave. (arterial), State Ave. (arterial), the MRL Railroad mainline, Division St. (arterial), N. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. North (North Elevation Neighborhood planning boundary) and N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street

District D3: This is southwest Billings and suburban development that parallels I-90. Grand Ave. (arterial) between the BBWA Irrigation Canal (and 29<sup>th</sup> St. W.) and 48<sup>th</sup> Street W. (arterial) forms the northern boundary of this district. The eastern boundary follows N. 29<sup>th</sup> St. and the BBWA irrigation canal, Broadwater Ave. (arterial), 29<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street W. (arterial) Hesper Rd. (arterial), 30<sup>th</sup> St W and the MRL railroad mainline. The southern boundary is formed by the MRL railroad. The west boundary follows the Canyon Creek Elementary School District and the Elder Grove Elementary School District boundaries, King Ave. W. (arterial) and 48<sup>th</sup> St. W.

District D4: This district is a portion of northwest Billings and rural development that extends north to the Alkali Creek area. The north and east borders follows the Alkali Creek Elementary School attendance boundary, Alkali Creek Rd (arterial), the north and west boundaries of Rehberg Ranch Estates Subdivision (section lines), the Rod and Gun Club Rd (collector), MT Hwy 3, the Boulder Elem. School attendance boundary, Rimrock Rd (arterial), Beth (the only through street between Rimrock and Colton), Colton Ave (collector), and Rehberg Ln. (collector). The south and west boundaries follow Grand Ave., Shiloh Rd (arterial), Rimrock Rd, Clearview Drive (city limits), the Rimrocks and the west border of the Alkali Creek school attendance area.

District D5: This district could be described as a portion of the near West End of the city. The northern border is formed by Broadwater Ave (arterial) between N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street W. and N. 31<sup>st</sup> Street W. *14<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> are not arterial or collector streets but short sections of both are used as boundaries in this district because using the nearby arterials, 15<sup>th</sup> Street W. and 32 Street W., would produce too much population in Districts 3 and 9 and too little population in this district.* The east boundary follows 14<sup>th</sup> Street W., Central Ave. (arterial), Regal and then Daniels (arterials) to the MRL mainline. The southern border is formed by the MRL line from Daniels to the railroad intersection with the city limits (approx. 30<sup>th</sup> St. W). The western boundary is formed by the city limits, Hesper Rd., 32<sup>nd</sup> Street W. (arterial), Daffodil and following Daffodil and 32<sup>st</sup> Street. W. (aka Zimmerman Tr. – arterial).

District D6: District D6 is the far west end of Billings and a rural portion of the west county. The northern border follows the Elysian Elementary School District, Molt Rd (County road 302) and the city limits. The east boundary follows the Rimrocks and the Arrowhead School boundary southeast to its intersection with Clearview Dr., Rimrock Rd, Shiloh Rd., Grand Ave., 48<sup>th</sup> Street W., King Ave. W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street W., Canyon Creek school district boundary, Danford Rd (arterial), 64<sup>th</sup> St. W (arterial) and the Laurel Airport Rd (arterial). The southern boundary is formed by the MRL mainline from the Laurel Airport Rd, southwest to its intersection with Seitz Ronan Rd (arterial), Seitz Ronan Rd to the Laurel Airport Rd, the Cove Ditch, (Laurel) Golf

Course Rd, 1<sup>st</sup> Street (MT Hwy 10) and the western edge of Yellowstone County. The west boundary is formed by the Yellowstone County line from Hwy 10 to the Molt Elementary School District boundary and that boundary to the point of beginning.

District D7: This district is the west Heights and Rehberg Ranch. The northern border of this district follows the northern boundary of the Alkali Creek school attendance area. The east boundary line follows that school boundary, includes the Eagle Cliffs Elementary School attendance boundary, Gleneagles Blvd. (arterial), Wicks Ln. (arterial), Babcock and Nutter (collectors), Hilltop (arterial) and Main Street (MT Hwy. 87, Hwy. 312). The southern boundary is formed by the Rimrocks and MT Hwy. 3 between Main St. and the Rod and Gun Club Rd. The west boundary is formed by the Rod and Gun Club Rd, the border of the Rehberg Ranch subdivision to its northeast corner and follows a Census block boundary to Alkali Creek Rd (arterial) to the point of beginning.

District D8: This district contains the southwest corridor and south-central Yellowstone County. State Ave. (arterial) forms the north border of the proposed district. The east border follows Sugar Ave. (arterial), the City-County Irrigation Drain, I-90, the Yellowstone River, S. Billings Blvd/Blue Creek Rd (arterial), and Hillcrest (arterial). The southern boundary is formed by Keller Rd, Fritz Rd., Rudio Rd (collectors) and the Canyon Creek school boundary. The MRL railroad and I-90 form the district's west boundary.

District D9: District D9 is the Central-Terry neighborhood. Grand Ave. between Division St. and 14<sup>th</sup> Street W. forms the northern border of the district. Division St. from Grand to Montana Ave forms the east boundary. Montana Ave./Laurel Rd (arterial) and the MRL railroad form the southern boundary. Regal/Daniels and 14<sup>th</sup> Street W. form the west border.

District D10: This district is the east Heights. The north border of the Pioneer Elementary School District forms the proposed district's north border. The east boundary line follows the Yellowstone River to the Hwy 87 and MRL railroad bridges in east Billings and Hwy 87 to Exposition Drive (Main St.). The western boundary is formed by Exposition/Main Street, MT Hwy. 312 and the western border of the Pioneer School District.

District D11: District D 11 is the central Heights and Independent School area. The north line of the Independent Elementary School District, east of U.S. Hwy 87, forms the northern boundary of this proposed district. The eastern boundary is formed by the intersection of the Independent and Pioneer school districts and Main Street. The south and west borders are formed by Hilltop Rd (arterial), Babcock and Nutter Blvd, Wicks Ln., Gleneagles Blvd, the BBWA irrigation canal, Five Mile Creek, Alexander Rd (arterial) and Hwy 87.

District D12: This is the Highland Park and a portion of the North Elevation neighborhoods. The Rimrocks and N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street form the northern boundary of this proposed district. The east border includes N. 27<sup>th</sup> St., 11<sup>th</sup> Ave N. and N. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Grand Avenue from Division to 17<sup>th</sup> Street W. forms the southern boundary of the district. 17<sup>th</sup> Street W. (arterial) and its extension north of Rimrock Rd. forms the west boundary.

District D13: This district is located in west-central and northwest Billings. The north boundary of this district is the Rimrocks and the Poly Drive school attendance boundary from Arvin to 17<sup>th</sup> Street W. The east boundary follows 17<sup>th</sup> Street W., Grand Ave. and 14<sup>th</sup> Street West.

Broadwater Ave. (arterial) between 14<sup>th</sup> St. W. and the BBWA canal (approx 29<sup>th</sup> St W) forms the south border. The west boundary is created by the BBWA canal, Grand Ave., Rehberg Ln. (collector), Colton Blvd, Rimrock Rd. and northeast to the Rimrocks.

District D14: This is the Laurel area. The north boundary is formed by the Cove Irrigation Ditch, Laurel Airport Road (arterial), Seitz Ronan Rd (arterial), I-90/MRL railroad and a short section of Rudio Rd. The east boundary follows the Laurel School District border with the Canyon Creek District and the Crow Indian Reservation to the County line. The south and the west borders follow the County line and the Laurel School District boundary to Hwy 10 and the west boundary follows that highway to Golf Course Road and to the point of beginning on the Cove Ditch.

District D15: This district is the remainder of Yellowstone County that is not previously described. It is the mostly rural, northern and northeastern parts of the county, including the communities of Broadview, Shepherd, Huntley, Worden, Ballantine and Custer. This district does not meet the population equality criterion. If the map adds Treasure County (NE of Yellowstone Co.) to the D15 District, the added population brings the population deviation into conformance.

Unassigned: The portion of the map that is "Unassigned" in the southeast part of the county is the Crow Reservation. The Reservation and its population are not counted in any of the other 15 districts.