

**RESOLUTION 04-2012**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING**

**WHEREAS**, Jefferson County is a political subdivision of the State of Montana; and,

**WHEREAS**, Jefferson County has clearly defined borders; and

**WHEREAS**, Jefferson County has a population according to the latest census of 11,400 people; and

**WHEREAS**, the ideal Legislative District is 9,894 people; and

**WHEREAS**, currently the area of Jefferson County south of Interstate Highway 90 is included with House District 71 which comprises Madison County; and

**WHEREAS**, at a public meeting on January 4, 2012 in Whitehall, Montana attended by Jefferson County residents from the Whitehall area, the Clancy area, the Boulder area and the Elk Park area all agreed that Jefferson County should remain intact as one Legislative District to the greatest extent possible; and

**WHEREAS**, those people also agreed that the area of Jefferson County currently in House District 71 with Madison County should remain in that District; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Madison County and those residents of Jefferson County lying south of Interstate Highway 90 share similar lifestyles, being rural in nature;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, that Jefferson County should remain as one Legislative District to the greatest extent possible.

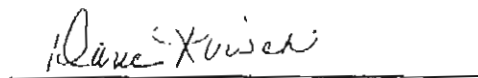
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the area of Jefferson County that lies south of Interstate Highway 90 should remain in House District 71 with Madison County.

**DATED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2012.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BONNIE RAMEY**  
**CLERK AND RECORDER**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**LEONARD WORTMAN, CHAIR**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DAVE KIRSCH, COMMISSIONER**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, COMMISSIONER**

## Redistricting Commission

This is a very personnel view of the work done by the redistricting commission following the 1990 census and compounded by the commission following the 2000 census. As a result of their work I am a member of the disillusioned electorate.

I live in the Helena valley, shop in Helena and am a retired Montana state employee. I am a long-term subscriber to the Helena Independent Record as my news source and I watch Helena television.

I am also included in the western corner of House district 83. House district 83 is composed mostly of people living in the Musselshell river valley.

The current District 83 representative is not my representative. He does not seek my vote. He does not need my vote to be elected. I have no reason to vote for a representative. Electing someone from my neighborhood, who might share my interests is simply not possible.

The current District 83 representative lives 130 miles from me. We do not share neighborhoods, trade areas, communication networks, social groups, cultural interests, economic interests or lifestyles. Geographically we live in different river valleys, on opposite sides of the Missouri River and on opposite sides of the major mountain ranges of the state. Face to face communication with the district 83 representative requires long distance travel over two mountain passes and through numerous other house districts. District 83 is obviously not contiguous or compact.

My local communication sources (printed and broadcast) do not include District 83 representative's opinions and comments in their coverage. I assume because district 83 is not part of their readership or viewing public. They ignore my inclusion in that district 83, with good reason.

The majority of my immediate neighborhood is in a different house district. I happen to live on the wrong side of the street. As a result, I lack that interest with my neighbors. Unlike my neighbors, I must travel out of my neighborhood to vote.

The current redistricting commission has a chance to make a difference to me. It won't be easy but it is important. A disillusioned electorate spells the end of democracy. If I do not think my vote counts, why should I care or pay any attention to what the elected government does. If there are enough of us disillusioned, our government is at risk.

Your established district building criteria are valid. Use them. It is important that you get it right for the right reasons.

Comments provided by:

Cd Avery, 5617 Rainbow Drive, Helena MT 59602  
(406)458-5271

TREASURE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Marlo Moehr, Chairman  
Doug Hollowell, Member  
Morris Spannagel, Member  
307 Rapelje  
P.O. Box 392  
Hysham, Montana 59038-0392  
406-342-5547

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FEB 10 2012

Montana Legislative  
Services Division

February 9, 2012

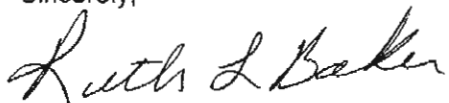
Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: Support of Yellowstone County Redistricting Proposal

Members of the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission,

The Treasure County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday February 7, 2012 and reviewed the redistricting plan Yellowstone County submitted to your offices. The Board asked me to write to give their support to the Yellowstone County Plan. The Board appreciates the work being done to redistrict the legislative districts in Montana and realizes it is a large task. Thank you for keeping us informed as to when the committee is meeting and giving access to the proposed maps.

Sincerely,



Ruth L. Baker  
Treasure County  
Clerk & Recorder/Clerk of District Court/Election Administrator

For the Treasure County Board of Commissioners

Marlo Moehr, Chairman  
Doug Hollowell, Member  
Morris Spannagel, Member



BIG SKY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDA · EDC CREATING MONTANA BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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FEB 10 2012

Montana Legislative  
Services Division

February 7, 2012

Mr. Jim Regnier, Presiding Officer  
Districting and Apportionment Commissioner  
Legislative Services Division—State of Montana  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Commissioner Regnier:

RE: Yellowstone County/City of Billings House and Senate Redistricting Plan

The Board of Directors of Big Sky Economic Development voted January 12, 2012 to add our voice of support to the proposed re-districting plan for Yellowstone County. While the exact re-districting maps will likely change several times throughout the Districting and Apportionment Commission process, the Yellowstone County plan exhibits a fundamental principle that is important to us as we carry out the mission of economic development in our community. That principle is the "maintenance of communities of interest."

We certainly view our economic development work for the Billings community in the context of a healthy regional and statewide economy, yet it is vitally important that our legislative representation share an understanding and keen interest in the challenges and opportunities facing the Billings community. The Yellowstone County/City of Billings redistricting plan allows communities of interest to be preserved, which grants our citizens the chance to elect leaders that share their sense of community and have a vested interest in the economic success of Yellowstone County.

Our current state legislative delegation has done a very good job representing the Billings community. With a redistricting plan that maintains communities of interests, neighborhoods, and local business districts, our future legislators can likewise focus their expertise and energy on the growth and development of Yellowstone County in our unique role as a regional business hub for agriculture, energy development, healthcare, financial services, and retail trade.

Big Sky Economic Development appreciates the work of the Districting and Apportionment Commission, and we encourage your consideration of Yellowstone County/City of Billings plan. The principle of maintaining communities of interest supported by this plan is important to our economic development initiatives for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Roberts, EDA Chair

Susan Riplett, EDC Vice Chair

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BILLINGS, MT 59101-1948

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BIGSKYECONOMICDEVELOPMENT.ORG

Our informal Flathead/Lake County group has offered input with the mutual suggestion to create a "Flathead Lake/Polson" district. The suggested new district considers the Lake County and school district boundary to the north, following more of the political units than currently. It allows for a House representative for each of the two predominant population centers of Lake County: Polson and Ronan.

Considering the need to fulfill criteria in current HD,15 that district will be primarily unchanged. It removes approx 4,500 residents from Lake County; the remaining population is about 24,500 = 2.5 districts

Exploring the new Senate District, here's discussion on the pairing:

### **Population**

Flathead's higher growth puts pressures on Lake County, but we strongly urge the commission to avoid pairing the new Polson district with Flathead County. It is more desirable to pair north Lake County with the Ronan district. Here's why:

### **Compact and Contiguous**

Geographically, a Senate district pairing the new proposed House Flathead Lake/Polson district with the House district to the south is compact, contiguous, and of historic, logistical, social and economic commonality, as Polson is its county seat. This pairing keeps the predominant Lake County communities together.

**Community of Interest** Polson and Ronan are historically and economically connected. For example, the community center in Ronan hosts many county-wide events, and splitting that disrupts a sense of county commonality.

**Income disparity** According to MSU Local Government Center's 2009 publication, per capita income in Flathead County 2004-2008 was \$34,982; in contrast, Lake County's was among the lowest at \$27,156, or 77% of Flathead's. Income is a significant commonality factor.

**Media Market** Splitting Lake Co. complicates the media market criteria. Pairing the proposed Polson district with the Ronan district simplifies the media market options in both print and broadcast.

## Weiss, Rachel

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**From:** Carmine Mowbray [clarity@cyberport.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 07, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Rachel  
**Subject:** Input on Redistricting  
**Attachments:** Redistricting inputWeiss.doc

Hi Rachel,

I hope you're well, and not too overwhelmed by the Redistricting responsibilities!

I've looked over the preliminary maps and have attached input, below. It's looking ahead to the pairings to accomplish reasonable Senate districts.

Population growth in Flathead County may adversely influence our Lake County "communities of interest." Thank you very much, Rachel, for your time and effort on this. Good thing it only happens every decade!  
Carmine



Carmine Mowbray  
Montana Senate Dist 6  
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<http://www.carminemowbray.com>



**Lewis and Clark County Redistricting Plan**

Leo Tanner

(406) 871-9051

According to the 2010 US Census, Lewis and Clark County should have 6.3 house districts. Of this, the City of Helena should have 2.8 house districts. This plan keeps rural, urban, and suburb communities intact.

I want to keep cities and counties intact. I have drawn 3 detailed Helena City house districts (HD1, HD2, and HD3). The 3 additional house districts should be drawn as follows. HD4 should start at the southwest of the county. Going north, it should include the population between the western county border and the HD1 border. HD5 should start at the southeast of the county. Going north, it should include the population between the eastern county border and the HD2 border. HD4 and HD5 should meet north of Helena. HD6 should work north from the northern boundaries of HD5 and HD4. To make HD7, the extra approximately 3,395 Lewis and Clark population should be shared with Teton County or Powell County.

Besides the 6 house districts, Lewis and Clark County should have 3 senate districts. HD1 should be combined with HD2 to form Senate District 1 (SD1). HD3 should be combined with HD4 to form Senate District 2 (SD2). HD 5 should be combined with HD 6 to form Senate District 3 (SD3).

Leo Tanner  
406-871-9051

9:30 am  
2/7/12





**Kolman, Joe**

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**From:** j w [jwright68@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2012 12:26 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Draft Map Endorsement

Dear Montana Districting and Apportionment Commissioners,

I have looked upon the four draft maps by your dedicated staff. After studying them I have concluded that the **DEVIATION 100 map** is best for the following reasons:

1. With the low deviation per district (3.75% total deviation) it allows your commission to make the necessary changes without going over the 3% threshold per district when you get input from the local communities/areas.
2. The American Indian districts have 54% and higher voting age majorities.
3. It is FAIR and JUST because the deviation is small across the state.

Thank you,  
Mr. John Wright  
Cascade, MT