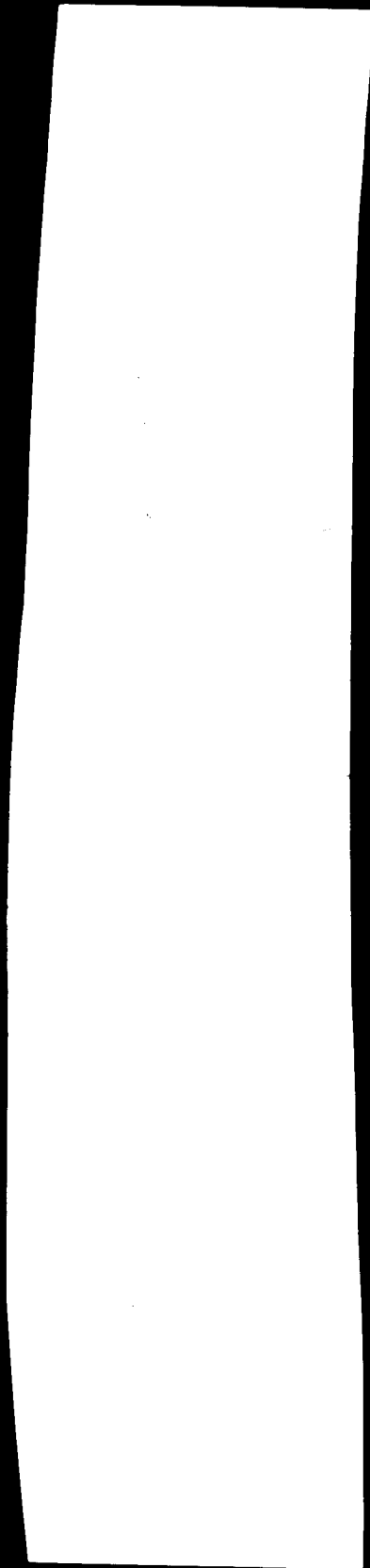


Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

My name is

*Ron Hallack*

The "Communities map" which was created by the Democrats continues to combine Darby and Pinesdale - It has Darby/Pinesdale as the largest population in the state, which is the least represented while the Crow reservation is split up and has the smallest population, or the most representation. Totally biased with complete political slant.



## Redistricting Testimony of Rep. Mike Miller, HD84

Mr. Chairman, members of the redistricting commission, my name is Mike Miller and I am the representative from the current House District 84. You have all had the opportunity to read the email I sent to the Commission on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 so I won't repeat what you've already read as to why I think the current HD 84 is a good example of what not to do this time around.

One thing I would like to see on these maps is the total square miles for any district that has over some arbitrary figure like 500 square miles. That would likely be a small number of rural districts. My current district is about 2536 sq. mi. and I would like to be able to evaluate the impact of traveling the district with each of the current draft maps.

I have one question for clarification purposes on the maps. My understanding is that the Commission requested state staff to draw up maps based upon Constitutional requirements, Federal election law and Commission agreed upon criteria, like the 3% deviation. I saw an article in the paper today that refers to the maps drawn up by the staff as "Republican requested" – is that true or are they actually the non-partisan maps requested by the Commission?

I'm going to focus my comments on the Powell, Granite, Missoula and Lewis & Clark counties districts as they are the ones in my proposed district.

### Deviation:

This map does a pretty good job of keeping rural and like communities together. The biggest issue here is that it contains parts of 4 counties. Missoula, Powell, Granite and Lewis & Clark where it could be fewer counties. It keeps most of Powell and most of Granite counties together, while stripping out the main Powell population center of Deer Lodge and lumping that together with Anaconda in Deer Lodge County.

### Communities:

This map divides the town of Anaconda – that is not keeping communities together. It strips out Avon and Elliston from the other rural areas of Powell County like the neighboring communities of Helmville and Ovando. Many residents of all those communities are blood relatives and share a common heritage. It also combines the urban areas of Deer Lodge and Anaconda with those rural areas. Believe me, people in Helmville do not share common interests with those in downtown Anaconda. These are not "like communities".

**Subdivision:**

This is the map that I favor the most. It keeps two counties whole. The Commission has received a 52 page packet in favor of this. It includes support from the County Commissioners and the Republican Central Committees of both counties, along with the support of the Democratic Central Committee of Granite County (there is no Democratic Central Committee in Powell County.) I would strongly recommend the adoption of this map for the District that will include all of Powell and Granite Counties.

**Urban/Rural:**

This map divides Granite County. It includes parts of 4 counties. Missoula, Powell, Granite and Lewis & Clark. It splits the towns of Drummond, Hall and Phillipsburg, much like my current district splits the towns of Lincoln and Ovando. As stated previously, this is not keeping communities together and it certainly is not in keeping with the theme of this map to divide urban and rural when you are splitting at least 3 rural communities apart.

**Existing:**

This plan is nowhere near my existing District. In fact, it cuts me out of my home town as I live on the north side of Hwy 141. That is a terrible boundary as it splits neighbors. It takes away Helmville, Ovando, Garrison, Gold Creek, Wolf Creek and Craig from the existing district. It still splits the town of Lincoln. It adds the area east of Lake Helena out to Hauser Lake that is not currently in the district. This does nothing to keep like communities together.

March 13, 2012

Missoula Redistricting Commission Meeting, U of M

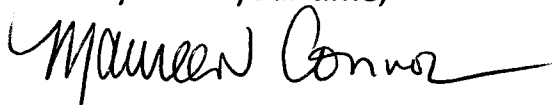
Presiding Officer Justice Regnier and Commissioners,

Granite and Powell Counties request that we be re-districted from current status to be a single legislative district.

The County Commissioners of both Counties understand that our counties are similar in character. The County Commissioners have received much local support from residents for this request, some of which was attached to our submission of December 19, 2011.

We support the plan which you are considering called SUBDIVISION—keep political subdivisions intact.

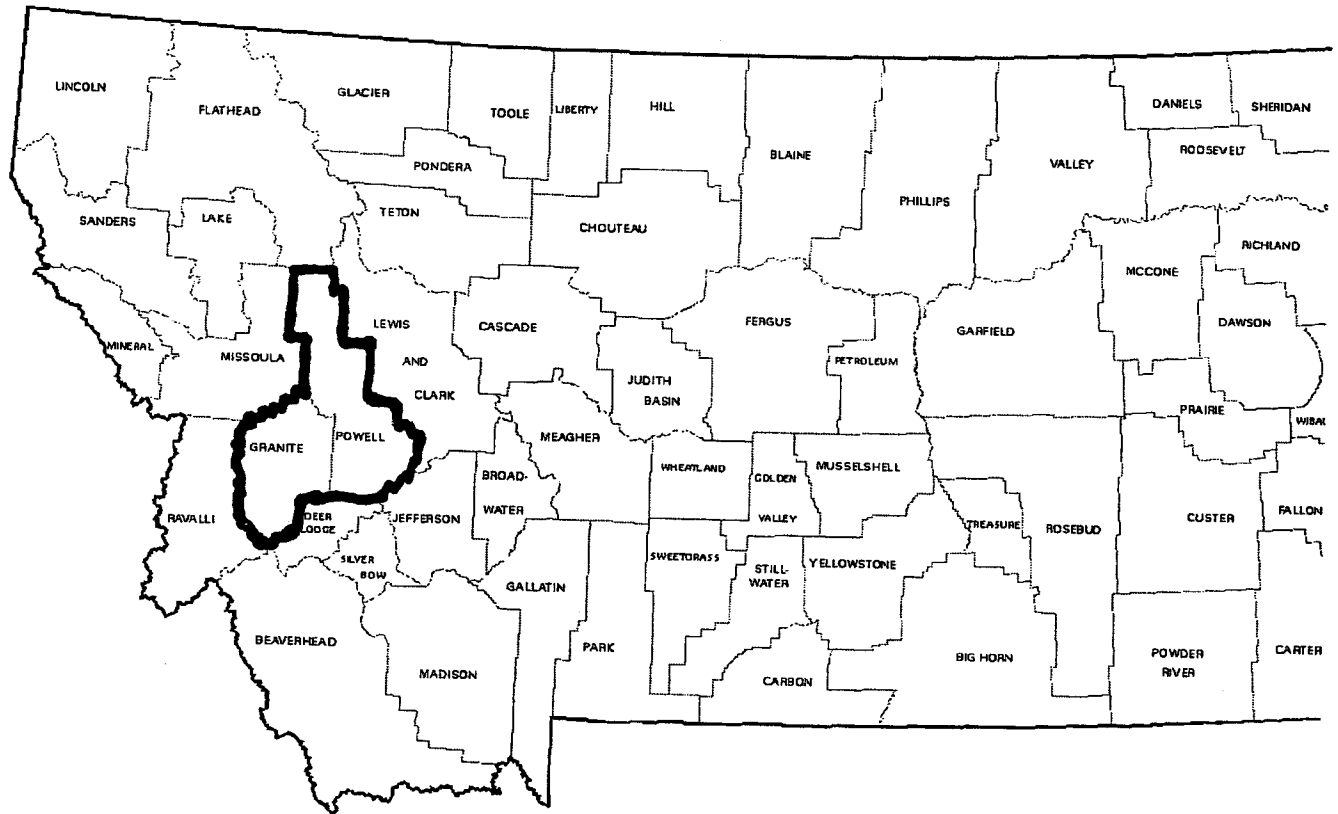
Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Maureen Connor  
(Granite County)

Attachment A—Map of Granite and Powell

Attachment B—Copy of Joint Resolution 2011-1 Granite and Powell



Attachment A  
Granite and Powell Map

**JOINT RESOLUTION 2011-1**

**BETWEEN POWELL COUNTY AND GRANITE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Boards of Commission of Powell and Granite Counties are appreciative of our legislative representatives diligent public service on behalf of the people.

WHEREAS, redistricting of legislative districts cause both Powell County and Granite County to be divided into multiple districts.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County are more alike than different in custom and culture.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County share rural characteristics. Powell County has 1,488,889 acres and a population of 7,027 people while Granite County has 1,105,548 acres and a population of 3,074 people. This information is from the 2010 census.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County share significant agricultural economic factors with 273 ranches in Powell County and 104 ranches in Granite County. (Agricultural Statistical Services USDA)

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County share significant timber harvest and wood product economic factors with 25% of the workforce in Powell County employed in this sector and approximately 13% in Granite County.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County both have large percentages of federal forest land with Powell County having 639,018 acres and Granite County having 660,779 acres.

WHEREAS, Powell County has one incorporated town, Deer Lodge, and Granite County has two incorporated towns, Philipsburg and Drummond.

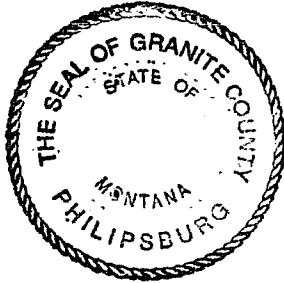
WHEREAS, tourism is a vital part of the economy for both Powell County and Granite County.

WHEREAS, population, boundaries and shared characteristics equal a single legislative district.

WHEREAS, both counties have held hearings and received public support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Powell County and Granite County should be a single legislative district and both counties respectfully request the Legislative Redistricting Commission

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of Nov, 2011.



POWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cele Pohle  
CELE POHLE, Presiding Officer

Donna Young  
DONNA YOUNG, Member

Ralph E. Mannix, Jr.  
RALPH E. MANNIX, JR., Member

ATTEST:  
Diane S. Grey  
DIANE S. GREY, Clerk & Recorder

GRANITE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Connor  
MAUREEN CONNOR

Cliff Nelson  
CLIFFORD NELSON

Scott Adler  
SCOTT ADLER

ATTEST:  
Blanche McLure  
BLANCHE McLURE, Clerk & Recorder



To: Montana Redistricting Commission

From: Michele Reinhart, State Representative, HD 97, Missoula

RE: Draft Redistricting Plans

Date: March 13, 2013

As a third-term State Representative, I represent both urban and suburban interests in House District 97. Diversity is a value that is very value to consider. My district (existing HD 97) includes areas south of the Clark Fork River, including parts of Orchard Homes and Target Range. My district is both in the City of Missoula and outside the City limits. My district has roads, rivers, water and sewer lines, schools, and shopping areas in common. According to the Department of Transportation, there are 29,000 cars that cross between Missoula and the Orchard Homes area every day.

This district includes farm to market gardens, truck farms, and Missoulians that shop at the Farmers' Market downtown. The district is a mix of rental apartments, homes large and small, and lots big and small. By knocking doors and talking to a large mix of people both in town and out of town in HD 97, I've gotten to know all of these perspectives and I have to represent all of these view points when in Helena. I have to balance and reconcile these view points when considering legislation relating to local government, land use, subdivisions, growth policies, farm land, zoning, City annexation, and more. All of these issues regularly come before the legislature.

My views are more balanced and thoughtful because I have to consider urban, suburban, and rural view points. If I only represented one view point, I could be a zealous, rigid, uncompromising advocate. If I only represented one type of district, I would probably be less of a problem solver that brainstorms solutions that work for my diverse district. My district includes people who are subdividing their land, and people who strongly dislike subdivisions. When voting and legislating, I have to balance pro-growth perspectives with strong desires to preserve agricultural land and open space. I like the Communities Plan because it represents shared urban and suburban communities, and semi-rural areas of interest. It recognizes that people on the City's fringes go to school, work, and shop in Missoula. We need legislators who listen to different ideas and look to a bigger picture, not just one narrow group. We need legislators that are not rigid in their representation. We need legislators that are problem solvers more now than ever and who can represent diverse areas and people from all walks of life.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony of Daniel Kemmis  
to the  
Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

Missoula

March 13, 2012

Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission:

First, a sincere word of thanks to all of you for being willing to undertake this very demanding tour of public service. You're engaged in a challenging task to say the least, because of the multiple cross-cutting objectives that you're charged with fulfilling. You can't possibly please everyone and are unlikely to please anyone fully.

But there are few more important tasks in the public arena. By the time you've finished your work, you will have set some of the most important terms under which we govern ourselves in this state. You have a rare opportunity (if not obligation) to shape some of the major factors affecting our ability to govern ourselves well and effectively.

In my 40 years of public service, I have never seen our governing institutions and our political system in general held in such low esteem by the public at large. There is a general sense that our governing institutions are increasingly incapable of solving the very real and pressing problems confronting our society. There are many factors that are rightly blamed for this state of affairs, but the two that consistently rise to the top of the list are the disproportionate influence of money in our electoral system and the runaway role of partisanship.

There is nothing that this commission can do about the problem of money in politics, but you are uniquely positioned to do something positive about what is now the undue influence of partisanship.

I want to make it clear that I'm not one who believes that partisanship is an unmitigated evil. Not at all. At the very least, a party label can convey valuable information to voters, helping them to choose wisely among candidates. For that reason, I opposed the move to nonpartisan elections in Missoula a few years after I had left City Hall. I had twice been elected as Mayor on a partisan basis, and 4 times to the Legislature, and it was my party that honored me with leadership positions in the Legislature. I am proud of my party affiliation, and proud of the very considerable good that my party has done in this community and this state.

But I also recognize and am deeply concerned by the almost universally acknowledged fact that partisanship has now become too dominant a force in many of our governing institutions, and that this imbalance is a major contributor to the growing dysfunction of those institutions.

As I suggested a moment ago, this Commission is uniquely positioned to do something positive about this spreading disease within the body politic. You can only do that if you take a clear-eyed, practical, non-sentimental view of the situation. I'm reminded of the intensely pragmatic

approach that has made the Federalist Papers such a valuable document for over two centuries. James Madison argued, for example, that certain dynamics are embedded in human nature. You can't root them out (and I'd argue that in the case of partisanship, you shouldn't want to). All you can do is balance them against other forces of similar potency.

The good news is that there is another feature of public life that is within the scope of your mission and that can serve as a counterweight to excessive partisanship. I mean the considerable and benign power of place.

During my career, I've had the good fortune to observe and sometimes write and speak about the role of place in the public realm. I've observed, as you have, how often in our time people who are motivated by different interests or different ideologies have managed to transcend those differences and solve big public problems together because of an even stronger motivation than interest or ideology: namely, the love of a shared place. Just travel from here up the Blackfoot River, and you'll find that sense of place powerfully at work in the Blackfoot Challenge.

That passionate attachment to a well-loved place is one of the only political forces capable of balancing the now over-weighted power of partisanship in our governing institutions. Place matters. It matters to people. To most people, it matters more than party. It matters if representatives are elected from real places, because then the powerful, meaningful role of place in human affairs can become a shaping force in how we govern ourselves. And this is a factor that this Commission is in a position to give greater or lesser weight in those institutions.

When I served in the Legislature in the 70's and early 80's, my legislative colleagues and I customarily referred to our districts, not by number, but by place-names. No one knew or cared that I represented District 94. But it meant something to them when I said that I represented the University District, or when my colleagues spoke about representing the North and West Side, or the Rattlesnake, or the South Hills.

In the 3 rounds of redistricting that have occurred since then, place has steadily become a less important factor in the legislative map. Legislators rarely give place-names to their districts any more, referring to them instead by the meaningless numbers that have been assigned to them. That's because the districts aren't primarily places any longer. They are primarily what all too many legislative and congressional districts have become across the country: a set of census tracts pieced together by careful calculation of partisan advantage. In Montana, both parties have contributed to that process over the last several rounds of redistricting.

What would it take to make place a genuine counterweight to party, in the service of good governance? For starters, it would help if those drawing (and then voting on) the maps paid as much attention as possible to where people call home – what they think of as their community or their neighborhood.

In these terms, none of the maps produced so far are perfect, nor will they ever be, given how many factors you have to balance. But I hope you will keep nudging them in the direction of making the districts you draw correspond to real places. Some of the maps provide a better starting point in these terms than others, although there is considerable room for improvement in all the maps.

Based on what I know of my own community and this region, I would rank the maps in this order in terms of reflecting real places:

The "Urban-Rural" map comes closest to that ideal. It appears to me, though, to fall short of recognizing and empowering that dispersed but important place called Indian Country.

I would list the "Subdivision" map second, but it has the major weakness of splitting the Flathead Reservation.

The Existing and "Communities" maps are lower on the list and roughly similar in terms of reflecting meaningful places, although I would rank the Existing map slightly higher in those terms. The fact is that pie slices do not correspond to real places, and never will. If you are looking for an approach to districting that can begin to counterbalance the power of party with the power of place, the pie-slicing approach will never get you there.

The "Existing" map and the "Communities" map do a better job than any of the others in terms of providing meaningful representation to Indian Country. Given the tragic displacement of the people native to this land, Indian Country is one place that should surely be given full representation. But there has to be a way to do that without weakening the representation of real places outside Indian Country, as these two plans do.

The worst of all the maps, in terms of real places, is the "Deviation" map. This is not surprising, since it is driven by considerations of equal population that are guaranteed to make it more difficult to draw districts that correspond to meaningful places. The Commission is bound, of course, by court cases defining the limits of acceptable deviation, but once you have met those requirements, you should turn your attention to making the map reflect real places. Nothing you can do would contribute more to healing some of the deep wounds that have done so much damage to the body politic.

## **Presentation to Montana Reapportionment/Redistricting Commission**

**Thank you for providing the opportunity to speak to you this evening. I am Willis Curdy and my wife and I live at 11280 Kona Ranch Road in the Big Flat area at the western edge of the Missoula Valley. We have lived at this address for thirty years.**

**In those thirty years, Big Flat and Blue Mountain residents have been thrown into Montana House and Senate Districts which have little or no commonality with the urban Missoula valley. These residents have been drawn into Legislative Districts ranging as far as Niarada and Hot Springs in Sanders County to the Stevensville area in Ravalli County. As a result, these residents have been excluded from where they have the majority of their economic, social and political interests.**

**The majority of Big Flat and Blue Mountain residents are either professionally employed or own small businesses in the greater Missoula urban area. Those who are retired conduct the vast majority of their commercial business in the Missoula urban area.**

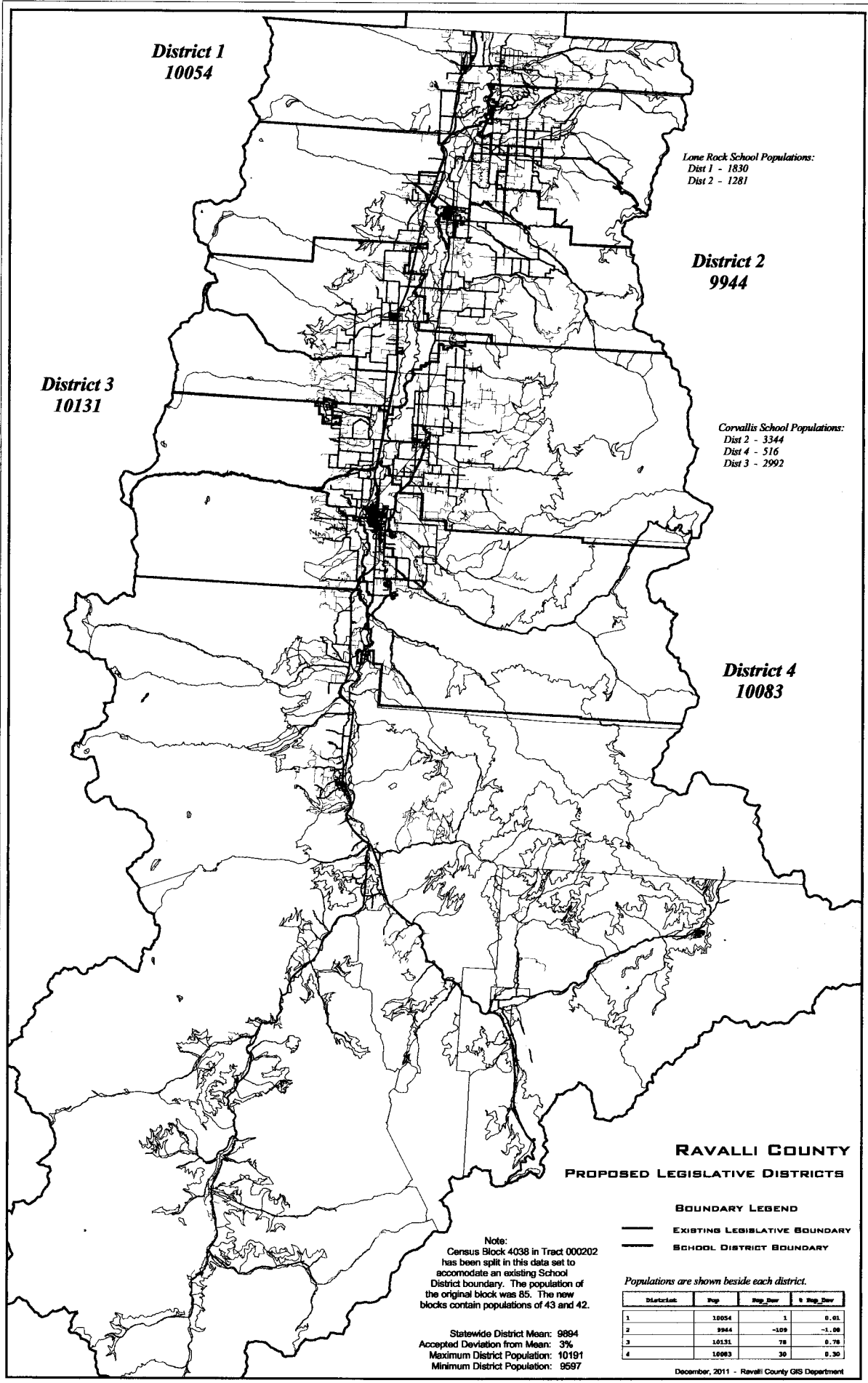
**Travel for these residents into their employment locations or commercial interests are along Mullan Road and across Maclay Bridge to South Ave or Third Street West. Mullan Road sees approximately 12,000 cars per day commuting into Missoula from areas like the Big Flat and the areas northwest of the urban core area. South Ave and Third St. West sees about 2700 trips from Blue Mountain residents. In addition, most of the growth occurring within the Missoula Valley is along the Mullan Road corridors. Another example of the close ties that western Missoula Valley residents have with the urban core area.**

Big Flat and Blue Mountain residents send their children to the Target Range Elementary School and Big Sky High School. Once again, we have a classic example of a common interest with residents who live in the Target Range and Orchard Homes areas in the urban Missoula area.

The only plan which ties the common economic and political interests of the Big Flat and Blue Mountain areas to the Missoula urban core is the Communities Plan. The other plans either snake around the western side of Missoula County from Condon into Ravalli County or tears off portions of the Big Flat and Blue Mountain into the urban core while leaving other residents to representation well outside of their economic and political interests.

I would ask that the Commission accept the Communities Plan as a means to tie Big Flat and Blue Mountain residents to those with whom they have a common interest...

Thank you.



**District 1**  
**10054**

*Lone Rock School Populations:*  
Dist 1 - 1830  
Dist 2 - 1281

**District 2**  
**9944**

**District 3**  
**10131**

*Corvallis School Populations:*  
Dist 2 - 3344  
Dist 4 - 516  
Dist 3 - 2992

**District 4**  
**10083**

**RAVALLI COUNTY**  
**PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS**

- BOUNDARY LEGEND**
- EXISTING LEGISLATIVE BOUNDARY
  - SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY

*Populations are shown beside each district.*

District	Pop	Pop_Dev	% Pop_Dev
1	10054	1	0.01
2	9944	-109	-1.08
3	10131	78	0.78
4	10083	30	0.30

**Note:**  
Census Block 4038 in Tract 000202 has been split in this data set to accommodate an existing School District boundary. The population of the original block was 85. The new blocks contain populations of 43 and 42.

Statewide District Mean: 9894  
Accepted Deviation from Mean: 3%  
Maximum District Population: 10191  
Minimum District Population: 9597

December, 2011 - Ravalli County GIS Department

*Bob  
Lake Mission*