



# Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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## REDISTRICTING NEWS

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Regional maps of proposals for legislative districts for the Northcentral and Northeast Regions are available through the "Redistricting" link on the legislative website. Maps for the Southeast Region will be available by mid-month.

The Commission has completed its public hearings for the Northcentral region and written comment will be accepted through February 7, 2002. The Commission also held its hearing on the Northeast region and will accept written comments until February 8, 2002.

The Commission will meet for the next public hearing on the Southeast Region on February 19 in Miles City and February 20 in Lewistown. The Miles City meeting provides a public hearing on the Southeast region of Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Prairie, Fallon, Carter, Custer, Powder River, Rosebud, Treasure, and Big Horn Counties, including the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian reservations. The Lewistown meeting will revisit a portion of the Northcentral Region and provide a comment period for the counties of Chouteau, Fergus, Judith Basin, and Petroleum Counties. Meagher, Musselshell, Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Sweet Grass Counties are affected and persons may testify, but staff visits and public hearings on the Southcentral Region will be held in Billings on March 15 and another hearing will be held in Bozeman at the end of April.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

**February 19, 2002**

Miles Community College  
2715 Dickinson, Room 106

**Miles City**

3:00 p.m. Public Hearing, public testimony accepted.

**February 20, 2002**

Central Montana Community Center  
307 West Watson

**Lewistown**

3:00 p.m. Public Hearing, public testimony accepted.

A mailing with maps, descriptions, and staff analysis to the Clerk and Records, Central Committees, and Legislators in the affected regions has been sent approximately two weeks prior to the hearings. Written comment on the Southeast and Central Regions will be accepted through March 13, 2002. The Commission will not make any decisions on plans until after the deadline for written testimony has passed, but will adopt plans for the Northcentral and Northeast Regions at its March 14 Executive Session in Billings. The Commission will hold hearings March 14 in Billings for the Southcentral Region and on March 15 in Crow Agency to complete the Southeast Region. The next meetings are tentatively scheduled in late April in Bozeman, Butte, and Helena. The next region to receive staff visits will be counties in Southcentral and Southwest Montana. Staff is visiting each area about two months in advance.

**(O - V - E - R)**

Judge Phillip Pro rendered his decision on Old Person v. Brown on January 24, 2002. His decision favored the state and found that no vote dilution has been demonstrated in Flathead and Blackfoot Reservation districts that were created in the 1990 Redistricting Plan. The Plaintiffs appealed the decision on February 4, 2002. The court case involves the redistricting plan created by the 1990 Commission and the appeal will not affect the 2000 Commission's continuation of its redistricting efforts at this time.

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*.

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