

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

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REDISTRICTING NEWS

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On June 17, 2002, the Commission tentatively adopted Plan 300, as amended, for the Southwest Region. This included the counties of Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Park, Gallatin, Broadwater, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Madison, Beaverhead, Butte/Silver Bow, Anaconda/Deer Lodge, Powell, and Granite Counties. Amendments were made to Gallatin and Butte/ Silver Bow Counties. There were additional amendments received that may be considered at a later date.

The Commission will be holding **regional public hearings** on the Western Region:

August 12, 2002 Public HearingAugust 13, 2002 Public Hearings7 p.m.1 p.m.7 p.m.KalispellPabloMissoula

A mailing for the Western Region will be sent the last week in July with maps, descriptions, and staff analysis to the Clerk and Recorders, Central Committees, Legislators, and legislative candidates in the affected region. The Commission will accept written testimony on the proposals through September 3, 2002, and tentatively adopt a plan for this region on September 16, 2002.

Regional maps of the proposals and adopted legislative districts for the Northcentral, Northeast, Southeast/Central, Southcentral, and Southwest Regions are available through the "Redistricting" link on the legislative website. The Western Region maps should be available by the end of July.

Dates to remember:

August 12-13 Western Region Public Hearings: 12 - Kalispell, 13 - Pablo, Missoula

September 3 Written testimony and amendments due on Western Region

September 16 Executive Session: Adopt Western Region, Helena

November 5 Election Day (1993 plan still in effect)

November 19-20 (tba) Hearing on Pairing of House Districts for Senate Districts, Helena.

December 6 (tent) Statutorily required public hearing on all 100 House and 50 Senate Districts, Helena.

The plan will be 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.

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 <u>sfox@mt.gov</u>. Cl2255 2169sfoa.