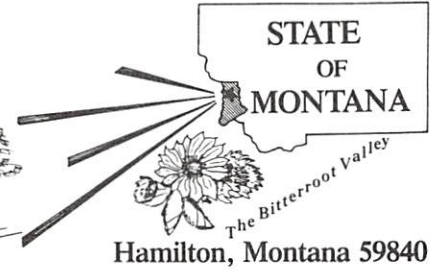


COUNTY OF RAVALLI



Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, MT 59840
406-375-6500 commissioners@rc.mt.gov

To: Districting and Apportionment Commission

October 14th, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

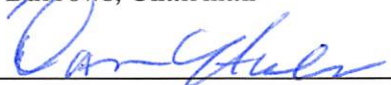
On October 14th, 2021, we held a public meeting to discuss the nine maps put forth by your commission. We determined that Map CP1 most closely meets the constitutional requirements of population deviation and being compact and contiguous. It also most closely meets other criteria such as Protecting Voting Rights, not being drawn for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring a political party, keeping communities of interest intact, and competitiveness. Although past elections and political data is not allowed to be used under Montana Law, it appears that several of the maps are drawn using that data for the sole purpose of creating a “competitive” map. Our analysis of using the most competitive recent races in Montana, the 2016 Governor and 2018 Senate races, show that CP1 also is the most competitive of all the maps. The only criteria, which is discretionary, in which this is not the best is “minimizing dividing political subdivisions”. While there are other maps which do not split any counties, they do not meet the mandatory criteria of compact, contiguous or population deviation as well as CP1 does. CP1 only splits Gallatin and Cascade Counties and only splits off about 7% of each of them in the West to meet the US Constitutional criteria of population equality. We believe that any map which places Western Montana forested counties in the East can only be explained by political gerrymandering and we soundly reject map CP8 which for some crazy reason has Ravalli County in with all of the North and East counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed maps.

Ravalli County Commissioners



Jeff Burrows, Chairman



Dan Huls, Member

-Absent-

Greg Chilcott, Member