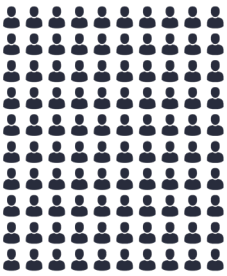


# MONTANA

## STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

**100**  
HOUSE  
SEATS



**50**  
SENATE  
SEATS



### WHO DRAWS THE DISTRICTS?

#### POLITICAL APPOINTEE COMMISSION

- House and Senate majority and minority leaders each select one member; those four commissioners select a fifth member to serve as chairperson
  - » If the four initial members fail to select a chairperson within 20 days of their designation, then the chairperson will be selected by a majority of the state Supreme Court
- Two commissioners must be from an enumerated list of western counties and the other two commissioners must be from an enumerated list of the central and eastern counties
- Commissioners can't be public officials
- Commissioners must be citizens

### HOW ARE DISTRICTS DRAWN?

#### Process

- Political appointee commission draws the lines. The commission must submit the plan to the Legislature, which shall return the plan to the commission with recommendations within 30 days
- A simple majority of commissioners is required to approve a final map, which must be submitted to the secretary of state
- Governor cannot veto

#### State-Level Criteria

Ranked: Yes

- Districts must comply with the following criteria, which are ranked in order of importance by statute:
  - » Population of each district may not deviate more than 1 percent from ideal, except to keep political boundaries intact
  - » Follow political boundaries to the greatest extent possible
  - » Contiguity
  - » Compactness; a district may not be drawn with "an average length greater than three times the average width unless necessary to comply with the [federal] Voting Rights Act"
- Can't favor a political party or incumbent; use of incumbent addresses, voter registration data, voter lists, or previous election results is prohibited
- Nest House districts within Senate districts



### Public Hearings

- Commission must hold at least one public hearing before it submits a plan to the Legislature

### Timing

- Commission must file its plan with the Legislature by the 10th day of the first legislative session after the appointment of the commission or after the census data becomes available
- The Legislature must return the plan with its own recommendations to the commission within 30 days of receiving it
- Commission must file its final plans with the secretary of state 30 days after the commission receives recommendations from the Legislature

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

1  
SEAT  
i

Montana has only one congressional district (through 2020). Projected after reapportionment: 1 or 2

### Process

- Same as for state legislative districts

### State-Level Criteria

- Districts to be “established on the basis of population”
- Cannot favor a political party or incumbent; use of incumbent addresses, voter registration data, voter lists, or previous election results is prohibited

### Public Hearings

- Same as for state legislative districts

### Timing

- Commission must file its final plan with the secretary of state within 90 days after census data becomes available

Click [here](#) for a version with citations