

# Criteria Map

## GENERAL MAP CHARACTERISTICS

The Criteria Map takes elements of the Deviation, the Subdivision, the Communities, and the Urban-Rural Maps, along with suggestions from the public, and rolls them all into one plan that objectively meets all of the criteria better than any other single plan. The Criteria Plan was drawn on Legislative Services software under the direction of Commissioners Jon Bennion and Linda Vaughney without the use of political data and election results. It would serve as the best starting point as the Districting and Apportionment Commission designs a final map.

## MANDATORY CRITERIA

1. Population Equality: .79% average statewide deviation (second only to the Deviation map).
2. Compact and Contiguous: Comes in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in compactness in all seven mathematical formulas that provide statewide averages (second only to Subdivision map).
3. Voting Right Act: Best map for respecting the voting rights of Montana's American Indian populations. Four of the six majority-minority districts have higher voting-age populations compared with Communities Plan.
4. Race Cannot be Predominant Factor: Took Communities Map lines for northwestern majority-minority districts but kept communities of Pablo and Ronan intact, which only reduced the voting-age population in one district by less than 1%. This was due to the discretionary criteria of trying to keep small towns and cities together.

## DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA

1. Follows the Lines of Political Units: Keeps the second most number of counties together compared to any other map (second only to Subdivision map), and uses wherever possible existing lines such as school district boundaries, city limits, reservation borders, city wards, neighborhood commission lines and more.
2. Follows Geographic Boundaries: Limits the number of districts that cross the continental divide or large rivers like the Missouri.
3. Keeps Communities of Interest Intact: Keeps the most small towns, communities and census areas intact compared to any map (including the Communities Map). The different natures of urban, suburban and rural areas are respected much like in the Urban-Rural plan. For urban areas especially, traditional neighborhoods and communities were the basis for lines, along with transportation networks that serve as borders.

## INCORPORATES PUBLIC INPUT AND LOCAL MAPS

A number of communities, towns and entities produced maps they hoped would be incorporated into the commission's final map. Those communities and entities included Ravalli County, Granite & Powell Counties, Jefferson County, the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, The City of Billings & the Yellowstone County, the Gallatin County GIS Department, the Gallatin County Clerk & Recorder's office, Broadwater County, and more. Not all elements of these maps could be used line-for-line, but most of the major points were considered. The Criteria Map could have just as easily been called the "Public Input Map," because it attempts to fit as many of these puzzle pieces into a final map that also follows the criteria.