

Weiss, Rachel

From: Grace Larson [walker22@montana.com]
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2011 4:50 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: Redistricting

We would like to see Rosebud and Treasure Counties as one district .
Thank you . Lyle & Grace Larson Forsyth , MT 406-356-2854

Weiss, Rachel (LEG)

From: Jerrellb@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 7:11 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Missoula redistricting

To whom it may concern:

Please don't use the current legislative districts as a starting point for your redistricting discussion. I was on the Missoula City Council for 8 years and it is my informed opinion that the existing districts do not represent the positions of many of our citizens. The current districts were formed to make sure that center City residents can out vote their more rural voters. The current districts pit force rural voters against the higher density urban voters, and those that want to get away from City control lose their voice. I don't vote in legislative races any more because those running don't represent my positions.
Jerry Ballas

Weiss, Rachel (LEG)

From: charlieann1 [charlieann1@blackfoot.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2011 7:33 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: resdistricting MT

When redistricting, please consider rural residents' view; they are definately NOT the same as "town" residents. Do your homework and find out what these differences are before making any redistricting decisions. MT is sparse in population, take that into consideration.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION>

CHARLOTTE SLIDER

Plains, MT

Weiss, Rachel

From: Barbara Rush [rush720@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2011 2:43 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: redistricting

Jon and I would like to say that we hope the redistricting commission will stick to all the guidelines as strictly as possible, and that it is your moral and legal obligation to do so. This commission was devised by the legislature to do away with political gerrymandering such as Mr. Joe Lampson engaged in the last time we redistricted. We live on the upper west side of Helena and are cut off from our neighbors across the street. We all raised our children in the same public schools and yet we vote in different districts. The line is down Hayes Avenue. The only thing that protects our freedom is a fair vote. Dividing up neighborhoods and ignoring the redistricting guidelines in an unforgivable attempt to alter the vote is nothing more than an attempt to undermine our freedom. Barbara and Jon Rush, 720 Holter, Helena

To; Rachel Weiss
cc; **Montana Redistricting Commission**

September 27, 2011

Re; Redistricting.

As a former candidate for a State House District that I did not live in, and as a candidate for a Missoula City Council seat in an area that I did live in, I believe that I am uniquely qualified to address the importance of how the new lines will be drawn.

I live in the foothills of south Missoula. I have lived in the same house since 1985.

As a State Legislative candidate, (1988) I went door to door in what was then House Seat 57. The district at the time included the slant street area of central Missoula, downtown Missoula, as well as some more sparsely populated areas to the west of Russell Street. In the areas of the district that were more sparsely populated, I did well with over 40% of the vote. In the more concentrated areas in the center of town I did poorly. And in downtown Missoula I lost by about a 10 to 1 margin. I garnered about 32% of the vote overall.

In 1993 I ran for the city council in a district that comprised solely of land adjacent to where I live. I also went door to door throughout the entire district. And I got about 45% of the vote.

I found that the concerns expressed to me by the voters were, in many cases, very different based on where they lived. What mattered to someone in the center of town was a non issue to someone on the city's edge and vice versa.

The legislative district that I am now in, now takes in a major chunk of the legislative district that I ran it. And my former opponent, Stella Jean Hanson, and I, now live in the same district.

In retrospect, the best person to represent someone from the center of town, was and is someone from the center of town. Also the best person to represent the people of my neighborhood, is someone from my neighborhood.

Please consider this when redrawing the legislative lines for the upcoming election. I have talked to thousands of voters in both elections. And I have met many wonderful people. I believe that we are best served by those who share a common living experience.

Please keep similar areas together when redrawing the legislature lines. And lets move totally away from the "pie wedge" lines that currently make up where the lines are now drawn in the larger cities like Missoula.

Thank you,

Keith Baer
PMB 335
2814 Brooks
Missoula Montana, 59801



KeithB@Montana.com

Kolman, Joe

From: Kolman, Joe
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2011 3:48 PM
To: 'Johnstone, Anthony'; Redistricting
Cc: Burkhardt, Julianne
Subject: RE: Meeting / Talk at Law School

Mr. Johnstone,

Thank you for your interest. In terms of talking to a class, we can relay your request to the commission members. But you may consider contacting them directly. Chairman Regnier, a former supreme court justice, has made several presentations.

Here is a link to their contact information:

<http://leg.mt.gov/css/Committees/interim/2011-2012/districting/Members/commissioners.asp>

If you wanted a staff perspective, either I, my colleague Rachel Weiss or Julianne Burkhardt, our staff attorney, may be able to help.

As for a commission meeting, it is likely that the commission will be holding a public hearing sometime next year in Missoula on proposals. Those dates and places have not been set. But we can be sure to keep you in the loop.

Thanks again for your interest.

Joe Kolman
Research Analyst, Districting and Apportionment Commission
406.444.3747 Office Phone
406.570.2271 Cell Phone
406.444.3971 FAX
Rm 171B, State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnstone, Anthony [<mailto:anthony.johnstone@mso.umt.edu>]
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Meeting / Talk at Law School

Members of the Commission and Staff,

I am writing to make a preliminary inquiry into your interest in holding a session in Missoula at the Law School. As some of you know, I have left state government to teach constitutional law, and one of my courses and areas of interest is election law. The work of the Commission is an important window into the structure of our political process and I think students would benefit from the opportunity to see the Commission in action.

Let me know if there's any interest in a meeting at the Law School, or short of that a visit from one or more members or staff to discuss your work sometime before 2013, and I'd be happy to pursue the arrangements further.

Thanks for your service, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Anthony Johnstone, Assistant Professor
The University of Montana School of Law
406.243.6711 | anthony.johnstone@umontana.edu<mailto:anthony.johnstone@umontana.edu>

[cid:3F935902-ABC6-4FF4-9D14-B0038736F97B@gs.umd.edu]

Kolman, Joe

From: Kolman, Joe
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2011 1:53 PM
To: 'Burke Townsend'; Redistricting
Cc: Regnier, Jim; Weiss, Rachel
Subject: RE: Public Mapping Project

Mr. Townsend,

Thank you for your comments. We will pass your suggestion on to the commission. There are many ways the public can participate in redistricting, including the one you suggest.

Here is another link that you may find of interest. I have not used it, but it purports to have data for Montana. As I understand it, one could start working on a Montana map in a matter of minutes.

<http://gardow.com/davebradlee/redistricting/launchapp.html>

For anyone who does submit a map to the commission, there are a few guidelines. You can find the link to them here: <http://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2011-2012/Districting/Other-Documents/submitted-maps-guidelines.pdf>

Again, thank you for your comment.

Joe Kolman
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-----Original Message-----

From: Burke Townsend [<mailto:burketownsend@mac.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2011 1:30 PM
To: Redistricting
Cc: Regnier, Jim; Weiss, Rachel
Subject: Public Mapping Project

I wrote to the Commission previously regarding the work of the scholars Micah Altman and Michael McDonald and their redistricting software, BARD. Commission staff did indeed look into their work and discuss its possibilities with Dr. McDonald, for which I am quite grateful.

I haven't looked further into the Altman/McDonald project for several months, so am somewhat behind the times, but I now see that they have made available resources to enable relatively easy public participation in the process of finding fair district lines through their Public Mapping Project: www.publicmapping.org.

You are quite likely already aware of this project, though I see no Montana connection with it at this point. Will the Commission be willing to set up a server site with Montana data through the Public Mapping Project, advertise its availability and invite public participation?

This project looks like a wonderful opportunity to involve public participation and to generate helpful districting proposals. Other states, or organizations within them, have already organized contests, soliciting public districting proposals via the Public Mapping Project and judging the best from among those entered. Contest or no, the opportunity to involve the public in this way seems to me much too promising to forego.

I hope that you will consider seriously setting up a Montana database linked to the Public Mapping Project and advertising widely its availability. The process would not seem to require any unmanageable burden. Such a Montana link could be provided by another group, but it would seem fully appropriate for the Commission to undertake this project promptly in the interest of greatest possible transparency and public participation in Montana's redistricting process.

Best,
Burke Townsend

Kolman, Joe

From: Kolman, Joe
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 2:28 PM
To: 'KERR News'; Redistricting
Subject: RE: elections & campaigning

Mr. Smith,

Thank you for the comments. They will be provided to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Joe Kolman
Research Analyst, Districting and Apportionment Commission
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-----Original Message-----

From: KERR News [<mailto:jeff@750kerr.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 12:39 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: elections & campaigning

Hi folks,

Thanks for allowing this comment, I hope you take this seriously. My name is Jeff Smith, News Director for Anderson Radio Broadcasting in Polson. Our featured radio station for providing news is A.M. 750 KERR.

This is a 50-thousand watt station with an awesome reach.

My problem with the current legislative districts is they coever too many counties. Good luck trying to determine who a winner is when you have to get election results from 5 differemnt counties.

Also, how about Frosty Calf Boss Ribs a couple of years ago? After working as an educator in Heart Butte al day she had to drive to Alee to attend a candidates forum. Too bad for he no one showed up.

Your own guildlines say a candiate should be able to reach the constituency through one meadi outlet. That's impossible under the current maps. I won't have any faith that these words were read unless ofcourse someone either writes or calls me.

jeff@750kerr.com or call me on my cell phone at 751-7498.

mapquest m^a

Map of:

Great Falls, MT

Notes

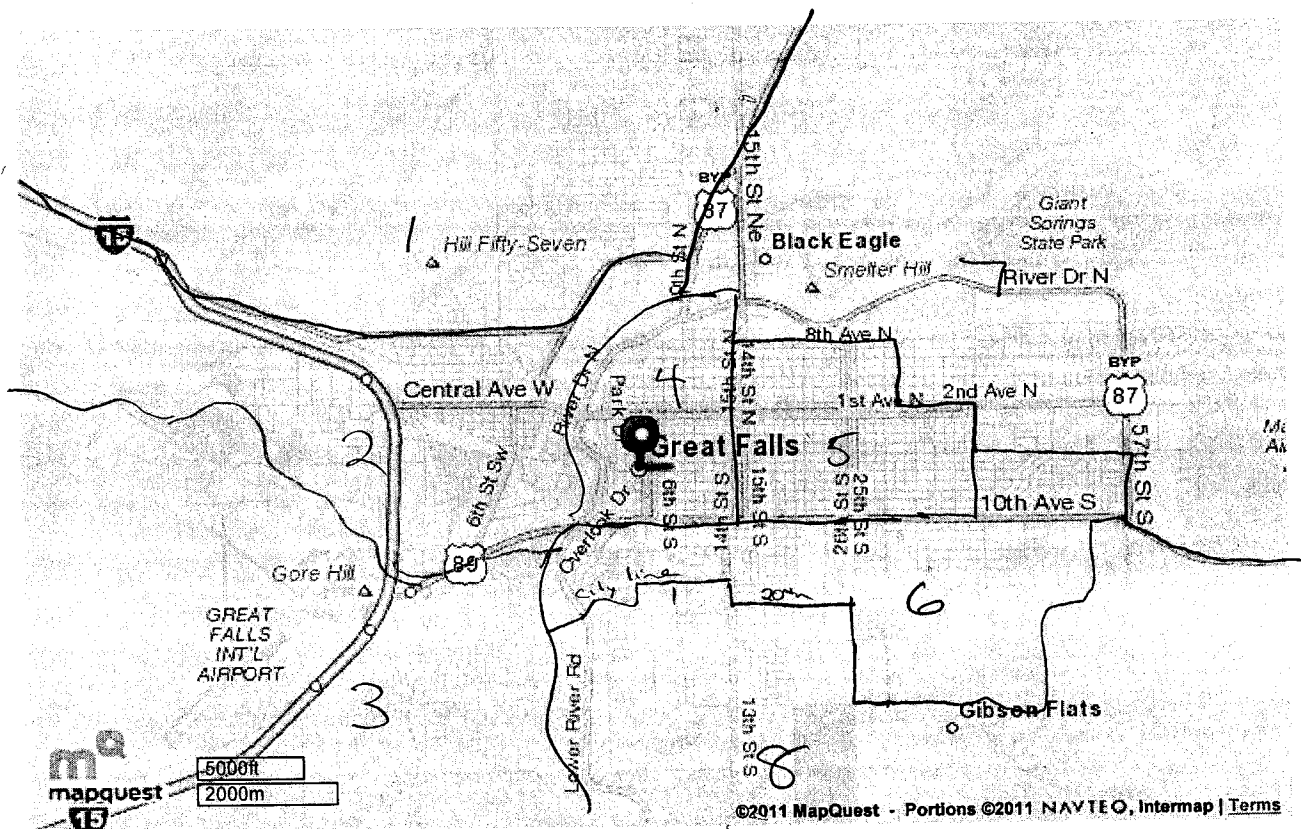
Rep
Fitzpatrick

To investors who want to retire comfortably.

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Map of:
Great Falls, MT

Notes

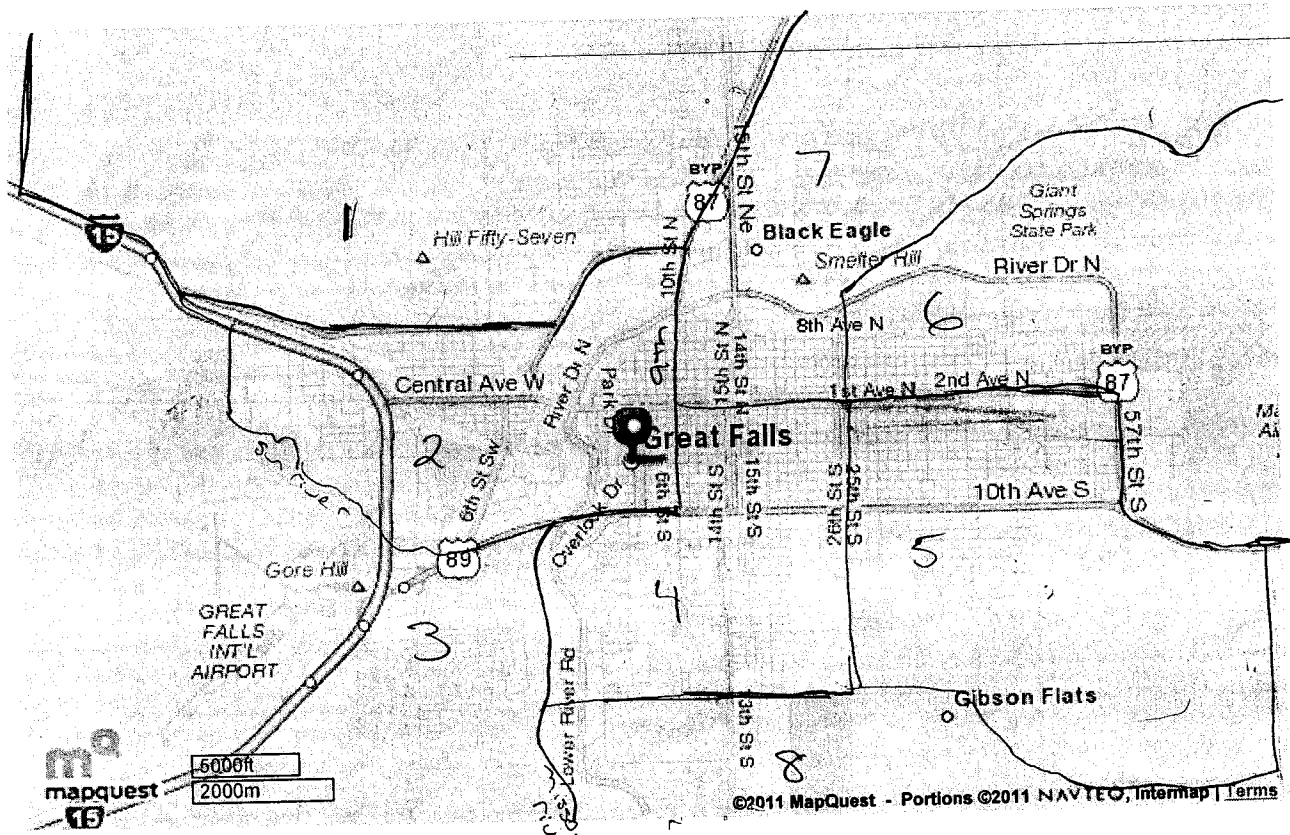
Rep. Fitzpatrick

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