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Montana Redistricting
28 December 2021

I. State Overview

Montana's population grew since [the last census by 9.6%](#) from 985,815 to 1,084,225.

Due to this population growth, Montana gained a congressional seat and for the first time will have more than one congressional representative. Most of the population growth was in the counties in the western half of the state, including along the I-15 corridor and also includes major population centers of Kalispell, Bozeman, Missoula, and Helena. There were mild to moderate population losses in rural counties.



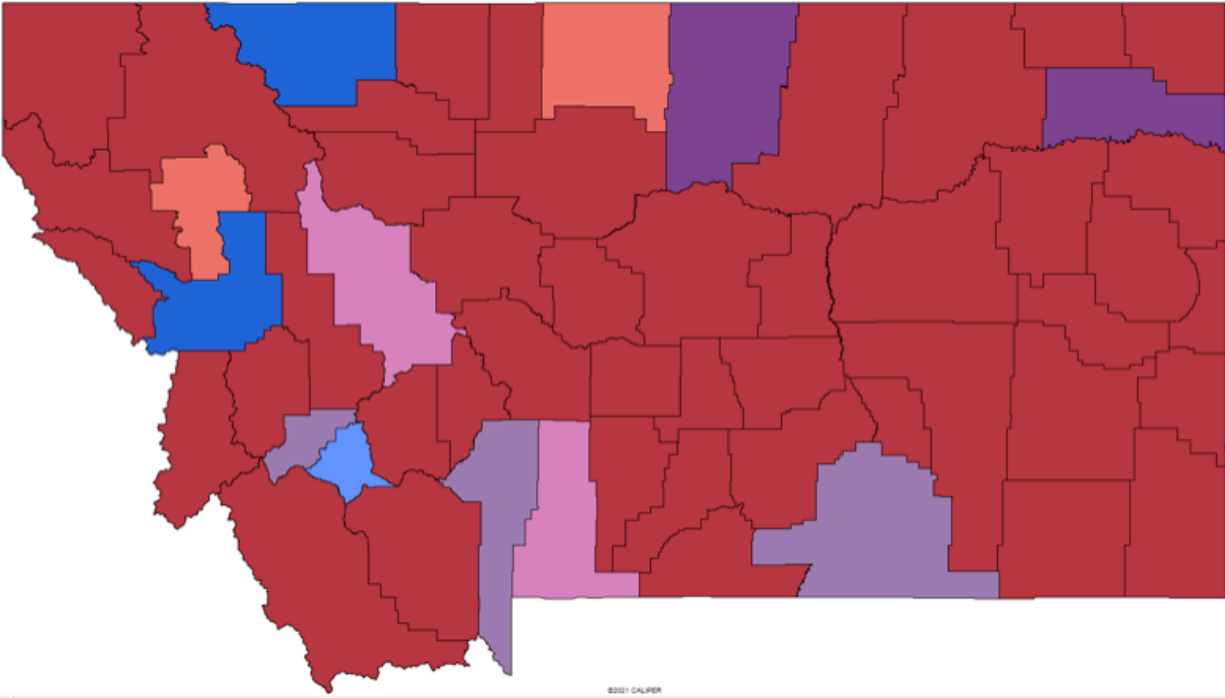
MT-01: State of Montana, Google Hybrid view

The major question for this redistricting cycle was how to break the state up into two. In the eastern half of the state there is Billings as the major population center. The decision about where to put the major population center of the city of Helena was the primary issue in drawing

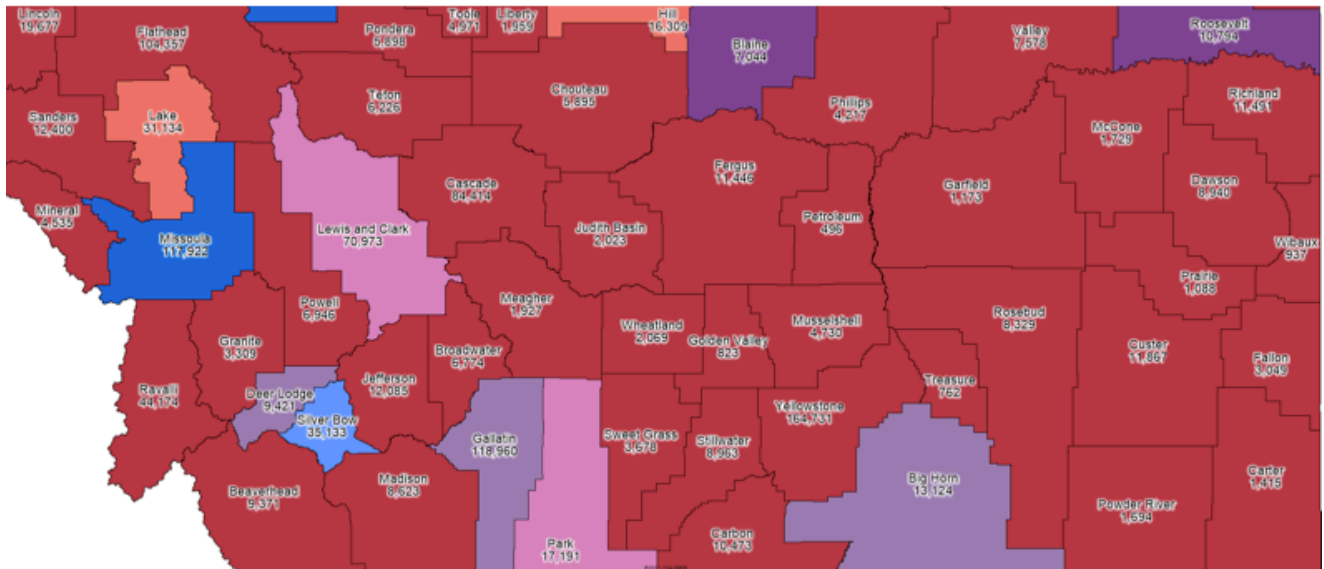
the district borders. Helena is in Lewis and Clark County on the southern border just north of Jefferson County. The decision about Helena has substantial partisan implications because it is one of the few urban and more liberal areas of the state.

The largest urban, liberal area of the state is in Missoula, which is the second largest county by population and the largest metro area in the state. Missoula is on the western edge of the state. Combining Helena and Missoula into the same district has the potential to create a competitive district in the west, leaving a safe republican district in the east.

The largely rural areas of the state votes reliably republican and the more urban areas, of which there are few, generally vote more liberally. The map below shows the county breakdown of partisan data from the 2020 election. Because of the size of the state, the entirety of the state could not be captured in one image along with the names of the counties and their populations. Therefore, there are two maps: one without labels with the partisan data (*MT-02*) and one slightly more zoomed in to show the counties and their populations relative to the partisan data (*MT-03*). This more zoomed map shows that the larger population centers voted more democratic and the rural, less populated areas, which dominate the geographic expanse of the state, vote more republican.



MT-02: Statewide Partisan Data by County, 2020 Election



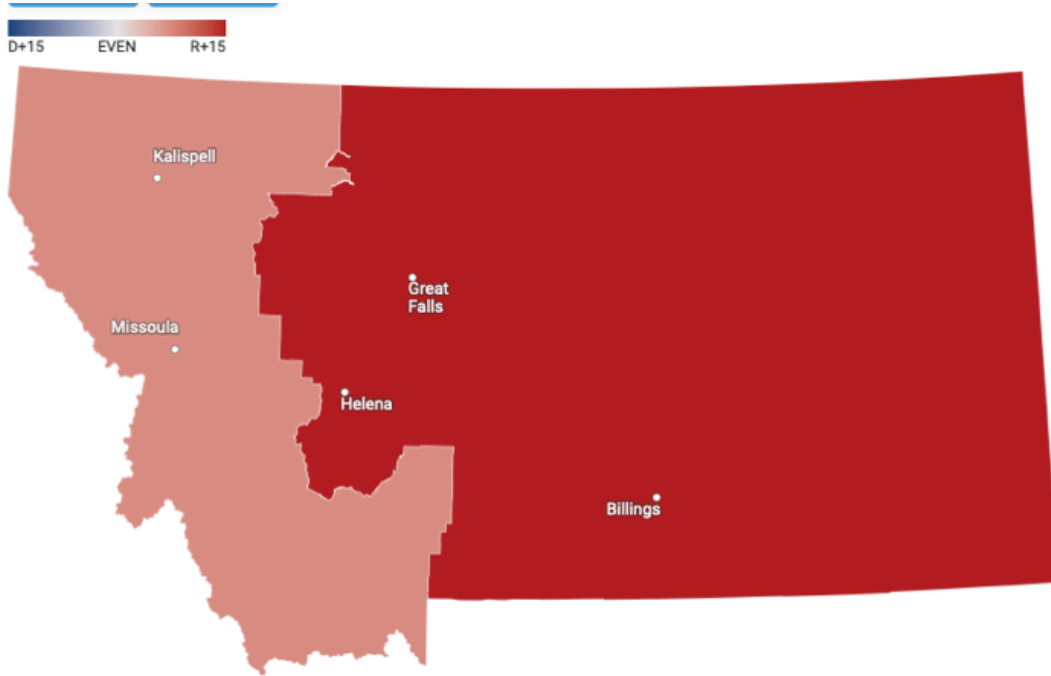
MT-03: Zoomed Partisan Data by County with Labels and Population, 2020 Election

II. Map Adopted

Montana has a five-member Districting and Apportionment Commission (the makeup of which is: two democrats, two republicans, and one nonpartisan) that approved the Republican

proposal that keeps Helena in the eastern half of the state by a vote of 3-2, with the nonpartisan voting with the two republicans. The adopted map splits the state, as expected, along a north/south district line. The map keeps all counties intact except for Pondera County in the northern part of the state, just south of Glacier County. Lewis and Clark County, and therefore Helena, are included in the eastern district. This decision will most likely yield two safe republican congressional seats.

The eastern half is now Montana's second district and is the district the incumbent, Matt Rosedale, lives in. This is an R+17 district based on 2020 election data and is considered "solid R". The western half of the state is now Montana's first district and, while slightly less republican than the eastern half, is still an R+7 district because the more liberal population center of Helena was included in the second district.



New District Ratings and Estimated PVIs

DIST	Incumbent	Previous PVI	Estimated new PVI	2022 Rating
MT-01	NEW SEAT	N/A	R+7	Likely R
MT-02	Matt Rosendale (R)	R+11	R+17	Solid R

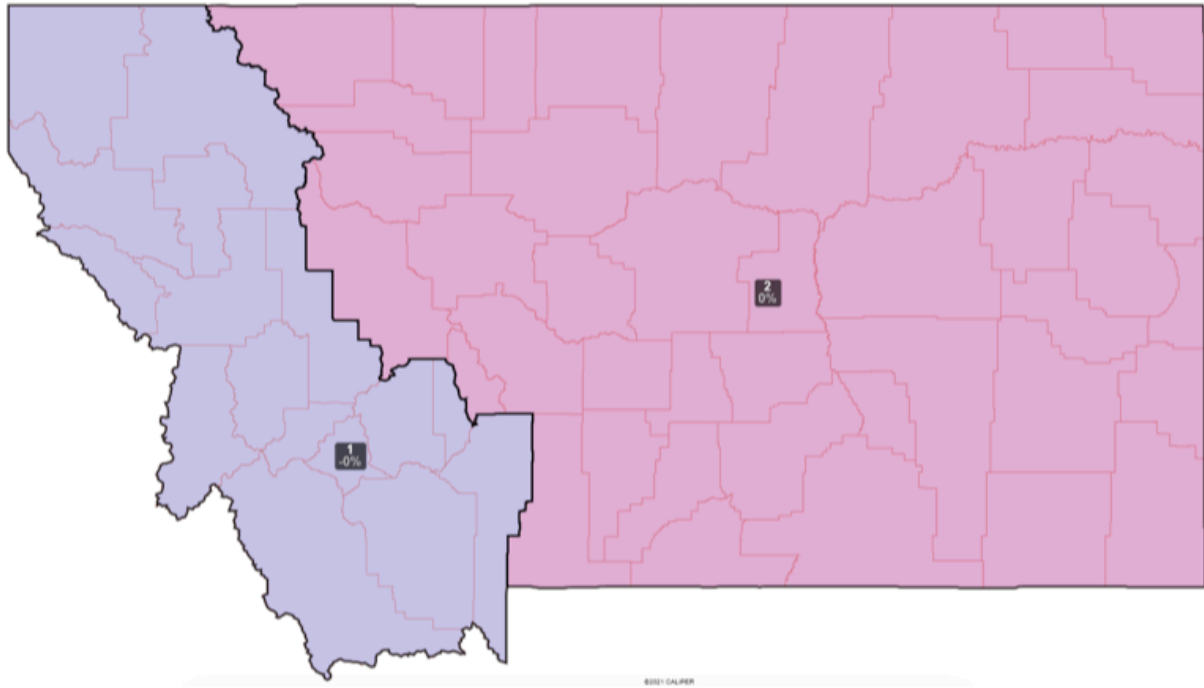
Map MT-04: This is the map adopted by the commission as republished by Cook Political Report

III. Maps Drawn

A. Good Governance

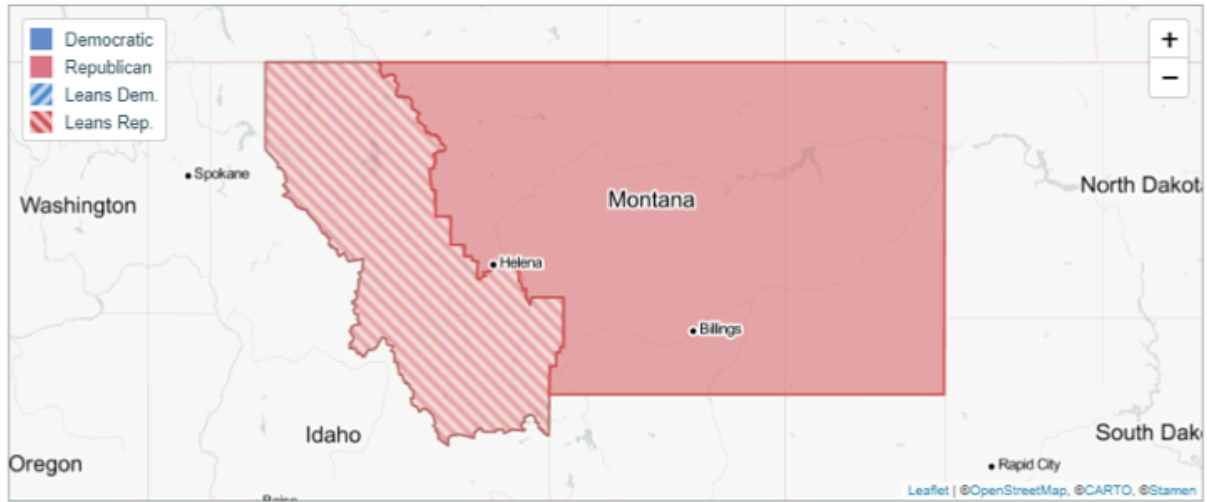
The good governance map I drew splits the state north/south and keeps all but one county together, just like the adopted map. To get to population equality in each district, there needs to be 542,112 people per district. To achieve this, at least one county needs to be split. To get to the target population number, I needed to split one county to bring the 2,000+ people from District 1 in the west to District 2 in the east. Therefore, Broadwater County just south east of Lewis and Clark County was split to achieve population equality. The PlanScore data shows that

both of these seats are likely or safe republican districts. This result is very similar to the result achieved in the adopted map.



MT-05: Good Governance map that respects county lines

District Map



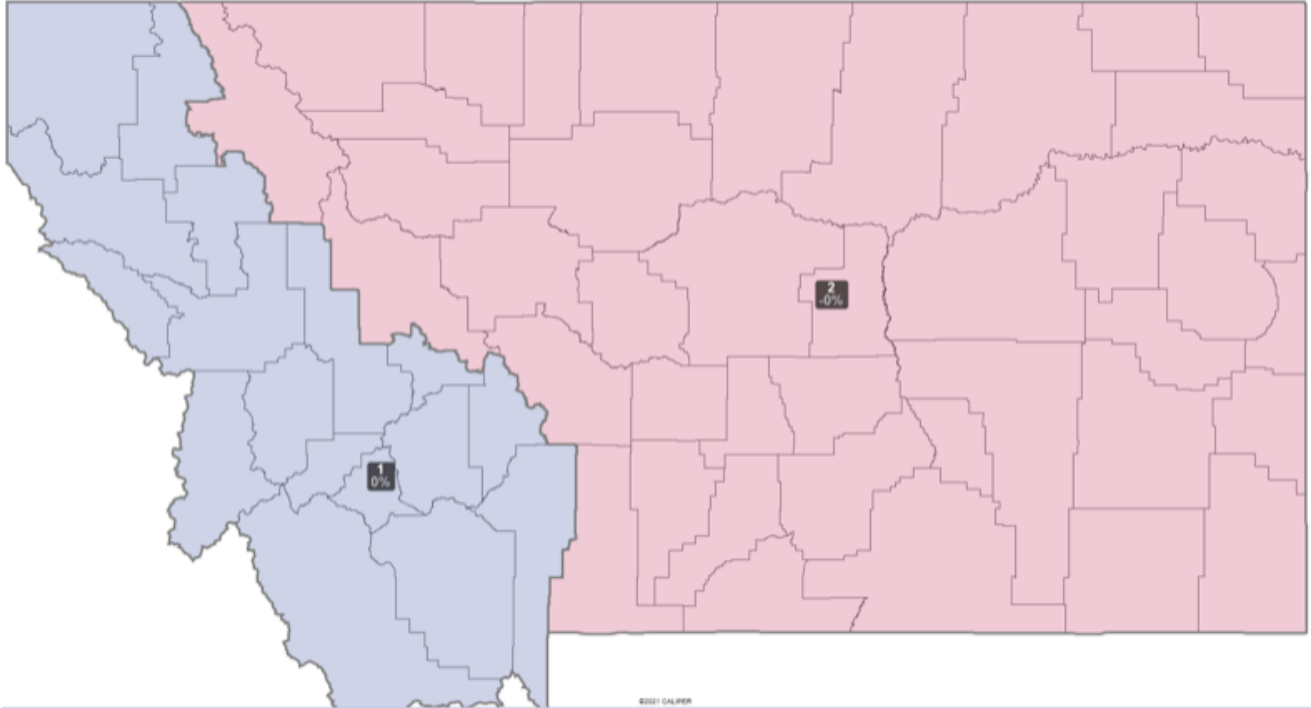
District Data

District	Candidate Scenario	Pop. 2020	Hispanic CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Black CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Asian CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Native CVAP 2019	Chance of 1+ Flips†	Chance of Democratic Win	Predicted Vote Shares	Biden (D) 2020	Trump (R) 2020
1	Open Seat	542,110	2.7%	0.5%	1.0%	3.8%	Yes	26%	47% D / 53% R	142,535	170,024
2	Open Seat	542,115	3.2%	0.7%	0.7%	9.2%	No	3%	39% D / 61% R	102,244	173,570

MT-06: Good Governance PlanScore Analysis

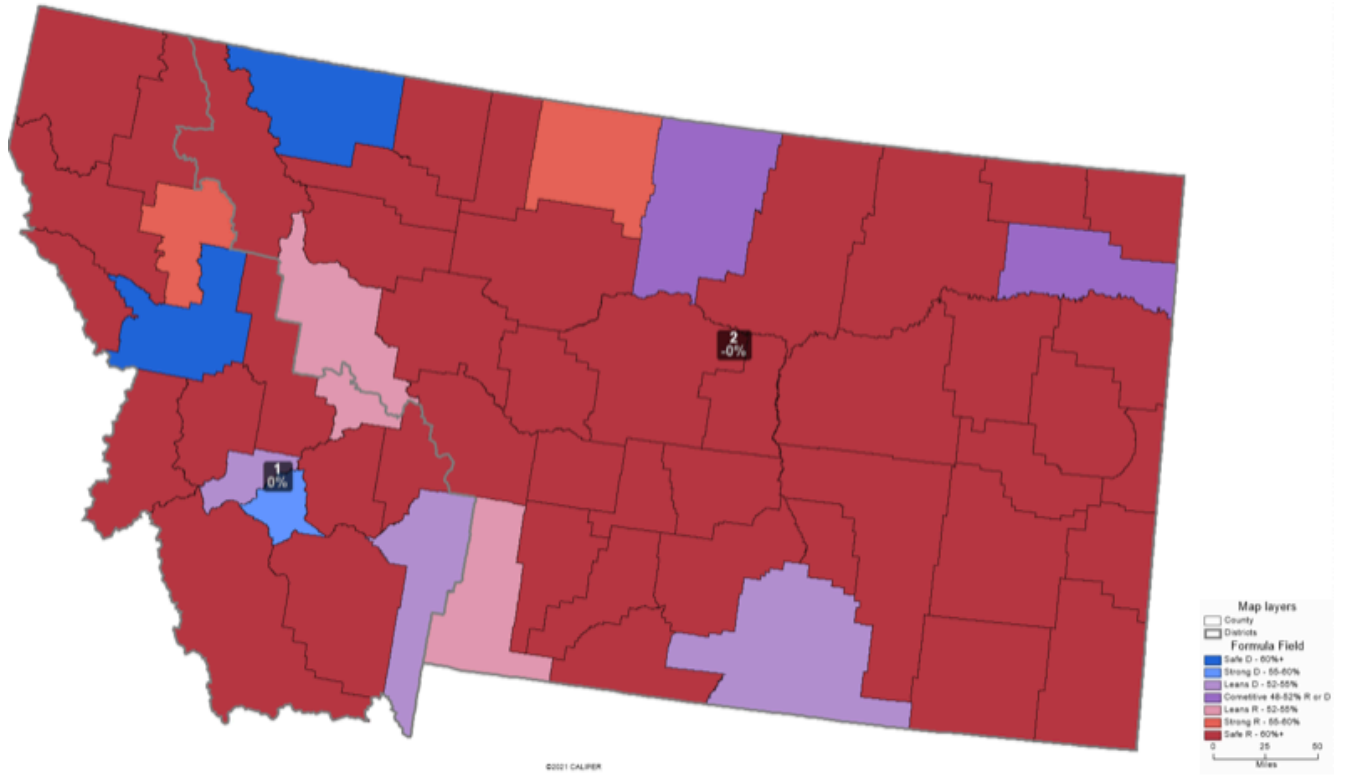
B. Political Competitiveness

To try to draw a more competitive district in District 1, I split more counties than the good governance map. Lewis and Clark County, home to Helena was split with the southern portion of the county in District 1 and the northern portion of the county in District 2. Flathead County, home to a moderate urban population center of Kalispel, in the northwest corner of the state was also split. The political subdivision of the city itself stayed together, but the urban sprawl around it was split up and moved to District 2, while Kalispel itself remained in District 1.

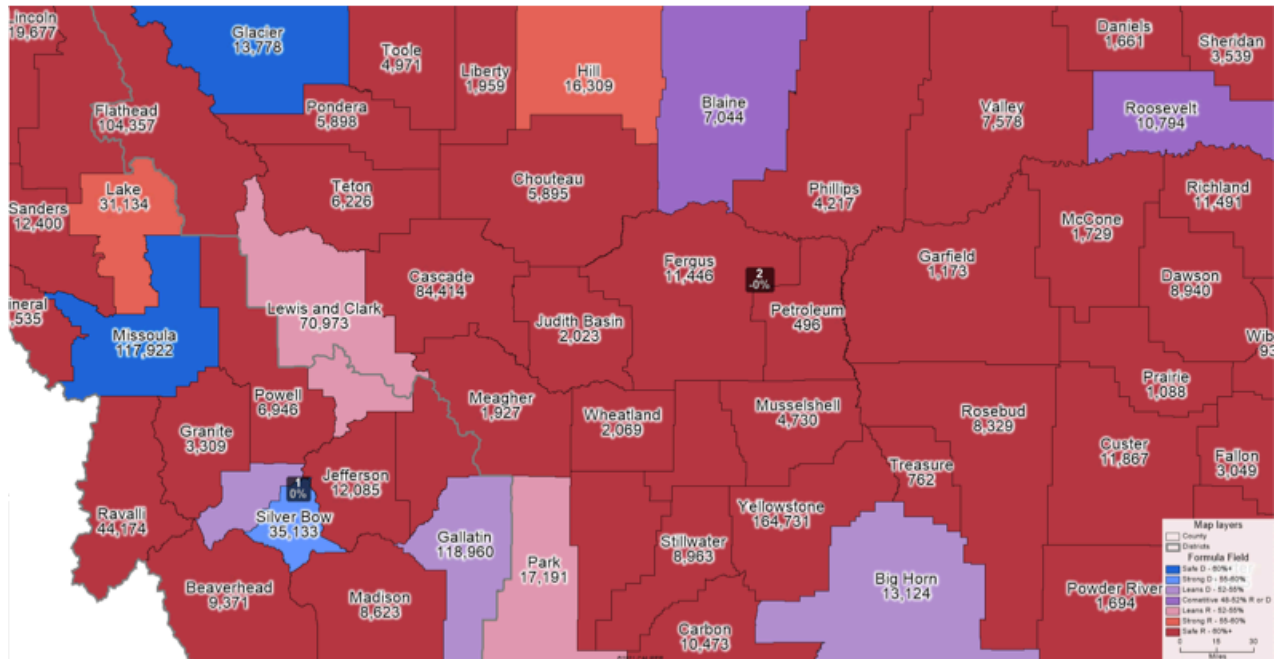


MT-07: Political Competition Map that takes Helena and puts it in District 2

With this division, District 1 is likely to be competitive, scored by PlanScore as an R+2 district. This is more competitive than the adopted map, which has District 1 as R+7 and slightly more competitive than my R+3 good governance map. The maps below (***MT-08*** and ***MT-09***) show where the district line is drawn relative to the partisan data from 2020. A zoom of this map shows where the population centers are relative to the partisan data. These maps show how the more democratic population centers grouped into District 1 will yield a more competitive district compared to the more rural and republican District 2.

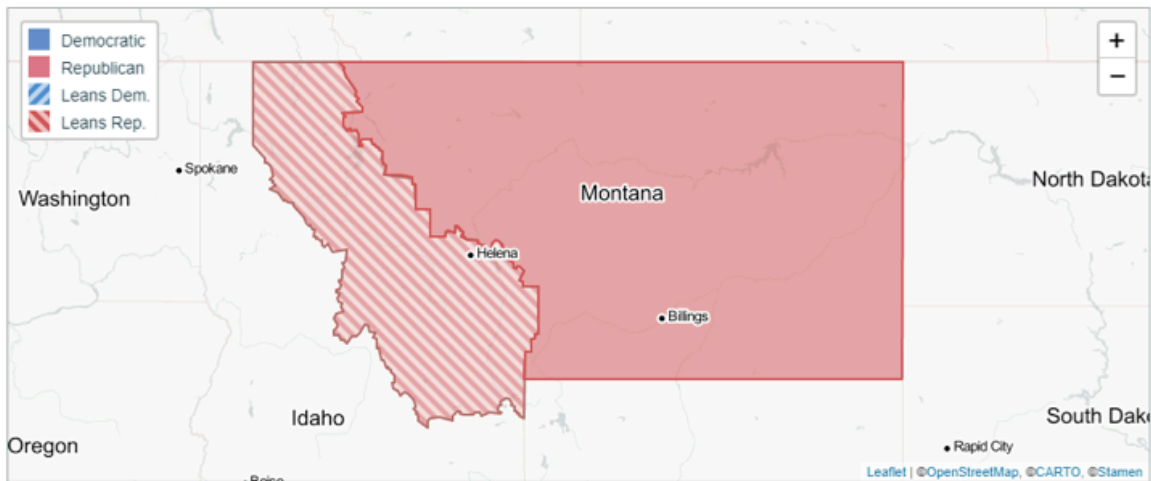


MT-08: Statewide Partisan Data 2020 with Competitive District Line



MT-09: Zoom Statewide Partisan Data 2020 with Labels and Competitive District Line

District Map



District Data

District	Candidate Scenario	Pop. 2020	Hispanic CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Black CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Asian CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Native CVAP 2019	Chance of 1+ Flips†	Chance of Democratic Win	Predicted Vote Shares	Biden (D) 2020	Trump (R) 2020
1	Open Seat	542,113	2.7%	0.5%	1.1%	3.9%	Yes	36%	48% D / 52% R	149,907	165,565
2	Republican Incumbent	542,112	3.2%	0.7%	0.7%	9.2%	No	<1%	33% D / 67% R	94,872	178,029

MT-10: Politically Competitive PlanScore analysis

IV. Appendix

Maps/Images List

- MT-01: State of Montana Google Hybrid View
- MT-02: Statewide Partisan Data by County
- MT-03: Zoom Statewide Partisan with County and Population Labels
- MT-04: Cook Political Report republication of Adopted Map
- MT-05: Good Governance Map
- MT-06: Good Governance PlanScore
- MT-07: Politically Competitive Map
- MT-08: Statewide Partisan Data by County, with District Lines
- MT-09: Zoom Statewide Partisan Data by County with District Lines and Population Labels
- MT-10: Politically Competitive PlanScore