

RELEASE: Statement on Bullock's Call for a Special Session

HELENA, MONT. – Chairman Debra Lamm released the following statement today after Governor Bullock called for a special session and announced tax increases to address the budget shortfall:

"The buck stops with Governor Bullock: He mismanaged the state budget and spent beyond our means. We need to get our spending in order and that means cutting the bloat and bureaucracy in Helena, identifying savings, and making responsible and targeted spending cuts that protect the most vulnerable."

"I strongly warn Montanans not to be fooled by Bullock's call for temporary tax increases. There's no such thing as temporary tax increases, and if he gets his way, there is no doubt in my mind that these temporary tax increases will become permanent tax increases. Montanans should not have to pay the price with higher taxes because of Bullock's political games and reckless spending spree."

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Sign the Petition: End the Rigged Tax System

Montana workers need a win, again.

We have a tax system that is rigged to benefit the powerful

special interests.

Every year, the government takes more of our hard-earned money while the special interests use their personal loopholes to keep more of their money.

President Trump wants to put an end to this rigged system – and I couldn't agree more.

Trump has called for tax reform that closes these special interests loopholes and puts more money back in the pockets of Montana workers and families.

That's exactly where your money belongs ... in your hands.

Trump's vision for tax reform puts Montana workers first, increases their wages, and lowers their taxes. That's tax relief we could all use right now.

Trump also wants to restore fairness to the system so our businesses can compete, bring more jobs back to America, and create better-paying jobs for workers.

Now, the special interests will stop at nothing to see President Trump's tax reform proposal fail. They are only concerned about preserving their rigged system because it has enriched them for decades ... at the expense of our workers.

[With your help today we can put a stop to the special interests. Please click HERE to sign our petition and show President Trump that you support his vision for tax reform.](#)

If we work together, we can end this rigged system and deliver a much needed victory to Montana workers.

Let's win this battle,



Debra Lamm
Chairman
Montana Republican Party

RELEASE: Chairman Lamm Blasts Tester's Support for Single- Payer Health Care

HELENA, MONT. – Chairman Debra Lamm released the following statement today on Senator Tester's support for a single-payer health care system:

“Senator Tester’s call for a single-payer health care system would be an absolute disaster for Montana families. As if Obamacare wasn’t bad enough, this would mean a complete government takeover of our health care industry. The result would be even higher premiums, rationed care, long wait times, and massive tax increases. This is socialized medicine and it does not represent our Montana values. Montanans will remember the tremendous burden Tester wants to place on our families with his support for single payer health care.”

Background:

[The Hill](#): Centrist Dem: Maybe we should look at single-payer health care

Sen Jon. Tester (D-Mont.) on Wednesday said Congress should

perhaps take a “solid look” at a single-payer health care system.

Tester’s comments during a bipartisan hearing of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee come at a time when more Democrats are getting on board with the idea of government-funded health care.

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RELEASE: Bullock to Blame for Montana’s Fiscal Disaster

HELENA, MONT. – Chairman Debra Lamm released the following statement today on the fiscal disaster Governor Bullock has left the state in:

*“I find it completely unacceptable that Governor Bullock refuses to take responsibility for the fiscal disaster he created. Bullock’s liberal spending spree has finally caught up with him: He inherited a **surplus** of over \$500 million, ran it into the ground, and now we’re left with a tax revenue **short-fall** of \$75 million. This is beyond fiscal mismanagement – this is complete incompetence. Bullock failed to show fiscal discipline and failed to prioritize our spending needs. It’s absolutely clear that responsibility for this fiscal disaster lies squarely with Governor Bullock.”*

MTN News: ‘State Budget Headed for Deficit Spending ... Tax Revenues Not Meeting Expectations’

The Bullock administration will announce Wednesday it’s asking most state agencies for plans to cut 10 percent of their

budget, to avoid deficit spending as state tax revenue flags and firefighting costs escalate, MTN News has learned.

Any spending cuts ordered by the governor apparently would be in addition to nearly \$70 million in cuts already imposed when state revenue failed to meet certain targets on June 30.

The law requiring the latter cuts also transferred \$30 million out of the state's firefighting fund to cover budget shortfalls elsewhere in state government.

Save the Date: MTGOP Open House in Helena

MTGOP Open House

***Come and Visit Our Updated HQ, Meet Chairman Lamm and Our Staff,
Elected Officials & Candidates!***

Saturday, September 23, 2017

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**MTGOP HQ
1300 Aspen St.
Helena, MT 59601**

*Enjoy some BBQ, refreshments, and mingle with fellow
Republicans.*

We look forward to seeing you!

Please RSVP by September 21st to Patrick@mtgop.org.

RELEASE: Patrick Webb **Appointed Executive Director**

Helena, MONT. – Chairman Debra Lamm announced today the appointment of Patrick Webb to be the Executive Director of the Montana Republican Party.

“Patrick’s commitment to the Party, our candidates, and the grassroots provides me with the utmost confidence that he will work tirelessly in this position,” said Chairman Debra Lamm. *“His extensive work with the grassroots and our local central committees to increase engagement, mobilize support, and recruit volunteers is exactly the right experience we need to win next year.”*

“I stand ready to serve, listen, and work with the grassroots to build an even stronger Montana Republican Party,” said Patrick Webb. *“Together we will build a cohesive organization that will deliver Republican victories at all levels and continue advancing liberty in Montana.”*

Republicans hold 5 out of the 7 elected statewide and federal offices in Montana. In 2017, Republicans maintained control of the U.S. House seat with the election of Greg Gianforte. In 2016, Republicans captured four of the five Land Board seats for the first time since 1928. In 2014, Steve Daines won the Senate race marking the first time a Republican held this seat in over 100 years.

Patrick most recently served as the Southwestern Montana Field Representative and Intern Coordinator for U.S. Senator Steve Daines. Patrick also served as Chief of Staff for then state-Senate Majority Leader Matt Rosendale in 2015. He worked as a Regional Field Director for the Gianforte, Zinke, and Daines

campaigns, where he was primarily focused on voter outreach, field staff management, and coalition building. Patrick was the former Chairman of the Montana Young Republicans and currently serves on the leadership team for the Lewis and Clark County Republican Central Committee.

Patrick received his Associates degree from Gillette College in Gillette, WY and studied Political Science at Montana State University.

Patrick will start as the Executive Director of the Montana Republican Party on August 2, 2017.

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RELEASE: Charter Moves Forward for Montana Young Republicans

Helena, MONT. – The Montana Republican Party is pleased to announce today that over 50 names have been collected to support the charter of a Montana Young Republicans organization with the Young Republicans National Federation (YRNF).

YRNF is a nationwide Republican organization designed to mobilize grassroots Young Republicans between the ages of 18-40 to help get Republicans elected. Under its bylaws, it trains Young Republicans to be “intelligent, aggressive, professional and effective” in their support of “the principles, objectives, and platform of the Republican Party.”

Anita Milanovich, a Bozeman attorney, is spearheading the

effort to charter the Montana Young Republicans group with the support of MTGOP Chairman Debra Lamm. Chartering with YRNF gives state and local Young Republicans access to resources and education to maximize their participation and development within the Republican Party.

“The excitement and enthusiasm has been overwhelming,” Milanovich said. ***“In just a couple of weeks we’ve seen over 50 young adults support this group and at the rate the names are coming in, I wouldn’t be surprised if we reach over 100 supporters this month. It’s important to have young Republicans from across Montana support this cause so their voices are heard and we strengthen the credibility of our petition.”*** She continued, ***“The vision is to be inclusive and engage young folks all over the state, and that is resonating with Montana’s younger Republicans. This organization will be a valuable resource to help our Republican candidates win their general election races.”***

Chairman Lamm applauded the effort. ***“One of my top priorities is building up the next generation of Republican leaders here in Montana. The passion and support we are seeing among the youth from across the state is deeply encouraging. They support our pro-growth, conservative policies that will build a stronger economy, create better paying jobs, provide more opportunities for Montanans, and rein in the federal government’s vast overreach.”*** Lamm continued, ***“The Montana Young Republicans are going to be an incredible asset to the Party and I look forward to working together as we support our candidates in the upcoming races and turn Montana completely red by 2020.”***

The next step for a charter is to form a statewide Board, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board must meet at least once before being eligible to charter. The final step is to submit Montana’s petition to YRNF for approval at the YRNF National Convention

held in Annapolis, MD from August 2-6, 2017.

If you'd like to know more about these efforts or add your name to the petition, please contact Anita at aymilanovich@gmail.com or 406-589-6856.

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MTGOP Establishes Candidate Filing Fee

Helena, MT – On Tuesday, December 20, 2016, the Executive Board of the Montana Republican Party voted unanimously to establish a filing fee for candidates seeking the nomination to fill the anticipated vacancy in Montana's at-large Congressional seat. The fee is set at 1% of the salary of the office, the same fee levied by the State of Montana for filing in a primary. Those interested in seeking the Republican nomination should contact Executive Director Tim Gould at tgould@mtgop.org for further information.

Deadline: Receive Tax Credit for Donating to K-12 Scholarships for

Public/Private Schools

A quick note –

All of us recognize that each child is unique and has their own learning ability.

There's no one-size fits all education model that can be imposed on our children.

Recognizing that need, the Montana Legislature in 2015 passed an historic bill into law that provided parents with greater education choices for their children.

Senate Bill 410, established a tax credit to encourage Montanans to make donations in support of scholarship opportunities for K-12 students attending either public or private schools.

The tax credit is capped at \$150 and can be directly applied to your Montana taxes. And, the entire amount you donate is eligible for the federal charitable tax deduction.

This is an incredible opportunity to enhance your children's education whether they are receiving their education from a public or private school.

It's important to note that ALL donations must be made by December 31, 2016 and a process for registering for the credit online with the Department of Revenue must be completed by that same date.

Don't miss your opportunity to support your children's education.

For more information please read about the education tax credit [here](#), and to make a donation please visit the Big Sky Scholarships at <http://www.bigskyscholarships.org/>.

I also want to thank Senator Llew Jones for all his hard work on this bill. His support and dedication to our children's education made this opportunity possible.

Thank you for the consideration,



Jeff Essmann
Chairman
Montana Republican Party

Chairman's Report – December (Special Election)

Dear Republican Friends,

I had been planning on writing you to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, but events have overtaken my plans, so you are getting an early letter.

Zinke Named Secretary of Interior

The big news for the Montana Republican Party is the selection of our Congressman Ryan Zinke to serve as the Secretary of Interior of the United States. While we wait for Ryan to officially accept the position we are thrilled that he has been presented with the opportunity to serve in the administration of Donald J. Trump who has pledged to bring back better paying jobs to this country in his effort to Make America Great Again. Trump has indicated his strong support

for use of our nation's abundant natural resources in the service of reaching that goal. The Interior Department controls a lot of federal land and coal, oil and gas, and mineral resources and Ryan can work to put those resources to work on behalf of the people of Montana and this country. We wish him well in his continued work on expanding our economic opportunity.

The Replacement Process

I have had numerous calls from members of the press and the party on who the Republican Party will put forward to replace Congressman Zinke should that vacancy occur and how that process will work. Section 2 of Article I of the US Constitution provides "When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies." No House seat has ever been filled by appointment on an interim or permanent basis as a result.

Therefore, language in state law that was amended in the last session of the legislature to allow the Governor to make a temporary interim appointment from a list of three nominees submitted by the party prior to the special election (to provide a better process than that used by our hapless governor in the John Walsh fiasco appointment to the U.S. Senate) will **NOT** apply.

So, when a vacancy officially occurs, which I expect will be after Zinke is confirmed by the Senate and officially vacates his seat, the remaining portions of state law will take effect. The Governor will schedule a special election from 85 to 100 days after the vacancy occurs. There will be no primary election. Instead, under our bylaws, the State Central Committee will meet in convention and select a nominee whose name will appear on the ballot. I will get to chair that meeting although I will not get a vote on who the nominee will be.

Potential Pitfalls for the Party

The last time a vacancy occurred in the U.S. House from Montana was in February 1969 when newly elected President Richard M. Nixon appointed Congressman James F. Battin, who represented the eastern district of Montana (we had two back then) to the federal bench to serve as a federal judge. The Montana Republican Party, if memory serves me correct, had a very divisive knock down and drag out convention, and left the convention bitterly divided. That served to advance the cause of the Democrat Party who managed to elect one of theirs, John Melcher, to a seat he never should have won. Melcher was later elected to the U.S. Senate and was only removed from office in a tight race with Conrad Burns in 1988, over 19 years later.

I have been fielding many calls from people interested in the position. It will be my responsibility to conduct the meeting and conduct it fairly. I will do my best to do so. It will be up to the many people who are interested in the job or are interested in furthering the career of a friend to decide whether the convention will be divisive and lead to the election of an undeserving Democrat about 90 days later, or will be conducted with mutual respect so that we can leave united behind a candidate we can support and get elected. I hope that it will be the latter. But the election of an undeserving Democrat to a 19 year career in Washington should be a cautionary tale to all of us. Please ponder these outcomes and make a sober decision on how you will conduct yourselves over the next few months. The future of the Montana Republican Party and the success of our newly elected President is at stake.

Thank you for your consideration. And, by the way, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'JE'.

Jeff Essmann

Chairman

Montana Republican Party