

# **Platform of the Montana Republican Party**

## **Adopted June 29, 2024**

### **Agriculture**

The Montana Republican Party recognizes production agriculture as the leading industry, sustaining a tax base that strengthens and maintains the Montana economy.

- We support free market principles that expand markets for trade and sustainable production practices of agricultural products.
- We support value added processing of agricultural products in the State of Montana.
- We support sustainable timber resource management and processing.
- We recognize agricultural producers as the premier stewards of the environment.
- We encourage increased education both in schools and outreach to the general public promoting the traditions and values of the agriculture industry.
- We believe that private property ownership is a fundamental principle of our Constitutional Republic and uphold the continuation of this right.
- We support Senate Bill 203, the law for the transfer of critical infrastructure and agriculture land: prohibiting the sale, lease, or rental of critical infrastructure or land used for agriculture production to foreign adversaries or corporations domiciled in foreign adversary nations; and providing definitions. From 2023.
- We support the ban of lab grown meat and are against the labeling of plant-based meat products as actual meat products, and the government funding of these processes.
- We support that the United States recognizes sustainable agriculture food production as a national security issue.

Maintaining the historical traditions and cultural heritage of agriculture in Montana are important for continuing our role in feeding Montana and the world.

### **American Indian Affairs**

The Montana Republican Party recognizes and celebrates this year, 2024, as the 100th year anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, signed by Republican president Calvin Coolidge.

The Montana Republican Party supports American Indian Peoples through:

- Recognizing the treaties with the Federal Government.
- Respecting tradition and culture of the American Indian people.
- Supporting mutual transparency between the Montana state government, county governments, and the American Indian tribes.

- Supporting mutually beneficial economic development in all communities.
- Affirming our support for the Constitutional rights of all American Indian citizens within the borders of the State of Montana
- Standing with the American Indians of Montana to help address substance abuse, behavioral health, suicide, human trafficking, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP).
- Facilitating mutual cooperation with American Indian tribes and all Montana citizens to insure the protection of Constitutional rights of all citizens.

We gratefully recognize the many American Indians who serve and have contributed to Montana in various capacities.

## **Business and Labor**

### *Preamble*

The Montana Republican Party recognizes that free enterprise is the best economic system that promotes freedom and prosperity. We support new and existing businesses as the source of economic growth. We support and encourage new capital investment in Montana.

### *Employment*

We encourage efforts to create, attract and retain employment opportunities. We believe that membership in labor bargaining units must be optional.

### *Business Infrastructure*

We support investment in business infrastructure, including high speed internet available to all areas.

### *Worker's Compensation*

We advocate a competitive workers' compensation system that is accessible, sustainable, fair, and equitable to both employers and employees.

### *Government*

We believe government programs should be restricted to those services that cannot be provided by the private sector. The limited role of government in economic development is to facilitate competitive private sector growth. We are opposed to government picking winners and losers in the free market.

### *Regulations*

We believe in a competitive market free of undue regulation, restriction, coercion, or interference from government. We oppose the implementation of Environmental, Social, and Governance

(ESG) policies in Montana. Regulations must be kept to an absolute minimum. Rulemaking authority must be restricted to legislators.

### *Tort Reform*

We are committed to tort reform legislation to ensure a more predictable and less litigious legal climate to reduce the risks and costs of doing business.

## **Economic Development**

The Montana Republican Party is committed to fostering a business-friendly environment through less government- more freedom and eliminating barriers to economic development. We advocate for:

- Eliminating regulations that inhibit economic development and business activity.
- Reasonable, consistent, and timely permitting processes.
- Reforming or eliminating state agencies and departments that restrict economic development.
- A government culture that emphasizes customer service over regulation and enforcement, including efficient inter agency communication.
- Reducing or eliminating fees and taxes that hinder development.
- Reforming workers' compensation insurance to be more competitive.
- Free market development of Montana's diverse industries, resources, manufacturing sector, and technologies.
- A Constitutional government that is predictable, equitable, and follows the rule of law.
- A robust system of public, private, and technical education that creates a qualified, competent, and competitive workforce.
- Minimizing government activities that subjectively pick economic winners and losers.
- When economically feasible, prioritizing all state contracts to use Montana entities.
- Asserting our states rights under the U.S. Constitution-that support and protect economic development to include the use and development of natural resources.
- Zoning changes must respect private property rights.
- Encouraging the Montana judiciary to stop restricting economic development by legislating from the bench.

## **K – 12 Education**

The Montana Republican Party supports opportunities for educational excellence for all Montanans. We recognize that educating Montana's children, which takes place in homes, churches, and schools, are ultimately the right and responsibility of parents and are essential to maintaining our American way of life. The Party further recognizes the duty that each generation

has to educate future generations. We believe Montana's schools can best contribute to fulfilling this duty when families and local communities control the content of instruction and the allocation of school resources. Choice in education protects students and educators from State and Federal overreach.

We support:

### *Parental Rights*

- Respecting parents' authority and responsibility for educating their children.
- Allowing Current law permitting students to move freely to their parents' school of choice.
- Facilitating programs that allow money to follow the child for educational opportunities, respecting the parents' right to choose options inside or outside the public school system.

### *School Boards*

- Recognizing the constitutional authority (Article X Section VIII) of local school boards.
- Requiring school districts to provide easily accessible, transparent information on curriculum and educational opportunities, with actionable consequences.
- Enhancing election integrity and voter turnout for school elections by moving school board elections in line with the primary and/or general election cycles.
- Opposing Federal directives that interfere with local control of Montana's schools

### *Constitutional Rights*

- Preserving faculty and staff freedom of association, including the right to refuse Union affiliation (JANUS vs. ASFCME), without retribution.
- Protecting Constitutional freedoms within our educational communities.
- Defending the right of students to voluntarily pray and recite the Pledge of Allegiance-in classrooms.
- Preparing students to become civically engaged, informed, productive American citizens.
- Providing career, technical, and college opportunities for all Montanans.
- Promoting each individual community's efforts to enhance school safety, security, and student mental health.

## **Election Law**

### *Voter Registration*

Montana voter registration shall ensure all registered voters are citizens of the United States of America and eligible to vote in Montana, only in the district they are registered. Voter rolls shall be current, correct, free of duplication, and auditable. Voter registration periods shall be the exclusive purview of the Montana state legislature. Any improper vote by an ineligible person has the effect of disenfranchising an eligible Montana voter and shall be avoided.

### *Election Standards*

Montana is best served by elected officials who receive the greatest number of valid votes cast. The Montana Republican Party adamantly opposes Ranked Choice Voting or any such process.

### *Nomination of Candidates*

The Montana Republican party has the right to freely associate, and we support the establishment of closed primaries and registration by party in Montana. The Montana Republican Party adamantly opposes top vote getter, jungle primary, or any such process. The Montana Republican Party fully supports vetting at the precinct level for candidates.

### *Reform of Political Practices Office*

Montana has the only Political Practices office in the nation where a single person serves as investigator, prosecutor, judge, and jury of alleged political practice violations. This office needs to be reformed to separate the prosecution function from the judge and jury function. These reforms shall be the exclusive purview of the Montana state legislature.

### *Election Process*

Election processes shall be open, accessible, and well publicized, managed by the county election office as mandated by law for every election. All citizens are responsible for monitoring any and all elections for fraud.

The Montana Republican Party believes that election integrity is paramount and supports public disclosure and full transparency throughout the entire election process. All digital records generated by electronic voting machines, including but not limited to cast vote records and digital ballot images shall be preserved during the election process and shall be deemed “election records,” per MCA 13-1-109.

The Montana Republican Party fully supports maintaining the Electoral College as outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

The Montana Republican Party believes it is essential to fully implement the election integrity legislation passed in the 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative sessions and signed by the Governor.

The Montana Republican Party supports all ballots and envelopes, have a tracking number and matching bar-code, watermark, to track the number of ballots printed, to prevent fraud. The Montana Republican Party supports reverting back to a hand count of all ballots at the precinct level.

We strongly urge all Americans to ensure election integrity and that accountability steps are in place and enforced, by correcting all fraud and weaknesses identified in all states in any previous election.

We ask and encourage the members of the Montana State Legislature to do everything in their power to put the responsibility of election integrity and accountability back into the hands of We the People and that the members of the Montana Legislature also do everything in their power to complete any ongoing investigations of any previous election, and to mandate and fund a conversion to mechanical or manual vote count, and preserve all election records for a minimum of 72 months.

Private or nonprofit funds shall not be used nor accepted to conduct Montana's election process, nor used in a way to shift funds to our election process, in accordance with MCA 13-1-302. Out-of-state funds shall not be used to support any Constitutional Initiative, nor to promote or oppose duly passed election laws.

The Republican Party of Montana demands that the Attorney General of Montana file suit against any State that violates Federal Election law, such as allowing non-citizens to vote, a Secretary of State unilaterally changing a state's Federal Election process, and any state that uses voting machines that have proven to be manipulated by a 2<sup>nd</sup> party in an effort to protect the voters of Montana from having their vote from being disenfranchised. We support an employee to be added to the Attorney General's office to monitor the election process in other states to protect Montana voters. No foreign 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity shall be involved in Montana elections.

## **Human Services**

### *Preamble*

The Montana Republican party recognizes that an individual has primary responsibility for his or her own health and welfare. We support efforts to evaluate the cost and efficacy of the Montana

human service delivery system to reassess and improve the programs and participation of each department providing these services. We support a family's authority and responsibility over treatment and care in family related matters. The Montana Republican Party affirms its belief and support for traditional family units and values. We maintain that marriage is between one man and one woman.

### *Human Life*

We support the preservation of innocent human life at every stage of life, in all circumstances, beginning at conception through natural death. We assert the U.S. Constitution guarantees no one can "be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Accordingly, we maintain the sanctity of human life and affirm the preborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a complete ban on elective abortion. We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform elective abortions, or the funding of organizations which perform or advocate abortion. In concert with these beliefs: 1) We support abstinence education; 2) We support those individuals and organizations seeking to provide family support resources or adoption; 3) We oppose assisted suicide; 4) We support a moratorium on human cloning for any purpose; 5) We support non-embryonic stem cell research and the ethical treatment of embryos created through invitro fertilization.

### *Health Care and Wellness*

We recognize the constitutional concept of individual privacy, free will, responsibility, and accountability in personal health care decisions. We believe in bodily autonomy and an individual shall not be compelled to receive or participate in a medical procedure or product. The innate dignity of the human spirit means we believe in the potential of people with disabilities to contribute, rehabilitate, and receive maximum opportunities for employment, volunteer work, and independent living to the best of their abilities. We support the expansion of private healthcare options. We oppose the expansion of government provided healthcare services to able-bodied adults.

### *Services to Children and Youth*

We support policies and services that preserve and strengthen the traditional family unit as well as promoting the wellbeing and innocence of children and youth. We support inter-agency and intra-agency planning, efficiency, collaboration, and coordination of family-based, faith-based, and community-based services tailored to meet the needs of children, adolescents, and their families. We oppose the subjective practice of separating Montana children from their families without due process of law. Due process prohibits the warrantless seizure of a child unless the child is likely to experience serious bodily harm in the time that would be required to obtain a warrant.

## Immigration

The Montana Republican Party takes pride that our country was founded by immigrants from many countries. Montana Republicans believe a nation only exists and survives when it defines and protects its borders.

The Montana Republican Party SUPPORTS:

- Deportation of illegals in Montana.
- Required use of E-Verify to prevent illegal hirings across the State of Montana and the suspension or revocation of licenses of businesses that knowingly hire illegal aliens.
- The defense of the United States sovereignty.
- Enforcement of all immigration and visa laws.
- Cooperation with local law enforcement, Border Patrol, and federal agencies in the enforcement of immigration laws.
- The absolute refusal to accept into Montana any illegal aliens. Any person, non-profit or any other entity, such as an NGO, participating in the transport or exploitation of illegal aliens into or within the State of Montana shall lose its non-profit status and/or business license, and be subject to criminal charges for human trafficking.
- Full and complete funding to finish the southern border wall.
- The prioritization of the security and funding of America's borders over foreign borders;
- Rigorous investigation of asylum seekers to remain in their country of origin until fully vetted.
- Temporary closure of any border that fails to protect American sovereignty as it pertains to immigration.
- The original interpretation of citizenship as defined by Section 1 of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Montana Republican Party OPPOSES:

- Illegal Aliens and un-vetted refugees relocated to the state of Montana.
- State-issued identification for illegal aliens.
- In-state tuition, public or private financial aid for illegal aliens.
- The abuse of chain migration as a basis for legal immigration.
- Unsecured open borders.

## Local Government

### *Preamble*

Local Governments shall operate within their form of governance and fit what they do within what is outlined in the constitutional limits and state laws that apply.



*Funding*

Local Governments shall be responsible for public dollars as well as tax dollars and should partner with their constituents by voting on all increases in a general election.

*Local Responsibility*

We believe local governments are responsible for resolving local problems and we support the County Sheriff as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer. We encourage all local government entities to strive for less intrusion into the private sector.

*Individual Rights*

All constitutional rights shall be protected as provided by the Montana and US Constitution's.

*Property Rights*

Local Governments shall protect property rights by requiring due process on zoning and eminent domain and others actions that will infringe on uses of property. without due process.

*Government Transparency*

All business conducted by local governments shall be in the view of the public and those that are protected must be restricted to single issues. We strongly urge taxpayers to review, comment, and participate in the development of county, city, and school district budgets. Local Governments shall be restricted by any act that would violate constitutional rights.

*Land Use*

We recognize and oppose the destructive and insidious efforts of foreign and domestic influence including the United Nations formerly known as Agenda 21/2030 to redefine or restrict whole economies and industries in Montana.

We oppose the promotion of climate change and Environmental Social Governance policies.

We encourage the State of Montana and its political subdivisions to engage in the coordination process with all federal government agencies that adopt policies related to federal land management.

## **National Affairs**

*Preamble*

The people of Montana are endowed with unalienable rights as expressed in the Declaration of Independence. Our federal and state governments are instituted to protect these rights.

The United States Constitution and the laws of the United States which are made in pursuance thereof are the supreme law of the land and govern all national affairs.

The United States government is a constitutional republic with a federal system where power is divided between the national and state governments. The limited powers delegated to the national government in the constitution are few and defined. All other powers not prohibited to the states by the Constitution are exclusively reserved to the States in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> amendments. The exclusive legislative powers reserved to the states include but are not limited to business and labor, education, elections, energy, environment, family law, land use, natural resources, police, state courts, state budget and tax policy and wildlife. The Montana state GOP strongly states that it will resist any encroachment into the state's reserved powers by the national government by all lawful means.

### *Personal Rights and Liberties*

We stand against the indefinite detention of our citizens by certain provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as it violates the right of habeas corpus and the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Amendments of the US Constitution. We further affirm that we oppose the Patriot Act and all of its versions or other instruments that erode our individual liberties.

We oppose surveillance stalking of American citizens who are not under any form of lawful investigation or subject to any open warrants. Lawful use of warrant-based surveillance obtained through courts as a result of reasonable probable cause may be used by law enforcement.

Unrestricted monitoring of citizens movements and the storage and retaining of that data in any format constitutes "surveillance stalking" and violates an individual's right to privacy.

An individual's personal data belongs to each individual. The government must obtain a search warrant based on probable cause, which must be approved by a non-secret court before the collection of an individual's data is allowed.

### *States' Rights*

The Montana Republican party recognizes as a first principle of governance that the Federal government was created by the States to execute only limited enumerated tasks, and that when they exceed the purview of those tasks, the States – each and individually – have the right to determine whether those actions are legal and binding in their respective States. The founding fathers recognize the individual States the right and duty to nullify federal laws that are not passed in pursuance to the Constitution and its few and defined powers. We recognize the clear separation of power and responsibilities between federal and state governments. We require our congressional and state representatives and our governor and Supreme Court to vigorously defend the principles of federalism and the 10th Amendment and to reestablish these Constitutional limits where they have been abused. We call upon our Congressional Delegation to defend each state's right to govern the land, water, and natural resources within their boundaries. We oppose any extension of federal, Tribal, or regional bureaucratic control over water originating in Montana, including federal reserved water rights compacts, and consider any such action an infringement on Montana's constitutionally defined water rights. We require that

the United States comply with its 1889 compact with Montana, as was understood for inclusion of statehood. We affirm that a federal officer may not arrest, search, or seize in Montana without the advanced, written permission of the elected county sheriff, as the chief law enforcement officer.

### *Right to Bear Arms*

We oppose any action or law that infringes on the right to bear arms. We oppose any form of government firearm registry or gun buy-back program. We support the repeal of all existing laws that have contradicted the original intent of the 2nd amendment of the US Constitution. We support individuals' right to self-defense and oppose any government restrictions for "Gun Free Zones." We support the full defunding and dismantling of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

We oppose any action or law that infringes on the right to keep and bear arms. We oppose any form of government firearm registry or gun buy-back program. We support the repeal of all existing laws that contradict the original intent of the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution. We support individuals' right to self-defense and oppose any government restrictions establishing "Gun Free Zones." We support the full defunding and dismantling of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). We support the castle doctrine of self-defense and recognize its extension to our vehicles.

### *National Defense*

We support peace through strength, and a strong military including the Montana National Guard and a constitutional State Militia under the direction of the Governor. We acknowledge the need for the continued maintenance of military strength to defend our nation, with an emphasis on research and development, military forces, and refinement of strategic defense initiative technology.

We strongly support defense and proper security of our nation's borders by the federal government, including the construction of a wall where needed. Upon their failure to do so the state should exercise its right to defend its borders. The Montana Army and Air National Guard should only be deployed for active combat operations outside the United States with authority from Article I Section 8 Clause 11 of the United States Constitution and Title 10 USC after Congress has exercised its enumerated power "to declare war."

### *Veterans Affairs*

We urge that those in charge of veterans' affairs accelerate efforts of the appropriate agencies to meet the medical and physical needs of those impaired in the service of our country, including vouchers to private carriers to expedite waiting lists.

*Monetary Policy*

We support the elimination of the Federal Reserve Bank System and the restoration of sound money policies established in article 1 section 8 clause 5 of the United States Constitution. We oppose the establishment and use of central bank digital currency.

*Energy*

Energy policy is a reserved power of the States. We oppose mandates by the federal government in any energy policy of the States and we will resist encroachment by all lawful means.

*Social Engineering*

We stand strongly against any government entity depositing public funds in any financial institutions that use Environmental Social Governance (ESG), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), or other social engineering criteria to discriminate against the free will of individuals or businesses. We vehemently oppose the establishment and utilization of any private or governmental systems that establish the practices and practical use of a “social credit score.”

*Entitlements*

We oppose the creation of any new entitlement programs or the expansion of any existing programs for U.S.A. citizens, and we oppose extending these existing entitlements to noncitizens.

*Flag Desecration*

We strongly support an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America that would protect the flag from desecration.

*National Sovereignty*

The Republican Party vehemently opposes all efforts by foreign entities, whether the United Nations, the World Economic Forum, or other corporate organizations, to impose on the National Sovereignty of the United States in their pursuit of any form of global governance.

*Federal Debt*

We oppose the accumulation of federal debt and federal deficit spending and we demand that Congress restrict spending to the few and defined powers of Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution. We denounce Congressional deficit spending that is creating inflation and destruction of the people of Montana and our national sovereignty.

*Federally Managed Public Lands*

The Montana Republican Party supports relinquishing federally managed public lands to the states in order to secure statehood equality and provide for better management of public lands.

*Columbia River Treaty*

We urge the elimination of Article 13 of the current draft of the renegotiated Columbia River Treaty so that Canada cannot divert Kootenai River Flows north of the U.S. border. We further call for the treaty to provide just compensation to Montana for the lost timber, game, human and wildlife habitat, and Lincoln County tax base caused by the Libby Dam.

## **Natural Resources**

We support a natural resource development policy that promotes jobs in Montana, responsible stewardship and reduces our dependence on federal aid or foreign resources, striving for natural resource independence in Montana and across the United States.

We defend the 'first in time, first in right' water doctrine protected by State Law. We oppose ratification or further appropriation of funds toward implementation of the CSKT Compact until final resolution of the legal challenges and full scrutiny of the federal legislation by the judiciary and the Montana State Legislature. We oppose Waters of the US rule and removing the word navigable from the definition of waterways as defined by state or federal agencies. We affirm the Legislature's constitutional duty to provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights under state law which is non-delegable to any other claims of regulatory authority or jurisdiction.

We oppose the federal government or any foreign or international entity, such as the United Nations, exercising authority over land use or funding of natural resource decisions in Montana.

We oppose the creation of 'buffer zones' by legislation, administrative or judicial rule, or agency policy to expand water and land use restrictions. We oppose any new federal special land designations including Old Growth Forests, without the approval of the Montana State Legislature. We support the granting of federally managed public lands to the state, and development of a transition plan for the timely and orderly transfer. Any lands transferred from the federal government to the state shall be administered for the purpose in which they are conveyed, while maintaining public access and usage. We support the release of expired Wilderness Study areas. We support maintaining and increasing access within the federal lands in Montana. We oppose the transfer or sale of any land designated as a national park or congressionally approved wilderness areas. We oppose publicly funded subsidies for conservation easements, and in-perpetuity time frame durations.

We desire to improve the economic well-being of our timber communities by supporting timely harvesting, restoration of fire and beetle damaged forests and use of responsible logging on private, state, and federal lands.

We support the development of energy and mineral resources by private entities on federal, state, and private lands. We oppose federalization of energy or mineral development, and/or the federal sale of mineral rights to foreign governments. We support the oil and gas tax “holiday” for new production. We oppose any politically driven war on dams, hard rock mining, coal, and other carbon fuels.

We support the designation of hydroelectric power as a renewable energy source by the state and federal government.

We support informed natural resource decision-making by government entities based on best scientific practices. We support clear language in our regulations, and we oppose measures that add ambiguity and undefined terms in our permitting process. We oppose decision making based upon “Environmental Justice”. The Montana Environmental Policy Act should be implemented to protect private property rights, the economy, and society.

We urge Congress to repeal the Equal Access to Justice Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act in favor of state-based policies and return the Federal Endangered Species Act to the original definitions and law of 1973. We support responsible hunting, trapping and fishing that balances resource conservation with the rights of property owners. We support state management of all of Montana’s wildlife species according to state law and demand the delisting of the grizzly bear from the Endangered Species Act.

We support federal agency reorganization and consolidation to reduce duplication of programs, streamlining decision-making.

We oppose any and all parts of the Green New Deal, the “War on Fossil Fuels”, the Paris Climate Accord, and the Iranian Nuclear Deal.

We oppose the federal government removing additional lands from productive uses by placing them off limits using special land designations. Current programs to set-aside more land includes but is not limited to Biden’s Executive Order 14008 (Biden 30 x 30 plan), the United Nations 50 x 50 Plan, and initiatives such as the American Prairie Reserve, all decisions are subject to approval by the Montana State Legislature.

We oppose relocation of bison into Montana from such places as Yellowstone National Park.

## Law & Justice

### *General Principle*

- Criminal conduct is having a catastrophic effect on our communities.
- Montana Republicans believe each person must be held accountable for his or her actions. We believe that our citizens demand that those who commit crimes be prepared to accept the punishment.
- We believe that the state must prioritize public safety as the guiding principle for the criminal justice system.
- We believe that criminal conduct cannot be deterred without robust enforcement, prosecution, and incarceration through adequate funding of law enforcement and correctional capacity.

### *Corrections*

We support a corrections system that:

- Provides public safety utilizing effective incarceration and supervision to reduce recidivism, including re-entry programs.
- Collects restitution to repay victims or victims' families for the cost of the crime.
- Supports registration, monitoring, and strict supervision of convicted violent and sexual offenders and timely notification to victims and the public of the offender's pending release.
- Offenders should not be released from custody in a manner that disproportionately impacts certain communities.

### *Appeals*

- We urge the government to limit appellate rights where permissible and to expedite appeals in all criminal cases.

### *Jury Authority*

- We reaffirm the principle espoused by our nation's founders that our court system belongs to the people. We support requiring judges to fully inform jurors of their constitutional rights and responsibilities.

### *Judiciary*

- We expect that the judiciary will follow the U.S. and Montana Constitutions and will not legislate from the bench.

## **State Administration**

- We support constitutionally limited, accountable, effective, and efficient government.
- We promote legislation for constitutionally authorized locally elected governance.
- We require legislative oversight of administrative rulemaking to ensure that legislative intent is upheld.
- We advocate for transparency and grassroots, citizen participation at all levels of government.
- We endorse combining all elections, including but not limited to school board elections with the primary and general election cycles.
- In concert with other states employing this practice, we call for closed primary elections to enhance voter integrity.

## **Taxation**

- Taxes should be minimized, broad-based, fair, and easily understood. Taxes shall not be used to redistribute wealth. In the event of revenue surplus, excess funds shall be returned to Montana resident taxpayers in order to restrain government growth and allow for reduction of government.
- We support a property tax system that is not based solely on appraisals that result in taxation of unrealized capital gains. We believe that tax shifts are unnecessary in a well-balanced tax system.

## **Transportation**

- We support the efficient development, maintenance, and infrastructure improvements for transportation in Montana.
- We support common sense regulations of all transportation with a focus on efficient and purposeful regulation to emphasize safety and commerce, while minimizing imposition on our traveling public.
- We support the streamlining and revamping of the commerce permitting process for expediency and safety on Montana roads.
- We require local input and consideration on all design plans.
- We support a proactive approach and cautious development of equipment and transportation modes.
- All fueling and charging services should remain in the private sector with no public monies.
- We oppose the federally mandated green new deal regulations and programs.