

Platform of the Montana Republican Party

Adopted June 13, 2026

Preamble

A principle is a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior, or for a chain of reasoning. A principle is a thing that is so true, it cannot be compromised; it can only be abandoned. America was founded upon the core principles of individual liberty, self-governance, equality, limited government, and the natural rights of all mankind to life, liberty, and property.

The most steadfast way to protect our Montana way of life is through firm adherence to these principles. From the local church to hometown sports, small-town rodeos, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation, the Montana way of life is built on freedom, family, community, and the right to enjoy our traditions without overbearing government interference.

We, the Montana Republican Party, revere America's founding principles and the United States Constitution, interpreted according to its original meaning. We affirm our belief in God and recognize these truths as self-evident: all men and women are created equal in the image of God and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

We affirm that these principles and the Platform of the Montana Republican Party express the foundation of true conservative values in Montana.

Statement of Principles and Ten Core Policy Priorities

Statement of Principles

We, the Montana Republican Party, stand for limited government, individual liberty, and Republican fidelity to this Platform. We affirm our belief in God and recognize these truths as self-evident: all men and women are created equal in the image of God and are endowed by their

Creator with certain inalienable rights; among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

- We oppose the Democrat socialist agenda that threatens the security of our country, our economic and political freedoms, and our way of life.
- We call for all Republican officials to follow the conservative principles adopted by MTGOP convention delegates and contained in this Platform; that they embrace this Platform as the authoritative source for values and expectations; and apply these principles as their guide when legislating or serving in any capacity.
- The Republican Party of Montana recognizes the primary goal of these Platform, principles, and policy priorities is the expectation that our elected Republican officials will use it as a guide when making decisions. We expect a report to be issued by the State Republican Party on the voting results for those standards for each Legislator to all members of the Republican Party.
- We affirm that the principles stated in this document are the foundation of our conservative values, are rooted in respect for the United States Constitution, interpreted in its original form rather than as a fluid document, and the Montana state Constitution.

This Platform and its ten core policy priorities define what it means to run for or serve in office as a Republican in Montana.

Ten Core Policy Priorities

1. **Tax Policy:** Republican tax policy requires low, broad-based, easily understood taxes; minimize taxes to restrain government growth and protect economic freedom. We support a free-market economy and recognize that targeted, moderate, and temporary tariffs may be necessary to secure fair competition and national economic strength.
2. **Role of Government:** Government must remain constitutionally limited, with separation of powers, federalism, and unalienable rights preserved for future generations. A restrained government protects liberty and prevents abuse of power.
3. **Scope of Government:** Political and economic freedom are indivisible and must be protected together. A free people require both free markets and free institutions.
4. **Sanctity of Life:** All human life is sacred from conception to natural death, with the exception of the death penalty. We must prohibit taxpayer funding of abortions and assisted suicides, require parental notification and consent for minors' medical procedures, and require ultrasounds and clear disclosure of options for crisis pregnancies in taxpayer-supported care.
5. **Private Property:** Private property is the foundation of prosperity and freedom. We will secure and defend ownership and use of property against unjust interference.

6. Education: We must reduce over-centralized control, protect local governance of schools, and preserve the autonomy of private and home schools; therefore, we support school choice and policies that let funding follow the child. Parents have the primary right and responsibility to direct their children’s education.
7. Social Programs: Human services must encourage work, responsibility, and independence; social programs should provide a “hand up,” not a “hand out.” We must impose accountability and eligibility standards so only the truly needy receive aid.
8. Natural Resources: Montana’s resources should serve Montanans while being managed prudently for the future. We promote responsible development that creates jobs, raises Montanans’ standard of living, and benefits communities and the economy.
9. States’ Rights: Montana must defend its constitutional authority under the Tenth Amendment, reject unfunded federal mandates, and confine federal power to Article I limits. A strong Montana requires a federal government limited to its enumerated powers.
10. Judicial Role: Courts must uphold the rule of law, respect the separation of powers, and not legislate. We oppose granting authority to any courts or tribunals not grounded in the Constitution and unanswerable, through their elected representatives, to the American people.

Agriculture

Montana agriculture is a leading industry that sustains our tax base and feeds Montana and the world. We believe that private property ownership is a fundamental principle of our Constitutional Republic and uphold the continuation of this right. Republican policies must:

- Support America First free-market policies that expand trade and encourage sustainable production.
- Promote value-added processing of agricultural products within Montana.
- Support honest food labeling, and that the production and processing of any animal or agricultural commodities in a foreign country shall not receive the “Made in United States of America” label.
- Support sustainable timber and rangeland management through timber processing, fuel reduction, and conifer encroachment eradication.
- Recognize agricultural producers as premiere stewards of the environment.
- Strongly support agricultural education in schools and public outreach.
- Support legislation that bans foreign entities from acquiring critical infrastructure and agricultural land.
- Oppose lab-grown meat, prohibit plant-based products being labeled as meat, and oppose government funding of these processes.

- Treat secure, sustainable food production as a national security priority.
- Support policies that strengthen family farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses, recognizing agriculture as a foundational industry and essential part of Montana’s economy, heritage, and way of life.

Business, Labor, and Economic Development

Free enterprise and new investment are the engines of Montana’s prosperity. Republican policies must:

- Ensure union membership remains strictly voluntary; and we support Montana becoming a Right to Work state and ending the Davis-Bacon wage system on state, local, and publicly funded projects.
- Maintain a competitive, fair, and sustainable workers’ compensation system.
- Prohibit government from competing with the private sector. Stop governmental picking of winners and losers.
- Keep markets free of undue regulation, coercion, and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) mandates; we support merit-based hiring only.
- Enact tort reform to reduce litigation costs and risk.
- Streamline permitting, and eliminate regulations, bureaucratic overreach, and fees.
- Encourage job growth by fostering development of industries, manufacturing, and technologies.
- Prioritize a skilled workforce through development of on-the-job training and trade school education, including people with disabilities.
- Prioritize Montana entities in state contracting.
- Assert state constitutional rights to develop natural resources.

K-12 Education

As Montana Republicans, we affirm that educational excellence depends on parental authority, local control, and preparing students for productive citizenship. We support:

- **Parental Rights**: Affirm parents’ God-given authority and responsibility for their children’s education, including the right to transparent access to curriculum, instructional materials, and student data (with strict limits on biometric or intrusive personal data collection).
- **Biological Reality**: Recognize that only biological females may participate in girls’ sports or utilize girl’s bathrooms and locker rooms (and similarly for biological males), consistent with

Montana law protecting sex-based privacy and fairness. Schools should not facilitate or encourage students to “transition” or identify as a gender other than one’s biological sex.

- School Choice and Funding: Preserve open enrollment and policies allowing students to attend their parents’ school of choice; ensure education funding follows the child to public, private, charter, or homeschool options.
- Local Control: Uphold the constitutional authority and duties of locally elected school boards under state law, opposing federal and state overreach (including excessive mandates, DEI directives, or union influence on curriculum and operations).
- Election Integrity: Move school board elections to primary or general election dates to boost voter turnout and accountability; require school bonds to meet a meaningful voter participation threshold for passage.
- Academic Excellence: Prioritize a core curriculum focused on reading, writing, mathematics, history, civics, science, and career/technical education to equip students for lifelong success, including opportunities to earn college credit or begin trade training in high school.
- Religious Liberty: Defend students’ rights to voluntarily pray and recite the Pledge of Allegiance without coercion or restriction.
- Union Freedom: Protect school staff’s freedom of association, including the right to refuse union membership without retaliation, while limiting union influence over curriculum and board decisions.
- School Safety and Constitutional Rights: Support community-driven measures for school safety while defending Second Amendment rights, including allowing qualified teachers, staff, and law-abiding citizens to carry firearms on school premises in accordance with Montana law.
- Efficiency and Transparency: Reduce excessive administrative paperwork for superintendents and ensure full transparency in budgets, programs, and data practices to restore focus on classroom results.

Election Law

Election integrity and transparency are paramount to protect every lawful Montana vote.

Republicans must:

- Ensure only eligible U.S. citizens vote, with established residency, registered in a single district, with accurate, auditable voter rolls.
- Oppose Ranked-Choice Voting and similar schemes, such as digital voting; oppose jungle or top-two primaries.
- Maintain the Electoral College.
- Reserve control of voter registration periods and the administration of elections to the state legislature as mandated in the Montana Constitution, adopt closed primaries, consolidate all

elections, including school boards, with primary and general cycles, and end voter registration 30 days before Election Day.

- Establish closed primaries, party registration, and partisan judicial elections.
- Support election processes and policies that require security, transparency, verification of results, no electronic IDs for voter identification, enforcement, and enforcement mechanisms.
- Require numbered, watermarked ballots and envelopes with matching barcodes, and return to hand counts at the precinct level.
- Complete investigations of elections to identify fraud, procedural misconduct, and keep paper election records for at least 72 months and digital election records for at least 10 years.
- Prohibit nonprofits who receive federal, state, or foreign funds, including out-of-state money, from funding elections or ballot measures affecting Montana law.
- Support the return of election of U.S. Senators to the State Legislatures by repealing the Seventeenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- Support the vetting of candidates.

Human Services, Life, and Health

Human services must respect individual responsibility, traditional family structures, and the sanctity of life. As Republicans, we believe and will:

- Affirm that individuals hold primary responsibility for their own health and welfare, retain bodily autonomy, and bar any compulsion to receive or participate in medical procedures or products.
- Review and improve the cost, efficiency, and performance of all human service agencies.
- Uphold the family's authority in treatment, care, and end of life decisions.
- Affirm traditional marriage as between one biological man and one biological woman.
- Affirm that human life begins at conception and support a ban on abortion, and on taxpayer funding for abortions and pro-abortion organizations.
- Oppose taxpayer funding for "sexual transition procedures" and the "sexual transitioning" of minors under age 18.
- Promote abstinence education, traditional marriage and family formation, and encourage fostering, adoption, and non-governmental services to support family, faith, and youth.
- Oppose assisted suicide and all human cloning, and support non-embryonic stem-cell research and the treatment of every in vitro fertilized embryo as a human life.
- Support opportunities for people with disabilities to work, volunteer, live independently, and foster the expansion of private healthcare options; oppose government health coverage to able-bodied adults.

- Oppose unwarranted family separations and require due process for both parents and children, while allowing warrantless removal of a child *only* for imminent, serious bodily harm.

Immigration

Montana supports lawful immigration and secure borders that protect American sovereignty. We must:

- Support deportation of all illegal aliens in Montana.
- Enforce all immigration and visa laws and cooperate with federal and local agencies.
- Require E-Verify and sanction employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.
- Refuse relocation of illegal aliens and unvetted refugees into Montana, and penalize entities that transport or exploit them, including human traffickers.
- Fully fund completion of the southern border wall and prioritize U.S. borders over foreign borders.
- Temporarily close border crossings that fail to protect U.S. sovereignty and increase focus on the security of Montana's northern border.
- Require rigorous vetting of asylum seekers and keep them outside of the U.S.A until fully vetted.
- Adhere to the original understanding of citizenship in the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Oppose state IDs, Montana State Drivers Licenses, in-state tuition, financial aid, and state-funded public benefits for illegal aliens.
- Oppose chain migration and unsecured, open borders.

Local Government and Land Use

Local governments must act within constitutional limits, protect rights, and remain accountable to voters. In this arena, Republicans should:

- Require *a minimum level* of voter participation and approval as defined by the Legislature, in general elections for tax and significant public funding increases.
- Affirm local governments' responsibility to resolve local problems.
- Support the county sheriff as chief law-enforcement officer of their respective county.
- Safeguard and ensure property rights through due process in zoning, eminent domain, and similar actions.
- Conduct public business openly and limit closed sessions to single protected issues. Allow and encourage citizen participation

- Oppose United Nations-linked and similar globalist efforts
- Oppose climate-change and ESG (Environmental Social Governance) driven land-use mandates.
- Require state and local governments to enter into the coordination process with federal agencies related to federal land management according to FLPMA (Federal Land Policy and Management Act).
- Affirm and support the right of counties and municipalities to participate in decisions that threaten local resources including, but not limited to: data centers, wind farms, and solar farms.
- Support a State Constitutional Convention to review/rewrite the Montana State Constitution in 2030.

National Affairs, Federalism, and Rights

Montana affirms the U.S. Constitution, state sovereignty, and the protection of individual liberties. As Republicans, we should:

- Recognize that individual and state sovereignty requires that no tribunal or court can exercise any form of jurisdiction over citizens unless that court or tribunal is ultimately accountable to those citizens or their representatives. We will not recognize the compulsory jurisdiction of any court, Sharia or otherwise, that stands outside our constitutional system and beyond the reach of our electorate.
- Recognize that artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure, including data centers, may be critical to our national security and can provide economic opportunity. Any development, however, must respect the limits of our Western water and energy resources, protect existing communities, agriculture, and industry. The federal government must regard state authority over land use, permitting, utility regulation, and environmental protection.
- Assert that reserved State powers include business and labor, education, elections, energy, environment, family law, land use, resources, policing, courts, budgets, taxes, and wildlife. The state must lawfully resist federal mandates and seek the fulfillment of the 1889 compact with Montana as a condition of statehood.
- Recognize the States' right and duty to nullify federal actions that are not in pursuance of the Constitution, oppose all governmental erosion of civil liberties, and require Montana officials to defend federalism and restore constitutional boundaries when violated.
- Demand congressional defense of State authority over land, water, and natural resources, while supporting increased state control over federal lands. Oppose the extension of federal, tribal, or regional control over Montana-originating waters or lands, or the transfer of State lands to Federal entities that can bar access.

- Oppose all laws infringing on 2nd Amendment rights; repeal laws contrary to the same; reject firearm registries, buy-back programs, and “Gun-Free Zones,” and fully defund and dismantle the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), and recognize the castle doctrine, including in vehicles.
- Limit Guard deployment abroad to congressionally declared wars.
- Oppose federal debt, growth/deficit spending, central bank digital currency, and bar public funds from institutions using ESG, DEI, or social-credit systems. Restore sound money, in accordance with Article I, Sec. 10 of the U.S. Constitution, in the state of Montana while encouraging congressional abolishment of the Federal Reserve.
- Oppose efforts by the United Nations (UN), World Economic Forum (WEF), and similar entities that erode U.S. national sovereignty.
- Recognize assimilation into the culture and laws of the United States of America by any person wishing to be or already established as a citizen of the United States as mandatory.

Natural Resources and Environment

Montana’s natural resources must be developed to support responsible use, create jobs, strengthen local communities, protect private property rights, and reduce dependence on foreign resources. As Republicans we:

- Affirm the legislature’s constitutional authority over water policy and oppose implementation of agreements that conflict with constitutional protections or state sovereignty.
- Oppose buffer zones and new federal special land designations on both private and public lands.
- Support transferring federally managed lands to the state with a transition plan and continued public access.
- Release Wilderness Study Areas.
- Oppose perpetual conservation easements and the sale of National Parks and Wilderness Areas lands.
- Support an oil-and-gas tax holiday for new production.
- Oppose political attacks on all natural resource management, development and use, and predator management.
- Base natural-resource decisions on sound science and clear regulations; oppose ambiguous standards and “Environmental Justice” mandates.
- Amend the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in favor of state-based policy, and return the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to its 1973 framework.

- Oppose the Green New Deal, the “War on Fossil Fuels,” the Paris Accord, Biden’s 30x30 plan, the UN 50x50 plan, American Prairie, and other elements of the global biodiversity framework.

Law, Justice, and State Administration

Public safety, accountability, and transparent administration are central to constitutional justice in Montana. Republicans must:

- Acknowledge the serious impact of criminal conduct and insist offenders be held accountable through specified mandatory minimum penalties.
- Prioritize public safety through robust enforcement, prosecution, and corrections systems with adequate funding to reduce recidivism, provide effective mental health treatment and re-entry support, and ensure restitution and justice for victims.
- Monitor violent and sexual offenders closely and notify victims and communities before release and upon every relocation.
- Apply accountability to every actor in the justice system – judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys alike. No office that exercises public power may be exempt from transparent, independent oversight.
- Oppose nondisclosure agreements and secret development deals by public entities that conceal terms, subsidies, or resource impacts from affected communities.
- Support constitutionally limited, accountable, and efficient government.
- Require strong legislative oversight of administrative rulemaking.
- Encourage transparency and grassroots citizen participation at all levels.
- Support federal, state, and local law enforcement in protection of the northern border. Require all law enforcement agencies to honor ICE detainees.
- Require judges to inform jurors of their constitutional rights, responsibilities, duties, and their obligation to ensure that government power is not weaponized unfairly against an individual.

Taxation and Transportation

Montana’s tax and transportation systems should focus on public needs and constitutional principles. Republicans will:

- Keep taxes minimized, broad-based, and easy to understand, never as tools to redistribute wealth or manipulate behaviors of the citizens.

- Support lower taxes achieved through tax reform and reduction of government regulation, spending, and waste. Return surplus revenue to Montana taxpayers to restrain government growth.
- Support tax systems that do not rely solely on appraisals of unrealized capital gains and provide strict accountability while avoiding tax shifts masquerading as tax reductions.
- Develop, maintain, and improve transportation infrastructure efficiently, designed to enhance safety and commerce.
- Approach new transportation technology cautiously and proactively.
- Support that all drivers, particularly those of commercial vehicles, must be able to read and understand road signs and speak English.

American Indian Affairs

The Montana Republican Party:

- Appreciates the tradition and culture of the American Indian people.
- Supports mutual transparency between the Montana state government, county governments, and the American Indian tribes to include, according to the Montana State Constitution, audits of tribal usage of state funds and audits of federal expenditures.
- Supports mutually beneficial economic development in all communities.
- Affirm the Constitutional rights of all American Indian citizens.
- Recognizes the Allotment Acts as revocation of Congressional control over lands sold or homesteaded within the boundaries of any Indian Reservations as recognized in Article I of the Montana State Constitution.
- Supports mutual cooperation with American Indian tribes and all Montana citizens to insure the protection of Constitutional rights of all citizens.