

# **Platform of the Montana Republican Party Adopted July 16, 2022**

## **Preamble**

*Why is this Platform important?*

This platform sets forth the Montana Republican Party's positions on major issues facing the citizens of the Treasure State. It is meant to communicate what the Party stands for; to instruct local, state, and federal GOP officeholders; and to serve as a basis for crafting strategies for both legislative and civic action.

*What do Republicans believe?*

The Montana Republican Party subscribes to a set of principles that transcend specific policy issues while guiding the positions of the Party takes on those issues. These principles derive directly from the wisdom of America's Founders, as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America.

*Republicans believe* "these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

*Republicans believe* that to secure these God-given rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

*Republicans believe* that the Constitution of the United States of America is a unique and binding compact, which defines a republican form of government designed to protect the rights of citizens by limiting the power of their government.

*Republicans believe* that the Constitution is as relevant today as it was on the day it was ratified. It is not an evolving, ever-changing document.

*Republicans believe* that centralization of political power invites the replacement of the rule of law by the rule of men and thus enables the rise of totalitarianism.

*Republicans believe* that each level of government should continuously strive to limit the scope of its own activity and to avoid infringing upon the lawful activities of free citizens.

*Republicans believe* in the dignity of each individual person and in promoting opportunities for all.

*Republicans believe* that a robust civil society – traditional families, churches, and various voluntary associations of free citizens – is essential for sustaining self-government.

*Republicans believe* that in the absence of free markets and secure property rights, personal and political freedom cannot long flourish.

*Republicans believe* in the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, and that only parents have the right to direct all reproductive decisions for their minor children.

*Republicans believe* that the family is central to God’s plan for mankind. We believe the ideal traditional family structure is a father and a mother as it is unified in love and purpose, raising children based on their inalienable rights.

*Who are the Republicans?*

Montanan Republicans are men and women of all walks of life and of all creeds and colors. We are grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state. We are united in viewing the United States of America as an exceptional nation that in its inception broke the historical norm. We celebrate being self-governing, free citizens. We recognize the debt we owe those citizens who came before us, and we gladly acknowledge our duty to pass the gift of liberty on to our children and grandchildren. If you share these values, please join us.

### **Resolution on Platform Principles**

WHEREAS, Republican solidarity in opposition to the Democrat socialist agenda is necessary to preserve the security of our country, our economic and political freedoms, and our way of life; and

WHEREAS, Republican faithfulness to its conservative principles and public policies as dictated by members of the GOP during convention and found in the Montana State Platform is necessary to maintain and restore the trust of the electorate in the Republican Party and a proven path that will lead to Republican electoral victories; and

WHEREAS, we understand the broad written form of the whole of the Montana GOP Platform provides a great narrative tool for discussing our beliefs, it is a mechanism to detail policy to support in legislation; and

WHEREAS, the MTGOP has a responsibility to develop a simple set of Principles based upon the MTGOP Platform that could then be applied to all proposed legislation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MTGOP identifies the following ten (10) policy positions to be detailed in the Montana Republican Platform in a “Principles” section that shall be placed immediately after the Preamble and thus before the main body of planks;

- 1. Tax Policy:** Reduce taxes, eliminate corporate subsidies and enact a simplified tax code that is flat rate based.
- 2. Size of Government:** Adopt a tax and expenditures limitation (TEL), adopt a more transparent and accountable zero-based budget, only allow the growth of government to match the growth of the private sector, and privatize public services when possible.
- 3. Scope of Government:** Market wage based pay and pension system; review and reform MCA to reduce onerous regulations; remove price control mechanisms, allowing the free market forces to work; and adopt a stronger legislative influence on the checks and balances of executive and judicial branches activities.

- 4. Sanctity of life:** Support “all life is sacred” policies from conception to natural end of life with the exception of the death penalty. There will be no tax payer funding for abortions or suicides, parental notification and permission in all cases dealing with legal minors, and require taxpayer supported medical services programs to provide ultrasounds and all available choices for individuals dealing with crisis pregnancies.
- 5. Private Property:** Understand that a property’s owner has exclusive rights to determine the use of their deeded property including subdivision, and that government is prohibited from infringing on those rights without due process;
- 6. Education:** Adopt school choice policies driven by parental control, reduce centralized control mechanisms embracing local control first, support transparent and locally accountable district budgets, and preserve the autonomy of private and home school institutions.
- 7. Social Programs:** Adopt policies of “hand up” not “hand out” in all social programs, adopt accountability and eligibility standards that only help the truly needy, and implement measures that define the primary role of all social services to one of reducing dependency.
- 8. Natural Resources:** Understand that the State of Montana has jurisdiction over all nonfederal water rights, that the development of natural resource utilization is the best source of property tax burden reduction and high wage earning potential; that economic impacts are just as important as environmental impacts and the permitting process for this use needs to be timely.
- 9. State Rights:** Support the 10th Amendment, reject all federal programs that do not include funding for the life of the mandate, believe that all Federal Law implemented in Montana must be based on Article 1 section 1 of the US Constitution, that every Montana elected official work to confine Federal power to its Constitutional limits, and study the transfer of Federal public lands to the state.
- 10. Judicial:** We follow the Rule of Law narrowly construed and support that the county Sheriff is the CLEO, individuals are responsible for their actions, and criminals need to compensate victims. We reject that the role of the court is to regulate through litigation, support reforming the Grand Jury laws to better root out corruption, and support limiting the ability of the MT Supreme Court to abuse its power to protect themselves.

The Republican Party of Montana recognizes that this Platform and these 10 Planks are the only source for the values, definitions, and expectations the members of this association recognize when evaluating a candidate for public office within the Primary Election, as the Republican members alone have determined these by Convention.

The Republican Party of Montana also recognizes the primary goal of this Platform and Planks is the expectation that our elected officials will use it as a directing guide when making decisions.

We also recognize that any outside group can twist the session results of any voting guide they develop to deceive the members of the GOP as to whom is actually voting the way the members expect. We are in desperate need of an official voting guide developed by, and for us. In order to assure this, we require a measuring standard be adopted with key pieces of legislation each session that those standards are entirely derived from the specific goals or planks of the Platform.

We also expect a report be issued on the voting results for those standards of each Legislator to all members of the Republican Party.

The Republican Party of Montana expects the Republican Caucus of each session to identify these now to be referred to as Platform Bills, with clearly detailed links of outcomes to the goals and expectations of the Platform or Planks for supporting documentation. We also expect them to convene caucus meetings in order to suggest these bills to each chamber's Republican members before second reading on the floor, and a vote during that caucus to recognize that the parameters are met, and grant the official stamp of Platform Bill. A simple majority of the caucus will determine this outcome. We also expect that each chamber caucus will do this with a minimum of 20 Bills originating in their chamber, in order to provide a good percentage and ensure that the Party Platform goals become a priority each session.

## **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 regeneration of agricultural products.
- We support value added processing of agricultural products in the State of Montana.
- We support a sustainable timber resource.
- 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.

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 supports all American Indian Peoples through:

- Recognizing the treaties with the Federal Government.
- Respecting tradition and culture of the 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 individual and constitutional rights of all American Indian citizens living anywhere within the borders of the State of Montana.

- Standing firm with the American Indians of Montana to help address substance abuse, behavioral health, suicide, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP), and other societal challenges we all face in our state.

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 Montana 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 should be optional.

### *Business Infrastructure*

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

### *Worker's Compensation*

We advocate a 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.

### *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 pursuing tort reform legislation to ensure a more predictable and less litigious legal climate and reduce the risks and costs of doing business.

## **Crime**

### *General Principle*

We support the concept of individual responsibility; that each person is accountable for his or her actions.

### *School Safety*

Our children have a fundamental right to be safe at school. We support increased security to include armed security and prevention of violence.

*Drugs and Alcohol*

We recognize the danger that substance abuse poses to our society. Those who commit crimes while under the influence of drugs and alcohol should be held criminally accountable. We support strong intervention for offenders and alternatives to incarceration.

*Drug Related Crime in Our Community*

Drug trafficking and related crimes are having a catastrophic effect on our communities and shall be opposed vigorously.

*Truth in Sentencing*

We believe the punishment at sentencing should be determined by the judge and shall reflect the seriousness of the crime(s) committed. The public has a right to know, at the time of sentencing, the minimum amount of time a criminal will be incarcerated and under what conditions the criminal may be eligible for parole.

*Supervision of Convicted Sexual Offenders*

The Republican Party supports registration, monitoring, and strict supervision of convicted sexual offenders and timely notification to victims and local (city and county) law enforcement of the offender's pending release.

*Internet Crime*

All forms of internet crime shall be proactively prosecuted. Cyber-crime, including child pornography and trafficking, are serious threats that shall be proactively addressed.

*Corrections*

We support a corrections system that:

- Provides public safety utilizing effective incarceration and supervision through best practices to reduce recidivism.
- Addresses the impact of crimes to victims.
- Requires local government approval for community-based corrections programs.

*Restitution*

Convicted offenders have an obligation to repay victims or victims' families for the cost of the crime. The restitution obligation should be addressed at sentencing and a portion of the offender's earnings should be applied to restitution.

*Limit Appeals*

We urge the government to expedite appeal(s) in all criminal cases and restrict frivolous lawsuits, recognizing that the costs are borne by the taxpayers of Montana.

*Jury Authority*

We reaffirm the principle espoused by our nation's founders that our court system belongs to the people. We recognize both the power and the moral obligation vested in juries to secure justice by judging both the facts of a case and application of the law itself. We support requiring judges to fully inform jurors of their constitutional rights and responsibilities.

*Parental Rights*

We support parents' rights to reasonably discipline their children without government interference. In all discipline-related cases, parents shall be afforded due process.

*Trafficking*

All forms of trafficking (human, sex, drug, labor) are serious threats to public safety and welfare and should be aggressively prosecuted.

## **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 permits.
- Reforming or eliminating state agencies and departments that restrict economic development.
- A government culture that emphasizes customer service over regulation and enforcement.
- Reducing or eliminating 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 and private education that creates a qualified, competent, and competitive workforce.
- Eliminating government activities that pick economic winners and losers.
- Encouraging savings and investment to fuel economic growth.
- When economically feasible, require all reclamation projects in the State of Montana to be utilized by the private sector for revenue generation.
- The Montana Republican Party believes asserting our U.S. Constitutional state's rights to support economic development.

## **K – 12 Education**

The Montana Republican Party supports quality educational opportunities for all Montanans. We recognize that educating Montana's children, which take 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 following generations. We believe Montana's schools can best contribute to fulfilling this duty when local communities control the content of instruction and the allocation of school resources. Local control stimulates innovation, encourages civic engagement, reinforces Montana values, and guards against State and Federal overreach (2018).

We support:

*Parental Rights*

- Recognizing parents' authority and responsibility for educating their children through multiple school-choice options (2018).
- Allowing students to move freely to their school of choice (2022).
- 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 (2022).

*School Boards*

- Recognizing the constitutional authority (Article X Section VIII) of local school boards (2022).
- Requiring school districts to provide easily accessible, transparent information on curriculum and educational opportunities (2022).
- Enhancing election integrity and voter turnout for schools elections (2022).
- Opposing Federal directives that interfere with local control of Montana's schools (2018).

*Constitutional Rights*

- Preserving faculty and staff freedom of association, including the right to refuse Union affiliation (JANUS vs. ASFCME).
- Protecting 1st Amendment freedoms within our educational communities.
- Defending the right of students to voluntarily pray and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Classrooms*

- Preparing students to become engaged, informed, productive American citizens.
- Providing career, technical, and college opportunities for all Montanans.
- Opposing any educational activity that demonizes or disparages any individual or group based on race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or political affiliation.
- Promoting each individual community's efforts to enhance school safety, security, and student mental health.

## **Election Law**

*Voter Registration*

Montana voter registration should ensure all registered voters are United States of America citizens eligible to vote in Montana. Voter rolls should be current, correct and free of duplication. Voter registration periods should be ample but end prior to Election Day.

*Election by Majority*

Montana would best be served by elected officials who are supported by a majority of those voting.

*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.



*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 with the transfer of the legal enforcement components to the Attorney General and the clerical and reporting components to the Secretary of State.

*Election Process*

Election process shall be managed by the county election office for every election, and the Secretary of State shall monitor elections for any fraud. School elections shall be open, accessible, and well publicized.

The Montana Republican Party believes that election integrity is paramount and supports public disclosure and full transparency throughout the entire election process.

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 67th Legislative session and signed by the Governor.

The Montana Republican Party supports allowing a registered voter to request a hand count of their respective ballot.

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 the 2020 General 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 the 2020 General Election, and to mandate and fund a conversion to mechanical or manual vote count.

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.

## **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.

*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 complete ban on elective abortion. We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform elective abortions, or fund 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.

#### *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.

## **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:

- The defense of the United States sovereignty.
- Enforcement of all immigration and visa laws.
- Full and complete funding to finish the southern border wall.
- The prioritization of the security and funding of America's borders over foreign borders;
- Penalizing employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.
- Rigorous investigation of asylum seekers to remain in their country of origin until fully vetted.
- The original interpretation of citizenship as defined by Section 1 of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- Temporary closure of any border that fails to protect American sovereignty as it pertains to immigration.

The Montana Republican Party OPPOSES:

- Illegal immigrants and un-vetted refugees relocated to the state of Montana.
- Montana taxpayer-funded benefits being granted to illegal aliens.

- The abuse of chain migration as a basis for legal immigration.
- Unsecured open borders.

## **Local Government**

### *Preamble*

The Montana Republican Party supports efforts to return control and authority to local communities, as the government closest and most responsive to the people.

### *Funding*

We believe all levels of government are responsible for funding their own programs. No level of government should mandate responsibilities or programs to lower levels or subdivisions of government unless funding for those responsibilities and programs is also provided. We strongly urge the Governor of the state of Montana to refuse any federal mandated programs requiring funding by the State or local governments, except those based on a declared national emergency by the President of the United States. Local governments shall refuse outside funding sources for elections. We do not support taking private or nonprofit election funds. We continue to support the goal of limiting all tax and fee increases. We urge the wise use of our natural resources (understanding that PILT money is declining). We support ideas that will assist in the funding of local government such as returning management of federally-controlled public land to the state. We support the revenue sharing established by the Montana legislature and Montana's units of local government in order to prevent tax increases at the local level.

### *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 also support all local law enforcement. State government should be responsible for its actions affecting local government and all state restrictions on self-government should be extremely limited and narrowly construed. Local and county governments shall not infringe on individual rights, nor shall they impose excessive taxes or regulations. We do not support local governments implementing any rules that suppress an individual's rights or beliefs. We encourage all local government entities to strive for less intrusion into the private sector.

### *Individual Rights*

The rights of individuals to vote on local governmental officials, taxes and levies or fee issues are fundamental to protect Constitutional rights.

### *Property Rights*

We believe that local government shall protect property rights. Property owners shall have the ability to use their property as they wish. We support prohibiting the state of Montana and its political subdivisions from adopting and developing environmental and developmental policies that, without due process, would infringe or restrict the private property rights of the [property] owner[s], or are intrusive to the property. We believe in legitimate due process regarding eminent domain and zoning.

### *Government Transparency*

We support open meetings for government decision-making bodies. We strongly urge taxpayers to review, comment, and participate in the development of county, city, and school district budgets. We encourage all local government entities to publish their budgets, draft policies,

regulations, agendas, minutes and election information electronically to provide transparency to the highest degree. We urge local bodies to use sunset review of all newly implemented taxes and fees.

#### *Land Use*

We recognize and oppose the destructive and insidious efforts of foreign influence including the United Nations 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 under NEPA or other applicable federal law.

#### *Privacy*

We believe local governments should exclude themselves from all activities that would infringe on constitutional rights

## **National Affairs**

#### *Preamble*

The Montana Republican Party affirms that when it comes to national affairs the federal government must put the interest of American citizens above that of non-citizens and it must support individual freedom and liberty for all citizens of the United States of America. We hold fast to the principles of our founding fathers as clearly stated in the Declaration of Independence. We affirm that the United States Constitution, as written and ratified with strict constructionism, is the Supreme Law of the Land, and we stand in defense against ignoring, weakening or misinterpreting it.

#### *Personal Rights and Liberties*

We affirm the unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all individuals. We affirm the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of each human being from conception to natural death. The people of Montana approved defining marriage in our constitution as only between one man and one woman, and we affirm this expressed will of the people references a biological man and biological woman.

We affirm the freedom of speech and religion, and that the state cannot compel us to violate these rights when in the pursuit of the activities of our daily lives, whether personal or commercial. No branch of government shall limit, deny or infringe upon our Constitutional rights, or make criminal the free exercise thereof.

We stand against the indefinite detention of our citizens by certain provision of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as it violates the right of habeas corpus and the 5th, 6th, 8th & 9th Amendments of the US Constitution. We further affirm that we oppose the Patriot Act and all of its versions or others instruments that erode our individual liberties. And we demand that those being unlawfully held in indefinite detention in Washington DC for their actions on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be immediately granted just due process and released on their own recognizance pending further legal proceedings.

*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 to 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*

The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed by any level of government, government agency or employee, and we support the Montana Firearms Freedom Act that requires the prosecution of any government employee that violates it. We support the castle doctrine of self-defense and recognize its extension to our vehicles.

Government at any level may not enact a system of firearm registration of any kind, including tracking, taxing, or limiting the amount of ammunition or firearms that may be owned lawfully. We oppose "gun free zones" because they strip peaceful citizens of the right to defend themselves. American citizens exercising their right to peaceably assemble or seek redress of their grievances, whether armed in accordance with the United States Constitution, or not so armed, shall not be deemed as terrorists simply for that non-violent act.

Veterans and citizens seeking medical treatment are constitutionally protected and any removal of rights based on predicted threat must include due process, transparency, and opportunity for expedient redress.

*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 support continuing efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation, but totally oppose any suggestions of unilateral disarmament on the part of the United States, or placing any troops or military resources under United Nations or foreign command or the deployment of United Nations or foreign Troops on United States soil for any reason, and support relocation of the U.N. to any country that will have them.

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. We strongly support the Constitutional requirement of a formal Congressional declaration of war before committing regular troops to a military operation.

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.

#### *Energy*

We urge, through private and public venues, the development and advancement of all cost-effective energy resources to include but not limited to nuclear power. We oppose any federal or state government mandate to purchase or subsidize energy development in any form. We oppose any tax on carbon emissions. All publicly deployed forms of energy shall have equal access to the grid as specified by deregulation. We oppose the federal government yielding to any international pressure to oppose any regulation on domestic energy production or consumption.

We oppose any classification of CO2 or other greenhouse gasses as dangerous gasses or pollutants. We stand strongly in support of the completion of the Keystone Pipeline. We are in favor of only those Federal administrative rules that do not exceed the authority of the statute.

We support the requirement of full disclosure of government subsidizations of all publicly deployed forms of energy. We support the continued operation of Colstrip 3 and 4 and encourage private investment to continue operation of said units beyond 2025.

#### *Social Engineering*

We stand strongly against any government entity depositing public funds in any financial institutions that uses Environmental Social Governance (ESG) 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 establishes the practices and practical use of a "social credit score."

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, but 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.

#### *Telecommunications & Internet Policy*

We oppose federal telephone excise taxes and further government-imposed taxes, fees, or charges on telecommunications or the internet in any forms.

We oppose all future government internet restrictions that would infringe on the rights of citizens.

We strongly urge prosecution of persons committing financially predatory telephone and internet fraud.

We urge the repeal of section 230 of Title 47 US code in as much as it infringes upon first amendment rights of the American people.

#### *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.

#### *Data 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.

#### *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 the U.S. Congress and U.S. President, other public officials and citizens of Montana and the United States of America to fully exert their efforts and powers to support returning 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 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. We support the release of expired Wilderness Study areas. We support maintaining and increasing access within the federal lands in Montana. 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 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 sound science. 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.

### **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 low, broad-based 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.

### **Transportation**

- We support the efficient development, maintenance, and infrastructure improvements for transportation in Montana.
- We support common sense regulation of all transportation with a focus on the efficient regulation to emphasize safety, while minimizing imposition on our traveling public.
- 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.