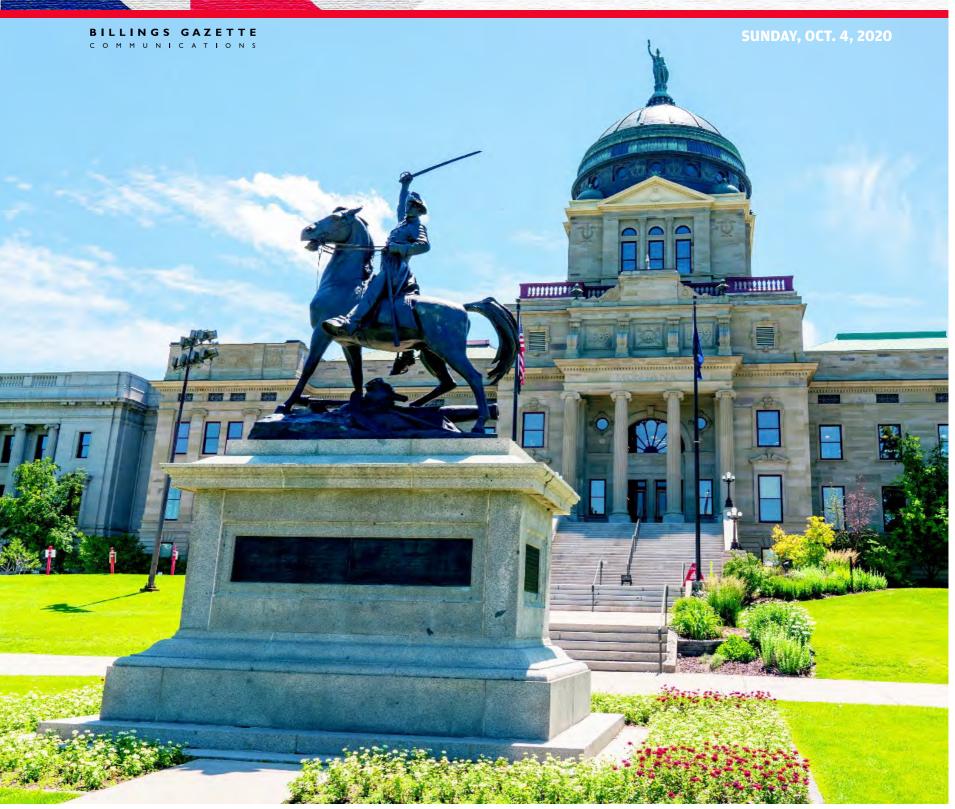
COTER GUIDE A look at Legislative candidates



Here are the questions we asked the candidates:

COVID-19 has hurt Montana's econo-▲•my. Montana's Legislative Fiscal Division projects a 13% drop in revenue to the state general fund this fiscal year, while economists don't expect a return to prepandemic growth levels until 2022. The current governor has suggested that reserve funding can cover the loss, though Republican leaders have called for budget cuts.

What budget steps do you think are needed to deal with this recession's impact on state government? Would you support tax increases to balance the budget and maintain current government services? In the alternative, what government services would you cut to make the budget balance? If you intend to cut taxes, tell us what changes to government spending would be needed to law, or parts of it, including federal funding accommodate both your tax cut and the current revenue slump.

2. On Nov. 10, the U.S. Supreme will hear oral arguments in California On Nov. 10, the U.S. Supreme Court v. Texas, a case concerning the Affordable Care Act. The case is rooted in ACA's individual mandate, but could undo the entire Montanans have enrolled in the expanded business, or should the state get out?



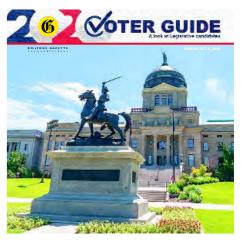
The Montana House votes on bills during a final day of a legislative session in Helena.

for Medicaid expansion. What would you as a legislator do if federal funding of Medicaid expansion was eliminated? The state would become responsible for full funding of the expansion program if the federal government backed out. Roughly 90,000

program. Montana's health care businesses benefit from Medicaid expansion spending. Explain the outcome of your decision on both Medicaid patients and the health care industry.

3 Earlier in the pandenne, constant selection asked that small businesses Earlier in the pandemic, two Montana and health care providers receive immunity from liability lawsuits related to the spread of COVID-19. Nothing came of the request, but the issue isn't dead. How you vote on the issue in the Legislature? How would you balance the interests of businesses with public safety? Would you condition liability waivers on businesses to taking certain steps to avoid spreading the virus?

Montana faces an energy economy • crisis. Its biggest energy customers in Oregon and Washington are banning coal power. Out of state power plants that burn Montana coal are also planning to shut down in the next few years. What should the Legislature do? What steps would you take to keep Montana in the energy export



Explain one concern your constituents • have told you about that you will attempt to address as a legislator. Tell us what you intend to do.

Editor's note: Candidates were limited to 100 words per response. Aside from trimming some responses to meet the word limit, the candidate's answers have not been ed-

Most Montana counties file mail ballot plans

By GWEN FLORIO gwen.florio@missoulian.com

Forty-six of Montana's 56 counties initially opted for mail ballots in the November election, according to a tally posted by the Montana Secretary of State's Office.

Gov. Steve Bullock gave the counties the option of using the mail ballots following a request in July from county clerks across the state. Mail ballots are similar to the absentee ballots already used by roughly three-quarters of Mon-

In-person voting will still be allowed in all counties, and voters also have the option of dropping off their mail ballots in person, either at county voting offices or in drop-boxes.

Because of the pandemic, all Montana counties used mail ballots in the June primary election, which saw near-record turnout.

Counties had until Friday to turn in their ballot plans. Only Broadwater, Carbon, Fergus, Mineral, Petroleum, Powder River, Powell, Stillwater, Treasure and Wibaux counties did not submit mail ballot plans, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

County clerks have cited difficulties in finding enough election judges for traditional poll elections, given that the ticipated."

judges tend to be older and at higher risk for suffering severe symptoms from the coronavirus.

Mail ballots have become a source of contention in some quarters. Earlier this week, the reelection campaign of President Donald Trump, along with the Republican National Committee, the national Republican Senatorial Committee and the Montana Republican State central Committee sued to block mail ballots in Montana. Friday, Bullock, a Democrat who seeks to unseat incumbent Republican U.S. Sen. Steve Daines in November, said that request, if granted, would "inject chaos into the election."

Similar lawsuits targeting mail ballots have been filed around the country by Republican groups, while Democrats have suits over voting regulations they see as restrictive.

When the suit was announced, Bullock cited support from the Montana Senate president and speaker of the Montana House, both Republicans, for the June primary.

House Speaker Greg Hertz, R-Polson, pointed out in an email that Bullock issued the primary directive in March when the pandemic was still in the early stages, but that he could no longer support a general election mail ballot "now we know COVID isn't as bad as once an-



An election aide sorts through ballots arriving at the Missoula County Elections Office by mail during the June 2020 primary election.

2 **OCTOBER 2020** Billings Gazette

MONTANANS HAVE A

EAR CHOICE IN THE RACE FOR U.S.

GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK

A **steady leader** who Montanans can always count on to put them first - not the special interests.

- ✓ Brought Democrats and Republicans together to expand healthcare for 90,000 Montanans, fought to lower costs and saved rural hospitals
- Vetoed bills that threatened our public lands & fought out-of-state interests when they tried to overturn stream access law
- Cut taxes for small businesses
- Balanced the budget and saved \$600 million in our rainy day fund - allowing Montana to recover from this crisis faster than most states
- ✓ Not taking a dime of corporate PAC money

SENATOR STEVE DAINES

A multimillionaire who looks out for himself and his corporate backers in Washington – not Montanans.

- X Voted repeatedly to let insurance companies deny health care for people with pre-existing conditions like cancer, diabetes, and asthma
- X Voted to risk the sale of Montana's public lands to out-of-state landowners and developers
- X Voted for Mitch McConnell's tax plan that gave a trillion dollars in breaks to big corporations and wealthy Americans, like himself
- X Spent six years in China setting up factories for an American corporation
- X Taken \$2 million in campaign cash from corporate **PACs**, the health insurance and drug industries

STEVE BULLOCK

WORKS FOR ALL MONTANANS

STEVE DAINES WORKS FOR

HIMSELF AND HIS CORPORATE BACKERS



GET THE FACTS BEFORE YOU VOTE STEVEBULLOCK.COM

F O R BULLOCK



CINDY PALMER

Political party: Democrat **Place of birth:** Great Falls

Home: Geyser **Occupation:** Rancher

Family: Husband and two daughters.

Education: Bachelor's degree in English

Past employment: Special Projects for the State Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Investigator for the Attorney General Office of Consumer Protection and English teacher.

Military: N/A

59447

Political experience: I volunteered for the 2008/2009 legislative session and in 2018/2019 session I lobbied for Montana Farmers Union.

Endorsements: N/A

Ways voters can contact you:

a.) Email: cindypalmer1961@gmail.com b.) Address: PO Box 41, Geyser, MT

c.) Phone number: 406-735-4941

Most departments function on funds • they raise. For instance, Fish Wildlife and Parks, funds themselves with hunting and fishing licenses. The Attorney General prosecutes criminals and collects penalties. I would look elsewhere for solutions. Montana has a billion dollar Coal Trust Fund that pays annual dividends which fund

many infrastructure needs. I would protect the principal for future generations and not raid this Trust. I would consider necessary cuts and tax increases: for example, I support a sales tax on rental cars because over could reduce the pressure on property taxes.

For years, the Republican major-2. For years, the Republican majority would not pass Medicaid expansion even though the federal government covered 100% of the cost. They worried we could lose funding. I felt that was a terrible argument as decisions should be made based on the current facts, not an imagined future. The Supreme Court has upheld the ACA before so I believe they will again, but if funding is eliminated then Medicaid expansion would have to be too. We would go back to where we were with uninsured people so angry that an all new solution will be demanded.

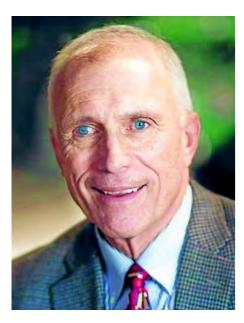
3. If the faucet is leaking ruon coperation trying to figure out how to fix the probable restore. If ix the probable restore r damages it is causing, rather, I fix the problem. My daughter is a researcher in Norway and they had their first Covid-19 case days before the USA. Norway shut their country down and Covid was nearly eliminated. Children went back to school last spring, people function normally within the country, but if she were to come visit, she would not be allowed back because Norway con-

siders the US response too risky. I would only support liability waivers for businesses following CDC guidelines.

The state should support the energy • export business that is booming—re-90% are to out-of-state people. Then we newable energy. My farm sits at the base of the Spion Kop wind farm and I have installed solar power panels to power my farm yard and home. We can lament that the car put the buggy out of business or we can embrace and profit from the change. The most frightening bill in the last legislature would have allowed Northwest Energy to purchase Coalstrip for \$1 as it would have made ratepayers responsible for \$700 million in clean-up, repairs and updates.

Representative Wylie Galt only at-• tended one Agriculture committee hearing. He led the charge to kill Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). All food, except beef and pork are labeled. Before COOL was repealed ranchers made \$2.50 per pound on beef. Rep. Galt dismissed COOL's impact on price and said the price dropped because ranchers over produced. I believe the system is broken as 4 multinational companies slaughter over 80% of all beef. COOL prevents packers from misleading consumers and underpaying producers. I will lose my election in this Republican district so let Rep. Galt know he should support COOL next time.

HOUSE DISTRICT 37



JERRY SCHILLINGER

Political party: Republican Place of birth: Wolf Point, Montana

Home: Circle

Occupation: Farmer

and Paul (deceased); three granddaughters and two grandsons

Education: Vida Elementary, Circle High School, bachelor's degree accounting, CPA University of Montana

Past employment: Arthur Andersen CPAS, Schell Stephens Riley Huffine CPAS

Military: N/A

Political experience: SD19 candidate 2018

Endorsements: N/A Ways voters can contact you:

a.) Email: jerryschillinger2020@gmail.

b.) Address: Box 147 Circle 59215

c.) Phone number: 406-974-2478

COVID-19 has hurt Montana's econ-• omy. Montana's Legislative Fiscal Division projects a 13% drop in revenue to the state general fund this fiscal year, while economists don't expect a return to marily to individuals being aware of their pre-pandemic growth levels until 2022. own specific needs and taking the neces-

reserve funding can cover the loss, though Republican leaders have called for budget cuts.

Clearly the State isn't going to as-2. Clearly the State isn't going to sume a \$1.4 billion program, that's Family: Wife, Carol; sons, Brett, Alex roughly \$1400 for every Montanan. Expansion was not a good way to improve healthcare in the first place, it was just another avenue to cost shift and continue to inflate health care costs overall. Our challenge as a society is to reconnect individuals with medical providers to gain better health care. Healthcare is an individual responsibility much like housing, food, transportation, etc., costs will be lower and outcomes will be better when we take as much interest in our healthcare as we do in other areas.

2 I'm not sure why COVID 19 should be • treated differently from other health related issues when it comes to liability lawsuits. Clearly there are no set in concrete procedures that have proven successful in the prevention of this virus so how do we mandate a certain behavior by our businesses? It really comes down pri-

The current governor has suggested that sary precautions. There is no magic bullet and there is no reason to open up another legal = box for litigation.

Oregon and Washington may have 4. Oregon and washington may to learn how to sweat, shiver and fumble in the dark like California. Markets will be the primary drivers of fuel choices in the future but citizens across the country are going to have to decide how reliable and affordable they want their energy supplies to be and vote accordingly. We should remove costly regulatory burdens where possible while promoting new technologies. Affordable energy helped America grow into a Superpower, average citizens rely on it for healthy lifestyles, it is critical for a prosperous agriculture.

House District 37 residents are free-**).** dom loving individuals that don't want their government lording over them. Much of what I have outlined above encapsulates what I have heard while campaigning. The vote to approve Medicaid Expansion by our legislature and governor was a slap in the face to my district that turned it down overwhelmingly. I will vote in the legislature to promote Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.



JACOB KITSON

Political party: Libertarian Place of birth: Bryan, Texas

Home: Terry

Occupation: Father, deacon, and political activist

Family: Wife and daughter

Education: High school and military,

Past employment: Little of everything

Military: Army 2013-15

Political experience: Montana State Libertarian board member

Endorsements: N/A

Ways voters can contact you:

a.) Email: liberty4mt2020@gmail.com b.) Address: PO Box 42, Terry, MT, 59349 c.) Phone number: 936-349-6657

I believe that taxation is theft. I think • that we need to minimize the burden of taxes our residents own and I would work at abolishing property taxes in our state in favor of a 5% flat sales tax on all commerce state.

I believe in the private free flow of comminimize tax payer support of social programs is best. We should move to defund the state support of health care.

3. I believe that if you are a customer entering a establishment the owner has the right to say how to run his business and you how to spend your money, with that of Missing and Murdered Indigenous said I believe this goes unspoken therefore the patron is bound by social contract of what ever risk comes of exchange of servic-

es. That would relieve the business owner of any liability based on existing understanding of law.

While working with the current work- force of the coal sector in Montana I in the state. We are the fourth most tourist would cease in the expansion as I believe that coal and the effects coal have on the environment around it are a dying way of industry. In the modern era I believe we should focus on selling the existing energy we have based in coal to outside regions we should look at investing in diversifying our energy interests.

MMIW- I will work endlessly to **).** bring awareness to the abduction

Darryl Wilson for County Commissioner

I am running for County Commissioner because I want to represent all of the constituents in our county and community.

I want to bring Honesty, Integrity and a New Vision for our

MetraPark must become more self-sustaining.

I will work with both parties in the legislature in bringing back our fair share of revenue to our community.

Combining City and County offices will create more efficiency in building standards.

We must work together in creating a viable future for our young so they want to stay!

Vote for Darryl Wilson for County Commissioner

Paid for by Darryl Wilson for County Commissioner 8522 S. Frontage Rd. Billings, MT 59101 - Democrat





BARRY USHER

Political party: Republican Place of birth: Chambersburg, Penn.

Home: 5425 Clapper Flat Rd Laurel Montana 59044

Occupation: Business owner

Family: Wife Ann Marie, four children, Jennifer (Tom), Katie, Brian (Jamie) and ryUsherForMontana Hannah and 5 grandchildren, Daniel, Reagan, Barry, Allison and James

scaping, tourism, Powersports dealerships; 14 years law enforcement

Military: U.S. Coast Guard

Political experience: Two terms Representing HD40; Vice Chairman Judiciary Committee; Health and Human Services Committee; Chairman Law and Justice Interim Committee; Criminal Justice Oversite Council; Montana Supreme Court Pretrial Diversion Advisory Committee; Vice Chairman NCSL (National Conference of State Legislators) Law, Justice and Public Safety Committee

Endorsements: National Rifle Association; Montana Shooting Sports Association; Montana Family Foundation; Families for Outdoor Recreation; Montanans for Limited Government

Ways voters can contact you:

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- b.) Address: 6900 S Frontage Rd Billings Montana 59101
 - c.) Phone number: (406) 252-2888
- d.) Web page: www.facebook.com/Bar-

The Montana Legislative Fiscal Division • estimates show revenue down almost **Past employment:** 26 years business 13% in 2021 but back over pre-COVID revowner, various businesses including com- enue in 2022. Montanans are struggling to insurance agent and our workman's com-

puter technology, NASCAR Team, land- make ends meet during COVID. Therefore, I would NOT support raising taxes. Places to look for savings: 1) My bill from the 2017 special session implementing state employee furloughs. 2) Rightsizing our state payroll costs. 3) Cut outdated programs. 4) Eliminate waste and fraud in all state agencies. 5) Several Republican statewide elected officials have reduced their department budgets in the last 4 years. Other state agencies should do the same.

2 I did not support Medicaid Expansion in 2019. Some arguments were and still I did not support Medicaid Expansion are: 1) Medicaid Expansion pays for abortions. 2) The federal government is approximately \$27 trillion in debt and cannot sustain their spending. 3) Montana's Medicaid expenses have grown approximately 27% per year for the last 16 years. 4) The medical industry should not be relying on government to subsidize their business model. 5) Montana Medicaid expansion is a sham. Hospitals tax the sick and then receive back nearly 5 times from the government the tax their patients pay.

I think the two legislators were right. 3. If think the two registators were should In todays litigious society, we should be protecting our businesses. As a small business owner, I contacted my business

pensation representatives. Both advised we should be covered, since we had signs on the doors, plenty of disinfectant wipes and had plenty of masks for staff or customers who might want one.

Montana coal, oil, and gas industries **†**•generated \$250 million in local and state tax revenue in 2018. We need these industries! I have been sickened to watch our current Governor turn his back on our natural resources industry, the jobs it creates and the communities it supports. We need to find the proper legal challenges to put pressure on Washington state to open coal ports under the commerce clause. Our US senators and congressman need to mandate that the federal government make Colstrip a strategic power plant. This means that it is essential to power grid reliability for national security interests.

Many are concerned about the consti-**)**•tutional & Legal authority of COVID mandates, stay at home orders, business closure orders, forced mask orders, school restrictions and eliminating school fans in the stands. I will support limiting the governor's emergency powers to 30 days without legislative input and require county health officials to have accountability to local elected authorities.

HOUSE DISTRICT 40



KRIS SPANJIAN

Political party: Democrat Place of birth: Pasadena, California

Home: Blue Grama Ranch, northwest of Billings, near Molt

Occupation: Retired physician, now working part-time due to COVID pandemic **Family:** Married to Ray Gilbertson

Education: Bachelor's degree in zoology. University of California; MD, Dartmouth Medical School; residency in Anesthesiology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; fellowship in Critical Care Medicine, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

Past employment: Intensive Care Unit physician and anesthesiologist, St. Vin-

cally ill and injured patients and their families; Clinical Faculty with the University of Washington School of Medicine and the Montana Family Medicine Residency; previously Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Provided classroom and hands-on instruction to young doctors in training

Military: N/A

Political experience: Montana State Medical Board for 12 years.

Endorsements: Montana Federation of Public Employees; Montana Hospital Association; Montana 55+; Billings Education Association; Montana AFL-CIO; Doctors in Politics: Carol's List

Ways voters can contact you:

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 - c.) Phone number: 406-861-4895
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If ever there was a time to use reserve **⊥** • funds, this would be it and according to the Legislative Finance Committee report, we likely have enough. With the economic downturn in the wake of this pandemic, Montanans cannot afford tax increases and the state government cannot afford tax cuts. Most of state spending goes to Health and Human Services and K - 12 Public Education - programs that already operate on slim margins. While I believe all govern-

cent Healthcare, Billings; cared for criti- ment departments should seek innovations given malpractice protection due to new to improve efficiency and cut waste, we cannot cut back on essential services in this time of need.

> If the entire ACA was repealed, com-∠ • plete chaos would result in the healthcare field. Hospitals and clinics have already been hit financially by this pandemic as elective procedures have been curtailed and prolonged hospitalizations of CO-VID patients incur uncompensated costs. Ninety percent of Medicaid expansion is funded by the federal government, bringing our federal tax dollars back to Montana, helping working families access healthcare, improving outcomes and supporting healthcare jobs. If Medicaid expansion was eliminated, Montanans would suffer, and rural communities would be disproportionately affected. I would support seeking other revenue sources to continue this program.

This pandemic has created unforeseen **3.** damage on all fronts and businesses doing their best to mitigate injury to their patrons and employees will likely still see unfortunate outcomes. For this reason, I would support release from COVID-19 related liability with the requirement that all CDC recommendations are followed, or exemptions are approved by the local presiding public health official. In addition, healthcare providers (including volunteers helping in this time of need) should also be bring back COOL for beef and pork.

and extenuating circumstances, assuming no gross negligence or malintent.

It appears that market forces will soon tion concerns can be addressed with new technology. The legislature should recognize this and take measures to assist our coal-producing counties in retraining and re-employing those workers into reclamation and other energy sectors. Fortunately, Montana has the resources and character to continue to provide energy from natural gas, solar, wind, biofuels and oil and after supplying our own residents, this power can still be exported. But our Public Service Commission must allow all these different energy producers to bargain on equal foot-

Cattle ranchers in my district were •frustrated last year when a bill reenacting Country of Origin labeling was killed. When "COOL" was in effect - first statewide and then nationally - it identified where the animal was born and raised, benefitting both consumers and producers. But the law was repealed in 2015 under pressure from Mexico, Canada and corporate meat processors who wanted to sell cheaper imported beef. Last session, an attempt to reinstate COOL in Montana, led by the Montana Cattlemen's Association and others, failed. I plan to work on a bipartisan bill to



KERRI SEEKINS-CROWE

Political party: Republican Birth place: Hardin, Montana **Home:** Billings

Occupation: Realtor

Family: I have four generation of family who live in the Heights; Husband, Michael Crowe; daughter, Ashley Crowe; son, Chandler Crowe; daughter-in-law, Hope Crowe; grandchildren: Easton and Bailey; parents: Larry and April Seekins

Education: Master's degree in business administration

Ways voters can contact you:

Email: Kerri4MT@gmail.com Web page: KerriSeekinsCrowe.com

It is short-sighted to focus on the state's •budget when approximately 60% of businesses that were forced to shut down will never reopen. Small businesses and families are hurting because of the shutdown. It is imperative that we significantly trim the state's budget and take the burden of the overgrown, bloated government programs off the backs of the people who really make this state run - the middle class and small businessmen and women. The gov-

ernment demanded that they make sacrifices to flatten the curve. Now it is time for the government to protect them and not the other way around.

per year program (which covers 90,000 Montanans). The ACA was designed to essentially bribe states to expand their Medicaid programs. The federal government's free money is very expensive, and it is a nightmare for the middleclass taxpayer who is shouldering the tax burden while simultaneously experiencing higher costs in health care and premiums. The answer is going back to the free market to ensure more choices, less expensive options, and flexibility in insurance coverage.

3. So far there has been an abundance or effort to supposedly "protect" public So far there has been an abundance of safety. It has come at a cost of putting people out of work, shutting down small businesses and not allowing parents to watch their kids play sports. Our rights have been trampled and our Constitution ignored. It is time that we fully open back up businesses and allow people to make choices. It is a virus. It is going to spread. Protect yourself. Protect the

vulnerable populations. Businesses are not responsible for the spread of the virus and should not be held responsible.

The fastest way for Montana to kill its economy would be for us to get out of 2 It is utterly ridiculous to think that 4 • economy would be for us to get out of the energy business. In 2018 Montana coal, oil, and gas generated \$250 million in tax revenue. Our natural resource industries are the foundation of tax revenue and jobs. Putting pressure on Washington to open back up the ports, making Colstrip a strategic power plant, and streamlining the permitting processes are essential to securing our Montana economic and energy future.

> 5. Montanans are concerned that person in the state unilaterally shut Montanans are concerned that one down the economy. While Covid is also a concern, separation from family members, being unable to attend church, loss of jobs, and economic ruin has become a reality for many Montanans. Never again. I will do everything in my power to ensure that never again will one person in the state and in each county be able to dictate the lives of Montanans with so little guidance, so little concrete information, and so little concern for the Constitutional rights of Montanans.

Re-Elect Tony O'Donnell Public Service Commissioner — Diligent, Fair and Responsive



For 31/2 years Tony O'Donnell has prevented about \$85 MILLION IN **UNFAIR ELECTRIC RATE INCREASES** from being on Montana's ratepayer utility bills —with NO reduction in reliability. The heat and lights are still on. Keep Tony working for you.

Paid for by Tony O'Donnell for Public Service Commissioner, 1810 Syllvan Lane, Billings, MT 59105--Republican

TONY O'DONNELL IS A GOOD FRIEND OF COLSTRIP

As Public Service Commissioner serving Southeastern Montana, Tony O'Donnell has proven time after time, to be a good friend of Colstrip. At stake are 700 highpaying jobs, so important to the area's economy. The community of 2,300 people faces an uncertain future. We need to keep Tony O'Donnell on the job as Montana Public Service Commissioner.



TERRY DENNIS

Political party: Democrat **Birth place:** Huron, South Dakota **Home:** Billings Heights

Occupation: Retired internal medicine physician

Family: Married to Deanna Stops Dennis; five adult daughters; 10 grandchildren.

Education: Bachelor's degree, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; MD University of Iowa; master's degree in public health epidemiology, University of Minnesota

Past employment: Rural and Migrant Farm Worker Community Health Center in Michigan; Hennepin County Medical Center and University of Minnesota School of Medicine; Indian Health Service; private practice of medicine, Saint Vincent Healthcare, Billings Clinic.

Military: None

Political experience: Board of directors National Rural Health Association; Montana Public Health Improvement task force; served on various health related boards

Endorsements: Doctors in Politics, Planned Parenthood

Ways voters can contact you:

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 - d.) Web page: dennisformt.com

The best way to improve Revenue is to **1** • control the epidemic. I believe epidemic control will maximize the State economy. We need to learn to live with this virus through careful, coordinated epidemiology based action. Using some of the reserve to address this crisis makes sense. Any cuts in services should minimize impact on low and middle income families since they have suffered the most. Upper income families appear to have economically suffered the least so any supplemental taxes should be directed to high income taxpayers but I doubt additional taxes will be necessary if we control COVID.

Elimination of federal funding of Med-∠•icaid expansion would be a disaster for Montana. Consequent job losses would have a negative economic impact. Safety net health resources would have to be bolstered with the money from the State match. Costs would shift to the insured and those without insurance would likely be bankrupted. Since many on Medicaid expansion are working poor, it would further destabilize their families and their communities. I doubt there would be a political consensus to enter the working poor into employer based insurance or support State taxes to supplant the Federal component.

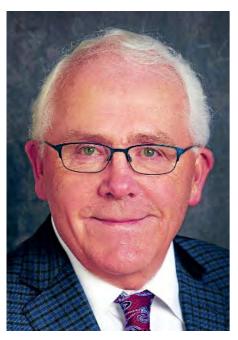
Any consideration of immunity from underlying standard of behavior which in seasonal worker unemployment payments.

this case would be compliance with well thought out and effective standards to prevent transmission of disease. If such standards could be implemented that insured public safety then I would not oppose conferring some form of immunity to compliant businesses and organizations.

The legislature should support innova-4 tion in the energy sector. Thermal coal is a 19th century technology that the market is rejecting. Maintaining its place in the energy mix for as long as it is feasible without major capital being invested by the State or ratepayers is reasonable. Montana should push to be an innovator in 21st century energy technologies such as wind and solar. High voltage transmission capacity should be optimized.

The haphazard, chaotic nature of infant **)**• and child daycare availability is an issue for many families. Paid maternal leave is sporadic. Most developed countries provide over 6 months of paid maternal leave. Six months of leave would relieve pressure on the daycare system. More resources would then be available for older children. Many mothers could return to employment and income at the pre-child level. It would promote stability within families. It would facilitate many young families having children who will be the future citizens of Mon-3 lawsuits implies compliance with an tana. Cost would likely be less than current

HOUSE DISTRICT 44



LARRY BREWSTER

Political party: Republican Place of birth:

Home: Billings Heights

Occupation: Retired from Northwest-

Family: Married 47 years, two grown children

Education: Electronics communications and Industrial electrician votek at Idaho State University

Past employment: Northwestern Energy 35 years

Military: U.S. Army 1969 to 1972

Political experience: Six Years Billings School board, 11 Years on Billings City Council

Endorsements: Montana Shooting Sports, Montana Family Foundation, Public Employees association.

Ways voters can contact you:

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- b.) Address:1216 Babcock Blvd, Billings, MT 59105
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 - d.) Web page:larrybrewstermt.com

No on the tax increases. If cuts are need-**⊥**•ed it would be non-essential services first, then others as needed. I don't intend to cut state taxes in the next budget if revenues are down. Cutting taxes depends on where the revenues come in.

Montana doesn't have the ability that 2. the federal government does to manufacture cash. That they can just print more money or worse, more digital cash. We actually have to have the money to do things, I can't see Montana's citizens wanting large tax increases to keep that program afloat. I think those who would want those large increases would likely have to reduce spending on other programs to continue this one. We may have to reconsider how far we could spread the original Medicaid program.

3. gross negligence or criminal acts. I could see some protection except for

The energy economy is very important 4 • in eastern Montana, the loss of coal fired generation plants both in Montana and the west coasts creates a number of problems for energy providers. No electric grid can function properly without anchor plants to deal with the variable nature of wind and

solar. The cutback in oil production creates doubt about the long-term price of natural gas and its availability. We need reliability from our energy suppliers, everyone wants their lights to come on when they throw the switch. The legislature can help by providing the PSC with rules that make reliability a priority at reasonable prices. But considering coal as an option until the reliability of alternatives is real and the prices are afford-

I think the greatest issue is tax reform. **).** We need take the tax system that has been modified at the edges for years and reform it in a way that provides for simplicity and transparency in how and where we collect taxes and make it easier to see how their spent. This is a long-term project but it needs to be done. I would to at least try to get it considered for an interim study.



ZACH LADSON

Political party: Democrat **Place of Birth:** Billings **Home:** Billings

Occupation: Self-employed, equal member in Nerd Rager LLC, a game and hobby store.

Family: Married to Kayla Ladson (formerly Corcoran); 14-year-old son; two cor-

gis; one terrier mix, and a cat. We consider my son's mother, Kelsey Greenfield, and his half-brother part of our family.

Education: Bachelor's degree in network management, majoring in Cisco Systems.

Past employment: While in college in Denver, I worked for an ISP/MSP named Microtech-tel (MTT). I traveled around the U.S. designing, configuring, and installing medium to small size business networks, including the Girl Scouts of Colorado and a school district in Ohio. After college I moved back to Billings and worked remotely with MTT, now New Cloud Networks, driving to and from Salt Lake City every Sunday. I eventually started working on the Network Team at Billings Clinic before leaving to start my own company.

Military: N/A

Political experience: This is my first time running for office.

Endorsements: Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

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If we are able to cover it, why make and the only public health and cuts? People are already out of work, and cuts to services will only add to that. The same goes for raising taxes—everyone is hurting and trying to make ends meet, so raising taxes is also not good. Is this not the exact type of situation for which we have reserve funding? We can rebuild reserve funds on the other side of this pandemic. And please wear a mask, so we end this sooner and decrease the impact to Montanans. We can fight this, together, as a community.

I am not comfortable speculating about the outcome of a yet-to-be-decided Supreme Court case or the actions of Congress regarding the ACA or Medicaid funding. Medicaid expansion is valuable to many Montanans, and I will do everything in power to keep vulnerable Montanans covered.

Businesses that are doing their best to enforce public health guidance and mandates should receive immunity from liability lawsuits regarding the spread of COVID-19. Those businesses who are not enforcing the mask mandate, are consistently over capacity, etc. should not receive such immunity. The only way Montana returns to normal is to control the spread,

and the only way to do that is to follow public health guidance, even if it changes month-to-month or day-to-day. It can be frustrating watching the scientific process unfold in realtime, but that doesn't make it any less valid.

Clean energy. Montana, our country, and private enterprise must accept that clean energy is the future. I will work with environmental science gurus to determine the best course of action to balance the adjustments needed to bring clean energy right alongside coal, working towards making the switch to 100% clean energy.

Prior to the recent Supreme Court decision, LGBTQ individuals could be fired and evicted for who they are or who they love in many states, including Montana. The driving force behind my decision to run is that we seem to have forgotten that people are people. "... all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." The Declaration of Independence says so much about who we, as a country, aspire to be, and we must move toward ensuring equality for all people.

TERRY DENNIS HD 44

Husband, father, doctor, epidemiologist

I will advocate for:

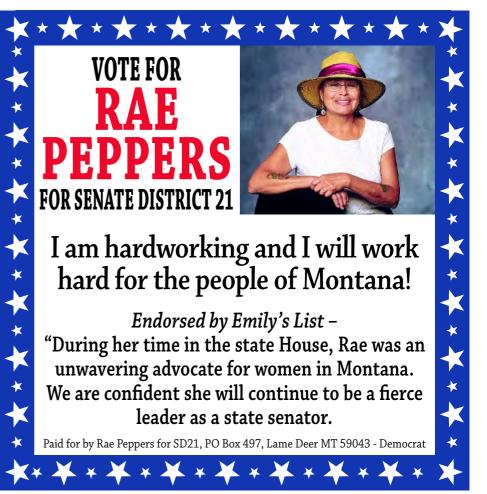
- Working families
- Education and job skills training
- Affordable, accessible, quality healthcare
- Small businesses, farmers, ranchers, and job creators
- Access to public lands
- Effective response to COVID-19 epidemic

Contact me:

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Paid for by Dennis for Montana - Democrat P.O. Box 50545 - Billings, MT 59105







BILL MERCER

Political party: Republican **Place of birth:** Billings **Home:** Billings

Occupation: Attorney, Holland & Hart

Family: Married to Marci; two children. **Education:** Billings Public Schools; bachelor's degree University of Montana, 1986; master's degree, Harvard University (John F. Kennedy School of Government), 1988; J.D., George Mason University School of Law, 1993.

torney, District of Montana (2001-2009); Acting Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (2006-2007); Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice (2005-2006); Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Montana (1994-2001); Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Policy Development, U.S. Department of Justice (1989-1994); Presidential Management Intern, Revenue Estimating Division, U.S. Dept. of the Treasury (1988-1989).

Military: N/A

Political experience: Montana House of Representatives (2019-2020); Montana Board of Crime Control (2001-2004)

Endorsements: Montana Family Foundation; Montana Shooting Sports Associa-

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The current revenue forecast suggests **L**•that Montana's current government spending levels will be unsustainable in Fiscal Year 2022. Although the forecast could either worsen or improve, the Legislature will decide whether to raise taxes and fees to cover existing levels of spending or cut gov-

Past employment: United States Aternment spending. A strength of Montana's approach. Constitution is its requirement that the budget be balanced. As a limited government to reduce state spending and programs. I served on the Appropriations Committee in the 2019 session. From that experience, I remain convinced that spending may be reduced to address shortfalls.

> When Congress passes.
>
> (Obamacare) in 2010 over the objection the individual When Congress passed the ACA tion of every Republican, the individual mandate, not Medicaid Expansion, got all the attention. Ten years later, Montana has over 82,000 citizens covered by Medicaid Expansion. If the Supreme Court invalidates the ACA, Montana could not afford to maintain the program. The federal government is paying 90% of the costs, but Montana's costs exceed \$ 250 million annually. Medicaid Expansion is another example of Congress increasing spending that is unsustainable. It is not unrealistic to assume that Montana could return to its pre-Obamacare Medicaid program (without Medicaid Expansion).

> I would support such legislation, but I I would support such regional, favor a narrowly-tailored exception that would preclude immunity for grossly negligent or reckless conduct that caused an injury. I would not favor conditioning the waiver based upon certain factors, which would be impractical to establish as a one-size fits all

Montana's tax revenues make it clear that natural resource development is conservative, I would first look for ways not occurring at levels previously observed. Montana is still the Treasure State. We have little control over markets outside of Montana, but we should be committed to meeting demand for energy and minerals through development of our natural resources. Montanans benefit from jobs created by mining and electrical generation, and state and local government utilize tax revenues from these operations to fund government and nonprofits. The Legislature must create an appropriate regulatory climate to incentivize natural resource development, but it is not the function of government to create mar-

> Constituents have questioned whether **)**•there is meaningful oversight of state agencies and their programs by the Legislature. After a term in the Legislature, my answer is no. I have found the Montana Legislature to be the opposite of Congress. Congress spends little time legislating and focuses on oversight of federal executive branch agencies. In Montana, legislators are fully engaged in developing and passing bills, but do little to monitor and evaluate executive branch agencies during and after the legislative meets. I will work to create an oversight role for the budget committees in the interim.

HOUSE DISTRICT 47



TJ SMITH

Political party: Republican Place of birth: Livingston, Montana Home: Billings

Occupation: Retired

Family: My wife, Leigh, married for 42 years. We have two children, both married, and two grandchildren.

Education: Bachelor's degree, matheconomics minor, geology Rocky Mountain

Past employment: Morrison Knudsen Corp.; Superior Welding Supplies; Superior Archery

Military: N/A

Political experience: N/A

Endorsements: N/A Ways voters can contact you:

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 - c.) Phone number: 406-690-5676
 - d.) Web page: TJSmith4Montana.com

Because the Governor's COVID orders • created major revenue shortfalls the next biennium will be fraught with very tough decisions. While spending cuts are a short term solution, the long term solution is to kick the economy into high gear. The longest lasting, most efficient way to do this is deregulation. Imagine deregulation reestablishing opportunity for all...opportunity which creates new small businesses fueling job growth. This looming budget crisis happens to be the perfect opportunity for us to stop robbing from the next generation. Now is the perfect time to begin the task of leaving our children a manageable future.

2. The Governor created downturn will substantially increase those eligible for Medicaid. The next legislative session must deal with this challenge whether it is exacerbated by the collapse of ACA or not. For years Medicaid spending and dependency has grown. This was never the intent of the original Medicaid program.

It is painfully obvious "tax and spend" solutions don't reduce the need, but rather increase the need, for Medicaid. The answer to this Medicaid challenge is to kick the economy into high gear, create jobs and work ourselves out of the mess...not tax ourselves into a bigger mess.

Like most flus, we are dealing with **)**• an airborne virus which travels with air movement. It is our responsibility to learn about the virus, our responsibility to know if we are part of the "at risk" population, and our decision to assume the risk of working with others. It is not the responsibility of our employer to hide us in a cocoon away from all harm. Our country promises freedom and opportunity. With believing in taking a life after birth. It's such freedom comes great responsibility. The opportunities we choose always come with risk. The choice is our decision and it yet he did. is our responsibility to shoulder the risk.

A voter told me the general populace A voter told me the general populace has bought into the lies of the environmentalists and we should simply let them live with the truth. A snapshot of the blackouts California has shows us where this leads. As a state and as a nation, I don't believe any of us want the California model to be our future. However, this may well be our future. You see, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. The silent majority apparently chooses complacency and to be led by the nose ring like a bull to slaughter.

We are losing our Montana values! **)** • Specific examples given were HB146 and SB354. HB146 was to stop sanctuary cities in Montana. "We are for legal immigration. We want law abiding citizens in Montana." This is straight forward, yet most Democrats voted against the bill and Bullock vetoed the bill.SB354, "Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act," speaks for itself. One lady stated it best, "Once a baby is born 'choice' no longer exists." I didn't find one person unimaginable that Governor Bullock would even think about vetoing this bill,



KATHY KELKER

Political party: Democrat **Place of birth:** Cleveland, vation Voters Ohio

Home: Billings

and non-profit director

Family: Paul H. Kelker, MD (husband); Stephen, Matt, Sara d.) Web page: https:// (Ron), and Christopher (adult children).

Education: Bachelor's in English summa cum laude (Hiram approach is to look at reductions College); master's in special edu- in services. But relying solely cation with high honors (MSUB); on widespread budget cuts will

special ed (MSU Bozeman)

Past employment: Program coordinator, shared ministry, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd; executive director of Billings Head Start, Inc.; assistant professor of special education, MSU-Billings; executive director of Parents, Let's Unite for Kids.

Military: N/A

Political experience: Billings Public Schools trustee (1983-1993, 2000-2006); legislator HD 47, 2014-16, 2016-2018, 2018-2020

Endorsements: AFL-CIO; Sportsmen Alliance; Billings Education Assoc.; Montana Conser-

Ways voters can contact you: a.) Email: Kathy.Kelker@mtleg.gov Occupation: Retired teacher b.) Address: P.O. Box 20254, Billings, 59104-1535

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As the Legislature faces **I** • shortfalls in revenue, the easy

EdD adult ed with specialization in harm residents and businesses ity care, and the loss of income to tween 2028 and 2043. Of course, that need immediate assistance. rural critical care hospitals could In addition, severe cuts could re-result in closing their doors. duce demand in the economy and potentially prolong the state's **3.** Understandably, business and cuseconomic recovery. Instead of tomers are concerned about pousing spending cuts exclusively, tential liabilities as businesses needs to prepare the economy for a better approach is to balance open up and employees return to a number of strategies; such as, seeking efficiencies, using all available resources (federal dollars), scrutinizing spending, improving collections, prioritizing basic services, raising some fees or taxes, and paying attention to how choices affect the recovery.

> If the federal government ∠ stopped paying 90% of the Medicaid Expansion cost, the Legislature could not pick up that cost-about \$600 million per year. Nearly one in 10 Montanans would no longer have health insurance. For patients, this would mean limited access to preventative care and treatment for chronic illnesses. For the state's economy, jobs and between \$385 million in income annually. Clinics and hospitals would see a rise in char-

business work. General liability insurance policies cover illnesses, but do require businesses to take proper precautions. To be safe, businesses should strive to follow public health guidelines. In Billings we are fortunate the Chamber of Commerce took the lead in developing Open and Safe Business Restart that provides information for implementing COVID-19 guidelines. Particularly helpful are suggestions for safety measures for businesses in the same industry. I don't think the legislature needs to interfere with local projects that are helping businesses recover.

The economic impacts of The economic impacts decline in coal production it would result in a loss of 7.500 are significant. A study by University of Montana indicates the state would lose 3,000 jobs and \$80 million in revenues yearly be-

in the near future there will be demand for coal in the U.S. and Asia, but that is predicted to diminish as nations move away from carbonemitting coal. The Legislature reductions in coal exports and to support other energy sources, including natural gas and renewable energy resources like wind, solar, small hydro, and low-emission biomass.

The cost of prescription drugs. The reason medications are so expensive is that the United States has no government panel negotiating drug prices. There are thousands of health insurance plans. Each plan has to negotiate separately its price with drugmakers. One avenue to reduce cost is to identify the role pharmacy benefits managers play. PBMs negotiate price discounts from retail pharmacies and rebates from pharmaceutical manufacturers. I have a bill requiring PBMs operating in Montana to provide an annual report of how drug rebates are shared with patients.

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PAID FOR BY FLEMING FOR LEGISLATURE 626 SOUTH 38TH STREET WEST #22, BILLINGS, MT 59102 REPUBLICAN





LEIGH VERRILL-RHYS

Political party: Republican Place of birth: Lewiston,

Maine

Home: Billings

Occupation: Writer, website developer, chief finance officer

Family: Husband: three sons: six grandchildren

Education: Master's degree, post-grad business marketing and finance

Past employment: Currently employed by Stock Market Analyst & Newsletter Publication

Military: N/A **Political experience:** N/A **Endorsements:** N/A

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c.) Phone number:

d.) Web page: https://leighformontana.com/contact/

Because Montana's Consti- tution requires a balanced budget, shifting costs to reserve funding is one way of meeting the constitutional obligation of the state legislature. Under the circumstances of the COVID-19 impact on the state's economy, it is the responsibility of the legislature to make adjustments to spending but not necessarily at the expense of fiscal reserves. As a homeowner

and employee, I also must make such adjustments though obviously on a much smaller scale. I see no reason for state government to shirk its fiscal responsibility, once again putting the onus on the taxpayer. Montana's Constitution requires a balanced budget.

Medicaid expansion is an exprogram gone wild. Like government-run/taxpayer-funded Healthcare, there is no will or mechanism to prevent a continuance in expansion to cover the customers take responsibility for cern about the increase in drug needs of an ever-increasing populace that embraces dependency. During my years living overseas, I experienced a system of socialized medicine which sometimes led to delays in treatment, occasionally denial of service as well as the deterioration of personal responsibility. Cost to Montana taxpayers ing out of fossil fuel production of Medicaid is \$1.9 Billion per year, with no limit to the programs that are/will be included. A free society cannot afford to fund healthcare for the able-bodied.

3. Montana cannot have a robust economy without employers' ability to open their businesses. Personal responsibility plays a significant role in the health and well-being of all individuals. Exemption from liability should not exclude responsibility on the part of all participants in transactions in which there is social contact. If employers provide protections for employees, employees take responsibility for their own safety and that of customers, and their own and others' safety, there should be no need for exemption from liability. We cannot always depend on the best behavior of others, employers and employees

should be granted protections. Montana's natural resources are this state's treasure. Pullwould be a foolish step based on the highly contentious opinion that such resources are contributing to an equally contentious theory of CO2 causing "existential"

damage to Earth's environment.

Montana coal, oil, and gas generated \$250 million in local and state tax revenue in 2018. Wind generated about \$8.5 million in local tax revenue. Pressuring Washington state to open their coal ports under the commerce clause as they are prohibiting interstate and international commerce by closing ports to coal exports is one answer.

5 Many of the voters I have spoken with in Montana House District 48 have expressed conaddiction in conjunction with homelessness and their impact on the quality of life of other citizens. Currently, Billings' City Council seems to be following the example of cities that assist addicts by providing "safe" injection sites and turn a blind eye on the homeless population instead of confronting the underlying causes of both as well as drug dealing and trafficking which, in turn, cause the increasing levels of property and violent crime.

HOUSE DISTRICT 48



JESSICA KARJALA

Political party: Democrat Place of birth: Denver, Colorado; raised in Geyser, Montana **Home:** Billings

Occupation: Legislator, consultant, volunteer

Family: Husband, Jon Kosovich; daughters, Kaitlin Baretta and Josie Baretta; stepsons, Caden Kosovich, Jarek Kosovich and Bowen Kosovich; grandson, Stan-

ley Medlinsky

Education: Bachelor's degree in English literature, University of Montana; minor curriculum Spanish and nonprofit administration

Past employment: Advocate and benefits planner, residential property business owner, marketing director, finance and investment

Military: N/A

Political experience: Montana House of Representatives 2015-current; campaign volunteer; Move On volunteer; founder local chapter Coffee Party

Endorsements: Montana AFL-CIO - American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, MFPE - Montana Federation of Public Employees, Montana Rural Voters, Montana 55+ Action Fund, BEA - Billings Education Association, Montana Sportsmen's Alliance, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Billings Association of Realtors, Local 30 Pipefitters Union, Carol's List, MCV - Montana Conservation Voters

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I don't support increasing tax-• es, nor do I support a flat sales tax. However, because Montana already runs one of the leanest governments in the US and because the 2017 session proved we cannot cut further without risking peoples' lives, we must develop new sources of revenue and diverpeople from out of state who come to Montana for travel and/or to purchase a second home and tapping into app and web economies and legalizing and taxing marijuana, we can stem any potential shortfalls and avoid harming the hard working people of Montana.

Montana Medicaid Expansion has proven to be incredibly popular because lives, jobs and

many Montana industries depend upon it. The bottom line is that if federal funding for Medicaid Expansion is lost, we cannot make up for the loss of funding at the continue to fight Northwest Enstate level. Montana simply does not have enough taxpayers as it is to sufficiently funds services and programs within our current tax system and unless we were to dramatically overhaul our entire system we would not be able to make our environment and our health up for the loss of federal funding to sustain Medicaid Expansion.

We do not allow businesses **→** and/or employers immunity from liability for other forms of safety and life-threatening practices so we should not approach covid-19 sify revenue collection. By taxing any differently. If the refineries can follow far more burdensome safety requirements to keep their workers alive and safe from fire, deadly gases and toxins, then other businesses can certainly require masks and social distancing. It is not difficult and the sooner and more thoroughly we follow the guidelines the sooner we can get back to normal. Thank you to all who have followed and enforced the Governor's safety protocols.

The legislature should sup-+•port sustainable, clean energy like wind, solar, and hydro and implement net metering and ergy's attempt to monopolize and prioritize their shareholders at the expense of Montana's utility rate payers. Two years of record setting California fire seasons have proven climate change is destroying and it will continue to get worse until we change to more environmentally friendly, sustainable, and cost-effective sources of energy.

Diabetes is a growing prob-• lem in Montana with children the fastest growing demographic at risk for Type 2 diabetes. At the same time Insulin prices have been skyrocketing and during a pandemic and growing economic hardship, they are creating an even bigger burden for those who rely on it to stay alive and healthy. That's why I am working with the American Diabetes Association and other statewide stakeholders to pass legislation that would cap out of pocket costs for insulin at \$35 in the state of Montana.

OUR FAMILIES

- Affordable health care for all Montanans
- · Access to comprehensive and affordable mental health care
- Working toward solutions for all missing and murdered indigenous people

OUR FUTURE

- Affordable childcare
- · Putting our schools first
- · Ending the opioid and meth epidemics
- Empowering those in poverty by building a stronger economy

OUR MONTANA

- Protecting public lands
- Keeping the environment healthy
- Supporting workers' rights and small businesses

Please contact me to learn more! Paid for by Hannah Olson for Montana, Democrat PO Box 30901, Billings, MT 59107 hannah@hannahformontana.com @hannahformontana www.hannahformontana.com





EMMA KERR-CARPENTER

Political party: Democrat Place of birth: Watertown, New York

Home: Billings **Occupation:** Sales

Family: Dan Cohn (spouse)

Education: Bachelor's in religion and bachelor's in international relations from **Boston University**

Past employment: Community education coordinator at Youth Dynamics

Military: N/A

Political experience: Legislator for House District 49, 2019

Endorsements: Carol's List; Montana Conservation Voters; Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen; Montana AFL-CIO; Montana Rural Voters Action Fund; Montana Federation of Public Employees PAC

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Montana may be luckier than many **1** • states in that our projected revenue shortfall is going to be much smaller than many states. That said, legislators are going

unless the federal government provides relief for state and local budgets. Our state budget is already very lean, especially after the 2017 session. Further cuts should be a method of last resort after the legislature has utilized all possible funds from special revenue accounts, made internal loans, and reduced revenue expenditures (i.e. tax credits).

2. ten Montanans during the middle Eliminating healthcare for one in of a global pandemic and deep recession would be a cruel and ugly outcome that I hope does not happen. Many rural hospitals would disappear practically overnight leaving much of Montana without adequate medical facilities. I would work to preserve healthcare for as many Montanans as possible. This would involve shifting some portion of the expansion population over to regular Medicaid and partnering with the healthcare industry, private insurance industry, and Montana employers to find an affordable high quality healthcare option for everyone else.

3. Protecting worker health and safety is of the upmost importance to me. No one should be forced to work in conditions that endanger their health. Forcing sick employees to work endangers the health of employees and everyone else in our community. The best thing we can do for our businesses to have to get creative with existing funds is work to end the pandemic quickly. I would

support liability protections for businesses that follow all public health recommendations. This includes requiring proper mask usage for all employees and customers, not forcing sick employees to work, and refusing service to customers who refuse to follow public health guidelines.

Montana should create good jobs

• in new energy industries that keep
families healthy and don't worsen climate change. Montana's transmission infrastructure will ensure it remains an electricity exporter, but we cannot force other states to buy types of energy that they don't want. Incentivizing investments in solar and wind power will create new high paying jobs. Meanwhile, miners should be offered jobs in mine reclamation, paid training in their choice of industry, and compensation if their new wage is lower. We also can't weaken laws requiring mine cleanup: this won't save coal and would saddle us with polluted, unusable land.

Rising property taxes and the way this squeezes folks on fixed incomes is a constant concern of my constituents. In the short term, I am working on a tax bill to provide relief for individuals without impacting the budget of local communities. In the longer term, I will work with colleagues in the legislature to give local communities more tools for raising revenue such as local option authority.

${f HOUSE}$ DISTRICT ${f 50}$



MALLERIE STROMSWOLD

Political party: Republican **Place of birth:** Billings

Home: Billings

Occupation: Student

Family: Single

Education: Student at Penn State online

Past employment: Nanny

Military: N/A

Political experience: Volunteering for political campaigns, voter registration, House Page in 2019 session for Representative Bill Mercer, Republican nominee for House District 50 Billings.

Endorsements: Young Americans For Liberty, Rated A+ NRA, Montanans For Limited Government

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d.) Web page: www.malleriestromswold.

As a legislator, I will not support a tax **⊥**•increase. All governments struggle with

waste fraud and abuse. Surely there are places to reduce spending in antiquated programs that we no longer need. In addition, a COVID-19 lawsuits assuming willful misrecent audit of Montana Medicaid found \$80-\$150 million of questionable costs. These should be eliminated immediately. Businesses need to make cuts in spending during hard times. Why can't the government? I do not support cutting legitimate spending for the most vulnerable Montanans including the mentally ill, disabled, children, and the elderly.

Medicaid expansion is approximately ∠•a \$1.6 billion program in Montana of which 10% is state funds. It would be impossible to fund this program within our state's budget. Therefore, we need to look at alternatives. There are thousands of people on Medicaid expansion that are able-bodied, single adults. Single moms with children would have a much higher need for Medicaid than able-bodied adults. Traditionally, Medicaid covered the vulnerable, pregnant mothers, the mentally ill, children, and the elderly. If we had to make cuts in our programs, I would support the vulnerable over able-bodied adults.

3. I would support reasonable legislation that would protect businesses from conduct, reckless or intentional harm by the business owner are excluded.

4 Montana generated \$250 million in tax revenue from coal, oil, and gas in 2018. To get out of the energy business would be imprudent. In order to protect our energy security and the revenue and jobs that natural resources produce, we must keep Colstrip and legally pressure the state of Washington to allow the development of coal ports so Montana can export its coal. I would also support pressuring our Washington delegation to designate the Colstrip power plants as essential to national secu-

An issue that Montanans care about and **)**• has been brought up to me while speaking with constituents has been the issue of public lands. Even though most Montanan's push for access, we still have legislators trying to limit this access in a multitude of ways. If elected, I will fight for our public lands and vote against any bill that may threaten our access or use of them.



JADE BAHR

Political party: Democrat **Place of birth:** Crow Agency

Home: South Side Billings (I live in my dis-

Occupation: Vocational specialist for adults with disability

Family: Two cats, a wonderful mother and dear brother.

Education: Bachelor's degree in sociology w/emphasis in inequalities and social justice

Past employment: Program assistant for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Missoula Parks and Rec., New Day, inc. group home and day facil-

Military: N/A

Political experience: Served in the 2019 legislative session.

Endorsements: AFL-CIO, MFPE, BEA, MCV, MT Rural Voters, MT 55+, Future Now, SMART Transportation Union, Human Right's Campaign, Emily's List, Carol's List, Planned Parenthood.

Ways voters can contact you:

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The effects of COVID-19 will have long **⊥**•lasting effects on Montanans and our economy. The pandemic has shown who the real essential workers are. It is not us politicians and CEOs sitting behind our desks. Our actually providing services to meet our basic human needs. The pandemic has shown that best protects people in times of crisis. We must look back on where we lacked in meeting these needs and decide how to shape our budget from there.

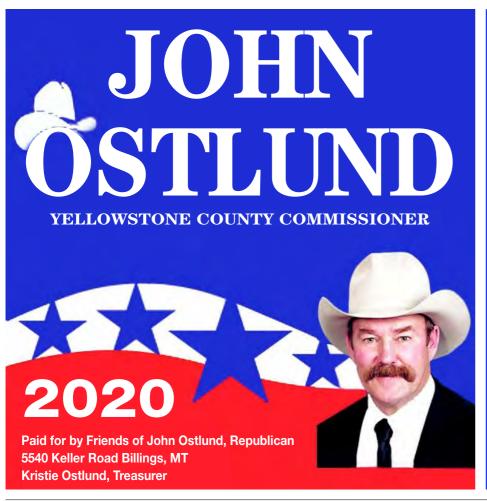
If federal funding ended for Medicaid, I 2. would view this as a crisis for Montanans. This would mean working with other concerned legislators, providers and organizations to identify our options we must do to maintain healthcare for our people. The fact of the matter is that most individuals on Medicaid who can work are working and those who are not, simply cannot. Taking away their healthcare would not only impact the health of the future of Montana.

3 Balancing interests of businesses and the public is usually what everything comes down to. In the legislature, it is hard to say how one would vote until the bill is right in front of something we think can be effective.

you and you have heard the varying perspectives from the different stakeholders. What we can probably agree on is that we want our community to succeed and we want to come to an agreement that best avoid the most damagfrontline, on-the-ground workers are the ones in gaffects to businesses and to public health.

We are witnessing a trend in the country We are witnessing a trend in the course and world to divest from coal. As a state, that we currently do not operate in such a way I would view it wise for us to do our best to prepare for such an event. The longer we hang onto this form of energy consumption the less time we have in properly transitioning to a new one. There are individuals and families currently depending on the jobs generated by this sector and they should absolutely be taken care of during this transition. It will not be perfect or easy, but I am ready to reimagine a Montana leading the way in energy innova-

One constituent recently reached out to • me because they felt there are still gaps in how we deal with our Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. I then helped to direct our Montanans but also our economy. This, on them to the avenues currently reviewing these top of the impacts of COVID, is detrimental to criminal and judicial processes to better prepare and hammer down specifics for the coming session. I plan to continue to do my best in working with individuals, organizations and other fellow supportive legislators on passing



RYAN THOMSEN FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 54

As someone who was born in Montana and has spent the majority of my life here, I recognize the importance of safeguarding our beautiful state for generations to come.

EDUCATION – I believe in making sure that our kids get the education they need and deserve.

The current funding mechanism is antiquated and needs to be revised.

SENIOR CITIZENS – Seniors are the heartbeat of our state and must be taken care of. We need to make sure that social security and senior programs are safeguarded and cannot be touched.

MENTAL HEALTH – We must provide more resources toward mental health to ensure that we live in a safe state.



Go to www.rt4mt.com

to find out more about me or you can reach me on Facebook.

Vote Ryan Thomsen for HD54

Paid for by Ryan Thomsen, PO Box 20554, Billings, MT 59104 • Democrat

15



FRANK FLEMING

Political party: Republican **Place of birth:** Great Falls, Montana

Home: 626 South 38th Street West #22 Billings

Occupation: Retired Chief United States Probation Officer and retired manager of Billings Job Service

Family: Scott Fleming, son

Education: Bachelor's degree in education with a minor in political science from MSU-Billings. Master's degree in education with an emphasis in public administration from MSU-Billings. Threeyear Leadership Development Program from Administrative Office of United States Courts, Washington D.C.

Past employment: Chief United States Probation Officer and retired manager of Billings Job Service

Military: None

Political experience: 2018 elected representative for HD 51; 2017 appointed by Yellowstone County Commissioner to fill unexpired HD51 term of Adam Rosendale: 2016 campaign manager for Jimmy Patelis successful election to HD52; past executive board member for Alternatives Inc; past board president for Billings Employer Committee; past state president of the Montana Correctional Association; four

Association; Montana Shooting and Sports Association; Montana Family Foundation; Montanans Montana Farm Bureau

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com

Street West #22, Billings, Montana 59102

c.) Phone number: (406)652-6673

d.) Web page: frankflemingformontana.org

I will not support tax in-• creases. We can not continue to tax the citizens of Montana out of difficult times. We need prudent fiscal spending by our state government. There are to many vacant positions in state government that are not being utilized. We need to look at every state agency's vacant positions from a zero-based budget. If the vacant the effects of Covid-19 from to find a solution to this dilemma. years MSU-Billings student senate positions cannot be justified, spreading.

Endorsements: National Rifle they must be cut from the agency's overall budget.

for Limited Government; 2019 A massive fraud of people in the support getting out of the energy rating from United Property Own- program who were not eligible. ers of Montana; 2019 Arating from A significant number of people need to work more closely with receiving Medicaid were not even **Ways voters can contact you:** living in Montana and some not even living in the United States. We need to increase stringent b.) Address: 626 South 38TH monitoring of eligibility requirements for this program. Privation of health care has proven more effective then state operated programs. This provides more competition among providers which that I hear from my constituleads to lower prices.

> Making businesses liable **).** due to spread of Covid-19 makes no sense. There are protocols in place that businesses and citizens should be following. I would vote against liability lawsuits against businesses. We have retired are being priced out need continued education to the of there homes. This is not right, public on Covid-19 and stress individual responsibility to keep

> **4** Montana is dependent on the energy export business. A recent audit of Montana's It generates huge sums of money to our general fund. I would not export business for Montana. We other states primarily Washington and Oregon to ensure we do not have to get out of the coal business altogether. At the same time Montana needs to invest in cleaner energy resources for the future.

> > Property tax increases are **)**• consistently a major issue ents. Every two years there is a new appraisal and it is always at a higher rate. We need to go back to the previous system of a new appraisal done every six years or even 5 years would be reasonable. People particularly those that and I will work tirelessly with other legislators from both sides

HOUSE DISTRICT 51



ANNE GIULIANO

Political party: Democrat **Place of birth:** Massachusetts **Home:** Billings

Occupation: Physician with ings, 1999-2011 Matrix/Radiology Partners; regional president of Matrix.

Family: Married to Jim Lucey, we have three cats.

Education: Bachelor's degree from University of Massachusetts, 1987; Doctor of Medicine from University of Massachusetts, 1993; Surgical internship, University of Massachusetts, 1994; Diagnostic Radiology Residency at the University of Utah, 1998; Fellowship in Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the University of Utah, 1999; Diplomat you: of the American Board of Venous and Lymphatic Medicine 2009; Certified Wound care specialist physician, 2014.

Past employment: Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist with Medical Imaging Associates, Idaho Falls, Idaho (based in Billings), 2012-2018; panel member at St Vincent Wound Healing Center, 2013-2018: Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist with Eastern Radiological Associates, Bill-

Military: N/A Political experience: Candidate for House District 46 in 2018

Endorsements: Federation of Public Employees; Billings Education Association; Montana AFL-CIO; 3.14 Action; Montana Big Sky 55+; Future Now; Carol's List; Emily's List; Montana Conservation Voters; Montana Rural Voters; Planned Parenthood; Doctors in Politics; Montana IBEW 532

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d.) Web page: annegiuliano. com

Crafting the Montana bud-**⊥**•get is a group effort. The answers don't need to be found in only one strategy or another. Cutting government spending or re-allocating taxes are just two ideas and they can be both used in moderation. (As just of state car registrations.) But of viral infection is a very slip-

Montana In the short term, we can and should use state reserves. That's why we have them. But our hallmark for the future should be innovation. Let's look towards investments. Where can we grow Montana? Let's enable our that an infection occurred in industries to thrive.

∠ • it has some important ele-Ways voters can contact ments. It protects your insurance coverage for pre-existing I would rather see torte reform conditions. But more importantly, it returns every Montantan's federal income tax dollars iting COVID-19 based lawsuits. back to Montana to cover the costs of the Medicaid expansion services for our people here. and a wide variety of contracts Without the ACA, the Federal government uses tax dollars for needs wherever they arise (not necessarily Montana). We must proceed with caution and preserve the most important ACA benefits while improving its tected from loss of a single flaws.

Passing legislation to empt businesses from li-Passing legislation to exone example, we could tax out ability from one specific type they need not be our only ideas. pery slope. With our current economy forward.

public health system hampered by overwhelming caseloads of COVID-19 and the presence of general community spread, it would prove exceedingly difficult if not impossible to prove one location or interaction. We The ACA is not perfect, but already have workplace safety laws and organizations such as OSHA which oversee these laws. which limits frivolous lawsuits than a specific law aimed at lim-

In business, having more than one income stream allows for safe business growth. In the energy sector this applies as well. Having more than one source of power and having a diverse range of power sources will allow Montana to be prosource of power generation such as coal. The legislation needs to promote diversity in the energy grid. In turn, this will help generate new jobs and move our



JIMMY PATELIS

Political party: Republican **Place of birth:** No answer

Home: Billings

Occupation: Retired chief U.S. probation officer

Family: Wife, Carin; four children

Education: B.S. society and technology, Montana Tech, Butte

Past Employment: 25 years, U.S. probation officer

Political Experience: Served as House Rep HD-52, 2017-2018; vice chairman: Law and Justice Committee, 2018

Endorsements: NRA; Montana Shooting Sports Association; Montana Farm Bureau; Montana Family Foundation

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Phone: 406-671-9972

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l feel we are going to have a cigar-budget shortfall in 2021 a result of CO-VID-19. This means we are going to have to find money from other resources - one area that we could recoup money would be based on possible fraud in Medicaid expansion. Based on a recent audit on Montana Medic-

addition, we need to run state agencies more efficiently and review ways to spend less. Each of the Republican Land Board seats reduced payroll in 2016 after being elected, except for the Attorney General's Office.

Currently, Medicaid expansion in Currently, Medicaid expansion.

Montana is an \$800 million per year made it is abprogram (\$80 million state funds). It is absurd to think the state will be able to come up with \$720 million per year if the federal government no longer gives Montana the funds. This would be the perfect time to pursue free-market health care solutions which will give the citizens of Montana better choices, less expensive options, and more freedom. Currently, the federal government is \$26 trillion in debt. Because Montana Medicaid costs have grown 437% in the last 16 years (27% per year), we are on an unsustainable path.

3. Small businesses and health care providers should receive immunity from I feel we are going to have a significant liability lawsuits related to the spread of COVID-19. If you are concerned about your health, then stay away from high-risk areas. However, this also protects businesses from people filing a fraudulent claim against them. We all understand we need to be responsible and follow rules. In addition, I

aid, about \$81-152 million is from fraud. In think the law needs to be changed that elected officials (such as County Commissioners) make the decision to shut down local businesses during a pandemic, not one single person who is not elected by the people.

Natural resources are critical to Mon-A natural resources are critical to tana and energy. Montana coal, oil and gas generated \$250 million in local and state tax revenue in 2018. Clearly, Montana has a lot at stake with our natural resource industries in tax revenue and jobs. The state of Montana needs to put legal pressure on the state of Washington to open their coal ports under the Commerce Clause. We should also petition the federal government to make Colstrip a strategic power plant, meaning that it is essential to the power grid reliability for national security interests.

5 One of the major concerns of my constituents that has been relayed to me is from senior citizens. They are very concerned about the continued increase in property taxes. Some are even concerned that they could lose their homes. Some have indicated to me that they have had to borrow money from their children to pay their property taxes. This is not right. I plan on introducing a bill that would lower or cap current property taxes by using money from another revenue stream.



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HANNAH OLSON

Political party: Democrat Place of Birth: Cody, Wyoming (raised in Powell, Wyoming) **Home:** South Billings

Occupation: After losing my job in the non-profit sector as a result of the pandemic, I have returned to waiting tables to support Advocates of Montana; AFL-CIO my family.

Family: My partner, Ben Norberg, and I have a daughter, Vienna, who will be 5 in November.

in public relations, Montana State vision; Human Rights Campaign

University Billings; bachelor's degree in English, Montana State University Billings; Associates formontana.com of Arts in secondary education, Northwest College

Past employment: I have worked in multiple restaurants, coffee shops, bars, and even a taco truck until beginning a career in non-profit development with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County. I have also taught public speaking at MSU Billings and worked with the MSUB Alumni Association.

Military: N/A

Political experience: I am a new candidate with no prior political experience who is ready to go to bat for my community.

Endorsements: Billings Education Association; Montana Federation of Public Employees; Montana 55+ Action Fund; Montana Conservation Voters; Run for Something; Planned Parenthood (American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations; Montana Rural Voters Action Fund; Carol's List; Emily's **Education:** Master's degree List; SMART Transportation Di-

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COVID-19 has caused signifi-**L** • cant harm to Montana's economy and businesses, but it has also caused irreparable harm to Montana's families, and that has to be the priority moving forward. Cuts cannot be made in regards to necessities like education, housing, or Medicaid, and I will never back down on that position. I believe there are ways to restructure the budget through bipartisan efforts in order to generate revenue in new ways, and Montana has got to begin considering those approaches if we are going to progress and provide our communities with the education, public safety, and healthy economies they deserve.

My family and I were among 2. My family and I were among the many Montanans who have benefited from Medicaid and how few of our legislators could use and extraction in Montana or islator who goes to bat for Billings.

for running. There are certainly flaws with the ACA as it stands, but any end to it would be devastating for Montana families and our economy, especially the Billings healthcare community and the thousands of jobs they provide. If federal funding for Montana Medicaid is ever affected, our state must support the program itself.

Workers' Compensation al-**)**•ready exists to cover any health liability, and I don't believe any further protections should be necessary in that regard. Although human lives must take priority, the economic well-being of families and individuals affected by the health of a business is also vital to protecting lives, so a balance must be achieved. With that being said, employers are responsible for doing their part to protect workers and customers by adhering to guidelines set by health experts in order to protect themselves from any additional risks and liabilities resulting from the pandemic.

Although it would be detri-mental to our economy and the expansion, and discovering unrealistic to halt all fossil fuel

Ways voters can contact you: relate to that is part of my reason in the United States immediately, it is definitely possible—even crucial-that we begin to transition to renewable energy sources. We have resources here in Montana that could provide jobs, enrich our economy, and preserve our beautiful state if we could find solutions that achieved clean and renewable energy sources. Further, there is significant potential for savings for businesses and homeowners through the investment of alternative energy like wind, solar, etc.

One major concern of my • neighbors and constituents is that residents of Billings feel they are not receiving their fair share of funding compared to other Montana cities. Our schools are shorted through the existing student funding formula; we aren't receiving adequate funding for public safety, even with the disproportionate number of individuals in pre-release and violent/ sexual offenders that are sent to Billings. Voters are also concerned with how little gaming revenue is returned to our community after what is generated. I have given them my word that I will be a leg-

HOUSE DISTRICT 54



RYAN THOMSEN **Political party:** Democrat Place of birth: Billings **Home:** Billings Occupation: Realtor Family: Wife and two dogs

College in Virginia

Past employment: Realtor for 18 years

Military: N/A

Political experience: N/A **Endorsements:** Montana Federation of Public Employees;

Montana 55+ Action Fund Ways voters can contact you:

a.) Email: rtformt@gmail.com b.) Address: PO Box 20554 Billings, Montana 59104

c.) Phone number: 406-672-

d.) Web page: www.rt4mt.com Covid has caused so much . • of the "unknown" and this includes our upcoming Montana Budget. According to the Governor we have enough in the funding reserve to cover the loss, and not lose any programs in the process. The current funding re-

Education: Attended Ferrum serve was due to the legislature the healthcare industry in Montransition won't be done overnight and Governor coming together in a bipartisan way to balance the budget and have a reserve fund. The incoming legislature should continue to work together to balance the budget, and continue to make smart investments so we always have a reserve fund to retain programs that are so important to the people of Montana.

Roughly 90,000 Montanans have enrolled in the expanded program. Montana's health care businesses benefit from Medicaid expansion spending. Explain the outcome of your decision on both Medicaid patients and the health care industry. 90,0000 Montana families without health care should concern ALL of us. If the Supreme Court cities/markets that bought coal, strips federal funding for Medicaid this would be a huge blow to

tana. Medicaid is responsible for over 4,000 jobs, and almost half of those jobs are in Billings, not only would this be damaging to our health care system but this would impact our economy greatly.

There is still so much we **).** don't know about covid. We need to make sure that businesses are following the health guidelines from the Governor and local a legislator I will advocate for health officials to protect their more resources given to menemployees at all cost. Workers compensation will continue to protect business owners who are acting responsibly to protect their employees.

Montana can sen clean to newable energy to the same Montana can sell clean remost big markets/cities are transitioning to renewable energy. This tana.

and we should continue to support our historic coal producers and communities. Renewable energy can provide skilled good paying jobs, will make the electric grids more effective, and will help lower energy bills.

5. After knocking on hundreds of doors in Yellowstone County the one issue that keeps coming up is Mental Health. As tal health. The constituents I'm talking to are concerned to go downtown and walk to and from their car for dinner, and its pretty apparent mental health is big problem in our downtown district. I would advocate for addiction and mental health programs for our most vulnerable in Mon-

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SOURCES

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TERRY MOORE

Political party: Republican Home: Billings

Occupation: President foundation

Family: Wife, Tena; three children, five grandsons

Education: Bachelor's degree, Montana State University, Business-Accounting Option

Past employment: 35 years, chief financial officer of First Interstate Bank; five years, manager of KPMG

Military: N/A

Political experience: Served Montana State House District 54 2019-2020; Appointed as board member of Montana Board of Investments 2002-2010

Endorsements: N/A

Ways voters can contact you:

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d.) Web page: Facebook: Terry-MooreforMontana

Burning through the state's **1** • reserves without taking action now, is poor leadership. As we consider reducing expenditures by the state, the primary focus needs to be reducing bureaucracy before reducing services. Montana citizens and businesses have had to adjust to economic weakness and it is only fair that state government participates in the slowdown as well. It is not reasonable to increase the tax burden on Montana citizens and businesses at a time when they're struggling. There are ample opportunities throughout the budget to make reasonable, measured, thoughtful reductions to expenditures.

This is an unlikely scenario. • However, this demonstrates the risk of joining in a Federal program believing there are few risks or costs. Montanans voted down extending Medicaid Expansion two years ago on I-185. In this theoretical scenario, taxes would have to increase roughly 30% across the board to provide for the lack of Federal funding. However, this theoretical situation would provide the opportunity to ad-

dress much needed expanded free export energy. Seeking cleaner market options for health care to reduce health care costs across the board.

Personal responsibility is **)**• critical to addressing far more growth. If some states don't want than the pandemic issues. We don't need businesses, including nonprofits, having legal liability hanging over their head if individuals are not acting responsibly. As long as businesses use reasonable an's are not living in fear but are measures to protect the public, they should not be held liable. We available and adequate to provide should govern ourselves by electing leaders who are accountable to protect and honor our freeto us. This would be a clear step toward the freedoms Montanan's have cherished for generations.

Montana is the Treasure State for good reason. We have enormous natural resources, including gas, oil and coal which provide over \$250 million per year in state and local tax revenue and create many jobs. Rather than abandon these resources, we must seek opportunities to capture and

burning of coal and lower costs to produce energy will help Montanan's lower taxes and energy costs, both of which spur economic our energy generation today, others will eventually come looking for stable, low cost energy.

5 First is public safety. We must ensure that all Montanconfident that law enforcement is public safety. Second, we need doms of religion, speech, press, petition and assembly. Third, it's time to focus on decreasing bureaucracy, seeking increased efficiencies so that the government is serving the people. Ronald Reagan shared in his 1988 farewell address that "There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: as government expands, liberty contracts."

HOUSE DISTRICT 58



BETSY SCANLIN

Political party: Democrat Place of birth: New Ulm, you: Minnesota (literally on the way to Montana from Maine); raised in Red Lodge

Home: Red Lodge **Occupation:** Retired

Anderson; daughter, Jessamin House District 58

Anderson; son and daughter-inlaw, Jasper and Ketti Anderson; brothers, Tom and Steve; sister, Carolyn; Parents, Rev. Donald and Millicent Scanlin, are de-

Education: Bachelor's degree English and journalism, University of Montana; Law degree, UM School of Law.

Past employment: Water and City Planning government agencies; private civil law practice; City of Red Lodge (mayor)

Military: None; brother is a Navy Reserve hospital corpsman

Political experience: Mayor and City Council Representative, Red Lodge

Endorsements: General sup-

Ways voters can contact

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b.) Address: N/A

c.) Phone number: N/A

d.) Web page: BetsyforMon-Family: Husband, Jeffrey tana.com; Facebook: Scanlin for

1 • drop in state revenue due to COVID-19, I would first review the actual revenue received and the reserves available, with credit to Governor Bullock for the foresight to assure that we have the reserves that are available. In addition, a good part of the \$100 million funds set aside for firefighting in 2020 may be available for other uses in 2021. Generally, I would avoid both tax increases or cuts to services. If cuts are necessary, I would particularly avoid cuts to social services, as COVID has increased the need for them.

If federal funding for Medic-• aid expansion were undone, the 90,000 Montana residents currently covered by it would be without insurance once again, putting the burden of covering their costs on those who are insured. Not only has Montana's expansion of Medicaid prevented this, but it has assured that our local health care services such have other tremendous energy as Beartooth Billings Clinic and Riverstone Health can continue

To address an anticipated to provide readily accessible and of wind. Battery storage and even affordable service as well as many good jobs for our communities. The onus will be on Congress to remedy this, as states and private coal, will continue to be a siginsurance premium payers realistically cannot.

COVID-19 has presented • many financial challenges to small businesses and health care providers attempting to stay in business and provide care. Due in large part to following state health directives, Montana has been able to keep COVID numbers down. Businesses that take our rural economy. Our district COVID seriously and take measures to prevent spread should be immune from liability; those that don't should assume liability. If and trade wars and inaction by a business doesn't believe in the risk and take measures to deal with it, it should assume the risk and the responsibility that goes along with that.

While traditional demand While traditional demands of for our coal is declining, we recreational use that demands recreations the personnal efforts. potential. "Big Sky" also means to privatize our public lands or "Big Sun," and our valleys are full diminish access and use of them.

water reservoirs that can provide power on demand are evolving. Natural gas, which has replaced nificant source of energy in the state. Our legislature should be open and supportive of industries that can provide clean energy, all the more important as our forests are drying up, we breathe more smoke every year, and our critical water for irrigation drains earlier.

5 My constituents are particularly concerned about has many farmers and ranchers whose markets have been negatively affected by federal tariffs Congress to control captive markets that buy low and sell high, affecting our local producers. They deserve more than promises and subsidies. Our local economy is also supported by tremendous countering the perennial efforts



SETH BERGLEE

Political party: Republican **Place of birth:** Culbertson, Montana

Home: Joliet

Occupation: Self Employed

State University

Past employment: N/A

Military: US Army

Political experience: 3 Term Legislator Endorsements: MT Family Foundation; MT Shooting Sports Association; NRA

Ways voters can contact you:

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Increasing taxes to overcome the Gov-• ernors poor leadership is the wrong answer. To start, the Governor should immediately distribute the emergency funds he is holding onto so Montanans can stay in business and produce taxable revenue. Freezing raises and new hires, and electable unpaid time off could also add up over time. We have worked hard to keep reserve

money will have to be replaced at some point for future unforeseen issues. I do not think the state should be insulated from negative effects on the backs of our already reeling taxpayers.

This was a major reason I have voted Family: Single

Education: Bachelor's degree, Ohio

Local against Medicaid expansion for my entire time in the Legislature. We have hear arguing that this is not sustainable been arguing that this is not sustainable since it was first proposed. If we did end up bearing the brunt of the cost, I would prioritize the funding to the neediest individuals and support a phase out of the funding over a period of time. We need to make healthcare more affordable by eliminating needless government interference and give individuals more control over their personal healthcare decisions. More options and increased transparency are good places to start.

3. I would support some form of minute nity. The Executive effectively has im-I would support some form of immumunity for any negative fallout from his decisions regarding Covid-19. Our economy has been hit much harder than necessary due to the heavy-handed response of the Governor. We need to allow people to funds available for tough times, but that make their own decisions without fear of

undue repercussions due to arbitrary mandates. This is a complex issue but several states have passed immunity legislation already so we will have some real-world feedback on different approaches and outcomes.

4 • Craze in CA is a disaster to the extent that rolling blackouts are a common occurrence means that reliable coal power is far from dead. I will always support development and sale of coal and any other form of energy as long as it is not propped up by taxpayer funded subsidies.

Questions and concerns regarding **)**• the negative effects of the emergency mandates are by far the most common calls I get. We will be making adjustment to the emergency powers. First, to give local Elected officials more authority to act in the best interests of their communities, and second, to require a higher standard that disallows impeding on the liberties of healthy citizens. We are also meeting ahead of the next legislative session to craft rules that will allow the legislature to have more of a determining voice during a state of emergency.

Jimmy Patelis for Montana House District 52



Jimmy has a long history serving our communities, developing our economy and putting Montana's interests first.

Lower Property Taxes -

Support finding another stream of revenue as a way to reduce property taxes Economy - Committed to eliminating barriers for economic development & fostering a business-friendly environment

Social Security - Support eliminating tax on social security benefits 2nd Amendment Rights - Oppose restrictions on the type of number of firearms any law-abiding citizen may own or possess.

Paid for by Montanans for Jimmy Patelis, 6312 Gray Hawk Way, Billings, MT 59106 - Republican

Learn more about where I stand at jimmypatelis.com

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DAN VERMILLION

Political party: Democrat **Place of birth:** Boston, Massachusetts **Home:** Park County

Occupation: Business Owner, Sweetwater Travel Company, Livingston

Charlie, Ben and Chase

Education: JD, University of Montana, 1996; BA, American University, Washington, D.C., 1989; Billings Senior High, 1985

Past employment: Sweetwater Travel Company since 1998

Military: N/A

Political experience: Fish and Wildlife Commissioner, 2007 to 2019; Candidate, MT SD 30, 2018 (Unsuccessful)

Endorsements: Montana Sportsmen Alliance; Montana Federation of Public Employees; Planned Parenthood of Montana

Ways voters can contact you:

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 - c.) Phone number: 406-222-0624

COVID-19 has hurt Montana's econo-**▲**•my. Montana's Legislative Fiscal Division projects a 13% drop in revenue to the state general fund this fiscal year, while economists don't expect a return to prepandemic growth levels until 2022. The current governor has suggested that reserve funding can cover the loss, though Republican leaders have called for budget cuts.

We cannot allow for 90,000 Montan-

Family: Wife Lynn Donaldson; children Republican war on the ACA. Losing 90,000 insured Montanans from the rolls will have and our healthcare providers. Legislators will need to act quickly to protect Montanan's access to healthcare our and this fill this funding gap for our caregivers. Sadly, the legislature will be dependent upon funding from Congress if ACA is overturned. If the US Senate Republicans continue to offer no solution, Montana's legislature will need to act to protect Montanans.

> Limited liability should not be an invi-**5.** tation for businesses to be careless regarding the risk of infection. Any liability relief must be balanced with a business' responsibility to operate in as a safe a manner as possible. So, yes, I would offer liability protection but would also require that businesses do their best to keep their customers and their employees as safe as possible. In the end, the best thing we can do to get businesses back up and running is to beat this pandemic through mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing. Until people are safe, our economy and our communities will not get back to normal.

The legislature must stop blaming 4. Oregon, Washington, and President We cannot allow for 90,000 Montan-ans to lose health insurance due to the Obama for the challenges faced by the Coal

industry. Instead, it should acknowledge that, in a free market, no industry can rea devastating impact on our state's citizens main insulated from the demands of its customers. If there is no demand for your product, you must figure out how to adapt to reflect the new demands of its customers. So, the legislature should work with the Colstrip, Decker, and other communities affected by the slump in coal demand to create new economic opportunities for the communities of southeast MT. This will be attracting new industries and investing in technologies that make coal appealing again to Montana coal's customers. Subsidizing coal is a short term solution to a much longer term challenge.

Most of the folks I speak with are re-**)**• ally concerned about the lack of civility in our communities right now. Montanans pride themselves on being one large family. Much like the families that find their family dinners strained because of political differences, Montana's family is having a hard time right now getting along as well. If I am elected, I will work together with legislators, businesses, and community members of all political persuasions. We all love Montana. Montana's future depends upon our working together to solve the challenges that face us.

HOUSE DISTRICT 60



LAURIE BISHOP

Political party: Democrat **Place of birth:** Rochester, New York Home: Livingston

Occupation: Director, Montana Afterschool Alliance

Family: Married to husband Storrs for 28 years; three children aged 16, 20 and 23

Education: BA Sociology, Syracuse University

Past employment: 2015 - 2016 Graduation Matters Montana Coach, Office of Public Instruction; 2007 - 2015 Executive Director, Shift Empowerment Programs (youth development non-profit); 2004-2007 Big Brothers Big Sisters of Park County, Development Director

Military: N/A

Political experience: HD60 Representative 2017 to present, Minority Caucus Chair 2019 to present

Endorsements: MFPE PAC; MT AFL-CIO; MCV; Carol's List

Ways voters can contact you:

- a.) Email: bishopforhd60@gmail.com
- b.) Address: 211 S. Yellowstone St., Livingston, MT 59047
 - c.) Phone number: 406-223-1122

Strong, fiscally prudent Democrat lead-• ership insisted on a robust budget surplus, which has spared Montana from the fiscal crisis that many states are facing. Additionally, revenues have seen surprisingly minimal impact thus far and state government has reduced expenses. While challenges will come, to make harmful cuts before we understand the full complexity of our financial situation, is reckless. The stresses of the pandemic call for the state comment on, but I would be inclined to vote

government to maintain vital services to against a bill that put the interests of busicommunities and constituents. Revenue generation that requires those who can to pay their fair share is the best path forward to protect those who are struggling.

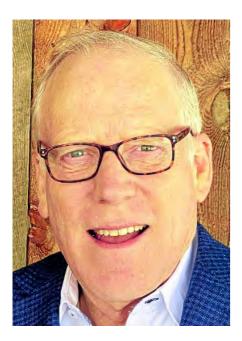
Medicaid Expansion has not only had • a positive impact on the personal outcomes of working Montanans, it has benefited Montana businesses and kept small, rural communities like mine vital. Three out of five businesses in Montana have employees who receive their healthcare through Medicaid Expansion, saving business statewide up to \$1.1 billion per year. Over 3,400 Montanans joined the program between March and July, showing the current pandemic is driving demand. When we consider the return on our investment in a propriate oversight of the Public Service healthy workforce, it becomes clear it's an investment we must maintain.

There is no question that businesses **)**•have faced unusual pressures and demands during the pandemic and we would be wise to consider what state government can do to continue to help them weather this storm. That being said, Montanans are entitled to the certainty that their safety will not be sidelined, whether it's in their workplace or in the settings that are necessary for them to visit. I have not seen specific language to

ness above public health and safety.

4. Montana is poised to play an analytic tant role in meeting the increased Montana is poised to play an imporclean energy demand across the Northwest. The good news is that this new energy generation can spread the positive economic impact across many communities, creating new jobs and increasing the tax base that supports their local infrastructure and services. As we move to a new energy future, Montana policy should keep our state attractive to business development, while protecting utility ratepayers and ensuring clean air and water. This involves considering both the policy and the regulatory landscape, including ap-Commission.

Support for mental and behavioral • health was an important community need when I first ran in 2016. Given the harmful impact in Park County from the tax cuts imposed during the 2017 interim, and the unique challenges posed by the pandemic, this remains a top priority today. I will continue to work on policies and funding that hold the floor under the services and benefits Montanans rely on now, and expand access and affordability into the future.



JOE LAMM

Political party: Republican **Home:** Livingston, MT

Occupation: Consulting Electrical Engineer

Family: Debra Lamm (Spouse)

Education: Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University

Past employment: Self Employed **Military:** N/A

Political experience: Chairman Park County Republican Central Committee

Endorsements: Montana Family Foundation

Ways voters can contact you:

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c.) Phone number: 406-224-1777

d.) Web page: LammForMontana.com

The practice of an automatic budget increase over the previous year's budget must be stopped. Each agency needs to justify their budget request and show the cost of each of the services that they provide. Currently there is no incentive for an agency to reduce wasteful spending and no accountability to the people whose money they are spending. Money saved by proper management of the State agencies should be directly used to reduce property and income taxes.

2 Currently, the State of Montana pays only 10% of the cost of Medicaid Expansion. That means that 90% of the total cost or roughly \$682 Million dollars is paid by the Federal Government through the ACA. Fully implementing the laws introduced by the 2019 Legislature to combat waste, fraud and abuse will help, but the there is no doubt that this would be a significant impact on the State budget.

Obviously, there is a balance between personal responsibility and corporate liability. Businesses that follow State guidelines should not be held liable for the spread of COVID-19.

Coal is Montana's second highest value export, and we have plenty. Montana needs to keep up the pressure on Washington State to allow building of an international coal terminal so we can export our clean burning coal to Asia.

Securing the integrity of Montana's voting system is of key importance. Procedures used in poll voting provide numerous safeguards against fraud. The same is not true of "vote by mail" where unscrupulous actors have figured out how to manipulate the system to change elections. I have worked on election integrity issues as a citizen activist for over 8 years. I helped write the argument FOR the legislative referendum that voters overwhelmingly passed and led to the "Montana Ballot Interference Prevention Act".



You've told me your concerns and I have listened and look forward to continuing to serve you.

RE-ELECT JESSICA KARJALA FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 48

As your Legislator I will continue to

- Support Montana's working families
- Fight for transparency against dark money
- Fight for our hunting and fishing rights and defend our public lands
- Support our Seniors and Veterans
- Support our Public Education System

Learn more about me on Facebook at Jessica-Karjala-for-Montana-Legislature

Paid for by Karjala for HD48 – Democrat, 6125 Masters Boulevard, Billings, MT 59106



STEVE HINEBAUCH

Political party: Republican **Place of birth:** Havre, Montana **Home:** Dawson County

Occupation: Rancher

Family: Wife, Beth; five married children, 17 grandchildren, one grandson-in-law; one great-grand daughter

Education: Graduated High School from Turner, Montana, 1973; graduated Platte Valley Bible College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska in 1977

Past employment: Lifetime rancher **Military:** None

Political experience: Been active in Republican politics since 1980. Current state senator; past senator; past member of MTGOP executive board; past chair of Republican Central Committees in Prairie and Dawson counties; current State Committeeman for Dawson County Republican Central Committee

Endorsements: Montana Family Foundation; Montana Shooting Sports Association; NRA; Montana for Limited Government; Montana Action Committee for Rural Electric; Montana Agriculture PAC

Ways voters can contact you:

- a.) Email: stevehinebauch@midrivers. com
- b.) Address: 610 Road 118 Wibaux, Mt 59353
 - c.) Phone number: 406-365-7967

Without seeing all the numbers and figures, my assumption is whatever is in reserve will not cover the loss of revenue. Raising taxes in a time like this would be the worse thing we could do. I agree with the economists who say if you lower taxes revenue goes up and if you raise taxes revenue goes down. There are lots of ways in government that we can cut budgets and not hurt services. Case in point, Auditor Rosendale cut the budget in the auditor's office 23% and had the most "customer friendly" auditor's office in years.

There are a lot of hypotheticals in this question. And I am reluctant to deal in hypotheticals. That being said, the health-care industry claims Medicaid Expansion only pays for 60% or less than what the procedures cost. When this program started, the Federal Government paid 100%, then dropped to 90%. We know they could drop it whenever they want. Based on these facts and others, I voted against Medicaid Expansion, as did most of Montanans when they voted against I-185.

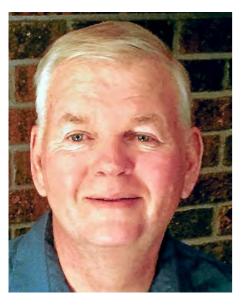
3 It seems like in this day and age people want to be protected from everything and it is impossible to do that. Businesses should be able to operate however they want, within the law. We as Montanans have the option of going to a business or not going to a business. I think it will be fine. Montanans are, for the most part, smart and respectful.

The state is not in the power business.

Businesses in Montana should continue to try and export power. We, as the Legislature, should do everything in our power to enhance it. Sitting here in far eastern Montana breathing the smoke from fires on the west coast we are reminded again of the hypocritical ideas they have. The myth that Colstrip is wrecking our environment is just that—a myth. We live about 130 miles from Colstrip and we never have smelled their smoke. It has been speculated that fifty years of Colstrip smoke equals one day of forest fire smoke.

My constituents overwhelmingly want freedom. Our Founding Fathers fought and died for freedom from regulation and taxes and they had a lot less than we do now. They were passionate about it. I am, too. I will carry bills, co-sign bills, and vote for bills that promote less government and less taxes.

SENATE DISTRICT 18



PAT MISCHEL

Political party: Democrat

Home: Glendive

Occupation: Retired locomotive engineer

Family: Wife, Brenda, of 41 years. Four grown children.

Education: Elementary through Eighth, Glendive Sacred Heart School. Graduate of Dawson County High School. BNSF Technical School – Johnson Community College Topeka, Kansas

Military: None

Political experience: Served three-year term on local school board

Endorsements: Montana Federation of State Employees representing 650 members in Senate District 18.

Montana Rural Voters

Ways voters can contact you:

- a.) Email: pmischel@midrivers.com
- b.) Address: 47 Road 261, Glendive, MT
- c.) Phone number: 406-377-6690
- d.) Web page: www.mischelformontana.

COVID-19 will effect Montana's budget in the short term. Revenues in FY 2021 are projected downward some \$300 million. Governor Bullock is correct in stating we have reserves of \$117.8 million to help reduce any deficits, and a current General budget balance of \$451.7 million. The Montana Legislative Fiscal Division says budget forecasts are becoming more difficult, but project budgets will return to normal in 2022. I will support across the board cuts if needed, and find new sources of revenue in tough years to balance the budget. Summary: Don't Panic in a Pandemic!

To those who are advocating to repeal the ACA, I would say now show us you plan. Millions of Americans, and thousands of Montanan's have no access to health care. Medicaid providers including our hospitals have no way to collect for services. For over a decade myself and others have supported the ACA and Medicaid expansion. It has not been a perfect plan, but it's been there to help people and providers. Where there is no ACA there is no Medicaid expansion.

3. COVID-19 is both a Public Safety and Workplace Safety issue. If a business or health care provider takes steps to equip

their employees with all necessary PPE not to infect each other or the public, the liability can be reduced. What third party would determine the liability? Even if the legislature passed a law, a person would still have the right to civil action.

The legislature should join the Montana Attorney General to maintain our right as a state to export any product, to any customer in the world who wants our product. That is the meaning of Free Trade. The Montana Legislature should urge our US House and Senators to advocate for low sulfur, high BTU Power River Basin Coal. Montana can supply the Midwest with coal, if our coal is not over restricted or if made uncompetitive to lesser grades of coal.

5 Many citizens and groups are concerned with the lack of public information that comes from their representatives. Local governments, school districts, and businesses now hire lobbyist to protect and promote their interest. I would like to urge the Legislature to set aside some time during the week to allow legislator the time to hold public town hall meetings to hear concerns and ideas.



RAE PEPPERS

Political party: Democratic Place of birth: Crow Agency Home: Lame Deer

Occupation: Federal Programs Director, Lame Deer Public Schools

Family: Husband, Jim Peppers; 5 children; 17 grandchildren **Education:** Masters in Com-

munication and Information Systems, B.S. in Business Administration

Past employment: Grants and Contracting Officer, Crow Tribe, 10 Years. Business/Computer Instructor, Chief Dull Knife College, 10 years.

Military: No

Political experience: Served in Montana State House for eight vears from 2013 to 2020.

Endorsements: Emily's List, Carol's List, Montana Rural Voters Action Fund

Ways voters can contact you: a.) Email: badger497@gmail.

b.) Address: PO Box 497, Lame Deer, MT 59043

c.) Phone number: (406) 697-0565

To increase taxes would not To increase takes means this be a good solution during this crisis; the people of Montana are struggling both financially and personally. Montana sits between a rock and a hard place. To cut government services would and has done an injustice to the people of Montana. In 2017 severe budget cuts were made to programs

for the elderly, low income folks and even our veterans. We cannot afford to put our people at risk at this time. Legislators should do a study of each government department; is there vacancy savings? Put a restriction on pet projects, request input from the directors and managers, most of all listen to all the people: not just the base of an elected few. Then we can come to common-sense solutions.

Do we really want to take away 2. healthcare away from 90,000 Montana citizens at a time like this? I think not. Now more than ever, we are also grateful for our rural hospitals which this bill has saved. It is a crucial time for the healthcare industry; they are the heroes, the bread winners of what economy is left. Some industries are profiting, and the state can determine how these industries can support families and victims through offset industries, such as hotels/motels, eateries, funeral homes, trade industries, farms/ ranches, etc.

Can the ACA be declared uncon-

pulled off and our legislators need to roll up their sleeves for all Montanans to find the best solution through legislation and knowledge of the real Montana way of life. This country is not the playground of the rich and famous, it belongs to the people that have farmed, grazed and tilled the land and has been the home of many natives long before it ever became a state.

3. As long as small businesses and healthcare providers offer protection and follow state requirements to protect all people they should not be penalized, but if they refuse to recognize the negative effects of the Covid outbreak then consequences should be applied. After all, they are dependsource of income; should they not make every effort to protect their customers? Businesses should be given tax credits or incentives through legislation to support their efforts to protect their con-

stitutional based on the decision of in Montana do not live or reside of course I will vote No on any and one party? No. Blinders need to be in Montana. They hold the purse every right to work bill.

strings and as with any business they will determine what is best for their company, and that decision is not always good for Montana. Good paying jobs need to be retained while clean Montana air, water and soil should be maintained for future generations. Many are ranchers and farmers, trades people, educators, small business owners; we all have a stake in Montana and how we take that journey down the road for others to follow is up to us. Coal is still viable and cleanup is necessary, but it needs to be balanced through good common-sense solutions.

Jobs! I intend to support **).** Unions and the trade indusing on the public for their main tries because these industries have and will sustain Montana into eternity. I will vote to support funding for the trades; I will always stand with Unions because they protect the working class of this State. I see right to work bills every session and I received 4 Unfortunately, most compa-a 100% on the report card by the AFL-CIO for the 2019 session, so

SENATE DISTRICT 21



JASON D. SMALL

Political party: Republican Place of birth: Hardin Home: Kirby

Occupation:

Boilermaker/ small business owner Family: Wife and two kids

Education: Attended MSU Bozeman, Graduated Sheridan College

Past employment: Construction and Repair industry

Military: N/A

Political experience: One term in the Montana Senate

Endorsements: Montana Shooting Sports Foundation, Montana Farm Bureau, Montana AFL-CIO

Ways voters can contact you: a.) Email: j2thedsmall@gmail.

b.) Address: Hc. 42 Box 674 Busby, MT, 59016

c.) Phone number: 406-690-0923

do some budget transfers/substitutions and redirection of funds. If the Marijuana initiative passes we will gain new revenue streams business then lawsuits should be social services benefiting mental health and addictions. We should also be able to fill in some gaps with Federal Covid money which has been issued to the state. I would think we could salvage most programs with little to no tax increase.

2. The state reasonand, not hope to foot the entire The state realistically canbill for Medicaid expansion and especially in this covid economy without federal participation. I feel our responsibility is to protect the most vulnerable and would support transfers and substitutions to help and maintain service for the most needy participants. The industry itself would be forced to compromise encountered with wind and so-

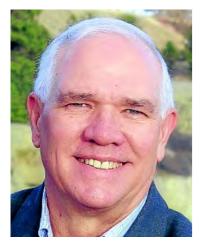
Similar to the 2017 special and adapt and we should gear to-lar. Securing new markets and **1** • session we should be able to wards even more telehealth and remote participation options.

If there is clearly indication at. • of negligence on behalf of the and could also redirect funding to able to proceed, otherwise if the onate on is lack of infrastructure business is fully compliant with covid ordinance they should have legal protection.

The legislature should and enough ognise the programs and en-The legislature should rectities which are supported by coal tax revenues and begin to look for alternative funding sources and all responsible legislature to for those programs and activities. The steps we could take to keep Montana in the export business on the long term would be to build HRSG/Peaker or gas plant generation units to shore up the baseload power going down our pre existing high KV line and allow our customers to have solid electrical service by removing the variability and fluctuations

the ability to export is also a long term strategy I would be looking

5 • my constituents seem to res-One of the primary concerns and the inability to establish and promote small business. I have been actively pursuing expanded internet access and have supported small business start up opportunities at every chance that I've had. I will support any do so.



SCOTT D. PRICE

Political party: Republican Home: Billings, Montana **Occupation:** Physician **Family:** Dianne Price, wife Drive, Billings, MT 59106 (married 40 years); five children; 11 grandchildren

Education: Bachelor degree in Chemical Engineering, Arizona ceMT.com State University, 1980; Doctor of Li think we are taxed enough. Medicine (M.D.), University of LoI would not support a tax in-State University, 1980; Doctor of

Southern California, 1988; Residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, LA Countv-USC Medical Center, 1993; Residency in Internal Medicine, University of California San Francisco, 2015

Past employment: Head and Neck Surgeon at Billings Clinic; Internal Medicine Hospitalist at Saint Vincent's Healthcare

Military: United States Air Force active duty 1993 to 1997, reserve 1997 to 2006

Political experience: None **Endorsements:** Senator Cary Smith, Senator Tom McGillvray, former senator Ed Walker

Ways voters can contact you: a.) Email: ScottPriceforMontana@gmail.com

b.) Address: 2369 Westfield

c.) Phone number: 406-698-

d.) Web page: www.ScottPri-

I think we are taxed enough.

crease. The Montana constitution enrollees. (Example, a single parmandates a balanced budget. Cuts in spending may be necessary. Government agencies may need to make reductions to balance the budget. The government needs to look at means of improving efficiency. Businesses improved efficiency by going online and retailers and restaurants survived by providing take-out and delivery. These changes required fewer staff to deliver the products or services. Government can do more online cost and reach more remote areas.

If the Federal government • withdraws support of Medicaid expansion, Montana alone cannot support the entire cost for the 90,000 new enrollees. Montana would have to look at setting new criteria for eligibility and reduce the number of enrollees and reduce the cost to a level the state can afford. I would work to see that need and merit were used as

ent with two small children would have more need than three single able-bodied adults without children.)

3. I would support the idea that businesses and health care providers should have immunity from liability lawsuits concerning the spread COVID-19. Allowing individuals or governments to sue businesses or healthcare providers over possible issues of spread of COVID-19 would allow a large and improve efficiency, reduce volume of potentially frivolous are of high caliber and do an exand extremely difficult cases to cellent job. Securing public safety prove. The time and money required would be better spent defeating COVID instead of fanning flames of disagreement/dissent.

Individuals can decide for themselves if patronizing a business or utilizing a healthcare provider is in their best interest or worth any potential risk.

4. Montana should not get out of the energy export business. as occurs through town halls, criteria, rather than just absolute Coal, oil and gas production pronumerical reduction in number of vide valuable jobs to citizens and etc.

important revenue to the state.

Washington hydroelectric dams have decimated the salmon and steelhead populations that historically swam up the Columbia and Snake River system to spawn in neighboring states. Montana has done more to mitigate harmful effects of coal emissions than Washington has done to mitigate the effects of hydroelectric dams on ecology.

My constituents and I feel lo-**)**•cal law enforcement officials and maintaining law and order are among the most basic services governments provide. Law enforcement needs our support in order to continue to protect us. I would ensure that officers continue to receive proper training and I would foster quality dialog and interaction between law en-Montana should not get out of forcement and the public, such Neighborhood Watch programs,

SENATE DISTRICT 25



JEN GROSS

Political party: Democrat Place of birth: Billings Home: Billings

Occupation: Casino attendant, 406 Kitchen & Taproom

Family: Father, Buck Gross, Minneapolis. Late mother, Cyndi Gross, deceased. Brother, Tyler Gross, Billings. Sister, Stephanie Ferguson, Billings. Nieces, Bella and McKinzev Ferguson, Evee Gross and Lennon Gross. Nephew, Charlee Gross.

Education: Billings Senior High; Bachelor's degree environmental studies, Montana State University Billings, 2011

Past employment: Montana Public Interest Group, Research Planned Parenthood of Montana, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana

Military: None

Political experience: State District 25, elected 2016-present. Served in 2017 and 2019 legislative sessions. Minority Vice Chair of Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee, 2017, 2019. Member of Senate Judiciary Committee 2017, 2019. Member of Senate Highways & Transportation Committee, 2017, 2019. Vice Chair of Law & Justice Interim Committee, 2019-20. Member of Law & Justice Interim Committee, 2017-18. Member of State Tribal Relations Interim Committee, 2017-18 and 2019-20.

Endorsements: Billings Education Association, Carol's List, EMILY'S List, Montana AFL-CIO. Montana Brotherhood of Locomotives & Trainmen, Montana Conservation Voters, Montana Federation of Public Employees, Montana Human Rights Campaign, Montana League of Rural Voters

a.) Email: friendsofiengross2020@gmail.com

b.) Address: PO Box 30472, Billings, Montana, 59101-9600

c.) Phone number: 406-696-0649

d.) Web page: https://www. facebook.com/JenGrossSD25

I have not served on budget or • tax committees during my four years in the legislature, but I have voted on the budgets and policies that determine how our tax dollars are spent. I serve on committees that monitor spending and appropriations, like community based services for mental health and addiction. We monitor these investments to gage our ability to ease jail overcrowding, for example. We can't afford to cut services, and hardworking Montanans can't afford higher taxes. Montana's entire tax code needs to be overhauled so that out-of-state corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share.

 $2_{\, \bullet \, \text{public}}$ We face an unprecedented public health crisis, and the We face an unprecedented outcome of California v Texas

Ways voters can contact you: both public health and the economy for decades to come. I will fight tooth and nail to find the funding necessary to prop up Medicaid Expansion. Unfortunately, I serve in the Minority and the result of undoing the ACA would likely mean 90K Montanans lose their health insurance. Our economy would take an extraordinary hit at a time when we just can't afford it.

3. To my knowledge we had had a single COVID injury To my knowledge we haven't lawsuit in Montana. Unlike my Republican colleagues, I trust that if there was a lawsuit, a Montana jury would carefully consider all in violent crime this year. As of the facts and make a reasonable decision. As COVID continues to spread across Montana, I know small businesses are looking for options to keep their doors open. As the senator for south-central Billings I will do everything I can to support our business owners and their hardworking employees. But this is a solution in search of a problem.

Montana races more cham-energy economy crisis when Montana faces more than an could be the most consequential it comes to coal. Climate change decision we'll hear from the Courts is a threat to our way of life, from both rehabilitates offenders and this year, with ramifications to its impact on public lands and

tourism to threatening Montana farmers and ranchers who face increasingly unpredictable, extreme weather patterns. Our outdoor industry booms at more than \$2.2 billion, and is reliant on the conservation and stewardship of our public lands, streams and rivers. I support Montana's Climate Solutions Plan, which calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting innovation to create new jobs as we transition to renewable energy sources.

5 My constituents are concerned about the severe spike July 1, deliberate homicide charges in Yellowstone County had nearly doubled over a year's time. At the end of August, domestic violence reports had almost surpassed total DV reports for all of 2019. The legislature has taken extraordinary steps toward justice reinvestment, or policies aimed at reducing recidivism and easing jail overcrowding. But the majority-authored budget failed to adequately fund essential services. It's time to build and fully fund a budget that enhances public safety.



CHRIS FRIEDEL

Political party: Republican

Home: Billings

Occupation: G.M./Owner of a Small Family Business

Family: Married 12 years to my wife Leslie; two children - Liam 5, Arabella 8 **Education:** Billings West High School,

Montana Tech University

Past employment:

Military: N/A

Political experience: 2015-2019 Billings City Council Ward 3

Endorsements: Montana Shooting Sports Association, Montana Independent Electrical Contractors, Montana Farm Bu-

Ways voters can contact you:

- a.) Email: chris@chrisfriedel.com
- b.) Address: 3302 2nd Ave. N. Billings, MT 59101
 - c.) Phone number: 406-272-2245
 - d.) Web page: www.chrisfriedel.com
- I doubt if there is actually enough re-• serve funding to cover the revenue loss

COVID-19 on our economy. State departments were forced to cut their budgets by ten percent in fiscal year 2019, which makes no sense if the state really had sufficient reserve funds. I think we will have to prioritize essential elements of the state budget until the nationally or internationally. Since the state current crisis is over.

2. We should start planning was a possibility that federal funds for ex-We should start planning now for the pansion will be unavailable. I think the way to start is to look at what other states are doing. We need to look closely at the efforts of the states that have had the greatest success at restructuring and making adjustments in Helena. One issue to be addressed is that to their Medicaid program. Our examples should be those states that have been able to derive the maximum benefit from statelevel resources without greatly increasing their residents' tax burden. This will help us plan for our own Medicaid program in the event the Supreme Court invalidates federal funding for expansion.

3. I think it is unnecessary to pass new laws relating to a temporary situation like the COVID-19 issue. The existing laws protecting employees also seem to be suffithat we will experience due to the effects of cient to protect employers who are not will-

fully and recklessly putting their employees' health and safety at risk.

The coal industry, like any other industry, will have to look for ways to expand and diversify its customer base, whether is not in the business of exporting coal, it is the responsibility of the industry to do this. What the legislature can do is review state regulations to determine if over-regulation may be impeding energy exports.

Public Safety is the primary concern **).** that constituents want me to address of overcrowding in our jails. As a senator, I want to work with the county and city to solve this problem. One option to consider is implementation of a diversion program in each county. Yellowstone County currently has such a program and it has been effective at reducing the number of inmates in the county jail. Another option would be pooling of regional resources to curb each county's costs. This would keep costs down for smaller counties and help with upkeep and expansion of jails in larger counties.

SENATE DISTRICT 26



MARGIE MacDONALD

Political party: Democrat

Place of birth: Glendive, Montana

Home: Billings

Occupation: Retired

Family: Husband, John Smillie; Two adult children, Siri Smillie and Charlie Smillie

Education: Graduate of University of Montana School of Journalism

Past employment: Weekly newspaper reporter, Private nonprofit sector including Montana Association of Churches and Western Organization of Resource Councils; Montana Boulder River School and Governor's Office of Community Service.

Political experience: House of Representatives, 2008-2016; State Senate, 2016 to present; Yellowstone County Economic Development Committee in mid-1980's. Build Montana statewide economic development initiative, also in 1980's.

Endorsements: Billings Education Association, Montana Federation of Public Employees, Montana State AFL-CIO, Montana Conservation Voters, Carol's List, Emily's List, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, Human Rights

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c.) Phone number: 406.652.6625

d.) Web page: www.macdonaldforbill-

Montana's strong, thriving economy • prior to the pandemic in conjunction with judicious budgeting and planning by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and the Governor, have placed Montana in the position of having a rainy day fund and a fire fund reserve that now insulate the state from the drastic measures imposed in neighboring states and across the country. Lawmakers will be wise in 2021 if they continue the bipartisan efforts to balance the budget, invest wisely and maintain a rainy day fund to insulate Montanans from drastic, hurtful budget cuts.

A decision to undo the Affordable Care ∠ • Act by the Supreme Court would be devastating, not only for Montana, but also for the national economy. Montana medicaid expansion created over 5,000 direct jobs (with benefits and good pay) and kept rural hospitals from closing. Close to half of those good jobs are here in Yellowstone County. Anyone who says he/she wants to end Medicaid expansion is playing Russian roulette with the Billings economy and our healthcare. It would be economically very damaging to Montana and Billings if the Court rules against the ACA.

good faith do their due diligence to protect their workers and customers from the virus.

4. Montana is memy change there is wind, sun, and hydro and there is Montana is richly endowed with great opportunity to sell clean, renewable energy into the larger markets where we historically have sold our coal generated power. Moreover, there are many highly skilled, good jobs in these fields, as well as in upgrading the electricity grid to more effectively move new sources of power. Additionally, there are great energy savings to be gleaned for homeowners and businesses by investing in energy efficiency, while growing the value of our homes and buildings and operations (e.g. pivot irrigation).

My constituents are concerned about **)**• inequities in Montana's school funding formula. The larger the district, the greater the disadvantage baked in the formula. Billings is the largest AA district, by almost double. Consequently, School District 2 takes the biggest hit in Montana's per student funding formula. Our SD 2 Board struggles to balance its budget while providing the constitutionally guaranteed quality education for the next generation. While there are economies of scale and smaller districts have higher per student overhead, it should be capped at a Workers Compensation is already in the asoliable when the place to protect businesses that in the go to bat for our schools in Helena. Workers Compensation is already in reasonable level. Billings lawmakers need

Republican duo reshapes Montana politics in Trump's style

Associated Press

BOZEMAN — Steve Daines is the affable one, the smiler, a consummate salesman who parlayed his corporate success into a meteoric rise through Montana politics and a seat in the U.S. Senate.

His former boss, Greg Gianforte, is more brusque, sometimes even harsh, a self-made technology mogul whose political career has proved rockier and included a stinging defeat for governor and unwanted notoriety when he assaulted a reporter during a successful run for U.S. House.

Together they form a powerful political alliance on the cusp of dominating Montana politics for years to come, pushing the state's Republican Party away from a Western brand of centrism and toward the hard-line partisan agenda of President Donald Trump.

Daines, 58, is seeking a second six-year term while Gianforte, 59, is pouring millions of dollars from his private fortune into another run at the governor's mansion.

Dual victories would mark the latest achievement for men who first bonded on family camping trips in Montana's Beartooth Mountains more than two decades ago. They worked in tandem to attain huge riches in the corporate world before leveraging that success into a political juggernaut that has reshaped the state's Republican Party.

It's a shift Montana Democrats argue is out of step with the state's independent-minded electorate. Democrats have their own power duo hoping to hold the line in November: Gov. Steve Bullock, challenging Daines, is one of the Democrats' best hopes to tilt the balance of power in the closely divided Senate. His lieutenant governor for the past five years, Mike Cooney, faces Gianforte.

But Democrats are handicapped by Gianforte's willingness to spend his own money on the race - \$3.5 million so far, after spending more than \$6 million in 2016 - and a strong push for both by Trump, who carried Montana by 20 percentage points in 2016.

Daines has long benefited from his ties to Gianforte, who hired Daines into his Bozeman-based software firm, RightNow Technologies, that was later sold to Oracle for almost \$2 billion.

Years later, when Daines was in the U.S. Senate, he would use Gianforte's private plane, including to shuttle back and forth to Washington for key votes - at least 11 trips since 2017, according to financial disclosure reports.

Gianforte, one of the wealthiest members of the U.S. House, has been boosted in his run for Montana governor by Daines' clout. A strong turnout for Gianforte could now help Daines fend off the challenge from Bullock, a two-term governor whose handling of the coronavirus has put him in the limelight.

The similarities between the two Republicans were on display during a recent joint



AP Photo/Matthew Brown

Republicans U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, left, listens as Rep. Greg Gianforte speaks during a joint interview on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 in Bozeman. Daines is being challenged by Montana Gov. Steve Bullock while Gianforte faces Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney in the gubernatorial race.



AP PHOTO/Matthew Brown

Republicans U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, left, and Rep. Greg Gianforte are seen touring a technology company facility under construction on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 in Bozeman. Daines is seeking a second term and faces a challenge from Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, while Gianforte faces Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney in the November gubernatorial election.



Matthew Brown

In this Aug. 17, 2017 photo, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock addresses people gathered for a signing ceremony for two conservation agreements outside Yellowstone National Park in Jardine, Mont. Seated from left are U.S. Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines and U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte.

28 OCTOBER 2020 Billings Gazette

interview after they toured a high tech manufacturing facility under construction in their hometown of Bozeman.

Sitting across from each other at a picnic table near the same office park that houses Oracle, Daines and Gianforte played off one another's jokes and finished each other's stories. Both men linked their political careers to their Christian faith. Daines is Presbyterian. Gianforte belongs to the fundamentalist Grace Bible Church.

"We're here to serve and not be served," Daines said.

"Service above expectations," Gianforte added. "It's the same theme."

They cast the upcoming election as a stark choice pitting "socialist" policies of Democrats against the free enterprise system that Daines and Gianforte say propelled the economy and their own careers, creating several hundreds jobs in Montana along the way.

"This system we have in this country has lifted more people out Democratic Party spokeswoman of poverty than any system in the history of the world," Gianforte

Asked if they had any political disagreements, they looked stumped. Daines finally shriveled his face and said Gianforte likes to they are out for people like themeat the meat from black bears that selves," Wilkes said. he shoots.

beef," Daines said with a laugh.

Democrats paint a more nefarious picture of the friendship, contending Daines and Gianforte rose to riches on the backs of American other and their workers, she said. workers and that their claim to be job creators belies RightNow Technologies' role helping companies outsource jobs overseas.

Corporate interests still dominate their agenda, said Montana ery, she said.



Republicans U.S. Sen. Steve Daines. left, and Rep. Greg Gianforte are seen touring a technology company facility under construction on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 in Bozeman, Mont. Daines is seeking a second term and faces a challenge from Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, while Gianforte faces Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney in the November gubernatorial election.

Christina Wilkes, who described Daines and Gianforte as being in lockstep on corporate tax cuts and repealing provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

"They're mega-wealthy, and

One area where the two Repub-"I'll still take a good piece of licans differ is personality, said Amy Wiening, who worked for Daines and Gianforte on the sales team at RightNow.

> Both were supportive of each But where Daines was easygoing and always made time to talk about family or matters outside work, Gianforte was more driven and could be harsh in his deliv-



Republicans U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, left, and Rep. Greg Gianforte listen to a representative of FLIR Systems describe the technology company's new facility under construction on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 in Bozeman, Mont. After working together in the corporate world the duo have risen in tandem to political influence

"He reminds me of a doctor you would totally want to be your doctor because he would know what to do. But he would not want to console you if it's bad news," Wiening said.

Daines was first to enterpolitics, running for lieutenant governor in 2008 while still at RightNow. He lost, then left the company in 2012 for a successful campaign for the state's sole U.S. House seat. He ran for Senate two years later, cruising to victory after the recentlyinstalled Democratic incumbent, John Walsh, a former lieutenant governor under Bullock, quit amid plagiarism allegations.

Daines had been encouraging Gianforte to join him in politics. In 2016 Gianforte ran for governor, losing to Bullock in a tight race. He won the House seat once held by Daines in a special election months later.

To say the pair now represent the face of the Montana Republican Party would ignore the role of



Republicans U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, left, and Rep. Greg Gianforte listen to a representative of FLIR Systems describe the technology company's new facility under construction on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 in Bozeman, Mont. After working together in the corporate world the two Republicans are on the cusp of solidifying their influence over Montana politics for years to come.

large on the state's political scene and demands loyalty from Repub-

Gianforte and Daines were initially lukewarm to Trump. When Trump headlined a rally in Billings as he neared victory in the 2016 primary, Gianforte skipped the event and issued a press release welcoming "another visit by a 2016 presidential candidate" without mentioning Trump. Daines told a Montana newspaper in the primary that Trump was "not my first choice, or even my second for president."

They have since become ardent Trump loyalists. Gianforte caught the president's attention when he body-slammed a reporter for The Guardian on the eve of his election to the House. "My kind of guy," Trump said about Gianforte, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault after initially misleading investigators about what happened.

The fruits of the pair's loyalty to Trump are now on display: The much sharper, Trump-y direction Trump, who has loomed at least as President tweeted his support for the party," he said.



AP PHOTO/Susan Walsh

In this Sept. 6, 2018, photo, President Donald Trump waves as he walks off of Air Force One at Billings Logan International Airport in Billings. Mont., with Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., second from right, and Rep Greg Gianforte, R-Mont. Since bonding on family camping trips more than two decades ago, Daines and Gianforte have worked in tandem, first to attain huge riches in the corporate world and more recently to leverage that success into a political juggernaut that's pushing Montana's Republican party further to the right.

for Gianforte on Wednesday and Vice President Mike Pence headlined a rally last week near Bozeman where Gianforte and Daines spoke back-to-back and then enjoyed a lengthy shout-out from Pence.

Democrats as recently as 2014 held both Montana U.S. Senate seats, the governor's mansion and a bevy of other statewide offices. The GOP has been in ascendance as the state has trended more conservative. The party now controls both chambers of the Legislature and every statewide post except governor and Democrat Jon Tester's seat in the U.S. Senate.

Daines and Gianforte "fit the party like a glove right now." University of Montana political analyst Rob Saldin said. If they sweep the November election, "that's a real vindication of going in this

Voters reminded they can check status of their mailed ballots

By ROB ROGERS

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Voters wondering about the fate of the ballots they'll be mailing in for November's general election need not fret. The Montana Secretary of State's My Voter Page includes a page that reports on the status of individual mail-in ballots.

Yellowstone County opted last month to hold November's presidential election completely by mail. However, residents wishing to vote in person can still do so; the county election office will be open to

in-person voting beginning Oct. 2.

For everyone else, ballots will show up in the mail. The elections office will send them out starting Oct. 9.

Reports about dysfunction with U.S. Postal Service operations and repeated – and repeatedly debunked – claims about rampant mail-in ballot voter fraud have led some voters in Yellowstone County to wonder how best to track their ballots once they put them in the mail.

Bret Rutherford, Yellowstone County elections administrator, points them to the state's My Voter Page, a one-stop online portal that lets visitors see if they're registered to vote, what mailing address they have on file, the status of their mail-in ballot and directions to their county elections office.

The site is run by the state's Secretary of State office, and it uses a voter's first and last name and date of birth to find the information.

Voters worried about their ballot should make sure they've signed the appropriate line on the mailing envelope and get it in the mail as soon as possible, Rutherford

Mail-in ballots are sent to voters with two return envelopes - one for the ballot itself to ensure secrecy and another in which the sealed ballot is placed to be mailed back to the elections office.

News from Pennsylvania that ballots returned without their secrecy envelope may not be counted isn't an issue for Montanans, Rutherford said.

"Absentee (or) mail ballots must be returned in a signed signature envelope but (they) can still be counted if the signature matches and the secrecy envelope is not used," he said.

House candidates debate

By PAUL HAMBY phamby@billingsgazette.com

The candidates for Montana's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives met for their first debate with 40 days until Election Day.

Williams, Rosendale discuss COVID-19, health care and more

Republican Matt Rosendale and Democrat Kathleen Williams are vying to replace outgoing Rep. Greg Gianforte as Montana's sole member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The two met on a socially distanced broadcast presented by Montana PBS.

Williams, a former state legislator, led an unsuccessful campaign for House in 2018 against Gianforte. The Billings Gazette previously reported that Williams,

who served three terms in the Montana Legislature, still managed to break records for a Democratic candidate running for the House seat in both votes and funds earned.

A Democrat has not won the seat since 1994.

Rosendale, who also ran unsuccessfully in 2018 to unseat



ROSENDALE



incumbent U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, has served as state auditor since 2017. He also previously held seats in the state Senate and House of Representatives.

During Wednesday's debate, questions centered on the outbreak of COVID-19 split the candidates. According to the latest data provided by the state's Department of Health and Human Services, 10,912 have contracted the virus since the outbreak began, and 601 have been hospitalized. The state has tallied 165 deaths.

Williams said that a collaboration between local and federal authorities was key to stemming the spread of the virus, along with transparency in regards to the billions of dollars in relief that have been distributed through the CARES Act. Rosendale touted his efforts as the state auditor in ensuring that COVID-19 tests came at no cost, and supported liability immunity for businesses to remain open.

Rosendale also credited President Donald Trump for said. closing off travel to China, and then to Europe, early in the pandemic, saving "thousands, and thousands," of lives.

The candidates also disagreed on repealing the Afford-

able Care Act.

Rosendale, an opponent of the ACA, said private insurance companies offer the same benefits as the ACA under the insurance framework he and the state built. Repealing the ACA would "wipe the slate clean" of federal involvement with individual choices on health care, he said.

Williams said getting rid of the ACA would hurt the roughly 92,000 Montanans who receive Medicaid coverage under the act. And, cutting provisions within the ACA, such as coverage for preexisting conditions, would leave Montanans vulnerable to higher health care costs, she said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it financial

The route to economic recovery, according to Rosendale, would come through making permanent the Trump administration's tax cuts under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Reducing the tax burden on businesses and individuals, he said, would ease the process on land purchases in construc-

Williams called the act the "revenue giveaway of 2017" and criticized it in part because it contributed to the nation's deficit, estimated at \$1.9 trillion, though she said she did not want to get rid of the act.

Although he did not acknowledge climate change, Rosendale said proper management of the state's forests was needed to prevent a repeat of the wildfire that torched through an area northeast of Bozeman, destroying 30 homes. Forest management, he said, meant harvesting timber. "Radical environmentalists," he said, stood in the way of that harvesting.

Williams, who served on the Natural Resources Committee during her time in the Montana House, said the state needed to be proactive and get ahead of the threat posed by climate change by supporting measures such as electric transportation and improving soil health in the agricultural industry.

"We cannot harvest our way out of fire risk," Williams

Election Day is Nov. 3. Many, but not all, Montana counties have chosen to hold this election all by mail. Mail ballots to most voters will go out Oct. 9.

Some FAQs from the Montana Secretary of State

Montana Secretary of State

live in?

city and zip code.

What are the dates of the general elections?

A federal general election is held every even-numbered year on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Presidential elections are combined with congressional, statewide, state district, and county elections.

Where can I find polling place information and/or satellite location information?

For polling place information and other voter-specific information, visit the My Voter Page service, https://app. mt.gov/voterinfo/. For a list of polling places and satellite locations for the upcoming or most recent federal election, visit Polling Places and Satellite Offices at https://sosmt. gov/elections/faq/#general-questions.

Where can I find out information about school elec-

Visit the Office of Public Instruction website at http:// opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Finance-Grants/School-Finance/

Elections.

What are the deadlines for the close of regular reg-How do I know which House and Senate district I istration for the federal primary and general elections?

Regular registration closes 30 days before any election. Go to https://leg.mt.gov/map/ and plug in your address, Late registration begins the next day, and ends at the close of polls on election day (except from noon until 5 p.m. on the day before election day). Late registration can only be done at the county election administrator's office or the location designated by the election administrator.

Do I have to vote in a primary election in order to vote in the general election?

Which parties are qualified for primary access in Montana? Is there party registration in Montana? Can people in a primary election vote for more than one party's candidates?

The list of Montana's qualified parties is available on our website at: https://sosmt.gov/elections/parties. There is no party registration in Montana. Individuals who vote in a primary election are given all the parties' ballots, and can choose in private which party ballot they wish to vote. Voters in a primary election cannot vote more than one party's ballots



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The Montana State Capitol building in Helena.

How are Montana's presidential electors chosen?

The applicable laws and a complete list of Montana's most recent presidential electors are available https://sosmt.gov/Portals/142/Elections/ archives/2010s/2016/2016-General-Presidential-Elector-Nominees-List.pdf?dt=1523473411709.

Graybill, Knudsen duel in AG debate

By SEABORN LARSON

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Candidates for Montana's next Attornev General dueled over qualifications for the office and whose agenda would be best carried out in a debate televised recently

Republican Austin Knudsen and Democrat Raph Graybill, both seeking to replace the termed-out Republican Attorney General Tim Fox, traded barbs throughout the debate moderated by MTN chief political reporter Mike Dennison. Knudsen was relentless in highlighting Graybill's limited experience while Graybill painted Knudsen as "dangerous" and an "extrem-

Graybill has been Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock's chief legal counsel since 2017, and was admitted to practice law in Montana in 2015. His vision for the attorney general's office is one of a watchdog advocate against prescription drug companies and "dark money." Knudsen, elected as Roosevelt County Attorney in 2018, previously served two terms as Speaker of the House in the Montana Legislature. He sees the office's chief concern to be drugs and violent crime.

"I'm a prosecutor right now," Knudsen said. "Prosecuting criminals is what I do every day for a living."

Knudsen said a 36% hike in violent crime over the past decade has been fueled by Mexican drug cartels hauling meth, heroin and fentanyl into the state. He touted his work with local law enforcement and prosecuting criminal cases as his upper hand over Graybill. Knudsen said he wants to further support local police agencies by cutting "funding out of the bureaucracy in Helena and get it out to law enforcement on the front lines of this problem so they can actually make a difference."

Graybill, in turn, blasted Knudsen's plan to cut state law enforcement functions as "dangerous," and said he would empower the Montana Department of Justice to bolster public safety. The increases in spending under Fox went to the State Crime Lab, the Law Enforcement Academy, additional law enforcement near the Bakken Oil Field region, Montana Highway Patrol and sex crime prosecutors, Graybill said. Funding shouldn't be diverted from treatment and prevention efforts, he said.

"I have the receipts," Graybill said. "I think it would be a disaster for public safety to cut those services."

Asked if taking on prescription drug prices is the attorney general's business, Graybill argued that state attorneys general are the only ones making any headway in an uphill battle.

"We're all paying too much for prescription drug prices," Graybill said. "I think this is one of the most important things the AG can do."

Graybill also attacked Knudsen on his opposition to the Affordable Care Act, arguing that killing the system known also as Obamacare would likewise kill 10,000 jobs in Montana and close rural hospitals.

Knudsen said he doesn't know of a person in Montana who has said the quality of their health care has gone up or the cost of their premiums have gone down, but then shifted away from the health care question and again toward violent crime. He wouldn't get in the "Legislature's sandbox" to push legislation on healthcare as AG, he said. He charged Graybill with harboring "ultra-liberal, activist's ideas" about fighting prescription drug prices.

Knudsen's legislative record on Habitat Montana, a program under Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks which acquires public make voting easier," he said. "The secreland by buying private parcels, was the tary of state and the AG should work to-



Republican Austin Knudsen, left, and Democrat Raph Graybill, right, are running for Montana attorney general.

focus of one question during the debate. Asked what his position is on the program, Knudsen said his only problem with Habitat Montana was an instance in which it was buying ranches at inflated prices, in some case appearing to use the purchases as a kickback to Democrat donors.

Knudsen said he generally supports the program. But Graybill said such an argument was why "people say they are sick of politics," saying Knudsen voted to cut the program's funding. Graybill turned to his own experience working with a family in Wibaux who was "victimized by extremist politicians like Austin" to block public land access, and winning that case.

Looking at a Graybill proposal to make voter registration automatic when someone acquires or renews their driver's license through the Motor Vehicle Division, which is overseen by the attorney general, Dennison asked Graybill whether that was the AG's job.

"Well it's certainly the job of the AG to

gether to make voting easier."

Knudsen said Graybill was "running for the wrong office," that the matter should be handled by the Secretary of State's Office. But he did take a chance to say the Motor Vehicle Division has been a source of frustration for voters.

Knudsen also defended his vote against legislation to crack down on "dark money" spending in the state as a support of First Amendment rights.

"You've got serious, fundamental Constitutional problems with a bill that tells people how they can speak, when they can speak and on what topics they can speak," Knudsen said.

Graybill touted Montana's anti-"dark money" laws as cutting edge, adding these legal battles have been among his best work in the Governor's Office.

"I have fought for you time and time again to make sure our elections belong to us," Graybill said. "These groups come into Montana because they don't respect us. They think they can buy our elections."

Election day is Nov. 3.

Republican Austin Knudsen and Democrat Raph Graybill, both seeking to replace the termed-out Republican Attorney General Tim Fox, traded barbs throughout the debate moderated by MTN chief political reporter Mike Dennison. Knudsen was relentless in highlighting Graybill's limited experience while Graybill painted Knudsen as "dangerous" and an "extremist."

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