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Baucus: Election was crucial

MISSOULA (AP) — This week's primary election was one of the most crucial in memory because it gave Montanans the chance to express their desires at a time when government has been ignoring them, the winner of the western district Democratic congressional nomination said Thursday.

Max Baucus said in a post-victory statement that residents "want a change for the better and I'm determined to see that it happens."

The youthful state senator from Missoula also said Democratic party unity would be an exciting prospect for a new beginning in government.

He said his victory belongs to all who "are committed to restoring decency and vitality to government. I am grateful beyond measure not only to those who voted for me but to my fellow candidates."

Baucus said he was proud to carry the endorsement of the other Democratic contenders, Pat Williams and Arnold Olsen of Helena, "and every Montanan who knows the need for better government."