

Western Montana Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

Platform 2025

1. Affordable Housing

- a. **Social Housing** – Self-sustaining, permanently affordable, mixed-income housing that is initially paid for with municipal bonds, not taxes. Social Housing uses quality prevailing wage construction to appeal to all incomes, with the land permanently taken off the real estate market. Tenants would have direct democratic say over the management of the property. <https://popularresistance.org/new-social-housing-programs-seek-to-make-homes-permanently-affordable/> and https://youtu.be/t_J2aCj_hgw?si=To4rZk25nUxkRJpV
- b. **Unhoused Neighbors** – Pursue a “housing first” strategy. Provide a place to shelter with basic amenities for our unhoused neighbors. Work with the Unhoused Neighbors Union to organize the unhoused. Absolutely no criminalization for being houseless.
- c. **Tenants Rights** – The Right-to-Counsel for all tenants facing eviction without an attorney. Restrict rental application fees. Work with the Missoula Tenants Union to further expand the rights of tenants and to lower the costs of renting.
- d. **Vacation Rentals** - Regulate vacation rentals of owners of multiple rental properties. Enforce registration regulations. Categorize as businesses. Pursue a local vacancy tax.

2. Reform City Council

- a. **City Budget Process** – Employ a priority-based budgeting process, with robust citizen participation, that uses performance metrics to analyze every program. Repeat every 10 years.
- b. **City Council Meetings** – Place citizen comment toward the beginning. Consult with city staff, but also do our own research on issues. Empower Neighborhood Councils to generate proposed legislation.
- c. **Home Rule** - Demand of the Montana Legislature full home rule ability.

- d. **City Contracting** - Enact best-value contracting procedures.

3. **Missoula Redevelopment Agency (MRA)**

- a. **Tax Increment Finance (TIF) funds** – No funding for profit-based corporations without compensatory community benefits. No funding for market-rate housing without substantial affordable housing included.
- b. **MRA Board** - Better coordination with local governments, especially as it pertains to budgeting. Make the MRA board democratic and accountable.
- c. **Community Benefits** - Direct MRA board to secure labor peace agreements, prevailing wages and other more substantial community benefits.

4. **Public Health and Safety**

- a. **Crime Prevention** - Expand Mobile Support Teams, diversion programs, neighborhood investments, functional public accountability of law enforcement and other proven crime prevention methods.
- b. **Health And Social Services Investment In Our Neighborhoods** - For example, create quality child-care that is affordable for parents and pays a living wage to workers.
- c. **Ambulance Service** - Create a publicly owned ambulance service.
- d. **ICE** - Order city police to not cooperate with ICE.

5. **Environment**

- a. **Publicly Owned Utilities** - Investigate ways to purchase other utility services like Missoula Water.
- b. **Transportation** - Continue to expand bicycle and public transit infrastructure. Prioritize walkable community designs and infrastructure.
- c. **Green Infrastructure** - Mandate effective and affordable green infrastructure for new developments.
- d. **Toxic Pesticides** - Replace the use of toxic pesticides in our parks and public lands with effective non-toxic pesticides and methods.

6. **Small Business and Taxes**

- a. **Small Business** - Loosen burdensome barriers to opening small businesses in Missoula. Allow a mix of small business types within neighborhoods.

- b. **Property Tax Relief** - Demand that the Montana Legislature rescind income tax cuts for the wealthy to fund a reduction in low and middle-income property taxes.
- c. **Home Rule on Taxes** - Demand of the Legislature the full right to have citizen-approved local tax increases.

7. **Palestine**

- a. **Resolution** - Pass a resolution demanding an immediate halt of US aid to Israel until their genocide, war crimes, illegal occupation and domestic apartheid ceases.
- b. **Divest and Boycott Israel** - Divest all Missoula funds from Israeli companies and boycott all Israeli government events.