

Montana US Senate 2024

THE ISSUES

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REPUBLICAN



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DEMOCRAT • INCUMBENT

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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Ban. "I am proudly pro-life. " Democrats seem "to be bent on murdering our unborn children." Supports a ban from "when a baby can feel pain." "Any further limits must be left to each state." Supports IVF.	Legal. "The woman and her family" should decide , consulting "with her minister and her doctor." Opposed an abortion ban at 20 weeks. Sponsored a bill to protect abortion rights nationally.
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	No. Humans have no "appreciable impact" on global warming. "The climate has always been changing.... Stand strong against the radical climate cult agenda." Supports "responsibly" developing "all forms of American energy." In 2023 removed climate change references on the website of his aerial firefighting company.	Yes. " As a third-generation farmer , I know firsthand how climate change affects Montana. From wildfires to droughts to floods, we must address this issue." Voted for \$369 billion in climate and clean energy initiatives. Supports multiple energy sources including coal with carbon emission capture.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	" Cops are good , criminals are bad." Opposes "soft-on-crime policies, anti-cop policies, defund the police." Will approve only "pro-law enforcement and pro-rule of law" judges and cabinet members.	Supported funding to hire more officers. The police have "my strong support." The 2020 Republican reform bill did not "address the problems" such as chokeholds. Voted for a bipartisan bill to support rehabilitative programming and fix sentencing laws."
ECONOMY Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Decrease. Will "end the out-of-control spending." Montanans "don't want more government in their lives." Calls for less government oversight to "empower... businesses to succeed."	Increase. Helped craft the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, investing in Montana's roads, bridges, airports, high-speed internet, & water systems. Secured millions in federal aid to "Montana farmers and ranchers."
EDUCATION Limit teaching about racism and gender identity?	Yes. Would "end the woke social agenda infecting our schools.... Let's focus on the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic."	No. Sponsored a 2015 bill banning "harassment and discrimination against" LGBTQ students. Sponsored a bill to establish a loan-forgiveness program to recruit Native teachers in tribal schools and another to fund Native language education. As a former public school teacher, calls public education "our nation's great equalizer. "
ELECTIONS Did Biden win 2020 election?	Unclear. When asked by a reporter, declined to comment.	Yes. Congratulated Biden and Harris on their " momentous victory. "
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulations?	Loosen. Federal public lands should be "turned over" to "local control." Opposes giving conservation equal status with agricultural production on public lands. " Repeal the new EPA job-killing energy regulations."	Mostly tighten. " Keep public lands in public hands." Supports federal action to protect rivers and conserve parks, wildlife, and land. "Every Montanan has the right to a clean and healthful environment." Opposed Biden coal plant regulations. " We rent this Earth from our kids. It's best we don't screw it up."

ISSUES	SHEEHY (R)	TESTER (D)
GUN RULES Loosen or tighten gun regulation?	Loosen. “Our right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.” “I will never back down from the radical left trying to take away our #2A rights.”	Mixed. Voted for a bipartisan bill to expand background checks and disarm domestic abusers. Opposes banning assault weapon sales. Led an effort to reverse a Biden admin decision to end federal funding for school shooting sports and hunter safety education.
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Decrease. “ Return healthcare to pure privatization.” “ More government control of our health care has only made things worse.” Obamacare caused “higher premiums.” Would protect people with pre-existing conditions.	Increase. Voted for Obamacare . Voted to cap Medicare insulin costs at \$35/month and let Medicare negotiate lower prices from drug companies. “Montanans shouldn’t have to choose between Rx drugs and putting food on the table.” Expand rural telehealth.
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration? Support a path to citizenship for “DACA” participants brought to the US as children?	Called the 2024 bipartisan border security bill “ political theater .” Would axe the Department of Homeland Security. “ Secure our border, finish the wall, and... end... illegal immigration.” No DACA position found.	Voted for 2023-2024 bipartisan Senate border security bill to tighten asylum laws and hire more border guards. Said Biden’s border policies had “failed.” Supports DACA; “breaking a promise to these children... is not the solution.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?	No position found.	Easier. Sponsored the PRO Act protecting employees’ rights to organize and collectively bargain. “Hardworking Montanans deserve the respect to negotiate directly with the company that is calling the shots.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Likely limit. “ Boys are boys , girls are girls.” “Men in girls’ sports is insane .” “Stop things like drag queen story time from replacing the Lord’s Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance in our classrooms.”	Expand. Sponsored a bill to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination. Voted to recognize same-sex marriages. “ We must ” fight “for the fundamental rights,” including “the civil rights of LGBTQ+” people.
MARIJUANA Ban or legal?	No position found.	Likely legal. Sponsored a bill for medical marijuana research for veterans with chronic pain or PTSD. Sponsored a bill protecting banks serving legal marijuana businesses.
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	No position found.	Yes. In 2021: “the minimum wage needs to come up .” Start with “10, 11 buck an hour as a base level” and “extend it out a ways before it hits the \$15 figure.” “We have just got to be careful, so we don’t put our small business in a bad situation.”
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?	No. Supported the Supreme Court’s decision striking down Biden’s proposal to forgive some student loan debts: “ Take a loan, pay it back .” No position found on interest rates.	Mixed. Voted against Biden’s student loan forgiveness plan. Taxpayers shouldn’t have to “cover the tab.” In 2013 voted to lower student loan interest rates.
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Lower. Pledged not raise any income taxes. The “Trump tax cuts,” that included the largest corporate cuts in US history and tax cuts for the wealthy, should “stay in place.”	Raise. Supported a 15% minimum corporate tax. Opposed the 2017 Trump tax bill that cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy. No “tax giveaway to the wealthy.”
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	No position found.	Easier. Voting should be “accessible to everybody.” Opposed eliminating same-day voter registration. Sponsored a bill expanding voter registration and voting access.

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