



Autumn 2026

BIG SKY 55+ UPDATE

Ballots Have Been Mailed. It's Time for ***ACTION!***

1 CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

- Go to **voterportal.mt.gov** and enter your name and date of birth.
- Make sure your registration status says “active”.
- Check your polling location if voting in person.
- If voting absentee, check if the ballot has been mailed to you.
- Track your ballot after you have mailed it in to ensure it arrived and has been counted.
- Help your friends and family do the same!

2 VOLUNTEER

Let's use our Superpowers to help our advocates win and assist others in voting.

- Contact candidates you're supporting and see if they need volunteers.
- Check the volunteer box on the enclosed envelope. We will help connect you with campaigns that need volunteers.
- Go to bigskyfiftyfive.org and click on the light blue button that says “click here to volunteer with us.” Fill out the form and we will contact you to help you find volunteer opportunities.

3 VOTE!

- **In person:**
At your polling place on November 3.
- **Via absentee ballot:**
Mail it by October 19 at the latest, the earlier the better.
Drop it at your local elections office anytime up until 8pm on Election Day.

ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 3

Questions? VoteInMT.org



GATHERING WISDOM BUILDING POWER

United We Stand

Join us at a one-day conference celebrating intergenerational power, honing our truth-seeking skills, and leveling up on the issues that will be decided in Montana's 2027 Legislative session.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Missoula Public Library • 10am-4:30pm



Info & Registration:
bigskyfiftyfive.org/fall-conference-2026



OUR ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Big Sky 55+ proudly stands behind the candidates on the following page and encourages you to support their campaigns. Each candidate in these races, regardless of party affiliation, received our questionnaire. Our board of directors extensively reviewed each candidate's responses to ensure their values align with those of Big Sky 55+.

Candidates answered questions regarding:

- ? Healthcare funding
- ? Protection for electric ratepayers
- ? Fair taxes
- ? Mobile home resident protection
- ? Protecting our courts and our constitution
- ? Native American equity and Indian Education for All
- ? Passenger rail service funding

Federal candidates answered additional questions about:

- ? The appropriateness of national cabinet officials
- ? Protecting and expanding Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act
- ? Protecting low-income, union, and non-union workers
- ? Respecting Tribal Sovereignty



USE YOUR SUPER POWERS THIS ELECTION!

*by Terry Minow,
Big Sky 55+ Board Chair*

I have great news for you. The number of Big Sky 55+ members has almost doubled this year! The word is getting out: **Big Sky 55+ gets things done and we have fun doing it!**

What does that have to do with the election? As you know, Montanans over age 55 are faithful voters. We show up and we vote, whether at school board or local elections, presidential elections, or this year, mid-term elections. That is one of our super powers.

We are *influencers* in our families and communities.

Another super power? We are influencers in our families and communities. People look to us for advice—practical advice like the best snow tires or how to can tomatoes — and advice on which candidates will stand up for Montana and make this a better place for people of all ages.

I don't need to urge you to vote. You are far ahead of the average voter. Take a minute and think about how you can help your like-minded family members, neighbors, and friends develop a voting plan. (*See the front page article in this newsletter.*) Statistics show that someone with a voting plan is much more likely to vote.

Then share our endorsements (**bigskyfiftyfive.org/2026-election-endorsements**) with people who have questions about the candidates and ballot initiatives. Big Sky 55+ did the research for you. We looked at voting records and endorsed legislative candidates with 100% voting records on our priority issues in 2025. We sent out surveys to every legislative candidate, candidate for Congress, and candidate for the Montana Supreme Court. We carefully reviewed their answers, voting records and other public information. Our board met to discuss the results, and thoughtfully made our endorsements.

Your vote is precious and personal. Our endorsements are aimed at providing valuable information as you make your own decisions about how you will vote.

We are optimistic about the November 3 election. We think citizens will show up to vote and make good choices. The results will be good for our nation, state and all of us. **Thank you for being a Big Sky 55+ member, a faithful voter, and for being an influencer who stands up for a better Montana!**

★ BIG SKY 55+ ENDORSEMENTS ★



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 1

Sam Forstag



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 2

Dr. Michael Eisenhauer

BALLOT INITIATIVE

Vote **YES** on
CI-132 Montanans for
Nonpartisan Courts



MONTANA SUPREME COURT Judge Amy Eddy

Note: This race is crucially important for the future of the Montana Supreme Court and Montana's Constitution. Judge Eddy has a proven track record as an impartial and fair jurist with an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

STATE LEGISLATURE

** 2025 Legislative Champions who voted with us 100% of the time during the 2025 Legislature.*

Help your local candidate! State legislative races are often decided by a small number of votes so even a couple volunteer shifts can have an impact. Find your district: legmt.gov/districts.

Montana State House Of Representatives

HD 2 Lincoln County: Jane Maahs
HD 3 Whitefish: Debo Powers*
HD 4 Columbia Falls, Whitefish: Paula Koch
HD 5 Kalispell/Columbia Falls: Luca Welle
HD 7 Kalispell: Madison Evans
HD 9 Flathead: Kate McLaughlin
HD 10 Flathead: Catherine Allen
HD 12 Flathead Lake: Cindy Bruckner
HD 13 Polson: Dalton Bradford
HD 14 Sanders Co.: Colleen Hinds
HD 15 CSKT/Blackfeet: Thedis Crowe*
HD 16 Blackfeet: Lona Running Wolf
HD 19 Great Falls: Jane Weber
HD 24 Great Falls Fox Farm: Pam Carroll
HD 27 Havre: Paul Tuss*
HD 29 NE MT: Valerie Moore
HD 32 Rocky Boy/Ft. Belknap: Mike Fox*
HD 37 Lewistown: Tracey Miller Karcher
HD 39 Billings Heights: Melissa Smith
HD 40 Lockwood: Gabriel Bradshaw
HD 41 Northern Cheyenne, Crow: Jade Sooktis*
HD 42 Crow, some Billings: Sidney "Chip" Fitzpatrick
HD 44 Shepherd/Billings Heights: Mike Eaton

HD 45 Billings: Denise Baum*
HD 46 Billings: Denise Joy*
HD 47 Billings: James Reavis
HD 48 Billings: Tucker Colvin
HD 50 Billings: Mark Peters
HD 54 Laurel: Janine Coole
HD 57 Gallatin/Park Counties: Becky Edwards
HD 58 Livingston: Jamie Isaly*
HD 60 Big Sky/West Yellowstone: Alanah Griffith*
HD 62 Bozeman/Four Corners: Josh Seckinger*
HD 63 Bozeman/Four Corners: Peter Strand*
HD 65 Bozeman: Brian Close*
HD 70 Beaverhead/Silver Bow Co.: Kobi Craddock
HD 71 Anaconda, Butte: Scott DeMarois
HD 74 Butte: Marc Lee
HD 75 Jefferson County: Patrick Sullivan
HD 79 Helena: Luke Muszkiewicz*
HD 80 Helena: Megan Lane
HD 81 Helena: Janet Ellis
HD 82 Helena: Pete Elverum*
HD 83 East Helena: Joe Cohenhour
HD 84 Lewis and Clark Co.: Tia Nelson
HD 88 Stevensville/Florence: Evan Schroedel

HD 89 Lolo/Missoula: Mark Thane*
HD 91 CSKT/Missoula: Shelly Fyant*
HD 93 Missoula: Ben Davis
HD 94 Missoula (South Hills): Robin Kendall
HD 96 Missoula: Bob Carter*
HD 97 Missoula: Melody Cunningham*
HD 98 Missoula: Jonathan Karlen*
HD 99 Missoula: Tom France*
HD 100 Missoula: SJ Howell

Montana State Senate

SD 1 NW Montana: Jonathan Jameson
SD 4 Kalispell: Kyle Waterman
SD 6 Flathead Lake: Patrick Fitzpatrick
SD 10 Great Falls: Margaret Mitchell
SD 23 Billings: Emma Kerr-Carpenter
SD 25 Billings: Julie Hippler
SD 29 Livingston: Scott Rosenzweig*
SD 31 Bozeman: Kathleen Williams
SD 32 Bozeman: Kelly Kortum
SD 41 Helena: Erin Farris-Olsen
SD 42 Helena: Mary Ann Dunwell*
SD 48 Missoula: Andrea Olsen*
SD 49 Missoula: Willis Curdy



Big Sky 55+
P.O. 1462
Helena, MT 59624



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bigskyfiftyfive.org/join-now

Become a member and sign up
for important updates.

This member mailing is from Big Sky 55+, a
501(c)4 nonprofit organization. Membership dues
and contributions are not tax-deductible.

One of the joys of being part of Big Sky 55+ is getting to know wonderful people with amazing Super Powers! One of them was our beloved Board Member from Belgrade/Gallatin Valley, **Elizabeth Marum**, who passed away this summer.

Elizabeth joined the Board soon after our founding. She was our Board expert around expanding health care for more Americans, and ably led the drafting of our Platform in these areas. She was a strong facilitator and event planner, always looking to include more voices—particularly voices that have stood on the margins for generations!

She also had great drive, whether it was heading to Great Falls to join our members and staff canvassing on municipal elections, or getting to Helena for hearings or rallies in the depths of winter.

Elizabeth was a devoted mother and grandmother and much loved by her extended family, with roots in Tucson. She is deeply missed by those who knew, loved and worked with her, including her Big Sky 55+ family.



WE REMEMBER
Elizabeth

BIG SKY 55+ BOARD

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Jon Ellingson, *Missoula*

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Pat Sweeney, *Billings*

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Bill Bronson, *Great Falls*

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Sharon Stewart Peregoy,
Crow Nation

Dennis Taylor, *Helena*

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