



HCAN PLAN

Big Sky 55+ joins National Healthcare Reform Campaign: *Make Healthcare Work for All of Us.*

It's not news that Americans are worried about healthcare. Recent polls list healthcare affordability and access as the area most worrisome to Americans. The causes include:

- ✗ Insurance companies charging higher premiums and raising deductibles, for both private and employer sponsored plans. Expanded premium tax credits in the Affordable Care Act were not extended by the current Congress.
- ✗ Hospital mergers and industry consolidations resulting in higher costs and lower availability and quality of care.
- ✗ Private Equity ownership and other financial interests ballooning healthcare costs.

Big Sky 55+, together with groups around the country, is advocating for bold changes to our healthcare system. Our healthcare system has had problems for many years, even with improvements like the Affordable Care Act. We need a system that works for everyone, one that controls cost by getting control of prices that actors choose to charge.

**MAKE HEALTH CARE
WORK FOR
All OF US**

The campaign is demanding 5 key things:

Make our health care affordable.

Premiums we can afford — and that's it!
No more out of pocket costs, deductibles or co-payments. End medical debt.

Give us a choice other than for-profit private insurance. Everyone can choose a public insurance plan, including Medicare.

Good coverage and real access — the care I need when and where I need it.
Cover all our health care needs including dental, vision and hearing. Doctors, hospitals and other caregivers close to home. No long waits to get care.

Lower health care prices. Set prices to ensure our care is affordable. No more corporate price-gouging to drive up profits and drive down quality.

Make it simple! Simplify health care — no more endless paperwork, delays and denials.

Keep an eye out for ways that you can help as we advocate for a healthcare system that truly works for all of us!

BIG SKY 55+ PROUDLY ENDORSES

OUR 2025 100% CHAMPIONS

Supported our priorities on *every* vote.

Big Sky 55+ proudly endorses these 55+ Champions in their campaigns for state legislature. These legislators made it easy for us to support them: **they voted with us 100% of the time in 2025.** They have a proven track record of sticking up for Montana's older adults, and we look forward to seeing them in the 2027 legislature!

THEDIS CROWE
HD 15, CSKT/Blackfeet

BRIAN CLOSE
HD 65, Bozeman

PETE ELVERUM
HD 82, Helena

JANE WEBER
HD 19, Great Falls

ALANAH GRIFFITH
HD 60, Big Sky/West Yellowstone

MARK THANE
HD 89, Lolo/Missoula

PAUL TUSS
HD 27, Havre

JOSH SECKINGER
HD 62, Bozeman/Four Corners

SHELLY FYANT
HD 91, CSKT/Missoula

DEBO POWERS
HD 3, Whitefish

PETER STRAND
HD 63, Bozeman/Four Corners

BOB CARTER
HD 96, Missoula

DENISE BAUM
HD 45, Billings

MIKE FOX
HD 32, Rocky Boy/Ft. Belknap

MELODY CUNNINGHAM
HD 97, Missoula

DENISE JOY
HD 46, Billings

JADE SOOKTIS
HD 41, Northern Cheyenne, Crow

JONATHAN KARLEN
HD 98, Missoula

JAMIE ISALY
HD 58, Livingston

MARY ANN DUNWELL
SD 42, Helena

TOM FRANCE
HD 99, Missoula

SCOTT ROSENZWEIG
SD 29, Livingston

LUKE MUSZKIEWICZ
HD 79, Helena

ANDREA OLSEN
SD 48, Missoula

Lowering the state tax on Social Security benefits, protecting Montana's democracy, safeguarding healthcare for 75,000 Montanans, cutting taxes for 80% of homeowners—these are examples of issues our Champions supported.

To learn more, **view our 2025 Legislative Scorecard on our website** under the "Issues" tab. The scorecard lists all legislators from the 2025 session and how they voted on our priority bills. Learn how your legislator voted and ask them about their votes. If you live in one of the districts above, please thank these legislators for standing up for Montanans 55+. With your support, they can keep fighting for Montanans.



A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

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

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, it appears that patriotism among younger generations is waning. Why? Maybe it's because our government has stopped doing big things. The spectacular moon landing, and ending smallpox and giving the vaccine to the world for free are examples of accomplishments that made us proud. Grover Norquist's vision of "reducing [the government] to the size where I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub," has inevitably led our government to a diminished ability to tackle the real problems of this century.

For four decades, billionaires and corporations have been spreading the message that private business can do everything better. Now we have the world's first trillionaire with his own rocket ships, while NASA has no way to send people into space. The government has been hollowed out, and slowly given to private interests. The same trillionaire dismantled much of what, in our federal government, was helping people. Instead of tackling climate change, our government subsidizes fossil fuel corporations.

If we want young people to enjoy an America like the one we grew up in, we need to understand how different their experience is from ours. At our spring conference, many were astounded that one of our employees had applied to 126 jobs after getting her bachelor's degree in Pre-Law and International Relations from Carroll College. She currently has three jobs; she works part-time for us, part-time for a law firm, and works as a docent at the local art museum. When we were younger, a bachelor's degree meant we could most likely find a job that paid a livable wage.

On the 250th anniversary of a new idea for a nation, please think about what we can do to bring about a bright future for the younger generation. Those who want to diminish the government and our future want us to think this is a zero sum game...that seniors and young people are on the opposite side of issues. All I can say is B... S...!

What does Big Sky 55+ want for people of all generations? Universal health coverage, women being paid as much as men, one job paying enough to raise a family, universal child care, quality public education for all, and so much more. We can keep and expand upon the promises of Medicare and Social Security. By working for a just and fair economy, including making trillionaires pay their fair share, we can accomplish big things. Thank you for working to make those dreams of a better future for people of all ages come true!

BIG SKY 55+ PROUDLY ENDORSES JUDGE

Amy Eddy for Supreme Court

This November, Montanans will make an important decision about who serves on Montana's Supreme Court. Our Supreme Court justices are elected in nonpartisan elections and serve eight-year terms.

Judge Eddy isn't a politician, she is an impartial judge. In 2015, after fifteen years of private practice, Judge Eddy was appointed as a District Court Judge in Flathead County and has since been retained by voters three times. She has a proven track record as an impartial and fair jurist with an unwavering commitment to the rule of law. Unlike her opponent, Judge Eddy firmly believes politics have no place in the courtroom and hasn't taken a dime from either party.



Learn more about Judge Eddy and her campaign at amyeddyforjustice.com. The results of the primary election show this race will be extremely close. Let's get Judge Eddy on our Supreme Court!

“Political power is held by the people. It is not held by political parties. It is not held by political party central committees. It is not held by corporations. It is not held by special interest groups. It is held by people. It is for people that the rule of law operates. It is for people that the structure of the separation of powers exists. The Montana Constitution reminds us of these principles more compellingly than any other legal document.”
JUDGE AMY EDDY



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

© 2019 Big Sky 55+
All rights reserved.

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
BILLINGS, MT
PERMIT #88

bigskyfiftyfive.org/join-now

Become a member and sign up
for important updates.

hello!

NEW POLITICAL DIRECTOR

**My name is Korbin Bragstad
and I am thrilled to be Big Sky
55+'s new Political Director!**

2026 is shaping up to be a critical year for our movement—Montanans are tired of high costs, unattainable healthcare, and the continued buildup of wealth and power among the billionaire class. Big Sky 55+ is ready to take full advantage of the incredible opportunities we have up and down the ballot, and I am excited to be part of the team that will give you the tools to build power and brighten Montana's future for yourself and future generations.

We know the 55+ community is the most likely to show up, volunteer, and make their voices heard. Let's harness that energy and elect some 55+ champions in November!



I was born and raised in the Bonner/Clinton area and graduated from the University of Montana with a Political Science degree in 2019. In college, I did a variety of internships and fellowships and served as a Trustee on the Missoula County Public Schools Board.

Since graduating, I've worked on a presidential campaign in Iowa, on a gubernatorial campaign,

as a program coordinator with the Montana Democratic Party, and as a Legislative Correspondent in Senator Tester's DC office.

In my free time, I enjoy the outdoors—hiking, camping, floating, etc. I'm living and working in Missoula and am happy to be back spending time with my family.

BIG SKY 55+ BOARD

CHAIR

Terry Minow, *Boulder*

VICE CHAIR

Jon Ellingson, *Missoula*

TREASURER

Pat Sweeney, *Billings*

SECRETARY

Pam Carroll, *Great Falls*

Barbara Archer, *Billings*

Bill Bronson, *Great Falls*

Connie Keogh, *Missoula*

Margie MacDonald, *Billings*

Sanna Porte, *Helena*

Sharon Stewart Peregoy,
Crow Nation

Dennis Taylor, *Helena*

BIG SKY 55+ STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Trent Bolger

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Lila Cleminshaw

POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Korbin Bragstad

BILLINGS ORGANIZER

Kristen Stewart

GREAT FALLS ORGANIZER

Dale Moore

OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

Sofie Wright