

## **Resolution of the Montana Republican Party (MTGOP) Honoring Candidates Supporting Republicans**

WHEREAS, the first day of the 2025 Legislative Session, nine Republican senators joined with Democrats (“Nasty Nine”), overturning the 32-18 Republican Majority, and handing over control in the Senate to Democrats by creating a de facto 27-23 Democrat Majority;

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2025, the Montana Republican Party Executive Board (MTGOP) unanimously passed a resolution no longer recognizing the Nasty Nine as Republicans for their betrayal of Montana Republican voters;

WHEREAS, the Montana Republican State Central Committee met at its Officers’ Convention on June 28, 2025 (“Officers’ Convention”), to elect its officers;

WHEREAS, during the Report of the Credential Committee at the Officers’ Convention, a motion was made from the convention floor to not recognize the Nasty Nine for their betrayal of Montana Republican voters;

WHEREAS, the motion passed by a strong majority of State Central Committee members;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the State Central Committee to identify and honor candidates who support Republican policies and priorities;

WHEREAS, in response to the desires of the State Central Committee, Chair Wittich created the Conservative Governance Committee (“CGC”) to determine which candidates support the Montana Republican Platform (“Platform”);

WHEREAS, the CGC developed an exhaustive process to screen candidates who file for election to the legislature as Republicans;

WHEREAS, as part of the process, the CGC created a questionnaire based on the principles of the Platform;

WHEREAS, 169 questionnaires were sent out to Republican candidates, 124 candidates returned the questionnaire, 9 candidates either withdrew or never completed the filing process, and 36 candidates did not return the questionnaire;

WHEREAS, the CGC reviewed all returned questionnaires and analyzed them based on the answers, and if from an incumbent upon their prior legislative records, in support of the Platform;

WHEREAS, CGC identified candidates in every Republican contested legislative race in the 2026 Primary Election; and

WHEREAS, the CGC determined the following Republican Senate and House candidates in contested races in the 2026 Primary Election demonstrated support of the Platform in their answers and/or legislative record (“Honor Roll Candidates”):

<b>District</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>County</b>
SD01	Steve Gunderson	Libby	Lincoln, Flathead
SD09	Zach Wirth	Wolf Creek	Lewis & Clark, Pondera, Teton, Toole
SD11	Steven Galloway	Great Falls	Cascade
SD14	Mark Wicks	Inverness	Hill, Liberty, Phillips, Blaine
SD18	Greg Kmetz	Miles City	Big Horn, Custer, Garfield, Rosebud, Treasure, Yellowstone
SD19	Barry Usher	Laurel	Fergus, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Yellowstone
SD34	Caleb Hinkle	Belgrade	Gallatin
SD42	Stephen LaPraim	Helena	Lewis & Clark
SD42	Nick Lancette	Helena	Lewis & Clark
SD43	Kathy Love	Hamilton	Ravalli
HD03	Cathy Mitchell	Kalispell	Flathead
HD04	Shaun Pandina	Big Fork	Flathead
HD06	Jim Riley	Kalispell	Flathead
HD07	Luke Maxwell	Kalispell	Flathead
HD13	Finley Warden	Polson	Lake, Sanders
HD17	Justin Cleveland	Fairfield	Teton, Lewis & Clark
HD19	Hannah Trebas	Great Falls	Cascade
HD20	Anthony Rosales	Great Falls	Cascade
HD21	Trevor Funseth	Great Falls	Cascade
HD22	Kevin Leatherbarrow	Great Falls	Cascade

HD23	Brett Mills	Cascade	Cascade
HD28	John South	Havre	Hill, Blaine, Liberty, Phillips
HD29	Linda Harmon	Scobey	Daniels
HD33	Ric Holden	Glendive	Dawson, Richland, Valley
HD34	Jerry Schillinger	Circle	Carter, Custer, Fallon, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Valley, Wibaux
HD36	Loren Hinebauch	Miles City	Custer
HD40	Mike Vinton	Billings	Yellowstone
HD47	John Maxwell	Billings	Yellowstone
HD49	Charles Loveridge	Billings	Yellowstone
HD51	Lana Tibbetts	Billings	Yellowstone
HD52	Ed Walker	Billings	Yellowstone
HD53	Nelly Nicol	Billings	Yellowstone
HD55	Mary Horman	Red Lodge	Carbon
HD67	Jedediah Hinkle	Belgrade	Gallatin
HD68	Randy Chamberlin	Bozeman	Gallatin
HD69	Trevor Walter	Sheridan	Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison
HD76	Trish Schreiber	Helmville	Deer Lodge, Granite, Lewis & Clark, Powell
HD77	Jane Gillette	Three Forks	Broadwater, Gallatin
HD84	James Marshal	Helena	Lewis & Clark
HD85	Kim Dailey	Florence	Ravalli
HD86	Kenneth Allen	Hamilton	Ravalli
HD90	Jeff Stanek	St. Regis	Mineral, Missoula

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Montana Republican Party:

1. Recognizes the importance of its role to review self-declared candidates who file as Republicans so that Montana voters are informed when they vote at the polls;
2. Reaffirms its dedication to uphold the fundamental principles stated in the Republican Platform;
3. Acknowledges that faithfulness to the conservative principles and policies as found in the Republican Platform is necessary to maintain and restore the trust of the electorate in the Republican Party, and a proven path that will lead to Republican policy victories;
4. Expects that all Republican elected officials will understand and use the Republican Platform as a guide when making decisions;
5. Confirms that the CGC's Honor Roll Candidates demonstrated support and willingness to advance the principles stated in the Republican Platform;
6. Recognizes the Honor Roll Candidates in their efforts to represent Montanans and the Montana Republican Party and its principles; and
7. Encourages members of the State Central Committee to also recognize the Honor Roll Candidates for their fidelity to Republican policies.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the MTGOP, through its Chairman, shall:

1. Immediately advise the Honor Roll Candidates of this Resolution supporting their candidacy in the 2026 Primary Election;
2. Make this Resolution public knowledge by advising the media and posting on its social media platforms;
3. Notify all Republican Central Committees and Republican voters statewide of this Resolution, and the importance of recognizing candidates who align with the Republican Platform;
4. Engage grassroots efforts to recognize the Honor Roll Candidates; and
5. Continue to actively monitor actions of legislators to ensure implementation of Republican policies and principles.