

other montana elected positions

montana state auditor...

Serves as the state's commissioner of insurance, securities and the state land board. Elected every four years.

montana supreme court justices...

The Montana Supreme Court is the highest court in the state, with one Chief Justice and six Justices. Elected in statewide, nonpartisan elections (candidates do not run as part of a political party), Justices serve eight-year terms. No more than two positions are up for election at once. Voters elect the Supreme Court Chief Justice.

public service commissioners...

Public Service Commissioners (or PSCs) regulate utilities in Montana. The state is divided into five PSC districts. Each district elects one commissioner every four years.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- General accountant for the state; keeps track of all state finances.
- In charge of regulating insurance companies to protect Montana consumers.
- Oversees regulation of securities (stocks and bonds) for the state.

- Review cases from lower Montana courts and can reverse or uphold (agree with) previous decisions.

- Decide cases that are filed directly with the Supreme Court.
- Supervise all state courts to make sure they are functioning effectively and efficiently.

- Regulate private and investor-owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water and sewer companies in Montana.

- Work to balance the need for consumers to have quality, affordable service with utility company's need to earn a fair profit.

- Regulate and ensure safety of transportation of commodities such as oil and gas.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



The Auditor advocates for citizens who have been victims of insurance or investment fraud.



Makes decisions about our fundamental rights protected by the Montana constitution including our right to privacy and a clean and healthy environment.



PSCs determine how much your utility company can raise their rates. They also determine what kind of assistance utility companies need to provide to help low-income families with rate increases.

local elected positions

county commissioners...

Three elected officials who together head county government. All county voters participate in electing every commissioner. Terms are six years; one seat is up for election every two years.

city mayor...

Elected every four years by city voters. Oversees all city departments and makes sure all policies are being applied efficiently and fairly.

city council members...

Create city policies and ordinances. The city is divided into wards; each ward is represented by two council members.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Form county policies in areas such as subdivisions, transportation, emergency services, etc.

- Secures resources to meet city's goals.
- Serves as the city's primary representative with other cities and government agencies.
- Breaks tie votes in the city council; can veto measures passed by the council (council can override with a 2/3 majority vote).

- Set city taxes and manage the city budget.
- Oversee all construction and improvement projects in the city.

- Work with the mayor and city staff to develop the city's yearly strategic plan.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



Can provide financial support to community services which support low-income women and families.



Make zoning decisions that could either promote or prevent the development of low-income housing.



Can provide leadership to promote diversity and inclusion of all citizens in our community.



Can provide financial support to community services which support low-income women and families.



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Information about the roles, responsibilities and relevance of your elected officials provided by Montana Women Vote! project

WHO'S WHO in GOVERNMENT?

Information about the roles and responsibilities of your elected officials, and the impact they have on your life... provided by Montana Women Vote!

federal (national) elected positions

u.s. president

Heads the executive branch of the federal government. Serves for four years with a two-year term (eight years) maximum.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Proposes the federal budget for approval by Congress.
- Is the primary representative of the U.S. government in world affairs.
- Has the power to veto (reject) bills passed by Congress; Congress can overturn a veto with a two-thirds majority vote.
- Serves as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



Nominates lifetime appointments of judges to Supreme Court, who rule on issues such as abortion rights, equal rights and privacy issues.



Recommends funding levels for programs such as child care, health care and domestic violence services.

U.S. CONGRESS

Congress comprises two separate bodies: The House of Representatives and the Senate. Together they form the legislative (law-making) branch of the Federal Government. There is no limit on the number of terms a member of Congress can serve.

u.s. senators

There are 100 U.S. Senators. Each state elects two senators in statewide election for six-year terms. Senate races are staggered so that only one senator in a state is up for election at a time.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Decides how much money federal programs are granted in yearly budget.
- Determines federal tax guidelines.
- Can propose amendments (or changes) to the Constitution.
- Has the power to declare war.
- **Senate** approves the President's appointments to important positions, including the U.S. Supreme Court and the Cabinet (the board that advises the President and holds offices in key departments).

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



Approves funding levels for programs such as Head Start, Medicaid, Cash Assistance, Social Security, relief for victims of natural disasters, military spending, child care, health care and domestic violence services.

u.s. representatives

There are 435 members of the House of Representatives. All seats in the House are up for re-election every two years. The number of representatives from each state is based on population. Currently Montana has only one representative.

montana state elected positions

governor

Heads the state executive branch. Elected every four years in presidential election years. In Montana, a governor can serve a maximum of eight years in a 16-year period.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Sends proposed budget to the legislature for approval.
- Has the power to veto bills passed by the state legislature. Vetoes can be overridden by a two-thirds majority vote in the legislature.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



Governor's budget proposes funding levels for programs such as child care, health care and domestic violence services. Can call a special session of the state legislature to address important and urgent issues like state funding for Montana schools.

STATE LEGISLATURE

The Montana legislature is divided into two houses: the Montana Senate and the Montana House of Representatives. They meet every other year for 90 days.

mt senators...

The state is divided up into 50 Senate Districts and each district can elect one senator. State Senate seats are up for election every four years with a two-term limit (eight years).

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Enact state laws in areas such as state taxes, education, child care and conservation of natural resources.
- Share budget-making responsibilities with the governor.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



Makes decisions about how much of the state budget should go to support Montana's public schools, or how much to fund state health care programs like the CHIP program for low-income children. Can pass state exemptions to the cash assistance program (TANF) that can allow program participants to count going to school as part of their welfare-to-work hours.

mt representatives...

The state has 100 House Districts. Each district elects one representative. State House seats are up for election every two years, with a four-term maximum (eight years).

montana attorney general...

The state's chief legal and law enforcement office; heads the State Department of Justice. Elected every four years.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Represents the state in legal matters.
- Supervises the state's 56 county attorneys.
- Helps provide public safety services.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



Helps ensure that orders of protection in domestic violence cases are correctly enforced around the state.

montana secretary of state...

Montana's chief elections officer. Elected every four years.

- Helps ensure the right to participate in federal, state and local elections.
- Tracks legislation, bonds, mortgages, and corporate and state department records.



Helps ensure that no Montanan is unfairly denied their right to vote.

superintendent of public instruction...

Head of the state Department of Education. Elected every four years.

- Supervises all public schools in the state and distributes state education money.
- Defines teacher certification and can mandate curricula for schools.



Helps ensure that all schools in Montana provide a quality education.