

## **2016 Montana Statewide Races: Candidate Answers and Additional Comments**

### **I. US Representative:**

a. *Question: "It is the role of government to make sure that safety net programs are in place so those most in need don't fall through the cracks." (Agree/Disagree)*

**i. Ryan Zinke, Republican: Did Not Reply.**

**ii. Denise Juneau, Democrat: Agree.**

1. "In his last speech, Senator Hubert Humphrey said, "...the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped." This perspective has guided and informed me all my life -- both as a citizen and as an elected official. As Montana's next member of Congress, I will fight to preserve, protect and improve essential social programs like Head Start, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security."

**iii. Rick Breckenridge, Libertarian: Agree**

1. "It is the role of State government. And it can be the role of the 501 (C) (3)'s. It can be you and me but the US Constitution is charged only with "General Welfare". Specific social programs outside the scope of the general welfare clause are not part of the delegated power of Congress. The state constitution is charged with promoting the public health, safety and welfare. It is a reserved power. The state needs to exercise that power as the legislative process sees fit."

b. *Question: "Do you support or oppose services and programs that give women access to health care, including comprehensive reproductive health care, regardless of ability to pay?" (Support/Oppose)*

**i. Ryan Zinke, Republican: Did Not Reply.**

**ii. Denise Juneau, Democrat: Support**

1. "The right to access vital health care -- including comprehensive reproductive health care for women -- is a fundamental human right. Predicating access on the ability to pay is wrong. I support Title X funding so women receive the health care they need."

**iii. Rick Breckenridge, Libertarian: Support**

1. "I support these programs at the state and local level. That is where the services are needed. Federal government has no delegated authority to fund any health care except Indian Nations and the Veterans Administration."
- c. *Question: "Do you support equality for all families, including access to jobs, housing, and services without discrimination?" (Yes/No)*
  - i. **Ryan Zinke, Republican: Did Not Reply**
  - ii. **Denise Juneau, Democrat: Yes**
    1. "As an American Indian from the Blackfeet Reservation, I have a particular point of view on how discrimination still plays in our society. We as a nation have a long way to go before achieving the dream of 'Liberty and Justice for All.' As Montana's next member of Congress I will wake up each and every day to fight against discrimination in all its forms, be it in employment, education, housing or health care."
  - iii. **Rick Breckenridge, Libertarian: Yes**
    1. "Housing is a fundamental right. However, state and local regulations have added between \$40-\$50,000 of review cost in housing unit developed, making affordable housing out of reach for nearly all of Montanans under 30. I am against all forms of discrimination, including reverse discrimination and affirmative action. We are all people, interconnected and our existence and development depends on these barriers being broken down. Job opportunities in our natural resource sector have always been the highest paying jobs in the market. Federal policies on timber harvesting and coal extraction along with state rules on oil development have all help to make these jobs disappear. Montana needs them back."

## **II. Governor**

- a. *Question: "Do you support equality for all families, including access to jobs, housing, and services without discrimination?" (Support/Oppose)*
  - i. **Steve Bullock, Democrat: Support**
    1. "As a dad and as a Montanan, I proudly support equal opportunities for all law-abiding Montanans--no matter how much they earn, where they live or who they love--especially when it comes to jobs, housing and public services. Discrimination isn't acceptable anywhere, and it hurts our economy by driving away job-creating business opportunities. I also proudly stand by my recent work to bridge the wage gap by demanding equal pay for women for

equal work. That's why I recently signed an executive order to shore up the wage gap with transparency and incentivize all Montana businesses to pay women the same as men for equal work."

**ii. Greg Gianforte, Republican: Did Not Reply**

**iii. Ted Dunlap, Libertarian: Support**

1. "The lovely thing about Libertarians is that less government means fewer places for government to discriminate."

b. *Question: "Do you support or oppose services and programs that give women access to health care, including comprehensive reproductive health care, regardless of ability to pay?"*

*(Support/Oppose)*

**i. Steve Bullock, Democrat: Support**

1. "Over 100,000 Montanans are helping to care for an aging family member or friend. Our long-term care system is very dependent on these family caregivers, many of whom are juggling work, caregiving, and raising children. I support measures to ensure that no Montana family has the carpet pulled out from under them if they become sick or injured, or if they have no choice but to take care of a loved one. We have a responsibility to ensure that we're doing our part to create opportunities for all Montanans, not tear them down, if and when employees face tough health situations beyond their control."

**ii. Greg Gianforte, Republican: Did Not Reply**

**iii. Ted Dunlap, Libertarian: Oppose**

1. "Government creates nothing. It takes from some and gives to others. Businesses that serve both customers and employees well do much better than those who mistreat one or the other. Government is unnecessary, perhaps counterproductive in those interactions."

c. *Question: "Do you agree or disagree that Montana should raise revenue by closing tax loopholes and ensuring that everyone is paying their fair share in order to fully invest in communities and infrastructure?" (Agree/Disagree)*

**i. Steve Bullock, Democrat: Agree**

1. "I believe all Montanans should pay their fair share when it comes to taxes, and not a penny more. We need to enforce the laws we have to make certain that out-of-state corporations and wealthy individuals don't skirt the system at the expense of the rest of us."

**ii. Greg Gianforte, Republican: Did Not Reply**

**iii. Ted Dunlap, Libertarian: Disagree**

1. "The phrase "closing loopholes" is always a euphemism for raising taxes. Getting government out of places that is none of its business, thereby reducing cost of government, is the surest way to improve those services it should provide while cutting the need for greater taxation. In the end, parasites never limit their consumption. Hosts must. Taxpayers need to say "Enough", across the board."

**III. Secretary of State**

- a. Question: "Will you uphold state laws that allow Montanans to use multiple forms of ID at the polls, including but not limited to voter registration cards and student IDs?" (Yes/No)
  - i. **Monica Lindeen, Democrat: Yes**
  - ii. **Corey Stapleton, Republican: Did Not Reply**
  - iii. **Roger Roots, Libertarian: Yes**
- b. Question: "Do you support or oppose laws expanding access to registration and voting such as online voter registration?" (Support/Oppose)
  - i. **Monica Lindeen, Democrat: Support**
  - ii. **Corey Stapleton, Republican: Did Not Reply**
  - iii. **Roger Roots, Libertarian: Support**
- c. Question: "Do you agree or disagree with the implementation of satellite voting offices in reservation counties?" (Agree/Disagree)
  - i. **Monica Lindeen, Democrat: Agree**
  - ii. **Corey Stapleton, Republican: Did Not Reply**
  - iii. **Roger Roots, Libertarian: Did Not Reply**
    1. "I guess I think all counties should be treated equally, with no special favors or disfavours for any particular type of county."

**IV. Attorney General**

- a. Question: "Racial and ethnic minorities, especially Native Americans, are disproportionately represented in Montana's prison system. Do you support or oppose legislative efforts to stop racial profiling by the police and the courts?" (Support/Oppose)
  - i. **Tim Fox, Republican: Did Not Reply**
  - ii. **Larry Jent, Democrat: Support**
- b. Question: "Do you support increasing state funding for domestic and sexual violence intervention and prevention, including an increased focus on the issue of violence against Native women and other marginalized groups?" (Support/Oppose)

- i. Tim Fox, Republican: Did Not Reply**
- ii. Larry Jent, Democrat: Support**
- c. *Question: "3. As Attorney General, would you support alternative approaches to our criminal justice system including but not limited to investment in mental health care and drug treatment?" (Yes/No)*
  - i. Tim Fox, Republican: Did Not Reply**
  - ii. Larry Jent, Democrat: Yes**

**V. Superintendent of Public Instruction**

- a. *Question: "Do you support age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education, which includes information about abstinence and contraception, in Montana schools?" (Support/Oppose)*
  - i. Melissa Romano, Democrat: Support**
    - 1. "Comprehensive sex education helps provide a well rounded education for our kids."
  - ii. Elsie Arntzen, Republican: Did Not Reply**
    - 1. "I support age-appropriate sex education in our schools."
- b. *Question: "2. Will you support legislative efforts to fully fund Indian Education for All?" (Yes/No)*
  - i. Melissa Romano, Democrat: Yes**
  - ii. Elsie Arntzen, Republican: Did Not Reply**
    - 1. "I am fully supportive of Indian Education for All in our Montana classrooms."
- c. *Question: "Would you support or oppose a policy or initiative to divert state education dollars from local public schools to private schools including religious schools?" (Support/Oppose)*
  - i. Melissa Romano, Democrat: Oppose**
    - 1. "It's important to ensure that public tax dollars are spent supporting Montana's public school children."
  - ii. Elsie Arntzen, Republican: Did Not Reply**
    - 1. "Allocation of state education dollars is a function performed by the legislature, not the State Superintendent's office. As Montana's next Superintendent, I will work to ensure that we offer students the very best public education with the resources that we are provided by the legislature."

**VI. Montana Supreme Court Justice #3**

- a. *Question: "Do you support increasing access to justice by continuing funding for the self-help law program in the Department of Justice budget?" (Yes/No)*
  - i. Kristen Juras: Yes**

**ii. Dirk Sandefur: Yes**

1. ""As a sitting State District Judge in one of Montana's busiest judicial districts over the last 14 years, I know and have personally observed that the Montana Judicial Branch Self-Help Program is a proven and effective means to assist program clientele in accessing the Montana trial court system without the assistance of a lawyer in certain types of cases where the assistance of a lawyer may be desirable but not feasible for the client. It also helps with court efficiency by reducing the time it generally takes for the court (judge) to try to guide unrepresented litigants who otherwise would be unable to navigate the court system without great difficulty or prejudice."

*b. Question: "Do you support increasing state funding for domestic and sexual violence intervention and prevention, including an increased focus on the issue of violence against Native women and other marginalized groups?" (Support/Oppose)*

**i. Kristen Juras: Support**

**ii. Dirk Sandefur: Support**

1. "I absolutely support additional funding for these important purposes and initiatives. My anecdotal observation as a sitting State District Judge in one of Montana's busiest judicial districts over the last 14 years is that domestic and sexual violence against women, particularly but not limited to Native women and other marginalized segments of our community, is at best ever-present at an intolerably high rate and, at worst, seemingly ever-increasing proportional to the increasing poverty and alcohol/drug abuse problems in Montana."