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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beyond Party - Montana First Announces Endorsements for Montana Legislative Candidates and Ballot Initiatives

Missoula, Montana — October 14, 2026 — Beyond Party – Montana First today announced its endorsements of a bipartisan slate of candidates and ballot initiatives that reflect the organization's commitment to principled leadership, constitutional government, community engagement, and putting Montana first.

At a time when political discourse is often dominated by division and partisan loyalty, Beyond Party seeks to identify and support leaders who demonstrate integrity, independent judgment, and a willingness to put the interests of their constituents above party politics. The organization's endorsements span candidates and initiatives across Montana and reflect a shared commitment to strengthening democratic institutions, protecting individual freedoms, and fostering practical, solutions-oriented leadership.

"Montanans deserve public servants who listen, think independently, and work constructively across differences," said Katie Vaughan, Beyond Party spokesperson.

"These candidates and initiatives reflect a commitment to effective representation, constitutional principles, and the civic values that unite our communities."

Endorsed Candidates

- Judge Amy Eddy for Montana Supreme Court
- Llew Jones for Montana Senate District 9
- Margaret Mitchell for Montana Senate District 10
- George Nikolakakos for Montana Senate District 12
- Scott Rosenzweig for Montana Senate District 29
- Mary Ann Dunwell for Montana Senate District 42
- David Bedey for Montana Senate District 43
- Paula Koch for Montana House District 4
- Courtenay Sprunger for Montana House District 7
- Melissa Nikolakakos for Montana House District 20
- Eric Tilleman for Montana House District 23
- Valerie Moore for Montana House District 29
- Chip Fitzpatrick for Montana House District 42
- Tucker Colvin for Montana House District 48
- Brad Barker for Montana House District 55
- Alanah Griffith for Montana House District 60
- Wayne Rusk for Montana House District 86

Endorsed Ballot Initiatives

- YES on CI -132: Nonpartisan Judicial Elections
- YES on CI – 133: Protecting the Initiative and Referendum Process
- YES on I – 194: “The Montana Plan” Limiting Political Spending by Artificial Persons

Beyond Party's endorsement process evaluates candidates and initiatives based on criteria including integrity, leadership, independence, demonstrated effectiveness, commitment to constituent representation, and respect for democratic norms and institutions.

Several of this year's endorsements include candidates featured in recent coverage of key legislative races across Montana. While those contests deserve attention, they represent only part of Beyond Party's broader endorsement portfolio this election cycle. The organization has endorsed candidates and initiatives from a variety of political backgrounds who have demonstrated a willingness to put Montana and their communities first.

"Our goal is not to advance a political party, but to elevate leaders and policies that strengthen trust in government and encourage thoughtful civic engagement," said Katie Vaughan. "We're proud to support candidates and initiatives that bring people together to solve problems and uphold Montana's democratic traditions."

For more information about Beyond Party's endorsements and evaluation process, visit beyondpartymtfirst.org.

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About Beyond Party

Beyond Party – Montana First is a Montana-based organization dedicated to nurturing the republican and democratic principles articulated in the Montana constitution by empowering principled candidates, countering the corrosive forces of unrelenting partisanship and unlimited money, and mobilizing citizens to reclaim self-governance at every level.