

Aaron Flint (MT-01) Research Report

Significant Findings

Flint Criticized A Proposal For Affordable Housing In Bozeman And Supported Policies That Would Make Homebuilding More Expensive

- ✓ Flint criticized a local candidate's proposal to build affordable housing in Bozeman, saying, "they're probably gonna want you to pay for it."
- ✓ Flint supported Trump's tariffs, which Montana homebuilders said would make it more expensive to build new homes and increase the cost of housing.
- ✓ Flint criticized building housing solutions in Missoula and said building homeless shelters encouraged "the transient population to move in and take hold."
- ✓ Flint blamed government regulations and zoning for driving up housing costs and claimed government regulations accounted for 40% of the cost of housing.
- ✓ When asked what the solution was to affordable housing, Flint deflected from the housing issue and said, "the biggest thing we need right now is jobs, jobs, jobs."

Flint Praised Policies That Increased Costs On Montana Farmers And Ranchers, Stopped Funds From Reaching Them, And Limited Their Sales In Foreign Markets

- ✓ Flint supported Trump's tariff threats even as they caused financial strain for Montana farmers and ranchers by increasing costs and limiting foreign markets.
- ✓ Flint praised DOGE, which fired USDA workers who supported Montana farmers and national forests, and froze grants to Montana farmers.
- ✓ Flint praised Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins even after she defended Trump's decision to import more beef from Argentina, undermining Montana ranchers.

Flint Had A History Of Supporting Land Transfers That Could Lead To The Privatization Of Public Lands, Was Paid By A Dark Money Group That Pushed For Land Takeovers, And Praised The Recission Of The Roadless Rule, Which Would Jeopardize Big Game Hunting Habitats

- ✓ Flint had a history of supporting the transfer of public lands from federal to state control, which could cost Montana \$8 billion and bankrupt several counties.
- ✓ 2025: Flint praised the recission of the Roadless Rule, which would affect 6.4 million acres of land in Montana, jeopardizing big game hunting habitats, reducing the Bull Trout population, and increasing the risk of wildfires.
- ✓ Flint accused Democrats of promoting "public lands in public hands" while actually restricting access.

Flint Was A Political Hack Handpicked By Republican Insiders To Run For Congress In MT-01, Despite Not Living In Western Montana

- ✓ Flint held various jobs in government and politics, including state director for Rep. Zinke and communications director for Greg Gianforte's 2016 gubernatorial campaign.
- ✓ 2026: Flint launched his campaign less than an hour after Rep. Zinke announced his retirement, and Flint quickly announced endorsements from the Republican political establishment.
- ✓ Flint switched his voter registration from Billings in MT-02 to the western Montana city of Kalispell in MT-01.
- ✓ Flint had support and financial backing from Republican consultant Jake Eaton, who faced calls for investigation after his company received \$1.7 million from the Montana government under questionable circumstances.

Flint Supported Policies That Increased The Cost Of Living And Made It Harder For Montana Families To Make Ends Meet

- ✓ 2024: Flint defended the governor and legislature against criticism for raising taxes even as Montana homeowners saw property taxes increase by hundreds of dollars.
- ✓ 2025: Flint expressed skepticism about a law that lowered property taxes for 80% of Montana homeowners because of its impact on people with second homes, including Airbnb owners.
- ✓ 2016: As communications director, Flint defended gubernatorial candidate Greg Gianforte over allegations of laying off Montanans and outsourcing jobs.
- ✓ Flint praised Trump's tariffs, which cost Montana businesses \$42 million and increased the cost of living for Montanans.
- ✓ Flint said, "economic numbers are still rocking and rolling" because of tariffs and supported Trump's tariff threats against Canada and Mexico.
- ✓ March 2026: Montana businesses paid about \$42 million in tariffs and local business owners criticized tariffs for "absolutely creating increased prices at the cash register for all consumers."

Flint Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill, Which Would Kick Nearly 24,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In MT-01, Threaten Food Assistance For Nearly 16,000 Households In The District, And Strain Rural Hospitals

- ✓ 2025: Flint praised the One Big Beautiful Bill and touted his endorsement from Trump after Trump called the One Big Beautiful Bill "the ultimate codification of our agenda."
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill enacted the largest cuts to Medicaid in history, slashing local hospital revenue, and would kick nearly 24,000 people in MT-01 off their health insurance.

- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill enacted the largest SNAP cuts in history, threatening food assistance for nearly 16,000 households in MT-01.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill gave billions in tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy at the expense of working families.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill would add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill made health care more expensive for seniors and older Americans.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill cut crucial health and nutrition resources for rural Americans, including threatening the closure of three rural hospitals in MT-01.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill sought to defund Planned Parenthood and incentivized insurance companies to drop abortion coverage.

Flint Said He Would Repeal The ACA, Which Protected Health Care For People With Preexisting Conditions, And Opposed Medicaid Expansion That Kept More Than 77,000 Montanans Covered

- ✓ Flint said a top priority in Congress would be repealing the Affordable Care Act, which protected people with preexisting conditions and expanded Medicaid.
- ✓ Flint opposed extending ACA tax credits, driving up health care costs for nearly 44,000 individuals in MT-01, and increasing out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees by an average of more than 75%.
- ✓ Flint compared federal Medicaid dollars to a “fiscal narcotic,” echoing a legislator’s comment that the funds were “like heroin,” even though Medicaid expansion covered more than 77,000 Montanans.
- ✓ Flint criticized the Inflation Reduction Act, which capped out-of-pocket spending on prescription drugs at \$2,000 a year for Medicare recipients.
- ✓ Flint said his wife and family helped build health care infrastructure in Missoula.

Flint Supported Legislation That Could Enact A 20% Cut To Social Security, Medicare, And Veterans’ Benefits

- ✓ 2026: Flint said he supported passing a balanced budget amendment.
- ✓ A balanced budget amendment could subject Social Security, Medicare, and veterans’ benefits to a potential 20% cut, putting benefits at risk for more than 111,000 people in Montana’s 1st congressional district.

Flint Was An Anti-Abortion Extremist Who Supported Overturning Roe V. Wade And Opposed Montana’s Constitutional Amendment To Provide A Right To Abortion

- ✓ Flint supported the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

- ✓ 2024: Flint opposed Initiative 128, which amended the Montana Constitution to provide a right to abortion.
- ✓ Flint described what happened in Planned Parenthood as “barbarism,” and used the term “abortion mills” to describe health care facilities.
- ✓ Flint said Montana was “very fortunate” to have crisis pregnancy centers; crisis pregnancy centers used manipulative tactics to discourage abortion.

Flint Was Bad For Montana’s Native Communities, Repeatedly Disparaging Native Groups And Dismissing Their Concerns

- ✓ Flint accused media of “sensationalism” for reporting on Native Americans being questioned and detained by ICE.

Flint Was A Sore Loser Who Thought The Rules Did Not Apply To Him During His Time In Student Government

- ✓ 2003: Flint was elected president of the University of Montana’s student government after accepting a contribution linked to a Republican-aligned PAC.
- ✓ 2003-2008: Flint exceeded spending limits in two student government campaigns, unsuccessfully sued the university when he was denied his seat, and appealed all the way to the Supreme Court.

Flint Criticized A Proposal For Affordable Housing In Bozeman And Supported Policies That Would Make Homebuilding More Expensive

Flint Criticized A Local Candidate’s Proposal To Build Affordable Housing In Bozeman, Saying, “They’re Probably Gonna Want You To Pay For It”

AUDIO: Flint Criticized A Local Candidate’s Proposal To Build Affordable Housing In Bozeman, Saying “They’re Probably Gonna Want You To Pay For It.” FLINT: “What’s interesting about Joey Morrison, yeah, he sounds like he’s far left. But he was opposed to a ban on new development that one of the other candidates had been promoting. And he instead was focused on developing more affordable housing. Now, now the challenge for those of you taxpayers is, well, they’re probably gonna want you to pay for it, which means you’re gonna pay even more on property taxes in Bozeman to pay for the so-called affordable housing.” [Montana Talks, 26:40, [11/8/23](#)] (AUDIO)

AUDIO: Flint: “You’re Gonna Pay Even More On Property Taxes In Bozeman To Pay For The So-Called Affordable Housing.” FLINT: “What’s interesting about Joey Morrison, yeah, he sounds like he’s far left. But he was opposed to a ban on new development that one of the other candidates had been promoting. And he instead was focused on developing more affordable housing. Now, now the challenge for those of you taxpayers is, well, they’re probably gonna want you to pay for it, which means you’re gonna pay even more on property taxes in Bozeman to pay for the so-called affordable housing.” [Montana Talks, 26:40, [11/8/23](#)] (AUDIO)

Flint Supported Trump’s Tariffs, Which Montana Homebuilders Said Would Make It More Expensive To Build New Homes And Increase The Cost Of Housing

Flint Praised Economic Numbers He Said Were Positive Because Of Tariffs And Supported Trump's Tariff Threats Against Canada And Mexico

2026: Flint Said "The Economic Numbers Are Still Rocking And Rolling" Because Of Tariffs

AUDIO: February 2026: In Discussing Tariffs, Flint Said "The Economic Numbers Are Still Rocking And Rolling." FLINT: "And by the way, the economic numbers are still rocking and rolling." CALLER: "I know." FLINT: "Some would say despite the tariffs, but Peter Navarro said it's because of the tariffs because of what that's doing with the American economy and encouraging more domestic manufacturing, etc. But what do you think? What do you think about taking some of the revenue and giving it right back to the people?" [Montana Talks, 42:35, [2/18/26](#)] (AUDIO)

- **AUDIO: February 2026: Flint Said Though Some Criticized The Tariffs, Peter Navarro Said Positive Economic Numbers Were Because Of The Tariffs.** FLINT: "And by the way, the economic numbers are still rocking and rolling." CALLER: "I know." FLINT: "Some would say despite the tariffs, but Peter Navarro said it's because of the tariffs because of what that's doing with the American economy and encouraging more domestic manufacturing, etc. But what do you think? What do you think about taking some of the revenue and giving it right back to the people?" [Montana Talks, 42:35, [2/18/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Flint Described Tariffs On Other Countries As Taxes On Other Countries Instead Of Montanans

Flint Said Liberals "Get Mad If We Want To Tariff China. They Get Mad If You Want To Tax China." FLINT: "They'll argue that a tariff is a tax and, you know, some ways, but here's the thing, like, okay, so if we tax China, the liberals get mad if they want to call a tariff a tax." CALLER: "Yeah." FLINT: "They get mad if we want to tariff China. They get mad if you want to tax China. They don't get mad if, if they want to tax Chris in Billings or Susan in Missoula. In fact, they will cheerlead the effort to tax you. But boy, they will get big mad if you want to tax China. It's just like, why they say nothing about China coal, but they get big mad about union-made American coal." [Montana Talks, 43:11, [2/18/26](#)] (AUDIO)

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2025: Flint Appeared To Support Trump's Tariff Threats Against Canada And Mexico

March 2025: Flint Said, "That Didn't Take Long...But Watch The Never Trumper/Liberal Media Tariff Fear Porn Continue" In Response To The Headline, "Canada Backs Down On Electricity Surcharge After Trump Tariff Threats." "That didn't take long...but watch the Never Trumper/liberal media tariff fear porn continue- 'Canada Backs Down On Electricity Surcharge After Trump Tariff Threats' #MTPol @pvtjokerus." [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/12/25](#)]



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Flint: “And Just Like That: ‘Trump Says Mexico Will Stop Flow Of Migrants After Speaking With Mexican President Following Tariff Threats.’” “And just like that: ‘Trump says Mexico will stop flow of migrants after speaking with Mexican president following tariff threats’ #mtpol.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [11/27/24](#)]



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Tariffs On Canadian Imports Would Make Homebuilding And Housing More Expensive According To Montana Homebuilders

March 2025: The Montana Building Industry Association Said Tariffs On Canada Would Hurt Lumber Imports And Increase Prices For Homebuilding

March 2025: Montana Right Now Headline: “Montana Builders Face Challenges With Potential Lumber Tariffs.” [Montana Right Now, [3/11/25](#)]

March 2025: The Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA) Executive Director Said Tariffs On Canada Would Hurt Wood And Lumber Imports. “The federal government's consideration of a lumber tariff could have significant effects on Montana's construction industry. Andy Shirtliff, Executive Director of the Montana Building Industry Association, explained the potential challenges. ‘Currently with the tariffs, it's going to really hurt those wood import or lumber imports from other areas such as like Canada and with our sawmills and lumber mills closing down across the state that makes it even more difficult to get supply... And so, with that

increases the price of that supply as well as the price of the home that they're looking to build,' said Shirtliff.”
[Montana Right Now, [3/11/25](#)]

MBIA Executive Director: “That Increases The Price Of That Supply As Well As The Price Of The Home That They’re Looking To Build.” “The federal government's consideration of a lumber tariff could have significant effects on Montana's construction industry. Andy Shirtliff, Executive Director of the Montana Building Industry Association, explained the potential challenges. ‘Currently with the tariffs, it's going to really hurt those wood import or lumber imports from other areas such as like Canada and with our sawmills and lumber mills closing down across the state that makes it even more difficult to get supply... And so, with that increases the price of that supply as well as the price of the home that they're looking to build,’ said Shirtliff.” [Montana Right Now, [3/11/25](#)]

November 2025: The National Association Of Home Builders Said Trump’s Tariffs On Canadian Imports Would Make Housing More Expensive

November 2025: The National Association Of Home Builders (NAHB) Said Trump’s Tariffs On Canadian Imports Of Lumber And Other Materials Would Make Housing More Expensive. “The National Association of Home Builders has said that tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on Canadian imports of lumber and things like kitchen cabinets will make housing more expensive. ‘These new tariffs will create additional headwinds for an already challenged housing market by further raising construction and renovation costs,’ said NAHB chairman Buddy Hughes in a press release. The tariffs went into effect on Oct. 14. The Trump administration is trying to catalyze the U.S. lumber industry, and other manufacturing industries, by making it more expensive to import products from foreign countries. Theoretically, that would make American producers more competitive and allow them to ramp up production.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [11/14/25](#)]

- **Montana Imported Around \$100 Million Worth Of Canadian Softwood Lumber Every Year.** “Canada accounts for nearly 85% of all U.S. lumber imports, and the U.S. Department of Commerce has more than doubled the duties on Canadian lumber. Montana imports around \$100 million worth of Canadian softwood lumber every year directly from Canada, and it’s possible it uses quite a bit more than that by getting imported wood from other American suppliers who imported it first.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [11/14/25](#)]

NAHB Chairman: “These New Tariffs Will Create Additional Headwinds For An Already Challenged Housing Market By Further Raising Construction And Renovation Costs.” “The National Association of Home Builders has said that tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on Canadian imports of lumber and things like kitchen cabinets will make housing more expensive. ‘These new tariffs will create additional headwinds for an already challenged housing market by further raising construction and renovation costs,’ said NAHB chairman Buddy Hughes in a press release.” [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [11/14/25](#)]

October 2025: Brookings Institution Calculated That Tariffs Would Add \$30 Billion To The Costs Of Investment In Residential Structures

October 2025: Brookings Institution Headline: “Recent Tariffs Threaten Residential Construction.”
[Brookings Institution, [10/3/25](#)]

The Brookings Institute Calculated That Tariffs Would Add Roughly \$30 Billion To The Costs Of Investment In Residential Structures. “Using TPC’s tariff model, we calculated that current tariffs, including those just announced, will add roughly \$30 billion to the costs of investment in residential structures. Our calculations show that about 90% of the costs to residential investment will fall on construction of new homes, including apartments.” [Brookings Institution, [10/3/25](#)]

The Trump Administration Imposed New Or Higher Tariffs On Materials Needed To Build New Homes, Including Lumber, Steel, And Kitchen Cabinets. “The U.S. faces a housing shortage measured in the millions of units, and families are struggling with historically high rents and home prices. The Trump administration has expressed a goal to reduce the cost of living and make housing more affordable, and may declare a national housing

emergency. But it is also imposing new or elevated tariffs on lumber, gypsum, steel, and now, kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, and other related products, the very materials that builders need to construct new homes. These taxes raise costs across the board—whether for new construction, renovations, or affordable housing development.” [Brookings Institution, [10/3/25](#)]

Flint Criticized Building Housing Solutions In Missoula And Said Building Homeless Shelters Encouraged “The Transient Population To Move In And Take Hold”

Flint: “A Frequent Criticism Of The City’s Housing Problem By Missoulians Is That ‘If You Build It, They Will Come.’” “One of the big complaints with liberal cities like Portland, Seattle, and Missoula is that when you build massive homeless shelters or allow homeless camps, you encourage the transient population to move in and take hold. A frequent criticism of the city's housing problem by Missoulians is that ‘if you build it, they will come.’” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [12/28/22](#)]

Flint Said A Big Complaint With Missoula Was “When You Build Massive Homeless Shelters Or Allow Homeless Camps, You Encourage The Transient Population To Move In And Take Hold.” “One of the big complaints with liberal cities like Portland, Seattle, and Missoula is that when you build massive homeless shelters or allow homeless camps, you encourage the transient population to move in and take hold. A frequent criticism of the city's housing problem by Missoulians is that ‘if you build it, they will come.’” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [12/28/22](#)]

Flint Blamed Government Regulations And Zoning For Driving Up Housing Costs And Claimed Government Regulations Accounted For 40% Of The Cost Of Housing

Flint Said “Big Government Regulations” Were What Largely Drove Up The Cost Of Housing

Video: Flint: “We Know That Big Government Regulations Are What Have Largely Driven Up Costs Of Housing.” HOST: “You mentioned in that last answer, affordable housing, because that's a big topic.” FLINT: “Yeah.” HOST: “What is the solution? Because there seems to be different ideas as to how we're going how to go about it.” FLINT: “Well, first, the biggest thing we need right now is jobs, jobs, jobs. If we want to talk affordability, we've got to talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. And for me, what that means is, when you get to Congress, you've got to codify, codify, codify. We've got to get these big government regulations out of the way. We know that big government regulations are what have largely driven up costs of housing as well. So that's the big thing. We've got to make our timber industry great again. We've got to get folks cleaning up our forests again, making our forests healthy again.” [NBC Montana via YouTube, 11:11, [3/17/26](#)] (VIDEO)

Flint Claimed Government Regulations And Red Tape Accounted For 40% Of The Cost Of Housing

Flint: “40% Of The Cost Of Housing Simply Comes Down To Government Regulations And Red Tape.” “40% of the cost of housing simply comes down to government regulations and red tape. That was one of the major takeaways during my recent chat with a great Bozeman, Montana homebuilder- Eugene Graf. Graf is a former President of the Southwest Montana Building Industry Association and the Montana Building Industry Association. Given all of the news coverage that housing has been getting during this 2024 election cycle, why not actually hear from someone who actually builds housing?” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [10/29/24](#)]

- **Montana Talks Flint Op-Ed Headline: “A Major Reason Housing In Montana Is So Expensive.”** [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [10/29/24](#)]

Flint Said Montana Homebuilder Eugene Graf Told Him Government Regulations And Red Tape Accounted For 40% Of The Cost Of Housing. “40% of the cost of housing simply comes down to government regulations and red tape. That was one of the major takeaways during my recent chat with a great Bozeman, Montana homebuilder- Eugene Graf. Graf is a former President of the Southwest Montana Building Industry Association and the Montana Building Industry Association. Given all of the news coverage that housing has been

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Flint Amplified A Letter That Blamed Planning And Zoning Departments For The Housing Shortage

In A Column, Flint Shared A Letter From Evelyn Pyburn That Blamed Planning And Zoning Departments For The Housing Shortage. “Evelyn Pyburn with the Big Sky Business Journal was listening in and sent me this email following the show: ‘I just have to add to your conversation of the broad disrespect for property rights. The violation of property rights in the US has its own government agency and it has offices in almost every town – planning and zoning departments, which get about three-fourths of their funding from the federal government. It is because of them that we have a housing shortage.’” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [1/13/26](#)]

Flint Amplified Pyburn’s Concern About “Disrespect Of Private Property Rights.” “There is not just a disrespect of law enforcement that is being tolerated in America, there is also a tolerance for the disrespect of private property rights that has gotten out of control. That’s what Evelyn Pyburn with the Big Sky Business Journal has to say. On Thursday morning, David Knobel and I were talking about the attacks on law enforcement in Minnesota, Portland and elsewhere, and about the broader disrespect of law enforcement that is being increasingly tolerated in America.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [1/13/26](#)]

When Asked What The Solution Was To Affordable Housing, Flint Deflected From The Housing Issue And Said, “The Biggest Thing We Need Right Now Is Jobs, Jobs, Jobs”

VIDEO: When Asked What The Solution Was To Affordable Housing, Flint Said, “The Biggest Thing We Need Right Now Is Jobs, Jobs, Jobs.” HOST: “You mentioned in that last answer, affordable housing, because that’s a big topic.” FLINT: “Yeah.” HOST: “What is the solution? Because there seems to be different ideas as to how we’re going how to go about it.” FLINT: “Well, first, the biggest thing we need right now is jobs, jobs, jobs. If we want to talk affordability, we’ve got to talk about jobs, jobs, jobs. And for me, what that means is, when you get to Congress, you’ve got to codify, codify, codify. We’ve got to get these big government regulations out of the way. We know that big government regulations are what are largely driven up cost of housing as well. So that’s the big thing. We’ve got to make our timber industry great again. We’ve got to get folks cleaning up our forests again, making our forests healthy again.” [NBC Montana via YouTube, 11:11, [3/17/26](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: Flint: “Trades Education Is Also Part Of This Affordable Housing Deal.” FLINT: “Out of nowhere. I get a text from Josh Smith, you know, the man from the Montana Knife Company. And anyway, I’m like, man, I’m actually just rolling past your location right now. I said, hey, maybe, maybe we should drop in for a cup of coffee. So we drop in get a cup of coffee. He shows me his incredible new headquarters. I mean, it is massive. I know they’re gonna have a grand opening soon, and I’m sure you guys will be there. But massive, new, new headquarters. He’s got 120 employees out there. We were talking trades education. This is why trades education is also a part of this affordable housing deal. We were talking trades education.” [NBC Montana via YouTube, 14:14, [3/17/26](#)] (VIDEO)

Flint Praised Policies That Increased Costs On Montana Farmers And Ranchers, Stopped Funds From Reaching Them, And Limited Their Sales In Foreign Markets

Flint Supported Trump’s Tariff Threats Even As They Caused Financial Strain For Montana Farmers And Ranchers By Increasing Costs And Limiting Foreign Markets

Flint Supported Trump’s Tariff Threats Against Canada And Mexico And Criticized What He Called “Lefty” Farm Groups For Opposing Tariffs

Flint Appeared To Support Trump’s Tariff Threats Against Canada And Mexico

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Flint: “And Just Like That: ‘Trump Says Mexico Will Stop Flow Of Migrants After Speaking With Mexican President Following Tariff Threats.’” “And just like that: ‘Trump says Mexico will stop flow of migrants after speaking with Mexican president following tariff threats’ #mtpol.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [11/27/24](#)]



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2026: Flint Said, “The Economic Numbers Are Still Rocking And Rolling” Because Of Tariffs

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Trump’s Tariffs Increased Costs On Montana Farmers And Ranchers, Limited Foreign Markets For Their Products, And Caused Financial Strain With One Montana Farmer Saying, “Tariffs Have Damaged Our International Reputation”

March 2026: Montana Farmers And Ranchers Faced Uncertainty Brought By Tariffs

March 2026: Montana Farmers And Ranchers Faced Uncertainty Brought By Tariffs, Which Disrupted Their Businesses. “Farmers and ranchers in Montana are grappling with uncertainty brought on by tariffs, which some say have disrupted their businesses like never before. Although some Trump-era tariffs were recently struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, many in the agricultural community believe the damage has already been done.” [KULR 8 News, [3/2/26](#)]

KULR 8 News Headline: “Montana Farmers Call For Action As Tariffs Take A Toll On Farms And Rural Communities.” [KULR 8 News, [3/2/26](#)]

Montana Farmers Experienced Financial Trouble As Trump’s Tariffs Increased The Cost Of Fertilizer And Machinery And Decreased Wheat Prices

September 2025: Trump’s Tariff Wars Drove Up The Cost Of Fertilizer And Machinery And Drove Down The Price Of Wheat, Leaving Montana’s Farmers In Financial Trouble. “Persistent drought means poor yields, but farmers like Miller are also facing the lowest wheat prices in five years. Erratic weather this fall made the harvest worse. So, Miller made the tough decision to pile grain on the ground while he looked for other ways to sell it. ‘It's the first time we put grain on the ground in 30 years, so it's pretty unusual. It’s not something that we’d like to practice or do,’ Miller says. The longer that grain sits there, the less it’s worth. That’s not Miller’s only problem. Trump’s tariffs pushed fertilizer and machinery prices to record highs.” [Montana Public Radio, [9/30/25](#)]

Montana Farmers Worried About Tariffs Eliminating Foreign Markets To Sell Products Such As Lentils

March 2025: Montana Free Press Headline: “Montana Farmers Troubled By Tariffs.” [Montana Free Press, [3/21/25](#)]

Montana Free Press: “Montana Farmers Are Worried About Being Whipsawed In A Trade War As The United States Trades Tariffs On Farm Products With China, Canada And Mexico.” “Montana farmers are worried about being whipsawed in a trade war as the United States trades tariffs on farm products with China, Canada and Mexico. Wheat and lentil exports are likely to face tougher markets in the coming year as tariffs erode favorable trade terms in Canada and China, producers told Montana Free Press in mid-March.” [Montana Free Press, [3/21/25](#)]

Montana Free Press: “Lentil Exports Are Likely To Face Tougher Markets In The Coming Year As Tariffs Erode Favorable Trade Terms In Canada And China.” “Wheat and lentil exports are likely to face tougher markets in the coming year as tariffs erode favorable trade terms in Canada and China, producers told Montana Free Press in mid-March. [...] Lentils weren’t targeted in Canada’s first tariffs on U.S. farm products, according to Canadian trade data, but there is a second tranche of tariffs coming in April. Whether lentils will be on the list remains to be seen.” [Montana Free Press, [3/21/25](#)]

- **Montana Was The Largest Lentil Producer In The Country.** “Montana is the largest lentil-producing state in the nation, followed closely by North Dakota and Washington. Montana farmers sold \$226.6 million in lentils in 2024, according to USDA. All three northern-tier states benefit from lentil sales into Canada, which normally imposes no tariff on U.S. lentils. The northeast part of the state is Montana’s biggest production area.” [Montana Free Press, [3/21/25](#)]

A Third-Generation Montana Farmer Said, “It Took A Full Generation Or More To Build These Markets,” But “Tariffs Have Damaged Our International Reputation”

In Discussing Tariffs, Third-Generation Montana Farmer Ben Peterson Said, “It Took A Full Generation Or More To Build These Markets, And Then We Lost Them In 10 Minutes.” “Ben Peterson, a third-generation farmer at E.L. Peterson Ranch, shared his struggles in the current market. Farming has been a family legacy for Peterson since 1949, but he now finds staying in business more challenging than ever. [...] He also highlighted the long-term impact on international markets. ‘It took a full generation or more to build these markets, and then we lost them in 10 minutes. We can’t get them back in 10 minutes. Now, those tariffs have damaged our international reputation and we are an unreliable trading partner. These markets will never go...we can’t be trusted, because our executive branch can’t stick to a plan or follow laws, our own laws means we can’t participate in those markets anymore,’ said Peterson.” [KULR 8 News, [3/2/26](#)]

Peterson: “Those Tariffs Have Damaged Our International Reputation And We Are An Unreliable Trading Partner.” “Ben Peterson, a third-generation farmer at E.L. Peterson Ranch, shared his struggles in the current market. Farming has been a family legacy for Peterson since 1949, but he now finds staying in business more challenging than ever. [...] He also highlighted the long-term impact on international markets. ‘It took a full generation or more to build these markets, and then we lost them in 10 minutes. We can’t get them back in 10 minutes. Now, those tariffs have damaged our international reputation and we are an unreliable trading partner. These markets will never go...we can’t be trusted, because our executive branch can’t stick to a plan or follow laws, our own laws means we can’t participate in those markets anymore,’ said Peterson.” [KULR 8 News, [3/2/26](#)]

The National Farmers Union And American Farm Bureau Warned About Instability From Tariffs

March 2025: Montana Free Press: “The National Farmers Union Warned That Tariff-Induced Instability Would Create Economic Uncertainty For The American Farm Economy.” “When new tariffs on products from China, Canada and Mexico were imposed in early March, the National Farmers Union warned that tariff-induced instability would create economic uncertainty for the American farm economy.” [Montana Free Press, [3/21/25](#)]

- **The Montana Farmers Union President Said, “Nobody Could Figure Out What Was Going To Happen” With Tariffs.** “Walter Schweitzer, President of the Montana Farmers Union, described the situation as uncertain. ‘Uncertainty would be the the [sic] one word that would describe everything that’s happened with these tariffs and, you know, a lot to do with the fact that they were implemented. Then they were paused and then they were doubled down and they were paused and then they were just all over the place and nobody could

figure out what was going to happen,’ said Schweitzer.” [KULR 8 News, [3/2/26](#)]

March 2025: The American Farm Bureau Federation Warned That Mexico, Canada, And China Were The Top Three Markets For U.S. Farm Products. “Similarly, economists for the more pro-trade American Farm Bureau Federation cautioned Tuesday that Mexico, Canada and China are the top three markets for U.S. farm products, with purchases of \$83.3 billion in 2024.” [Montana Free Press, [3/21/25](#)]

Flint Praised DOGE, Which Fired USDA Workers Who Supported Montana Farmers And Froze Grants To Montana Farmers

Flint Praised DOGE And Appeared To Support The U.S. Department Of Agriculture (USDA) Cutting Millions Of Dollars In Spending

October 2025: Flint Posed For A Photo With Vivek Ramaswamy, Trump’s Choice To Co-Lead DOGE

October 2025: Flint Posed For A Photo With Vivek Ramaswamy. “Just chatted with @vivekgramaswamy backstage before @turningpointusa event at Montana State @turningpointusa_msu.” [Aaron Flint, Instagram, [10/7/25](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Instagram, [10/7/25](#)]

- **Ramaswamy Was Trump’s Choice To Co-Lead DOGE.** “Vivek Ramaswamy, President-elect Donald Trump's choice to co-lead the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) with entrepreneur Elon Musk, is expected to soon step away from the task force, CBS News has learned. Ramaswamy intends to announce a campaign for Ohio governor as soon as the end of January, multiple sources confirmed to CBS News.” [CBS News, [1/19/25](#)]

March 2025: Flint Praised DOGE For Finding What He Called \$6 Million Of Waste In A University Of Montana Program

March 2025: Flint Said DOGE Found \$6 Million Of Waste In A University Of Montana Program To Strengthen Democracy And Bridge Divides. “As the DOGE team goes agency by agency highlighting waste, fraud, and abuse in federal government spending- a University of Montana program was mentioned by name in a

video shared by the Pentagon spokesman. [...] Parnell: ‘In the Air Force, \$1.9 million for holistic DEI transformation and training. \$6 million to the University of Montana to strengthen American democracy by bridging divides.’” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [3/5/25](#)]

February 2025: Flint Appeared To Support The USDA Cutting Millions Of Dollars In Spending

February 2025: Flint Seemingly Reacted Positively To A Headline Alleging USDA Cut Millions In Contracts, Including A \$230,000 Contract For A Gender Consultant. “If a gender consultant falls in the forest...” [Aaron Flint, Facebook, [2/17/25](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Facebook, [2/17/25](#)]

2024-2025: Flint Praised DOGE And One Of Its Allies

February 2025: Montana Talks Flint Column Headline: “DOGE Should Be Very Good For Montana Educators.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [2/25/25](#)]

February 2025: Flint Replied To A Post By Sen. Steve Daines Praising Argentina President Javier Milei And DOGE. “[Steve Daines:] Great to meet with Argentina President Javier Milei. He took a chainsaw to government spending, cutting it 30%, and is getting inflation under control. A great inspiration for President Trump’s efforts with @DOGE! [Aaron Flint:] Milei is awesome! He should come visit during the PBR in Montana.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [2/17/25](#)]



Milei is awesome! He should come visit during the PBR in Montana

2:42 PM · Feb 17, 2025 · 439 Views

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [2/17/25](#)]

- **Flint Called Milei “Awesome.”** “[Steve Daines:] Great to meet with Argentina President Javier Milei. He took a chainsaw to government spending, cutting it 30%, and is getting inflation under control. A great inspiration for President Trump’s efforts with @DOGE! [Aaron Flint:] Milei is awesome! He should come visit during the PBR in Montana.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [2/17/25](#)]

December 2024: Flint Amplified A Fox News Opinion Piece About How DOGE Could “Help Save Lives, Money From Wildfires.” “Here's how DOGE can help save lives, money from wildfires #FoxNews.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/18/24](#)]



10:25 AM · Dec 18, 2024 · 280 Views

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/18/24](#)]

2025: DOGE Fired USDA Workers Who Supported Montana Farmers And National Forests, And Froze Grants To Montana Farmers

DOGE Fired Thousands Of USDA Workers Who Supported Montana Farmers, Resulting In A One-Person Staffed Farm Services Administration (FSA) Office In Montana And Heavier Workloads For Farmers

NPR Headline: “Among The Federal Workers Fired: USDA Workers Who Keep Food Safe And Crops Growing.” [NPR, [2/18/25](#)]

February 2025: The USDA Fired More Than 5,700 Employees. “More than 5,700 probationary employees at the USDA were fired in February, according to Mary Pletcher Rice, an Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary that oversees human resources at the agency. And while Rice testified that they were reinstated following a court order in March, many of the workers say that they’re still on administrative leave or have taken early retirement or buyouts, while others are anticipating further dramatic reductions in force. One FSA office in Montana where rancher Bill Milton lives, went from five staff to one. Other offices around the rural West shuttered completely.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

High Country News Headline: “Farmers Face Frozen Jobs and Heavier Workloads Under DOGE ‘Efficiency’ Budget.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

One FSA Office In Montana Went From Having Five Staff To One. “More than 5,700 probationary employees at the USDA were fired in February, according to Mary Pletcher Rice, an Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary that oversees human resources at the agency. And while Rice testified that they were reinstated following a court order in March, many of the workers say that they’re still on administrative leave or have taken early retirement or buyouts, while others are anticipating further dramatic reductions in force. One FSA office in Montana where rancher Bill Milton lives, went from five staff to one. Other offices around the rural West shuttered completely.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

- **High Country News: “Without Enough Employees Around, Deadlines Are Missed, And Farmers Are Left Out To Dry.”** “One FSA office in Montana where rancher Bill Milton lives, went from five staff to one. Other offices around the rural West shuttered completely. The changes are creating a ‘disturbing amount of uncertainty,’ Milton said. The office helps Montana landowners identify grants and file critical paperwork so money funnels into on-the-ground projects. Without enough employees around, deadlines are missed, and farmers are left out to dry.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

Montana Rancher Bill Milton Said Staffing Cuts Created A “Disturbing Amount Of Uncertainty.” “One FSA office in Montana where rancher Bill Milton lives, went from five staff to one. Other offices around the rural West shuttered completely. The changes are creating a ‘disturbing amount of uncertainty,’ Milton said. The office helps Montana landowners identify grants and file critical paperwork so money funnels into on-the-ground projects. Without enough employees around, deadlines are missed, and farmers are left out to dry.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

The Loss Of Staff At The Farm Services Administration (FSA) Compounded The Damage Done To Farmers And Ranchers By DOGE. “The damage done to farmers and ranchers by grants frozen or ended by the Department of Government Efficiency is compounded by the loss of local staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Administration (FSA) offices that have traditionally provided on-the-ground support for projects. [...] One FSA office in Montana where rancher Bill Milton lives, went from five staff to one. Other offices around the rural West shuttered completely. The changes are creating a ‘disturbing amount of uncertainty,’ Milton said. The office helps Montana landowners identify grants and file critical paperwork so money funnels into on-the-ground projects. Without enough employees around, deadlines are missed, and farmers are left out to dry.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

- **The FSA Office Helped Montana Landowners Find Grants And File Paperwork To Funnel Money Into Projects On The Ground.** “The damage done to farmers and ranchers by grants frozen or ended by the Department of Government Efficiency is compounded by the loss of local staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Administration (FSA) offices that have traditionally provided on-the-ground support for projects. [...] One FSA office in Montana where rancher Bill Milton lives, went from five staff to one. Other offices around the rural West shuttered completely. The changes are creating a ‘disturbing amount of uncertainty,’ Milton said. The office helps Montana landowners identify grants and file critical paperwork so money funnels into on-the-ground projects. Without enough employees around, deadlines are missed, and farmers are left out to dry.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

February 2025: DOGE Fired At Least 360 U.S. Forest And National Park Service Employees In Montana

February 2025: The Trump Administration Fired At Least 360 U.S. Forest And National Park Service Employees In Montana. “In response to news this week that Montana’s largest land manager is laying off 360 Montana-based federal employees, a spokesperson for the U.S. Forest Service said Friday the agency is ‘confident that talented individuals’ impacted by the staffing reduction will have ‘many opportunities to contribute to our economy and society in countless ways outside of government.’ The spokesperson, who asked to not be identified, went on to say that Brooke Rollins, who heads up the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Forest Service, ‘fully supports President Trump’s directive to optimize government operations, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen USDA’s ability to better serve American farmers, ranchers, loggers and the agriculture community.’” [Montana Free Press, [2/14/25](#)]

- **U.S. Forest And National Park Service Layoffs In Montana Were A Result OF DOGE Efforts.** “The USDA is the largest federal employer in Montana and oversees the U.S. Forest Service, which manages more land in Montana than any other federal agency. Hundreds of Montanans lost their positions with the USFS in a sweeping round of layoffs implemented at the behest of a Department of Government Efficiency federal workforce reduction effort led by tech billionaire Elon Musk.” [Montana Free Press, [3/5/25](#)]
- **Responsibilities Of The Fired Forest Service Employees Included Clearing Trails, Responding To Wildfires, Controlling Noxious Weeds, Supporting Timber Sales, Restoring Fisheries And Studying Archaeological Sites, Among Others.** “While many of the Forest Service workers laid off have multiple years of experience with the agency, they were considered]probationary employees’ because they were just a year or two into their current position. Among other duties, the laid-off employees were charged with clearing trails, servicing campgrounds and rental cabins, responding to wildfires, controlling noxious weeds, supporting timber sales, restoring fisheries and studying archaeological sites.” [Montana Free Press, [3/5/25](#)]

2025: DOGE Froze Grants To Montana Farmers And Ranchers

2025: High Country News: Farmers And Ranchers Had Grants Frozen Or Ended By DOGE. “The damage done to farmers and ranchers by grants frozen or ended by the Department of Government Efficiency is compounded by the loss of local staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Administration (FSA) offices that have traditionally provided on-the-ground support for projects. In fact, the USDA announced Monday that it plans to cancel its grants for the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, though it may approve some of them if they meet the administration’s priorities.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

Montana Farmer Anna Jones-Crabtree Saw Half Of Her Federal Grant Frozen By The Federal Government. “Anna Jones-Crabtree and her husband spend sunup to sundown — plus hours of time before and after — nurturing 20 crops through tight margins on their dryland organic farm in Montana. Federal grants have long helped ease those tight margins, enabling farmers like Jones-Crabtree to survive and even thrive despite droughts and fires, market swings and crop failures. It’s the fruit of a philosophy that stewarding large tracts of land benefits not just a country with 340 million hungry bellies and a global food economy but also the clean air and water that people depend on as well as the land wildlife needs to survive. So she was taken aback when the U.S. government froze half of a \$100,000 grant the farm had received to hire people for regenerative agriculture work.

She had workers and a crop plan ready, but now it looked like the rest of that money would never be paid out.” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

- **Jones-Crabtree: “We’re In A Tight Spot. [...] It’s A Perfect Storm.”** “Anna Jones-Crabtree and her husband spend sunup to sundown — plus hours of time before and after — nurturing 20 crops through tight margins on their dryland organic farm in Montana. ‘We’re in a tight spot. Combine that with the markets right now,’ she said, ‘and this is unprecedented. It’s a perfect storm.’” [High Country News, [4/26/25](#)]

March 2026: The Trump Administration Canceled \$23.5 Million In USDA Grants For Montana

March 2026: The USDA Canceled A Combined \$23.5 Million In Land, Capital And Market Access Program Grants For Montana. “In March, the USDA canceled 49 of 50 Increasing Land, Capital and Market Access Program grants designed to support ‘underserved’ farmers and ranchers. At least three projects in Montana were affected: Piikani Lodge Health Institute, headquartered on the Blackfeet Reservation, lost a nearly \$9 million grant to improve operations for farmers and ranchers in the region. The Chippewa Cree Tribe in north-central Montana lost a nearly \$6 million award to purchase land and train young farmers and ranchers how to manage it. And South Dakota-based Four Bands Community Fund lost an \$8.5 million grant to train and financially support at least 25 low-income agricultural producers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. At the time, Montana-based awardees said they’d received just fractions of the grant funds and described the terminations as ‘devastating.’” [Montana Free Press, [5/27/26](#)]

- **The USDA Canceled Nearly \$9 Million In Land, Capital And Market Access Program Grants For The Piikani Lodge Health Institute, Which Was Headquartered On The Blackfeet Reservation.** “In March, the USDA canceled 49 of 50 Increasing Land, Capital and Market Access Program grants designed to support ‘underserved’ farmers and ranchers. At least three projects in Montana were affected: Piikani Lodge Health Institute, headquartered on the Blackfeet Reservation, lost a nearly \$9 million grant to improve operations for farmers and ranchers in the region. The Chippewa Cree Tribe in north-central Montana lost a nearly \$6 million award to purchase land and train young farmers and ranchers how to manage it. And South Dakota-based Four Bands Community Fund lost an \$8.5 million grant to train and financially support at least 25 low-income agricultural producers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. At the time, Montana-based awardees said they’d received just fractions of the grant funds and described the terminations as ‘devastating.’” [Montana Free Press, [5/27/26](#)]
- **The USDA Canceled Nearly \$6 Million In Land, Capital And Market Access Program Grants For The Chippewa Cree Tribe For Intended For Purchasing Land And Training Young Farmers And Ranchers How To Manage It.** “In March, the USDA canceled 49 of 50 Increasing Land, Capital and Market Access Program grants designed to support ‘underserved’ farmers and ranchers. At least three projects in Montana were affected: Piikani Lodge Health Institute, headquartered on the Blackfeet Reservation, lost a nearly \$9 million grant to improve operations for farmers and ranchers in the region. The Chippewa Cree Tribe in north-central Montana lost a nearly \$6 million award to purchase land and train young farmers and ranchers how to manage it. And South Dakota-based Four Bands Community Fund lost an \$8.5 million grant to train and financially support at least 25 low-income agricultural producers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. At the time, Montana-based awardees said they’d received just fractions of the grant funds and described the terminations as ‘devastating.’” [Montana Free Press, [5/27/26](#)]
- **The USDA Canceled \$8.5 Million In Land, Capital And Market Access Program Grants For The Four Bands Community Fund To Train And Financially Support At Least 25 Low-Income Agricultural Producers In Montana And Other States.** “In March, the USDA canceled 49 of 50 Increasing Land, Capital and Market Access Program grants designed to support ‘underserved’ farmers and ranchers. At least three projects in Montana were affected: Piikani Lodge Health Institute, headquartered on the Blackfeet Reservation, lost a nearly \$9 million grant to improve operations for farmers and ranchers in the region. The Chippewa Cree Tribe in north-central Montana lost a nearly \$6 million award to purchase land and train young farmers and ranchers how to manage it. And South Dakota-based Four Bands Community Fund lost an \$8.5 million grant to train and financially support at least 25 low-income agricultural producers in Montana, North Dakota, South

Dakota and Wyoming. At the time, Montana-based awardees said they'd received just fractions of the grant funds and described the terminations as 'devastating.'" [Montana Free Press, [5/27/26](#)]

Flint Praised Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins Even After She Defended Trump's Decision To Import More Beef From Argentina, Undermining Montana Ranchers

February 2026: Flint Praised Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins And Posed For A Photo With Her

February 2026: Flint Said It Was "An Honor" To See Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins In Person.

FLINT: "Now stepping up the microphone, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. Madame Secretary, what an honor to get to see you in person. I know a ton of our Montana farmers and ranchers have been back here to see you and now we get to see you as well." ROLLINS: "Oh I love it. It's so great to have you. Welcome to the White House." [Montana Talks, 00:00, [2/25/26](#)] (AUDIO)

- **February 2026: Flint Interviewed Rollins At The White House.** FLINT: "Now stepping up the microphone, Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. Madame Secretary, what an honor to get to see you in person. I know a ton of our Montana farmers and ranchers have been back here to see you and now we get to see you as well." ROLLINS: "Oh I love it. It's so great to have you. Welcome to the White House." [Montana Talks, 00:00, [2/25/26](#)] (AUDIO)

February 2026: Flint Posed For A Photo With Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins At The White House, Saying "Great Catching Up With Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins." "Great catching up with Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins at the White House today." [Aaron Flint, Facebook, [2/25/26](#)]



Aaron Flint is at The White House.

February 25 · Washington D.C. · 🎵 Here's To The Farmer · Luke Bryan · 🌐

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Great catching up with Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins at the White House today 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸



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8 comments

[Aaron Flint, Facebook, [2/25/26](#)]

October 2025: Rollins Defended Trump's Decision To Quadruple Beef Imports From Argentina

October 2025: Trump Quadrupled Beef Imports To The U.S. From Argentina. “U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is quadrupling the country's low-tariff imports of Argentine beef in his attempt to lower grocery store beef prices, a White House official said on Thursday, evoking fury from the nation's cattle ranchers. Raising the tariff rate quota on Argentine beef to 80,000 metric tons will let the country ship more of its beef to the U.S. at a lower rate of duty. U.S. beef prices have set records due to tight cattle supplies and strong consumer demand.” [Reuters, [10/24/25](#)]

- **Reuters Headline: “Trump To Quadruple Argentine Beef Imports While US Ranchers Fume.”** [Reuters, [10/24/25](#)]

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins Said The Administration Was Working To Support Both Beef Consumers And Ranchers. “The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Wednesday announced a plan to expand the domestic cattle herd and support American cattle ranchers. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins on Fox Business Network's ‘Mornings with Maria’ said the administration was working to support both beef consumers and ranchers.” [Reuters, [10/24/25](#)]

Cattlemen's Groups In Montana And Nationally Warned About The Danger Of Importing Beef On American Ranchers' Livelihoods

The Montana Cattlemen's Association Warned That Importing Beef Could Push Down Price Producers Receive For Their Cattle

The Montana Cattlemen's Association Warned That Importing Beef From Argentina Could Affect Producers. "The White House signed an executive order on February 6th expanding the amount of beef the United States can import from Argentina, a move aimed at increasing supply and easing pressure on beef prices, but one that has drawn concern from cattle producers in Montana and across the country. [...] Producer organizations, such as the Montana Cattlemen's Association and the Montana Stockgrowers Association, say they don't expect the expanded imports to significantly lower prices for consumers immediately, but warn the decision could still affect producers." [KRTV, [2/10/26](#)]

Western District Director Of The Montana Cattlemen's Association Tim Brunner Said Imported Beef Could Put Downward Pressure On Price Producers Receive For Their Cattle. "Tim Brunner, the western district director of the Montana Cattlemen's Association and a producer out of Fairfield, says the additional imports are unlikely to make a noticeable difference at the meat counter. Brunner says while imported lean beef trimmings are primarily used in ground products, blending foreign beef into the supply chain could still put downward pressure on what producers receive for their cattle." [KRTV, [2/10/26](#)]

The Montana Stockgrowers Association Raised Concerns About Production Standards Of Importing Beef

Montana Stockgrowers Association President Lesley Robinson Raised Production Standards Concerns About Relying More Heavily On Imported Beef. "The Montana Stockgrowers Association echoed those concerns, noting that even modest changes in imports can influence markets. Association President Lesley Robinson said cattle markets are highly sensitive to policy announcements and that producers may feel the effects before consumers do. Robinson also raised concerns about relying more heavily on imported beef, citing differences in traceability and production standards compared to U.S. beef. 'We raise a very healthy, safe product in the United States,' Robinson said, adding that maintaining confidence in domestic beef remains a priority for producers." [KRTV, [2/10/26](#)]

- **Robinson: "We Raise A Very Healthy, Safe Product In The United States."** "'We raise a very healthy, safe product in the United States,' Robinson said, adding that maintaining confidence in domestic beef remains a priority for producers." [KRTV, [2/10/26](#)]

National Cattlemen's Groups Criticized Trump's Plan To Import Beef From Argentina, Warning It Would "Undercut The Very Foundation Of Our Cattle Industry"

U.S. Farmers Criticized Trump's Suggestion To Import More Beef From Argentina. "U.S. farmers on Monday criticized President Donald Trump's suggestion that the country may import more beef from Argentina, after they recently lost out to the South American nation on soybean sales to top buyer China." [Reuters, [10/20/25](#)]

U.S. Cattlemen's Association President: "A Deal Of This Magnitude With Argentina Would Undercut The Very Foundation Of Our Cattle Industry." "U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is quadrupling the country's low-tariff imports of Argentine beef in his attempt to lower grocery store beef prices, a White House official said on Thursday, evoking fury from the nation's cattle ranchers. [...] 'A deal of this magnitude with Argentina would undercut the very foundation of our cattle industry,' said Justin Tupper, a South Dakota cattle producer and president of the United States Cattlemen's Association." [Reuters, [10/24/25](#)]

National Cattlemen's Beef Association: "This Plan Only Creates Chaos At A Critical Time Of The Year For American Cattle Producers, While Doing Nothing To Lower Grocery Store Prices." "U.S. farmers on Monday criticized President Donald Trump's suggestion that the country may import more beef from Argentina, after they recently lost out to the South American nation on soybean sales to top buyer China. [...] Cattle producers saw the suggestion as a threat to their livelihoods and free markets, at a time when ranchers are profiting from sky-high livestock prices and strong consumer demand. 'This plan only creates chaos at a critical time of the year for American cattle producers, while doing nothing to lower grocery store prices,' said Colin Woodall, CEO of the

National Cattlemen's Beef Association industry group.” [Reuters, [10/20/25](#)]

Cattle, Montana's Top Commodity, Made Up 56% Of Montana's Agricultural Market Value

2017: Cattle Made Up 56% Of Montana's Total Agricultural Market Value. “The share of market value for crops and livestock has remained relatively stable since 1997 with crop and livestock shares of 40% and 60%, respectively. Grain (winter wheat, spring wheat, durum, and barley) comprised 31% of total market value, while cattle comprised 56% of total market value in 2017 (Chart 1).” [Montana State University Extension, Economic Impact of Agriculture Statewide Report, [December 2020](#)]

2013-2021: Cattle Receipts Were The Highest Ranking Commodity In Montana. “Cattle receipts have been the highest ranking commodity in Montana since 2013. In 2021, \$442,027 or 40% more than wheat receipts, the next highest commodity.” [National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Agriculture Facts, [April 2023](#)]

2021: Montana Produced More Than \$1.8 Billion In Livestock. “\$1,844,927,000 The value of livestock production in Montana in 2021.” [National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Agriculture Facts, [April 2023](#)]

Flint Had A History Of Supporting Land Transfers That Could Lead To The Privatization Of Public Lands, Was Paid By A Dark Money Group That Pushed For Land Takeovers, And Praised The Recission Of The Roadless Rule, Which Would Jeopardize Big Game Hunting Habitats

Flint Had A History Of Supporting The Transfer Of Public Lands From Federal To State Control, Which Could Cost Montana \$8 Billion And Bankrupt Several Counties

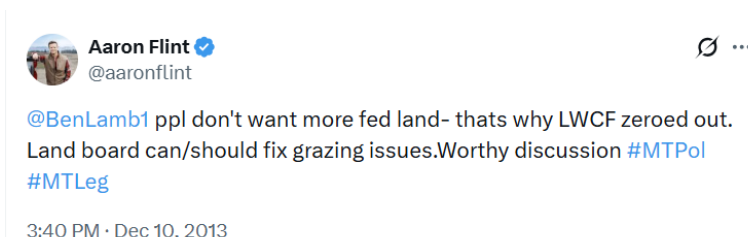
2013: Flint Said Land Could Be State Lands And Still Be “Public Land” And Asked, “Why Would Anyone Support More Fed[eral] Land In Montana?”

December 2013: Flint Told A Twitter User, “Couldn’t We Have The Land As State Lands And Still Have Your ‘Public Land.’” “@BenLamb1 couldn't we have the land as state lands and still have your ‘public land’ #MTPol #MTLeg.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/10/13](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/10/13](#)]

December 2013: Flint Said People “Don’t Want More Fed Land.” “@BenLamb1 ppl don't want more fed land- thats why LWCF zeroed out. Land board can/should fix grazing issues.Worthy discussion #MTPol #MTLeg.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/10/13](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/10/13](#)]

October 2013: Flint: “Why Would Anyone Support More Fed Land In Montana?” “State parks open. Fed parks closed. Fed hunting ground closed. Why would anyone support more fed land in Montana? #MTPol #MTNews.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [10/10/13](#)]



Aaron Flint ✓
@aaronflint



State parks open. Fed parks closed. Fed hunting ground closed. Why would anyone support more fed land in Montana? #MTPol #MTNews

12:41 PM · Oct 10, 2013

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [10/10/13](#)]

2014: Flint Asked, “Why Do We Want The Federal Government To Own The Land?” And Said Transferring Public Lands From Federal To State Control Would Be A “Major Bipartisan Win”

May 2014: Flint Amplified A Headline That Said, “Fed Land Transfer Gaining Ground.” “Stewart Lays Into VA Secretary/ Fox Tries to Track Down Missoula Hairdresser/ Fed Land Transfer Gaining Ground #MTPol <http://icont.ac/2nXwY>.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [5/20/14](#)]



Aaron Flint ✓
@aaronflint



Stewart Lays Into VA Secretary/ Fox Tries to Track Down Missoula Hairdresser/ Fed Land Transfer Gaining Ground #MTPol icont.ac/2nXwY

10:41 AM · May 20, 2014

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [5/20/14](#)]

March 2014: AUDIO: Flint: “If The State Of Montana Is Doing A Better Job Managing Their Land, Then Why Do We Want The Federal Government To Own The Land?” FLINT: “If the state of Montana is doing a better job managing their land, then why do we want the federal government to own the land?” [Voices of Montana via Internet Archive, 28:42, archived [3/25/14](#)] (AUDIO)

March 2014: AUDIO: Flint: “If You Really Were An Environmentalist, You Would Be Supporting Efforts To Get Some Of This Federal Land Back Into State Hands.” FLINT: “If you truly care about the land, if you truly are– I thought it was interesting. You wrote a book, ‘Greener Than Thou: Are You Really an Environmentalist?’ I mean that’s almost the question that needs to be posed out there right now to these environmental groups. Okay, are you really an environmentalist? If you really were an environmentalist, you would be supporting efforts to get some of this federal land back into state hands because the federal government is failing right now. They’re failing our tribal economies. They’re failing our timberlands. They’re failing out forests.” [Voices of Montana via Internet Archive, 28:46, archived [3/25/14](#)] (AUDIO)

March 2014: Flint Said The Federal Government Was “Wanting To Grab Land Like Crimea.” FLINT: “Very interesting stuff. Yeah, our federal government’s bleeding red as you say, and yet they’re grabbing land and wanting to grab land like Crimea even in this day of age.” [Voices of Montana via Internet Archive, 30:37, archived [3/25/14](#)] (AUDIO)

February 2014: Flint Said Putting Federal Lands In State Hands Would Be A “Major Bipartisan Win 4 Montana If We Could Make It Happen.” “@BenLamb1 so whatdya say- put fed lands in state hands? Sounds like major bipartisan win 4 Montana if we could make it happen. #MTPol #MTLeg.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [2/13/14](#)]



Aaron Flint ✓
@aaronflint



@BenLamb1 so whatdya say- put fed lands in state hands? Sounds like major bipartisan win 4 Montana if we could make it happen. #MTPol #MTLeg

5:56 PM · Feb 13, 2014

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [2/13/14](#)]

- **Polls Found Nine In Ten Montanans Opposed The Sale Or Transfer Of Public Lands.** “A pair of voter opinion polls released this week show Montanans have strong affection for both public lands and federal workers. But a deeper look indicates that might not matter in the rough-and-tumble world of politics. Both the University of Montana’s Crown of the Continent/Greater Yellowstone Initiative poll and a separate survey sponsored by The Nature Conservancy found nine out of 10 respondents opposed the sale or transfer of public lands, which has become a flashpoint in several recent congressional budget debates. An equal margin of UM poll respondents said those issues were crucial in deciding whether to support an elected official.” [Montana Free Press, [4/4/26](#)]

2014: Flint Twice Proposed Using Land And Water Conservation Funds To Transfer Public Lands From Federal To State Control

May 2014: Flint: “The Entire CoDel Could Join Together & Use LWCF Funds To Transfer Fed Lands To State Hands.” “@BenLamb1 @missoulia the entire CoDel could join together & use LWCF funds to transfer fed lands to state hands. #MTPol #MTLeg.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [5/2/14](#)]



Aaron Flint ✓
@aaronflint



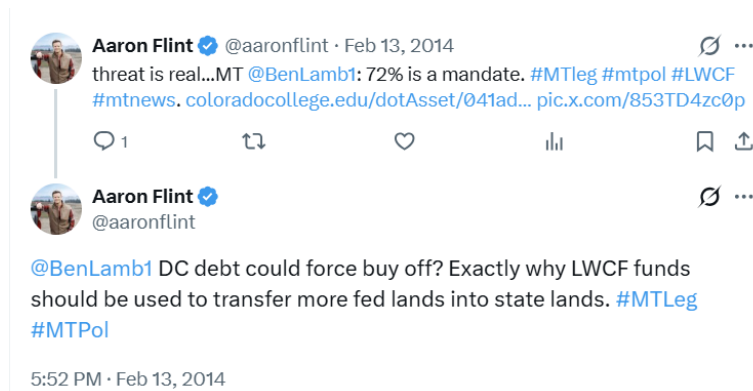
@BenLamb1 @missoulia the entire CoDel could join together & use LWCF funds to transfer fed lands to state hands. #MTPol #MTLeg

12:55 PM · May 2, 2014

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [5/2/14](#)]

- **The Land And Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Protected The National Endowment Of Lands And Waters.** “The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The fund helps strengthen communities, preserve history and protect the national endowment of lands and waters.” [U.S. Department of the Interior, Land and Water Conservation Fund, accessed [5/5/26](#)]

February 2014: Flint Said, “LWCF Funds Should Be Used To Transfer More Lands Into State Lands.” “@BenLamb1 DC debt could force buy off? Exactly why LWCF funds should be used to transfer more fed lands into state lands. #MTLeg #MTPol” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [2/13/14](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [2/13/14](#)]

2015: Flint Said Many Montanans Wanted To Transfer Public Lands From The Federal Government To The State

January 2015: Flint Said Many Montanans Wanted To Transfer Public Lands “From The Bankrupting Fed Govt To State Owned Public Land.” “[Jessica Goad:] Montanans want to keep public lands public! <http://mtgreatoutdoors.com> #mtpol #keepitpublic [Aaron Flint:] @jessica_goad that's exacty [*sic*] why many Montanans want to transfer it from the bankrupting fed govt to state owned public land...#MTPol.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [1/23/15](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [1/23/15](#)]

Public Domain Reported Flint Had A History Of Supporting The Transfer Of Public Lands To State Control, Which Could Lead To Privatization

April 2026: Public Domain: “Flint Enters His Race With A History Of Voicing Support For Transferring Federal Lands To State Control.” “But if Flint wins the election, it is unclear whether he will fortify or undermine this so-called ‘Montana firewall’ against federal land divestment. Flint enters his race with a history of voicing support for transferring federal lands to state control — a move that would forever strip them from the broader public’s hands and could ultimately lead to privatization.” [Public Domain, [4/30/26](#)]

- **Public Domain Headline: “Montana GOP Candidate Has History Of Calling For Federal Land Transfers.”** [Public Domain, [4/30/26](#)]

According To Investigative Reporters At Public Domain, Transferring Federal Lands To State Control Could Ultimately Lead To Privatization. “But if Flint wins the election, it is unclear whether he will fortify or undermine this so-called ‘Montana firewall’ against federal land divestment. Flint enters his race with a history of voicing support for transferring federal lands to state control — a move that would forever strip them from the broader public’s hands and could ultimately lead to privatization.” [Public Domain, [4/30/26](#)]

Transferring Federal Lands To State Control Would Cost Montana \$8 Billion, Bankrupt Several Counties, And Potentially Result In Lost Wildlife Habitat

2025: Transferring Montana's Public Lands To State Control Would Cost Montana \$8 Billion For Managing The Land, Including For Wildfire, Deferred Maintenance, And Abandoned Mine Reclamation

2025: Natural Resources Manager John Tubbs Determined That Transferring 30 Million Acres Of Federal Land To The State Of Montana Would Cost The State \$8 Billion. “In Montana, where land managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management comprises 30 million acres — roughly a third of the state — the notion of turning swaths of *terra firma* to state control could be costly, according to a newly published report. The report, written by longtime natural resources manager John Tubbs, calls the financial implications of federal lands transfer ‘staggering and disproportionately impactful for a rural state with large swaths of national public lands.’ ‘The costs associated with maintaining national public lands at the state level — ranging from wildfire operations to the loss of essential federal funding for rural counties — would be far too great for Montana to bear per capita,’ the report states. It amounts to an \$8 billion ‘gamble on Montana’s future.’” [Daily Montanan, [4/19/25](#)]

Tubbs' Projected \$8 Billion Increase In Costs Would Come From Managing The Land, Including For Wildfire, Deferred Maintenance, And Abandoned Mine Reclamation. “The estimated roughly \$8 billion increase to Montanan’s balance sheet would be primarily driven by the costs of managing the land, according to the report, including for wildfire, deferred maintenance backlogs, and abandoned mine reclamation. Citing reports by the Legislative Fiscal Division, the report states that during the last 20 years, Montana has paid more than \$2.3 billion in wildfire mitigation costs on federal land — comprising just 25% of total cost, as the federal government covers 75% of costs.” [Daily Montanan, [4/19/25](#)]

Transferring Federal Land To State Control Would Bankrupt Several Montana Counties Due To The Loss Of Payments In Lieu Of Taxes

Tubbs' Report Found That Without Federal Land, Several Montana Counties Would Go Bankrupt Due To The Loss Of Payments In Lieu Of Taxes From The Federal Government. “Tubbs also focused on Payment in Lieu of Taxes funds the federal government disseminates. The PILT program channels money to rural counties with swaths of untaxable federal land to support vital services such as public safety, housing, social services and transportation. In fiscal year 2023, Montana counties received more than \$40 million in PILT funds — and another \$16 million from the similar Secure Rural Schools program — a loss the state likely couldn’t make up. Tubbs said such a loss would result in the largest ‘unfunded mandate’ in state history, and ‘several of Montana’s counties would be bankrupt — in particular, the 11 counties in which more than half of the acreage is owned by the federal government.’” [Daily Montanan, [4/19/25](#)]

Montana Wildlife Foundation: Transferring Federal Public Lands To State Control Could Restrict Access And Result In Lost Wildlife Habitat, Undermining The Work Of Hunters, Anglers, And Landowners

Montana Wildlife Foundation: Tubbs' Report Found Transferring Federal Land To State Control Could Restrict Access And Result In Lost Wildlife Habitat. “According to the report, if Montana were to take over the responsibility of managing federal public lands currently overseen by agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, it would come with a conservatively estimated \$7.9 billion price tag over the next 20 years. [...] The report goes beyond dollars and cents. It paints a clear picture of what’s at stake if this movement succeeds: restricted access, lost wildlife habitat, and diminished public oversight of lands that currently belong to every American.” [Montana Wildlife Foundation, [4/15/25](#)]

Montana Wildlife Foundation: Transferring Federal Public Lands “Would Undermine Generations Of Work By Hunters, Anglers, Landowners, And Conservationists.” “If Montana were to absorb the management of federal lands without the accompanying federal support, it would quickly face an impossible choice: raise taxes dramatically, cut vital public services, or sell off public lands. And once they’re gone, we don’t get them back. Transferring ownership or management of federal public lands would undercut the very systems that have made Montana a leader in wildlife management, public access, and land stewardship. It would undermine

generations of work by hunters, anglers, landowners, and conservationists who've fought to keep these places open, productive, and wild." [Montana Wildlife Foundation, [4/15/25](#)]

2025: Flint Praised The Rescission Of The Roadless Rule, Which Would Affect 6.4 Million Acres Of Land In Montana, Jeopardizing Big Game Hunting Habitats, Reducing The Bull Trout Population, And Increasing The Risk Of Wildfires

June 2025: Flint Supported The Trump Administration's Rescission Of The Roadless Rule, Saying It Was "Huge News For Better Management Of Our Federal Lands"

June 2025: Flint: "The Rescission Of The Roadless Rule Last Week Was HUGE News For Better Management Of Our Federal Lands." "The rescission of the roadless rule last week was HUGE news for better management of our federal lands." [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [6/30/25](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [6/30/25](#)]

June 2025: Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins Announced Plans To End The 2001 Roadless Rule, Which Would Affect 6.4 Million Acres Of Land In Montana

June 2025: Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins Announced Her Plan To End The 2001 Roadless Rule. "The U.S. Forest Service formally began rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule on Aug. 29. [...] In an Aug. 27 press release, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins declared that revoking the rule was 'one step closer to common sense management of our national forests.' She linked the effort to President Donald Trump's Executive Order 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation to 'get rid of overcomplicated, burdensome barriers that hamper American business and innovation.' Rollins first announced her intention to open 58 million acres of inventoried roadless Forest Service land to development on June 23." [Montana Free Press, [9/1/25](#)]

- **August 2025: The U.S. Forest Service Formally Began Rescinding The Roadless Rule.** "The U.S. Forest Service formally began rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule on Aug. 29." [Montana Free Press, [9/1/25](#)]

The Roadless Rule Prohibited Building Roads Or Harvesting Timber On 6.4 Million Acres Of Forest Service Land In Montana. "Keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in place, and you'll ensure elk have a healthy habitat, and you'll still be able to reduce wildfire risk. Those were some of the arguments former U.S. Forest Service employees made Friday at the edge of the Silver King Inventoried Roadless Area east of Missoula. [...] The rule prohibits building roads and harvesting timber on 30% of Forest Service land in the country, or 60 million acres. In Montana, that's 6.4 million acres, or 37% of Forest Service land in the state. In June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, parent

agency of the Forest Service, announced plans to rescind the rule, enacted at the end of the Clinton administration.” [Daily Montanan, [2/20/26](#)]

The Roadless Rule Provided A Secure Habitat For Big Game Such As Elk On Public Land Where They Were Accessible To Hunters

Roadless Rule Montana: “Roadless Areas Also Provide Secure Habitat During Hunting Season That Keeps Big Game On Public Land Where They Are Accessible To Hunters In Top Hunting Areas.” “93% of elk summer range in Montana is found within roadless areas. Roadless areas also provide secure habitat during hunting season that keeps big game on public land where they are accessible to hunters in top hunting areas like the Elkhorns, Snowcrest Range, and Rocky Mountain Front.” [Roadless Rule Montana, Facts and Sources, accessed [5/7/26](#)]

93% Of Elk Summer Range In Montana Was In Roadless Areas. “93% of elk summer range in Montana is found within roadless areas. Roadless areas also provide secure habitat during hunting season that keeps big game on public land where they are accessible to hunters in top hunting areas like the Elkhorns, Snowcrest Range, and Rocky Mountain Front.” [Roadless Rule Montana, Facts and Sources, accessed [5/7/26](#)]

Former U.S. Forestry Service Officials Said The Roadless Rule Ensured Elk Had A Healthy Habitat. “Punch more roads through the forest, and you’ll get more people starting fires, fewer bull trout and an even heftier maintenance bill. Keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in place, and you’ll ensure elk have a healthy habitat, and you’ll still be able to reduce wildfire risk. Those were some of the arguments former U.S. Forest Service employees made Friday at the edge of the Silver King Inventoried Roadless Area east of Missoula.” [Daily Montanan, [2/20/26](#)]

- **Daily Montanan Headline: “Keep ‘Roadless Rule’ In Place, Say Former Forest Service Officials.”** [Daily Montanan, [2/20/26](#)]

The Roadless Rule Helped Provide A Habitat For Fish, And Former Forest Officials Said More Roads In The Forest Would Lead To Fewer Bull Trout

Jeff Lukas Of Montana Trout Unlimited Said The Roadless Rule Helped “Ensure Good Habitat For Deer, Elk And Fish.” “Jeff Lukas, with Montana Trout Unlimited, said roadless areas are some of the most productive for fish and wildlife habitat, and they support clean water and offer social and economic benefits. ‘The rule is vital to protecting the backcountry experiences so many Montanans enjoy,’ Lukas said. ‘It helps ensure good habitat for deer, elk and fish, it protects clean drinking water, and contributes to our quality of life in Montana.’” [Daily Montanan, [2/20/26](#)]

- **Lukas: “The Rule Is Vital To Protecting The Backcountry Experiences So Many Montanans Enjoy.”** “Jeff Lukas, with Montana Trout Unlimited, said roadless areas are some of the most productive for fish and wildlife habitat, and they support clean water and offer social and economic benefits. ‘The rule is vital to protecting the backcountry experiences so many Montanans enjoy,’ Lukas said. ‘It helps ensure good habitat for deer, elk and fish, it protects clean drinking water, and contributes to our quality of life in Montana.’” [Daily Montanan, [2/20/26](#)]

79% Of Roadless Areas In Montana Were Home To Native Trout, Including Bull Trout. “79% of roadless areas in Montana are home to native trout, including bull trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Studies have demonstrated that roads can negatively impact trout populations by causing water quality degradation from increased sediment and pollutants, as well as altered stream channels, fragmented habitat, and migration barriers.” [Roadless Rule Montana, Facts and Sources, accessed [5/7/26](#)]

Former U.S. Forest Service Officials Said More Roads In The Forest East Of Missoula Would Lead To Fewer Bull Trout. “Punch more roads through the forest, and you’ll get more people starting fires, fewer bull trout and an even heftier maintenance bill. Keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in place, and you’ll ensure elk have a healthy habitat, and you’ll still be able to reduce wildfire risk. Those were some of the arguments former U.S. Forest

Service employees made Friday at the edge of the Silver King Inventoried Roadless Area east of Missoula.” [Daily Montanan, [2/20/26](#)]

Former Forest Officials Said More Roads In The Forest Would Mean More People Starting Wildfires

2026: Former U.S. Forest Service Officials Said More Roads In The Forest East Of Missoula Would Lead To People Starting Fires. “Punch more roads through the forest, and you’ll get more people starting fires, fewer bull trout and an even heftier maintenance bill. Keep the 2001 Roadless Rule in place, and you’ll ensure elk have a healthy habitat, and you’ll still be able to reduce wildfire risk. Those were some of the arguments former U.S. Forest Service employees made Friday at the edge of the Silver King Inventoried Roadless Area east of Missoula.” [Daily Montanan, [2/20/26](#)]

As Of 2023, 78% Of Human-Caused Fires On National Forests Nationwide Started Within Half A Mile Of A Road. “As of 2023, 78% of human-caused fires on national forests nationwide start within ½ mile of a road. 85% of all wildfires are human-caused. Wildfires are four times more likely to start near roads.” [Roadless Rule Montana, Facts and Sources, accessed [5/7/26](#)]

85% Of All Wildfires Were Caused By Humans. “85% of all wildfires are human-caused. Wildfires are four times more likely to start near roads.” [Roadless Rule Montana, Facts and Sources, accessed [5/7/26](#)]

Flint Accused Democrats Of Promoting “Public Lands In Public Hands” While Actually Restricting Access

Flint Said Liberals And Democrats Said “Public Lands In Public Hands” But Were The Same Ones To Restrict Access To Public Lands And Water

AUDIO: Flint Said Liberals “Screech And Shriek” About “Public Lands In Public Hands,” But “They’re The Ones That Cut Off Access All The Time.” “Before we run out of time, you’ve heard the liberals screech and shriek and shrill, ‘public lands in public hands,’ even though they’re the ones that cut off access all the time.” [Montana Talks, 42:37, [2/5/26](#)] (AUDIO)

AUDIO: Flint Said Democrats Who Said “Public Lands In Public Hands” Were The Same Ones Who Tried To Limit Access To Public Lands And Water. FLINT: “The same Democrats that don’t want you to be able to access Flathead Lake with your motorboat. ‘Public lands and in public hands.’ And they’re the ones that are always trying to keep you from accessing public lands and public water.” [Montana Talks, 20:48, [2/6/26](#)] (AUDIO)

- **AUDIO: Flint Said Democrats Did Not Want People To Be Able To Access Flathead Lake In A Motorboat.** FLINT: “The same Democrats that don’t want you to be able to access Flathead Lake with your motorboat. ‘Public lands and in public hands.’ And they’re the ones that are always trying to keep you from accessing public lands and public water.” [Montana Talks, 20:48, [2/6/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Flint Said People Protesting For Public Lands Were Part Of “Fake, Phony Left-Wing Protests” Who Were The “Same Cast Of Characters” Who Attacked ICE And Protested For Abortion

AUDIO: Flint Said People Protesting For Public Lands Were Part Of “Fake, Phony Left-Wing Protests” Who Were The “Same Cast Of Characters” Who Attacked ICE Agents And Protested For Abortion. FLINT: “You see the liberal media propping up these fake, phony left-wing protests. It’s the same cast of characters practically every week. Y’all this week, we’re protesting in support of narco-terror dictator Nicholi [sic] Maduro. Next week, we’re attacking ICE agents. The week after that, it’ll be abortion. The week after that, it’ll be public lands and something. Right every single week, yeah.” [Montana Talks, 14:14, [1/14/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Flint Was A Political Hack Handpicked By Republican Insiders To Run For Congress In MT-01, Despite Not Living In Western Montana

Flint Held Various Jobs In Government And Politics, Including State Director For Rep. Zinke And Communications Director For Greg Gianforte's 2016 Gubernatorial Campaign

Flint Held Political Jobs, Including State Director For Rep. Zinke, Communications Director For Greg Gianforte's 2016 Gubernatorial Campaign, And Legislative Aide For Sen. Burns In The Early 2000s

December 2017-June 2017: Flint Served As State Director For Rep. Ryan Zinke. [LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]



Aaron Flint

Iraq/Afghan vet. Candidate for Congress (MT-01)



State Director

US House of Representatives (Congressman Ryan Zinke)

Dec 2016 - Jun 2017 · 7 mos

Billings, MT

[LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]

October 2015-November 2016: Flint Served As Communications Director For Greg Gianforte's Gubernatorial Campaign. [LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]



Aaron Flint

Iraq/Afghan vet. Candidate for Congress (MT-01)



Communications Director

Greg Gianforte Gubernatorial Campaign

Oct 2015 - Nov 2016 · 1 yr 2 mos

Bozeman, MT

[LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]

January 2000-April 2002: Flint Served As Legislative Aide To Senator Conrad Burns In Washington, DC. [LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]



Aaron Flint

Iraq/Afghan vet. Candidate for Congress (MT-01)



Legislative Aide

United States Senate

Jan 2000 - Apr 2002 · 2 yrs 4 mos

Washington, District Of Columbia

Acting Energy LA, LC, and first started as intern for US Sen Conrad Burns in Fall 1998.

[LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]

- **Fall 1998: Flint Started As An Intern For Senator Conrad Burns.** [LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]

2004-2024: Flint Made Contributions To Montana Political Campaigns

2017: Flint Gave \$250 To The Montana Republican State Central Committee. [FEC, Montana Republican State Central Committee, [6/12/17](#)]

- **Flint Listed His Occupation As State Director At The U.S. House Of Representatives.** [FEC, Montana Republican State Central Committee, [6/12/17](#)]

2004-2024: Flint Gave A Total Of \$125 To Montana State Candidates. [Follow The Money, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/13/26](#)]

2004-2024: Flint Contributions To Montana State Candidates			
Recipient	Office Sought	Election Year	Amount
Austin Knudsen	Attorney General	2024	\$100.00
Bob Brown	Governor	2004	\$25.00
Total:			\$125.00

[Follow The Money, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/13/26](#)]

2026: Flint Launched His Campaign Less Than An Hour After Rep. Zinke Announced His Retirement, And Flint Quickly Announced Endorsements From The Republican Political Establishment

March 2026: Flint Launched His Congressional Campaign Less Than An Hour After Rep. Zinke Announced His Retirement, Two Days Before The Montana Filing Deadline

March 2, 2026: Rep. Ryan Zinke Announced He Would Retire At The End Of His Term. “It has been my highest honor to serve America and the Great State of Montana. We have secured critical funding for Montana bridges, roads, sewer systems, water infrastructure, public access points, conservation projects, and helped thousands of Montanans successfully navigate through the federal bureaucracy to solve real problems that matter to the people that I am honored to represent. Service is a duty that I will always hold sacred, and I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference. As for my service and duty going forward, I have made the decision to leave office at the end of my fourth term and not seek re-election. Full statement below.” [Rep. Ryan Zinke, Facebook, [3/2/26](#)]

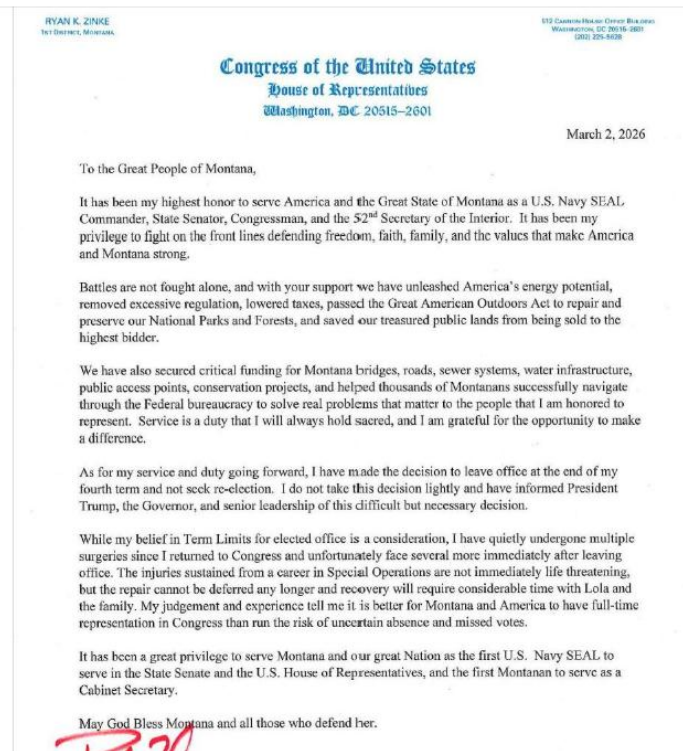


Representative Ryan Zinke

March 2 · 🌐

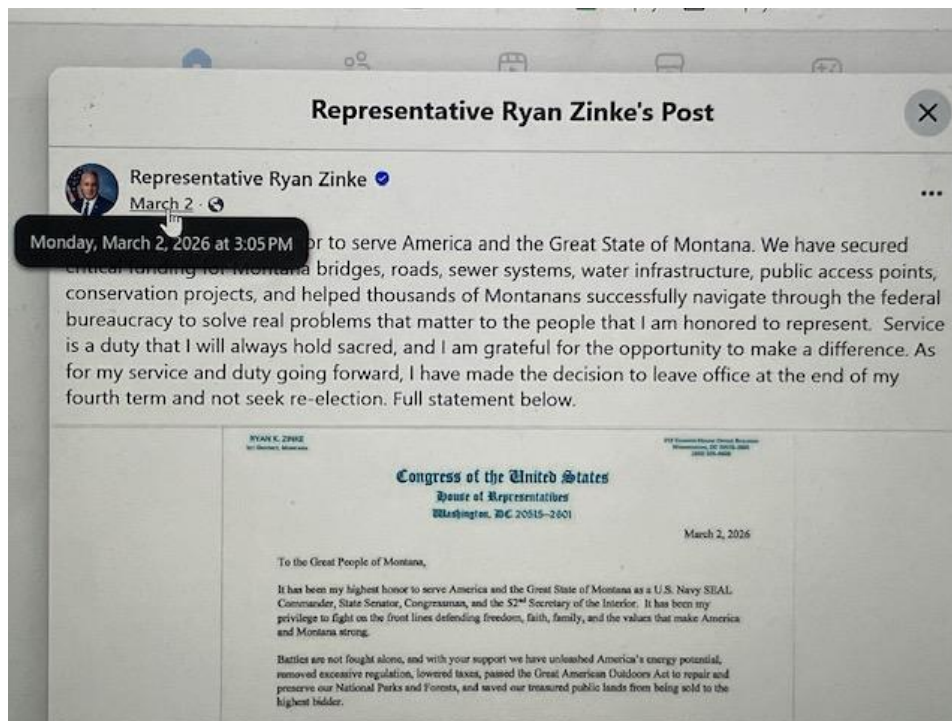
...

It has been my highest honor to serve America and the Great State of Montana. We have secured critical funding for Montana bridges, roads, sewer systems, water infrastructure, public access points, conservation projects, and helped thousands of Montanans successfully navigate through the federal bureaucracy to solve real problems that matter to the people that I am honored to represent. Service is a duty that I will always hold sacred, and I am grateful for the opportunity to make a difference. As for my service and duty going forward, I have made the decision to leave office at the end of my fourth term and not seek re-election. Full statement below.



[Rep. Ryan Zinke, Facebook, [3/2/26](#)]

- **Zinke Made His Announcement At 3:05 PM.** [Rep. Ryan Zinke, Facebook, [3/2/26](#)]



[Rep. Ryan Zinke, Facebook, [3/2/26](#)]

March 2, 2026, 3:54 PM: Flint Announced His Campaign For Congress. “🚨🚨🚨 The gun grabbing socialists are on the march in Western Montana. They’ll tax your social security and put their hand right back in your tip jar. We will stop them. (Inquiries- info@flintformontana.com).” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/2/26](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/2/26](#)]

March 4, 2026: The Montana Secretary Of State Had A Deadline For Candidates To File. [Montana Secretary of State, 2026 Primary and General Election Calendar, [October 2025](#)]

Wednesday, March 4	Candidate filing closes – 5:00 p.m. DEADLINE. Candidate filing closes for write-in candidates for the primary – 5:00 p.m. DEADLINE. Last day for candidates to withdraw from the primary election – 5:00 p.m. Deadline.	No sooner than 90 days before the election 13-10-201(7); 13-1-403(1,2); 13-1-502(1,2); 13-10-211(1) HB 207 A candidate may not withdraw after the filing deadline 13-10-325(1)(b)
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[Montana Secretary of State, 20026 Primary and General Election Calendar, [October 2025](#)]

Politico: Flint Announced His Campaign For Congress Hours After Rep. Ryan Zinke Announced His Retirement. “Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke announced on Monday he will not run for reelection, the latest House Republican to retire ahead of the midterms. [...] Hours after Zinke’s announcement, Montana talk radio host Aaron Flint announced his campaign for Congress in a social media post. Flint immediately earned the endorsement of Sen. Tim Sheehy (R-Mon.), who called him ‘a strong voice for Montana Values across our airwaves.’ Zinke later joined Sheehy in endorsing Flint.” [Politico, [3/2/26](#)]

Shortly After Zinke’s Retirement Announcement, Flint Posted A Campaign Launch Video And Revealed Endorsements From Rep. Zinke, Gov. Gianforte, And Sen. Sheehy

Montana Free Press: Shortly After Zinke Announced His Retirement, Flint Posted His Campaign Launch Video. “Shortly after Zinke announced his retirement, talk radio personality Aaron Flint posted a dramatic campaign video on X, highlighting his role as a radio personality, family man and veteran, while invoking Donald Trump. He also issued a press release stating that he had been endorsed by Zinke, Gov. Greg Gianforte, Senator Tim Sheehy and other Republican officials. The listed contact for Flint’s campaign was Zinke’s chief of staff, Heather Swift.” [Montana Free Press, [3/2/26](#)]

- **Along With His Announcement, Flint Issued A Press Release With Endorsements From Rep. Ryan Zinke, Gov. Greg Gianforte, And Sen. Tim Sheehy.** “Shortly after Zinke announced his retirement, talk radio personality Aaron Flint posted a dramatic campaign video on X, highlighting his role as a radio personality, family man and veteran, while invoking Donald Trump. He also issued a press release stating that he had been endorsed by Zinke, Gov. Greg Gianforte, Senator Tim Sheehy and other Republican officials. The listed contact for Flint’s campaign was Zinke’s chief of staff, Heather Swift.” [Montana Free Press, [3/2/26](#)]
- **Flint’s Campaign Contact Was Zinke’s Chief Of Staff.** “Shortly after Zinke announced his retirement, talk radio personality Aaron Flint posted a dramatic campaign video on X, highlighting his role as a radio personality, family man and veteran, while invoking Donald Trump. He also issued a press release stating that he had been endorsed by Zinke, Gov. Greg Gianforte, Senator Tim Sheehy and other Republican officials. The listed contact for Flint’s campaign was Zinke’s chief of staff, Heather Swift.” [Montana Free Press, [3/2/26](#)]

Zinke Recruited Flint To Run For His Seat

The Washington Times Reported Zinke Recruited Flint To Run For His Seat. “Mr. Zinke recruited Aaron Flint, a military veteran and conservative talk-show host, to run for his seat.” [Washington Times, [3/4/26](#)]

A Republican Candidate Criticized Flint For The “Deceptive Maneuver” To Get On The Ballot

Republican Candidate Al Olszewski Said Zinke Dropping Out So Close To The Filing Deadline Suggested It Was Done In Coordination With Another Candidate. “Minutes after Zinke’s announcement, Al Olszewski, chair of the Flathead County Republican Central Committee, told the Montana State News Bureau he plans to run for the seat. [...] Olszewski theorized that Zinke dropping out so close to the filing deadline suggests it was done in coordination with another candidate, saying if they’re bowing out ‘this late they’re trying to get someone else in.’” [Missoulian, [3/3/26](#)]

Olszewski: “Steve Daines Just Betrayed The Trust Of All Montanans. This Deceptive Maneuver Is No Different Than What Zinke And Aaron Flint Pulled On Monday.” “Steve Daines just betrayed the trust of all

Montanans. This deceptive maneuver is no different than what Zinke and Aaron Flint pulled on Monday,' Al Olszweski, the first Republican candidate to file for the western congressional district after Zinke announced his retirement, said in a social media post. 'We have been betrayed by our federal senator and representative. This practice cannot be accepted by the people of Montana.'" [Montana State University Exponent, [3/9/26](#)]

- **Sen. Steve Daines Announced He Was Withdrawing From Running For Another Term And U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme Would Run In His Place.** "On Monday, Republican U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke unexpectedly backed out of running for a fifth term citing ongoing but non-life threatening health issues, which spurred three formidable candidates to run in his place. Zinke gave his immediate endorsement to conservative radio host Aaron Flint. While that seemed like a last minute and tectonic shift in the state's politics, it would eventually be one-upped when minutes before Wednesday's deadline, Montana's senior Sen. Steve Daines announced that he was withdrawing from running for another term, and that the U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme would run in his place, leaving no time for others to throw their hat in the ring." [Montana State University Exponent, [3/9/26](#)]

Flint Switched His Voter Registration From Billings In MT-02 To The Western Montana City Of Kalispell In MT-01

2025: Flint Moved To The Flathead Valley City Of Kalispell, Which Was In MT-01

2026: Flint Recently Moved To The Flathead Valley. "'What do you say when you get the endorsement of the president of the United States?' Flint, who recently moved to the Flathead Valley, asked rhetorically. 'I started thinking about how incredible it is an every-day Montana kid is running for an office like this.'" [Nonstop Local News Montana, [3/19/26](#)]

According To The Flathead County Elections Department, Flint Voted In The 2025 Flathead County Municipal General Election. [Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

County : FLATHEAD	Voter Profile Report	Date : 3/10/2026
User Name : TYLER COCKERILL		

AlternateNames			
Last Name	First Name	MiddleName	Suffix
FLINT, AARON			
FLINT, AARON HELLAND			
FLINT, AARON HELLAND			

Voting Histories		
Date Voted	Election Description	Election Participated
10/21/2025	2025 Flathead County Municipal General, County-Wide Bond, and CFalls HSD6 Bond Election	Voted
4/25/2025	School	Voted
10/16/2024	FEDERAL GENERAL 2024	Voted
5/16/2024	FEDERAL PRIMARY 2024	Voted
4/27/2024	School	Voted
11/1/2023	MUNICIPAL GENERAL	Voted
11/8/2022	03 Federal General Election 2022	Voted - Accepted
6/7/2022	03 Federal Primary 2022	Voted - Accepted
5/3/2022	03 School Election 2022	Voted - Accepted
11/2/2021	03 Municipal General 2021	Voted - Accepted
11/3/2020	03 Federal General Election 2020	Voted - Accepted
7/7/2020	03 School Rescheduled #2 & #8 2020	Voted - Accepted
6/2/2020	03 FEDERAL PRIMARY 2020	Voted - Accepted
11/5/2019	03 MUNICIPAL GENERAL 2019	Voted - Accepted
9/10/2019	03 Municipal Primary 2019	Voted - Accepted
5/7/2019	03 SCHOOL 2019	Voted - Accepted
11/6/2018	03 FEDERAL GENERAL 2018	Voted - Accepted
6/5/2018	03 FEDERAL PRIMARY 2018	Voted - Accepted
11/7/2017	03 Municipal General 2017	Voted - Accepted
9/12/2017	03 2017 Municipal Primary	Voted - Accepted
5/25/2017	03 Federal Special 2017	Voted - Accepted
5/2/2017	03 School Election 2017	Voted - Accepted

[Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

As Of June 2026, Flint Was Registered To Vote In Kalispell, MT 59901. [Montana Secretary of State, Voter Information Lookup, accessed [6/15/26](#)]

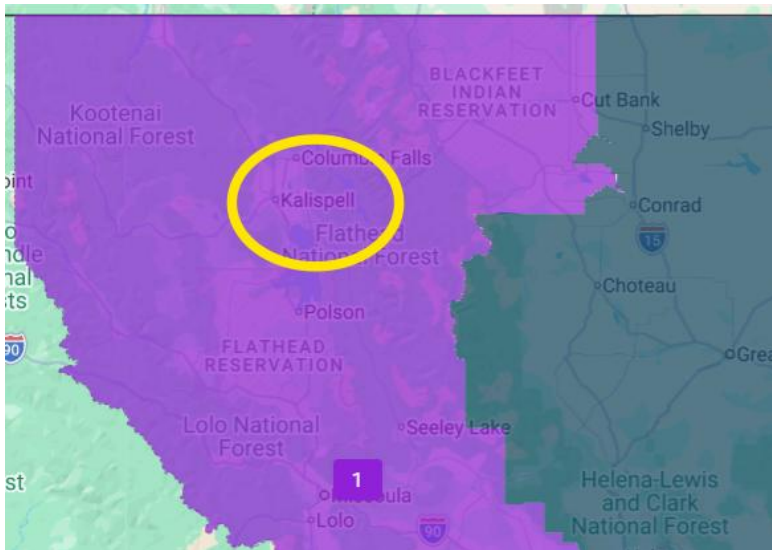
FEDERAL PRIMARY 2026 Election (6/2/2026)

Voter Registration Details

Personal Information	Absentee Voter
AARON FLINT	Yes
Residential Address	Registration Status
	Active
Mailing Address	County
	FLATHEAD
House District	Precinct Name
HOUSE DISTRICT 6	PCT 23 (PCT 23 - 04)
Senate District	County Information
SENATE DISTRICT 3	FLATHEAD County Elections
	(406) 758-5535
	Administrator Contact Information

[Montana Secretary of State, Voter Information Lookup, accessed [6/15/26](#)]

Kalispell Was In Montana’s 1st Congressional District. [Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission, Congressional Map, accessed [4/21/26](#)]



[Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission, Congressional Map, accessed [4/21/26](#)]

Flint Previously Had A Voter Registration In Billings, Which Was In MT-02

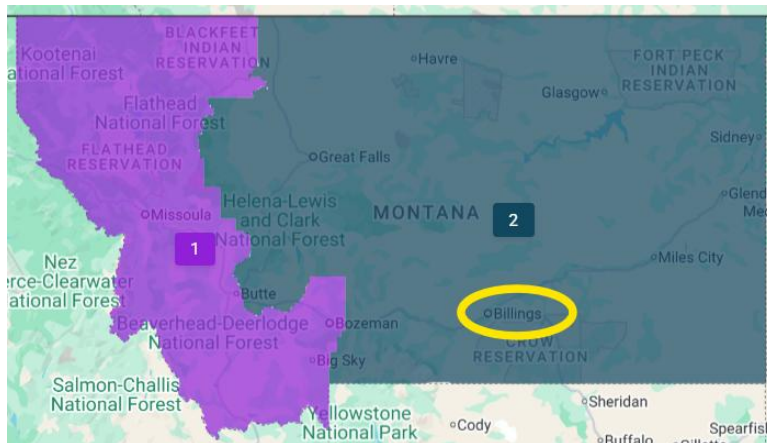
According To The Flathead County Elections Department, Flint Previously Had Addresses In Billings, Montana. [Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

County : FLATHEAD	Voter Profile Report	Date : 3/10/2026
User Name : TYLER COCKERILL		

Absentee Type	Address
	BOZEMAN, MT 59718
	MISSOULA, MT 59804
	KALISPELL, MT 59901,
	BILLINGS, MT 59106
	BILLINGS, MT 59106
	BILLINGS, MT 59102
	BILLINGS, MT 59102
	BILLINGS, MT 59102
	BILLINGS, MT 59102
	BILLINGS, MT 59102
	BILLINGS, MT 59101
	BILLINGS, MT 59101
	AE 09834, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

Billings Was In Montana's 2nd Congressional District. [Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission, Congressional Map, accessed [4/21/26](#)]



[Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission, Congressional Map, accessed [4/21/26](#)]

2020: Flint Signed A Ballot Petition With The County Listed As Yellowstone, And The Signature Was Accepted. [Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

County : FLATHEAD	Voter Profile Report	Date : 3/10/2026
User Name : TYLER COCKERILL		

Voter Information					
Voter ID	Last Name	FirstName	Middle Name	Suffix	DOB
1487971	FLINT	AARON			
Registration Information					
Party	Status	Active	Reasons	Active	
Last Voted	11/4/2025	Original Reg. Date	7/25/2000	Vote Eligible Date	10/7/2007
Miscellaneous Information					
Language	Gender	Assistance			
Comments					
Residence Address					
Mailing Address					

[Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

Petition Sign History					
County	Petition Title	Petition Num	Submittal Num	Affidavit Date	Status
YELLOWSTO NE	Kanye West 2020 General	Kanye West 2020	450047440		Accepted
GALLATIN	Initiative No. 176	I-176	450023004		Rejected
YELLOWSTO NE	Initiative No. 176	I-176	450012302		Accepted

[Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

- **Flint Signed A Petition With The County Listed As Gallatin That Was Rejected, But His Signature With The County Listed As Yellowstone Was Accepted.** [Flathead County Elections Department, accessed 3/10/26]

Yellowstone County Was Located In Montana's 2nd Congressional District. [Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission, Congressional Map, accessed [5/5/26](#)]



[Montana Districting & Apportionment Commission, Congressional Map, accessed [5/5/26](#)]

Flint Seemed To Defend His Candidacy In MT-01 By Saying His Family Homestead Was Not Far From Flathead Lake, His Ancestors Lived In Whitefish, And His Three Kids Were Born In Missoula

March 2026: Flint Said His Family Homestead Was In Niarada, MT, Not Too Far From Flathead Lake. “For the liberal media that don’t know what a HOMESTEAD is 🤔...here’s me at our family homestead in Niarada, MT (not too far from Flathead Lake!). My great grandpa went to WWI out of Whitefish, grandpa went to WWII out of Whitefish, and my dad was a Bierstube bartender. (All 3 of our kids born in Missoula) -Montana AF.” [Aaron Flint, Instagram, [3/27/26](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Instagram, [3/27/26](#)]

2026: Flint Said His Ancestors Lived In Whitefish And All Three Of His Kids Were Born In Missoula. “For the liberal media that don’t know what a HOMESTEAD is 🤔...here’s me at our family homestead in Niarada, MT (not too far from Flathead Lake!). My great grandpa went to WWI out of Whitefish, grandpa went to WWII out of Whitefish, and my dad was a Bierstube bartender. (All 3 of our kids born in Missoula) -Montana AF.” [Aaron Flint, Instagram, [3/27/26](#)]

Flint: “We Can Play The Who Is More Montana Game All Day Long (And Win)... But What Really Matters Is How We Will Deliver For The People.” “[jonesy406:] Conservatives and Republicans don't care where you're from. As long as you're conservative. [aaronflintmt:] @jonesy406 that’s right! We can play The Who is more Montana game all day long (and win)...but what really matters is how we will deliver for the people and Make the Montana Dream Affordable Again!” [Aaron Flint, Instagram, [3/27/26](#)]



jonesy406 5d

Conservatives and Republicans don't care where you're from. As long as you're conservative.



2 likes Reply ...

Hide all replies



aaronflintmt 5d

@jonesy406 that's right! We can play The Who is more Montana game all day long (and win)...but what really matters is how we will deliver for the people and Make the Montana Dream Affordable Again! ususus



2 likes Reply

[Aaron Flint, Instagram, [3/27/26](#)]

Flint Had Support And Financial Backing From Republican Consultant Jake Eaton, Who Faced Calls For Investigation After His Company Received \$1.7 Million From The Montana Government Under Questionable Circumstances

March 2026: Jake Eaton Said His Super PAC Raised \$1 Million To Send Flint To Congress; No FEC Filings Have Been Found To Confirm This Claim

March 2026: Jake Eaton Said His Super PAC Raised \$1 Million To Send Flint To Congress. “Huge endorsements and big support rolling in for @aaronflint Our super pac [*sic*] effort has already raised \$1 Million to help send Lt. Colonel Aaron Flint to Congress! #mtpol #mtnews.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/2/26](#)]



Jake Eaton ✓
@MTJakeEaton



Huge endorsements and big support rolling in for @aaronflint Our super pac effort has already raised \$1 Million to help send Lt. Colonel Aaron Flint to Congress! #mtpol #mtnews



Bradley Warren @bradmwarren · Mar 2

NOW: Aaron Flints campaign only hours old announcers endorsements from:

Congressman Zinke
Governor Gianforte
Senator Sheehy...

7:46 PM · Mar 2, 2026 · 7,128 Views

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/2/26](#)]

NOTE: Review of FEC filings and other news coverage did not return any results for Eaton's claimed super PAC. Further research should go into determining the PAC's name, fundraising status, and associated entities.

2025: Republican Consultant Jake Eaton's Firm, Western Media Partners, Paid Flint More Than \$5,000 For Media Sponsorship

Jake Eaton Was A High-Profile Republican Political Consultant Who Served As Managing Partner At Western Media Partners

Jake Eaton Was A High-Profile Republican Political Consultant Who Served As Managing Partner At Western Media Partners. “A high-profile Republican political consultant and his wife, an attorney closely associated with the state’s Department of Justice, have close ties with Western Media Partners, a company that has received more than \$1.7 million from the state since 2022, records show. Secretary of State documents list Emily Jones as Western Media Partners’ attorney and Jake Eaton, a notable political operative, said Thursday he’s a managing partner at the firm.” [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

- **Eaton Also Ran The Political Company, A Public Affairs And Political Consulting Firm.** “Eaton also runs the Political Company, which is a public affairs and political consulting firm that lists Jones as its registered agent. Eaton also was a one-time ‘senior advisor’ in Knudsen’s DOJ, but said he’s never been an employee of the agency.” [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

2025: Flint Reported Receiving More Than \$5,000 From Western Media Partners For Media Sponsorship

2025: Flint Reported Receiving More Than \$5,000 From Western Media Partners For “Podcast/Media Sponsorship.” [U.S. House Clerk, Aaron Flint, 2025 Personal Financial Disclosure, filed [6/2/26](#)]

SCHEDULE J: COMPENSATION IN EXCESS OF \$5,000 PAID BY ONE SOURCE

Source (Name and Address)	Brief Description of Duties
First National Services (Sheridan, WY, US)	Consulting Services
Western Media Partners (Billings, MT, US)	Podcast/ Media Sponsorship
Americans for Prosperity Montana (Arlington, VA, US)	Statewide tour featuring over 100 events in 2024.

[U.S. House Clerk, Aaron Flint, 2025 Personal Financial Disclosure, filed [6/2/26](#)]

April 2026: Eaton’s Company Received \$1.7 Million From The Montana Department Of Justice After Eaton’s Longtime Ally Austin Knudsen Was Sworn In As Attorney General

April 2026: An Attorney Asked The Legislature To Investigate Payments To Eaton’s Firm From The Montana Department Of Justice After Eaton’s Longtime Ally Austin Knudsen Was Sworn In As Attorney General

Attorney Gene Jarussi Sent A Letter To The Legislative Audit Committee Asking Them To Look Into Eaton And Jones’ Activities. “On Wednesday, attorney Gene Jarussi of Billings sent a letter, along with 13 questions, to members of the Legislative Audit Committee asking them to look into Eaton and Jones’ activities. (Editor’s note: That letter was submitted to the committee and was also distributed to the Daily Montanan and other media. That letter is reproduced below.)” [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

- **Jarussi Said Attorney General Austin Knudsen And Eaton Were Close Friends And Political Allies Since At Least 2010.** “First, some background. Attorney General Austin Knudsen (hereinafter ‘AG’) has for a number of years retained Jake Eaton as his campaign manager/consultant. Jake Eaton is married to attorney Emily Jones. It is certainly no secret that the AG and Eaton have been close friends and political allies since at least 2010, when Knudsen first ran for the Montana Legislature.” [Gene Jarussi Letter via Daily Montanan, [4/8/26](#)]

Jarussi Said He Received An Unsigned Letter And Documents Showing More Than \$1.7 Million In Payments From The Montana Department Of Justice To Western Media Partners. “I have received from a number of individuals the undated, unsigned letter (App 1), the Articles of Organization (two pages) for Western Media Partners, LLC (App 2), and an apparent record of payments made by the Department of Justice to Western Media Partners on various dates totaling \$1,776,840.05 (App 3).” [Gene Jarussi Letter via Daily Montanan, [4/8/26](#)]

Jarussi Said He Received Documents Showing Western Media Partners Was Formed About A Week After Kundsén Was Sworn In As Attorney General In 2021. “As shown by the Secretary of State's file (App 2), Western Media Partners was formed on January 11, 2021 (App 2, pg. 2) by Attorney Jones, approximately one week after Knudsen was sworn in as Attorney General. Its business mailing address as well as the address of the Registered Agent is the business address of Attorney Jones. The listed member is Jacob Eaton. After receiving these documents, I initially assumed that there was/is a contract between the Dept. of Justice and Western Media. I wanted to find the contract to see just what services/products the Dept. of Justice has been paying Eaton's company for. I have not been able to find a contract. This raised even more questions in my mind which prompted this letter. I feel the Montana taxpayer is entitled to answers to the following questions in light of the long history between the AG and Jake Eaton.” [Gene Jarussi Letter via Daily Montanan, [4/8/26](#)]

Jarussi Said He Did Not Find A Contract Between The Montana Department Of Justice And Eaton's Company, Western Media. “As shown by the Secretary of State's file (App 2), Western Media Partners was formed on January 11, 2021 (App 2, pg. 2) by Attorney Jones, approximately one week after Knudsen was sworn in as Attorney General. Its business mailing address as well as the address of the Registered Agent is the business address of Attorney Jones. The listed member is Jacob Eaton. After receiving these documents, I initially assumed that there was/is a contract between the Dept. of Justice and Western Media. I wanted to find the contract to see just what services/products the Dept. of Justice has been paying Eaton's company for. I have not been able to find a contract. This raised even more questions in my mind which prompted this letter. I feel the Montana taxpayer is entitled to answers to the following questions in light of the long history between the AG and Jake Eaton.” [Gene Jarussi Letter via Daily Montanan, [4/8/26](#)]

April 2026: Western Media Partners Received \$1.7 Million From The State Since 2022

April 2026: Western Media Partners Received \$1.7 Million From The State Since 2022. “A high-profile Republican political consultant and his wife, an attorney closely associated with the state's Department of Justice, have close ties with Western Media Partners, a company that has received more than \$1.7 million from the state since 2022, records show. Secretary of State documents list Emily Jones as Western Media Partners' attorney and Jake Eaton, a notable political operative, said Thursday he's a managing partner at the firm.” [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

April 2026: Eaton Said His Companies Followed Montana's Procurement Rules But The Attorney Who Wrote The Complaining Letter Said He Did Not Find A Contract Between Eaton's Company And The Montana DOJ

April 2026: Eaton Said His Companies Followed Procurement Rules For Doing Work With The State. “Any work my companies have done with the state has been in accordance with the procurement rules and any insinuation to the contrary is a 100% fabrication,” Eaton wrote in an email Thursday.” [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

Attorney Jarussi Did Not Find A Contract Between The Montana Department Of Justice And Eaton's Company, Western Media. “As shown by the Secretary of State's file (App 2), Western Media Partners was formed on January 11, 2021 (App 2, pg. 2) by Attorney Jones, approximately one week after Knudsen was sworn in as Attorney General. Its business mailing address as well as the address of the Registered Agent is the business address of Attorney Jones. The listed member is Jacob Eaton. After receiving these documents, I initially assumed that there was/is a contract between the Dept. of Justice and Western Media. I wanted to find the contract to see just what services/products the Dept. of Justice has been paying Eaton's company for. I have not been able to find a contract. This raised even more questions in my mind which prompted this letter. I feel the Montana taxpayer is entitled to answers to the following questions in light of the long history between the AG and Jake Eaton.” [Gene Jarussi Letter via Daily Montanan, [4/8/26](#)]

April 2026: Legislators Did Not Take Action On Companies Associated With Eaton

April 2026: Legislators Did Not Take Action On Companies Associated With Eaton And Jones. “Legislators on Thursday did not take action on the subject of companies associated with Eaton and Jones’, but it seems likely it will be added to the agenda of the next Legislative Audit meeting.” Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

Eaton's Wife, Emily Jones, Was An Attorney With Connections To Montana's Department Of Justice

Eaton's Wife, Emily Jones, Was An Attorney Closely Associated With Montana's Department Of Justice And Received Payments From The Montana Legislature

According To The Daily Montanan, Eaton's Wife, Emily Jones, Was An Attorney Closely Associated With Montana's Department Of Justice. "A high-profile Republican political consultant and his wife, an attorney closely associated with the state's Department of Justice, have close ties with Western Media Partners, a company that has received more than \$1.7 million from the state since 2022, records show. Secretary of State documents list Emily Jones as Western Media Partners' attorney and Jake Eaton, a notable political operative, said Thursday he's a managing partner at the firm." [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

- **Jones Was Appointed To The Judicial Standards Commission By Attorney General Knudsen.** "Records also show Jones Law Firm, operated by Emily Jones, has been paid more than \$433,000 by multiple state agencies and the Legislature since Fiscal Year 2018. She has been appointed by Gov. Greg Gianforte to the Judicial District Advisory Council three times, and, additionally, by Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen to the Judicial Standards Commission, where her term runs until June 2029." [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]
- **Jones Was Appointed To The Judicial District Advisory Council Three Times By Gov. Gianforte.** "Records also show Jones Law Firm, operated by Emily Jones, has been paid more than \$433,000 by multiple state agencies and the Legislature since Fiscal Year 2018. She has been appointed by Gov. Greg Gianforte to the Judicial District Advisory Council three times, and, additionally, by Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen to the Judicial Standards Commission, where her term runs until June 2029." [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

Montana Agencies And The Legislature Paid Jones' Law Firm More Than \$433,000. "Records also show Jones Law Firm, operated by Emily Jones, has been paid more than \$433,000 by multiple state agencies and the Legislature since Fiscal Year 2018." [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

Jones Was An Attorney For Western Media Partners And A Registered Agent For The Political Company

Jones Was Western Media Partners' Attorney And The Political Company's Registered Agent. "Secretary of State documents list Emily Jones as Western Media Partners' attorney and Jake Eaton, a notable political operative, said Thursday he's a managing partner at the firm. [...] Eaton also runs the Political Company, which is a public affairs and political consulting firm that lists Jones as its registered agent. Eaton also was a one-time "senior advisor" in Knudsen's DOJ, but said he's never been an employee of the agency." [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

Eaton And His Wife Had Ties To Seven Nonprofits That Took In More Than \$1 Million From Montana Specialty License Plates

Eaton And His Wife Were Involved With Seven Nonprofits That Saw More Than \$1 Million Combined From Montana For Specialty License Plate Sales

Daily Montanan: Eaton And His Wife, Emily Jones, Were Involved With Seven Nonprofits That Received More Than \$1 Million Combined From Montana For Specialty License Plate Sales Between 2017 And 2026. "The Montana Department of Justice is in the midst of an investigation into no-bid contracts, and multiple legislators on Thursday called for a deep look into claims raised by the spending in a letter and an attorney's public comment during a Legislative Audit Committee meeting. Additionally, Eaton and Jones are directly involved with seven nonprofits that have seen more than \$1 million combined from the state as proceeds coming from specialty license plate sales and 'other expenses' since 2017, according to the state's checkbook service. Six of those nonprofits currently have license plates for purchase on the Montana Department of Motor Vehicles website, including a popular 'Don't Tread on Me' tag." [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

Multiple Legislators Called For A Deep Look Into Western Media Partners Amidst A Montana Department Of Justice Investigation Into No-Bid Contracts

Multiple Legislators Called For A Deep Look Into Western Media Partners Amidst A Montana Department Of Justice Investigation Into No-Bid Contracts. “A high-profile Republican political consultant and his wife, an attorney closely associated with the state’s Department of Justice, have close ties with Western Media Partners, a company that has received more than \$1.7 million from the state since 2022, records show. Secretary of State documents list Emily Jones as Western Media Partners’ attorney and Jake Eaton, a notable political operative, said Thursday he’s a managing partner at the firm. The Montana Department of Justice is in the midst of an investigation into no-bid contracts, and multiple legislators on Thursday called for a deep look into claims raised by the spending in a letter and an attorney’s public comment during a Legislative Audit Committee meeting.” [Daily Montanan, [4/9/26](#)]

Flint Supported Policies That Increased The Cost Of Living And Made It Harder For Montana Families To Make Ends Meet

2024: Flint Defended The Governor And Legislature Against Criticism For Raising Taxes Even As Montana Homeowners Saw Property Taxes Increase By Hundreds Of Dollars

2024: Flint Defended The Governor And Legislature Against Criticism For Raising Taxes And Said The Media Made Up A “Fake News Narrative” About Rising Property Taxes

April 2024: Flint Said The Governor And Legislature Did Not Raise Taxes

April 2024: Flint: “Did The Legislature Raise Your Taxes? No. Did The Governor Raise Your Taxes? No.” “Did the Legislature raise your taxes? No. Did the governor raise your taxes? No. Governor Greg Gianforte (R-MT) and the Republican Legislature delivered over a billion dollars in tax relief, including property tax rebates and income tax rebates. The Democrats, almost unanimously, opposed it all. But now the Democrats pretend to care about rising property taxes, and the media is constructing a fake news narrative to back them up. I scratched together a few quick thoughts earlier this morning.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [4/2/24](#)]

- **Flint Said The Governor Delivered Property Tax Rebates.** “What the liberal media is NOT telling you about Montana property taxes: [...] 5. The Gov delivered prop tax rebates and income tax rebates and relief. \$675 is a BIG DEAL for most Montanans...but not for wealthy, white, liberal elites like Ryan Busse and Raph Graybill.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [4/2/24](#)]

April 2024: Flint Said The Media Made Up A “Fake News Narrative” To Back Up Concern About Rising Property Taxes

April 2024: Flint Said The Media Was “Constructing A Fake News Narrative” To Back Up Democrats’ Concern About Rising Property Taxes. “Did the Legislature raise your taxes? No. Did the governor raise your taxes? No. Governor Greg Gianforte (R-MT) and the Republican Legislature delivered over a billion dollars in tax relief, including property tax rebates and income tax rebates. The Democrats, almost unanimously, opposed it all. But now the Democrats pretend to care about rising property taxes, and the media is constructing a fake news narrative to back them up. I scratched together a few quick thoughts earlier this morning.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [4/2/24](#)]

Flint Said The “Liberal Media” Did Not Want People To Question The System And “The Flaw In Basing Property Taxes Off Of Property Values.” “What the liberal media is NOT telling you about Montana property taxes: 1. They don't want you to question the system: the flaw in basing property taxes off of property values.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [4/2/24](#)]

2023: Despite A Warning From The Montana Department Of Revenue, The Gianforte Administration And The Legislature Did Not Equalize Rates Between Homeowners And Businesses To Make Property Taxes Fairer

2023: The Montana Department Of Revenue Warned That Not Adjusting Property Taxes Could Cause Sticker Shock For Montana Homeowners. “The Republican-controlled Legislature was also the target of criticism for not adjusting residential property taxes during the 2023 session when the Montana Department of Revenue warned that not doing so could — and in fact, did — cause sticker shock for Montana homeowners. Meanwhile, Gianforte, a Republican, took aim at local and county governments throughout the state, many controlled by the GOP, for what he described as out-of-control spending, a debatable point that put many in the governor’s own political party at odds with the administration.” [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

The Gianforte Administration And Its Department Of Revenue Did Not Equalize Rates To Make Property Taxes More Equitable. “Residents from Silver Bow and Gallatin counties are asking a state district court judge to force the Montana Department of Revenue to recalculate residential property taxes in the Treasure State because they claim that the Gianforte administration has violated the law and the state Constitution by allowing taxes for homeowners to skyrocket while most business classes saw a reduction. [...] The issue of residential property taxes may not have been the defining issue of the 2023 Legislature, but it soon became a contentious issue after the session adjourned as residential property tax bills started becoming due. [...] The new lawsuit claims that regardless of the politics, the Gianforte administration and its Department of Revenue had an obligation to do what the Legislature did not: It should have equalized the rates to make property taxes more equitable.” [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

Gianforte Blamed Local And County Governments For What He Called Out-Of-Control Spending. “The Republican-controlled Legislature was also the target of criticism for not adjusting residential property taxes during the 2023 session when the Montana Department of Revenue warned that not doing so could — and in fact, did — cause sticker shock for Montana homeowners. Meanwhile, Gianforte, a Republican, took aim at local and county governments throughout the state, many controlled by the GOP, for what he described as out-of-control spending, a debatable point that put many in the governor’s own political party at odds with the administration.” [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

2023: Most Montana Homeowners Had To Pay Hundreds Of Dollars More In Property Taxes With The Median Increase Being 21%

December 2023: The Typical Montana Residential Property Owner Had To Pay Up To \$660 More A Year. “The median Montana residential property owner will pay about 21% more on their taxes this year than they did last year, with typical increases ranging between 11% and 35%, according to a Montana Free Press analysis of revenue department data for the 956,000 properties on the state’s property tax rolls in both 2022 and 2023. That translates into residential tax bills that will be \$98 to \$660 a year more.” [Montana Free Press, [12/7/23](#)]

December 2023: The Median Montana Residential Property Owner Had To Pay 21% More On Their Taxes Compared To The Previous Year. “The median Montana residential property owner will pay about 21% more on their taxes this year than they did last year, with typical increases ranging between 11% and 35%, according to a Montana Free Press analysis of revenue department data for the 956,000 properties on the state’s property tax rolls in both 2022 and 2023. That translates into residential tax bills that will be \$98 to \$660 a year more.” [Montana Free Press, [12/7/23](#)]

- **Montana Free Press Headline: “Montana Homeowners See Higher Property Taxes As Some Big Businesses Pay Less.”** [Montana Free Press, [12/7/23](#)]

Daily Montanan Brian Schweitzer Op-Ed Headline: “The Governor And The Legislature Raised Your Home’s Taxes At The Fastest Rate In History.” [Daily Montanan, Brian Schweitzer Op-Ed, [9/7/24](#)]

2024: Montanans Sued The State, Alleging The Gianforte Administration Violated The Law And State Constitution By Allowing Homeowners' Taxes To Increase While Most Business Classes Saw Reduced Taxes

2024: Montana Residents Sued The Montana Department Of Revenue To Recalculate Residential Property Taxes. “Residents from Silver Bow and Gallatin counties are asking a state district court judge to force the Montana Department of Revenue to recalculate residential property taxes in the Treasure State because they claim that the Gianforte administration has violated the law and the state Constitution by allowing taxes for homeowners to skyrocket while most business classes saw a reduction. In a lawsuit filed Tuesday in Butte-Silver Bow County District Court, attorneys for Thomas Powers, Cinder Lord-Powers and Ryan and Elizabeth Swenson are also seeking a class-action certification on the lawsuit, as well as asking the district court judge to halt anymore residential property tax collection until they say the rates can be equalized.” [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

- **Daily Montanan Headline: “Residents Sue Gianforte Administration For Not Equalizing Residential Property Taxes.”** [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

The Lawsuit Alleged That The Gianforte Administration Violated The Law And State Constitution By Allowing Taxes For Homeowners To Skyrocket While Most Business Classes Saw A Reduction. “Residents from Silver Bow and Gallatin counties are asking a state district court judge to force the Montana Department of Revenue to recalculate residential property taxes in the Treasure State because they claim that the Gianforte administration has violated the law and the state Constitution by allowing taxes for homeowners to skyrocket while most business classes saw a reduction. In a lawsuit filed Tuesday in Butte-Silver Bow County District Court, attorneys for Thomas Powers, Cinder Lord-Powers and Ryan and Elizabeth Swenson are also seeking a class-action certification on the lawsuit, as well as asking the district court judge to halt anymore residential property tax collection until they say the rates can be equalized.” [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

Homeowners' Lawsuit: “Montana’s Core Property Tax Equalization Requires That The Department ‘Shall Adjust And Equalize The Valuation.’” “The attorneys said that ultimately it is the Department of Revenue’s job and the Gianforte administration’s responsibility to do what the Legislature would not in order to comply with state law and the state constitution. They point to the specific portion of state law which said that current law requires the Department of Revenue to make the adjustments. ‘Montana’s core property tax equalization,’ the lawsuit said, ‘requires that the department ‘shall adjust and equalize the valuation,’ and ‘do all things necessary to secure a fair, just, and equitable valuation of all taxable property.’” [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

Residential Taxes Increased From Making Up 51% Of The State’s Budget In 2023 To Making Up 59% In 2024. “The lawsuit includes tables and references to the differences of taxation for some of the state’s largest taxpayers. For example, of the nine business classes that make up property taxes, six saw decreases as a percentage of the state budget, with business equipment seeing a slight increase (from 4.03% to 4.30%); and commercial property seeing a slight increase from 13.1% to 13.4%. However, the percentage of residential taxes leapt from making up 51% percent of the state’s budget in 2023 to making up 59%. Using the state’s data, that means the revenue from residential property jumped from \$1.8 billion to more than \$2.7 billion, generating nearly an additional \$900 million for the state.” [Daily Montanan, [10/22/24](#)]

2025: Flint Expressed Skepticism About A Law That Lowered Property Taxes For 80% Of Montana Homeowners Because Of Its Impact On People With Second Homes, Including Airbnb Owners

2025: Flint Was Skeptical Of Montana’s New Property Tax Law, Speculating That People Would Lose Their Second Homes And Defending Airbnb Owners

VIDEO: November 2025: In Discussing The Property Tax Law, Flint Said The Governor “Felt He Probably Had To Sign It” Due To The “Heavy Weight Of Needing To Deliver Residential Property Tax Relief For Primary Homes.” BRAXTON MITCHELL: “So we’re going to see a big fight about that in the primaries about who voted with that and the effects of it. We won’t see the full effects of it until the next November, but I think

again property taxes are the top— you know, top of mind for a lot of folks because of the major increase, especially in the Flathead that we've seen just since COVID and we know the massive flux of folks that have moved here.” FLINT: “That’s my biggest concern with this property tax. Look, I get it. The legislature— and this is probably why the governor felt he probably had to sign it, is they really felt the heavy weight of needing to deliver residential property tax relief for primary homes, for people raising their kids, raising their families. But, but my big concern is that there's going to be this great replacement.” [Flint Report via YouTube, 22:57, [11/24/25](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: November 2025: Flint Said He Worried That A Lot Of Montana Families Would Lose Their Second Homes Due To The Property Tax Law. FLINT: “The legislature— and this is probably why the governor felt he probably had to sign it, is they really felt the heavy weight of needing to deliver residential property tax relief for primary homes, for people raising their kids, raising their families. But, but my big concern is that there's going to be this great replacement. Like you say, I don't have a family cabin. I wish we had a family cabin. I wish we had a place on the lake. You know, like, when I grew up and my grandparents had their house, you know, right there, kind of, you know, close to Flathead Lake. But I just worry that, that basically, a lot of these Montana families that have passed these cabins down generation to generation are going to lose them. And then you just get wealthy out-of-staters that'll come in and buy up all those properties. And we as Montanans, you might go to a various lake or a various outdoors area, and all of the property is owned by people that aren't even Montanans, that aren't even from Montana. And it's just really sad when you think about the impact that could have on Montana culture. And look, I get it that apparently, you know, I know the people that voted for it are saying, well, you know, 80% of Montana homeowners are going to see decent property tax relief, but the businesses got their taxes going up.” [Flint Report via YouTube, 23:20, [11/24/25](#)] (VIDEO)

- **VIDEO: November 2025: Flint: “But I Just Worry That, That Basically, A Lot Of These Montana Families That Have Passed These Cabins Down Generation To Generation Are Going To Lose Them.”** FLINT: “The legislature— and this is probably why the governor felt he probably had to sign it, is they really felt the heavy weight of needing to deliver residential property tax relief for primary homes, for people raising their kids, raising their families. But, but my big concern is that there's going to be this great replacement. Like you say, I don't have a family cabin. I wish we had a family cabin. I wish we had a place on the lake. You know, like, when I grew up and my grandparents had their house, you know, right there, kind of, you know, close to Flathead Lake. But I just worry that, that basically, a lot of these Montana families that have passed these cabins down generation to generation are going to lose them. And then you just get wealthy out-of-staters that'll come in and buy up all those properties.” [Flint Report via YouTube, 23:20, [11/24/25](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: In Discussing Residential Property Taxes, Flint Defended Airbnb Owners In Montana, Saying, “Maybe The Airbnb Was How You’re Sending Your Kid To College.” FLINT: “And not just the big businesses, but individual, you know, small business owners as well. And then second homeowners, cabins, people that Airbnb. Well, maybe the Airbnb was how you're sending your kid to college. And so yeah, my big thing is I, I get it that they felt they had to deliver residential property tax relief. But with budget surplus after budget surplus after budget surplus, why did anybody's taxes have to go up? And how are we going to rebuild our industrial base when we raise taxes on business? So that's why I fully think somebody's got to, they've got to do a ballot initiative or something to cap property taxes at what's, at the purchase price instead of always basing it off of appraisals that never seem to be going down anyway.” [Flint Report via YouTube, 24:31, [11/24/25](#)] (VIDEO)

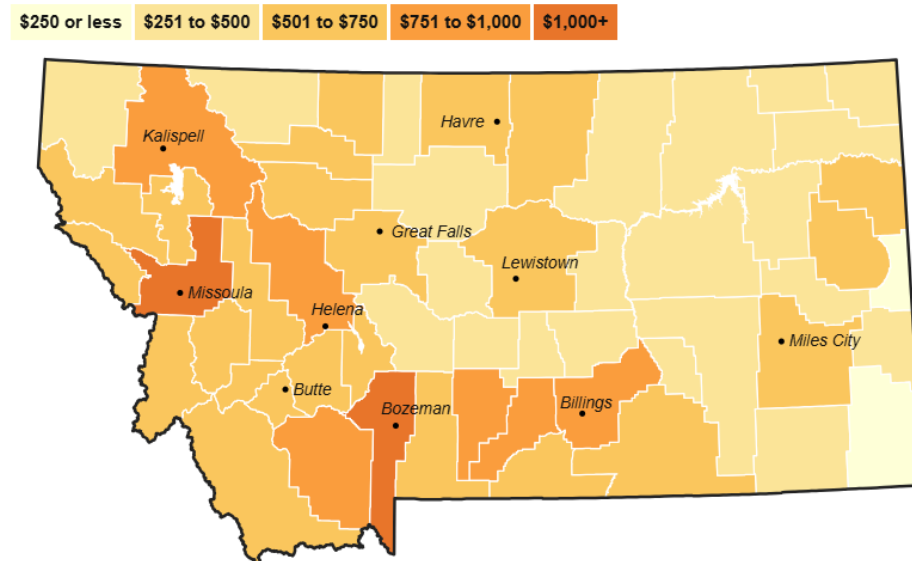
November 2025: Under The Property Tax Law, 80% Of Residential Properties Saw Tax Bills Decrease

November 2025: Montana Department Of Revenue: 80% Of Residential Properties Saw Their Tax Bills Decrease Under The New Property Tax Legislation. “Analysts at the Montana Department of Revenue have compiled a voluminous pile of data about the year-one effects of the legislation, passed as House Bill 231 and Senate Bill 542. [...] A separate tally by the department estimates that, as a result of the legislation, 80% of residential properties saw their tax bills decrease versus last year, with 11% seeing increases. If legislators had left the state’s tax code unchanged, it estimates that 62% of bills would have increased and only 13% would have decreased.” [Montana Free Press, [11/26/25](#)]

Montana's 2025 Property Tax Law Saved Median Residences Hundreds Of Dollars. [Montana Free Press, [11/26/25](#)]

How much Montana's 2025 property tax legislation saved median residences

Estimated savings for county median residential property on 2025 tax bill versus prior tax law.



Data: Montana Dept. of Revenue. Chart: Eric Dietrich / MTFP

[Montana Free Press, [11/26/25](#)]

Flint Expressed Concern About Small Businesses Seeing Their Taxes Increase, But Under The 2025 Property Tax Law, Most Commercial Properties Saw Taxes Decrease

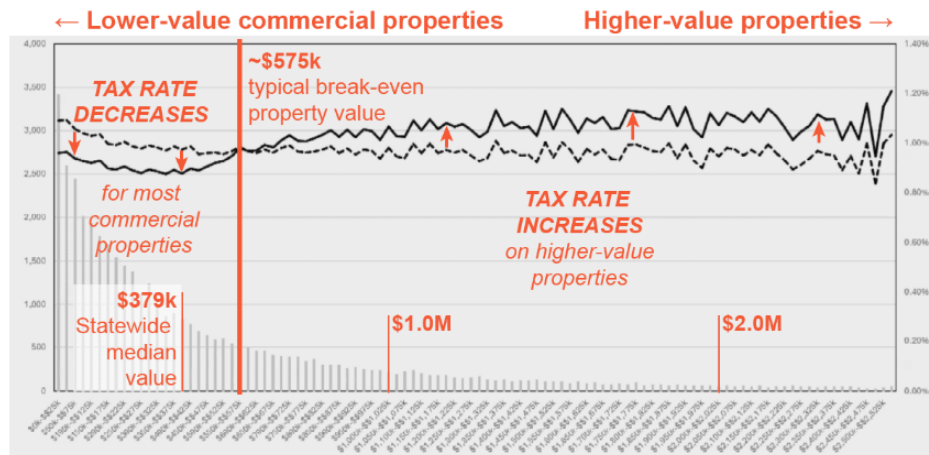
VIDEO: November 2025: Flint: “I Know The People That Voted For It Are Saying, Well, You Know 80% Of Montana Homeowners Are Going To See Decent Property Tax Relief, But The Businesses Got Their Taxes Going Up.” FLINT: “And it's just really sad when you think about the impact that could have on Montana culture. And look, I get it that apparently, you know, I know the people that voted for it are saying, well, you know, 80% of Montana homeowners are going to see decent property tax relief, but the businesses got their taxes going up. And not just the big businesses, but individual, you know, small business owners as well. And then second homeowners, cabins, people that Airbnb. Well, maybe the Airbnb was how you're sending your kid to college.” [Flint Report via YouTube, 24:12, [11/24/25](#)] (VIDEO)

- **VIDEO: Flint: “And Not Just The Big Businesses, But Individual, You Know, Small Business Owners As Well.”** FLINT: “And it's just really sad when you think about the impact that could have on Montana culture. And look, I get it that apparently, you know, I know the people that voted for it are saying, well, you know, 80% of Montana homeowners are going to see decent property tax relief, but the businesses got their taxes going up. And not just the big businesses, but individual, you know, small business owners as well. And then second homeowners, cabins, people that Airbnb. Well, maybe the Airbnb was how you're sending your kid to college.” [Flint Report via YouTube, 24:12, [11/24/25](#)] (VIDEO)

Montana's 2025 Property Tax Law Decreased Tax Rates For Most Commercial Properties. [Montana Free Press, [11/26/25](#)]

2025 effective tax rate shifts for commercial properties

Under interim tax rates set for 2025 — rates will change again in 2026 as a full second-home tax takes effect.



Graphic (grayscale): Montana Department of Revenue

Annotations (orange): Eric Dietrich / MTFP

[Montana Free Press, [11/26/25](#)]

Commercial Properties Worth Up To About \$575,000 Saw Lower Effective Tax Rates, While Higher-Value Properties Paid Higher Rates. “Lawmakers were also concerned that their efforts to lower homeowner taxes would spill over onto commercial properties, particularly ones owned by small businesses. As a result, they included provisions aimed at lowering taxes for less valuable commercial properties, similarly to how comparatively modest homes were treated. The department’s analysis indicates that the commercial provisions included in the 2025 tax rates have generally had the intended effect. Commercial properties worth up to approximately \$575,000 have benefited from lower effective tax rates this year, while higher-value commercial properties have paid higher rates.” [Montana Free Press, [11/26/25](#)]

Flint Repeatedly Made The Unconventional Suggestion To Stop Basing Property Taxes On Home Values

2025: Flint: “We Need To Scrap The Way We Base Property Taxes Based Off Of The Value Of Your Home.” “Because of the rising property values, folks are seeing constantly rising property taxes- and we've been seeing that since the 90's if not earlier. If you ask me, that's why we need to scrap the way we base property taxes based off of the value of your home.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [8/18/25](#)]

2024: Flint Said The “Liberal Media” Did Not Want People To Question The System And “The Flaw In Basing Property Taxes Off Of Property Values.” “What the liberal media is NOT telling you about Montana property taxes: 1. They don't want you to question the system: the flaw in basing property taxes off of property values.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [4/2/24](#)]

2016: As Communications Director, Flint Defended Gubernatorial Candidate Greg Gianforte Over Allegations Of Laying Off Montanans And Outsourcing Jobs

2016: The Montana Democratic Party Said Gubernatorial Candidate Greg Gianforte’s Company Laid Off About 40 Bozeman Employees And Also Outsourced Jobs

2016: The Montana Democratic Party Said Gubernatorial Candidate Greg Gianforte’s Company Laid Off About 40 Bozeman Employees

2016: The Montana Democratic Party Said Gubernatorial Candidate Greg Gianforte’s Company Laid Off About 40 Bozeman Employees In 2001. “The Montana Democratic Party expanded its attacks on Greg Gianforte's

business record this week, saying the Republican candidate for governor's claims about job creation are hollow. [...] Rather than saying Gianforte's company laid off employees because it was going to outsource their jobs, the Democrats have not directly tied the two events. In a Monday press release, the party mentioned about 40 Bozeman layoffs several sentences before it discussed the company's outsourcing, but it did not expressly say one caused the other. [...] Gianforte Spokesman Aaron Flint declined multiple requests to discuss in detail the 2001 layoffs or the jobs Carstensen said were outsourced, but he did provide emailed statements on other questions." [Montana Standard, 9/28/16]

2016: The Montana Democratic Party Said Gianforte's Company Outsourced Jobs

2016: The Montana Democratic Party Said Gianforte's Company Outsourced Jobs. "The Montana Democratic Party expanded its attacks on Greg Gianforte's business record this week, saying the Republican candidate for governor's claims about job creation are hollow. [...] Rather than saying Gianforte's company laid off employees because it was going to outsource their jobs, the Democrats have not directly tied the two events. In a Monday press release, the party mentioned about 40 Bozeman layoffs several sentences before it discussed the company's outsourcing, but it did not expressly say one caused the other." [Montana Standard, 9/28/16]

2016: A Former Chief Financial Officer At RightNow Said The Company Outsourced Jobs To Lower Labor Costs. "Susan Carstensen, who worked as chief financial officer or vice president at RightNow for 12 years, said that while the hiring of workers in Armenia and India were not tied to the layoffs, they still were deliberately outsourced jobs. 'We did, at different points, outsource some jobs with an engineering team in Armenia and the strategy for that was a lower cost of labor. We did have contracts with an Indian outsourcing firm that provided more lower-cost labor for service work,' she said, noting it affected 'probably less than 100' jobs." [Montana Standard, 9/28/16]

- **Gianforte And His Wife Founded The Company RightNow Technologies.** "For months the party directly, or through volunteer letter writers, has claimed that the Bozeman company Gianforte founded with his wife in 1997, RightNow Technologies, laid off Montanans and outsourced their jobs, even though Democrats had previously apologized to Sen. Steve Daines, a former VP, for similar attacks made during his 2012 campaign." [Montana Standard, 9/28/16]

2016: The Montana Democrats Did Not Directly Tie Gianforte's Layoffs To Outsourcing Jobs

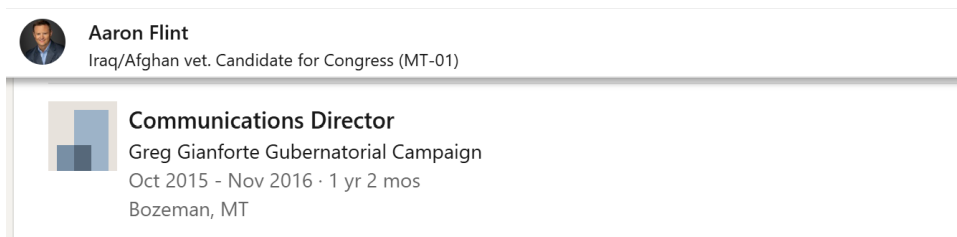
2016: Montana Standard: "Rather Than Saying Gianforte's Company Laid Off Employees Because It Was Going To Outsource Their Jobs, The Democrats Have Not Directly Tied The Two Events." "Hyers said the Democrats' criticisms of Gianforte are different than those made in 2012. In reviewing press releases from the party this cycle, the difference seems to be, at least in part, semantic. Rather than saying Gianforte's company laid off employees because it was going to outsource their jobs, the Democrats have not directly tied the two events. In a Monday press release, the party mentioned about 40 Bozeman layoffs several sentences before it discussed the company's outsourcing, but it did not expressly say one caused the other." [Montana Standard, 9/28/16]

NOTE: Care should be taken in the exact wording of this hit. In 2012, Gianforte sued the Montana Democratic Party for claiming his company's layoffs were in connection to outsourcing jobs. The Montana Democratic Party issued an apology letter for claiming Gianforte's company laid off employees in order to outsource jobs to India.

2016: As Gianforte's Communications Director, Flint Defended Gianforte's Company, Saying The Company "Had Call Centers All Over The World Because Of The Global Nature Of Their Business"

As A Gianforte Spokesman, Flint Declined To Discuss Details Of The 2001 Layoffs. "Gianforte Spokesman Aaron Flint declined multiple requests to discuss in detail the 2001 layoffs or the jobs Carstensen said were outsourced, but he did provide emailed statements on other questions. [...] 'RightNow served global companies all over the world,' Flint wrote. 'Take Nikon for example. RightNow provided their Montana-made solutions to help them deliver better customer service in 50 countries and 33 different languages. Many RightNow clients had call centers all over the world because of the global nature of their businesses.'" [Montana Standard, 9/28/16]

- **October 2015-November 2016: Flint Served As Communications Director For Greg Gianforte's Gubernatorial Campaign.** [LinkedIn, Aaron Flint, accessed [4/17/26](#)]



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2016: Flint: “Many RightNow Clients Had Call Centers All Over The World Because Of The Global Nature Of Their Businesses.” “‘RightNow served global companies all over the world,’ Flint wrote. ‘Take Nikon for example. RightNow provided their Montana-made solutions to help them deliver better customer service in 50 countries and 33 different languages. Many RightNow clients had call centers all over the world because of the global nature of their businesses.’” [Montana Standard, 9/28/16]

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Flint Praised Trump’s Tariffs, Which Cost Montana Businesses \$42 Million And Increased The Cost Of Living For Montanans

Flint Said, “Economic Numbers Are Still Rocking And Rolling” Because Of Tariffs And Supported Trump’s Tariff Threats Against Canada and Mexico

2026: Flint Said, “The Economic Numbers Are Still Rocking And Rolling” Because Of Tariffs

AUDIO: February 2026: Flint: “The Economic Numbers Are Still Rocking And Rolling.” FLINT: “And by the way, the economic numbers are still rocking and rolling.” CALLER: “I know.” FLINT: “Some would say despite the tariffs, but Peter Navarro said it's because of the tariffs because of what that's doing with the American economy and encouraging more domestic manufacturing, etc. But what do you think? What do you think about taking some of the revenue and giving it right back to the people?” [Montana Talks, 42:35, [2/18/26](#)] (AUDIO)

AUDIO: February 2026: Flint Said Peter Navarro Said Positive Economic Numbers Happened Because Of The Tariffs. FLINT: “And by the way, the economic numbers are still rocking and rolling.” CALLER: “I know.” FLINT: “Some would say despite the tariffs, but Peter Navarro said it's because of the tariffs because of what that's doing with the American economy and encouraging more domestic manufacturing, etc. But what do you think? What do you think about taking some of the revenue and giving it right back to the people?” [Montana Talks, 42:35, [2/18/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Flint Appeared To Support Trump’s Tariff Threats Against Canada And Mexico

March 2025: Flint Said, “That Didn’t Take Long...But Watch The Never Trumper/Liberal Media Tariff Fear Porn Continue” In Response To The Headline, “Canada Backs Down On Electricity Surcharge After Trump Tariff Threats.” “That didn't take long...but watch the Never Trumper/liberal media tariff fear porn continue- ‘Canada Backs Down On Electricity Surcharge After Trump Tariff Threats’ #MTPol @pvtjokerus.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/12/25](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/12/25](#)]

Flint: “And Just Like That: ‘Trump Says Mexico Will Stop Flow Of Migrants After Speaking With Mexican President Following Tariff Threats.’” “And just like that: ‘Trump says Mexico will stop flow of migrants after speaking with Mexican president following tariff threats’ #mtpol.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [11/27/24](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [11/27/24](#)]

Flint Described Tariffs On Other Countries As Taxes On Other Countries Instead Of Montanans

Flint Said Liberals “Get Mad If We Want To Tariff China. They Get Mad If You Want To Tax China.”

FLINT: “They’ll argue that a tariff is a tax and, you know, some ways, but here's the thing, like, okay, so if we tax China, the liberals get mad if they want to call a tariff a tax.” CALLER: “Yeah.” FLINT: “They get mad if we want to tariff China. They get mad if you want to tax China. They don't get mad if, if they want to tax Chris in Billings or Susan in Missoula. In fact, they will cheerlead the effort to tax you. But boy, they will get big mad if you want to tax China. It's just like, why they say nothing about China coal, but they get big mad about union-made American coal.” [Montana Talks, 43:11, [2/18/26](#)] (AUDIO)

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tax China. It's just like, why they say nothing about China coal, but they get big mad about union-made American coal.” [Montana Talks, 43:11, [2/18/26](#)] (AUDIO)

March 2026: Montana Businesses Paid About \$42 Million In Tariffs And Local Business Owners Criticized Tariffs For “Absolutely Creating Increased Prices At The Cash Register For All Consumers”

March 2026: Montana Businesses Paid About \$42 Million In Tariffs In The Past Year

March 2026: Montana Businesses Paid About \$42 Million In Tariffs In The Past Year. “Nearly a year after President Donald Trump announced his ‘Liberation Day’ tariffs, small businesses across Montana say they are still dealing with the fallout, from higher costs and delayed hiring to continued uncertainty over what tariffs will remain in place. New trade data estimates Montana businesses paid roughly \$42 million in tariffs over the past year tied to those policies, and business owners say the cost has been felt both at the company level and by consumers.” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

Missoula Businessman Ryan Guay Said His Company Delayed Hiring In Montana Due To Unknown Costs And Said Tariffs Were “Absolutely Creating Increased Prices At The Cash Register For All Consumers”

Missoula Businessman Ryan Guay Said The Biggest Challenge Was Not Knowing What Tariff Rate Would Apply Until Shipments Were Already In Motion. “In Missoula, Ryan Guay, CEO and co-founder of FLATED, says tariffs hit his company at a time when it was expecting strong growth. FLATED manufactures inflatable automotive accessories, including inflatable truck toppers, and Guay says the biggest challenge has been not knowing what tariff rate will apply until shipments are already moving. ‘It’s one thing being charged a tariff, but the hardest part is not knowing what the tariff percentage is,’ Guay says. ‘We spent the majority of last year not exactly knowing what each container was going to cost.’” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

Guay Said Tariffs Were “Absolutely Creating Increased Prices At The Cash Register For All Consumers.” “‘If you think all the companies can just absorb tariffs, then you’re absolutely wrong,’ Guay says. ‘It’s absolutely creating increased prices at the cash register for all consumers.’” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

Guay Said His Company Delayed Hiring In Montana Due To The Unknown Costs. “Guay says those unknown costs forced his company to scale back growth plans and delay hiring in Montana. ‘We have five employees here in Montana,’ he says. ‘At the beginning of last year, we were definitely looking on expanding that team, and then with the unknown costs, I think we definitely pulled back.’ He says the impact stretched beyond staffing, affecting events, marketing initiatives, and new projects as the company tried to stay conservative and avoid financial risk.” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

Bonner Businessman Jess Nepstad Called Tariffs “A National Tax” And Said The Biggest Misconception Was That Foreign Countries Paid The Tariffs

Bonner Businessman Jess Nepstad Said His Company Saw A Nearly 21% Retail And Wholesale Price Increase. “In Bonner, Jess Nepstad, CEO of Planetary Design, says his company develops and patents its product designs in Montana but relies on overseas manufacturing to produce coffee and cannabis storage containers, drinkware, and brewing equipment. He says the tariff increases forced the company to make a major pricing decision after initially trying to hold steady. ‘We took a retail and wholesale price increase of nearly 21%,’ Nepstad says.” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

Nepstad Called Tariffs “A National Tax,” And Said, “You’re Going To Pay Because The Consumer Is Going To Pay For It.” “He says that is why he views tariffs as a broad cost that shows up in everyday purchases. ‘It’s a national tax. It’s across everything that comes in, whether it’s a pharmaceutical or a pair of sneakers,’ Nepstad says. ‘You’re going to pay because the consumer is going to pay for it.’” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

Nepstad Said The Biggest Misconception Was That Foreign Countries Paid The Tariffs. “Nepstad says the biggest misconception is that foreign countries pay the tariffs. Instead, he says importers are charged, leaving

businesses with a choice between absorbing the cost or passing it along. ‘You know, it's not China that pays them or India or whatever other country,’ Nepstad says. ‘Eventually the importer pays them. We can either absorb those costs or pass it on to the consumer.’” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

- **Nepstad: “Eventually The Importer Pays Them. We Can Either Absorb Those Costs Or Pass It On To The Consumer.”** “Nepstad says the biggest misconception is that foreign countries pay the tariffs. Instead, he says importers are charged, leaving businesses with a choice between absorbing the cost or passing it along. ‘You know, it's not China that pays them or India or whatever other country,’ Nepstad says. ‘Eventually the importer pays them. We can either absorb those costs or pass it on to the consumer.’” [KRTV, [3/26/26](#)]

Flint Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill, Which Would Kick Nearly 24,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In MT-01, Threaten Food Assistance For Nearly 16,000 Households In The District, And Strain Rural Hospitals

2025: Flint Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill And Touted His Endorsement From Trump After Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill “The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda”

2026: Flint Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill And Mocked Critics Of The Bill

Flint Praised Tax Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill

AUDIO: January 2026: Flint Said Trump And The Republican Congress Made “Incredible Progress” With The “Working Families Tax Cuts.” FLINT: “This is not only a distraction that Walz and Frey are creating from the tens of billions of dollars in fraud in the Somali fraud instance, they’re distracting from the incredible progress President Trump and the Republican Congress have already delivered. No tax on tips, working families tax cuts, and tax relief.” [Todd Starnes Show via YouTube, 07:06, [1/30/26](#)] (VIDEO)

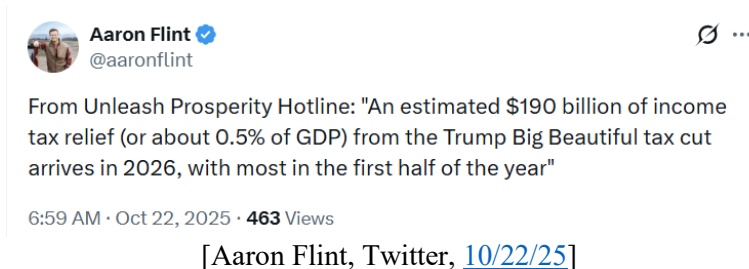
AUDIO: March 2026: Flint Said He Would Fight To Keep In Place The Provision Of The “Working Families Tax Cuts” That Worked To End Taxes On Social Security. FLINT: “And I said, look, the biggest thing that I've heard in talking to people, in listening to people on my radio show is we've been paying into Social Security our entire lives and now we retire and they still tax our Social Security benefits. Well, thanks to President Trump, we're working to end that. And that was one of the key pieces of the working families tax cuts. And I'm going to fight to keep that in place. And I'll tell you what, if the Democrats take over Congress, the first thing they're doing is they're going to put their hand right back into your tip jar and steal your tip money, and they're going to start taxing your Social Security benefits once again.” [Breitbart, 12:26, [3/7/26](#)] (AUDIO)

- **Republican Strategists Advised Lawmakers To Rebrand Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill As The “Working Family Tax Cuts.”** “For months, President Donald Trump’s main message about the sweeping bill he pushed through Congress was that it was ‘big’ and ‘beautiful.’ [...] Two Republican strategists said they are advising lawmakers to sell the act to a wider audience using different titles: the ‘Working Family Tax Cuts’ act or possibly the ‘Trump Working Family Tax Cuts.’” [NBC News, [7/15/25](#)]

AUDIO: Flint: “If The Democrats Take Over Congress, The First Thing They’re Doing Is They’re Going To Put Their Hand Right Back Into Your Tip Jar And Steal Your Tip Money.” FLINT: “And I said, look, the biggest thing that I've heard in talking to people, in listening to people on my radio show is we've been paying into Social Security our entire lives and now we retire and they still tax our Social Security benefits. Well, thanks to President Trump, we're working to end that. And that was one of the key pieces of the working families tax cuts. And I'm going to fight to keep that in place. And I'll tell you what, if the Democrats take over Congress, the first thing they're doing is they're going to put their hand right back into your tip jar and steal your tip money, and they're going to start taxing your Social Security benefits once again.” [Breitbart, 12:26, [3/7/26](#)] (AUDIO)

- **The One Big Beautiful Bill Created A New Federal Income Tax Deduction For Tipped Income.** “The 2025 Republican budget bill (sometimes called the 2025 Trump tax bill or ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act’) created a new federal income tax deduction for tipped income.” [Economic Policy Institute, [2/12/26](#)]

October 2025: Flint Amplified A Headline That Said The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut Taxes In 2026. “From Unleash Prosperity Hotline: ‘An estimated \$190 billion of income tax relief (or about 0.5% of GDP) from the Trump Big Beautiful tax cut arrives in 2026, with most in the first half of the year.’” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [10/22/25](#)]



Flint Said The Idea That People Would Die Because Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Was “A Hoax”

Flint Said The Idea That People Would Die Because Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Was A “Hoax Coming From The Democrats.” ““The hoax coming from the Democrats right now, the White House calls this one of the Democrats’ most disgusting lies about the one big beautiful bill ...is that people would literally die because of this,” Flint said on June 3. ‘We’ve had people literally die because of their illegal alien invasion and because of their promotion of crime in America and going soft on criminals and putting criminals back out on the streets.’” [Daily Montanan, [3/5/26](#)]

Flint Mocked The Missoula Council For Opposing The One Big Beautiful Bill

June 2025: Flint Mocked The Missoula Council For Opposing The One Big Beautiful Bill. “Missoula Council Opposes ‘Big Beautiful Bill,’ Laughter Ensues. Pretty sure that’s Zohran Mamdani in that photo too btw... 🤡🤡🤡.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [6/25/25](#)]



2026: Flint Touted His Endorsement From Trump

April 2026: Flint's Twitter Account Prominently Featured His Endorsement From Trump. [Aaron Flint, Twitter, accessed [4/7/26](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, accessed [4/7/26](#)]

March 2026: Flint Said He Was “Grateful For President Trump’s Endorsement.” “Back at the White House again for a great couple of days - HUGE support for our campaign as we Make The Montana Dream Affordable Again. Grateful for President Trump’s endorsement. We are gonna fight for it every single day. -Montana AF.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/26/26](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [3/26/26](#)]

July 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill

July 4, 2025: Trump Signed The One Big Beautiful Bill. “President Trump on Friday signed a massive spending and tax bill that the White House has dubbed the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ to implement much of his domestic policy agenda. The bill passed Thursday after Republican leaders in the House of Representatives convinced holdouts in their own party to get in line behind the controversial legislation.” [NPR, [7/4/25](#)]

May 2025-June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill “The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda” And Praised House Republicans For Passing It

June 2025: Trump Called The One Big Beautiful Bill “The Ultimate Codification Of Our Agenda To Very Simply Make America Great Again!” “The One Big Beautiful Bill will Secure our Borders, turbocharge our economy, and bring back the American Dream. This is the ultimate codification of our agenda to very simply Make America Great Again!” [Donald J. Trump, Truth Social, [6/26/25](#)]



[Donald J. Trump, Truth Social, [6/26/25](#)]

May 2025: The Hill: “Trump Sent Kudos To House Republicans” After They Passed The One Big Beautiful Bill. “President Trump sent kudos to House Republicans after they worked late Sunday evening and narrowly cleared a key hurdle to advance the ‘big, beautiful bill’ that contains most of his legislative priorities. ‘CONGRATULATIONS REPUBLICANS!!!’ the president posted on Truth Social just before 1 a.m. EDT on Monday. ‘MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!’” [The Hill, [5/19/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Slashing Local Hospital Revenue, And Would Kick Nearly 24,000 People In MT-01 Off Their Health Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In The Program’s History

The Hill: Republicans Passed “The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960s.” “Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

- **The Hill: The Republicans’ Reconciliation Bill Made About \$1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** “Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that

would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Take Health Insurance Away From More Than 14 Million People

KFF: “CBO Estimates Show That The Number Of Uninsured People Will Increase By More Than 14 Million In 2034.” [KFF, [8/20/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “Congress Officially Passes Trump’s Bill To Kick Millions Off Medicaid.” [Rolling Stone, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick Nearly 24,000 People In MT-01 Off Their Health Insurance

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated Nearly 24,000 People In Montana’s 1st Congressional District Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans’ Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. “According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO)’s most recent analysis, President Trump and Congressional Republicans’ cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would result in 16 million people losing their health insurance by 2034. Using CBO’s analysis released June 4 and other research, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority calculated new estimates of the number of people who would lose health insurance.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

MT-01: Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
9,200	14,516	23,716

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cut More Than \$54 Million In Revenue To Hospitals In MT-01

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill, Hospitals In MT-01 Were Projected To Lose More Than \$54,000,000 As A Result Of Medicaid Cuts. [Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

Projected Cuts To MT-01 Hospital Revenue From Medicaid Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Hospital	City	Projected Cut To Hospital Revenue
Logan Health Medical Center	Kalispell	\$14,122,835
St Patrick Hospital	Missoula	\$7,899,374
Bozeman Deaconess Health Services	Bozeman	\$7,181,059
Community Medical Center	Missoula	\$6,918,471
Saint James Healthcare	Butte	\$2,755,756
Community Hospital Of Anaconda	Anaconda	\$2,464,456
Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital	Hamilton	\$2,418,179
Logan Health Whitefish	Whitefish	\$2,211,442
St Luke Community Hospital	Ronan	\$1,415,615
Providence St Joseph Medical Ctr	Polson	\$1,327,004
Cabinet Peaks Medical Center	Libby	\$1,286,893
Barrett Hospital And Healthcare	Dillon	\$982,691
Clark Fork Valley Hospital	Plains	\$698,064

Deer Lodge Medical Center	Deer Lodge	\$687,922
Logan Health Cutbank	Cutbank	\$549,599
Ruby Valley Hospital	Sheridan	\$394,797
Mineral Community Hospital	Superior	\$329,925
Logan Health Conrad	Conrad	\$187,703
Big Sky Medical Center	Big Sky	\$157,433
Granite County Medical Center	Philipsburg	\$155,550
Madison Valley Medical Center	Ennis	\$112,853
Total:		\$54,257,621

[Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cuts In History, Threatening Food Assistance For Nearly 16,000 Households In MT-01

Center For American Progress: The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cut In The Program's History

Center For American Progress: “The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program’s History According To Center For American Progress Estimates.” “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program’s history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version’s nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

- **Axios: “The Bill Would Reduce Nutrition Funding, Which Includes SNAP, By Around \$186 Billion Between 2025 And 2034.”** “By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. While analyst's projections have fluctuated as the legislation's provisions are tweaked, analysts have indicated millions of people could be cut from SNAP under the work requirement provisions.” [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]
- **HEADLINE: “House Reconciliation Bill Proposes Deepest SNAP Cut In History, Would Take Food Assistance Away From Millions of Low-Income Families.”** [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/28/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut SNAP By Around \$186 Billion. President Trump's massive tax and spending bill, which is advancing through the House after surviving its Republican push through the Senate, would slash food benefits for thousands. The big picture: It would mark a historic cut to the social safety net that Republicans claim weeds out waste, fraud and abuse — but experts say the restructuring of assistance programs could leave more people hungry and uninsured. [...] By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Risked Food Assistance For Nearly 16,000 Households In MT-01

According To The U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Nearly 16,000 Households Participated In Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In MT-01. [USDA, accessed [7/15/25](#)]

Who Receives SNAP?

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budgets of low-income families so they can purchase healthy food.

In MT District 1, SNAP serves...

15,604
HOUSEHOLDS

The One Big Beautiful Bill Gave Billions In Tax Breaks To The Ultra-Wealthy At The Expense Of Working Families

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The House-Passed Reconciliation Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026. “The House of Representatives today narrowly passed a massive tax and spending reconciliation bill that now heads to President Trump’s desk. Please see below for a statement from ITEP and our latest updated analysis of how the bill’s tax provisions will affect families at different income levels nationally and in every state. [...] The richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a total of \$117 billion in net tax cuts in 2026. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers on the income scale, a group that has 20 times the number of taxpayers as the richest 1 percent, would receive less than half that much, \$53 billion in net tax cuts that year.” [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, [7/3/24](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest Giving Them Tax Cuts Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest. “The One Big Beautiful Bill includes the largest tax cuts in U.S. history. Whether it’s actually ‘beautiful’ is in the eye of the beholder. At every income level taxes should subside. That’s a big selling point from President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans who pushed the law through Congress with no Democratic support. It will benefit everyone. But the biggest cuts go to the wealthiest taxpayers – the ones who pay the lion’s share of taxes. For most families the savings will be miniscule in comparison, in raw dollars and as a share of income. And millions will lose subsidized health insurance and other benefits. Critics see a plan that widens income inequality and, worse, offsets tax cuts for the wealthy with draconian spending cuts that hit lower-income households.” [Cronkite News, [7/16/25](#)]

The House-Passed Republican Reconciliation Bill Extended The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Which Skewed In Favor Of The Wealthy By Providing Them Tax Cuts That Were Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans. “The tax provisions of the House Republican reconciliation bill double down on the failures of the 2017 tax law, which was skewed in favor of the richest people in the country, further eroded the nation’s revenue base, and didn’t produce the promised economic gains for working people.[1] Instead of changing course and prioritizing people with low and moderate incomes as House Republicans’ rhetoric about supporting hard-pressed working families would suggest, the House Republican tax bill only offers more of the same. The bill is heavily skewed to the wealthy: Under the bill, the top 1 percent of people would receive tax cuts three times the size of those for people with incomes in the bottom 60 percent, measured as a share of after-tax income. (See Figure 1.) The top 0.6 percent of people — the 1.2 million people with annual incomes above \$1 million — would receive more total tax cuts than the 127 million people with incomes below \$100,000. [...] The bill extends and expands the 2017 tax law’s increase in the estate tax exemption, boosting the cut in estate taxes for the 1 in 1,000 wealthiest estates to \$6.3 million.[3] Next year a couple could pass on an estate worth up to \$30 million tax free, \$1.7 million more than under a simple extension of the 2017 law.” [CBPP, [5/22/25](#)]

CBS: “Like Penn Wharton, Other Researchers Have Said The Republican Bill Is Likely To Benefit Wealthy Americans At The Expense Of People Lower Down The Ladder.” “Like Penn Wharton, other researchers have said the Republican bill is likely to benefit wealthy Americans at the expense of people lower down the ladder. The measure would likely reduce the financial resources available to the lowest-earning 10% of U.S. households by \$1,600 per year, or almost 4% of their annual income, according to a report published earlier this month by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. White House officials have previously questioned the CBO’s scoring of the bill. But the highest-earning 10% of households would see a gain of \$12,000 per year in resources, while middle-income households would see a gain of \$500 to \$1,000, the CBO projected. Its analysis is based on the bill’s tax breaks, as well as reductions for federal programs and reductions in state funds for safety net programs such as

Medicaid and food stamps. In considering the impact of higher U.S. debt on future generations, the cost would come in the form of lower wages and higher costs, such as more expensive mortgages, Smetters said.” [CBS News, [6/26/25](#)]

The Hill: “The Republicans’ ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make The Poorest Americans Even Poorer, While Padding The Wallets Of The Highest Earners The Most, According To An Analysis Released Monday By Congress’s Budget Arm.” “The Republicans’ ‘big, beautiful bill’ will make the poorest Americans even poorer, while padding the wallets of the highest earners the most, according to an analysis released Monday by Congress’s budget arm. The assessment, conducted by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) at the request of top Democrats, found that the top 10 percent of earners in the country will see an average boost of \$13,600 per year over the next decade as a direct result of provisions in the law, while the bottom 10 percent will see an average annual decrease of \$1,200. The report challenges the arguments made by President Trump and other Republicans that the massive domestic policy package would benefit workers at all levels of wealth and income. And it’s given fuel to the attacks from Democrats that the legislation was, all along, designed to help the wealthiest people at the expense of the working poor.” [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Budget Office Says GOP’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make Rich Richer, Poor Poorer.”** [Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Decade

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Ten Years. “President Donald Trump’s ‘big, beautiful bill,’ which he signed into law this month, will add \$3.4 trillion to the U.S. national debt over the next decade, according to a report the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office published Monday.” [NBC News, [7/21/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made Health Care More Expensive For Seniors And Older Americans

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Force Nearly \$500 Billion In Medicare Cuts Over The Next Ten Years

The Big Beautiful Bill Would Require Automatic Sequestration Cuts That Would Cause \$490 Billion In Cuts To Medicare Over The Next Ten Years. “Because of a statutory requirement to automatically impose budget cuts when legislation increases the deficit, the Big Beautiful Bill would require automatic sequestration cuts across the board, something that has been confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) but has been largely absent from the debate over the bill. Medicare is one of the programs that will face the axe, and the damage sums to \$490 billion over the next ten years, starting in the next fiscal year that begins in October. While many of the safety-net cuts in the bill are delayed to help Republicans with their re-election campaigns, the Medicare cuts must begin next year.” [The American Prospect, [7/3/25](#)]

The Republican Reconciliation Bill Could Force Nearly \$500 Billion In Medicare Cuts. “President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans’ mammoth tax and immigration bill would add so much to the national debt that it could force nearly \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare beginning in 2026, Congress’s nonpartisan bookkeeper reported late Tuesday.” [Washington Post, [5/21/25](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Trump And GOP’s Tax Bill Would Force Cuts To Medicare, CBO Says.”** [Washington Post, [5/21/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made Health Care More Expensive For Seniors On Medicare

HEADLINE: “House Republicans’ Big, ‘Beautiful’ Bill Would Make Health Care More Expensive For Americans With Medicare And Other Insurance.” [Center for American Progress, [6/12/25](#)]

- **Costs Would Increase For Americans With Medicaid, Medicare, ACA Marketplace Plans, And Job-Based Insurance.** “The House Republican-passed tax and budget reconciliation bill would increase health care costs for many Americans with Medicaid, Medicare, ACA marketplace plans, and job-based insurance. Individuals and families could face steep increases in premiums, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses, amounting to thousands of dollars per year.” [Center for American Progress, [6/12/25](#)]

CBPP: The Republican Reconciliation Bill Would Terminate Cost-Sharing Assistance For 1.4 Million Seniors Dually Eligible For Medicaid And Medicare Resulting In Higher Out-Of-Pocket Costs. “The House Republicans’ bill includes provisions that will add burdens for seniors, contributing to coverage losses and higher costs. One such provision would block implementation of a rule designed to make it easier for low-income seniors and people with disabilities who receive Medicare to access Medicare Savings Programs, a part of state Medicaid programs that help pay people’s Medicare premiums and cost-sharing charges. According to data from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), roughly 1.4 million people who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare would no longer receive this cost-sharing assistance and would therefore face increased out-of-pocket costs under the bill.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made Health Care More Expensive For Older Americans On ACA Marketplace Plans

HEADLINE: “Older Adults With ACA Coverage Would Face Steep Premium Hikes Under House Republicans’ One Big Beautiful Bill Act.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

- **The House Republican Proposal Would Effectively Price Many Aging Americans Out Of Their Affordable Coverage That They Have Relied On.** “These sharp cost increases represent a real threat to older adults’ ability to access health care. If enacted, the House Republican proposal would effectively price many aging Americans out of the affordable coverage they rely on until they become eligible for Medicare.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

The Republican Reconciliation Bill Would Increase The Costs For Older Adults In The ACA Marketplace. “Another element of House Republicans’ health agenda targets the ACA marketplaces, which provide coverage and financial assistance to more than 20 million people, including many older people not yet eligible for Medicare. The legislation not only fails to extend the expiring enhanced premium tax credits for marketplace coverage, which will lead to skyrocketing premiums, but it also makes changes that will further increase people’s costs, such as changing how maximum out-of-pocket limits are adjusted.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

Older Adults Would Face, On Average, At Least A \$1,200 Increase In Annual Premiums To Keep Their Current ACA Marketplace Plan. “Last month, House Republicans passed a tax and budget reconciliation bill that, if enacted, would raise health insurance premiums for millions of Americans who purchase coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces. A new Center for American Progress analysis makes clear that older adults would be hit especially hard—facing, on average, at least \$1,200 more in annual premiums to keep their current ACA marketplace plan. In multiple states, premium hikes for adults 55 years old and older would exceed an average of \$10,000—including a staggering \$15,200 average increase in West Virginia and a \$16,700 average increase in Alaska.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

CBPP: The Big Beautiful Bill Would Leave Older Adults With Higher Costs And Less Health Care. “The House Republicans’ budget reconciliation legislation would reduce assistance that helps seniors and older adults get needed health coverage and afford sufficient food. The so-called ‘Big Beautiful Bill’ is anything but beautiful; it would cause widespread harm by making massive cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, which would raise costs and make it much harder for people to afford the high cost of groceries and health care. More than 7 million seniors with low incomes receive health coverage and care through Medicaid, with over 3 in 5 nursing home residents having their care paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid also covers other long-term services and supports, including home-based services, and helps cover premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing for some Medicare beneficiaries. By cutting Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces by about \$1 trillion, the largest cuts in the programs’

history, the House Republican bill would lead states to make large cuts in eligibility or benefits that could leave many older adults with higher costs and less health care.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “2025 Budget Impacts: House Bill Would Cut Assistance And Raise Costs For Seniors.”** [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Lower Safety And Quality Standards For Nursing Homes

The Republican Reconciliation Bill Would Lower Safety And Quality Standards For Nursing Homes. “The House Republican reconciliation bill would rescind a rule providing for minimum staffing standards for nursing homes. Lowering these standards would set back efforts to ensure safe, quality care for seniors and other people who need nursing facility services.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Cut Crucial Health And Nutrition Resources For Rural Americans, Including Threatening The Closure Of Three Rural Hospitals In MT-01

The Reconciliation Bill’s Cuts To Medicaid Would Particularly Impact Rural Communities

HEADLINE: “Rural Communities Brace For Medicaid Cuts In Republicans’ Big Bill.” [NBC, [6/25/25](#)]

The Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Result In 1.8 Million Individuals In Rural Communities Losing Their Medicaid Coverage. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened The Closure Of Vital Rural Hospitals, Including Three Hospitals In MT-01

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Cuts To Medicaid Would Result In A \$50.4 Billion Reduction In Funding For Rural Hospitals

Rural Hospitals Would Collectively Lose More Than \$1.8 Billion In Funding, Which Would Be Equivalent To 21,000 Full-Time Hospital Employees’ Salaries. “Hospitals in rural areas would collectively lose more than \$1.8 billion with a 15% cut to Medicaid. That loss in revenue is roughly equivalent to 21,000 full-time hospital employees’ salaries. Rural hospitals’ margins have been deteriorating for 10 to 15 years, said Michael Topchik, executive director for the Chartis Center for Rural Health, which analyzes and consults on rural hospital finances. Ten years ago, about one-third of rural hospitals were operating in the red. That’s closer to 50% now, he said.” [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ Would Batter Rural Hospital Finances, Researchers Say.”** [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Result In \$50.4 Billion Reduction In Spending For Rural Hospitals Over The Next Ten Years. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened More Than 300 Rural Hospital Closures

The Cuts To Medicaid And Other Federal Health Programs In President Trump’s Budget Plan Would “Rapidly Push” More Than 300 Financially Struggling Rural Hospitals Toward A Fiscal Cliff. “Cuts to Medicaid and other federal health programs proposed in President Donald Trump’s budget plan would rapidly push more than 300 financially struggling rural hospitals toward a fiscal cliff, according to researchers who track the facilities’ finances. The hospitals would be at a disproportionate risk of closure, service reductions, or ending inpatient care, according to a report authored by experts from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research following a request from Senate Democrats, who released the findings publicly Thursday. Many of those hospitals are in Kentucky, Louisiana, California, and Oklahoma, according to the analysis.” [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

2025: MT-01 Had Three Rural Hospitals Listed As At-Risk Based On Financial Vulnerability. “In order to understand in greater detail how rural communities could be impacted by health care cuts contained in the reconciliation package, we requested the attached data from the Sheps Center on the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and potential impacts on their viability. These hospitals have been identified as at-risk hospitals based on financial data, including: whether the hospital has been unprofitable for the last three years; whether the hospital is at risk of financial distress relative to peer hospitals; and whether the hospital serves a disproportionately high share of Medicaid patients. The findings demonstrate that hundreds of rural hospitals across the country would feel pain from the House-passed reconciliation bill.” [Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, Letter on Rural Hospitals, [6/12/25](#)]

2025: At-Risk Rural Hospitals In MT-01			
Hospital	City	Top Medicaid Provider	Three Consecutive Years Of Negative Margins
Logan Health Cutbank	Cutbank	Yes	No
Providence St Joseph Medical Center	Polson	No	Yes
Big Sky Medical Center	Big Sky	No	Yes

[Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, At-Risk Rural Hospitals List, [6/12/25](#)]

Rural Hospital Closures Would Lead To Increased Unemployment. “Rural hospital closures often raise concerns about access to care and the local economy. When a rural hospital closes, patients may have to travel further to obtain services, which could lead some to forgo care altogether. Closures may be especially problematic for people who have difficulty traveling long distances and for people with time-sensitive conditions, such as heart attacks and childbirth. Research suggests that rural hospital closures lead to increased unemployment (including among non-healthcare industries), lower income levels, and slower economic growth.” [KFF, [4/16/25](#)]

The Reconciliation Bill’s Cuts To SNAP Would Disproportionately Impact Rural Communities

Center For American Progress: “The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program’s History According To Center For American Progress Estimates.” “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program’s history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version’s nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

NC Newline Headline: “GOP Cuts To Food Assistance Would Hit Rural America Especially Hard.” [NC Newline, [6/5/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Sought To Defund Planned Parenthood And Incentivized Insurance Companies To Drop Abortion Coverage
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The One Big Beautiful Bill Cut Medicaid Funds To Organizations That Provide Abortions And Sought To “Defund” Planned Parenthood

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut Medicaid Funds To Organizations That Provide Abortions. “While most Americans were still sleeping in the early morning hours of May 22, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1 in a slim 215-214 vote, electing to push forward President Donald Trump’s sweeping 1,000-page legislative package. The bill includes billions of dollars in cuts to Medicaid, which would lead to reduced access for millions of people to reproductive health care. The bill, called the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” includes provisions that would cut Medicaid funds to organizations that provide abortions, including Planned Parenthood.” [Pennsylvania Independent, [5/27/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would “Defund” Planned Parenthood. “The bill would ‘defund’ Planned Parenthood, decimating access to basic reproductive care for more than 1.1 million people, including for birth control, wellness exams, STI tests and treatment, and lifesaving cancer screenings. People who rely on Medicaid to get these services often have no other alternative provider and wouldn’t be able to afford to access health care.” [Planned Parenthood Action, [6/6/25](#)]

- **A Federal Judge Found That A Provision In Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Forced Planned Parenthood To Choose Between Continuing To Offer Abortion Services, Or Face A “Catastrophic Loss Of Revenue.”** “A federal judge on Monday indefinitely blocked the Trump administration from enforcing a policy that would prevent many Planned Parenthood clinics from receiving federal Medicaid reimbursements if they continue to offer abortion services. The order, issued by Judge Indira Talwani in Federal District Court in Massachusetts, extended a temporary block she had placed on the government earlier this month. She found that the policy retaliated against Planned Parenthood in violation of its First Amendment rights and could amount to an unconstitutional ‘legislative punishment.’ The lawsuit, filed earlier this month, came in response to a provision introduced in the sprawling policy bill that President Trump signed into law early this month. The bill imposed a one-year ban on state Medicaid payments to any health care nonprofit that offers abortions and received more than \$800,000 in Medicaid funding in 2023. Many clinics affiliated with Planned Parenthood, which provide a range of services unrelated to abortion, immediately faced a choice between altering their operations and retaining millions of dollars in funding, or facing a potentially catastrophic loss of revenue. Because almost no other nonprofits or national networks meet the \$800,000 threshold set in the bill, Judge Talwani found it was “easily ascertainable” that the provision was targeted and intended to force Planned Parenthood’s hand.” [New York Times, [7/28/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Incentivized Insurers For Affordable Care Act Plans To Drop Abortion Coverage

Vox: “President Donald Trump’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Would Not Only Directly Threaten Reproductive Care By Defunding Planned Parenthood And Other Abortion Providers, It Would Also Incentivize Insurers For Affordable Care Act Plans In Some States To Drop Abortion Coverage Or Make It Significantly More Expensive.” “Three years after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, Republicans in Congress are poised to further erode access to abortion and reproductive care. President Donald Trump’s ‘big, beautiful bill’ would not only directly threaten reproductive care by defunding Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers, it would also incentivize insurers for Affordable Care Act plans in some states to drop abortion coverage or make it significantly more expensive. And it would slash Medicaid coverage, impacting Americans’ ability to access medical care of all sorts. Though Medicaid funds cannot fund abortions except under very narrow circumstances, the cuts would threaten access to non-abortion reproductive care. Many abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, also offer health care in the form of contraceptives, treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and cervical cancer screenings.” [Vox, [6/30/25](#)]

- **Vox Headline: “The Republican Spending Bill Is A Disaster For Reproductive Rights.”** [Vox, [6/30/25](#)]

Flint Said He Would Repeal The ACA, Which Protected Health Care For People With Preexisting Conditions, And Opposed Medicaid Expansion That Kept More Than 77,000 Montanans Covered

Flint Said A Top Priority In Congress Would Be Repealing The Affordable Care Act, Which Protected People With Preexisting Conditions And Expanded Medicaid

Flint Said Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Be One Of His Top Priorities In Congress And Said, “Obamacare Absolutely Destroyed Health Care In This Country”

2026: Flint Said Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Be One Of His Top Priorities In Congress

VIDEO: Flint Said Cutting The ACA Would Be One Of His Top Priorities If Elected To Congress To Address “Federal Overreach.” MODERATOR: “Thank you, Mr. Flint. What areas of federal overreach would be at the top of your list? To cut.” FLINT: “Four things right off the bat? Department of Education. Obamacare, Equal Access to Justice Act. Reform in the Cottonwood decision. In terms of focused on what we're going to do in terms of of reforming and modernizing so much of this. I already talked about education and getting this money back to the states, actually back to the teachers, back to the schools, and how they discriminate against trades and trades education in our trades, working families out there. Let's talk about Obamacare, a complete and utter train wreck. Complete and utter train wreck and what is happening right now. The average family of four. You think you can afford housing? Well, try spending \$30,000 a year just on premiums alone. And these big insurance companies are getting that money right in their pockets, whether you get health care or not. And the Democrats even shut down the government to protect this Obamacare scam. So we've got to see some reforms there, specifically equal access to justice.” [MT GOP Primary Debate, 01:14:00, [4/21/26](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: Flint Called The ACA A “Complete And Utter Train Wreck” And A “Scam.” MODERATOR: “Thank you, Mr. Flint. What areas of federal overreach would be at the top of your list? To cut” FLINT: “Four things right off the bat? Department of Education. Obamacare, Equal Access to Justice Act. Reform in the Cottonwood decision. In terms of focused on what we're going to do in terms of of reforming and modernizing so much of this. I already talked about education and getting this money back to the states, actually back to the teachers, back to the schools, and how they discriminate against trades and trades education in our trades, working families out there. Let's talk about Obamacare, a complete and utter train wreck. Complete and utter train wreck and what is happening right now. The average family of four. You think you can afford housing? Well, try spending \$30,000 a year just on premiums alone. And these big insurance companies are getting that money right in their pockets, whether you get health care or not. And the Democrats even shut down the government to protect this Obamacare scam. So we've got to see some reforms there, specifically equal access to justice.” [MT GOP Primary Debate, 01:14:00, [4/21/26](#)] (VIDEO)

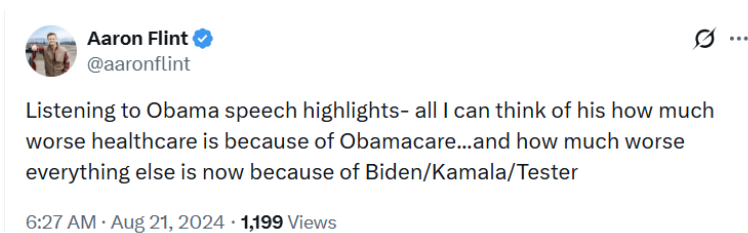
2026: Flint: “Obamacare Absolutely Destroyed Health Care In This Country”

VIDEO: 2026: Flint: “Obamacare Absolutely Destroyed Health Care In This Country.” FLINT: “Now look, Obamacare absolutely destroyed health care in this country, and these guys on the Democrat side of the aisle, they all want to double down on Obamacare. They want to give Obamacare on steroids. They want to take the problem they created and make it even worse, but it's even worse than that. Here's what these guys actually want to do. These guys want to take your money and subsidize the big insurance companies.” [NBC Montana via YouTube, 22:24, [3/17/26](#)] (VIDEO)

- **VIDEO: Flint Said Democrats Want To Put “Obamacare On Steroids.”** FLINT: “Now look, Obamacare absolutely destroyed health care in this country, and these guys on the Democrat side of the aisle, they all want to double down on Obamacare. They want to give Obamacare on steroids. They want to take the problem they created and make it even worse, but it's even worse than that. Here's what these guys actually want to do. These guys want to take your money and subsidize the big insurance companies.” [NBC Montana via YouTube, 22:24, [3/17/26](#)] (VIDEO)

2024: Flint Said Health Care Was “Much Worse” Because Of The Affordable Care Act

2024: Flint: “All I Can Think Of His How Much Worse Healthcare Is Because Of Obamacare.” “Listening to Obama speech highlights- all I can think of his how much worse healthcare is because of Obamacare...and how much worse everything else is now because of Biden/Kamala/Tester.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [8/21/24](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [8/21/24](#)]

2019: Flint Said The Affordable Care Act Was “A Train Wreck”

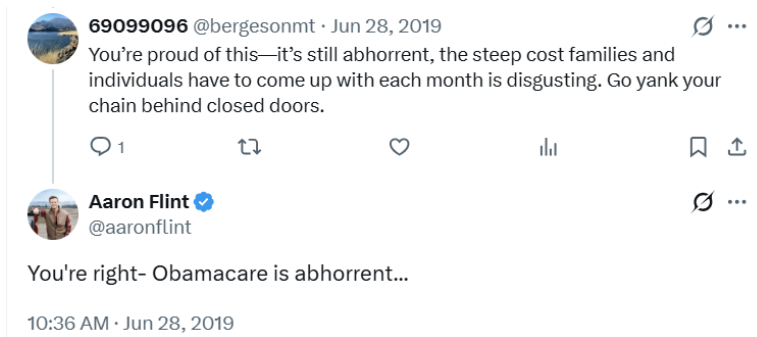
2019: Flint: “Much Like Obamacare, The 9th Circuit Court Of Appeals Has Been A Train Wreck.” “Much like Obamacare, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has been a train wreck. Liberal judges in San Francisco have been in the back pocket of the radical environmental groups and nearly every other Left Wing lobby. But the train is now getting back on the tracks, thanks to President Donald Trump.” [Aaron Flint, Facebook, [9/24/19](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Facebook, [9/24/19](#)]

2019: Flint: “Obamacare Is Abhorrent”

2019: Flint: “Obamacare Is Abhorrent.” “[69099096:] You’re proud of this—it’s still abhorrent, the steep cost families and individuals have to come up with each month is disgusting. Go yank your chain behind closed doors. [Aaron Flint:] You’re right- Obamacare is abhorrent...” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [6/28/19](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [6/28/19](#)]

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Repeal Protections For People With Preexisting Conditions

Before The Affordable Care Act, It Was Legal For Health Insurance Companies To Deny Coverage To People With Preexisting Conditions. “A ‘preexisting condition’ refers to any health issue someone has before they sign up for a health insurance policy — from high blood pressure to pregnancy to allergies. Before the Affordable Care Act, it was perfectly legal for health insurers to deny coverage to people with such conditions.” [NPR, [10/27/20](#)]

- **Preexisting Conditions Included High Blood Pressure, Allergies, And Pregnancy.** “A ‘preexisting condition’ refers to any health issue someone has before they sign up for a health insurance policy — from high blood pressure to pregnancy to allergies. Before the Affordable Care Act, it was perfectly legal for health insurers to deny coverage to people with such conditions.” [NPR, [10/27/20](#)]

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would End Medicaid Expansion

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would End Medicaid Expansion. “The Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) Medicaid expansion provides high-quality, low-cost coverage to 20.3 million people with low incomes nationwide and saves lives. But House Republican leadership is targeting hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicaid cuts squarely at expansion, threatening health and financial security for millions of people. Eliminating Medicaid expansion was a key goal of the failed effort to repeal the ACA during President Trump’s first term, and House Energy and Commerce Republicans appear to be considering various ways to undermine the expansion when marking up their reconciliation legislation the week of May 5.” [KFF, [5/1/25](#)]

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Allow Insurance Companies To Reinstate Lifetime Coverage Limits On People And Charge Unlimited Out-Of-Pocket Costs For In-Network Care

The Affordable Care Act Prohibited Annual And Lifetime Limits On The Dollar Amount Of Coverage For People. “The ACA also prohibits annual and lifetime limits on the dollar amount of coverage and restricts the amount of out-of-pocket costs individuals and families may incur each year for in-network care. Additionally, the law requires most health plans to cover preventive health services with no out-of-pocket costs.” [KFF, [10/8/25](#)]

The Affordable Care Act Restricted The Amount Of Out-Of-Pocket Costs Individuals And Families Could Incur Each Year For In-Network Care. “The ACA also prohibits annual and lifetime limits on the dollar amount of coverage and restricts the amount of out-of-pocket costs individuals and families may incur each year for in-network care. Additionally, the law requires most health plans to cover preventive health services with no out-of-pocket costs.” [KFF, [10/8/25](#)]

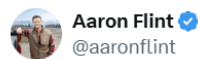
Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would End ACA Health Insurance Marketplaces

The Affordable Care Act Allowed People Without Health Insurance Coverage Through Work To Buy Coverage On ACA Marketplaces. “While many Americans are allowed to purchase unsubsidized coverage on the ACA Marketplaces, these markets primarily exist to fill a gap in coverage options for people who cannot get insurance through work or public programs. Some people who sign up for Marketplace coverage are unemployed or between jobs, while others are students, self-employed or work at businesses that do not offer coverage (e.g., very small companies) or offer coverage that is deemed unaffordable.” [KFF, [10/8/25](#)]

Flint Opposed Extending ACA Tax Credits, Driving Up Health Care Costs For Nearly 44,000 Individuals In MT-01, And Increasing Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees By An Average Of More Than 75%

2025-2026: Flint Said Subsidizing Obamacare “Would Make It Suck More” And Criticized Enhanced Premium Tax Credits That Expanded ACA Marketplace Affordability

December 2025: Flint Said Subsidizing Obamacare “Would Make It Suck More.” “MT Dems Conflicting Messages: Obamacare sucks! Subsidize it! (Which would make it suck more). But then their ED writes an op-ed saying how he loves Obamacare. #MTPol.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/2/25](#)]



Aaron Flint
@aaronflint



MT Dems Conflicting Messages: Obamacare sucks! Subsidize it! (Which would make it suck more). But then their ED writes an op-ed saying how he loves Obamacare. #MTPol

8:24 AM · Dec 2, 2025 · 1,353 Views

[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [12/2/25](#)]

AUDIO: January 2026: In Discussing The Affordable Care Act, Flint Said, “If They Keep Up The COVID Era Subsidies, The Price Is Going To Go Up.” AUDIO: “Health care, Medicaid expansion, Obamacare. Look, what have we learned recently here? If they keep up the COVID era subsidies, the price is going to go up, and your options for health care go down. But yet that's probably going to happen anyway. And what about the big Medicaid expansion debate here in Montana.” [Montana Talks, 05:21, [1/14/26](#)] (AUDIO)

- **2021: Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expanded ACA Marketplace Affordability Through 2025.** “The enhanced premium tax credits established by the American Rescue Plan in 2021 and extended through 2025 by the Inflation Reduction Act significantly expanded Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace affordability, driving enrollment to record highs.” [KFF, [5/19/26](#)]

2025: Nearly 44,000 Individuals In MT-01 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans

2025: Nearly 44,000 Individuals In MT-01 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

Number Of MT-01 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
Congressional District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
MT-01	43,972

[KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

The End Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of More Than 75% As Insurers Raised Premiums

The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of More Than 75%. “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate

increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. “For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

Insurance Companies Raised Their Rates As They Anticipated The End Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits

The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%. “Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

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The One Big Beautiful Bill Let ACA Tax Credits Expire, Driving Up Health Care Costs For Nearly 44,000 Individuals In MT-01 On Marketplace Plans

2025: More Than 77,000 Individuals In Montana Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Number Of Montana Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
Montana	77,221

[KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

2025: Nearly 44,000 Individuals In MT-01 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

Number Of MT-01 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
Congressional District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
MT-01	43,972

[KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

2025: A 60-Year-Old Couple Making \$85,000 In MT-01 Would See A 398% Increase In Their Average Out-Of-Pocket Monthly Premium Payments If The ACA Tax Credits Expired. [KFF, [10/9/25](#)]

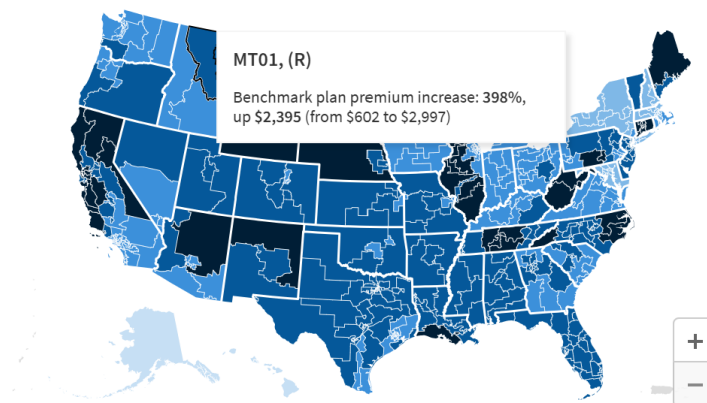
Premium Payments for Subsidized Enrollees Will Increase Nationwide if Enhanced ACA Subsidies Expire

Percent Increase in Average Monthly Premium Payments for Benchmark Silver Plan Without Enhanced Subsidies, 60-Year Old Couple Making \$85,000, 2026

40-Year-Old, \$32,000

60-Year Old Couple, \$85,000

< 100% 100%–200% 200%–300% 300%–400%
≥ 400%



[KFF, [10/9/25](#)]

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The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans.

“The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike.” [Center for American Progress, [7/29/25](#)]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation

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- **The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of Over 75%.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

Flint Compared Federal Medicaid Dollars To A “Fiscal Narcotic,” Echoing A Legislator’s Comment That The Funds Were “Like Heroin,” Even Though Medicaid Expansion Covered More Than 77,000 Montanans

2012: Flint Compared Federal Medicaid Dollars To A “Fiscal Narcotic,” Echoing A Legislator's Comment That The Funds Were “Like Heroin”

2012: In Discussing Medicaid Expansion, Flint Amplified Comments A Montana Legislator Made Saying Federal Dollars For Medicaid Would Be “Like Heroin.” “The Flint Report, Billings, posted by Aaron Flint on Monday: ‘Since the US Supreme Court ruled that the federal government cannot punish states for refusing to implement Obamacare, the debate to expand Medicaid will soon face the Montana State Legislature. While the federal government would initially cover the costs of a Medicaid expansion in Montana, state Sen. Dave Lewis (R-Helena) tells The Montana Watchdog's Dustin Hurst that accepting those federal dollars would be ‘like heroin’ for the state of Montana. ‘It's like heroin,’ Lewis told Watchdog.org Friday. ‘Once you buy in, you're in.’ And as with most dealers, Congress is offering the first two years of free hits on the fiscal narcotic for free: In 2014 and 2015, the feds will cover all costs for new enrollees signing up under the new guidelines.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 7/6/12]

Flint: “And As With Most Dealers, Congress Is Offering The First Two Years Of Free Hits On The Fiscal Narcotic For Free.” “The Flint Report, Billings, posted by Aaron Flint on Monday: ‘Since the US Supreme Court ruled that the federal government cannot punish states for refusing to implement Obamacare, the debate to expand Medicaid will soon face the Montana State Legislature. While the federal government would initially cover the costs of a Medicaid expansion in Montana, state Sen. Dave Lewis (R-Helena) tells The Montana Watchdog's Dustin Hurst that accepting those federal dollars would be ‘like heroin’ for the state of Montana. ‘It's like heroin,’ Lewis told Watchdog.org Friday. ‘Once you buy in, you're in.’ And as with most dealers, Congress is offering the first two years of free hits on the fiscal narcotic for free: In 2014 and 2015, the feds will cover all costs for new enrollees signing up under the new guidelines.’” [Great Falls Tribune, 7/6/12]

March 2025: Gov. Gianforte Signed A Bill Into Law To Continue Montana’s Medicaid Expansion Program, Which Covered More Than 77,000 Montanans

March 2025: Gov. Gianforte Signed A Bill Into Law To Continue Montana’s Medicaid Expansion Program. “A bill to lift the 2025 sunset on Montana’s Medicaid expansion program was signed into law Thursday by Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte — though without a press release or public fanfare. In a written statement Friday morning, a spokesperson for the governor said he supports the ‘safety net’ of Medicaid ‘for those who truly need it,’ while endorsing work requirements and other, undefined guardrails on the low-income health coverage program. Gianforte’s approval of House Bill 245, sponsored by Rep. Ed Buttrey, R-Great Falls, punctuates the journey of one of the most high-profile policy bills this session. The legislation sparked hours of testimony from program supporters and minimal appearances from opponents.” [Montana Free Press, [3/28/25](#)]

- **The Bill Ended The Recurring Termination Date That Accompanied Medicaid Expansion Since Lawmakers First Approved It In 2015.** “HB 245 ends the recurring termination date that has accompanied the Medicaid expansion program since lawmakers first approved it in 2015. It continues work requirements that legislators added in 2019 that have not taken effect because of the federal government’s changing stance on that policy, a landscape that may shift again under the administration of President Donald Trump.”

September 2024: More Than 77,000 Montanans Were Covered By Medicaid Expansion. “Medicaid expansion covers adults between the ages of 18 and 65 with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. In Montana in 2024, that stacks up to about \$1,700 of pre-tax monthly income for an individual and about \$3,500 for a family of four. As of September, the number of Montanans covered by Medicaid expansion hovered around 77,400 people, compared to about 81,700 children and 45,700 adults enrolled through traditional Medicaid.” [Montana Free Press, [1/8/25](#)]

Flint Criticized The Inflation Reduction Act, Which Capped Out-Of-Pocket Spending On Prescription Drugs At \$2,000 A Year For Medicare Recipients

Flint Criticized The Inflation Reduction Act And Opposed What He Called Prescription Drug “Price Controls”

2022: Flint Criticized The Inflation Reduction Act And Said One Of Its “Big Winners” Was “Wall Street”

2022: Flint Criticized The Inflation Reduction Act. “The bill raises taxes on working class Americans. The bill spends billions more of your taxpayer dollars, as government spending fuels the inflation that is driving up the cost of practically everything you buy. And Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) just voted over the weekend to put the bill across the finish line. [...] Despite multiple reports showing the bill will drive up inflation even further, Senator Tester praised what the Democrats are calling the ‘Inflation Reduction Act.’” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [8/7/22](#)]

Flint: “One Of The Big Winners Of The Laughably Named ‘Inflation Reduction Act’ Was Wall Street.”

“One of the big winners of the laughably named ‘Inflation Reduction Act’ was Wall Street. Did you know that Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) was one of the top recipients of campaign cash from both the securities and investment industry as well as from hedge funds?” [Aaron Flint, Facebook, [8/22/22](#)]



Aaron Flint

August 22, 2022 · 🌐



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The Story They Didn't Tell You About Senator Tester



23

15 comments 13 shares

[Aaron Flint, Facebook, [8/22/22](#)]

2023: Flint Opposed What He Called Prescription Drug “Price Controls”

AUDIO: 2023: Flint “The Democrats Are Pretending To Care About Prescription Drug Prices By Promising Price Controls.” FLINT: “I was thinking, you know, when Donald J. Trump was the president of the United States, we actually saw lower prescription drug costs. There were actually, there were actually, we were starting to see lower costs for prescription drugs. Now Joe Biden's back and the Democrats are pretending to care about prescription drug prices by promising price controls. So but I mean, you can control the price or things all you want, but what if you don't have any of it? What if you don't have the actual drugs? I mean, you want to talk about a good price? What about no price, because there's nothing available because there's a shortage of that which is seek to price control. Kinda funny how that whole socialism thing works, right?” [Montana Talks, 02:44, [9/5/23](#)] (AUDIO)

- **AUDIO: Flint Said Prescription Drug “Price Controls” Were “Socialism.”** FLINT: “I was thinking, you know, when Donald J. Trump was the president of the United States, we actually saw lower prescription drug costs. There were actually, there were actually, we were starting to see lower costs for prescription drugs. Now Joe Biden's back and the Democrats are pretending to care about prescription drug prices by promising price controls. So but I mean, you can control the price or things all you want, but what if you don't have any of it? What if you don't have the actual drugs? I mean, you want to talk about a good price? What about no price, because there's nothing available because there's a shortage of that which is seek to price control. Kinda funny how that whole socialism thing works, right?” [Montana Talks, 02:44, [9/5/23](#)] (AUDIO)

The Inflation Reduction Act Capped Out-Of-Pocket Prescription Drug Spending At \$2,000 A Year For Medicare Recipients

The Inflation Reduction Act Capped Out-Of-Pocket Prescription Drug Spending At \$2,000 A Year For Medicare Recipients. “Medicare Part D currently provides catastrophic coverage for high out-of-pocket drug costs, but there is no limit on the total amount that beneficiaries pay out of pocket each year. [...] The Inflation

Reduction Act amends the design of the Part D benefit. For 2024, the law eliminates the 5% beneficiary coinsurance requirement above the catastrophic coverage threshold, effectively capping out-of-pocket costs at approximately \$3,250 that year. Beginning in 2025, the legislation adds a hard cap on out-of-pocket spending of \$2,000, indexed in future years to the rate of increase in per capita Part D costs (Figure 2).” [Kaiser Family Foundation, [1/24/23](#)]

The Inflation Reduction Act Required The Negotiation Of A “Maximum Fair Price” For Certain Medicare-Eligible Drugs

The Inflation Reduction Act Required The Negotiation Of A “Maximum Fair Price” For Certain Medicare-Eligible Drugs. “Yarmuth, D-Ky., motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill comprising a package of climate, tax and health care provisions. Among drug pricing provisions, the bill would require the Health and Human Services Department to negotiate a ‘maximum fair price’ with drug manufacturers for certain Medicare-eligible, brand-name drugs that do not have generic competition; cap cost-sharing for insulin products covered under Medicare at \$35 a month; and require single-source drug manufacturers to provide rebates to HHS for the price of drugs under Medicare Parts B and D for which price increases outpace inflation.” [H.R. 5376, [Vote #420](#), 8/12/22; CQ, [8/12/22](#)]

Flint Said His Wife And Family Helped Build Health Care Infrastructure In Missoula

VIDEO: Flint: “My Wife And Our Family Helped Build Health Care Infrastructure, Frankly, Right Here In Missoula.” FLINT: “But big picture when it comes to health care, I told you all three my kids were born here in Missoula at Community Medical Center. My mother-in-law helped raise the money to build the NICU, the neonatal intensive care unit at Community Medical Center. So not only were all three of my kids born here in Missoula, and we directly benefited from health care here in Missoula. My wife and our family helped build health care infrastructure, frankly, right here in Missoula. That's how passionate we are about health care.” [NBC Montana via YouTube, 23:04, [3/17/26](#)] (VIDEO)

- **VIDEO: Flint Said His Mother-In-Law Helped Raise The Money To Build The NICU At Community Medical Center In Missoula.** FLINT: “But big picture when it comes to health care, I told you all three my kids were born here in Missoula at Community Medical Center. My mother-in-law helped raise the money to build the NICU, the neonatal intensive care unit at Community Medical Center. So not only were all three of my kids born here in Missoula, and we directly benefited from health care here in Missoula. My wife and our family helped build healthcare infrastructure, frankly, right here in Missoula. That's how passionate we are about health care.” [NBC Montana via YouTube, 23:04, [3/17/26](#)] (VIDEO)

Flint Supported Legislation That Could Enact A 20% Cut To Social Security, Medicare, And Veterans’ Benefits

2026: Flint Said He Supported Passing A Balanced Budget Amendment

2026: Flint: “Pass A Balanced Budget Amendment.” “We need to ban Congressional stock trading. Pass a balanced budget amendment. And if Congress won’t balance the budget- they shouldn’t get paid. -Montana AF.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [5/6/26](#)]



VIDEO: Flint: “If Congress Won’t Balance The Budget, They Shouldn’t Get Paid.” FLINT: “We need to ban members of Congress from trading stocks. And if Congress won’t balance the budget, they shouldn’t get paid. No balanced budget, no paycheck.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, 00:10, [5/6/26](#)] (VIDEO)

A Balanced Budget Amendment Could Subject Social Security, Medicare, And Veterans’ Benefits To A Potential 20% Cut, Putting Benefits At Risk For More Than 111,000 People In Montana’s 1st Congressional District

A Balanced Budget Amendment Would Threaten Americans’ Social Security, Medicare, And Veterans’ Benefits, Subjecting The Programs To A Potential 20% Cut

Center for American Progress Headline: “The Balanced-Budget Amendment Threatens Americans’ Health Care, Social Security, And Jobs.” [Center for American Progress, [4/11/18](#)]

AARP Opposed A Balanced Budget Amendment Because It Would “Likely Harm Social Security And Medicare, Subjecting Both Programs To Potentially Deep Cuts.” “AARP is writing to express our opposition to a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. [...] A balanced budget amendment would likely harm Social Security and Medicare, subjecting both programs to potentially deep cuts without regard to the impact on the health and financial security of individuals. It would also likely diminish the resources available for programs assisting Americans who are least able to provide for themselves – services such as meals or heating for those who are too poor or physically unable to take care of their basic needs without some support.” [AARP, Letter, [4/9/18](#)]

Under A Balanced Budget Amendment, Medicare Part A Would Not Be Able To Pay For Hospitalization Costs, Because It Is Funded Through A Fund Of Saved Treasury Securities. “Medicare Part A — the Hospital Insurance trust fund — has the same structure as Social Security. That trust fund currently holds about \$200 billion in Treasury securities, but under a balanced budget amendment, it would be unconstitutional for Medicare to draw down those savings to pay hospitalization costs because all federal expenditures — which includes Medicare payments — would have to be covered by taxes collected in the same year.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [3/16/18](#)]

Center On Budget And Policy Priorities: Under A Balanced Budget Amendment, The Military And Federal Employee Civil Service Retirement Systems Would Not Be Able To Pay Retirees, Because They Were

Funded Through Funds Of Saved Treasury Securities. “As a result, the \$700 billion in Treasury securities held by the military retirement trust fund and the \$900 billion in Treasury securities held by the civil service retirement trust fund would be unavailable to pay promised retirement pensions.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [3/16/18](#)]

Center On Budget And Policy Priorities: Under A Balanced Budget Amendment, “Programs Such As Social Security, Medicare, National Defense, And Veterans’ Benefits Could Be Cut By An Average Of One-Fifth.” “Programs such as Social Security, Medicare, national defense, and veterans’ benefits could be cut by an average of one-fifth under a constitutional amendment before the House this week to require a balanced budget in every year. If policymakers chose to protect some programs from cuts, the cuts in other programs would be even deeper. If they protected Social Security and Medicare, for example, all other programs would be cut by two-fifths.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/11/18](#)]

Center On Budget And Policy Priorities: A Balanced Budget Amendment Would Lead To \$200 Billion In Cuts To Medicare In 2025 If Cuts Were Evenly Distributed Among Programs. [Center On Budget And Policy Priorities, [4/11/18](#)]

Center On Budget And Policy Priorities: A Balanced Budget Amendment Would Lead To \$325 Billion In Cuts To Social Security In 2025 If Cuts Were Evenly Distributed Among Programs. [Center On Budget And Policy Priorities, [4/11/18](#)]

A Balanced Budget Amendment Could Threaten Social Security Benefits For More Than 111,000 People In Montana’s 1st Congressional District

December 2024: 111,824 People In Montana’s 1st Congressional District Received Social Security Benefits. [Social Security Administration, Congressional Statistics, [December 2024](#)]

Table 1.
Number of OASDI beneficiaries in current-payment status and total monthly benefits, December 2024

Congressional district	Number of beneficiaries						Total monthly benefits (thousands of dollars)			Number of beneficiaries aged 65 or older
	Total	Retired workers	Disabled workers	Widow(er)s and parents	Spouses ^a	Children ^b	All beneficiaries	Retired workers	Widow(er)s and parents	
Montana	264,264	210,371	22,724	12,914	5,504	12,751	471,717	396,960	23,322	218,826
1	133,839	107,707	11,095	6,308	2,930	5,799	241,532	204,840	11,514	111,824
2	130,425	102,664	11,629	6,606	2,574	6,952	230,185	192,120	11,808	107,002
All areas ^c	68,455,973	51,772,651	7,231,147	3,734,707	1,947,761	3,769,707	125,577,970	102,268,471	6,617,163	55,120,239

Flint Was An Anti-Abortion Extremist Who Supported Overturning Roe V. Wade And Opposed Montana’s Constitutional Amendment To Provide A Right To Abortion

Flint Supported The Supreme Court Overturning Roe V. Wade

2026: Flint Said He Was “Proud” To Be A “Pro-Life Candidate”

VIDEO: 2026: Flint: “I’m Proud To Be A Pro-Life Candidate.” “I'm proud to be pro-life. My wife works for an incredible organization called the Alliance Defending Freedom that has fought alongside the Montana Family Foundation. They've also fought to protect women's sports and to keep men out of girls' bathrooms and locker rooms. They've fought for parent rights. They’ve fought for their kids. And I'm proud to be a pro-life candidate.” [Russ Cleveland for U.S. House, Facebook, [4/2/26](#)] (VIDEO)

2021: Flint Said Dobbs V. Jackson “Allows States To Put Reasonable Restrictions Into Place”

AUDIO: December 2021: In Discussing Dobbs V. Jackson, Flint Said “This Case Simply Allows States To Put Reasonable Restrictions Into Place.” JEFF LASZOLFFY: “I’m standing in a sea of literally thousands of people outside the steps of the United States Supreme Court. It’s a beautiful day here in the nation’s capitol. And as we speak, they are arguing the case of Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health inside. If this case is decided in our favor, and the Court rules broadly, it would overturn Roe v. Wade and make abortion a states’ issue once again, rather than a federal issue the way it has been for the last 49 years.” [...] FLINT: “I know both sides might be disappointed with the outcome of this case here because on the one hand, the pro-abortion crowd is going to try to whip up their folks into a frenzy and claim that this is going to take away– this is going to make abortion illegal across the country and that’s not the case. And on the flip side, pro-life supporters who would like to see abortion declared illegal, well it’s– neither one is going to get their way from this case. This case simply allows states to put reasonable restrictions into place, right?” LASZOLFFY: “That’s right.” [Montana Talks, 00:23-01:58, [12/1/21](#)] (AUDIO)

AUDIO: Flint Said “Pro-Life Supporters Who Would Like To See Abortion Declared Illegal” Were Not Going To Get Their Way From The Case. FLINT: “I know both sides might be disappointed with the outcome of this case here because on the one hand, the pro-abortion crowd is going to try to whip up their folks into a frenzy and claim that this is going to take away– this is going to make abortion illegal across the country and that’s not the case. And on the flip side, pro-life supporters who would like to see abortion declared illegal, well it’s– neither one is going to get their way from this case. This case simply allows states to put reasonable restrictions into place, right?” [Montana Talks, 01:25, [12/1/21](#)] (AUDIO)

2021: Flint Said “That’s Huge” After Hearing About States Passing Laws To Make Abortion Illegal If Roe V. Wade Was Overturned

AUDIO: December 2021: Flint Said “Yeah, That’s Huge” After Hearing About States Passing Laws To Make Abortion Illegal If Roe V. Wade Was Overturned. LASZOLFFY: “Well there are some states out there. Now we’re seeing that more and more practiced in the pro-life states. They’re passing laws that should Roe v. Wade ever be overturned and the issue returned to the states, then abortion automatically becomes illegal in our states. And we’re starting to see more and more of those laws passing, so there will be some states if we win this case that will have abortion made illegal in them again.” FLINT: “Yeah, that’s huge. That’s huge.” [Montana Talks, 07:29, [12/1/21](#)] (AUDIO)

May 2022: Flint Said It Was “Big News” That The Supreme Court Was Set To Overturn Roe V. Wade

May 2, 2022: Flint Said It Was “Big News” That The Supreme Court Was Set To Overturn Roe V. Wade. “Big news tonight.” [Aaron Flint, Facebook, [5/2/22](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Facebook, [5/2/22](#)]

2024: Flint Opposed Initiative 128, Which Amended The Montana Constitution To Provide A Right To Abortion

2024: Flint Encouraged People To Vote Against Initiative 128 And Amplified A Letter Against It That Called Abortion An “Evil”

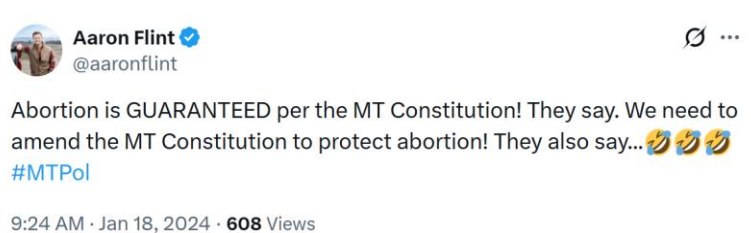
September 2024: Flint Encouraged People To Vote No On Initiative 128. “Just say no. Say no to all of them. That's not just my take, that's what Montana Governor Greg Gianforte (R-MT) had to say as well when it comes to the constitutional initiatives that will appear on your ballot this Fall. [...] NO ON CI-128 Gov. Gianforte: ‘It's poorly worded. It's misleading. It says that once a baby reaches viability, you need someone in the medical profession to approve the abortion. But the way it's worded, it could be the secretary at Planned Parenthood who authorizes the abortion for any reason. To put something in the Montana constitution that would authorize abortion up through and including the moment of birth- it's just not the right thing. I believe life is precious. It should be protected. Reasonable people can disagree on when you draw the line, but when the baby is viable we should not be performing abortions.’” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [9/23/24](#)]

October 2024: Flint Amplified A Letter Against Initiative 128 That Said “Sadly, The Evil Of Abortion Already Exists In Our State.” “Over one hundred faith leaders have signed on to a ‘Letter to the Church in Montana’ to speak out against CI-128, a radical abortion initiative that also fails to mention gender specific language. The Montana Family Foundation is sharing the full letter below. [...] ‘Sadly, the evil of abortion already exists in our State. Constitutional Initiative CI-128 is an expansion of this evil. If this ballot initiative passes in November, more children made in the image of God will be killed in the womb, and the sanctity and dignity of human life will be increasingly diminished. Finally, God’s design for the family, which is already under attack, will only be further degraded.’” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [10/10/24](#)]

April 2024: Flint: “The Radical Left Is Trying To Get Abortion Enshrined In The Montana Constitution With Some Very Deceptive Language.” “Have you seen these guys hanging outside of stores with clipboards all across Montana? They want you to sign their petition. What should you do? ‘Decline to Sign.’ [...] Another petition drive will basically deal with abortion. The radical Left is trying to get abortion enshrined in the Montana

Constitution with some very deceptive language. It will basically allow for abortion on demand all the way up to the due date.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [4/19/24](#)]

January 2024: Flint Used Three Laughing Emojis In A Tweet About Whether Abortion Was Guaranteed In The Montana Constitution. “Abortion is GUARANTEED per the MT Constitution! They say. We need to amend the MT Constitution to protect abortion! They also say... 🤔🤔🤔 #MTPol.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [1/18/24](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [1/18/24](#)]

November 2024: Montana Voters Passed Constitutional Initiative 128, Which Provided A Right To Abortion

November 2024: Montana Voters Passed Constitutional Initiative 128 To Provide A Right To Abortion.

“Montana voters have passed a ballot measure to amend the state’s constitution to include the right to an abortion, cementing access to abortion services in the state. Constitutional Initiative No. 128 in Montana amends the state constitution to ‘expressly provide a right to make and carry out decisions about one’s own pregnancy, including the right to abortion.’” [The Hill, [11/6/24](#)]

Flint Described What Happened In Planned Parenthood As “Barbarism,” And Used The Term “Abortion Mills” To Describe Health Care Facilities

Flint Described What Happened In Planned Parenthood As “Barbarism” And Used The Term “Abortion Mills” To Describe Health Care Facilities

AUDIO: Flint Said It Was Important To Focus On The “Barbarism” Going On In “Planned Parenthood Abortion Mills.” FLINT: “Bill O’Reilly was like just look just ignore the abortion topic. Just don’t even talk about it. No, you can’t do that. Because he said, and I think Hannity was right. I think it’s a messaging problem, and you have to fight back, you have to effectively combat this because you can ignore the issue all you want, it is going to be an issue. And so yeah, that’s why you’re exactly right, David, they’ve got to focus on the barbaric proposals that are supported not just proposals, but what’s actually happening right now in these Planned Parenthood abortion mills. They have to know they have to focus on that barbarism.” [Montana Talks, 30:11, [11/9/23](#)] (AUDIO)

Flint Used The Term “Abortion Mills” On Social Media. “Rules are rules. Shouldn’t Rep. Zephyr be treated equally under the rules? The fascists are about to take away guns in Washington State. The fascists shut down churches but kept strip clubs and abortion mills open.” [Aaron Flint, Twitter, [4/21/23](#)]



[Aaron Flint, Twitter, [4/21/23](#)]

Flint Said Montana Was “Very Fortunate” To Have Crisis Pregnancy Centers; Crisis Pregnancy Centers Used Manipulative Tactics To Discourage Abortion

Flint: “Montana Is Very Fortunate To Have Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Centers All Across The State.”

Flint: “Montana Is Very Fortunate To Have Pro-Life Crisis Pregnancy Centers All Across The State.”

“Montana is very fortunate to have pro-life crisis pregnancy centers all across the state. These pregnancy centers are faith based organizations focused on helping young women in particular not just with support in their pregnancy, but also with other health resources. The bottom line- these vital health care clinics provide young women an alternative to the Planned Parenthood abortion clinics.” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [3/22/22](#)]

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Used Manipulative Tactics To Discourage Abortion

National Institutes Of Health: Crisis Pregnancy Centers’ “Primary Purpose Is To Discourage Abortion, Often Through Manipulative And Misleading Tactics.” “Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) are nonprofit organizations that present themselves as healthcare clinics while providing counseling explicitly intended to discourage and limit access to abortion. These facilities, sometimes referred to as ‘pregnancy resource centers’ or ‘pregnancy support centers,’ attract patients by offering free services such as onsite ultrasounds and STI testing; however, their primary purpose is to discourage abortion, often through manipulative and misleading tactics. Most CPCs have strong ties to evangelical Christian organizations and often further their goal of religious proselytism by promoting anti-abortion and anti-contraception propaganda not supported by medical evidence.” [National Institutes of Health, [6/8/22](#)]

National Institute Of Health: Crisis Pregnancy Centers Often Promoted “Anti-Abortion And Anti-Contraception Propaganda Not Supported By Medical Evidence.” “Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) are nonprofit organizations that present themselves as healthcare clinics while providing counseling explicitly intended to discourage and limit access to abortion. These facilities, sometimes referred to as ‘pregnancy resource centers’ or ‘pregnancy support centers,’ attract patients by offering free services such as onsite ultrasounds and STI testing; however, their primary purpose is to discourage abortion, often through manipulative and misleading tactics. Most CPCs have strong ties to evangelical Christian organizations and often further their goal of religious proselytism by promoting anti-abortion and anti-contraception propaganda not supported by medical evidence.” [National Library of Medicine, [6/8/22](#)]

American Medical Association Journal Of Ethics: Crisis Pregnancy Centers Did Not Provide Accurate Information

American Medical Association Journal Of Ethics: “Women Do Not Receive Comprehensive, Accurate, Evidence-Based Clinical Information” At Crisis Pregnancy Centers. “Because the religious ideology of these centers’ owners and employees takes priority over the health and well-being of the women seeking care at these centers, women do not receive comprehensive, accurate, evidence-based clinical information about all available options.” [American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, [3/2018](#)]

American Medical Association Journal Of Ethics: Crisis Pregnancy Centers Violated Medical Ethics

American Medical Association Journal Of Ethics: Crisis Pregnancy Centers “Should Be Regarded As An Ethical Violation That Undermines Women’s Health.” “Although crisis pregnancy centers enjoy First Amendment rights protections, their propagation of misinformation should be regarded as an ethical violation that undermines women’s health.” [American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, [3/2018](#)]

Flint Was Bad For Montana’s Native Communities, Repeatedly Disparaging Native Groups And Dismissing Their Concerns

Flint Accused Media Of “Sensationalism” For Reporting On Native Americans Being Questioned And Detained By ICE

January 2025: Flint Said It Was “Sensationalism” For Media To Report On Native Americans Being Concerned About Being Deported

Flint Said It Was “Sensationalism” For Media To Report On Native Americans Being Concerned About Being Deported. “When cartels were killing people on the reservations and tribal leaders spoke out...the media downplayed/ignored. Now: they scream ‘PEOPLE ARE SCARED they’ll be deported!’ So predictable... [...] While awaiting that news, I spotted this headline- ‘People are scared’: Fort Peck Tribal chair urges members to carry IDs to avoid deportation’ Talk about sensationalism...” [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [1/28/25](#)]

- **Montana Talks Headline: “Absurd: Sensational Media Suggests Natives Will Be Deported.”** [Montana Talks, Aaron Flint Column, [1/28/25](#)]

2025: ICE Agents Questioned And Detained Dozens Of Native Americans

January 2025: NBC News Headline: “Trump Immigration Raids Snag U.S. Citizens, Including Native Americans, Raising Racial Profiling Fears.” [NBC News, [1/28/25](#)]

January 2025: The President Of The Navajo Nation Received Reports Of ICE Questioning Navajo Citizens In The Southwest. “The Trump administration’s intensified deportation efforts have created unexpected challenges for Navajo citizens living in urban areas like Phoenix. As the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) began widespread raids in major cities across the country following the start of President Donald Trump’s second term, concerns have surfaced about Native Americans being mistaken for undocumented immigrants. On Friday, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren addressed these concerns during a broadcast on the tribal radio station KTNN. He reported receiving troubling accounts of Navajo citizens experiencing ‘negative and sometimes traumatizing encounters’ with federal agents targeting undocumented individuals in the Southwest. [...] The Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records has been inundated with calls from tribal members residing off-reservation, many of whom report being questioned by ICE agents about their identity.” [Native News Online, [1/25/25](#)]

December 2025: CBS News Headline: “Dozens Of Native Americans Report Being Questioned Or Detained By ICE.” [CBS News, [12/21/25](#)]

A Native American Actress Reported That ICE Agents Approached Her In Washington State And Said Her ID Looked Fake. “As President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown continues, one community says they've felt unfairly targeted. This year, the Navajo Nation said dozens of Native Americans have been questioned or detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, even though Indigenous people can't be deported. You may recognize Native American actress Elaine Miles from her roles in ‘Northern Exposure,’ ‘The Last of Us,’ and ‘Smoke Signals.’ She said ICE agents approached her last month near a bus stop in Redmond, Washington, asking for her ID, and then said it looked fake.” [CBS News, [12/21/25](#)]

Flint Was A Sore Loser Who Thought The Rules Did Not Apply To Him During His Time In Student Government

2003: Flint Was Elected President Of The University Of Montana’s Student Government After Accepting A Contribution Linked To A Republican-Aligned PAC

2003: Flint Was Elected President Of The University Of Montana’s Student Government, ASUM, After Accepting A \$75 Contribution Linked To The Forward Montana PAC

April 24, 2003: Flint Was Elected President Of The University Of Montana's Student Government. "On April 24, Aaron Flint and Gale Price were elected the next president and vice president, respectively, of the University of Montana's student government, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

- **The University Of Montana's Student Government Was Known As The Associated Students Of The University Of Montana (ASUM).** "On April 24, Aaron Flint and Gale Price were elected the next president and vice president, respectively, of the University of Montana's student government, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM)." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

Flint And His Running Mate Accepted A \$75 Contribution Linked To The Forward Montana PAC. "On April 24, Aaron Flint and Gale Price were elected the next president and vice president, respectively, of the University of Montana's student government, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM). But this year's race was marred by controversy not commonly seen in student elections when the Flint/Price ticket accepted a \$75 contribution linked to the political action committee (PAC) Forward Montana." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

- **ASUM Campaign Spending Was Limited To \$175 For A President And Vice Presidential Candidate Team.** "At the time of the filing of this action, Plaintiff Aaron Flint was the President of ASUM. He was elected to that position, among other things, by violating ASUM's campaign spending bylaws during the 2003 elections. Campaign spending was limited in the 2003 elections to \$175.00 for a president and vice president candidate team. Flint and his running mate, current ASUM president-elect Gail Price, spent roughly \$300.00 on their campaign. For this they were censured during the 2003-04 academic year, while Flint was president of ASUM." [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Order, filed [8/20/04](#)]

Flint Accepted A \$75 Contribution From Jason Thielman, Which Flint Reported As Being From Forward Montana. "'Forward Montana did not contribute to Aaron Flint's race,' says Thielman. 'Jason Thielman, chairman of Forward Montana, contributed. I just wrote him a check for \$75, so the PAC is not contributing to an ASUM presidential race.' If Thielman was offering Flint a personal contribution not linked to his PAC, however, this was not made clear to Flint, who attributed the \$75 contribution to Forward Montana on his UM campaign finance report sheet. Flint attempted to clear up the matter at the April 30 meeting of ASUM. 'Although I put 'Forward Montana' on the campaign finance report, it was actually a personal check, so technically' it wasn't a PAC contribution, Flint said, elaborating that he had hoped to 'make a statement' by citing the PAC, of which he is a member, as well as to 'err on the side of full disclosure.'" [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

- **Jason Thielman Was Chief Deputy Secretary Of State And Chairman Of Forward Montana.** "Thielman serves as chief deputy secretary of state and is also the chairman of Forward Montana, and he points out that his PAC didn't technically give money to Flint." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

The Forward Montana PAC Mostly Financed State Republican Candidates And Drew Criticism For Being Run By Republican Insiders

2002: Forward Montana Spent \$19,255 Financing 16 Republican State Candidates And \$178 Financing Two Democratic State Candidates. "According to Montana State Senator John Brueggeman, the present vice chairman of the PAC he founded in the fall of 2001, Forward Montana is 'a group of young people aimed at helping young people stay in the state of Montana' by 'making sure Montana is business-friendly and family-friendly.' Brueggeman says that while his organization is philosophically conservative, it is also non-partisan. The assessment of the PAC as non-partisan doesn't add up for ASUM Senator Matt Jennings, who points out that, in the 2002 legislative elections, Forward Montana spent \$19,255 financing 16 Republican candidates and only \$178 financing two Democratic candidates." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

The Vice Chairman Of The Forward Montana PAC Described It As "A Group Of Young People Aimed At Helping Young People Stay In The State Of Montana." "According to Montana State Senator John Brueggeman, the present vice chairman of the PAC he founded in the fall of 2001, Forward Montana is 'a group of

young people aimed at helping young people stay in the state of Montana' by 'making sure Montana is business-friendly and family-friendly.' Brueggeman says that while his organization is philosophically conservative, it is also non-partisan. The assessment of the PAC as non-partisan doesn't add up for ASUM Senator Matt Jennings, who points out that, in the 2002 legislative elections, Forward Montana spent \$19,255 financing 16 Republican candidates and only \$178 financing two Democratic candidates." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

In Discussing The Forward Montana PAC, Student Government Leader Matt Jennings Said, "Unfortunately, I Don't Think The Students Are Running The Show." "The assessment of the PAC as non-partisan doesn't add up for ASUM Senator Matt Jennings, who points out that, in the 2002 legislative elections, Forward Montana spent \$19,255 financing 16 Republican candidates and only \$178 financing two Democratic candidates. 'Unfortunately, I don't think the students are running the show,' Jennings says." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

- **Jennings: "[Forward Montana] Is Said To Be A Student Organization, But It's Actually Run By John Brueggeman, Cory Swanson And Jason Thielman Out Of The Secretary Of State's Office, And A Few Other Republican Bigwigs."** "The assessment of the PAC as non-partisan doesn't add up for ASUM Senator Matt Jennings, who points out that, in the 2002 legislative elections, Forward Montana spent \$19,255 financing 16 Republican candidates and only \$178 financing two Democratic candidates. 'Unfortunately, I don't think the students are running the show,' Jennings says. '[Forward Montana] is said to be a student organization, but it's actually run by John Brueggeman, Cory Swanson and Jason Thielman out of the secretary of state's office, and a few other Republican bigwigs.'" [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

The PAC Contribution To Flint's Student Government Campaign Was Unusual

Missoula Independent: "Regardless Of The Technical Terms Of Thielman's Contribution To Flint And Price's Campaign, The Donation Marked A New Era In UM Student Politics." "Regardless of the technical terms of Thielman's contribution to Flint and Price's campaign, the donation marked a new era in UM student politics. Until this election, students had raised campaign money out of pocket or by gathering donations from other students and family members. Lindsay Vaughney, Montana's commissioner of political practices, says that she has never heard of a PAC-related contribution to student politics in her five years in office." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

Montana's Commissioner Of Political Practices Said She Had Never Heard Of A PAC-Related Contribution To Student Politics In Her Five Years In Office. "Regardless of the technical terms of Thielman's contribution to Flint and Price's campaign, the donation marked a new era in UM student politics. Until this election, students had raised campaign money out of pocket or by gathering donations from other students and family members. Lindsay Vaughney, Montana's commissioner of political practices, says that she has never heard of a PAC-related contribution to student politics in her five years in office." [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

In Discussing The PAC-Linked Contribution, Flint's Opponent Said "I Don't Know If It's Unethical, But It Doesn't Sit Right With Me." "Christy Schilke, the outgoing ASUM vice president who ran against Flint, says that people should be concerned about student candidates accepting money from any outside groups. 'Being an ASUM executive or student leader, you need to be non-partisan, and if you have a political PAC backing you up, that takes away from your non-partisanship,' Schilke said. 'I don't know if it's unethical, but it doesn't sit right with me.'" [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

After Accepting The Outside Contribution, Flint Was One Of Five ASUM Senators To Vote Against Prohibiting Outside Campaign Donations

April 24, 2003: Flint Was Elected President Of The University Of Montana's Student Government After Accepting A Contribution Linked To The Forward Montana PAC. "On April 24, Aaron Flint and Gale Price were elected the next president and vice president, respectively, of the University of Montana's student government, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM). But this year's race was marred by controversy not

commonly seen in student elections when the Flint/Price ticket accepted a \$75 contribution linked to the political action committee (PAC) Forward Montana.” [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

April 30, 2003: ASUM Voted 16-5 In Favor Of Changing Its Bylaws To Prohibit Outside Campaign

Donations. “It didn't sit right with some others either, as several ASUM senators set about drafting a change to the University's election by laws to prohibit the type of contribution that Flint and Price accepted. The proposed changes were discussed vigorously for over two hours at ASUM's final meeting of the year on Wed., April 30--an occasion typically marked by awards, smiles and handshakes rather than intense debate. [...] After a flurry of amendments and counter-amendments, ASUM voted 16-5 in favor of changing the bylaws to prohibit outside campaign donations.” [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

- **ASUM Senator Alex Rosenleaf: “PAC Money Is Not The Sort Of Thing We Want To Let Into The ASUM Political Process.”** “‘The issue is, should off-campus political action committees be able to buy into ASUM elections, and I say no,’ said ASUM Senator Alex Rosenleaf. ‘I know it's done on the federal level. I know it's done on the state level, but, by God, I think we should be better than that. PAC money is not the sort of thing we want to let into the ASUM political process.’” [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

Flint Was One Of Five ASUM Senators To Vote Against Prohibiting Outside Campaign Donations. “After a flurry of amendments and counter-amendments, ASUM voted 16-5 in favor of changing the bylaws to prohibit outside campaign donations. ‘Everybody just wanted to get out of there,’ says Flint. ‘It wasn't fully thought through.’ Flint, one of the five who voted against the changes, says that during his presidency in the coming year, the senate may revisit the issue.” [Missoula Independent, 5/15/03]

2003-2008: Flint Exceeded Spending Limits In Two Student Government Campaigns, Unsuccessfully Sued The University When He Was Denied His Seat, And Appealed All The Way To The Supreme Court

2003: Flint Exceeded The Spending Limit For His ASUM Presidential Campaign And Was Censured

2003: Flint And His Running Mate Spent About \$300 To Win The ASUM Presidency And Vice Presidency, Which Was More Than The \$175 Spending Limit. “At the time of the filing of this action, Plaintiff Aaron Flint was the President of ASUM. He was elected to that position, among other things, by violating ASUM's campaign spending bylaws during the 2003 elections. Campaign spending was limited in the 2003 elections to \$175.00 for a president and vice president candidate team. Flint and his running mate, current ASUM president-elect Gail Price, spent roughly \$300.00 on their campaign. For this they were censured during the 2003-04 academic year, while Flint was president of ASUM.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Order, filed [8/20/04](#)]

Flint Was Censured For Exceeding The Campaign Spending Limit. “At the time of the filing of this action, Plaintiff Aaron Flint was the President of ASUM. He was elected to that position, among other things, by violating ASUM's campaign spending bylaws during the 2003 elections. Campaign spending was limited in the 2003 elections to \$175.00 for a president and vice president candidate team. Flint and his running mate, current ASUM president-elect Gail Price, spent roughly \$300.00 on their campaign. For this they were censured during the 2003-04 academic year, while Flint was president of ASUM.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Order, filed [8/20/04](#)]

2004: Flint Exceeded The Spending Limit For His ASUM Senate Campaign And Was Denied His Seat

2004: Flint Spent \$214.69 To Run For ASUM Senate, Which Was More Than The \$100 Spending Limit.

“Following that censure, Flint ran for a post in the ASUM senate and was again elected. Once again he violated the spending rules, spending \$214.69 despite the expenditure limit of \$100.00, and it is probably a fair assumption that he did so on purpose. Flint disclosed his second campaign finance violation on April 26, 2004, the day before the polls opened. The ASUM senate met on April 28, 2004 and, pursuant to § 5 of Article V of the ASUM bylaws,

voted to deny Flint his seat should be elected. Flint responded by filing this action.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Order, filed [8/20/04](#)]

The ASUM Senate Voted To Deny Flint His Seat If He Was Elected. “Following that censure, Flint ran for a post in the ASUM senate and was again elected. Once again he violated the spending rules, spending \$214.69 despite the expenditure limit of \$100.00, and it is probably a fair assumption that he did so on purpose. Flint disclosed his second campaign finance violation on April 26, 2004, the day before the polls opened. The ASUM senate met on April 28, 2004 and, pursuant to § 5 of Article V of the ASUM bylaws, voted to deny Flint his seat should be elected. Flint responded by filing this action.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Order, filed [8/20/04](#)]

December 2004: Flint Said He Was “Proud” To Have A Violation On His Academic Record “Because It’s An Act Of Civil Disobedience.” “Flint will graduate at the end of fall semester. Though his ASUM career is at an end, he said he hopes his lawsuit will strengthen student government. Flint's lawyers also seek to expunge his ASUM bylaw violation from his academic record. Flint said it makes little difference to him whether it's expunged or not. ‘I'm proud to carry that because it's an act of civil disobedience,’ Flint said.” [Montana Kaimin, 12/14/04]

2005: Flint Sued The University, Alleging It Violated His Free Speech Rights

2005: Flint Sued The University Of Montana’s President, ASUM, And ASUM’s Individual Members.

“Plaintiff, Aaron Flint, filed this case against the University of Montana's President, the Associated Students of the University of Montana (‘ASUM’) and ASUM's individual members (collectively ‘ASUM’). He challenges ASUM bylaws that cap candidate campaign expenditures for all offices at \$100.00 per election. Flint took matters in his own hands and deliberately violated the duly enacted campaign limits. After twice violating ASUM's spending restrictions once during his successful presidential campaign in 2003 and then again in 2004 while running for senate and a subsequent ASUM resolution preventing Flint from assuming the senatorial seat to which he was elected, Flint now contends the restrictions violate his First Amendment free speech rights.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Decision, filed [3/28/05](#)]

- **Flint Contended That Campaign Spending Limits Violated His First Amendment Free Speech Rights.** “After twice violating ASUM's spending restrictions once during his successful presidential campaign in 2003 and then again in 2004 while running for senate and a subsequent ASUM resolution preventing Flint from assuming the senatorial seat to which he was elected, Flint now contends the restrictions violate his First Amendment free speech rights.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Decision, filed [3/28/05](#)]

August 2004: The U.S. District Court Denied Flint’s Motion For A Preliminary Injunction

August 2004: The U.S. District Court Denied Flint’s Motion For A Preliminary Injunction. “In my view, at this point, the balance of hardships favors of ASUM. Everyone follows the rules but Flint and he could have challenged the regulations after his first censure but chose not to. Whether that decision was for tactical reasons or not, I don't think the circumstances warrant the issuance of a preliminary injunction. [...] Based on the foregoing discussion, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff Aaron Flint's motion for a preliminary injunction (dkt. # 2) is DENIED.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Order, filed [8/20/04](#)]

U.S. District Court: “Everyone Follows The Rules But Flint” And “He Could Have Challenged The Regulations After His First Censure But Chose Not To.” “The hardship imposed on Flint by the denial of his motion is that he will not be permitted to take his seat in the ASUM senate when the 2004-05 academic year begins, a seat to which he was elected by violating ASUM bylaws. If the motion is granted, ASUM suffers hardship in that its ability to enforce its election regulations is undermined. The balance of hardships does not so favor Flint as to overcome his low likelihood of success on the merits. In my view, at this point, the balance of hardships favors of ASUM. Everyone follows the rules but Flint and he could have challenged the regulations after his first censure but chose not to. Whether that decision was for tactical reasons or not, I don't think the circumstances warrant the

issuance of a preliminary injunction.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Order, filed [8/20/04](#)]

2005: The U.S. District Court Ruled Against Flint, Saying Spending Restrictions Were “A Reasonable Attempt To Maintain Equal Access”

March 2005: The U.S. District Court Granted Summary Judgment For The Defendants. “Because ASUM's campaign expenditure restrictions are reasonable in light of ASUM's educational purpose, they do not violate Flint's First Amendment free speech rights. Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED: 1. Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (Dkt. # 66) converted to Rule 56 Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED; 2. Judgment shall be entered for Defendants and all other pending motions shall be DENIED as moot.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Decision, filed [3/28/05](#)]

- **U.S. District Court: “Overall, ASUM’s Spending Restrictions Are A Reasonable Attempt To Maintain Equal Access To The Pedagogical Benefits Of ASUM Participation Throughout The Student Body.”** “Guaranteeing that students need not have substantial personal resources to have a fair opportunity to run for, and win election to, ASUM appears particularly important at the University of Montana. Over two-thirds of the student population at the University of Montana receive financial aid, including three-quarters of in-state students. Decl. of Myron Hanson ¶ 6. Additionally, in 2002-03, 34% of undergraduates received Federal Pell Grants, which only the most financially needy students may obtain. Id. ¶ 4. According to the Director of the University's Financial Aid Office, these percentages exceed most flagship public universities in the U.S. Id. Consequently, these students with limited financial resources are less likely to have access to the educational experience ASUM participation provides. [...] Overall, ASUM's spending restrictions are a reasonable attempt to maintain equal access to the pedagogical benefits of ASUM participation throughout the student body.” [U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Flint v. Dennison, Case No. CV 04-85-M-DWM, Decision, filed [3/28/05](#)]

2007: The Ninth Circuit Court Of Appeals Ruled Against Flint, Saying Students Were Forced To Campaign Personally Rather Than Getting Money From A Parent Or Activist Group

2007: The Ninth Circuit Court Of Appeals Affirmed The District Court’s Summary Judgment. “By creating a student election process, the University of Montana has opened a limited public forum dedicated to allow campaigning for and election to leadership positions in student government. The University's purpose in opening such a forum is to provide student candidates and student voters a certain type of educational experience. We hold that imposing an expenditure limitation on student candidates is viewpoint neutral and serves to effectuate the purpose of the ASUM elections. We therefore affirm the district court's summary judgment in favor of defendants. AFFIRMED.” [U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Flint v. Dennison, CV-04-00085-DWM, Opinion, filed [5/31/07](#)]

Ninth Circuit Court: “Students Are Forced To Campaign Personally, Wearing Out Their Shoe-Leather Rather Than Wearing Out A Parent’s — Or An Activist Organization's — Pocketbook.” “We find that the spending limits reasonably serve this pedagogical aim. ASUM exists to teach students responsible leadership and behavior. Imposing limits on candidate spending requires student candidates to focus on desirable qualities such as the art of persuasion, public speaking, and answering questions face-to-face with one's potential constituents. Students are forced to campaign personally, wearing out their shoe-leather rather than wearing out a parent's — or an activist organization's — pocketbook.” [U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Flint v. Dennison, CV-04-00085-DWM, Opinion, filed [5/31/07](#)]

2008: The U.S. Supreme Court Rejected Flint’s Appeal

2008: The U.S. Supreme Court Rejected Flint’s Appeal In His Case Against The University Of Montana. “In 2004, Aaron Flint sued the University of Montana after being kicked off the ASUM Senate for violating campaign

finance rules. He lost in Federal District Court in Missoula in March 2005. Now, with his appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court rejected on Jan. 7, Flint has been denied his last chance to win his case.” [Montana Kaimin, 2/7/08]

2008: In Responding To The Decision, Flint Said, “ASUM Is Therefore Not A Legitimate Voice To Lobby The Legislature On Behalf Of Student” Because They Are “Controlled By The Administration.” “Flint, who now lives in Billings and works as a reporter for the CBS station there, gave his thoughts on the effect the 9th Circuit decision will have on student government in an e-mail to the Kaimin. ‘Where does this leave us: if student government is merely an academic exercise -- then why force students to pay nearly \$100 in fees supporting such? We also now have a 9th Circuit ruling stating that administrators have control over student government,’ Flint wrote. ‘So, since they are controlled by the Administration, and they don't follow the same election laws that everyone else follows -- ASUM is therefore not a legitimate voice to lobby the legislature on behalf of students.’” [Montana Kaimin, 2/7/08]

- **Flint Said The Ninth Circuit Ruling Meant That “Administrators Have Control Over Student Government.”** “Flint, who now lives in Billings and works as a reporter for the CBS station there, gave his thoughts on the effect the 9th Circuit decision will have on student government in an e-mail to the Kaimin. ‘Where does this leave us: if student government is merely an academic exercise -- then why force students to pay nearly \$100 in fees supporting such? We also now have a 9th Circuit ruling stating that administrators have control over student government,’ Flint wrote. ‘So, since they are controlled by the Administration, and they don't follow the same election laws that everyone else follows -- ASUM is therefore not a legitimate voice to lobby the legislature on behalf of students.’” [Montana Kaimin, 2/7/08]

2003: Flint Said He Wanted Student Government To “Not Just Be A Whining Group Of Political Activists”

2003: Flint: “I Want AUSM To Focus On Accomplishing Things For Students And Not Just Be A Whining Group Of Political Activists.” “As president of the university's student government, Flint said his goal is to get more students, interested in campus happenings and to be more responsive to student concerns than past ASUM presidents. ‘I want ASUM to focus on accomplishing things for students and not just be a whining group of political activists,’ he said.” [Missoulian, [9/3/03](#)]

Flint: “Really, Most Student Issues Are Nonpolitical.” “Despite his heavy Republican tendencies and his past life as a twotime intern and staffer for Burns, Flint said his tenure this year at the helm of ASUM will be nonpolitical, ‘I'm here, and ASUM is here to represent both sides and all sides of student issues,’ Flint said. ‘And really, most student issues are nonpolitical.’” [Missoulian, [9/3/03](#)]