Majorities of Both Republicans and Democrats in Montana's 1st Congressional District Agree on Nearly 100 Policy Proposals

This sheet shows bipartisan common ground on 98 policy proposals in Montana's 1st Congressional District, across 14 issue areas. Most of these proposals were drawn from Congressional legislation and some from the Executive Branch. Montanans also agree that Congress would be more likely to find common ground if it were more influenced by *We the People*. The findings come from the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* Survey Series, conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) in the run-up to the 2026 midterm elections. Numbers are the percent of **Republicans** and **Democrats** in support. Questions are abbreviated here — full question wording and more detail are at **vop.org/battlegrounds-montana**.

THE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

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Of the 106 policy questions, a policy is counted as receiving bipartisan support when at least 51% of both Republicans and Democrats take the same position. Medicaid spending is listed twice, but counted once; Role of We the People questions are not counted.

HEALTHCARE COSTS Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Cap prescription drug prices to what other developed countries pay (would reduce prices by about half)	90	84
Ban drug companies from paying generic makers to delay putting cheaper drugs on to the market	81	81
When a drug is unaffordable and was developed with federal funds, let the government override the patent and license other drug companies to make it	80	82
Reinstate the expired enhanced ACA subsidies to lower premiums and deductibles	65	85
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more low-income people *Also listed under Low-Income Assistance; counted once in the tally.*	59	91
Let people 55–64 buy into Medicare	75	85
Create a government-run public health insurance option anyone can buy into	71	77
Spend $13 billion more on substance-use treatment so nearly everyone who needs and wants it can get it	69	85
Make it a high priority for the government to ensure that everyone who needs and wants substance-use treatment can get it (very or somewhat high priority)	88	95
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	9	

SOCIAL SECURITY Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Subject income over $400,000 to the payroll tax (-61%)	83	80
Gradually raise the payroll tax from 6.2% to 6.5% (-15%)	57	63
Reduce benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners (-11%)	64	67
Gradually raise the full retirement age from 67 to 68 (-15%)	53	51
Raise the minimum monthly benefit to $1,630 (125% of the poverty line) (+8%)	78	80
Base cost-of-living adjustments to what older adults actually buy (+12%)	63	70

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6	

FAMILIES & CHILDREN Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Provide $25 billion to states and cities for to create or expand free universal preschool programs	65	87
Subsidize childcare so low- and middle-income families pay no more than 7% of income	73	88
Raise the Child Tax Credit to $3,600 and make it fully refundable for all income levels	71	75
Create a national 12-week paid family and medical leave program for all workers, funded by a 0.2% payroll tax	61	78
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4	

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Tax incentives for builders to build or repair homes affordable to low- and middle-income households	83	85
Invest $40 billion to build high-density housing affordable to very low- and low-income households	66	78
Provide $25 billion to local governments to build affordable high-density housing for low- and middle-income households	61	85
Increase funding for rental vouchers for the very low-income, elderly and disabled by $24 billion	79	83
Prohibit large corporations from owning single-family homes	73	80
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5	

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Raise monthly SNAP benefits for individuals living alone above the current $170 (allowed to choose the amount)	80	93
…for single mothers above the current $530	58	79
Offer discounts on fruits and vegetables bought with SNAP	84	88
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more people (allowed to increase, keep the same, or decrease) *Also listed under Healthcare Costs; counted once in the tally.*	59	91
Raise the federal minimum wage above $7.25 (allowed to choose the amount) *Median Democrat: $15. Median Republican: $11.*	89	94
Raise the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children from $630 to $1,300	75	85
Raise the savings limit for EITC eligibility	82	89
Lower the EITC eligibility age from 25 to 21	67	74
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	8	

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Create a federal agency to monitor and regulate AI	75	84
Require new AI programs that make critical decisions (e.g. review health insurance claims) to pass a government test to: ensure they follow the law, are unbiased, have security protections	85	79
For critical decision-making AI programs already in use, let the government audit them	71	67
Require deepfakes to be labeled as AI-generated	88	87
Prohibit campaigns and PACs from using deepfakes in ads	82	80
Work toward an international treaty regulating large-scale AI	74	80
Work toward an international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons (use AI to fire on targets without human command)	80	81
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	7	

IMMIGRATION Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Deport undocumented immigrants convicted of a crime	88	72
Offer legal status to long-term undocumented immigrants with no criminal record who pay a penalty and back taxes	66	76
Offer a path to citizenship to those brought here illegally as children	68	80
Require E-Verify for all new hires AND increase the number of work visas to match labor demand	80	75
Hire hundreds more asylum judges and staff to cut wait times (which are currently several years on average)	70	72
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5	

ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Do not make abortion a crime before fetal viability (chose between multiple options for criminalization)	68	84
Fund clinics to provide free or low-cost birth control to women who can't afford it	70	91
Prohibit states from restricting access to birth control	73	88
Continue to require that health insurance cover birth control	80	91
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4	

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Make reducing air pollution a high priority	79	94
Make reducing greenhouse gas emissions a high priority	68	95
Adopt a goal of cutting U.S. emissions 2% a year	64	92
Provide tax credits for producing energy that has not greenhouse gas emissions (solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear)	67	89

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Require electric companies to get a minimum share of power from zero-carbon sources	58	91
Tax credits for making homes and buildings more energy-efficient	79	85
Require new cars to get more miles per gallon	65	84
Commit with other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	64	91
Take part in international efforts to study and share climate and energy data	69	93
Provide financial assistance and job training to fossil-fuel workers who lose their jobs in the transition to clean energy	80	93
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	10	

FEDERAL TAXES Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Wealth tax of 2% on wealth over $50 million and 3% over $1 billion (+$200B)	58	92
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $200,000–$500,000 (+$26B)	*45*	65
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $500,000–$1 million (+$18B)	*46*	75
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $1 million or more (+$120B)	60	81
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $200,000–$500,000 income from 21% to at least 24% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$145B)	*37*	74
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $500,000–$1 million income from 25% to at least 28% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$48B)	*40*	72
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $1 million+ income from 27% to at least 29% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$73B)	51	82
Tax hedge fund managers' income like ordinary income (end the carried-interest break) (+$1B)	64	93
Apply the estate tax to more inherited wealth, by lowering the tax exemption from $15 million to $5 million (chose between multiple options, including eliminating the tax) (+$17B)	*38*	74
Raise the effective corporate tax rate from 12% to at least 14% (allowed to increase, keep same, or decrease) (+$41B)	*40*	82
Impose a 0.01% tax on stock purchases (+$30B)	*46*	65
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	4	

GOVERNMENT REFORM Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Require that all Congressional redistricting be done by non-partisan citizen commissions (equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents)	78	90
Pass a Constitutional amendment setting term limits for Congress (four terms in the House, two in the Senate)	84	81
Use ranked choice voting in Congressional elections with three or more candidates	*43*	80
Prohibit members of Congress from trading stocks in individual companies	80	84

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Prohibit the President, Vice President and Supreme Court Justices from trading stocks in individual companies	76	80
Require Supreme Court Justices to follow the same ethics standards as all other federal judges	79	87
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	5	

CAMPAIGN FINANCE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Pass a Constitutional amendment allowing Congress and state legislatures to restrict corporate and PAC spending on elections (overturning Citizens United)	84	92
Encourage small donors by making half of small campaign contributions refundable as a tax credit	63	77
Require corporations, unions and other groups to immediately report campaign-related spending to their shareholders and members, the public and the FEC	86	93
Require the FEC to publicly disclose the names of significant donors paying for TV or radio ads about candidates or controversial issues	78	85
Require federal contractors to publicly disclose donations to groups that spend on campaign-related activities	76	84
Keep the prohibition on nonprofits that receive tax-deductible donations (e.g. churches, universities) from endorsing or funding candidates	71	81
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	6	

CRIMINAL JUSTICE Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Require police officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force, and train them to do so	83	94
Prohibit chokeholds that cut off breathing or blood flow to the brain	63	88
Require police departments to have body cameras and officers to wear them and turn them on when responding to calls or interacting with suspects	84	89
Require law enforcement agencies to report officer misconduct to a national database available to other agencies making hiring decisions	81	89
Fund states to hire independent prosecutors when an officer is charged with using deadly force	69	80
Lower the mandatory minimum sentence for major drug offenses from 10 years to 5, and let the judge decide whether it should be more	56	80
Let federal judges release prisoners convicted as juveniles who have served at least 20 years, with 5 years of supervised release	64	87
Restrict solitary confinement so it cannot be used as punishment for minor violations, or for no more than 30 days in a row	64	97
Prohibit employers and licensing boards from disqualifying someone who was arrested but never charged or convicted	73	78
…or convicted of a petty, nonviolent crime (e.g. littering, jaywalking, loitering)	68	78
…or convicted of a crime unrelated to their ability to do the job	60	69
Limit how long employers and licensing boards can disqualify a person: one year after a misdemeanor sentence, five years after a felony	71	87
Automatically seal the record of a non-violent drug conviction five years after the sentence is completed	63	83

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	13	

AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD Fielded July 21 – Aug. 3, 2026

PROPOSAL	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
Make upholding collective security a high priority — contributing to collective military operations or using economic sanctions in response to aggression	78	76
Continue to be part of NATO	72	87
Continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine (equipment, ammunition, training and intelligence)	62	77
Have nuclear arms control treaties with Russia that limit both arsenals and require inspections	84	88
Continue to abide by the moratorium on testing nuclear weapons	84	88
Require the President to get a Congressional declaration of war before using nuclear weapons first (sole authority kept for responding to a nuclear attack)	77	70
Automatically cut off funding for a military action started by the President if Congress does not approve it within 60 days (except in response to a direct attack)	52	88
Provide foreign aid for humanitarian relief (food, medical care and shelter for victims of famine, floods or war)	85	87
…for global health (treating and preventing disease, training doctors and nurses, clean water)	80	87
…for economic development (food production, infrastructure, private enterprise and financial systems)	74	83
…for education (training teachers, school attendance, literacy)	75	90
…for the environment (reducing pollution, cleaner energy, preparing for natural disasters)	58	88
…for democracy (free and fair elections, human rights, a free press and the rule of law)	77	89
Common ground positions (majorities of both parties in favor)	13	

THE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Republicans and Democrats

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THE ROLE OF "WE THE PEOPLE" Fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026

POSITIONS	MT-1 REP	MT-1 DEM
If Congress were more influenced by the people, it would be more likely to find common ground	92	94
…more likely to serve the common good	88	89
Listening to the people would help break the logjam in Congress, because the people are less polarized than members of Congress	75	85
News stories on policy should include relevant public opinion data most of the time or always	80	88
When Congress is going to vote on a bill, it's very important for news to report whether a majority favors the law	79	81
Estimated share of the time federal elected officials do what the majority of the public wants (*mean %)*	*37*	*38*

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The surveys were conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) as part of the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* series covering 11 competitive states and 28 competitive U.S. House districts.

The 106 policy proposals included in these surveys were chosen because national surveys by PPC and others had found majorities of both Republicans and Democrats in support. The battleground survey series sought to see whether that common ground holds in competitive states and districts. Project partners are PPC, the Civic Innovation Center at the University of Maryland, and Voice of the People. None advocates for policy positions or endorses candidates.

Montana's 1st Congressional District was surveyed in two waves. Wave 1 (Healthcare, Social Security, Families & Children, Housing, Low-Income Assistance, Artificial Intelligence, Immigration, The Role of *We the People*) was fielded May 27 – June 23, 2026, to 500 adults; the confidence interval is ±6.4%.

Wave 2 (Abortion & Birth Control, Energy & Environment, Federal Taxes, Government Reform, Campaign Finance, Criminal Justice, America's Role in the World) was fielded July 21 – August 3, 2026, to 500 adults; the confidence interval is ±5.6%.

Samples were drawn from multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata, and Prodege. Samples were pre-stratified and/or weighted to match the adult population of each geography by key demographics (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income and education). The distributions of partisan affiliation were within expectations based on voter registration for non-leaners or the Cook Partisan Voting Index for leaners, or weighted to be so.

Montana press releases and questionnaires: **vop.org/battlegrounds-montana**
All states and districts surveyed: **vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate**