

# ROTUNDA ROUNDUP 2025





## Rotunda Roundup from Montana Farmers Union

*The following is an update of bills MFU has weighed in on during the 2025 Montana Legislative Session.*

*MFU is the state's largest and oldest grassroots family farm advocacy organization representing family farms, ranches, and rural communities for more than 110 years.*

### **Key to legislative terminology:**

- **Tabled** – the bill has been voted down in committee and is unlikely to be revived for further consideration.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote** – the Full Chamber (House or Senate) will vote to pass or fail the bill.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> reading vote** – the Full Chamber (House or Senate) will hold a final vote to pass or fail the bill.
- **Indefinitely postponed** – the bill has failed in the chamber where the full body voted and the bill is unlikely to move forward.
- **Died in process** – the bill is no longer being actively considered by the legislature and will not become law during the current session.
- **Veto** – After a bill is passed by Congress, the Governor must sign the bill. If the Governor does not agree with the bill, they can veto it, which stops the bill from becoming a law unless overridden by Congress through a supermajority.

At the back of this document is a directory of the Senate and House committees with a list of the members of Congress that served in each committee.

If using the online version, use the table of contents to navigate to any bills you would like to learn more about. Simply click the bill in the table of contents and you'll be taken directly to it. All bill numbers link to the bill text, so you can read the bill, see status, and more information.

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## **Agriculture**

### **[HB 356](#) – Allow livestock loss reimbursement for black bear predation, sponsored by Rep. Eric Tilleman**

MFU supported HB 356. The bill is a good addition to the livestock loss program to support producers facing predation losses from black bears.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[HB 401](#) – Prohibit the sale of lab-grown meat in the state of Montana, sponsored by Rep. Braxton Mitchell**

MFU supported HB 401. MFU policy supports banning production, sale, and import of lab-grown meat to protect our food culture, farmers, and public health, as well as prioritizing truth in labeling.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[HB 504](#) – Expand livestock loss eligibility to include domestic bison, sponsored by Rep. Eric Tilleman**

MFU supported HB 504. Domestic bison being managed as livestock in the state of Montana are livestock. These domestic bison producers pay per capita. Domestic bison, like other livestock eligible for livestock loss funding, face predator depredation pressures which can be devastating to bison producers, just as it is to cattle and sheep and other livestock producers.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

**MFU supported SB 78, SB 79, and SB 80 from the Department of Livestock**, which align Montana law with current practice as well as some modernization and continue to work toward efficiency for ranchers. Sen. Josh Kassmier sponsored them all.

### **[SB 78](#) – Revise laws related to marking hides and meat**

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[SB 79](#) – Repeal laws related to inspection of animals in feedlots**

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[SB 80](#) – Allow for digital copies of required documentation for transport of livestock**

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[SJ 25](#) – Joint resolution urging Congress to support MCOOL, sponsored by Sen. Willis Curdy**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported SJ 25. This is a policy priority of our membership. Ranchers deserve credit for the high-quality products they raise and consumers deserve accurate and honest labels so they can make the decisions that are best for their family and their food dollars. Pork and beef are the only products that are not subject to mandatory Country of Origin Labeling. In 2015, Congress repealed

MCOOL only for beef and pork following lobbying from the multinational meat packing monopoly. These multinational packing companies stand to profit more without mandatory COOL because they can import foreign cheaper, lower quality products and mix or repackage it here in the USA and enjoy the USDA label which often is confusing to consumers who think it's a label of origin. This resolution will once again push the issue at the federal level, where meaningful action is possible thanks to the reintroduction of Sen. John Thune's American Beef Labeling Act. This resolution will send a message to Montana's Congressional Delegation, Governor Gianforte, Secretary Rollins of USDA, and the United States Trade Representative that the Montana Legislature, Montana ranchers, and consumers want this issue fixed.

**Status:** The resolution passed the full legislature and is filed with the Secretary of State.

#### **SJ 27 – Joint resolution urging Congress to act on brucellosis vaccines for livestock, sponsored by Sen. Willis Curdy**

MFU supported SJ 27. MFU member-written policy supports a fully funded vaccine bank. Maintaining herd health and security is critical in the state and nation to ensure the resiliency of public health and our food supply chain. It's critical that we support efforts to ensure access to the Brucellosis vaccine and that we are supporting the producers who are within the Designated Surveillance Area of Montana.

**Status:** The resolution passed the full legislature and is filed with the Secretary of State.

#### **HB 119 – Establish the Montana Cattle Committee, sponsored by Rep. Brandon Ler**

MFU opposed HB 119. The bill would have created a politically appointed committee that would collect an assessment fee of \$1 from Montana Cattle producers upon a referendum vote. We would recommend that the committee include Intertribal Agriculture Council, Montana Meat Processors, and Montana Feeders Association. Further, the Governor should appoint one representative from each nominating organization outlined in the bill and those listed above and one at-large member. However, a new committee to manage this fee would be duplicative. Of the 19 states with a second check-off, Montana would be the only state to unnecessarily create a second bureaucracy. Regarding the referendum, the bill only had a majority vote requirement. There should be a vote threshold – a 40% voter turnout threshold to be a valid referendum. This is how Montana law currently governs bond and levy votes. There should also be a time limit on the first referendum voting period — if the threshold is not met in 30 days it fails. The referendum should be redone every 5 years to ensure it is still what producers want.

**Status:** The bill passed a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading vote in the House with a 52-47 vote and was referred to the Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation committee where it was tabled with a 7-4 vote and died in process.

#### **HB 418 – Ban mRNA vaccines in Montana for animals, sponsored by Rep. Greg Kmetz**

MFU opposed HB 418. The bill would have hindered farmers' and ranchers' ability to work with their veterinarians to make the choice that is best for their livestock, herd health, and security.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the House Agriculture committee with a 17-0 vote and died in process.

### **HB 830 – Create a local emergency quick response funding program, sponsored by Rep. Jane Weber**

MFU supported HB 830. When natural disaster strikes, farmers and ranchers work tirelessly to get livestock to safety– but loss of infrastructure and limited funds can be a roadblock. This bill would have set up a funding program that is for emergent fixes, not permanent. It was a good step in the right direction to provide these institutional funds through the conservation districts for short-term, quick, localized fixes. If we would give county commissioners, ranchers, and the conservation districts funds, it would help to briefly alleviate some of these costs just to get things settled. State and federal responses related to disaster assistance programs are still needed, but this would have at least helped ranchers in an immediate state without the steep delays, while not intentional, that are often experienced in federal bureaucratic systems.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the House Local Government committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

## **Food Systems**

### **HB 269 – Eliminate the organic commodity advisory council, sponsored by Rep. Eric Tilleman**

MFU opposed HB 269 in its original form, but worked on amendments to alleviate concerns. Initial concerns were raised as the bill would allow the department to cut the certification program if there were budget issues. Rather than cut the program if budgetary issues arise, the amended bill added a certification fee for producers to keep the program functioning rather than cutting it. A loss of Montana’s certification program would mean Montana organic producers would need to depend on private certification programs that are not based in Montana, leading to long wait times. Further, with the removal of the advisory council, there were amendments that the Department of Agriculture will seek input from the Montana Organic Association, producers, handlers and processors and others in the community on a quarterly basis.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **SB 246 – Provide for Montana First Procurement laws and establish reporting requirements, sponsored by Sen. Cora Neumann**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported SB 246. The bill provides a reporting requirement for contracts for the procurement of food products by a governmental body with a total contract value of \$100,000 or more. SB 246 is a great starting place to gain an understanding of where we are at with using Montana taxpayer dollars for procurement of our large state institutional contracts (state hospitals, Department of Corrections, University systems, etc.).

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **SJ 11 – Interim study on farmer's markets and food systems, sponsored by Sen. Butch Gillespie**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported SJ 11. This study will look at clarifying the regulatory framework around farmer's markets in Montana and provides the opportunity for stakeholders to come to the table and figure out what may or may not be working. There have been a lot of changes around cottage food laws and homemade local foods in the last couple of legislative sessions, which has created confusion for both those selling at markets and those working on the food safety and liability.

**Status:** The study bill has been assigned to the Economic Affairs Interim committee. The committee will consider putting forth legislation for the 2027 session.

### **HB 440 – Providing tax incentives to put Montana-produced food first, sponsored by Rep. Jane Weber**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported HB 440. One of the biggest problems producers face is access to markets. The Montana Food First bill would have helped by incentivizing Montana retailers to put Montana foods on their shelves. The Montana Food First bill supported local farmers, ranchers, growers, retailers, grocers, and entrepreneurs, and would have kept more consumer food dollars in our local economies. The goal of this bill was to provide an incentive opportunity for retailers to stock Montana foods on their shelves, providing a subtraction from individual income and corporate income taxes for the income from Montana-Produced food. This would have been completely voluntary and would let them decide what is best for them and their community.

**Status:** After a successful 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote on the House Floor of 59-41, it was referred to the House Appropriations committee where it was tabled the bill on a 13-10 vote and died in process.

**Votes to kill the bill:** Albus, Eric (R-28); Barker, Brad (R-55); Bedey, David (R-86); Falk, Terry (R-10); Fitzpatrick, John (R-76); Gillette, Jane (R-77); Jones, Llew (R-18); Mercer, Bill (R-52); Nave, Fiona (R-56); Nicastro, Anthony (R-50); Schillinger, Jerry (R-34); Vinton, Mike (R-40); Walsh, Ken (R-69)

**Votes to support the bill:** Caferro, Mary (D-81); Crowe, Thedis (D-15); Fox, Mike (D-32); Hawk, Donavon (D-72); Keogh, Connie (D-92); Matthews, Eric (D-66); Muszkiewicz, Luke (D-79); Powers, Debo (D-3); Rosenzweig, Scott (D-57); Tuss, Paul (D-27)

### **HB 649 – Establish a farm to food bank program, sponsored by Rep. Shelly Fyant**

MFU supported HB 649. The bill would have set up a Farm to Food Bank grant program to be run through the Department of Agriculture. This program could help to build a new, local, more reliable market for farmers and ranchers, direct local money into rural communities, help food pantries strengthen their local economic buying power, and enable more Montanans to get fresh, locally grown food.

**Status:** After the bill passed the House Agriculture committee with an 11-6 vote, it failed to pass on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the House with a 48-51 vote and died in process.

## **SB 371 – Generally revise agriculture laws - MT made products, sponsored by Sen. Cora Neumann**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported SB 371. One of the biggest problems producers face is access to markets. The Montana Product First bill would help by incentivizing Montana retailers to put Montana foods on their shelves. It is seen firsthand how much influence and control large corporations have in food and retail systems. Many of them are raking in record profits, while people are paying record high prices for groceries. Farmers and ranchers haven't seen an increase in the prices they received for their products. The Montana Product First bill would have supported local farmers, ranchers, growers, retailers, grocers and entrepreneurs, and kept more consumer dollars in our local economies. This bill supported regional and local food and retail system resiliency and would have helped Montana consumers have better choices at the store and to buy what Montanans are growing, raising, making, processing, etc. This incentive would have been completely voluntary to retailers and would let them decide what is best for them and their community. Montana Farmers Union has long advocated for more competition in the marketplace and this bill would have been a good step in the right direction for leveling the playing field for local producers

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the Senate Taxation Committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

## **SB 416 – Establish label requirements for pasteurized milk; and SB 415 – Generally revise milk laws, both bills sponsored by Sen. Greg Hertz**

MFU opposed both SB 416 and SB 415. The changes to the 12-day rule for milk labeling proposed in both bills would not have benefitted our rural communities, nor have supported food security and local food system resiliency. Maintaining the 12-day rule ensures that milk moves faster out of our stores and is fresher for Montanans. Also, our 12-day rule means Montanans are drinking milk from Montana's dairies and that's a win for Montana consumers and food system resiliency.

**Status:** The Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety committee tabled both bills with unanimous votes and they died in process.

## **Equipment**

### **SB 509 – Revise ownership laws related to farm equipment embedded software- electronic control unit, sensor, switches, and controls, sponsored by Sen. Willis Curdy**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported SB 509. The bill would have provided farmers, ranchers, and independent mechanics the tools and diagnostic software necessary to repair their own equipment by designating that all embedded software in agricultural equipment is considered sold to the owner, rather than just licensed. Montana farmers and ranchers should be able to repair their equipment themselves or choose a local mechanic, rather than being forced to only use an authorized equipment dealer. Currently, there are only three major agriculture equipment manufacturers that sell most of the equipment in Montana. Most new equipment utilizes electronic control units to

operate nearly all its functions. Without access to the diagnostic software and hardware to troubleshoot problems, this prevents local mechanics and equipment owners from diagnosing and repairing agriculture equipment.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the Senate Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation committee with a 7-4 vote and died in process.

**Votes to kill the bill:** Gillespie, Bruce "Butch" (R-109); Glimm, Carl (R-103); Kassmier, Josh (R-113); Lenz, Dennis (R-125); McKamey, Wendy (R-112); Tezak, Tony (R-135); Yakawich, Mike (R-124)

**Votes to support the bill:** Boldman, Ellie (D-147); Curdy, Willis (D-149); Dunwell, Mary Ann (D-142); Neumann, Cora (D-130)

### **HB 390 – Provide for Montana right to repair agricultural equipment act, sponsored by Rep. Paul Tuss**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported HB 390. The bill would have provided Montana farmers, ranchers, and independent mechanics access to the tools and software needed to fully repair their own equipment. Farmers don't have access to the tools needed to diagnose problems with their equipment. These types of tools are not readily for sale. This forces farmers and ranchers to rely on a limited number of authorized service repair provider technicians to get equipment fixed by hauling their equipment to town or having someone drive out to the farm, which cost both substantial time and money. Montana has such a limited growing season, but we still produce incredibly high value crops and commodities. During harvest, repair technicians are slammed and farmers cannot risk their harvest on those wait times.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the House Business and Labor Committee with a 12-8 vote and died in process.

**Votes to kill the bill:** Buttrey, Ed (R-21); Fitzpatrick, Steve (R-24); Gist, Steve (R-25); Ler, Brandon (R-33); Maness, Shannon (R-70); Marshall, Ron (R-87); Nicol, Nelly (R-53); Oblander, Greg (R-38); Schomer, Curtis (R-48); Seekins-Crowe, Kerri (R-39); Sprunger, Courtenay (R-7); Thiel, Morgan (R-30)

**Votes to support the bill:** Carter, Bob (D-96); DeMarois, Scott (D-71); Fitzpatrick, Chip (D-42); Isaly, Jamie (D-58); Karlen, Jonathan (D-98); Lynch, Jennifer (D-73); Seckinger, Joshua (D-62); Sullivan, Katie (D-93)

### **HB 813 – Provide for the agricultural emissions right to repair act, sponsored by Rep. Tom France**

*This bill was a policy priority of MFU.*

MFU supported HB 813. The bill would have provided farmers, ranchers, and independent mechanics the tools and diagnostic software necessary to repair their own equipment and emissions systems.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the House Business and Labor committee with an 11-8 vote and died in process.

**Votes to kill the bill:** Buttrey, Ed (R-21); Fitzpatrick, Steve (R-24); Gist, Steve (R-25); Ler, Brandon (R-33); Maness, Shannon (R-70); Nicol, Nelly (R-53); Oblander, Greg (R-38); Schomer, Curtis (R-48); Seekins-Crowe, Kerri (R-39); Sprunger, Courtenay (R-7); Thiel, Morgan (R-30)

**Votes to support the bill:** Carter, Bob (D-96); DeMarois, Scott (D-71); Fitzpatrick, Chip (D-42); Isaly, Jamie (D-58); Karlen, Jonathan (D-98); Lynch, Jennifer (D-73); Seckinger, Joshua (D-62); Sullivan, Katie (D-93)

## **Land**

### **HB 490 – Revise civil liability laws, sponsored by Rep. Amy Regier**

MFU opposed HB 490 in its original form, as it provides a liability shield for utility companies related to wildfire mitigation plans. The bill raises concerns on the harm this will have for farmers and ranchers who could be impacted by wildfires. While the bill has been heavily amended, Montana Farmers Union maintains our position of concern.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **HB 27 – Remove automatic agricultural classification for certain parcels, sponsored by Rep. Sherry Essmann**

MFU opposed HB 27. The bill looked at land classification/changes for “idle” lands that are currently enjoying Montana’s Agricultural land tax rate. We think policy should support the continuation of farming, and we urge the Montana legislature to remove all tax advantages that are intended for agriculture from being utilized by non-agricultural operations. As written, we did not feel this bill addressed the problem fully.

**Status:** HB 27 failed to pass a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the House with a 40-60 vote and died in process.

### **SB 4 – Revise taxation of homesite on certain agricultural property, sponsored by Sen. Becky Beard**

MFU opposed SB 4. The bill was looking at the agriculture tax structure of 1-acre homesites on agricultural property. We think policy should support the continuation of farming, and we urge the Montana legislature to remove all tax advantages that are intended for agriculture from being

utilized by non-agricultural operations. As written, we did not feel this bill addressed the problem fully.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the Senate Taxation committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

## **Conservation**

### **HB 229 – Generally revise Montana environmental policy act to implement court decision, sponsored by Rep. Debo Powers**

MFU supported HB 229. We support the protection of our natural resources and environmental impact studies are valuable tools that can be utilized to protect the use of arable lands. We recognize the interdependence of climate, soil health, and food production and support efforts to sustain the balance of all three. We also support the rights of future generations of Montanans to have a clean and healthy environment.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the House Natural Resource committee with a 10-4 vote and died in process.

### **HB 560 – Establish the Montana hunters and anglers community fund, sponsored by Rep. Tom France**

MFU supported HB 560. This bill recognized that “resident and nonresident hunters and anglers depend on rural Montana for hunting and fishing opportunities, an array of community services, and the goodwill of private landowners and small communities.” MFU members have written a policy statement which says “we emphasize the preservation of rural community life and the traditional independence of farmers living on the family farm.” The bill would have established a fund to which people may donate \$1 or more above the price of a wildlife conservation license purchased to be used for community development projects.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the Senate Finance and Claims committee with a 14-8 vote and died in process.

### **SB 209 – Revise term length of conservation easements, sponsored by Sen. Tony Tezak**

MFU opposed SB 209. The bill would have effectively gutted conservation easements by placing a limit on the length of the easement, rather than it being in perpetuity. This would have removed the opportunity to utilize this valuable and voluntary tool for family farmers and ranchers to have at their disposal to keep family farms and ranches protected and in production for the next generation.

**Status:** The sponsor of the bill asked for it to be tabled and the Senate Judiciary committee tabled the bill with a unanimous vote and it died in process.

## Water

### **[HB 775](#) – Repeal sunset on Water Court actions, sponsored by Rep. Ken Walsh**

MFU opposed HB 775 as we would have rather seen another date set for a sunset on Water Court actions rather than a full repeal.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[HB 886](#) – Provide for water division court, judges, sponsored by Rep. Ken Walsh**

MFU opposed HB 886. The bill will have grown bureaucracy by making permanent the intended-to-be-temporary Water Court. There was a good reason to create a temporary water court to oversee the adjudication process. There were thousands of water rights that needed to be adjudicated and having a court focus on that was critical, but once the adjudication process is complete, the critical need will be resolved. Currently, district judges do rule on water cases. Having these cases go to the district court once adjudication is complete allows for local control for Montana farmers and ranchers and water users. HB 886 created a conflict of interest in Montana water law. Most water cases involve the DNRC at some level, either as a water right holder, witness, plaintiff, or defendant. The director of the DNRC is appointed by the Governor and HB 866 would have allowed the Governor to appoint the water division judges.

**Status:** The bill failed to pass a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the House with a 50-50 vote and died in process.

### **[SB 186](#) – Provide for expedited processing in district courts of water cases arising under final decrees, sponsored by Sen. Barry Usher**

MFU supported SB 186. This bill was in response to the proposed creation of a new Water Court to oversee water cases after the adjudication process is finished. MFU supports water cases going to the District Court level once the adjudication process is finished. This bill would have helped to expedite water cases in the district court. It kept the water cases to be decided at the local level first. It allowed the district court judge to have experts if needed to assist in the water case.

**Status:** The bill failed to pass a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the Senate with a 24-26 vote and died in process.

### **[HB 704](#) – Generally revise ground water laws, sponsored by Rep. Mike Vinton; & [SB 436](#) – Generally revise laws relating to exempt wells, sponsored by Sen. Carl Glimm**

MFU opposed both bills in their original form. MFU has specific written policy to oppose the drilling of exempt wells that affect existing water users. Partly, this is because exempt wells are outside our current prior appropriations doctrine: first in time, first in right. Creating a second exemption pathway for developers would amount to a taking of senior water rights without just compensation and due process. There is not an unlimited amount of groundwater in Montana. When exempt wells go in, they can impact the waters of the ranches of hardworking Montanans.

**Status:** HB 704 failed on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the House with a 44-54 vote. SB 436 passed the Senate, but was tabled by House Natural Resource committee with a 9-5 vote. Both died in process.

## Energy

### **[HB 120](#) – Revise commercial property assessed clean energy laws, sponsored by Rep. Julie Darling**

MFU supported HB 120. This bill expands a current state program that creates more opportunity for energy independence and use of renewable energy through financing to make energy efficiency upgrades, water conservation projects, and renewable energy investments more attainable to commercial building owners, including farms. Expanding this program further adds the opportunity for counties and rural communities to further their energy independence by expanding to include multi-family housing facilities, which includes assisted living facilities, hospitals, and more to be a part of the program.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[SB 188](#) – Revising solar energy policy laws, sponsored by Sen. Chris Pope**

MFU supported SB 188. The bill would have enabled opportunities for Montanans who were feeling the impacts of rising energy costs the freedom to choose the energy they want. SB 188 would have allowed multiple households, buildings, or businesses to access more affordable energy by purchasing individual shares of a single solar array. SB 188 would have updated our laws so that everyone – businesses, homeowners, and renters – could enjoy the benefits of solar technology if they so choose.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was vetoed by the Governor.

### **[HB 811](#) – Increase the generating capacity for customer-generated electricity, sponsored by Rep. Jamie Isaly**

MFU supported HB 811 as it would have expanded the benefits of net metering by raising the current cap of 50KW to 100 KW.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations committee with a 13-1 vote and died in process.

## Taxation

### **[HB 129](#) – Provide income tax benefit to support emergency response volunteers, sponsored by Rep. Llew Jones**

MFU supported HB 129. The bill provides an income tax benefit for volunteer firefighters and volunteer emergency care providers. MFU is deeply invested in supporting our rural EMS providers.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[HB 528](#) – Revise property tax rates for agricultural, residential, and commercial property, sponsored by Rep. Ed Byrne**

MFU supported HB 528 as it was a companion bill to SB 189 which would have lowered property tax rates for main street businesses, farmers, ranchers, and residential property owners. MFU policy

supports rebalancing the tax burden between corporate, small business, residential, and agricultural taxpayers.

**Status:** After the bill passed from the House, the bill was indefinitely postponed by the Senate with a 36-13 vote and died in process.

**SB 90 – Redistribute certain state tax revenue to primary residence property tax relief, sponsored by Sen. Carl Glimm**

MFU opposed SB 90 in its original form, as the bill would have ended the funding for some critical programs that benefit rural and agricultural communities, notably the Department of Commerce’s Agritourism Grant program and the marketing funding for the Made in Montana program. The bill was amended to protect the funding for those programs at the Department of Commerce.

**Status:** After passing the Senate, the bill failed in the House on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote with a 38-59 vote and died in process.

**SB 204 – Sunset or reapprove existing voter approved property tax levies; & SB 205 – Revise laws related to voter approval for property tax levies and bonds, both sponsored by Sen. Greg Hertz**

MFU opposed SB 204 and SB 205 in their original form as they would have had a significant negative impact on local government funding, school funding, and funding for emergency services that both our urban and rural communities rely on.

**Status:** SB 204 failed to pass on a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading vote in the Senate with a 24-26 vote. SB 205 failed to pass on a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote and was indefinitely postponed in the Senate on a 29-21 vote. Both died in process.

**SB 189 – Lower residential, commercial, and agricultural property tax rates, sponsored by Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell**

MFU supported SB 189. The bill would have lowered property tax rates for main street businesses, farmers, ranchers, and residential property owners. MFU policy supports rebalancing the tax burden between corporate, small business, residential, and agricultural taxpayers. During the 2023 legislative session, the legislature chose not to equalize taxable values in response to rapid increases in residential property prices. This bill would take a good step to bring back fairness for farmers, who often pay multiple types of taxes. With this bill, the Department of Revenue projects that, in Yellowstone County, people owning grazing land would have paid \$15 less per acre on a 120-acre parcel, and a commercial property owner in McCone County would have paid \$408 less on a \$100,000 property.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the Senate Taxation committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

**HB 841 – Constitutional amendment to use sales tax revenue for education, sponsored by Rep. Brad Barker**

MFU opposed HB 841. MFU has specific policy to oppose the imposition of a general sales tax at either the state or national levels. We believe that sales taxes increase income inequality. Lower-

income households spend a greater share of their income than higher-income households, so the burden of a retail sales tax is a bigger share of our income.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the House Taxation committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

#### **HB 842 – Legislative referendum on sales tax to fund education, sponsored by Rep. Brad Barker**

MFU opposed HB 842. HB 842 was the same as 841, but instead of passing a law through the legislature, it made provisions to put the idea as a referendum to the voters.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the House Taxation committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

## **Health Care**

#### **HB 245 – Revise the Montana HELP Act workforce development provisions and termination date, sponsored by Rep. Ed Buttrey**

MFU supported HB 245. The bill supports needed emergency medical response systems, critical access hospitals, rural clinics, and assisted living facilities. Farming and ranching communities face serious hurdles getting access to mental health, substance abuse, and addiction resources. Medicaid Expansion plays a critical role in providing funding for and access to rural Montana health care.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

#### **SB 62 – Provide for phaseout of Medicaid expansion program, sponsored by Sen. Carl Glimm**

MFU opposed SB 62. This bill to phase out Medicaid expansion would have negatively impacted many rural Montanans. Medicaid expansion has made major inroads in improving access to care for rural Montanans. Rural health services should be maintained and strengthened, not phased out. This benefits all of rural Montana, not just Medicaid recipients. Farming and ranching families who get the health care they need can return to work and school more quickly, stay in the workforce longer, and stay productive.

**Status:** The bill failed a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the Senate and was indefinitely postponed with a 31-19 vote and died in process.

#### **SB 199 – Revise the Medicaid expansion program, sponsored by Sen. Jeremy Trebas**

MFU opposed SB 199. It would have reduced the state's Medicaid Expansion program, which is essential to rural health care access. The bill introduced a contingent termination clause, stating that, if necessary approvals or waivers from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are not obtained, the act will terminate on June 30 of the year following the next regular legislative session after such certification. This would have replaced previous termination dates and

conditions. Furthermore, the bill established a nonseverability clause, which indicated that if any part of the act is deemed unconstitutional or invalid, all other parts would also be invalidated.

**Status:** The bill failed a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the Senate and was indefinitely postponed with a 28-22 vote and died in process.

#### **HB 230 – Generally revise Medicaid laws, sponsored by Rep. Mary Caferro**

MFU supported HB 230. We need emergency medical response systems, critical access hospitals, rural clinics, and assisted living facilities. Farming and ranching communities face serious hurdles getting access to mental health, substance abuse, and addiction resources. Medicaid Expansion plays a critical role in providing funding for and access to rural Montana health care.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the House Human Services Committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

#### **SB 523 – Revise reimbursement for Medicaid services, sponsored by Sen. Chris Pope**

MFU supported SB 523. An important part to maintain access to rural health care services is by providing an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates. The bill would have helped Montana stay on track with reimbursement rates for future years.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

## **Transportation**

#### **HB 739 – Revise laws for agricultural vehicles on the highway, sponsored by Rep. Ed Byrne**

MFU supported HB 739. It is important that as agricultural equipment moves on busy highways with more traffic that all drivers are careful and aware of how to navigate around agricultural equipment safely. This bill requires drivers to slow down when coming up behind an agricultural vehicle moving slowly on a highway. It also requires the agricultural vehicle to pull over when a line of vehicles is behind it and allows the agricultural vehicle to drive on the shoulder while other vehicles are passing it.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

#### **HB 369 – Create a county road maintenance district, sponsored by Rep. John Fitzpatrick**

MFU opposed HB 369. The bill would have allowed private road districts to determine the level of maintenance needed on private roads, and the funds for maintenance would have come from the county's funds without control from county commissioners.

**Status:** After passing the House Local Government committee, the bill did not pass a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading vote in the House with a 32-67 vote and died in process.

#### **HB 848 – Provide funding for regional rail authorities, sponsored by Rep. Denise Baum**

MFU supported HB 848. MFU policy encourages establishing a coordinated national system of rail transportation that will serve both rural and urban areas at reasonable rates. These rates in

Montana should be comparable to other states so we can keep the cost of moving farm products via rail competitive. This bill would be a step in the right direction to making this a possibility in our state. Encouraging more in-state distribution and transportation will be critical to help Montana remain competitive and establish a local food system that is resilient as we weather the uncertainty of a trade war. MFU policy also urges support for a Southern Montana passenger rail service from Missoula to Billings.

**Status:** The bill was indefinitely postponed in the Senate with a 32-16 vote and died in process.

## Workforce

### **HB 360 – Establish the child care workforce recruitment and retention support payment program, sponsored by Rep. Melissa Romano**

MFU supported HB 360. The bill would have accomplished two things for rural families: bolstered the availability of child care, and provided a kick start to child care businesses. Child care is especially important to beginning farmers and ranchers. If we as a society value keeping the tradition of agriculture alive in Montana, we have to level the playing field for rural families.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the House Health and Human Services committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

### **SB 376 – Establish a right to work act, sponsored by Sen. Mark Noland**

MFU opposed SB 376. MFU members specifically have policy that opposes right-to-work for less legislation. The bill would have led to lower wages, fewer benefits, and workplace protections for workers. Montana Farmers Union has long opposed right-to-work legislation.

**Status:** The bill was tabled in the Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs committee with a unanimous vote and died in process.

## Education

### **HB 357 – Provide funding for middle school career and technical education, sponsored by Rep. Eric Tilleman**

MFU supported HB 357. MFU's member written policy specifically calls out the value that these career and technical education programs provide to Montana's next generation of leaders and workforce. Supporting these programs at the middle school level, especially for our rural schools, helps more Montana youth be prepared as they move through their educational journey to focus on career paths and skills for the future. Our organization is a major supporter of many of these organizations in the state and provide important funds to continue training the next generation in our career and technical education classes.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

### **[HB 860](#) – Provide for veterinary training loan program, sponsored by Rep. Randyn Gregg**

MFU supported HB 860. The bill would have set up a loan program for veterinarian students who commit to practicing in underserved areas in Montana, as well as including preference for applicants who are Montana residents. Veterinarians play a key role in ranching and animal health. The job comes with high levels of stress and expense, and doing what we can as a state to support and help bring veterinarians to our rural communities is a priority. MFU supports funding for education, training, apprenticeships, and startup funding for large animal vets and vet technicians.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was vetoed by the Governor. A veto override by the legislature failed.

### **[HB 385](#) – Establishing the school mental health promotion pilot program, sponsored by Rep. Melissa Romano**

MFU supported HB 385. As noted in the bill, “the purpose of the program is to encourage and support schools in implementing innovative, student-led, and locally determined mental health promotion initiatives.” MFU membership has prioritized increasing access and funding for mental health services.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the House Appropriations committee with a 13-10 vote and died in process.

### **[SB 215](#) – Revise the definition of public school system and requirements of school funding formula, sponsored by Sen. Becky Beard**

MFU opposed SB 215. Education is the cornerstone of our democracy. MFU urges full funding for public schools, and MFU has concerns that this bill would have put funding at risk. Our rural schools are the heartbeat of our communities, and their success shouldn't be put at risk by tying student achievement to inflationary funds that are not all related to student achievement. The cost for our schools to operate and the cost of services necessary to keep our schools running is not tied to student achievement.

**Status:** The bill was tabled by the House Education committee with a 14-1 vote and died in process.

## **Civics**

### **[SB 224](#) – Create indigenous peoples day, sponsored by Shane Morigeau**

MFU supported SB 224. Our members believe that the health and prosperity of family farms and rural communities is directly tied to the health and prosperity of humanity at large. From our family farms, we see that our strength is compounded through cooperation with all those who are stewarding these lands alongside us. All ecosystems, including agricultural ones and cultural ones gain stability through diversity. Indigenous peoples have cultivated knowledge about this land over centuries, and that knowledge has benefitted our modern agriculture in many ways that we want to recognize. We have specific policy supporting the continued protection, preservation, and conservation of indigenous cultural knowledge and traditional foodways. The family farmers of MFU

support creating Indigenous Peoples day alongside Columbus Day to recognize the interconnectedness of our peoples.

**Status:** The bill was passed by the full legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

**SR 79 – Confirmation of the Montana Department of Director of Agriculture, sponsored by Sen. Butch Gillespie**

MFU supported SR 79. We support Jillien Streit in her confirmation as the Director of the Department of Agriculture in Montana. MFU applauds and recognizes her extensive experience in agriculture. Director Streit has demonstrated a commitment to public service and we know that, in her role at the department, she can put her skills to use to enhance the well-being of farmers and ranchers throughout the state with innovative thinking and an outlook to support and build upon family farms in the state to ensure it's a way of life for the next generation. Director Streit's experience in international markets and production of a wide variety of crops will suit her well as she takes over the helm at the Department of Agriculture. As a family farmer herself, Director Streit understands the daily needs and pressures of family farmers. The Department of Agriculture has a strong staff that implements effective programs that serve Montana farmers well. MFU looks forward to working with her on expanding opportunities for Montana agriculture.

**Status:** Director Streit has been confirmed by the Montana Senate and the resolution has been adopted.

**SR 103 – Confirm the Governor's Appointments to the Livestock Loss Board, sponsored by Sen. Butch Gillespie**

MFU supported SR 103. We support the nomination of all three candidates to the Montana Livestock Loss Board – Jordan Mannix, Doreen Gillespie, and Joseph Kipp. MFU member written policy supports fully funding for the livestock loss program, and the livestock producer perspective on this board is critically important. We appreciate the work that the board does to support producers who are negatively impacted by wolves, grizzly bears, mountain lions, as well as proactively approaching livestock loss mitigation programs that decrease the risk of negative impacts on livestock from predation. We look forward to the good work of these members on the board.

**Status:** The resolution was passed by the full legislature and is filed with the Secretary of State.

**SB 8 – Allowing online voter registration, sponsored by Sen. Wendy McKamey**

MFU supported SB 8. Member written policy supports voting processes which secure the ease of access to voting by all citizens. Online voter registration will help rural Montanans, many of whom live very far from polling locations, ensure they are registered to vote in elections from their own home, and save valuable time that can be spent on our farms and ranches.

**Status:** The Senate State Administration committee tabled the bill and then the Senate failed a motion to revive the bill with a 24-26 vote and it died in process.

## 2025 Senate Committees

### Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation

*Tu, Th: 3pm RM 335*  
Gillespie, Bruce (Chair) (R)  
Kassmier, Josh (VCh) (R)  
Boldman, Ellie (VCh) (D)  
Curdy, Willis (D)  
Dunwell, Mary Ann (D)  
Glimm, Carl (R)  
Lenz, Dennis (R)  
McKamey, Wendy (R)  
Neumann, Cora (D)  
Tezak, Tony (R)  
Yakawich, Mike (R)  
**Secretary: Lyszka Besenyey**  
**Phone: 444-4315**  
**LSD Staff: Becca Brown**  
**Phone: 444-4421**

### Business, Labor & Economic Affairs

*M-F 8am RM 422*  
Noland, Mark (Chair) (R)  
Trebas, Jeremy (VCh) (R)  
Curdy, Willis (VCh) (D)  
Gillespie, Bruce (R)  
Hunter, Gregg (R)  
Loge, Denley (R)  
Morigeau, Jacinda (D)  
Novak, Sara (D)  
Phalen, Bob (R)  
Webber, Susan (D)  
Zolnikov, Daniel (R)  
**Secretary: Lyszka Besenyey**  
**Phone: 444-4315**  
**LSD Staff: Matt Weaver**  
**Phone: 444-0185**

### Education and Cultural Resources

*Tu, Th 3pm RM 317*  
Fuller, John (Chair) (R)  
Tempel, Russ (VCh) (R)  
Novak, Sara (VCh) (D)  
Beard, Becky (R)  
Emrich, Daniel (R)  
Esp, John (R)  
Mandeville, Forrest (R)  
Manzella, Theresa (R)  
Morigeau, Jacinda (D)  
Olsen, Andrea (D)  
Trebas, Jeremy (R)  
Vinton, Sue (R)  
Webber, Susan (D)  
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)  
**Secretary: Jackson Eve**  
**Phone: 444-1619**  
**LSD Staff: Pad McCracken**  
**Phone: 444-3595**

### Energy, Technology & Federal Relations

*Tu, Th 3pm RM 405*  
Zolnikov, Daniel (Chair) (R)  
Lammers, Gayle (VCh) (R)  
Pope, Christopher (VCh) (D)  
Bogner, Kenneth (R)  
Cuffe, Mike (R)  
Ellis, Janet (D)  
Galt, Wylie (R)  
Harvey, Derek (D)  
Hayman, Denise (D)  
Hunter, Gregg (R)  
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma (D)  
Regier, Matt (R)  
Usher, Barry (R)  
**Secretary: Michelle Russel**  
**Phone: 444-4618**  
**LSD Staff: Jason Mohr**  
**Phone: 444-1640**

### Finance and Claims

*M-F 8am RM 317*  
Glimm, Carl (Chair) (R)  
Esp, John (VCh) (R)  
Ellis, Janet (VCh) (D)  
Bogner, Kenneth (R)  
Boldman, Ellie (D)  
Cuffe, Mike (R)  
Flowers, Pat (D)  
Fuller, John (R)  
Harvey, Derek (D)  
Kassmier, Josh (R)  
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma (D)  
Lammers, Gayle (R)  
Lenz, Dennis (R)  
Mandeville, Forrest (R)  
McGillvray, Tom (R)  
Morigeau, Shane (D)  
Pope, Christopher (D)  
Regier, Matt (R)  
Tempel, Russ (R)  
Tezak, Tony (R)  
Vance, Shelley (R)  
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)  
**Secretary: Jennifer Whitt**  
**Phone: 444-4871**  
**LFD Staff: Joe Triem**  
**Phone: 444-5834**  
**LFD Staff: Katie Guenther**  
**Phone: 444-4111**

### Fish and Game

*Tu, Th 3pm RM 422*  
Loge, Denley (Chair) (R)  
Vance, Shelley (VCh) (R)  
Flowers, Pat (VCh)  
Hertz, Greg (R)  
McGillvray, Tom (R)  
Morigeau, Shane (D)  
Noland, Mark (R)  
Novak, Sara (D)  
Phalen, Bob (R)  
Ricci, Vince (R)  
Smith, Laura (D)  
**Secretary: Tiffany Olson**  
**Phone: 444-4816**  
**LSD Staff: Casey Pallister**  
**Phone: 444-3067**

### Highways and Transportation

*M,W F 3pm RM 422*  
Tempel, Russ (Chair) (R)  
Loge, Denley (VCh) (R)  
Dunwell, Mary Ann (VCh) (D)  
Esp, John (R)  
Fern, David (D)  
Hunter, Gregg (R)  
Kassmier, Josh (R)  
Olsen, Andrea (D)  
**Secretary: Jackson Eve**  
**Phone: 444-1619**  
**LSD Staff: Becca Brown**  
**Phone: 444-4421**

### Judiciary

*M-F 8am RM 303*  
Usher, Barry (Chair) (R)  
Ricci, Vince (VCh) (R)  
Andrea Olsen (VCh) (D)  
Emrich, Daniel (R)  
Lammers, Gayle (R)  
Manzella, Theresa (R)  
Neumann, Cora (D)  
Smith, Laura (D)  
Vinton, Sue (R)  
**Secretary: Grace Gibney**  
**Phone: 444-4889**  
**LSD Staff: Julianne Burkhardt**  
**Phone: 444-4025**

### Local Government

*M,W,F 3pm RM 405*  
Mandeville, Forrest (Chair) (R)  
Beard, Becky (VCh) (R)  
Webber, Susan (VCh) (D)  
Bogner, Kenneth (R)  
Boldman, Ellie (D)  
Fern, David (D)  
Hertz, Greg (R)  
Lammers, Gayle (R)  
Pope, Christopher (D)  
Trebas, Jeremy (R)  
**Secretary: Lorna Mason**  
**Phone: 444-7363**  
**LSD Staff: Maddie Krezowski**  
**Phone: 444-6857**

### Natural Resources

*M, W, F 3pm RM 303*  
Galt, Wylie (Chair) (R)  
Cuffe, Mike (VCh) (R)  
Morigeau, Shane (VCh) (D)  
Curdy, Willis (D)  
Flowers, Pat (D)  
Gillespie, Bruce (R)  
Harvey, Derek (D)  
Noland, Mark (R)  
Usher, Barry (R)  
Vinton, Sue (R)  
Zolnikov, Daniel (R)  
**Secretary: Tiffany Olson**  
**Phone: 444-4816**  
**LSD Staff: Toni Henneman**  
**Phone: 444-3595**

### Public Health, Welfare & Safety

*M, W, F 3pm RM 317*  
Lenz, Dennis (Chair) (R)  
Ricci, Vince (VCh) (R)  
Smith, Laura (VCh) (D)  
Emrich, Daniel (R)  
Fuller, John (R)  
Glimm, Carl (R)  
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma (D)  
McGillvray, Tom (R)  
Neumann, Cora (D)  
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)  
Yakawich, Mike (R)  
**Secretary: Trudy Burke**  
**Phone: 444-1527**  
**LSD Staff: Chanan Brown**  
**Phone: 444-2548**

### State Administration

*M, W, F 3pm RM 335*  
Manzella, Theresa (Chair) (R)  
McKamey, Wendy (VCh) (R)  
Hayman, Denise (VCh) (D)  
Ellis, Janet (D)  
Morigeau, Jacinda (D)  
Phalen, Bob (R)  
Regier, Matt (R)  
Tezak, Tony (R)  
Vance, Shelley (R)  
**Secretary: Michelle Russel**  
**Phone: 444-4618**  
**LSD Staff: Andria Hardin**  
**Phone: 444-4464**

### Taxation

*M-F 8am 405*  
Hertz, Greg (Chair) (R)  
Beard, Becky (VCh) (R)  
Fern, David (VCh) (D)  
Dunwell, Mary Ann (D)  
Galt, Wylie (R)  
Hayman, Denise (D)  
McKamey, Wendy (R)  
Yakawich, Mike (R)  
**Secretary: Rylee Brooks**  
**Phone: 444-4751**  
**LSD Staff: Jaret Coles**  
**Phone: 444-4022**

## 2025 Senate Committees

### Committee on Committees

*On call*

Glimm, Carl (R) (Chair)  
Esp, John (R)  
Galt, Wylie, (R) (VCh)  
Kassmier, Josh (R)  
Lammers, Gayle (R)  
Zolnikov, Daniel (R)

**Secretary: Grace Gibney**

**Phone: 444-4889**

**LSD Staff: Jerry Howe**

**Phone: 444-3066**

### Ethics

*On call*

Mandeville, Forrest (Chair) (R)  
McGillvray, Tom (VCh) (R)  
Pope, Christopher (VCh) (D)  
Smith, Laura (D)

**Secretary: TBD**

**Phone:**

**LSD Staff: Joe Carroll**

**Phone: 444-3804**

### Executive Review Committee

*On call*

Ellsworth, Jason (R) (Chair)  
Kassmier, Josh (R) (VCh)  
Webber, Susan (D) (VCh)  
Flowers, Pat (D)

Hayman, Denise (D)

Hunter, Gregg (R)

Loge, Denley (R)

Tempel, Russ (R)

**Secretary: Heidi Habel**

**Phone: 444-4495**

**LSD Staff: Joe Carroll**

**Phone: 444-3804**

### Legislative Administration

*On call*

Ricci, Vince (Chair) (R)  
Emrich, Daniel (VCh) (R)  
Hayman, Denise (VCh) (D)  
Dunwell, Mary Ann (D)  
Fuller, John (R)  
Zolnikov, Daniel (R)

**Secretary: Grace Gibney**

**Phone: 444-4889**

**LSD Staff: Jerry Howe**

**Phone: 444-3066**

### Rules

*On call*

McGillvray, Tom (Chair) (R)  
Mandeville, Forrest (VCh) (R)  
Ellis, Janet (D) (VCh)  
Boldman, Ellie (D)  
Emrich, Daniel (R)  
Esp, John (R)  
Flowers, Pat (D)  
Galt, Wylie (R)  
Glimm, Carl (R)  
Harvey, Derek (D)  
Hertz, Greg (R)  
Hunter, Gregg (R)  
Kassmier, Josh (R)  
Lammers, Gayle (R)  
Lenz, Dennis (R)  
McKamey, Wendy (R)  
Morigeau, Shane (D)  
Neumann, Cora (D)  
Noland, Mark (R)  
Smith, Laura (D)  
Usher, Barry (R)

**Secretary: Grace Gibney**

**Phone: 444-4889**

**LSD Staff: Todd Everts**

**Phone: 444-3804**

### Finance and Claims

#### Subcommittees: General Government (A)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 335*  
Falk, Terry (R) – Ch  
Mandeville, Forrest (VCh) (R)  
Lammers, Gayle (R)  
Flowers, Pat (D)  
Harvey, Derek (D)  
Lammers, Gayle (R)  
Muszkiewicz, Luke (D)  
Tezak, Tony (R)  
Walsh, Ken (R)

**Secretary: Aspen Brenna**

**Phone: 444-1513**

**LFD Staff: Molly DeCurto**

**Phone: 444-5417**

#### Health and Human Services (B)

*M-F; 8AM Rm102*  
Gillette, Jane (R) – Ch  
Lenz, Dennis (VCh) (R)  
Caferro, Mary (D)  
Fox, Mike (D)  
Glimm, Carl (R)  
Kerr-Carpenter, Emma (D)  
Mercer, Bill (VCh) (R)  
Pope, Christopher (D)  
Tempel, Russ (R)

**Secretary: Sandy Gibson O'Hare**

**Phone: 444-7353**

**LFD Staff: Josh Poulette**

**Phone: 444-1542**

#### Natural Resources and Transportation (C)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 317C*  
Schillinger, Jerry (R) – Ch  
Cuffe, Mike (VCh) (R)  
Albus, Eric (R)  
Bogner, Kenneth (R)  
Ellis, Janet (D)  
Powers, Debo (D)

**Secretary: Brittany Bury**

**Phone: 444-1596**

**LFD Staff: Rob Miller**

**Phone: 444-1795**

#### Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement and Justice (D)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 317A*  
Nave, Fiona (R) – Ch  
Vance, Shelley (VCh) (R)  
Crowe, Thedis (D)  
Hawk, Donavan (D)  
McGillvray, Tom (R)  
Morigeau, Shane (D)  
Nicastro, Anthony (R)  
**Secretary: Mia Moses**  
**Phone: 444-4847**  
**LFD Staff: Walker Hopkins**  
**Phone: 444-1783**

#### Education (E)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 472*  
Bede, David (R) – Ch  
Fuller, John (VCh) (R)  
Barker, Brad (R)  
Jones, Llew (R)  
Keogh, Connie (D)  
Matthews, Eric (D)  
Regier, Matt (R)  
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)  
**Secretary: Caitlyn Sena**  
**Phone: 444-4709**  
**LFD Staff: Julia Pattin**  
**Phone: 444-4322**

#### Long Range Planning (F)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 317B*  
Fitzpatrick, John (R) – Ch  
Esp, John (VCh) (R)  
Boldman, Ellie (D)  
Kassmier, Josh (R)  
Rosenzweig, Scott (D)  
Tuss, Paul (D)  
Vinton, Mike (R)  
**Secretary: Faith Johnson**  
**Phone: 444-1532**  
**LFD Staff: Erica Thomas**  
**Phone: 444-2553**

## 2025 House of Representatives Committees

Key: Ch – Chair, VCh – Vice Chair, LFD – Legislative Fiscal Division, LSD – Legislative Service Division

### Agriculture

*Tu, Th; 3 pm; Rm 137*

Mitchell, Braxton (R) – Ch  
Miner, Russel (R) – VCh  
Carter, Bob (D) – VCh  
Baum, Denise (D)  
Darling, Julie (R)  
Griffith, Alanah (D)  
Klakken, Shane (R)  
Kmetz, Greg (R)  
Lynch, Jennifer (D)  
Nikolakakos, Melissa (R)  
Oblander, Greg (R)  
Romano, Melissa (D)  
Smith, Frank, (D)  
Thane, Mark (D)  
Thiel, Morgan (R)  
Tilleman, Eric (R)  
Wirth, Zack (R)

Staff: Laura Sherley (LSD)  
Rm. 111, 444-4408  
Clerk: Emma Bowar, Rm 468,  
444-4876

### Appropriations

*M-F; 3 pm/8 am, Rm 102*

Jones, Llew (R) – Ch  
Bede, David (R) – VCh  
Mercer, Bill (R) – VCh  
Caferro, Mary (D) – VCh  
Albus, Eric (R)  
Barker, Brad (R)  
Crowe, Thedis (D)  
Falk, Terry (R)  
Fitzpatrick, John (R)  
Fox, Mike (D)  
Gillette, Jane (R)  
Hawk, Donovan (D)  
Keogh, Connie (D)  
Matthews, Eric (D)  
Muszkiewicz, Luke (D)  
Nave, Fiona (R)  
Nicastro, Anthony (R)  
Powers, Debo (D)  
Rosenzweig, Scott (D)  
Schillinger, Jerry (R)  
Tuss, Paul (D)  
Vinton, Mike (R)  
Walsh, Ken (R)

Staff: Quinn Holzer (LFD)  
Rm. 115, 444-4877

Staff: Julie Johnson (LSD)  
Rm. 122, 444-4024  
Clerk: Faith Johnson, Rm  
110P, 444-1532

### Business and Labor

*M-F; 8 am; Rm 172*

Buttrey, Ed (R) – Ch  
Seekins-Crowe, Kerri (R) –  
VCh  
Lynch, Jennifer (D) – VCh  
Carter, Bob (D)  
DeMarois, Scott (D)  
Fitzpatrick, Chip (D)  
Fitzpatrick, Steve (R)  
Gist, Steve (R)  
Isaly, Jamie (D)

Karlen, Jonathan (D)  
Ler, Brandon (R)  
Maness, Shannon (R)  
Marshall, Ron (R)  
Nicol, Nelly (R)  
Oblander, Greg (R)  
Schomer, Curtis (R)  
Seckinger, Joshua (D)  
Sprunger, Courtenay (R)  
Sullivan, Katie (D)  
Thiel, Morgan (R)

Staff: Jameson Walker (LSD)  
Rm. 125, 444-3722  
Clerk: Anita Maddux, Rm 451,  
444-2554

### Education

*M, W, F; 3 pm, Rm 137*  
Reksten, Linda (R) – Ch  
Gregg, Randyn (R) – VCh  
Romano, Melissa (D) – VCh  
Bertoglio, Marta (R)  
Deming, Lee (R)  
Elverum, Pete (D)  
Essmann, Sherry (R)  
Isaly, Jamie (D)  
Lynch, Jennifer (D)  
Nikolakakos, Melissa (R)  
Overstreet, Greg (R)  
Seekins-Crowe, Kerri (R)  
Strand, Peter (D)  
Thane, Mark (D)  
Tilleman, Eric (R)

Staff: Laura Sankey Keip  
(LSD), Rm 128, 444-4410  
Clerk: Caitlyn Sena, Rm 468,  
444-4709

### Ethics

*On call*  
Zolnikov, Katie (R) – Ch  
Ler, Brandon (R) – VCh  
Hawk, Donovan (D) – VCh  
Muszkiewicz, Luke (D)

Staff: Todd Everts (Director,  
Legal Services Div.)  
Rm, 123, 444-4023  
Clerk: Katie Reeves, Rm 468,  
444-4861

### Energy, Technology and Federal Relations

*M, W, F; 3 pm; Rm 472*  
Parry, Gary (R) – Ch  
Kmetz, Greg (R) – VCh  
Kortum, Kelly (D) – VCh  
Brewster, Larry (R)  
Carter, Bob (D)  
Fielder, Paul (R)  
Fyant, Shelly (D)  
Griffith, Alanah (D)  
Joy, Denise (D)  
Lee, Marc (D)  
Millett, Tom (R)  
Mitchell, Braxton (R)  
Sharp, Tracy (R)  
Zolnikov, Katie (R)

Staff: Griffin Burns (LSD),  
Rm 111, 444-3079  
Clerk: Aspen Brenna, Rm 468,  
444-1513

### Fish, Wildlife and Parks

*T, Th; 3 pm; Rm 172*

Hinkle, Jedediah (R) – Ch  
Hinkle, Caleb (R) – VCh  
Cohenour, Jill (D) – VCh  
Byrne, Ed (R)  
Deming, Lee (R)  
Duram, Neil (R)  
Fielder, Paul (R)  
Fitzpatrick, Chip (D)  
France, Tom (D)  
Gregg, Randyn (R)  
Isaly, Jamie (D)  
Karlen, Jonathan (D)  
Maness, Shannon (R)  
Marler, Marilyn (D)  
Millett, Tom (R)  
Parry, Gary (R)  
Running Wolf, Tyson (D)  
Schubert, Lukas (R)  
Seckinger, Joshua (D)  
Sharp, Tracy (R)

Staff: Maxwell Parson (LSD),  
Rm 171, 444-1285  
Clerk: Katie Reeves, Rm 468,  
444-4861

### Human Services

*M-F; 3 pm, Rm 152*

Marshall, Ron (R) – Ch  
Etchart, Jodee (R) – VCh  
Howell, SJ (D) – VCh  
Bennett, Lyn (R)  
Buttrey, Ed (R)  
Close, Brian (D)  
Cunningham, Melody (D)  
DeMarois, Scott (D)  
Kelly, Steven (R)  
Ler, Brandon (R)  
Love, Kathy (R)  
Moore, Valerie (R)  
Nicol, Nelly (R)  
Nikolakakos, George (R)  
Reavis, James (D)  
Regier, Amy (R)  
Schomer, Curtis (R)  
Sooktis, Jade (D)  
Sullivan, Katie (D)  
Weber, Jane (D)  
Zephyr, Zooey (D)

Staff: Milly Allen (LSD)  
Rm 111D, 444-9280  
Clerk: Mia Moses, Rm 451,  
444-4847

### Judiciary

*M-F; 8 am; Rm 137*

Regier, Amy (R) – Ch  
Deming, Lee (R) – VCh  
France, Tom (D) – VCh  
Baum, Denise (D)  
Cunningham, Melody (D)  
Etchart, Jodee (R)  
Griffith, Alanah (D)  
Hinkle, Caleb (R)  
Hinkle, Jedediah (R)  
Howell, SJ (D)  
Joy, Denise (D)  
Kelly, Steven (R)  
Klakken, Shane (R)  
Kmetz, Greg (R)  
Millett, Tom (R)  
Mitchell, Braxton (R)  
Overstreet, Greg (R)  
Sharp, Tracy (R)  
Stafman, Ed (D)  
Zephyr, Zooey (D)

Staff: Rachel Weiss (LSD)  
Rm. 111, 444-5367  
Clerk: Macy McCauley,  
Rm 451, 444-4467

### Legislative Administration

*On Call*

Nikolakakos, George (R) - Ch  
Walsh, Ken (R) - VCh  
Tuss, Paul (D) – VCh  
Deming, Lee (R)  
Edwards, Becky (D)  
Falk, Terry (R)  
Fyant, Shelly (D)  
Karlen, Jonathan (D)  
Kmetz, Greg (R)  
Marler, Marilyn (D)  
Parry, Gary (R)  
Regier, Amy (R)  
Romano, Melissa (D)  
Schubert, Lukas (R)

Staff: Jerry Howe (LSD)  
Executive Director,  
Rm 112, 444-3066  
Clerk: Katie Reeves, Rm 468,  
444-4861

### Local Government

*T, Th; 3 pm; Rm 472*  
Brewster, Larry (R) - Ch  
Sprunger, Courtenay (R) - VCh  
Stafman, Ed (D) – VCh  
Bertoglio, Marta (R)  
Cochran, Curtis (R)  
Elverum, Pete (D)  
Essmann, Sherry (R)  
Fitzpatrick, Steve (R)  
Fyant, Shelly (D)  
Gist, Steve (R)  
Joy, Denise (D)  
Kortum, Kelly (D)  
Lee, Marc (D)  
Overstreet, Greg (R)  
Reksten, Linda (R)  
Seekins-Crowe, Kerri (R)  
Strand, Peter (D)

Staff: Toni Henneman (LSD),  
Rm 136, 444-3593  
Clerk: Aspen Brenna, Rm 468,  
444-1513

## 2025 House of Representatives Committees

Key: Ch – Chair, VCh – Vice Chair, LFD – Legislative Fiscal Division, LSD – Legislative Service Division

### Natural Resources

*M, W, F; 3pm; Rm 172*

Gist, Steve (R) – Ch  
Oblander, Greg (R) – VCh  
Marler, Marilyn (D) – VCh  
Cohenour, Jill (D)  
Edwards, Becky (D)  
Fitzpatrick, Steve (R)  
France, Tom (D)  
Hinkle, Jedediah (R)  
Karlen, Jonathan (D)  
Maness, Shannon (R)  
Miner, Russell (R)  
Schubert, Lukas (R)  
Seckinger, Joshua (D)  
Thiel, Morgan (R)

Staff: Jason Mohr (LSD),  
Rm 171, 444-1640  
Clerk: Katie Reeves, Rm 468,  
444-4861

### Rules

*On Call*

Fitzpatrick, Steve (R) – Ch  
Schillinger, Jerry (R) – VCh  
Karlen, Jonathan (D) – VCh  
Barker, Brad (R)  
Bedey, David (R)  
Brewster, Larry (R)  
Buttrey, Ed (R)  
Fielder, Paul (R)  
Griffith, Alanah (D)  
Hawk, Donovan (D)  
Hinkle, Jedediah (R)  
Howell, SJ (D)  
Marshall, Ron (R)  
Matthews, Eric (D)  
Millett, Tom (R)  
Mitchell, Braxton (R)  
Reavis, James (D)  
Regier, Amy (R)  
Running Wolf, Tyson (D)  
Sprunger, Courtenay (R)  
Sullivan, Katie (D)  
Thane, Mark (D)

Staff: Todd Everts (Director,  
Legal Services Div.),  
Rm 123, 444-4023  
Clerk: Katie Reeves, Rm 468,  
444-4861

### State Administration

*M-F; 8 am; Rm 455*

Darling, Julie (R) – Ch  
Bertoglio, Marta (R) – VCh  
Kortum, Kelly (D) – VCh  
Bennett, Lyn (R)  
Byrne, Ed (R)  
Cochran, Curtis (R)  
Edwards, Becky (D)  
Fyant, Shelly (D)  
Lee, Marc (D)  
Love, Kathy (R)  
Parry, Gary (R)  
Reksten, Linda (R)  
Running Wolf, Tyson (D)  
Schubert, Lukas (R)  
Smith, Frank (D)  
Sooktis, Jade (D)  
Strand, Peter (D)  
Tilleman, Eric (R)  
Wirth, Zack (R)

Staff: Rebecca Power (LSD)  
Rm. 136, 444-3596  
Clerk: Kathlyn Walker,  
Rm 451, 444-4877

### Taxation

*M-F, 8 am; Rm 152*

Fielder, Paul (R) – Ch  
Essmann, Sherry (R) – VCh  
Thane, Mark (D) – VCh  
Brewster, Larry (R)  
Close, Brian (D)  
Cohenour, Jill (D)  
Duram, Neil (R)  
Elverum, Pete (D)  
Fitzpatrick, Steve (R)  
Gregg, Randyn (R)  
Karlen, Jonathan (D)  
Ler, Brandon (R)  
Marler, Marilyn (D)  
Miner, Russel (R)  
Moore, Valerie (R)  
Nikolakakos, George (R)  
Nikolakakos, Melissa (R)  
Reavis, James (D)  
Romano, Melissa (D)  
Weber, Jane (D)  
Zolnikov, Katie (R)

Staff: Megan Moore (LSD),  
Rm 154, 444-4496  
Clerk: Bekah Walker, Rm 451,  
444-4872

### Transportation

*M, W, F; 3 pm; Rm 455*

Duram, Neil (R) – Ch  
Wirth, Zack (R) – VCh  
Baum, Denise (D) – VCh  
Byrne, Ed (R)  
Caferro, Mary (D)  
Cochran, Curtis (R)  
Darling, Julie (R)  
Fitzpatrick, Chip (D)  
Hinkle, Caleb (R)  
Klakken, Shane (R)  
Smith, Frank (D)  
Sprunger, Courtenay (R)  
Stafman, Ed (D)  
Sullivan, Katie (D)

Staff: Casey Pallister (LSD),  
Rm 171, 444-3067  
Clerk: Emma Bowar, Rm 468,  
444-4876

### Appropriations/Finance & Claims Joint Committees:

### Approps Subcommittee Gen Government (A)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 350*

Falk, Rep Terry (R) – Ch  
Mandeville, Sen Forrest (R) –  
VCh  
Ellsworth, Sen Jason (R)  
Flowers, Sen Pat (D)  
Harvey, Sen Derek (D)  
Muszkiewicz, Rep Luke (D)  
Tezak, Sen Tony (R)  
Walsh, Rep Ken (R)

Staff: Molly DelCurto, Lead  
(LFD), Rm 110, 444-5417  
Clerk: Aspen Brenna, Rm 468,  
444-1513

### Approps Subcommittee Health & Human Services (B)

*M-F; 8AM Rm102*

Gillette, Rep Jane (R) – Ch  
Mercer, Rep Bill (R) – VCh  
Lenz, Sen Dennis (R)- VCh  
Caferro, Rep Mary (D)  
Fox, Rep Mike (D)  
Glimm, Sen Carl (R)  
Kerr-Carpenter, Sen Emma (D)  
Pope, Sen Christopher (D)  
Tempel, Sen Russ (R)

Staff: Josh Poulette, Lead  
(LFD), Rm 110, 444-1542  
Clerk: Sandy Gibson O'Hare,  
Rm 451, 444-7353

### Approps Subcommittee Natural Resources and Transportation (C)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 317C*

Schillinger, Rep Jerry (R) – Ch  
Cuffe, Sen Mike (R) -VCh  
Albus, Rep Eric (R)  
Bogner, Sen Kenneth (R)  
Ellis, Sen Janet (D)  
Powers, Rep Debo (D)

Staff: Rob Miller, Lead (LFD),  
Rm 118, 444-1795  
Clerk: Brittany Bury, Rm 468,  
444-1596

### Approps Subcommittee Judicial Branch, Law Enforcement and Justice (D)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 317A*

Nave, Rep Fiona (R) – Ch  
Vance, Sen Shelley (R) - VCh  
Crowe, Rep Thedis (D)  
Hawk, Rep Donovan (D)  
McGillivray, Sen Tom (R)  
Morigeau, Sen Shane (D)  
Nicastro, Rep Anthony (R)

Staff: Walker Hopkins, Lead  
(LFD), Rm 110, 444-1783  
Clerk: Mia Moses, Rm 451,  
444-4847

### Approps Subcommittee Education (E)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 472*

Bedey, Rep David (R) – Ch  
Fuller, Sen John (R) - VCh  
Barker, Rep Brad (R)  
Jones, Rep Llew (R)  
Keogh, Rep Connie (D)  
Matthews, Rep Eric (D)  
Regier, Sen Matt (R)  
Windy Boy, Sen Jonathan (D)

Staff: Julia Pattin, Lead (LFD)  
Rm 110, 444-4322  
Clerk: Caitlyn Sena, Rm 468,  
444-4709

### Approps Subcommittee Long-Range Planning (F)

*M-F; 8AM Rm 317B*

Fitzpatrick, Rep John (R) – Ch  
Esp, Sen John (R) - VCh  
Boldman, Sen Ellie (D)  
Kassmier, Rep Josh (R)  
Rosenzweig, Rep Scott (D)  
Tuss, Rep Paul (D)  
Vinton, Rep Mike (R)

Staff: Erica Thomas, Lead  
(LFD), Rm 110, 444-2553  
Clerk: Faith Johnson, Rm  
110P, 444-1532