

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATE GUIDE: 2016 MONTANA GOVERNOR'S RACE

| | Steve Bullock (Incumbent – D) | Greg Gianforte (R) |
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| <p>For mobile-friendly version and other guides, see campuselect.org/guides.html</p> <p>For more detailed information on candidate positions visit their respective pages at votesmart.org</p> <p>To volunteer, visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stevebullock.com • gregformontana.com |  |  |
| Abortion: Should abortion be highly restricted? | No. "Complicated & difficult decision that shouldn't be made by the government." Also supports funding comprehensive family planning. | Yes. Has also been a strong financial supporter of anti-abortion organizations. |
| Campaign Finance: Do you support increasing restrictions on campaign donations? | Yes. Initiated court case opposing Citizen's United. Advocated for MT's 2015 state Disclose Act. ¹ | States support for election transparency, but has donated significantly to groups that fought MT Disclose Act. ² |
| Climate Change: Believe that human activity is the major factor driving climate change? | Yes. Agrees that climate change is real & the impacts must be addressed. | Unclear |
| Climate Change: Should government limit the levels of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere? | Agrees in principle, but strongly defends Montana coal operations, so has often opposed related regulations. Wants to expand renewable energy sources & also more low-carbon coal processes . ³ | No. Believes regulations will hurt MT jobs. Specifically opposes Obama EPA rulings as federal overreach. Also wants "somebody from industry" running MT's Department of Environmental Quality. |
| Education: Increase funding for K-12 education? | Yes. Seeks to fund it beyond the 2013 state funding formula. | Unclear. Focus has been on making public funding available for religious & private schools & for training students in computer science and in trades. ⁴ |
| Education: Provide vouchers to parents to send their children to private schools with public money? | Opposes diverting public dollars to private education. Vetoed 2013 bill but allowed 2015 bill to pass. | Yes. Strong supporter of helping children attend religious or private schools with vouchers or tax credits. ⁵ |
| Education: Increase public funding for higher education? | Yes. Has secured more funding and also instituted tuition freezes. Seeks to secure additional funding. | Unclear |
| Gay Rights: Support gay marriage and related LGBT issues? | In 2015 became the first MT governor to officiate a same-sex marriage. Expanded MT nondiscrimination law to include sexual orientation & gender identity for state employees & government contractors. ⁶ | Supports nondiscrimination for employees but not for customers. Lobbied against LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance in 2014. Financial supporter of anti-gay marriage groups. ⁷ |
| Gun Control: Enact more restrictive gun control legislation? | Keep status quo. Has vetoed expansive gun rights bills that would have allowed conceal & carry without a permit & carrying of guns on campus. ⁸ | No. Considers gun rights to be absolute & should not be infringed in any way. Strongly opposes Bullock's vetoes of expansive gun rights bills or federal gun rights restrictions. ⁹ |

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| Healthcare: Repeal the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare? | No | Believes it is unaffordable & new solutions must be found, but won't "pull the rug out" from under people receiving benefits. |
| Healthcare: Accept federal funds so Medicaid will cover people earning up to 138% of the federal poverty line? | Yes. Expanded Medicaid in MT, adding coverage for up to 70,000 more Montanans. | Concerned about cost & accepting too much federal money, but won't reject funds at present. |
| Marijuana: Decriminalize and/or legalize marijuana? | Previous defense of medical marijuana laws, by opposing IR 124 in 2012. Stance on 2016 ballot initiative unclear. | Unknown, including view of 2016 ballot initiative to expand medical marijuana eligibility. |
| Minimum Wage: Raise the minimum wage? | Yes | No |
| Prisons: Switch money from prisons to preventive measures like education and social services? | Yes. Supports commission currently working with national experts to identify these options. | Unknown. |
| Renewable Energy: Support government mandates and/or subsidies for renewable energy? | Yes. Has supported state's renewable energy requirement, but also supports MT fossil fuel industries. Wants to develop clean coal solutions. | Strong support for MT fossil fuel industries. Mentions renewable energy, but advocacy is focused on supporting fossil fuel jobs. |
| Taxes: Increase taxes on corporations and/or high-income individuals to pay for public services? | Has worked to reduce taxes on businesses & most individuals. Vetoed bill to lower top earner tax rate. | No. Pledged to oppose "any or all" tax increases to raise revenue. Wants to cut business & personal taxes and reduce size of government, even though his proposals may affect ongoing public services. |
| Voting Rights: Support stricter voting rules such as voter ID requirements or reduced registration times, even if they prevent some people from voting? | No. Believes voting should be easier rather than harder. Opposed repeal of Election Day registration. | Unclear. |

Other gubernatorial candidates include [Ted Dunlap \(L\)](#). Due to limited space, we can't include his positions, but invite you to check out his website.

Created by the [Campus Election Engagement Project](#), a non-partisan effort to help college and university administrators, faculty, and student leaders engage their schools in the election. Key sites consulted included [Votesmart.org](#), [Ballotpedia.org](#), [Countable.us](#), [OntheIssues.org](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Politifact.com](#), and public candidate statements. For a guide to all races, see [Vote411.org](#), from the League of Women Voters, and [Ballotready.org](#).

¹ Initiated [2011 case to Supreme Court](#) challenging Citizen's United decision allowing unlimited corporate campaign donations; supported and signed [2015 Montana Disclose Act](#) requiring disclosure of campaign contributions.

² [Doesn't accept PAC money & limits individual contributions](#), largely self-funded his campaign. As a private citizen has [funded efforts to oppose the Act](#) and his campaign lawyer is part of legal team challenging the Act.

³ [Opposes federal pollution limits on fracking](#), believing states should regulate the oil and gas industry. Endorsed Keystone XL pipeline. [Opposes some elements of Obama's 2016 Clean Power Act](#), especially lack of focus on cleaner coal processes.

⁴ See candidate education comparisons [in Bozeman Daily Chronicle](#).

⁵ See [Billings Gazette article](#).

⁶ [Expanded prohibitions against discrimination](#), but MT's Attorney General joined [law suit against federal government over LGBT bathroom policies](#) and Bullock avoided public statement of his reaction to MT joining the suit.

⁷ Endorses nondiscrimination for employees including those in his own business. But says businesses [should be able to decide](#) who they serve, including decisions based on religious beliefs. Contributes heavily [to organizations that oppose same-sex marriage](#).

⁸ See [KPAX article](#).

⁹ See [KPAX article](#).