



**Margaret Gorski**  
Candidate  
Montana State Senate  
District 44



***Fiscally Conservative.....Socially Responsible.....Environmentally Conscious***

I am running to be your State Senator because I strongly believe that problems are best solved when all viewpoints are involved. This is especially important with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Legislative and funding priorities must be based on sound science and planning and should incorporate the best ideas of all our citizens. State government must address the unique needs of Montana including the Bitterroot Valley. Together, all of us are smarter than any one of us.

**Vote a New Way for a New Day**

I learned a great deal from the 2016 and 2018 campaign, especially about what is important to people who live in the Bitterroot Valley. We share much in common. Our mutual desires and expectations will form the foundation of my legislative priorities.

***FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE***

I am a Democrat, but I don't believe in giving away your hard earned tax dollars. We need to combine the strength of both private business and government to develop comprehensive and coordinated solutions to solve the complex and long term problems facing us and our children.

**Attract Clean Industry to the Bitterroot**

Our rural lifestyle, independent spirit, and quality environment are precious and economically valuable. I believe we must diversify our economy while maintaining a strong agriculture and natural resource base. We need policies that encourage growth and small businesses that capitalize on the unique characteristics of the Bitterroot Valley, the Bitterroot River, our scenery, working agriculture lands, and history to help make the valley more economically viable. Forward thinking entrepreneurs choose Montana knowing the outdoors will attract and retain top notch employees.

- Do we have the infrastructure to attract clean industries to the valley?
- Do we have a workforce with the skills needed to support internet based businesses?



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- Are our transportation and shipping services up to snuff to handle the demands of a business in a global economy?
- How do we position ourselves to maintain an exceptional quality of life for while we reap our fair share of the State's \$7.1 billion outdoor and tourism industry?

### **Put Our Natural Resources to Work**

We spend far too much on fighting fire and living with smoke. I am serving on the County Commissioner appointed Ravalli Citizens Collaborative to help address that problem. We need to work together to use our natural resources to provide sustainable jobs, reduce fire risk, protect our water resources, and support a diverse economy that includes tourism and recreation, while also recognizing the valuable contribution of wilderness, wildlife and water to our quality of life.

- The Bitterroot National Forest must be fully funded to reduce the wildfire risk all along the Bitterroot Front and within the wildland urban interface.
- I can build a restoration economy that puts loggers back to work while restoring the health of our forests and roads.
- I will support efforts to gain better access to our public lands and, unlike the Republican Party Platform, and I will fight to retain these lands in federal ownership.

### **Infrastructure Investment**

I will support infrastructure legislation to improve our school facilities, fix our major health and safety problems, and accommodate the latest technological advances in education and health care.

I will support bonding for improving infrastructure. It is standard practice and a way for private citizens to invest in our future. It reflects confidence in our abilities and attracts other investors. Kicking the can down the road only makes it more expensive tomorrow.



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## **Public/Private Partnerships**

We need to think out of the box, combine entrepreneurial passion with the power of government to make the best deals for our citizens. Good deals rely on compromise and compromise means giving up something to gain something.

We must stop balancing the budget by shifting the responsibility to pay for education and health services to local government and property owners. Are there other ways to raise revenue?

## ***Socially Responsible***

I believe there can be a balance between promoting entrepreneurship and lending a helping hand when balancing the budget. However, I don't believe in giving away your hard earned tax dollars. We should be grateful for the privilege of living in this great nation and should all contribute to society by volunteering; serving in the military; working as an elected official; or just by paying our taxes.

## **Support Public Education for All Stages of Life**

Education provides knowledge, is the great equalizer and helps American remain competitive. It teaches our children how to get along with others, cope with the challenges we face as adults, and be responsible citizens.

Providing lifelong opportunities for public education is a high priority for me. To successfully diversify our economy and grow a skilled competitive workforce, the Bitterroot Valley should have access to local options for high quality education and not have to obtain them elsewhere.

## **Health Care is a Basic Human Right**

Affordable health care should be a right, not something you obtain only if you can afford it.

Government has a responsibility and is a vital partner in providing help to those in greatest need; those



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with mental health problems; seniors in need of home and community based services, and those who provide direct care for the elderly.

I believe in being humane and compassionate when balancing the budget. Is it too much to ask people who have already achieved the American Dream to contribute just a little more so that those less fortunate feel less pain when we strive to balance the State budget?

Government has no role in personal family decisions. How a woman manages her reproductive life is personal and private. Decisions concerning a woman's reproductive life should only involve her family, physician and God.

Our founding fathers explicitly called for a separation of church and state. Although we were basically founded as a Christian nation, we now have diverse citizens of many faiths. Some citizens prefer having no religion at all. These differences are dividing our nation. Everyone has the right to worship as they choose, but our democracy demands that we keep a clear separation between religion and government.

### ***Environmentally Conscious***

Conserving what we have left in America to pass on to future generations is the epitome of being a Patriot. A clean, quality, natural environment is good for our health and valuable to our economy. I want to pass on the best of the Bitterroot to our children by working to:

#### **Protect Family Agriculture**

Policy and funding solutions that help families continue to farm and ranch are vital to the future quality of life in the valley. Agriculture contributes significantly to our economy; protects open space; supports wildlife; reduces the cost and carbon foot print of our food and farm products; and maintains our rural way of life.



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Continuing and broadening our Open Lands Program would preserve more agricultural lands. The Three-Mile Water Sub-District controversy needs to be resolved to restore stability and ensure long term maintenance of a system that benefits all users.

We need to plan ahead to prepare for a hotter and drier future where competition for water will challenge water rights and available supply.

### **Maintain our Fish, Wildlife, and the Bitterroot River**

The integrity of the Bitterroot River contributes to our economy, our way of life and attracts investment. I will oppose legislation that threatens water quality and the flows necessary to maintain aquatic life and recreational fisheries on the Bitterroot River.

Legislative solutions are needed to strengthen Montana State Parks and the Fishing Access Program so that FWP can lead planning efforts to help us prepare for the future as increasing demands to access the river grows as more people move into the Bitterroot Valley.

I will continue to work with Montana State Parks to build a more secure future for State Parks including Fort Owen State Park, an historic site important to Stevensville and the State.

The Governor's new Office of Outdoor Recreation should coordinate all recreation functions in the state governed by DNRC, FWP, Commerce, and Tourism.

### **Keep Public Lands in Public Hands**

We are tremendously blessed by the wealth of public lands we share with the rest of Americans. They are vital to the economy of this valley and to the quality of our environment. I am a strong advocate of keeping our public lands in public hands.



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- Any legislation that proposes to transfer decision authority to local governments must also include and define a requirement for citizen collaboration.
- I support private property rights, but I am also a strong advocate for maintaining and obtaining reasonable public access to all public lands, be they federal, state, or local.

### **Maintain the Bitterroot Trail**

I will continue to work to solve the problem of no maintenance funding for the 45 mile Bitterroot Trail, which is an important safety and economic asset to the valley. I will seek bi-partisan support for legislation that establishes a framework for a public/private funding strategies to maintain the trails we have and support the construction of additional sections where needed.

As your Senator, I promise I will work as hard as I can to represent you.

**Vote a New Way for a New Day**

**Vote for**

*Margaret Gorski*