The 2023 session saw a slew of attacks on our state’s secure elections and independent judiciary. The good news? Most of these attacks ultimately failed, and Montana became one of 16 states to end prison gerrymandering. Still, we’d be remiss if we didn’t talk about the attacks we witnessed to the very principles of representative democracy. Everyone should have a voice in government, and this session, everyday Montanans sent that message loud and clear!

**SB 77 - Ends prison gerrymandering in Montana.**
Sponsor: Shane Morigeau (D) SD 48 - Missoula
Issue: Democracy
FMT Position: Support
Requires the Department of Corrections to report inmates last known address to the state census and economic information center and use this information as redistricting data. This stops inmates from being counted towards the population of the correctional facility they are held at, which inflates the population of these cities with people who are deprived of their right to participate in democracy.

**SB 93 - Placed barriers on citizens’ rights to participate in the ballot initiative process.**
Sponsor: Mike Cuffe (R) SD 1 - Eureka
Issue: Democracy
FMT Position: Oppose
Requires people who propose an initiative to pay the government a $3,700 fee to get the initiative on the ballot. SB 93 also gives the Secretary of State or Attorney General the power to reject the initiative if it comes too close to the end of a legislative session or doesn’t pass “legal sufficiency.”

Motion Introduced By: Sue Vitton (R) HD 56 - Billings
* House Only
Issue: Democracy
FMT Position: Oppose
The House voted to censure Rep. Zephyr following her honest remarks on the impacts of anti-trans legislation and her peaceful support of protesting constituents. This censure disenfranchised the 11,000 Montanans living in her district who elected Rep. Zephyr to speak and debate on their behalf. The House gallery was also closed to the public for the remainder of the session, and press freedom was limited.

**HB 915 (died in process) - Would have ended Supreme Court Judge Elections**
Sponsor: Bill Mercer (R) HD 46 - Billings
Issue: Democracy
FMT Position: Oppose
HB 915 would have done away with Supreme Court justice elections, making the position appointed by the Governor.

**HB 712 - Prohibits “illegal aliens” from voting in Montana Elections**
Sponsor: Zack Wirth (R) HD 80 - Wolf Creek
Issue: Democracy
FMT Position: Oppose
All this bill does is add a slur into the Montana Code Annotated, which already states that people must be citizens in order to vote.
MONTANA SENATE VOTING SCORECARD

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