DEMOCRACY At the 2025 Montana Legislature

Legislators spent their energy on measures to curb voter power and restrict access to the ballot, voting down policies that would have expanded access to rural, Indigenous, or disabled community members. They also tried in over 40 bills to undermine our impartial and fair judiciary - despite polls showing that over two thirds of Montanans do not want partisan courts.

HB 413: Revise election laws regarding residency

SPONSOR Jane Gillette (R) HD-77, Gallatin FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Passed

HB 413 creates a new definition of 'temporary' in Montana residency laws, removing voting access to anyone residing temporarily in a county for 'work, training, or an educational program'. This will directly affect in- and out-of-state college students.

SB 490: Revise election laws regarding late registration

SPONSOR Mike Cuffe (R) SD-1, Lincoln FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Passed

SB 490 changes Election Day voter registration to end at noon, and opens up late registration on Saturdays until noon.

SB 42: Provide for the partisan election of judges and justices

SPONSOR Daniel Emrich (R) SD-11, Cascade FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Failed

SB 42 would have mandated the partisan election of judges and justices, allowing for an influx of political money into local and statewide judicial elections.

HB 838: Allow supreme court justices to use partisan affiliation +

SPONSOR Brandon Ler (R) HD-33, Richland FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Failed

HB 838 would have allowed judicial candidates for the Montana Supreme Court to run under a party affiliation making our judiciary partisan.

Only scored for the House.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SCORECARD

Key: Republican Democrat Y=Yes N=No E=Excused A=Absent (Not factored into score)

•	SCORE THE	S.	5 P. J.	F	5 17 838	18 821
	R.	رن ن	90	\$	3	5
Albus, Eric	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Barker, Brad	60%	Ν	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ
Baum, Denise	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Bedey, David	40%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ
Bennett, Lyn	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Bertoglio, Marta	40%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ
Brewster, Larry	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Buttrey, Edward	40%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ
Byrne, Ed	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Caferro, Mary	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Carter, Bob	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Close, Brian	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Cochran, Curtis	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Cohenour, Jill	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Crowe, Thedis	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Cunningham, Melody		Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Darling, Julie	20%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Υ	Υ
DeMarois, Scott	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Deming, Lee	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Duram, Neil	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Edwards, Becky	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Elverum, Pete	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Essmann, Sherry	20%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Ν	Υ
Etchart, Jodee	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Falk, Terry	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Fielder, Paul	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Fitzpatrick, Chip	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Fitzpatrick, John	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Fitzpatrick, Steve	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Fox, Mike	100%	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	Ν
France, Tom	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Fyant, Shelly	100%	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	Ν
Gillette, Jane	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Gist, Steve	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Gregg, Randyn	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Griffith, Alanah	100%	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	N
Hawk, Donavon	100%	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	Ν
Hinkle, Caleb	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ
Hinkle, Jedediah	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Howell, SJ	100%	Ν	N	Ν	N	N
Isaly, Jamie	100%	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	N
Jones, Llew	20%	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ
Joy, Denise	100%	Ν	N	Ν	Ν	N
Karlen, Jonathan	100%	N	N	N	N	N
Kelly, Steve	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Keogh, Connie	100%	N	N	N	N	N
Klakken, Shane	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ

	ORK	P/3	190	r F	800	82
Kmetz, Greg	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Kortum, Kelly	100%	-	N	N	N	N
Lee, Marc	100%		N	N	N	N
Ler, Brandon	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Love, Kathy	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lynch, Jennifer	100%		N	N	N	N
Maness, Shannon	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marler, Marilyn	100%	-	N	N	N	N
Marshall, Ron ▲	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Matthews, Eric	100%	-	N	N	N	N
Mercer, Bill	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Millett, Tom	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Miner, Russ	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mitchell, Braxton	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Moore, Valerie	20%	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Muszkiewicz, Luke	100%		N	N	N	N
Nave, Fiona	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nelson, Terry ■	0 70	-	-	-	-	-
Nicastro, Anthony	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nicol, Nelly	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nikolakakos, George	40%	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Nikolakakos, Melissa		N	Y	Y	N	Y
Oblander, Greg	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Overstreet, Greg	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parry, Gary	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Powers, Debo	100%		N	N	N	N
Reavis, James	100%		N	N	N	N
Regier, Amy	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Reksten, Linda	20%	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Romano, Melissa	100%		N	N	N	N
Rosenzweig, Scott	100%		N	N	N	N
Running Wolf, Tyson	100%		N	N	N	N
Schillinger, Jerry	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Schomer, Curtis	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Schubert, Lukas	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seckinger, Joshua	100%		N	N	N	N
Seekins-Crowe, Kerri		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sharp, Tracy	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Smith, Frank	100%		N	N	N	N
Sooktis, Jade	100%		N	N	N	N
Sprunger, Courtenay	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stafman, Ed	100%		N	N	N	N
Strand, Peter	100%		N	N	N	N
Sullivan, Katie	100%		N	N	N	N
Thane, Mark	100%		N	N	N	N
Thiel, Morgan	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tilleman, Eric	20%	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Tuss, Paul	100%		N	N	N	N
Vinton, Mike	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Walsh, Ken	20%	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Weber, Jane	100%		N	N	N	N
Wirth, Zack	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zephyr, Zooey	100%		N	N	N	N
Zolnikov, Katie	0%	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lonninov, natio	0 / 0					

HB 821: Revise vote requirement to enact constitutional amendment by initiative

SPONSOR Jodee Etchart (R) HD-51, Yellowstone FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Failed

HB 821, a referendum bill that would have increased the vote threshold to 60% to pass citizen-led ballot initiatives (like CI-128). This bill required a two thirds majority vote to pass.

▲ Rep. Marshall resigned on March 3.

Rep. Nelson took office on March 10.

DEMOCRACY At the 2025 Montana Legislature

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HB 413: Revise election laws regarding residency

SPONSOR Jane Gillette (R) HD-77, Gallatin FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Passed

HB 413 creates a new definition of 'temporary' in Montana residency laws, removing voting access to anyone residing temporarily in a county for 'work, training, or an educational program'. This will directly affect in- and out-of-state college students.

SB 490: Revise election laws regarding late registration

SPONSOR Mike Cuffe (R) SD-1, Lincoln FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Passed

SB 490 changes Election Day voter registration to end at noon, and opens up late registration on Saturdays until noon.

SB 42: Provide for the partisan election of judges and justices

SPONSOR Daniel Emrich (R) SD-11, Cascade FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Failed

SB 42 would have mandated the partisan election of judges and justices, allowing for an influx of political money into local and statewide judicial elections.

SENATE SCORECARD

Key: Republican Democrat Y=Yes N=No E=Excused A=Absent (Not factored into score)

	50 18	Ş	ک ک	ک ر		L
	SCORE TAB WY	S	, o	ž,	5 23	UB 821
Beard, Becky	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Bogner, Kenneth	40%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ
Boldman, Ellie	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Cuffe, Mike	40%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ
Curdy, Willis	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Dunwell, Mary Ann	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Ellis, Janet	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Ellsworth, Jason	20%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Ν	Υ
Emrich, Daniel	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Esp, John	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Fern, Dave	100%	Ν	Υ	Ν	Ν	Ν
Flowers, Pat	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Fuller, John	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Α	Υ
Galt, Wylie	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Gillespie, Bruce	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Glimm, Carl	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Harvey, Derek	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Hayman, Denise	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Hertz, Greg	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Hunter, Gregg	20%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Ν	Υ
Kassmier, Josh	20%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Ν	Υ
Kerr-Carpenter, Emm	a 100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν
Lammers, Gayle	20%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Ν	Υ
Lenz, Dennis	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Loge, Denley	40%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ

	20 A8	28	Ų	200	2 3	18 82\	
	SORE NO.	5 *2	00	PS-	E	2	
Mandeville, Forrest	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Manzella, Theresa	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
McGillvray, Tom	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
McKamey, Wendy	20%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Ν	Υ	
Morigeau, Jacinda	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Morigeau, Shane	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Neumann, Cora	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Noland, Mark	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Novak, Sara	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Olsen, Andrea	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Phalen, Bob	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Pope, Christopher	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Regier, Matt	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Ricci, Vince	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Smith, Laura	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Tempel, Russ	40%	Υ	Υ	Ν	Ν	Υ	
Tezak, Tony	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Trebas, Jeremy	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Usher, Barry	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Vance, Shelley	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Vinton, Sue	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Webber, Susan	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Windy Boy, Jonathar	100%	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	Ν	
Yakawich, Mike	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	
Zolnikov, Daniel	0%	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	

SB 543: Revise judiciary laws ★

SPONSOR Wylie Galt (R) SD-39, Meagher FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Failed

SB 543 would have allowed judicial candidates for the Montana Supreme Court to run under a party affiliation making our judiciary partisan.

★ Only scored for the Senate.

HB 821: Revise vote requirement to enact constitutional amendment by initiative

SPONSOR Jodee Etchart (R) HD-51, Yellowstone FMT POSITION Oppose OUTCOME Failed

HB 821, a referendum bill that would have increased the vote threshold to 60% to pass citizen-led ballot initiatives (like CI-128). This bill required a two thirds majority vote to pass.