



2023 Legislative Scorecard



A Note From MFPE President Amanda Curtis

Every two years, the Montana Legislature convenes to consider bills that affect our professions, paychecks, and pensions. Every two years, MFPE members adopt a legislative program based on our shared values and then follow that legislative program as we stand together to help the legislature make good decisions. This scorecard records each legislator's level of support for our shared values as MFPE members. We will use it to hold legislators accountable for the promises they made on the campaign trail and to the MFPE members who voted them into office.



**MFPE President
Amanda Curtis**

While the 68th Legislature was incredibly challenging, MFPE members met those challenges head on. Our wins drastically outnumber our losses. **MFPE members bargained and then successfully lobbied for an historic pay plan** and a budget that will keep public services operational. We convinced legislators to stand with workers to defeat every single piece of anti-union legislation this session.

Together, we called on legislators to keep Montana's promise of stable pensions and dignified retirements for public employees. Although we headed off attacks on PERS and TRS, the legislature broke Montana's promise to troopers and sheriff's deputies by raising the age new hires can access their retirements from 40 to 50. We know which legislators voted against troopers and sheriff's deputies, and we've created this scorecard so the rest of Montana will know too.

This legislature was a mixed bag for public education. On a positive note, we successfully advocated for

early literacy intervention programs for our youngest learners. Legislators also supported a new statewide health insurance pool that could lower costs for k-12 public school employees. Unfortunately, many legislators relied on national political messaging to further drive a wedge between families and their local public schools. And in the ugliest move of the session, state legislators passed two unconstitutional bills forcing private, for-profit charter schools and vouchers on our communities.

Thankfully, our Montana Constitution guards against these schemes to defund public schools, and we have already begun to fight both charters and vouchers in court.

On top of it all, MFPE members worked to protect the rights of cities and counties to determine our own local budgets, to preserve the non-partisan nature of our judicial, school, and municipal elections, and to defeat every single attempt to amend our Montana Constitution.

Our successes this session wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the over 7,500 of us contacting legislators through our Rapid Response Team. MFPE members have a lot to be proud of, and we have a lot more work to do. **We know our union family is in this for the long haul, and we'll never quit fighting for Montana.**

Bill Summaries

WE WON! **HB 13 John Fitzpatrick (R-Anaconda)**
Short Title: State Employee Pay Plan
Summary: Historic MFPE member-negotiated state and university employee pay plan including one-time bonuses, pay raise of \$1.50 or 4% (whichever is greater) each year of the biennium, per diem increases, additional holiday, and freeze on single-member health insurance cost.
MFPE Position: Support
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor

LOST **SB 424 Forrest Mandeville (R-Columbus)**
Short Title: Generally revise laws related to executive branch personal staff
Summary: Allows the governor and state agencies to replace public employees with political appointees. Several agencies will be able to appoint up to 3% of their current employee count - up to 25 at DOJ, for instance.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor

WE WON! **SB 511 Daniel Zolnikov (R-Billings)**
Short Title: Revise government entity limitations on property tax increases
Summary: Controls how much a community can spend on local priorities including public safety and infrastructure (water, sewer, parks, etc.). This interferes with local control.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Died in the Senate

WE WON! **HB 865 Caleb Hinkle (R-Belgrade)**
Short Title: Provide for a local government expenditure limitation & penalties
Summary: Controls how much a community can spend on local priorities including public safety and infrastructure (water, sewer, parks, etc.). This interferes with local control.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 2nd Reading
Status: Died in the House

LOST **SB 121 Becky Beard (R-Elliston)**
Short Title: Reduce top marginal income tax rate and increase EITC
Summary: Creates huge tax cuts for the wealthiest Montanans, diminishing Montana's ongoing revenue needed to fund essential public services.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor



MFPE members defeated every single bill attacking our union rights and workplace freedoms this session!

Bill Summaries

WE WON! **HB 332 David Bedey (R-Hamilton)**
Short Title: Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits
Summary: Creates a statewide k-12 health insurance pool and provides limited funding to launch the new system. In order for the pool to be created, most districts will need to opt in.
MFPE Position: Support
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor

LOST **HB 562 Sue Vinton (R-Billings)**
Short Title: Authorize establishment of community choice schools
Summary: Creates an unconstitutional publicly funded system of private, for-profit, unaccountable charter schools that hire unlicensed teachers and are exempt from health and safety laws. Prohibits taxpayers from voting in school elections.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor

LOST **HB 393 Sue Vinton (R-Billings)**
Short Title: Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act
Summary: Creates an unconstitutional voucher system in which taxpayer dollars can be paid to private, for-profit special education vendors while still holding public schools liable for federal special education requirements.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor

WE WON! **HB 352 Brad Barker (R-Roberts)**
Short Title: Provide targeted interventions to support 3rd grade reading proficiency
Summary: Funds one year of school before kindergarten, summer sessions before grades 1, 2, & 3, and/or online supports to families. Parents decide whether their child participates.
MFPE Position: Support
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor

LOST **SB 518 Theresa Manzella (R-Hamilton)**
Short Title: Revise parental rights laws to increase parental involvement in education
Summary: Allows a parent to opt their child out of any lesson, any time, for any reason, making it very difficult to keep high standards for all students. Creates new cause for legal action against schools and individual employees.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor



Check the
status of any bill
you're
interested in at
laws.leg.mt.gov

DID YOU KNOW over 7,500 MFPE members took legislative action this session? Through our Rapid Response Team, MFPE members sent hundreds of thousands of emails, tens of thousands of post cards with personal notes, and thousands of text messages to legislators. We made phone calls, signed petitions, and rallied at the Capitol. Once again, we made it clear that we're one of the best legislative advocacy teams in America. Go to MFPE.org/Freedom to join the team!

Bill Summaries

WE WON! **HB 226 Terry Moore (R-Billings)**
Short Title: Generally revise pension laws
Summary: Change the funding policy for the PERS pension system. Also changes the default retirement for new hires from the pension system to less-secure retirement savings accounts.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Died in process

WE WON! **SB 348 Tom McGillvray (R-Billings)**
Short Title: Revise pension laws to eliminate GABA for new hires
Summary: Eliminates cost-of-living adjustments from all pensions, starting with anyone hired in July 2023. Pension checks will be worth progressively less over time relative to inflation.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 2nd Reading
Status: Died in the Senate

LOST **HB 569 Terry Moore (R-Billings)**
Short Title: Generally revise pension laws
Summary: Changes the funding policy for several law enforcement pension plans (GWPORS, HPORS, SRS, JRS). Also requires members in HPORS and SRS to be age 50 to receive pension, regardless of their years of service.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Signed by the governor

WE WON! **HB 915 Bill Mercer (R-Billings)**
Short Title: Constitutional amendment to change process to select supreme court justices
Summary: Amends Montana Constitution to remove the right of Montana citizens to vote for Supreme Court justices. If passed, the governor would appoint justices.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading
Status: Died in the Senate

WE WON! **SB 464 Paul Fielder (R-Thompson Falls)**
Short Title: Establish Judicial Transparency Act
Summary: Allows judicial candidates to include a party affiliation next to their name on the ballot, politicizing the judiciary.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 2nd Reading
Status: Died in the House

WE WON! **HB 774 Mike Hopkins (R-Missoula)**
Short Title: Generally revise election laws
Summary: Requires all elections to be held in even-numbered years, including school board, city council, etc. Injects partisan pressure into local, nonpartisan elections.
MFPE Position: Oppose
Vote(s) recorded: 3rd Reading House
Status: Died in Senate committee



Rep. Denise Baum
HD 47, Billings
Billings Police Detective



Rep. Jill Cohenour
HD 84, East Helena
Chemist, State of MT



Sen. Willis Curdy
SD 49, Missoula
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
SD 42, Helena
MFPE-Retired, State of MT



Rep. Greg Frazer
HD 76, Deer Lodge
Corrections Officer



Rep. Connie Keogh
HD 91, Missoula
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



Rep. Jennifer Lynch
HD 73, Butte
Title I Teacher



Rep. Marilyn Marler
HD 90, Missoula
Manager of UM Natural Areas



Rep. Eric Matthews
HD 66, Bozeman
Career & Tech. Ed. Teacher



Sen. Edie McClafferty
SD 38, Butte
Reading Teacher



Sen. Shannon O'Brien
SD 46, Missoula
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



Sen. Andrea Olsen
SD 50, Missoula
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



Rep. Melissa Romano
HD 81, Helena
Instructional Coach



Rep. Mark Thane
HD 99, Missoula
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



Rep. Zooley Zephyr
HD 100, Missoula
MFPE-Retired, UM

When it comes to defending our rights and professions from the House and Senate Floors, no one does it better than MFPE members ourselves. Contact [Amanda Curtis at acurtis@mfpe.org](mailto:acurtis@mfpe.org) if you're interested in running for office!

Scorecard Key

R = Right vote according to MFPE position

W = Wrong vote according to MFPE position

A = Absent

E = Excused

Score = Percentage of Right Votes

Names in Blue = MFPE Member Legislators

Names * = AFL-CIO Member Legislators

Neither absent nor excused votes are included in the total and do not affect legislators' voting records.

House of Representatives

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	CITY	HB 13	HB 226	HB 332	HB 352	HB 393	HB 464	HB 562	HB 562 2Rd	HB 569	HB 774	HB 865	HB 915	SB 121	SB 424	SB 518	% SCORE
BROCKMAN	TONY	R	HD 9	KALISPELL	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	27%
BUTCHER	ED	R	HD 29	WINIFRED	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	27%
DOOLING	JULIE	R	HD 70	TOWNSEND	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	27%
DURAM	NEIL	R	HD 2	EUREKA	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	27%
ETCHART	JODEE	R	HD 48	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	27%
GIST	STEVE	R	HD 25	CASCADE	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	27%
KNUDSEN	CASEY	R	HD 33	MALTA	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	27%
BUTTREY	ED	R	HD 21	GREAT FALLS	A	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	21%
JONES	LLEW	R	HD 18	CONRAD	E	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	21%
BERGSTROM	JAMES	R	HD 30	BUFFALO	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
BREWSTER	LARRY	R	HD 44	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
DEMING	LEE	R	HD 55	LAUREL	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
ESSMANN	SHERRY	R	HD 52	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
FIELDER	PAUL	R	HD 13	THOMPSON FALLS	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
HOPKINS	MIKE	R	HD 92	MISSOULA	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
KASSMIER	JOSH	R	HD 27	FORT BENTON	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
KERNS	SCOT	R	HD 23	GREAT FALLS	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
MERCER	BILL	R	HD 46	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	20%
MINER	RUSS	R	HD 19	GREAT FALLS	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
MOORE	TERRY	R	HD 54	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	20%
OBLANDER	GREG	R	HD 40	SHEPHARD	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
VINTON	SUE	R	HD 56	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
WIRTH	ZACK	R	HD 80	WOLF CREEK	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
ZOLNIKOV	KATIE	R	HD 45	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	20%
HASTINGS	NAARAH	R	HD 50	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✗	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	14%
KMETZ	GREG	R	HD 38	MILES CITY	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	A	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	14%
YAKAWICH	MIKE	R	HD 51	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✓	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	14%
GILLETTE	JANE	R	HD 64	BOZEMAN	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13%
GUNDERSON	STEVE	R	HD 1	LIBBY	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13%
HINKLE	JEDEDIAH	R	HD 67	BELGRADE	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13%
MITCHELL	BRAXTON	R	HD 3	COLUMBIA FALLS	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13%
READ	JOE	R	HD 93	RONAN	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13%
SCHILLINGER	JERRY	R	HD 37	CIRCLE	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13%
NICOL	NELLY	R	HD 53	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	8%
GALLOWAY	STEVEN	R	HD 24	GREAT FALLS	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
PHALEN	BOB	R	HD 36	LINDSAY	✓	✗	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
CARLSON	JENNIFER	R	HD 69	MANHATTAN	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
FALK	TERRY	R	HD 8	KALISPELL	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
HELLEGAARD	LYN	R	HD 97	MISSOULA	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
HINKLE	CALEB	R	HD 68	BELGRADE	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
KEENAN	BOB	R	HD 10	BIGFORK	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
KNUDSEN	RHONDA	R	HD 34	CULBERTSON	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
MARSHALL	RON	R	HD 87	HAMILTON	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
REGIER	MATT	R	HD 4	KALISPELL	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
REGIER	AMY	R	HD 6	KALISPELL	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
SEEKINS-CROWE	KERRI	R	HD 43	BILLINGS	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
SHELDON-GALLOWAY	LOLA	R	HD 22	GREAT FALLS	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
SMITH	TANNER	R	HD 11	LAKESIDE	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	7%
LER	BRANDON	R	HD 35	SAVAGE	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%
NAVE	FIONA	R	HD 57	COLUMBUS	✗	✗	E	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	✗	0%

