

Mission Statement of the Lincoln County Democrats

Lincoln County Democrats are committed to the common good of all and to government that is truly of, by, and for the people.

Platform Items

Affordable Housing

Many residents of Montana are being priced out of home ownership and the home rental market. Families and individuals must be afforded opportunities to live in affordable housing that does not threaten their economic freedom and standard of living.

We support:

- Access to affordable house for families and individuals.
- Public support for affordable housing programs to build or renovate homes for our citizens.

Economic Growth

Lincoln County has an extraordinary number of resources for economic growth and development. Residents need new opportunities for employment. While lumber and mining have been major economic opportunities, clean and renewable energy, and technical jobs should be pursued to enhance the job market. Incentives should be researched to support these opportunities including an emphasis on the abundance of recreational activities to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs.

We support:

- Continued support of lumber and mining as long as the environment and society are protected.
- Encouraging new businesses and entrepreneurs to open opportunities through local incentive programs.
- Expanding employment opportunities by attracting new jobs in areas of technical industries and clean and renewable energy.
- Promoting the abundance of recreation activities to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs.

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Energy and Climate

As we confront global climate change, Lincoln County Democrats believe that we must recognize that clean energy uses will contribute substantially to the reduction in factors contributing to the climate crisis. We must reduce reliance on energy resources that exacerbate the climate crisis by adopting energy conservation, energy efficiency and the development of clean, renewable energy sources. We believe this directive can be accomplished AND still create and provide opportunities for Montana jobs in the new energy economy.

We support:

- Development, promotion, and implementation of Carbon Sequestration processes in our county such as reforestation, organic farming practices, and other carbon capture techniques to contribute what we can locally in reducing CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere.
- Incentives to procure renewable energy businesses provided by Montana entrepreneurs and businesses to the county and provide new high wage, high tech jobs.
- Providing programs to train or retrain workers for renewable energy jobs.
- Exploration and implementation of recycling practices and resource conservation.
- Development of a county wide education program regarding clean energy systems, their uses and the benefits to the local environment, residents and the climate.
- Developing and presenting or distributing materials regarding stewardship of the natural resources of the county and the role they play in the health of the climate.

Good Government

Good government depends on integrity grounded in civil discourse, divergent opinions, and compromise which produce physical and emotional solutions that create a healthy, vibrant and respectful environment for all citizens to thrive.

We support:

- A government that works with individuals to solve mutual problems, balance competing interests, and accomplish common goals.
- Governmental openness and responsiveness to the people.
- Encouraging civic responsibility in policy making and elections at the local, state and federal levels.
- Citizens fully participating in the governmental processes.
- Finding areas of agreement through civil discourse.
- Holding representatives accountable.
- Participating in the federal census process.
- Electing candidates of integrity for public office who embrace the values of the Democratic party and who are committed to the common good of all constituents once they are in office.

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Gun Ownership

Law abiding citizens must be allowed to own and use firearms for sport, personal protection and the pleasure of ownership. With gun ownership comes responsibility. Gun owners who are not responsible should be subject to reasonable firearms control.

We support:

- The constitutional right to bear arms for sport, personal protection and pleasure of ownership.
- Responsible gun ownership.
- Laws to protect citizens from persons who are not responsible because of mental illness or other situations which make the ownership of a gun, a danger to society.
- Background checks to protect citizens from persons who have exhibited a danger to the society.

Health Care

All citizens should have access to affordable health care that encompasses physical and mental health and access to affordable medications.

We support:

- Health care as a human right.
- Any and all efforts to address Montana's growing substance abuse, addictions and suicides.
- Health care that is affordable including costs for physical health care, mental health care, and medications.
- Increased access to mental health care, dental care, and vision.
- Medicaid expansion to cover uninsured children and adults of low-income status.
- Patients' rights to choose their health care provider.
- Patients' rights to keep their personal medical information private.
- Community-based health care programs that encourage preventative care, provide coverage for mental health services and substance abuse disorders that are community based.
- Proactive measures to address an aging population and rural health care.

Public Education

Public Education is the backbone of a democratic society and is the primary catalyst for strong economic fairness and freedom, upward mobility, and quality of life. A strong public educational system prepares children and the general population for the opportunities we face in an ever-changing economy.

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We support:

- The definition of public educational goals, duties, and funding as outlined in the 1972 Montana State Constitution and paraphrased in the subsequent bullet points.
- Adequate public funds for public educational institutions, k-12 to colleges and universities.
- Resisting privatization of public schools.
- Local control of neighborhood schools accountable for meeting high, clear standards for quality, safety, and equality.
- K-12 and higher learning programs that meet our constitutional commitment to preserve the cultural heritage of Montana's Native American.
- Promoting programs which foster employment opportunities, a strong economy and social justice.
- Public curriculum that serves the full range of age groups, abilities and disabilities in learners and responds to a broad range of learner gifts and interests.

Public Lands

Public lands need to remain public lands. They are necessary for the citizens to use for outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing. Montana has spectacular landscapes, clean waters and abundant fish and wildlife which the public should have access as an integral part of our heritage, identity, lifestyle and economy. Public ownership of the fish, wildlife, streams and rivers of our state will benefit our citizens and future generations. This includes the abundance of natural resources on the public lands which contribute to the strong economy needed to sustain families and communities while protecting the clean and healthy environment.

We support:

- Protecting public access already enjoyed on private land when it is sold to a new entity.
- Maintaining easements on private land for public access to public lands. These easements are typically traditional access points on private land to public land areas.
- Appropriate land swaps that support conservation wildlife habitat and public land access.
- Opposing any attempt to sell or give-away these lands to industries, individuals, or other governmental entities.
- Opposing any attempt at top-down decisions to remove protection for our last remaining wild lands.
- Granting access to these lands by our citizens, and millions of visitors to our state, for recreation, hunting, fishing, solitude, and inspiration.
- Promoting public lands as a natural habitat that support a flourishing wildlife population.

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Veterans and Active Military

Our veterans and active military and their families deserve our respect and support for their service and sacrifice. Protecting their rights and benefits is of utmost importance.

We support:

- Medical services which are timely and effective to meet the needs of the veterans and their families.
- Educational services that promote advocacy and inform veterans of their rights and privileges regarding healthcare, mental health programs, disability compensation, housing, employment, job training, education, and small business assistance.
- Social services that help veterans and their families successfully readjust when they return to their communities and workplaces.
- Establishing local advocacy groups to aid veterans with the VA Health Care System, changes in laws, provide clerical and administrative support and propose new legislation to protect veterans' services.
- Programs that address suicide prevention among veterans.
- Vigorous opposition to any proposed reduction in veterans' benefits.