# MEA-MFT VOTING RECORD 2015 LEGISLATURE





# MEA-MFT VOTING RECORD 2015 LEGISLATURE

How did your local legislators do on our issues in the 2015 Montana legislative session? Here's the report card. Below you'll find descriptions of the bills used in the MEA-MFT voting record. Votes begin on page 4.

#### The bills

HB = House Bill SB = Senate Bill

HB 2: Ballance (R-Hamilton)
Short Title: State Budget.
MEA-MFT Position: Support.
Vote Recorded: 1) Failed Early Edge
Amendment House and Senate. 2) As amended to include state employee pay plan.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor with modifications ("line item veto").

HB 13: Kathy Swanson (D-Anaconda) Short Title: State Employee Pay Plan. MEA-MFT Position: Support. Vote Recorded: Failed motion to take off the table House. HB 13 adopted a state employee pay plan. 50 cent hourly increase across the board plus health insurance.

HB 27: Denise Hayman (D-Bozeman)
Short Title: School Funding Bill.
MEA-MFT Position: Support.
Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House

Status: Failed to meet transmittal.



and Senate.

Increases k-12 base aid, entitlements, and payments. Continues appropriations gained in SB 175 that passed last session.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

HB 166: Keith Regier (R-Kalispell)

**Short Title:** Tax Cut.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose.

**Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading Senate, 3rd Reading Senate Amendments

House.



MEA-MFT Secretary-Treasurer Rich Aarstad speaks during a news conference, voicing state employees' dismay after the House Appropriations Committee tabled HB 13, the state pay plan. The pay plan ultimately passed, after weeks of delay and shenanigans. MEA-MFT and our members made it happen.

HB 166 cut \$80 million out of Montana income tax collections. **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor.

HB 314: Carolyn Pease-Lopez (D-Billings)

**Short Title:** Funding for "Schools of

Promise" Initiative.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Support.

**Vote Recorded:** 2nd Reading House. HB 314 funded continuation of Superintendent Denise Juneau's "Schools of Promise."

Status: Failed in the House.

HB 320 Carl Glimm (R-Kila)
Short Title: Allow Guns in Schools.
MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.
Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House.
HB 320 invited students to bring guns to school under certain circumstances and authorized termination of school employees who "interfered" with a student's gun rights in school.

**Status:** Died in the House.

**HB 322:** Don Jones (R-Billings) **Short Title:** Pay Voucher for Students to Attend Private and Religious Schools.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose. **Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading House and Senate.

HB 322 created pay vouchers for certain qualified students to enroll in private and religious elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools. **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor.

HB 377: Debra Lamm (R-Livingston)
Short Title: Repeal the Montana
Common Core Standards.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose. **Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading House. HB 377 limited constitutional authority of the Board of Public Education to consider and adopt school accreditation standards, created accreditation standards review council, repealed



MEA-MFT member Melissa Romano and two of her children at the Capitol, just before Romano testified against HB 377, the bill to kill Montana's Common Core Standards. MEA-MFT helped create a coalition of parents and others called Montanans for Public Education, which worked successfully to get pro-public school parents, educators, and community members to testify and contact legislators on key bills.

Montana's Common Core Standards. **Status:** Tabled in Senate Education.

HB 433: Seth Berglee (R-Joliet)
Short Title: Tuition Tax Credit For
Private School Attendance.
MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading House. HB 433 created an income tax credit for parents enrolling their children in private and religious schools.

**Status:** Tabled in Senate Judiciary.

**HB 462:** Art Wittich (R-Bozeman) **Short Title:** "Right To Work" for Public Employees.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: Failed motion to take from table House.

HB 462 prohibited collectively bargained agency fee/fair share payments for employees of a state agency or school district who choose not to join a union (so-called "rightto-work") and further prohibited state agencies and school districts from making payroll deduction of bargaining unit member dues.

**Status:** Failed to meet transmittal.

**HB 501: Debra Lamm** (R-Livingston) **Short Title:** Limit School District Data Collection.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose. **Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading House. HB 501 prohibited school districts from collecting and sharing education-specific student information and from directing students to participate in statewide testing.

Status: Tabled in Senate Judiciary.

**HB 596:** Austin Knudsen (R-Culbertson)

**Short Title:** Charter Schools. **MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose.

**Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading House. HB 596 created a parallel universe of charter schools in Montana.

(Continued on p. 10)

#### MEA-MFT VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

Status: Tabled in Senate Education.

**HB 598: Matthew Monforton** (R-Bozeman)

**Short Title:** Legislative Referendum to Remove Restriction on Citizens Right to Bear Arms.

MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.

Vote Recorded: 2nd Reading House.
HB 598 proposed a legislative referendum to establish that the right to bear arms may not be restricted unless there is a compelling state interest to do so.

Status: Died in the House.

SB 12: Mary Moe (D-Great Falls)
Short Title: Provide ANB Funding for
Certain Students 19 Years of Age.
MEA-MFT Position: Support.
Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate.
SB 12 allowed school districts to
claim certain 19-year-old students for
state funding.

Status: Tabled in House Education.

Montana Public Education Center MT-PEC Issue Spotlight

The First Annual Analysis of Media Coverage of the Great Work of Montana's Public Schools

January 20, 2015



MEA-MFT is a founding member of the Montana Public Education Center, a coalition that successfully fought for public school issues during the 2015 session through information such as this report and "days of action." **SB 107: Taylor Brown** (R-Huntley) **Short Title:** Expansion of K-12 School Districts.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose.

**Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading Senate and House.

SB 107 authorized Lockwood, East Helena, and Hellgate Elementary, all k-8 elementary districts, to morph into k-12 elementary and high school districts by seceding from their historic high school districts.

Status: Died in the House.

**SB 143: Carey Smith** (R-Billings) **Short Title:** Prohibit the Board of Regents from Adopting Campus Gun Control Policies.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose.

**Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading Senate, 2nd Reading House.

SB 143 directed Montana Board of Regents to permit guns on campus with limited and unworkable exceptions.

Status: Died in the House.

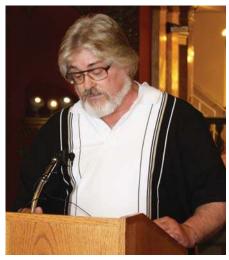
SB 200: Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip)
Short Title: Income Tax Cut.
MEA-MFT Position: Oppose.
Vote Recorded: 3rd Reading Senate and House.

SB 200 cut over \$100 million out of Montana income tax collections. **Status:** Vetoed by the Governor.

**SB 275: Roger Webb** (R-Billings) Short Title: Constitutional Amendment to Elect the Board of Public Education.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose. **Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading Senate and House.

SB 275 proposed a constitutional amendment to elect the Montana Board of Public Education. (Required



Stan Danielson of Antelope, MT, father of a patient at MDC in Boulder, begs the legislature to keep MDC open at a Capitol news conference. "My son is safe there," he says.

2/3 vote, 100 legislators voting YES, to qualify for the ballot.)

**Status:** Failed the Legislature.

**SB 410: Llew Jones** (R-Conrad) **Short Title:** Tax credit for public and private schools.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose. **Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading Conference Committee Senate and House. Creates tax replacement programs to fund public school innovation and private sector student scholarship organizations.

**Status:** Passed the Legislature and went into law without the Governor's signature.

**SB 411: Mary Caferro** (D-Helena) **Short Title:** Closure of Montana Developmental Center.

**MEA-MFT Position:** Oppose. **Vote Recorded:** 3rd Reading House, 3rd Reading House Amendments Senate.

SB 411 closes Montana Development

Center in Boulder.

**Status:** Signed by the Governor.

## Senate Voting Record

R = Right vote according to MEA-MFT positionW = Wrong vote according to MEA-MFT position

MEA-MFT supported

MEA-MFT opposed % of Right votes

<b>У</b> ате	Party	District	City	HB 2 Early Edge	HB 2	HB 27	HB 166	HB 322	SB 12	SB 107	SB 143	SB 200	SB 275	SB 410	SB 411	SB 416	% of Right
ANKNEY, DUANE	R	SD 20	COLSTRIP	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	R	38%
ARNTZEN, ELSIE	R	SD 26	BILLINGS	w	R	R	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	R	23%
BARRETT, DEBBY		SD 36	DILLON	W	w	R	W	w	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	15%
BARRETT, DICK	_	SD 45	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	w	R	929
BLASDEL, MARK		SD 4	KALISPELL	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	239
BRENDEN, JOHN		SD 17	SCOBEY	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	239
BROWN, DEE		SD 2	HUNGRY HORSE	W	W	R	W	w	R	W	W	W	w	W	w	R	239
BROWN, TAYLOR	-	SD 28	HUNTLEY	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	389
BUTTREY, EDWARD	R	SD 11	GREAT FALLS	W	E	R	W	W	R	W	R	w	W	E	w	R	369
CAFERRO, MARY		SD 41	HELENA	R	w	R	R	w	R	W	R	R	R	R	w	R	699
COHENOUR, JILL	-	SD 42	EAST HELENA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	1009
CONNELL, PAT	377117	SD 43	HAMILTON	w	R	R	w	w	R	w	w	w	R	w	w	R	389
DRISCOLL, ROBYN		SD 25	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	1009
FACEY, TOM		SD 50	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	1009
FIELDER, JENNIFER	_	SD 7	THOMPSON	w	W	R	w	W	R	w	w	w	w	w	w	R	239
HAMLETT, BRADLEY	_	SD 15	CASCADE	R	R	R	R	w	R	R	R	R	R	R	w	R	859
HANSEN, KRISTIN	-	SD 14	HAVRE	W	R	R	w	W	w	w	w	w	w	w	w	R	239
HINKLE, JEDEDIAH		SD 32	BOZEMAN	W	W	R	W	w	w	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	159
HOVEN, BRIAN	_	SD 13	GREAT FALLS	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	319
HOWARD, DAVID	R	SD 29	PARK CITY	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	E	W	W	W	R	89
JONES, LLEW		SD 9	CONRAD	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	389
		SD 22	BILLINGS	W	W	R	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	239
KARY, DOUG	-	SD 40	HELENA	R	R	R	R	-	R	R	R		R	R	W	R	929
KAUFMANN, CHRISTINE	-	SD 38	-		-	_	R	R	R	W	_	R		R		R	
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KEENAN, BOB		SD 5	BIGFORK	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	239
LARSEN, CLIFF	D	SD 47	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
MALEK, SUE	_	SD 46	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
MCNALLY, MARY	_	SD 24	BILLINGS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
MOE, MARY	-	SD 12	GREAT FALLS	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
MOORE, ERIC	R	SD 19	MILES CITY	W	R	R	W	W	R	W	W	E	W	W	W	R	339
PHILLIPS, MIKE		SD 31	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
POMNICHOWSKI, JP	D	SD 33	BOZEMAN	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
RIPLEY, RICK	_	SD 10	WOLF CREEK	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	319
ROSENDALE, MATTHEW		SD 18	GLENDIVE	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W		W	W	W	R	239
SALES, SCOTT	-	SD 35	BOZEMAN	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	09
SANDS, DIANE	D	SD 49	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
SESSO, JON	-	SD 37	BUTTE		R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R	R	R	R	1009
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STEWART-PEREGOY, SHAROI	D	SD 21	CROW AGENCY	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	859
SWANDAL, NELS	_	SD 30	WILSALL	W	W	W	W	W		W	W		W	W	W	R	159
TAYLOR, JANNA	R	SD 6	DAYTON	W	W	R	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	R	239
THOMAS, FRED		SD 44	STEVENSVILLE	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	239
TUTVEDT, BRUCE	R	SD 3	KALISPELL	W	R	R	W	W		W	R		R	R	R	R	629
VANCE, GORDON	R	SD 34	BELGRADE	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	09
VINCENT, CHAS	R	SD 1	LIBBY	W	W	R	W	E	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	179
VUCKOVICH, GENE	D	SD 39	ANACONDA	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	R	R	W	R	859
WEBB, ROGER	R	SD 23	BILLINGS	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	159
WHITFORD, LEA	D	SD 8	CUT BANK	R	R	E	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929
WINDY BOY, JONATHAN		SD 16	BOX ELDER	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	E	R	R	W	W	R	679
WOLKEN, CYNTHIA	100	SD 48	MISSOULA	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	R	929

See key committee votes on p. 8.

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### MEA-MFT VOTING RECORD

(Continued)

#### Important committee votes

Not all key votes take place on the floor of the Montana House or Senate. Some bills never even get out of committee. Legislators' committee votes are just as important as floor votes. Below are the committee votes MEA-MFT counted as part of legislators' 2015 report cards:

HB 377 Lamm: Repeal Common Core. Senate Education—Motion to amend and pass.

Wrong: Artnzen, Hansen, Blasdel

**Right:** Keenan, Brown, Facey, Moe, Stewart-Peregoy, Cohenour, Jones

HB 596 Knudsen: Charter schools. Senate Education, motion to concur. Wrong: Arntzen, Blasdel, Hansen, Keenan, Jones

**Right:** Facey, Moe, Stewart-Peregoy, Cohenour, Brown

HB 501 Lamm: Restrict student data collection. Senate Judiciary, motion to concur.

**Wrong:** Fielder, Hansen, Hinkle, Sales

**Right:** Driscoll, Larsen, McNally, Moe, Sands, Kary, Swandal, Vincent

HB 433 Berglee: Tuition tax credit k-12 schools. Senate Judiciary, motion to concur.

**Wrong:** Fielder, Hansen, Hinkle, Kary, Sales, Swandal

**Right:** Driscoll, Larsen, McNally, Moe, Sands, Vincent

HB 511 Tschida: Tuition tax credit k-12 schools. House Tax, do pass motion.

Wrong: Flynn, Hertz, Miller, Olszewski, Randall, Schwaderer, Lavin Right: Williams, Brown Z., Cook, Custer, Dunwell, Jacobson, Lieser, McClafferty, Redfield, Smith B, White, Wilson, Zolnikov

**HB 13 Swanson:** State employee pay plan. House Appropriations, motion to table.

Wrong: Balance, Burnett, Osmundson, Brodehl, Cuffe, Ehli, Glimm, Hagstrom, Holmlund, Jones, Tschida Right: Noonan, Dudik, Ellis, Hollandsworth, McCarthy, Mehlhoff, Peppers, Tropila, Woods



Day after day, week after week, hundreds of MEA-MFT members and other state employees politely stood shoulder to shoulder in Capitol hallways, urging legislators not to forget state employees. Here, from left, Andrew Elford, Tessa Gray, Rachael Milne, and Gene Meegan deliver the message.