

MFPE Legislative Program

As proposed by the MFPE Legislative Committee - December 8, 2018

Public Programs & Services

MFPE supports legislation to:

- Fund the collectively bargained increase in state and university employee base pay and an increase in per diem.
- Adopt more robust longevity and/or cost of living increments.
- Fund full staffing of state and local government services.

MFPE opposes legislation to:

- Privatize state and local government programs and services.
- Limit or deny opportunities for public employees to serve in public office.
- Cap state and local government employee salaries and benefits.
- Unilaterally impose furloughs on state employees.

Union Rights

MFPE opposes legislation to

- Impede the right of public and private sector employees to organize and bargain collectively.
- Prohibit payroll deduction of union dues, dictate periodic union recertification of bargaining unit status, delete exclusive representation, and interfere with union adopted membership resignation periods.

Taxation

MFPE supports legislation to:

- Create and maintain a state tax system that is adequate, equitable, balanced, simple, progressive, and universal.

MFPE opposes legislation to:

- Eliminate property and/or income taxes

Retirement

MFPE supports legislation to:

- Increase state funding of the Montana University System Retirement Plan.
- Actuarially fund Montana's public employee pension systems.

MFPE opposes legislation to:

- Eliminate or truncate public employee defined benefit retirement plans.
- Reduce or eliminate guaranteed annual benefit adjustments (GABA) in public employee pensions.

Health Care

MFPE supports legislation to:

- Expand and fund Medicaid to Montana citizens.
- Create a mandatory statewide school employee health care insurance risk pool.
- Expand access to state health clinics.

MFPE opposes legislation to:

- Close or reduce the number of state health clinics.

Voter Rights

MFPE supports legislation to:

- Require rigorous petition gathering processes of efforts to qualify 3rd parties for general election ballot status.
- Modernize Montana elections, including promoting mail balloting, expanding polling locations, and adopting online and/or automatic voter registration.
- Protect citizens' right to have their mail ballot delivered by another person of their choosing.

MFPE opposes legislation to:

- Deny or impede any eligible Montana citizen's right to register and vote.
- Restrict school district elections to property owners.

Public Lands

MFPE opposes legislation to:

- Transfer federal public property to state or private ownership.
- Restrict or eliminate public access to state and federal land and water.

Minimum Wage

MFPE supports legislation to:

- Raise the Montana minimum wage to \$15 by 2022.

Public Education

MFPE supports legislation to:

- Expand state funded public education opportunities to pre-k and Head Start children.
- Adopt an annualized inflationary increase in state funding of special education.
- Fund the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program.
- Maintain funding of annual stipends for National Board-Certified teachers.
- Qualify classified school employees for unemployment insurance during school year breaks.
- Maintain full state funding of the Montana Digital Academy.
- Mandate compulsory enrollment from age 6 to age 18 or completion of a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Extend ANB for students up to 20 years of age.
- Authorize school districts to utilize a voted or permissive levy to fund school safety issues including employment of Student Resource Officers.

- Make the Montana University System 6-mill levy permanent.
- Expand dual enrollment opportunities across Montana.
- Increase state support to the Montana University system to reduce or eliminate resident student tuition and fees without negatively impacting staff and faculty.

MFPE opposes legislation to:

- Invest public revenues in private and sectarian schools, including charter and home schools.
- Dictate school accreditation and teacher licensure standards, curricula, and methods of instruction.
- Authorize school districts to employ without restriction non-licensed persons as professional educators.
- Repeal Montana teacher tenure.
- Circumvent local school board authority to determine which school employees may carry guns in public schools.
- Mandate PIR content.