**2021 MFPE Legislative Program**

**Public Programs & Services**

MFPE **supports**legislation to

* Fund a collectively bargained state and university employee pay plan that pays 100% of market rate, includes career ladders and location pay, and minimizes employee out-of-pocket health insurance costs.
* Provide public employees with parental leave.
* Fund full staffing of state and local government services.
* Adopt more robust longevity and/or cost of living increments.

MFPE **opposes**legislation to

* Privatize public programs and services.
* Limit or deny opportunities for public employees to serve in public office.
* Cap state employee salaries and/or benefits.
* Further diminish staffing of state and local government services.

**Public Education**

MFPE **supports**legislation to

* Provide state funded public education opportunities to all pre-k school age children.
* Adopt an annualized inflationary increase in state funding of special education.
* Qualify eligible classified school employees for unemployment insurance during school year breaks.
* Fund annual stipends for teachers who earn National Board Certification.
* Provide state funding to help build, maintain, and improve public schools and facilities
* Mandate compulsory enrollment from age 6 to age 18 or completion of high school diploma or equivalent.
* Provide tuition-free education at Montana’s publicly funded 2-year institutions.
* Extend ANB for students up to 20 years of age.
* Make the Montana University System 6-mill levy permanent.
* Direct lottery revenue to fund MUS and tribal college scholarships for Montana high school graduates.

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 non-licensed persons as professional educators.
* Diminish or repeal Montana teacher tenure.
* Circumvent local school board authority to determine who may or may not carry guns in public schools.

**Union Rights**

MFPE **supports** legislation to

* Protect employees' security and safe working conditions in the workplace.

MFPE **opposes**legislation to

* Impede the right of all public and private sector employees to organize and bargain collectively.
* Repeal fair share negotiated provisions and/or exclusive representation.
* Prohibit payroll deduction of union dues.

**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 or income taxes.

**Retirement**

MFPE **supports**legislation to

* Increase state funding of the Montana University System Retirement Plan.

MFPE **opposes**legislation to

* Eliminate or diminish public employee defined benefit retirement plans.
* Reduce or eliminate guaranteed annual benefit adjustments in public employee pensions.

**Health Care**

MFPE supportslegislation to

* Expand Medicaid to all eligible Montana citizens without work requirements.
* Create a mandatory statewide public prek-12 school employee health care insurance risk pool.
* Permit school districts to enroll in the state employee health insurance risk pool,
* Expand access to 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.

MFPE **opposes**legislation to:

* Deny or impede any eligible citizen’s right to register and vote.

**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.