





## A Note From MFPE President Amanda Curtis

**Together, MFPE members held our own throughout the 2025 Legislature.**

We stood together to defend our professions, our paychecks, and our pensions. Undeterred by the political culture warriors trying to pit Montanan against Montanan, we strengthened public services and public schools for every family. Starting now, we will lift up legislators who stood with us and make sure legislators who turned their backs on workers are held accountable. This scorecard—while not comprehensive of all our work at the committee level—reflects each legislators' support for our shared values.



**MFPE President  
Amanda Curtis**

From passing our member-bargained Pay Plan in HB 13 to defeating attempts to bust our rights as union members, MFPE members executed our adopted Legislative Program with grit and grace. This session was the third in a row where thousands of Rapid Response Team members flooded legislators' inboxes and voicemails and text messages. We used our expertise, our public service, and the trust our communities place in us to secure major wins.

On a six degree President's Day and braving the worst roads of the winter, over 500 MFPE members showed up at the Capitol to make it clear that public service is a public good. We rallied and then broke bread with legislators. Together, we stripped the politics out of our conversations and helped legislators focus on families and students.

That President's Day of Action and the day in and day out work of our Rapid Response Team defeated both HB 320's unaccountable voucher scheme and SB 94's attack on our union rights.

There are a lot of lobbyists in the halls of the Capitol, bending ears and buying booze. They cannot compete with the organization and volume we bring. That's how we maintained cities' and counties' authority to control their own budgets and spending decisions. That's how we preserved non-partisan courts and school boards. That's how we kept privatization at bay.

We held the line on Montana's promise of stable pensions and dignified retirement for public employees. Together, we secured bipartisan support to right a wrong made by the 2023 Legislature when the age new

highway patrol troopers and sheriff's deputies could access their retirements was raised. Unfortunately, Governor Gianforte vetoed SB 7. The fight continues to honor the service and sacrifices of MFPE members' in law enforcement.

We also had a not-so-secret weapon in the twenty-two MFPE member legislators serving this session. There is no one better able to speak to our professions and our needs than us. I am so proud of these legislators and am in awe of the fight they brought to the Capitol this year. I know you'll join me in thanking them and I hope you consider joining them by running—regardless of what party you identify with—in 2026.

We're looking ahead. We're looking ahead to bargaining the next Pay Plan. We're going to fight hard to fix our broken school funding formula. And we're going to elect another responsible, fair legislature for 2027. **Let's do this, MFPE!**

## Bill Summaries

**WE WON!** **HB 13 John Fitzpatrick (R-Philipsburg)**  
**Short Title:** State Employee Pay Plan  
**Summary:** MFPE member-negotiated pay plan including pay raise of \$1 per hour or 2.5% (whichever is greater) both years of the biennium, per diem increase, and freeze on single-member health insurance cost. Combined, the 2023 & 2025 Pay Plans add a minimum \$10,400 to full-time wages.  
**MFPE Position:** Support  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House & Senate 3rd Readings  
**Status:** Signed by the governor

**WE WON!** **SB 204 Greg Herz (R-Polson)**  
**Short Title:** Sunset or reapprove existing voter approved property tax levies  
**Summary:** Places a 10 year sunset on all voter-approved levies, potentially ending crucial services in communities across the state. This interferes with local control.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** Senate 3rd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the Senate

**WE WON!** **HB 838 Brandon Ler (R-Savage)**  
**Short Title:** Allow supreme court justices to use partisan affiliation  
**Summary:** Allows supreme court justices to declare party affiliation, inserting partisan politics into our judicial races.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House 2nd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the House

**WE WON!** **HB 646 Brandon Ler (R-Savage)**  
**Short Title:** Elect supreme court by districts  
**Summary:** Upends our Supreme Court elections by removing the statewide vote on candidates and instead electing by district. This limits candidate pools and prioritizes regional over statewide interests.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House 2nd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the House

**WE WON!** **SB 385 Tom McGillvray (R-Billings)**  
**Short Title:** Establish a general claims court  
**Summary:** Creates a new court to handle cases like constitutional challenges to recently passed legislation. Judges would be appointed by the governor, which increases partisan influence on the judiciary.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** Senate 2nd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the Senate



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

## Bill Summaries

**WE WON!** **HB 320 Lee Deming (R-Laurel)**  
**Short Title:** Establish the MT's academic prosperity program for scholars act  
**Summary:** Creates an unaccountable voucher scheme siphoning millions of dollars in scarce resources from public schools. Families already in private schools would benefit the most and the 90% of students in Montana would suffer.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** Senate 3rd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the House

**WE WON!** **SB 299 John Fuller (R-Kalispell)**  
**Short Title:** Revise laws related to enhancing transparency in education  
**Summary:** Increases reporting requirements by teachers. A district employee must report all information regarding educational records; extracurricular projects or activities; physical, emotional or mental health.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** Senate 3rd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the Senate

**WE WON!** **HB 509 Debo Power (D-Polebridge)**  
**Short Title:** Revise the quality educator loan forgiveness program to expand eligibility  
**Summary:** Expands the educator loan forgiveness program to all newly hired teachers with priority given to those in impacted schools.  
**MFPE Position:** Support  
**Vote(s) recorded:** Senate 2nd, House 3rd  
**Status:** Signed by the governor

**WE WON!** **HB 15 David Bedey (R-Hamilton)**  
**Short Title:** Implement K-12 Inflation  
**Summary:** 3% inflationary increase on all components of the school funding formula.  
**MFPE Position:** Support  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House & Senate 3rd Reading  
**Status:** Signed by the governor

**WE LOST** **HB 471 Jedidiah Hinkle (R-Belgrade)**  
**Short Title:** Revise laws related to enhancing transparency in education  
**Summary:** Unconstitutional bill that infringes on Board of Public Education's right to set standards by establishing a new instructional category; opens teachers to discipline actions by the Board of Public Education.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House & Senate 3rd Readings  
**Status:** Signed by the governor

**WE WON!** **HB 927 Lukas Schubert (R-Kalispell)**  
**Short Title:** Generally revise laws related to illegal aliens  
**Summary:** Unconstitutional bill requiring school and other public employees to determine immigration status of students/clients and report to MT Department of Justice. Creates new misdemeanor offense for public employees.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House 2nd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the House

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](https://MFPE.org/Freedom) to join the team!

## Bill Summaries

**WE WON!** **SB 94 John Fuller (R-Kalispell)**  
**Short Title:** Generally revise public sector union laws  
**Summary:** Requires all union business, including safety and labor-management meetings, to be conducted off the clock. Ends the MFPE Educator Conference.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** Senate 2nd Reading  
**Status:** Died in the Senate

**WE WON!** **HB 85 Marta Bertoglio (R-Clancy)**  
**Short Title:** Reinstating former employer contributions for JRS, HPORS, SRS, GWPORS  
**Summary:** Returns to legislatively determined employer pension contributions for law enforcement, restoring stability after the 2023 Legislature opted to have contributions set by outside entities.  
**MFPE Position:** Support  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House & Senate 3rd Reading  
**Status:** Signed by the governor

**WE LOST** **SB 7 Wendy McKamey (R-Great Falls)**  
**Short Title:** Repeal of retirement criteria for HPORS and SRS  
**Summary:** Restores Montana's promise of dignified retirements to law enforcement officers by removing 2023's age 50 retirement requirement for certain law enforcement officers.  
**MFPE Position:** Support  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House & Senate 3rd Reading  
**Status:** Vetoed by the governor

**WE LOST** **HB 400 Braxton Mitchell (R-C. Falls)**  
**Short Title:** Enact the "Free to Speak" act  
**Summary:** Mandates when a teacher or school can and cannot discipline students for engaging in discriminatory behaviors.  
**MFPE Position:** Oppose  
**Vote(s) recorded:** House & Senate 3rd Reading  
**Status:** Signed by the governor

Check the  
status of any  
bill you're  
interested in at  
[bills.legmt.gov](https://bills.legmt.gov)

**DID YOU KNOW** we grew our Protect Montana Team from 5,000 this the end of 2023 to over 13,000 today? This team is made up of non-member allies across Montana who care about workers' rights, public education, public services, and our democracy. They contacted legislators right alongside our MFPE member Rapid Response Team! Head to [MFPE.org/ProtectMontana](https://MFPE.org/ProtectMontana) to join the team.





**MFPE**  
MONTANA FEDERATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

# Thank you, MFPE Member Legislators!



**Rep. Debo Powers**  
Polebridge  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Peter Strand**  
Bozeman  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Eric Tilleman**  
Cascade  
CTE Specialist, OPI



**Rep. Eric Matthews**  
Bozeman  
BEA President



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



**Rep. Denise Baum**  
Billings  
MFPE-Retired, Detective



**Rep. Jill Cohenour**  
East Helena  
Chemist, State of MT



**Sen. Willis Curdy**  
Missoula  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Melody Cunningham**  
Missoula  
MFPE-Retired, Tutor



**Rep. Marilyn Marler**  
Missoula  
MFPE-Retired, UM Staff



**Sen. Sara Novak**  
Anaconda  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Connie Keogh**  
Missoula  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Jennifer Lynch**  
Butte  
Title I Teacher



**Rep. Bob Carter**  
Missoula  
Substitute, Target Range



**Rep. Curtis Schomer**  
Billings  
Mine Safety, Dept. of  
Labor & Industry



**Rep. Melissa Romano**  
Helena  
Instructional Coach



**Rep. Mark Thane**  
Missoula  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Zooezy Zephyr**  
Missoula  
MFPE-Retired, UM Staff



**Sen. Andrea Olsen**  
Missoula  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Denise Joy**  
Billings  
Paraeducator



**Rep. Jamie Isaly**  
Livingston  
MFPE-Retired, Teacher



**Rep. Jane Weber**  
Great Falls  
MFPE-Retired, Cascade Co.

When it comes to defending our rights and professions on 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.

\*\*\*Some legislators took fewer votes than their colleagues which could impact their score. Representative Ron Marshall was replaced by Terry Nelson part way through the session. Senator Kathy Kelker was replaced by Emma Kerr-Carpenter as the session began.