

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2025 SESSION
(MT LEGISLATURE)



BIG SKY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

1

PUBLIC SAFETY

- › **Law enforcement and justice system revisions needed for Yellowstone County** - Examples:
 - Update the Youth Court Act to address felony-level crimes committed by juveniles
 - Enhance theft and dangerous drug laws/penalties
 - Enhance penalties for domestic violence
 - Advocate for more effective management of the State's responsibilities for incarceration of State inmates
 - Support proposals that would distribute the State's parole, probation, and transition services throughout Montana

2

HEALTHCARE

- › **Medicaid Reauthorization** - Continue to demonstrate active support for the expanded Medicaid program (Board Resolution in place)
- › **Graduate Medical Education** - Support the efforts of RVU and others as they seek to secure funding for the start-up costs for new GME programs (residencies)

3

WORKFORCE

- › **Housing** - Monitor and seek to support the legislative proposals coming out of the Housing Task Force Recommendations; State Housing Tax Credit; funding for Housing MT Fund—Affordable Housing RLF
- › **Childcare** - Monitor and seek to support legislative proposals coming out of Zero to Five childcare initiative: including tax credits for families with childcare expenses, and for businesses offering childcare benefits, and financing incentives for childcare businesses
- › **Investment at MSUB and City College** - Support the capital needs at MSUB/City College and the Montana 10 program funding to enhance support services to increase graduation rates
- › **Workforce Training/Education Programs** - Monitor and support work-force related appropriations/programs, including funding for Career and Technical Education

4

BUSINESS CLIMATE

- › **Property Taxes** - Monitor legislative proposals coming out of the Governor's Property Tax Task Force Recommendations; seek to avoid a major shift in tax liability to the private sector (large industrial businesses), and oppose extreme limitations on future voted mill levy funding
- › **Business Equipment Tax** - Monitor and look to support positive changes to the business equipment tax provision; support the elimination of business equipment tax

5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS/RESOURCES

- › **Incentives** - Advocate for changes to the Big Sky Trust Fund/Grow MT programs to funnel dollars to incentivize new private investment and job creation
- › **TIF** - Protect Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as an essential tool for downtown redevelopment and manufacturing/industrial growth via targeted economic development districts
- › **APEX** - Seek State financial support for APEX Accelerator (working through the DOC and others)
- › **Tax Abatements** - Monitor any proposed changes to the tax abatement laws to preserve this tool and retain local control/decision making
- › **Infrastructure Investment Resources** - Advocate for the investment of State dollars in new or expanded infrastructure that directly leads to new private investment and job creation
- › **Trade Port Authority** - Protect the Trade Port Authority (TPA) law as a tool to organize and fund local economic development resources (pay attention to the property tax changes that might impact TPAs)