

U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE COMPARISON - MONTANA

A Nonpartisan Resource for Voters in the 2024 Election

Catholic Social Justice teaches that we have a responsibility to participate in politics out of a concern for and commitment to the common good. We are called to engage with openness and empathy, inform ourselves about the issues of the day, partake in serious conversations about our nation’s future, and **vote**.

Here is where the Montana U.S. Senate candidates stand on the issues.
 We invite you to consider this information prayerfully.

To learn more and make your voting plan, head to networkadvocates.org/be-a-voter.



John Tester
Democrat
Incumbent
jontester.com

Election Day:
Tuesday,
November 5th

Tim Sheehy
Republican
timformt.com



FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET	<p>Yes. <i>As a third-generation farmer</i>, I know firsthand how climate change affects Montana. From <u>wildfires</u> to droughts to floods, we must address this issue." <u>Voted</u> for <u>\$369 billion</u> in climate and clean energy initiatives. <u>Supports</u> multiple energy sources including coal with carbon emission capture.</p>	<p>Environment Should addressing climate change be a top priority?</p>	<p>No. Humans have <u>no "appreciable impact"</u> on global warming. "The climate has always been changing. ... <u>Stand strong</u> against the radical climate cult agenda." <u>Supports</u> "responsibly" developing "all forms of American energy." In 2023 <u>removed</u> climate change references on the website of his aerial firefighting company.</p>
	<p>Increase. <u>Helped craft</u> the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, <u>investing</u> in Montana’s roads, bridges, airports, high-speed internet, & water systems. <u>Secured</u> millions in federal aid to "Montana farmers and ranchers."</p>	<p>Economy Decrease or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?</p>	<p>Decrease. <u>Will "end</u> the out-of-control spending." <u>Montanans "don't want</u> more government in their lives." Calls for <u>less government</u> oversight to "empower... businesses to succeed."</p>
FREEDOM FROM HARM	<p>Mixed. <u>Voted for</u> a bipartisan bill to <u>expand</u> background checks and disarm domestic abusers. <u>Opposes</u> banning assault weapon sales. Led an effort to <u>reverse</u> a Biden administration decision to end federal funding for school shooting sports and hunter safety education.</p>	<p>Gun Laws Loosen or tighten gun regulations?</p>	<p>Loosen. "Our right to keep and <u>bear arms</u> shall not be infringed." "I will <u>never</u> back down from the radical left trying to take away our #2A rights."</p>
	<p>Expand. <u>Sponsored</u> a bill <u>to protect</u> LGBTQ people from discrimination. <u>Voted to recognize</u> same-sex marriages. "<u>We must</u>" <u>fight</u> "for the fundamental rights," including "the civil rights of LGBTQ+" people.</p>	<p>LGBTQ Rights Limit or expand rights for LGBTQ+ people?</p>	<p>Likely limit. "<u>Boys are boys</u>, girls are girls." "Men in girls' sports is <u>insane</u>." "Stop things like <u>drag queen</u> story time from replacing the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance in our classrooms."</p>
	<p><u>Supported</u> funding to hire more officers. <u>The police have</u> "my strong support." The 2020 Republican <u>reform bill</u> did <u>not</u> "address the problems" such as chokeholds. <u>Voted</u> for a bipartisan bill to support rehabilitative programming and fix sentencing laws."</p>	<p>Criminal Justice How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?</p>	<p>"<u>Cops are good</u>, criminals are bad." <u>Opposes</u> "soft-on-crime policies, anti-cop policies, defund the police." <u>Will approve</u> only "pro-law enforcement and pro-rule of law" judges and cabinet members.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">John Tester Democrat <i>Incumbent</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Election Day: Tuesday, November 5th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tim Sheehy Republican</p>
FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY	<p>Increase. Voted for Affordable Care Act. Voted to cap Medicare insulin costs at \$35/month and let Medicare negotiate lower prices from drug companies. "Montanans shouldn't have to choose between Rx drugs and putting food on the table." Expand rural telehealth.</p>	<p>Health Care Increase or decrease government support for health care?</p>	<p>Decrease. "Return healthcare to pure privatization." "More government control of our health care has only made things worse." Says Affordable Care Act caused "higher premiums." Would protect people with pre-existing conditions.</p>
FREEDOM TO LIVE IN A WELCOMING COUNTRY	<p>Mixed: Voted for 2023-2024 bipartisan Senate border security bill to tighten asylum laws and hire more border guards. Said Biden's border policies had "failed." Supports DACA; "breaking a promise to these children... is not the solution."</p>	<p>Immigration Defend the right to asylum and support a path to citizenship for DACA participants brought to the U.S. as children?</p>	<p>Opposes: Called the 2024 bipartisan border security bill "political theater." Would ax the Department of Homeland Security. "Secure our border, finish the wall, and... end... illegal immigration." No DACA position found.</p>
FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY	<p>Easier. Voting should be "accessible to everybody." Opposed eliminating same-day voter registration. Sponsored a bill expanding voter registration and voting access.</p>	<p>Voting Rights Make voting harder or easier?</p>	<p>No position found.</p>
FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES	<p>Easier. Sponsored the PRO Act protecting employees' rights to organize and collectively bargain. "Hardworking Montanans deserve the respect to negotiate directly with the company that is calling the shots."</p>	<p>Labor Make it easier or harder for unions to organize?</p>	<p>No position found.</p>
	<p>Yes. In 2021: "the minimum wage needs to come up." Start with "10, 11 buck an hour as a base level" and "extend it out a ways before it hits the \$15 figure." "We have just got to be careful, so we don't put our small businesses in a bad situation."</p>	<p>Minimum Wage Raise federal minimum from \$7.25/hour?</p>	<p>No position found.</p>
	<p>Mixed. Voted against Biden's student loan forgiveness plan. Taxpayers shouldn't have to "cover the tab." In 2013 voted to lower student loan interest rates.</p>	<p>Student Financial Aid Support lowering interest on student loans and/or forgiving them?</p>	<p>No. Supported the Supreme Court's decision striking down Biden's proposal to forgive some student loan debts: "Take a loan, pay it back." No position found on interest rates.</p>
	<p>Raise. Supported a 15% minimum corporate tax. Opposed the 2017 Trump tax bill that cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy. No "tax giveaway to the wealthy."</p>	<p>Taxes Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?</p>	<p>Lower. Pledged not to raise any income taxes. The "Trump tax cuts," that included the largest corporate cuts in US history and tax cuts for the wealthy, should "stay in place."</p>