

## Government/Politics

27 June 2018 - U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's visit to Montana brought news that the federal government was paying its full share of money to local governments help offset their property taxes losses because there's federal lands within their jurisdictions.

26 June 2018 - U.S. Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines both say their chamber's version of the Farm Bill is good news for Montana farmers and ranchers and their hopeful a bill will pass the U.S. Senate this week.

25 June 2018 - Numerous speakers – including one of the President's sons - targeted Democratic U.S. Senator Jon Tester at a Republican event Friday night in Billings. Donald Trump Jr. told the crowd Tester and the Democrat's party platform have fallen out of step with Montanans. He alleged they support illegal immigration, sanctuary cities and legislation against the 2nd amendment.

19 June 2018 - House Minority Leader Jenny Eck of Helena is the latest legislator to withdraw her name from November's general election ballot. Late last week, State Representative Jon Knokey told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle he also will withdraw his name from the November ballot.

8 June 2018 - Voters who were hoping to get a break from politics now that the Montana primary ended this week may be disappointed to learn Tuesday's balloting was actually the "starting gun" for the November general election.

6 June 2018 – Analysis piece: Experience and money headlined yesterday's outcome in Montana's primary election. Montana State University Political Scientist David Parker has this analysis of both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate contested primaries.

6 June 2018 - The Associated Press declared Kathleen Williams of Bozeman the winner of Montana's U.S. House primary just before 4 a.m. Unofficial returns showed the former Bozeman lawmaker leading Billings attorney John Heenan by 33-to-32% in the crowded Democratic field.

6 June 2018 - Matt Rosendale emerged as the victor in Montana's Republican U.S. Senate primary after an early see-saw battle with former state District Judge Russ Fagg. Early unofficial returns showed Rosendale garnered 33% of the votes to Fagg's 29%.

23 May 2018 - The charge 'campaigning on the taxpayer's dime' is a perennial issue elected officials confront. This time, U.S. Senate Candidate Russ Fagg has been hammering his primary election opponent Matt Rosendale for doing that and alleging he's using a "slush" fund to mix official and campaign business.

YPR did some digging into those charges, as well as what may be the long term impact on our democratic institutions.

22 May 2018 - U.S. House candidate Kathleen Williams had been prepared to deliver her regular stump speech in Billings Friday night, but the Democrat discarded it to speak out on the latest school shooting.

22 May 2018 - U.S. Senator Jon Tester is looking to the Senate to pick up work on the Farm Bill now that the House failed to pass its version. The U.S. House's bill died last Friday because the GOP majority couldn't agree on immigration.

21 May 2018 - U.S. Senator Jon Tester said he looks forward to the pending Senate confirmation hearing for the nominee to head the Veterans Administration. The ranking Democrat on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee said he has a good working relationship with the man who is currently the acting secretary.

16 May 2018 - U.S. Senator Steve Daines is among a group of just over a dozen of Republican colleagues asking their Majority leader to continue working through the traditional August recess. Democratic U.S. Senator Jon Tester said he also didn't have a problem staying in August.

14 May 2018 - A recent television ad that featured images of what appeared to be tattooed, gun toting Mexican gang members was pulled from U.S. Senate Candidate Russ Fagg's YouTube channel last week.

YPR and the Montana Human Rights Network both have received comments from people concerned about that ad. Rachel Carroll Rivas, co-director of the Montana Human Rights network, was asked to discuss whether the ad fit the definition of racist.

9 May 2018 - U.S. House candidate John Heenan held his first town hall meeting and said elected officials shouldn't hide from the people back home. It's a reference to those who have criticized the Republican members of Montana's Congressional delegation for holding tele-town halls but not face-to-face.

9 May 2018 - Four Montana Republicans are running in June 5, 2018 primary election for a chance to unseat incumbent Democrat U.S. Sen. Jon Tester in the November 6, 2018 general election. [The Montana Free Press](#) surveyed the five candidates to see where they stand on 10 key issues. The candidates were asked to respond in 50 words or less to each question. Below are their responses, edited only for length and style.

9 May 2018 - Five Montana Democrats are running in the June 5, 2018 Primary Election for a chance to unseat first-term incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte in the November 6, 2018 General Election. [The Montana Free Press](#) surveyed the five candidates to see where they stand on 10 key issues. The candidates were asked to respond in 50 words or less to each question. Below are their responses, edited only for length and style.

9 May 2018 - Absentee ballots for Montana's primary election are set to go out in the mail May 11, 2018. Voters are busy people and may not remember the positions of the candidates running in the contested U.S. Senate and U.S. House.

John Adams - founder, editor, and investigative reporter, of [The Montana Free Press](#) - has a primer to help.

8 May 2018 - The ominous music, the tattooed men and guns are the elements in one campaign ad for U.S. Senate candidate Russ Fagg. But is it negative? That's a tricky question, said Montana State University political scientist David Parker.

7 May 2018 - The Republican campaign circuit included numerous party dinners in communities large and small across Montana. U.S. Senate candidate Russ Fagg of Billings is among the candidates who's been criss-crossing the state – by pickup or airplane - for the 2018 election.

5/18 Billings Police Officers- talked with Blngs City Council about the situation with BPD, the officers suspended for sex on duty, mood of the council members and their constituents.(govt)

5/22 Victim Services Funding- MT County Atty Assoc wants the legislature to increase funding for crime victims program, making convicted criminals pay more and taxpayers less (govt)

## Environment

20 June 2018 - Mining supporters officially launched their campaign today in Butte to fight a proposed ballot initiative that would add regulations for all new and future metal mines.

4 June 2018 - *Editor's note: A group named in the complaint responded to YPR's request for comment Monday night. This story was updated to reflect the emailed response.* The group promoting a tobacco tax increase filed a [complaint](#) today with Montana's [Commissioner of Political Practices](#) that alleged opponents of their proposed ballot initiative are engaged in illegal campaign activities.

1 June 2018 - The future of Colstrip was one of the topics at the Montana Energy Summit convened yesterday by U.S. Senator Steve Daines.

Ralph Alexander, the President and CEO of [Talen Energy](#), said Colstrip as the 5th largest generator of power in the country is an important asset in their fleet in terms of megawatts. Most that power from Colstrip is exported to the Pacific Northwest.

1 June 2018 - The continuation of fossil fuel energy development was in the spotlight at a day-long Montana Energy Summit in Billings organized by Montana Senator Steve Daines.

Wyoming Senator John Barrasso, chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, told the nearly 500 attendees the United States needs an “all of the above” energy policy.

## Healthcare

19 June 2018 - House Minority Leader Jenny Eck of Helena is the latest legislator to withdraw her name from November's general election ballot. Late last week, State Representative Jon Knokey told the Bozeman Daily Chronicle he also will withdraw his name from the November ballot.

14 June 2018 - *Editor's note: state Disistrict Judge James Reynolds issued a temporary restraining order on June 13, 2018 ordering the state to pay the Medicaid Reimbursement rate in effect before January 1, 2018.* The Montana Health Care Association and some of its members filed suit today in state District Court in Helena to stop state cuts to their Medicaid reimbursement rate.

13 June 2018 - Montana officials have kicked their work into high gear now that federal funding is finally available to help build the long-delayed southwest Montana Veterans Home and deadlines are looming. About two-thirds of the cost comes from the federal government and nearly remaining third from the state of Montana. Butte-Silver Bow and a private donation make up the rest.

30 May 2018 - The Northern Cheyenne tribe and St. Vincent Healthcare are partners in a new program that changes the way pregnant women, suffering from addiction, are treated. Instead of being greeted with blame and punishment these women are being met with support services.

30 April 2018 - Violent crime in Montana is up almost 35% through 2016 from its low in 2010 according to the FBI. And that figure is much higher in Billings. Law enforcement officials say methamphetamine is behind that uptick.

27 April 2018 - Ending the drug crisis is a top priority, said U.S. Attorney General Jeff Session. He told a gathering in Billings the directive comes from the President.

19 April 2018 - Governor Steve Bullock is touring Montana to listen to providers about the health and economic impacts of the state's Medicaid Expansion program, also known as the HELP Act. It's set to expire at the end of next year unless the 2019 Montana Legislature acts.

13 April 2018 - There were general agreements on issue positions related to public lands and health care among the 6 candidates seeing the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House during their debate last night in Billings. But some of the candidates also took the opportunity to stand out from the crowded field as Democratic voters have to decide which one to advance to take on the Republican incumbent.

## Education

1 May 2018 - Students from Laurel Public Schools and community members spent nearly half an hour this morning talking with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. The interaction is part of a NASA program to inspire the next generation of astronauts, engineers, and others who will support space exploration.

26 April 2018 - Men and women gathered at Montana State University Billings Thursday to take part in a participatory art event where people pour [red sand](#) into the cracks of sidewalks. It's a visual reminder not to let the victims of human trafficking fall through the cracks of society. Even in Billings.

10 April 2018 - Some Montana college students aren't content to sit on the political sidelines. Instead they are joining political party groups, registering voters and organizing and sponsoring debates.

5/30-City College Ultrasound program- City College at MSUB starting new program to fill the need for "sonographers" in MT healthcare.(edu.)

## Sustainability

27 June 2018 - U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced the agency is turning its attention to investing in infrastructure, especially in the national parks. Zinke said during a brief stop in Billings, Interior has spent a lot of time on energy development, including renewables, and now it's time to change focus.

6 April 2018 - Former U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson says the coal industry isn't dead. He says it's in transition and there needs to be a plan. Part of that plan may be forming a coalition with renewable energy producers.

5 April 2018 - A Westmoreland Coal Company says its 3 Montana coal mines are profitable despite its current financial crunch and the company is working to keep its mines open.