

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

November 15, 2024

Fellow Montanans and Honorable Members of the Sixty-Ninth Montana Legislature,

I'm proud to present to you our Path to Security and Prosperity, our pro-jobs, pro-family, pro-growth budget for the State of Montana for the next biennium. This budget builds upon previous, successful collaboration with legislators, and focuses on shoring up the strong foundation of a prosperous society: economic freedom, safe communities, and strong families.

With inflation from federal policies creating a nationwide affordability crisis, our budget proposes to help Montanans keep more of what they earn with the biggest income tax cut in state history, \$850 million in permanent tax relief for Montanans at every income level. After working alongside legislators to cut taxes in 2021 and 2023, we propose cutting the income tax rate most Montanans pay to 4.9%, down from 6.9% in 2021.

Our focus, however, is not solely on income tax relief. Knowing property taxes are too high, we propose a homestead rate cut that projects to cut property taxes by 15% for Montana homeowners for their primary residence and by 18% for Montana small businesses.

Our budget promotes public safety, backs the blue, and keeps criminals off our streets. Working with the Attorney General, we boost pay for Montana Highway Patrol troopers by \$7 million and ensure they have the tools they need to get the job done. To further support law enforcement, to fix overcrowding in our prison and jails, and to resolve thousands of unserved warrants, we invest \$150 million to build two new pods for 500 beds at the state prison as well as \$250 million to develop and execute a long-term plan to put away violent criminals.

Finally, our Path to Security and Prosperity builds on many of our previous shared successes to secure Montana's future – from investing directly in our classrooms, to providing reliable infrastructure, to implementing pro-housing reforms. Our conservative budget is fiscally responsible, keeps spending under inflation, and has a strong, sound ending fund balance.

Serving you is the honor of my life, and I look forward to all we'll accomplish together in 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte".

Greg Gianforte
Governor