

WELCOME TO MONTANA

The Big Sky Country has room for your free spirit to grow as high as the mountains, as wide as the prairie, as deep as the wide mountain valleys, and as strong as our headwaters of both the Columbia and the Missouri Rivers.

The question you are really being asked to vote on is: Which state is most amenable to the Jeffersonian concepts of independence, limited government, and personal liberty? **If personal freedom is the primary objective, no other state comes close to Montana.** The raw individualism and spirit of liberty of the men and women that settled and tamed Montana (somewhat) are still a living entity here.

With or without the Free State Project, Montana will continue to capture the very best of America's liberty-loving people. Our cities and rural countryside have room for personal freedom to flourish. We welcome those who want to relocate in our land simply because they can live under our vast arch of blue sky. Montana's Big Sky stretches well over 600 miles, from the rolling prairies of Medicine Rocks and Little Beaver Creek, south of the Missouri Breaks, up over the northern Rockies to the northwest's lush, silent, dripping cedar forests and the peach orchards of the Kootenai. **This is a huge land, a land that is guaranteed to break your heart**, to melt down what you think you know about yourself and recast your spirit into something bigger than words can say.

To be a Montanan isn't as easy as just showing up here and getting a driver's license. To be a Montanan means to be accepted by other Montanans, and that is an honor. For most Montanans, **the Code of the West is still alive: Honesty, courage, loyalty, generosity, and fairness.** We're an eccentric collection of humanity here. Old-time cowboys, hard rock miners and high country loggers coexist (mostly) peacefully alongside pink punk hairdos, yuppie pot heads and internet home business entrepreneurs. What the Old West and the New West have in common are a deep belief in independence and self reliance (95% report family gun ownership), rugged individualism, hospitality and western style ambiance. A deeper resonance (although also divisive) is our love of the land.

Montana's isolation has caused the state to be more self-sufficient than most. As cultural centers, Montana's 23 campuses are teeming with activity. Sporting events, lectures, galleries, theater productions, festivals, concerts, rodeos and celebrations keep things interesting all year. We have a private television network, canning factories, railroads, truck farming regions, about 50 independent telephone companies, refineries and steel factories, hydroelectric power plants, etc. **Montana is set up to survive with or without the rest of America.**

About 10% of Montana's population is American Indian. The primary tribes (those with national homelands) are: Atsina (Gros Ventre), Chippewa, Blackfeet, Crow, Cree, Dakota, Assiniboine, Northern Cheyenne, Salish, and Kootenai. All of the states tribes have declared sovereignty from Montana and are fiercely independent (they acknowledge no Montana laws and few federal). Many non-Indians also prefer to live on Indian land (12% of Montana's area) because of this almost total lack of restrictive rules, taxes, regulation, etc.

We have 147,046 square miles (16 times the size of our little sister New Hampshire) of beautiful mountains and open space, and only 902,195 liberty loving citizens. We are larger than the combined area of 10 North-Atlantic States, yet have only 2% of the combined population of those states. The ratio of urban to rural dwellers in Montana is nearly 50/50, and our urban population is growing. The state grew 13% between 1990 and 2000. We're self-sufficient in food and other natural resources (although you won't find many oranges growing here). Existing state laws already have great respect for freedom, liberty and privacy. Of course we can improve! **Vote Montana #1!** Let's roll back property and income taxes, instigate common grand juries, put some teeth back into the recall laws, elect a Supreme Court more respectful of Montanans' right to change our constitution, and fully inform our juries.

There's a reason we call Montana "The Last Best Place." It isn't crowded here, and we don't want it to get that way. So plan on moving here *if* you can respect us for what we are, and are as willing to be changed, inside out, as you're keen to change our great state.

Dare to ask, not what can you do to Montana, but what can Montana do to you?

More info? Go to <http://www.freestateproject.org/statereports.htm> or search listed links. Or call 1-866-LIVE-FREE.

To speak with a Montanan about moving to the Big Sky Country, call the following individuals:

Quincy OrHai and Rae OrHai (citizens, goat ranchers and liberty activists) Bozeman 406-586-7926

Representative Joe Balyeat (State Legislator , Libertarian / Republican) Bozeman 406-586-1838

Senator Jerry O'Neil (State Legislator, Libertarian / Republican; Sec. MT Libertarian Party) Kalispell 406-892-7602

Gary Marbut (President Montana Shooting Sports Association) Missoula 406-549-1252

Why Choose Montana for the Free State Project? Check out these facts:

Making Government Work - When it comes to Real Representation, MONTANA has:

- Only one Congressional Representative. Adding even 10,000 people will cause us to get another Congressional District in 2010, when we should be ready to run a candidate in a NO INCUMBENT race for the U.S. House of Representatives
- Many libertarian Republicans are currently serving in state government, in both the House and the Senate.
- Citizen initiatives and referenda for creating or removing laws, officeholder recall, and constitutional amendments.
- Term limits, currently leaving nine seats open for quickly electing freedom lovers into office.

Small is Beautiful - When it comes to Government, MONTANA has:

- Incentive for local governments to disband entirely, as some have done. Incorporated towns receive no state money, while unincorporated ones do.
- Senate and House districts that are compact and population-based to simplify and ease campaigning.
- Several very low-population counties (under 5000 people), for those wanting to influence a county first.
- Only 50 state Senators and 100 state Representatives, so we can easily have a real influence at the statehouse.

To Serve and Protect - When it comes to Law Enforcement, Only MONTANA has:

- Few cops. Law enforcement jurisdictions are highly restricted with a very light law enforcement presence.
- Home search standards required to search a vehicle.
- No vehicle safety or emissions inspections program.

Montana, a Sovereign State. When it comes to Independence, in MONTANA:

- Federal law enforcement must cooperate with locals.
- Montanans responded to government road closures by simply reopening federal forest roads.
- Montana neither ratified nor took part in Prohibition.

Concerning Property Rights, MONTANA:

- Has banned federal purchase of state lands.
- Has few building permit / building code / zoning laws.
- State law requires a majority vote of the landowners for a rural area to be zoned or annexed into a town.

Upholding the 2nd Amendment. MONTANA:

- Has exempted our citizens from the Federal Gun Free School Zones Act, showing a will to defy the feds.
- Does not require a concealed carry permit in 99.6% of the state. A gun in a backpack or a lady's purse is not considered concealed, and needs no permit.
- Always allows a concealed weapon inside your vehicle.
- Where 95% of homes contain firearms, with 27 being an average number of guns per household!
- Where you cannot be held criminally or civilly liable for a crime committed with a gun stolen from you.

Few Taxes - Reducing the Pain. MONTANA:

- Has no state sales tax.
- Our highest bracket income tax just fell from 11% to 6.9%, while capital gains taxes fell from 11% to 4.9%.
- Has low property taxes and a "Tax Me More" fund.
- Vehicle registration fees decline as your car ages.

A Good Place for Business. In MONTANA:

- Gambling is legal as a small business.
- Any business owner who has the \$250 fee can get a beer and wine license. No other restrictions.
- The legislature just abolished the minimum wage for home health care workers... unanimously.
- There are three major transcontinental fiber-optic cables providing great rural high speed internet access.

Lived Freedom and Personal Responsibility. MONTANA has:

- One of the best homeschooling laws. No hassles, testing or parental educational requirements.
- No obscenity laws, or first amendment restrictions.
- No open container laws and few anti-nudity laws.
- Protection of publicly intoxicated persons from arrest unless actively endangering themselves or others.
- Little enforcement of polygamy or prostitution laws. In fact, Butte had an established brothel that stayed in business until 1982. Today, it's a unique tourist museum.
- Fifteen year old drivers.
- No motorcycle helmet law for adults.

Truly The Last Best Place. MONTANA:

- Is commonly perceived by Americans as a highly desirable place to live, with many authors, film makers, and cultural trend setters calling the Big Sky State home.
- Has world class outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Has our own railroads, & even some passenger service.
- Can be self-sufficient as a major food exporter.
- Is a net energy exporter. Lots of gas and oil and coal. We encourage independent energy use by individuals.
- Has a long, porous international border.
- Has a population of only 900,000 people: big enough to have large towns for those who like them, small enough to provide plenty of rural area for those who need that
- Decentralized population – state politics not dominated by one urban area
- Is bordered on 3 sides by other FSP candidate states (ID, WY, SD, and ND.) To the north are the most freedom-oriented Canadian provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia). These friendly neighbors mean room to expand into a huge Free Region.

**Join us soon in the Land of the Free,
~ MONTANA ~**