

Questions for Missoula City Council Candidates

Ryan Morton, Candidate Ward 1

1. Are you a Democrat? Yes.
2. Are you seeking Missoula County Democrats' endorsement, why? Will you be seeking any other political party endorsement this election? *I am seeking no endorsements as the elections are meant to be non-partisan.*
3. What have you done in the past to support or work for Democratic candidates, local, state, or national? *Voted and donated money.*
4. How much or little do you agree with the following statement? **Stewardship—acting now to maximize the well-being of future generations—is the primary responsibility of government and the lens through which policy making in areas as diverse as energy, transportation, education, health care, human rights and taxation should be focused.** *I agree with the statement but would add that stewardship involves maximizing the well-being of this generation as well as future generations. Eyes to the future help put things into perspective but do not necessarily provide for current needs. I would further add that business development is an important focus area to provide people with income, benefits, and the ability to contribute their ingenuity and creativity to the social sphere.*
5. The Central Committee recently ratified the enclosed document, written by Missoula Democrats, that states our shared values. How will your work in local government reflect those values? *From the local level, I will promote green*

construction and development with the use of incentives not mandates. I will work to restructure the sewer utility to provide financially attainable and environmentally sound service. I will also work to restructure the self-insurance program to include a public insurance option for Missoula residents. I will not vote for taxing districts without a concurrent hold or reduction on general property taxes.

6. With respect to the issues caucus document, which positions (if any) on local, national or international issues do you disagree with? Why? *I don't agree with mandating local building codes as we do not have the expertise to do so. Further, the market is transitioning on its own through education and certification of green builders. The state will eventually be able to adopt green construction standards across the board without adversely affecting the construction industry. I don't agree with funding transportation options that are not used. In particular, transit services do not serve adequate numbers to justify the expense and fuel used to run. If the buses switched to biodiesel, I'd be more comfortable running empty buses.*
7. What should government's role be in managing growth? *Managing growth is a misnomer. Government does not produce growth only shapes and limits it. Government should shape construction in a manner that conforms with the natural and built environment. As an example, I'd prefer to see less sprawl but am worried that the sewer infrastructure is not ready for the more intense urban development. In terms of limiting growth, government should balance the needs of people, the environment, business, and government. Limits should not be*

placed on ideology alone. Context is key to making the right decision on land use.

8. What should local government do to facilitate Missoulian's consuming less energy? *Local government should lead by example: build green, rehab green, and provide incentives for private green development. Local government should also complete its trail system and allow light commercial in more residential neighborhoods.*
9. Discuss how you would balance expanding road capacity and adding transit or bike-ped options when making transportation policy. *I would promote complete streets generally. I would be happy to promote trail connections fairly through subdivision and with public dollars. I do not believe the ridership for transit justifies adding transit at this time. If behavior of Missoulians change to warrant an increase of funding, I would support funding added transit.*