



## 2023 Legislative Agenda Priorities for the Discover Kalispell Chamber of Commerce

- **Tort Reform** – Reducing the volume and associated costs of civil litigation in the judicial system.
  - Public Nuisance Law – Oilfield, Climate Change, Environmental and plastic clean up, E-cigarettes/vape products
  - Product Liability Reform – Allow comparative fault defense. Expands product misuse defense. Creates 10-year statute of repose. Creates insurers rather defense from sellers that sell the product unchanged from the manufacturer. (Proposed)
  - Third Party Bad Faith Reform – Creates a duty for an insured or third party claimant to cooperate with insurer investigating/adjusting a claim. Creates affirmative defense when claimant or insured breaches duty to cooperate. (S104)
  - Time Limited Demand Reforms – Requires that time limited settlement demand letters reasonably describe the claim, include relevant records and allow for 60-day acceptance. (S104)
  - Third Party Litigation Financing Reform – Requires third party litigation financing to register with Banking Division. Sets TRF interest rates. Limits recovery to no more than 40%. Requires annual reporting.
- **Ballot Measure Reform** – Strengthens transparency and reporting requirements for ballot measures, making them similar to candidate requirements. Clarifies that legislative interim committees review constitutional initiatives the same as statutory initiatives. Sets a \$1,000 fee for filing ballot measures. Streamlines timelines for agency reviews. Prohibits electronic signatures. (C16)
- **Taxation** – We believe in efficient and cost-conscious limited government.
  - Support increasing the business equipment tax exemption from \$500 to \$1million.
  - Support long-term tax reform which may include income tax and property tax relief.
  - Support the statewide tourism industry by opposing attempts to redirect or redistribute the Lodging Facility Use Tax which supports communities, tourism jobs, historical preservation and parks.
- **Economic Development** – We believe Government should establish policies that provide incentives to foster a competitive business environment to increase growth and development opportunities. Fostering the growth of family wage jobs is vital.
  - We support the expansion of the Montana Trades Education Credit for employers to send their employees to learn a trade.
  - We support Tax Increment Financing as a tool for local community development.