

Missoula Municipal Elections 2025 - Candidate Questionnaire

Western Montana Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

Candidate Name: **Kristen Jordan**

Ward/Mayor: **Ward 6 City Councilor**

1. Why are you running?

Because government should be a social safety net for people in the USA. And, because representation matters. My job on city council has been and will continue to be to ensure that the voters have a voice- that they know I work for them and not for a party or for city staff or for my council colleagues.

2. What concerns do you have for Missoula?

- **Overarching, my concerns have to do with ensuring Missoula is providing a social safety net with taxpayer dollars wherever we can.**
- **I am concerned with ensuring older neighborhoods, or newly annexed neighborhoods, get the infrastructure that other neighborhoods enjoy, such as a connected sidewalk system, lighting, and traffic calming circles- using the concept of Neighborways to install low cost, highly effective infrastructure to start.**
- **MRA- Currently runs through taxation without representation. They receive over \$22 million dollars in locally assessed tax dollars, however the board of the MRA is mayoral appointed and the MRA's budget on specific projects does not come before council, like all of the other departments. They need accountability through oversight by elected officials.**
- **Budget oversight- we have to ensure our city budget is transparent and accountable. This can be done through program efficiency metrics that then lead to priority based budgeting. While I cannot do this alone, the narrative is changing related to adopting these policies and there is support for it going forward. I will not vote for a city budget until I have all of the information I need related to program effectiveness.**
- **Addressing climate collapse through green infrastructure- stormwater treatment specific to Missoula's rapid infiltration rates due to the sedimentation layers over our single source aquifer. I'd like to build interest in the creation of rain gardens, rain barrels, native plantings, building behaviours related to addressing non-point source pollution like stormwater runoff. I'd like to see more funding for our tree program, building up our canopy cover to reduce urban heat sinks, the use of alternative products for sidewalks, and the use of permeable pavers wherever possible.**
- **Representation- we work for you, not city staff or the mayor or special interest groups! I want to increase the amount of resident lead**

referrals/proclamations/ordinance changes because voters know what they want and are tired of the city spoon feeding them ideas as though they are the only options!

- **Criminal Legal System-** Continue to push for full funding of the Mobile Support Team and an officer lead deflection program, ensuring accountability but not a lifelong sentence for crimes related to poverty, addiction, or mental health.

Do you see issues that need immediate attention?

Yes- MRA oversight and a metrics based budget that leads to priority based budgeting. Tax payers are hurting right now and while there's not a lot we can do locally because of state laws taking away local control, we should be doing everything we can to lower the tax burden locally.

3. Do you identify as a democratic socialist or do you support democratic socialist policy ideas?
Yes.

Though, I do not support defunding the police, but rather reforms that make policing more fair and transparent. I have had to call the police in moments where my safety has been compromised and I am always glad to have them show up. But there is a lot of work that needs to be done and I am working with our police chief to implement a new program that will help deflect people from the system- I am really excited about it!

What do you think about capitalism as a way to run society? What do you think about socialism as a way to run society?

I saw a meme about this that sums up how I feel about this and now I cannot find it. It was something to the effect of- Capitalism makes a few people can be super rich, but socialism means some folks can be rich, but no one is poor.

4. Who are your 5 largest contributors?

1. **Zooey Zephyr- my friend**
2. **Bernadetta Bailey – my neighbor**
3. **Crystal Lake – my neighbor**
4. **Rebecca Reber – my sister**
5. **Carrie Gibadlo – my neighbor**

5. Are you campaigning, or planning to campaign, door-to-door?

Yes, I am kicking off my door-to-door efforts in July. Definitely campaigning- working to organize a fundraising party with Zooey Zephyr.

By the US Bureau of Labor Statistics estimate for May 2024, Missoula County has about 33,000 workers who make \$45,000 a year or less. How will you have the City address the problem of half of Missoula workers making less than a living wage?

That's a tough one because as a city councilor, I don't have a lot of control over wages. What I can do is continue to raise the issue/matter whenever it's relevant, specifically that a living wage in Montana includes health insurance and at least \$35/hr.

7. Do you support the right of public employees to organize into unions and to collectively bargain?

YES! DEFINITELY!!!

How would you strengthen this right for all workers across Missoula?

Vote yes on city collective bargaining agreements, vote yes on any initiative at the state level that supports collective bargaining, and vote for folks who state that collective bargaining is important. There isn't a lot I can do at the council level, but I can certainly ensure there's a conversation about it whenever relevant.

8. Best value contracting is a way for government bodies to bid out contract work that just doesn't always go to the lowest price bidder. This method can consider whether a contractor pays a living wage, provides apprenticeship opportunities, is a good citizen, etc. Do you support the City adopting a "best value contracting" bidding process?

I do! We have seen time and again that going with the lowest bid doesn't always pay. I agree with "best value contracting".

9. Would you support a City-funded or City-backed effort to provide better quality affordable childcare for working families?

YES! The city just let a developer out if it's agreement to provide a low cost childcare space because it ended up being too expensive for the developer. This made me very frustrated. The developer is making max dollars on land they got from the city, without upholding their obligation that they signed on to when getting the land from the city. We should not have let this happen.

Government should provide a social safety net for residents and this includes child care.

10. Do you consider safe and affordable housing a human right?

Yes!

How would you address Missoula's affordable housing crisis?

- **Where we actually have the leverage? Ensure that ANY LAND we sell always has a permanently affordable housing plan attached to it. ALWAYS!**
- **Get rid of the "Design Excellence" development requirement. The requirements built in immediately mean that the building will not be used for affordability and this is something the city has created and has the control to change.**
- **Find multiple ways to fund the AHTE. Letting developers buy their way out of green space on their proposals, where that money goes to the AHTE, is not the right idea. In a way, it's robbing Peter to pay Paul. Everyone deserves greenspace in or near their residence.**
- **Mandate that the MRA spend a certain portion of their funding on affordable housing and better infrastructure in poorer areas of Missoula.**

How would you improve upon the City's approach to the unhoused?

Not lie about how good 12.60 is and that is a perfect balance between compassion and business.

Do you support the city funding more shelter spaces for people experiencing houselessness?

Yes

Would you support an ordinance establishing rent control?

If it were in our jurisdiction, yes, with caveats that utilities/fees are not inflated to compensate for the cap. This is currently a state level issue that council has no control over. However, I just successfully got a resolution against AI rent control software through council so we can do proclamations/resolutions to assert our values over fair rental practices.

11. The climate crisis is an existential threat to our communities and to the world. How would you improve upon the City's efforts to reduce or eliminate Missoula's carbon emissions?

I support the city's efforts so far. The mayor put trees and green stormwater infrastructure as budget priorities, and it's been far too long that these types of "infrastructure" have had any budget let alone conversations related to implementation.

What will you do to counter both the natural and man-made effects of Climate Change?

I support the Zero by 50 plan and appreciate the heat study the county is doing. I think green stormwater infrastructure is where it's at, at the moment. We need to be thinking more seriously about the single source aquifer we live on where the soil on top of it has an incredibly fast filtration rate AND it can be less than 15 feet below the surface. I would love to see us make a move to own our own grid.

12. Do you support a city-wide ban on styrofoam and single-use plastics?

Yes!

13. How do you view municipalization of the power grid or publicly owned power?

It would be ideal. We could then charge running costs only and protect ourselves from the capitalization of utilities that is also making life unaffordable for folks. It would also pair well with a rent cap because we would know that utility costs wouldn't be artificially inflated to "compensate".

13. What would you like to see added or taken out of the city budget?

Before taking or adding, I would like to see a comprehensive application of program metrics so we can see what is working and what isn't working. I would then like to use this data to make budget amendments. Off the top of my head, I have my eyes on the homeless team because all they do is outsource, not provide frontline services. I would like to see these positions reallocated to homeless outreach, social workers, and a data manager.

14. Do you support reallocating some police and jail resources to meet the basic needs of Missoulians?

Yes.

Do you support more effective crime prevention measures than are currently practiced?

Yes.

Should the Missoula City Police and other law enforcement and courts share their resources and information with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement)?

HELL NO!

Do you support decriminalizing entheogens (psychoactive substances) in Missoula?

Yes.

15. Would you change how tax increment funding (TIF) is practiced in Missoula?

Yes.

If yes, how so?

Require that they have representation from elected officials. And, have them bring their projects before city council for approval to make sure the will of the voters is reflected in their funding proposals.

16. The Montana Legislature has highly restricted local governments from taxing its own citizens and legislating on issues of community concern, even if a majority of citizens agree to it. How do you think the City should address this?

17.

I do not agree and I think we need to implement the will of our voters, like the gas tax, and put out the single use plastic bag ban onto the ballot. If we vote it in and it's not egregious, then I think the state should stay out of what Missoula wants.

17. Would you vote for a resolution condemning the genocide by Israel in Gaza?

Yes.

18. What would you like to see changed at city council to increase public participation?

- **Move public comment for items not on the agenda to the beginning of the meeting again. Folks no longer come in at the numbers they used to because they have to wait until the end of the meeting, which can be any time.**
- **Ensure we can search our emails that come to us through the new form, because right now I cannot do a search for "angry about deer" or "comment on ward 6" or whatever I may remember from the email to find it again for proper followup.**
- **Publish agendas more in advance for both committees and Monday night meetings, so folks can organize and/or make sure they can clear their schedule to provide comment.**

19. Would you like a public endorsement by the Western Montana Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America?

Yes, thank you.

Thank you for your reply to this questionnaire. We ask that you complete this **by Sunday June 29. Please email completed questionnaires to electoral@westernmtdsa.org.** After we receive the completed questionnaire, we will arrange to do a 30-minute interview with you in person or online between June 30 through July 11. We will make our endorsement decisions on **Saturday July 12.**

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mark at electoral@westernmtdsa.org or (406) 207-1884 cell/text