

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

OF

MONTANA STATE GRANGE

**Established by Delegates from Subordinate and Pomona
Granges to Annual Sessions of Montana State Grange**

(Rev. 10/2025)

Objectives and Policies
of
Montana State Grange

Objectives:

1. Preservation and strengthening of the family-owned and operated farm unit.
2. The conservation and most efficient use of our basic water, soil, forest, mineral and wildlife resources.
3. Attainment by farm families of a level of income from investment, management, labor and risk comparable to that received in other segments of the society.
4. Opportunity for farmers to produce and market with a minimum of government restriction or control.

Recommended Action:

1. Expansion of cooperative programs by producers designed to reduce operating costs and improve marketing and distribution methods.
2. Expansion of domestic and foreign markets through commercial channels.
3. Maintenance of strong soil and water conservation programs on watersheds, farm and grazing lands.
4. Establishment and administration of federal farm programs on a commodity by commodity basis.
5. Continued support of Conservation Districts system.
6. Greater research on effects of pesticides and fertilizers before banning of any use.
7. Opposition of government condemnation of farm lands for recreational purposes.
8. Continuation of range improvement study and programs.
9. Legislation to provide low interest financing for young farmers.
10. Keep productive agricultural land for production by requiring roads and utility corridors be placed on other than agriculture land, where feasible.
11. Favor a system by which landowners are fairly reimbursed

for initial discomfort caused by disruption and destruction of crops on their property and that they receive a just return on a yearly basis for the reduced yield from land taken out of production by transmission lines.

12. Support sound efforts of government agencies and private groups to develop means of protecting our agricultural land base, taking into consideration the goals as expressed by the State Grange in 1974.
 - a. Assure an adequate amount of productive land to enable farm people to continue to feed the nation.
 - b. Protect game habitat when it is an essential land use.
 - c. Insure that the individual who owns the agricultural land when the zoning goes into effect is compensated for the difference between the price of agricultural land and the price of land if used for other purposes.
 - d. In case of private land sale being restricted because more intensive development would have adverse effect on game habitat, the individual owning the land at the time of the zoning goes into effect shall receive compensation for his loss of land value.

These compensations shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- i. That the land must have been used entirely for agricultural crop production or for grazing and timber production.
 - ii. The owner must prove the possibility of a legitimate sale at the higher price to justify compensation.
 - iii. Compensation shall be adjusted to allow for a higher compensation for a longer term of ownership prior to zoning.
13. Foreign buyers to pay cash on delivery. The Federal Government must share the responsibility in protecting the nation's fiscal and financial assets in giving away agriculture products.
14. Support for State and Federal funds be made available for recreational share of storage on small watershed projects.
15. Oppose any action of labor unions or others in stopping grain sales to foreign countries (embargoes).
16. Agriculture use for water be given first precedent after domestic use on development of water projects and that agriculture be represented by the State Water Advisory Council.
17. Grange work actively with other farm organizations to protect agriculture rights to and supplies of water.
18. Commitment of more State funds to weed control research, increased Federal funds for control on Federal lands, Federal and State lands be included in any mandatory control areas, A.S.C. matching funds for weed control

operators.

19. The same sanitation and inspection requirements imposed on domestic foods be applied to all imported foodstuffs. Boned and packaged meat and live animals must be included in the import quotas.
20. State Grange opposes any effort to do away with the livestock board.
21. State Grange goes on record as favoring state funding for weed control.

AGRICULTURE

1. Requests individual(s) be appointed/added to the Water Plan Advisory Council from Western Montana where extensive agricultural irrigation water is relevant.
2. Montana State Grange and the National Grange work closely with the other farm organizations to make sure the antitrust laws are being enforced.
3. That these entities, city, county state, and federal government, institute a more unified program for weed control.
4. Montana State Grange join the agricultural coalition seeking to make it lawful for farmers, ranchers and others to protect their property from predators, including endangered species.
5. Montana State Grange use its influence to stop any legislation that would require posting of all agriculture land before and after spraying of pesticides or herbicides.
6. Montana State Grange support and continue to encourage passage of Legislation in the Montana State Legislature to address a serious public hazard, the wolf hybrid. (2019)
7. Montana State Grange support curtailing the inequities that result from the present type of log exports.
8. The USDA and FDA impose the same or greater inspection requirements to be met by imported meats as the U.S. requires of domestic meats.
9. Support all legislative levels to require the establishment of firm guidelines by the Department of Interior, National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park, for the management of the bison and elk grazing within or migrating out of the Park. This management tool should completely control the spread of brucellosis and high risk of undulant fever in humans which could be contracted from the animals they may come in contact with while visiting Yellowstone. Further, that if winter sports, including snow machines, are allowed to continue to be used in the Park;; that the National Park Service must develop a controlled system to control numbers of animals (bison & elk) that are allowed to graze in the Park. This problem should not be solved by putting the financial burden on Montana tax payers alone. Yellowstone National Park is a National resource.
10. Support that state inspected meats be allowed to cross state lines for the purpose of sale.

11. Supports legislation that would provide a grandfather clause for agricultural entities that are forced to close or move due to complaints due to noise, odors, vehicular congestion, etc. by private homeowners, school districts/boards, or conservancies, if the agricultural entity has been in operation prior to urban development.
12. Supports the implementation of a vigorous education program aimed primarily at ranchers, farmers, and otherwise uses of bailing twine and its impact on osprey. (2022)
13. Encourages volunteer organizations such as the Grange, Elks, Military Service Assemblies, Wild Life Federation and other Rod & Gun Clubs to participate in search and recovery programs for osprey. (2022)
14. Encourages users of bailing twine to use existing recycling centers designated drop off points to dispose of used bailing twine. (2022)
15. Encourages the utilization of Public Television and other community outlets to educate the public on minimizing discarded twine. (2022)

EDUCATION

1. Election of county and state school superintendents on a non-partisan ticket.
2. Adequate conservation education in all Montana elementary and secondary schools; required teacher training in resource conservation.
3. Increased teaching of American History in Montana schools. (2023)
4. Expanded aids in the determination of special abilities and in vocational guidance.
5. A practical plan of state insurance for public schools.
6. More vocational training in Montana schools.
7. Protection of earmarked state revenues for education.
8. Use of nonsectarian prayers in public schools.
9. Continued vigilance to prevent centralized control of education.
10. Support legislation that will:
 - a. Increase the foundation program to reflect average per pupil cost at the present time and thus reduce the amount required from district property taxes above the foundation program.
 - b. Provide a permanent trust account from part of the coal tax with the investment earnings to be used for school support similar to the interest and income fund.
11. Support of continuation of all units of present University System.
12. Support WAMI, WICHE, and the Veterinary School at M.S.U.
13. Support the State legislature to provide the funding for added school services.
14. Grange take the lead urging local schools to incorporate a short course in sign language in public schools, including adult education.

15. Support consumer education of hazardous material in household furnishings and require manufacturer's labeling of same.
16. Favor legislation to require instructions on over the counter medicine that would be readable without the use of a magnifying glass.
17. Support foreign language studies to be implemented immediately to encourage understanding, developing inter-nation trade, and developing inter-nation speech translation or understanding.
18. Support that foreign language be incorporated in our education curriculum beginning in elementary grades and that a second language be a high school graduating requirement.
(10/25)
19. Strongly supports Vocational Agriculture, FFA Education and maintenance of the funding to make this program effective enough to strengthen the economy in the State of Montana.
20. Supports legislation which will provide the State Board of Education the legal authority to adopt and enforce requirements for those home teaching and also set curriculum guidelines and testing for home school.
21. Montana State Grange supports legislation to prohibit strikes by school teachers, administrators, and employees during the school terms.
22. Montana State Grange vigorously opposes the Supreme Court ruling that it is a right of free speech or expression to burn or otherwise desecrate our flag.
23. Montana State Grange urges the Montana State Board of Regents and the Presidents of the University Systems to reduce spending of tax dollars in the athletic and other non-academic programs and to make more efficient use of financial resources already available to promote better education.
24. Go on record seeking legislation mandating English as the official language of the United States.
25. Supports legislation that would place more stringent guidelines for advancing students in order to retain a higher standard of learning.
26. Reaffirm that Montana State Grange support Agriculture Education and Vocational Education classes in high schools.
27. Montana State Grange reaffirm amending the accreditation standards of 1992 to read:
 - a. That high schools could offer foreign language in a shared time environment or by telecommunications;
 - b. That the two-principal requirement for grade school enrollment be raised from 551 to 700 students or larger.
 - c. That they force grade schools to abide by the top limit of 20 students for K-2 grades.
28. Support efforts of the legislature, school boards, and all other involved to establish funding based on student need rather than income level.
29. Support drug and alcohol testing be required of all

- school personnel prior to employment, and unscheduled testing upon probable cause. The same testing be given students and repeated as is necessary with expenses being borne by their parents or guardians.
30. Supports putting respect back in the classroom and make available help for applied learning programs.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Health Policies:

1. Opposes compulsory mass medication and fluoridation of public water supplies.
2. Supports continuation of small nursing homes.
3. Favors severe equal punishment nationwide for all found to be in possession of dangerous drugs.
4. Protests any cut in disability benefits of service connected disabilities of U.S. Military Veterans.

Highways and Transportation:

1. A greatly increased Montana Highway Patrol force.
2. Severe penalties for drunken driving mandatory and laws strictly enforced without exception.
3. Maintenance and policing of oiled secondary roads by the State Highway Department.
4. Making driver improvement course mandatory as a part of the penalty for traffic violations.
5. Giving local residents more say as to location of highways.
6. No diversion of Highway Trust Funds.
7. Driver education in all high schools where feasible.
8. Urges state and federal legislation that will result in continued and improved railroad service and rolling stock condition.
9. Favors legislation requiring careful planning and zoning of all rural lands with building permits being required for construction of all buildings within a county.
10. Promote local and county control of subdivisions and land use.
11. Supports legislation that would provide owners of land adjoining railroad right of ways, first priority to purchase this land to return it to productivity and taxable revenue.
12. Supports legislation that requires the installation of cameras on school buses. (2016)
13. Supports legislation for temporary reduced speed limits during roadside litter cleanup. (2017)

Public Welfare & Services:

1. Food stamp re-evaluation of benefits unless recipients are on welfare so that they should benefit only those most deserving help.
2. Opposes closure of third and fourth class post offices.
3. More efficient postal department.

4. Support legislation making it mandatory that all deliveries of mail and newspapers be made on the right side of the roadway with flow of traffic.
5. Improve the delivery of first class mail.
6. Supports legislative or congressional plans of work for benefits received by physically able welfare recipients; possibly CCC concept.
7. Supports legislation by State and Federal governments to correct abuse of taxpayer funds for criminal appeals of convicted persons in local and higher courts.
8. Supports penalties for littering to be community service cleanup of littering wherever possible.
9. Supports continuation of the Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H programs as an entity of Montana State University.
10. Supports equal priority for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Human Resources, Community Development, and 4-H programs.
11. Supports that the Federal Government compensate to anyone suffering losses from Endangered Species, at the rate of 100% market value.
12. Favors a Catastrophic Health Care Plan for all ages whether recipient is eligible for Social Security or not, that would provide a more realistic coverage and that the cost of such a catastrophic health care plan would be more equally borne by the taxpayer.
13. The FBI and all State and local law enforcement units be called on to investigate incidents of tree and trail spiking and of destruction of logging equipment on Federal and State lands, and that those apprehended destroying property be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
14. Montana State Grange work for the development of a coordinated plan of alternative fuel manufacture by the countries on the North American continent, namely USA, Canada and Mexico.
15. Urges and supports efforts to research and develop all sources of alternative energy. (2024)
16. Montana State Grange support insurance reform that will make health insurance more affordable and portable but not mandatory, and that Montana State Grange support tort reform and caps on lawsuits, and oppose health care reform that encourages mandated coverage or loss of freedom of choice of medical provider or facility.
17. Oppose legislation to privatize maintenance work on highways & streets.

LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENT

Taxation:

1. Support the revision of our entire taxation system in Montana, for the purpose of easing the unfair burden on property owners and developing a correlated, integrated and equitable system.

2. Equalization of property taxes through statewide reclassification and reevaluation of real property.
3. Continue exemption from taxation of patronage dividends of farm cooperatives which clearly are not income to the cooperative but refunds or dividends subject to tax in the hands of patrons.
 - a. Payment of patrons only of income taxes on cash savings returned by cooperatives, withholding and payment by the cooperative of individual income taxes on allocated savings not paid in cash.
4. To provide additional state funds, when clearly needed, we recommend:
 - a. effort to get escaped property on the tax rolls;
 - b. revisions to secure more equitable taxation of intangible property;
5. Opposition to a general sales tax.
6. Opposition to a severance tax on timber.
7. Sale of fuel for non-highway use without collect of a tax.
8. Use of weight-distance type tax for highway funds based on vehicle classification.
9. No reduction in federal taxes without reduction in spending.
10. National Forest receipts payments for roads and schools should be based on gross receipts as originally.
11. Continued exemptions of agricultural lands from city annexation.
12. Opposition to allotting state income tax receipts to cities and towns.
13. State one mill tax on property to be used for water studies and project construction.
14. Publishing names of delinquent taxpayers.
15. Requires that all tax exempt property be publicly listed each year. (Refer to Code 84-202 Exempt from Taxation)
16. Favors payment in lieu of taxes by Federal Government to counties on those lands within an Indian Reservation, equivalent to the amount of taxes if land were privately owned.
17. Only property of religious organizations eligible for tax exemptions shall be church building itself.
18. Favors legislation abolishing the practice of collecting unemployment tax from non-profit organizations.
19. Supports legislation to eliminate or reduce estate tax.
20. Montana State Grange oppose any tax other than income tax on the money ranchers receive for leasing their land to outfitters or charging hunters permission fees.
21. Opposes the classifying and subsequent taxation of wells since wells and septic systems are of an intrinsic value to that property on which they are located.
22. Supports action to reduce the amount of pensions for ex-congressman and funds for former Presidents.
23. Approves Constitutional Initiative that would give the legislature authority by a 2/3 vote of each House to set dollar limits on damages for economic loss resulting from bodily injury.

24. Urges and supports a substantial increase in State and Federal appropriations for the Department of Social Rehabilitation Services for the purpose of enlarging the In-Home Services program.
25. Montana State Grange favors:
 - a. Elimination of the need of posting a bond for \$5000.00 or less payroll annually;
 - b. An annual premium payable in advance on the applicable percentage rate of a \$5000.00 payroll;
 - c. Elimination of the \$125 minimum premium.
26. Montana State Grange opposes:
 - a. Closure of Warm Springs State Institutions. (2024)
 - b. Any drastic change in grazing fees.
 - c. The use of Highway Trust Fund Money for non-highway projects.
 - d. (d) Any increase in Federal motor fuel tax unless it goes directly into the Highway Trust Fund.
 - e. (e) The use of the Public trust Doctrine without legal recourse and/or compensation to owner/owners involved.
27. Supports legislation requiring mud flaps be required on all vehicles with more than a twelve inch rear bumper clearance.
28. Opposes any increases in hunting and fishing fees for all Montana hunters and fisherman.
29. Supports that no Social Security payments be taxed. (2024)
30. Supports Montana State Highway Department design and rebuild if necessary, primary and secondary roads to allow maximum public safety.
31. Supports legislation whereby incarcerated person be put to work on public work projects that are short funded or not funded at all.
32. Supports correctional wellness programs.
33. Supports the adoption of the American Association of Neurological Surgeon Guidelines by the State of Montana.
34. Supports no deviation from the laws in regard to the initiative process by Montana State Legislature.
35. Supports Montana State legislature to correct the discrepancy between timber owner taxation rate and land owner taxation rate.
36. Supports the standardization that all gas/fuel pumps are operated the same.
37. Supports protection of individuals' right to privacy and legislative measures enacted to assure the same.
38. Supports raising the tax exemption for farms and small businesses to \$5,000,000.
39. Favor State's rights to set its own coal and mineral tax.

Water and Power:

1. Montana State Grange urges vigorous action by the State to protect the rights of its citizens to waters arising or flowing through Montana and of private water rights under recreational developments.

2. Urges federal legislation to protect state and individual water rights from federal preemption.
3. Favors hydroelectric power development in relations to actual need, with development by private enterprise when possible.
4. Supports lieu-tax payments when projects remove private property from tax rolls.
5. Favors use of upstream small dams over major river dams for flood control and water storage to create sustained delivery.
6. Favors a one mill statewide levy for water studies and project construction.
7. Favors assessment of partial costs of water development projects of recreational uses.
8. Favors strict enforcement of adequate regulations governing household, industrial, nuclear and other wastes to prevent water pollution or other hazards to human health.
9. Favors Dredge and Fill legislation reinstating the traditional restriction of dredge and fill operations of the United States Corps of Engineers to navigable waters.
10. Opposes growing federal control of State waters and supports strengthening authority of State and citizens to manage, protect and use our water.
11. Supports policies directed at protecting established water rights for irrigation and other beneficial uses, and urge legislation of the following:
 - a. that any loss or diminution of existing water rights that may result from the exercise of a federal reserved right should be compensated by the federal government;
 - b. that additional means of financing water development for agricultural use should be developed to permit fair competition with industry which can afford to pay higher charges for water use;
 - c. that the Grange support acceleration of State and Federal programs of small headwater reservoirs or diversions for agricultural use.
12. Supports Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks effort to buy an easement to protect timber harvest, wildlife and grazing' historical use of Thompson River against subdivision.
13. Supports all public & individual efforts to protect, preserve and enhance water quality. Encourages appropriate local, state and federal government agencies to consider the value of water quality monitoring and programs to protect and enhance water quality, of both surface and ground sources.
14. Oppose the passage of the "Conservation and Reinvestment Act".
15. Supports enforcement of new regulations of fire prevention for private landowners in forested areas.

Land Use:

1. Montana State Grange opposes any infringements upon National parks, National monuments, or present wilderness areas by commercial use or water development.
2. Favors land exchanges to improve management of checkerboard ownership areas.
3. Favors income to the State from leasing of state-owned lands be based on full market values.
4. Urges revision of liability and trespass laws to give landowners greater protection against damage suits.
5. Favors expansion of the State Park system.
6. Planning and zoning - recommend:
 - a. inclusion of a farmer on city-county planning boards;
 - b. maximum limits on levies for planning;
 - c. specific mileage limits under city-county planning;
 - d. standardization in existing and new legislation of definition and acreage limits of subdivision;
 - e. amendment of existing subdivision laws to require developers rather than purchasers to submit information on water supply and sewage disposal;
 - f. rural building permits be established for location purposes only;
7. Supports enactment of a site permit system to regulate the location of commercial and industrial enterprises which will have an impact on environmental quality, adjacent land values and human health.
8. Urges protection of the right of landowners to deny or regulate public use of their lands.
9. Supports conservation easement legislation tailored to Montana's conditions and problems.
10. Urges administration or legislative action to provide that maximum time allowed for studies be three years and for congressional action two years; and if action is not completed within these periods, the Study Area shall revert to multiple use.
11. Favors development of state energy resources only in a gradual, well-planned and well-regulated manner after ample consideration of impact on local communities.
12. Supports existing reclamation law and tax on coal.
13. Opposes the purchase and ownership of U.S. farmland by any foreign government and/or foreign citizen, friend or foe. (2023)

Environment and Recreation:

1. Montana State Grange favors assistance in park financing by users.
2. Favors use of returnable containers for beverages.
3. Establishment and funding of conservation education in schools.
4. Support efforts of Flathead residents, State and Federal Governments to secure agreements with mining companies, Government of British Columbia and Canada that will provide maximum control if any pollution threat arises from mining operations.

5. Supports and encourages increased production in Montana of ethanol and methane fuels and supports proposals for federal loans and incentive payments aimed at the development of energy from non-fossil fuels.

Forestry:

1. Montana State Grange opposes compulsory supervision of privately owned forest lands by any public agency.
2. Favors direct appropriations for the construction and maintenance of timber access roads in National forests.
3. Favors use of 10% of National Forest receipts for wildlife management, recreational development, and reforestation on National Forest lands within the State where such receipts are derived. Recommends continued research by the Montana Experiment Station in forest genetics and timber harvest practices.
4. Urges recognition of multiple-use forest values.
5. Favors federal legislation to impose reciprocal tariff on imported forest products, set quotas, and require identification of origin.
6. Favors restrictions on clear-cutting to lessen detrimental effects.
7. Encourages private timber management.
8. Favors cost share for timber improvement, observing multiple use concept, 500 acres limitation placed on cost share payments opposes compulsory forest management.
9. Supports Extension Forester.
10. Supports the Forest Service be able to truly manage our timber and rangelands unhampered by political agendas and frivolous lawsuits. Further support that those who halt such proposed management activities post substantial bonds and be liable for damages in a court of law.

Wildlife:

1. Montana State Grange seeks to promote more healthy farmer-sportsman relations and agreements.
2. Approves the research and game management programs and adult education programs of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.
3. Opposes proposals for the election of members of the Fish and Game Commission.
4. Favors continuation of rodent control programs and appropriation of state matching funds.
5. Recommends that at least two (2) members of the Fish and Game Commission be ranchers or owners of land having substantial wildlife values.

Conservation:

1. Montana State Grange urges the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Grazing Service to jointly review cases where present

- allotments may be creating a hazard to wildlife population.
2. Opposes any decisions which effectively deprive the owner of valuable water rights without due process.
 3. Seeks to have prescribed burning delayed until weather is such that escape of fires is minimized.
 4. Supports and works for feasible programs that would further the processing of Montana's raw materials within the State.
 5. Supports that if sustained stream flow is necessary that it be provided from storage facilities that impound water during high water run in spring of the year and that the money to finance such facilities be collected from the sector of the public that is demanding sustained stream flow.
 6. Endorses and supports a Conservation Corps for improving, building, restoring, and maintaining conservation areas not covered by present work forces at age 16 to 25 years of age.
 7. Favors funding the operation of both federal and state tree nurseries at a level that will make possible increased production of seedlings.
 8. Favors the establishment of policies providing for lessened waste of and increased planting of trees on National, State and private lands.
 9. Urges the Forest Service to establish and maintain a policy which will permit selected timber stands to reach old growth, and to administer them and existing stands on a sustaining yield basis.
 10. Support every effort be made to promote biological weed research and urge Congress to provide more funding for wildlife management, water and soil protection, weed control and recreation needs.
 11. No timber sales protest can be made without the person(s) making the protest, putting up a five thousand (\$5000) bond, returnable only after the review demands have been carried out.
 12. Supports legislative action to provide that if a landowner is successful against a suit claiming violation of land use regulations, he shall recover all costs relating to the case from the District.
 13. Strongly urges those timber owners and loggers that may be lax in conforming to purposes of the voluntary Best Management Practices Act, better control and supervise their operations, avoiding a compulsory Forest Practices Act.
 14. Urges the Forest Service to continue its present practice of making firewood available to the public.
 15. Encourages the Forest Service to re-evaluate the design standards for logging roads that will be obliterated or closed, to minimize the cost of the road while providing a safe traveled way for the required contract traffic.
 16. Actively supports the groups seeking to protect the water needs of agriculture in Montana.
 17. Opposes attempts to force Forest Service administrators to meet politically established and unrealistic timber sale

volumes.

18. Supports the provision of increased funding of the Soil Conservation Service by Congress, and increased funding of Conservation Districts by states.
19. Supports the cooperation of Conservation District with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Sanitarian's Office and Army Corp of Engineers and that the local Conservation District will be informed of, and sanction, all actions under the Montana Streambed and Land Preservation Act.
20. Supports Communities United for Northwest Fish and Water in restoring fishery through best science and technology instead of removing dams.

Other General Policies:

1. Favors giving all forms of transportation equal opportunity to serve their patrons in the most efficient manner.
2. Supports amendment of the United States Constitution to permit apportionment of the Senate without regard to population.
3. Favors election of State Representative for four year terms.
4. Urges easing the ruling against employment of more than one member of a family by a single federal agency.
5. Supports enactment of a revised Montana probate code.
6. Opposes the elimination of public voting on proposed bond issues and annexation of property into city limits.
7. Asks revision of bankruptcy laws to lessen abuses.
8. Recommends that names of juvenile law violators be made public.
9. Favors bi-annual sessions of legislature.
10. Supports amending OSHA regulations to more appropriately fit small business and agriculture.
11. Supports OSHA regulations as they pertain to agriculture, be reviewed by panel of farm oriented people.
12. Supports no-fault insurance to eliminate legal liability under \$2,000.
13. Supports stricter court enforcement of laws pertaining to criminal actions.
14. Supports SCS Supervisors develop district erosion and sediment control programs.
15. Opposes gun control.
16. Favors the Sunset law of reviewing State and Federal agencies every five years to justify their existence.
17. Opposes government agencies granting public easements over private lands or forcing management plans upon landowners without their consent.
18. Opposes any action that would weaken the Capper-Volstead Act or deny rights of farmer cooperatives to determine eligibility of membership in their own cooperatives.
19. Works for more stringent enforcement of our criminal laws, demand restitution to the wronged for damages, demand

- more severe fines and/or compulsory imprisonment for habitual criminals.
20. Urges that each nursing home be inspected at least once each year without advance notice by Bureau of Licensing and Certification.
 21. Opposes Regional Commissions.
 22. That the National Grange support allowing the National Youth Director to add one (1) additional member so that each region can be represented on the National Youth Team.
 23. Support Young Couple and Youth Ambassadors travel to National Grange as set forth by resolution passed at the 1995 State Session.
 24. Support the nomination of Young Adult couples by Subordinate Granges to participate in the Young Couples in Agriculture Conference.
 25. Supports the elimination of Daylight Savings Time in the State of Montana. (2016)
 26. Supports efforts that bring finished agricultural goods directly to the consumers. (2017)
 27. Encourages all eligible voters to exercise their Constitutional right to vote for the candidate of their choice. (2022)
 28. Supports term limits in any political office of no more than two terms. (2023)

MT STATE GRANGE SPECIFIC POLICIES

1. Funds from the Silent Auction Baskets/Items sold at the State Session for the Program Department Fundraiser that are NOT designated for a specific Department will be split equally between the following State Departments: Lecturer, Community Service, Grange Activities, Juniors, and Young Adults (Youth).
2. Junior Grange Coloring Contest Guidelines: (2023)
 1. The Subordinate Granges will judge the Coloring Contest entries in each respective Grange (not at the Pomona level).
 2. The top 5 entries in each class (5 entries per class level, total of 25 entries) are to be sent to the State Junior Grange Director for judging at the State level. The class levels are:
 - C1 preschool
 - C2 kindergarten
 - C3 grade 1
 - C4 grade 2
 - C5 grade 3
 - C6 grades 4 and 5
 - C7 grades 6, 7, and 8
3. Home school children will be judged in the "class" that corresponds to their grade level.
4. It is suggested that the Subordinate Granges present the top five (5) entries in each class a small token award.

5. The Junior Grange Director will set a deadline in the 1st quarter of the year for submittal of entries. Entries received after the set date will not be considered for judging.