THE MT GOP WORKS FOR YOU!

I believe in the following GOP Principles:

1. Montana should have closed primaries.
2. Elections should be transparent and fair.
3. The MT GOP and Republican Organizations across the state should let the voter determine the primary winner and no endorsements or funding should be made by Republican organizations during primaries.
4. The MT GOP should be transparent with its members by sharing where we spend our money-whether on candidates, issues or events, etc.
5. Your leadership should be accountable to YOU, our members and we need to keep you informed and inspired.
6. Our members, especially elected officials, need to support the MT GOP Platform and all Republicans should be held accountable.
7. Republicans should see the value of their contributions to the MT GOP through strategic investments that pay off political dividends for the Grassroots of the Montana Republican Party. Seven is a Biblical number-enough said.

Candidate for MTGOP Chairman

TANNER SMITH

Tanner Smith is Running for MT GOP Chair

Tanner Smith, the Montana Republican Party's National Committeeman, declared at the Great Falls Pachyderm, on Friday, December 6, 2024, that he was running for state GOP chair in the party's upcoming reorganization election in June.

The state Republicans' incumbent chair, Don Kaldschmidt, announced he will not seek re-election.

"Montana Republicans can rest assured, that if I am elected as the MT GOP Chair, the principles and values they hold so dearly will always have a committed fighter to back them up, day in and day out," Tanner said in a statement to The Liberty Bell (TLB).

Tanner is putting Democrats on notice now — as chair, he promises any challenge made to tear down traditional families, harm our children and further erode our freedoms, would be met by decisive action from the MT GOP.

"We can longer play defense and cede ground to the left. The MT GOP not only has to regain lost ground, we need to look within and operate with transparency. Under my leadership, we will give a clear accounting to all central committees on how our funds are distributed-to which candidates, for which races and for how much," Tanner promised.

"This party cannot be run solely by top donors at the expense of our families, farmers, ranchers and small business Republicans," he added.

"The Republican Party prides itself on being the 'Big Tent' party and welcoming in of all who adhere to our platform. We need to ensure all who enter our tent truly believe in and will defend our platform. That means if you are an elected official, your votes must uphold our U.S. Constitution and party platform," Tanner added.

Tanner explains, "For good governance, I am asking that our party refrain from using derogatory labels to define each other. It causes animosity and distracts from where the real debate needs to be focused, and it detracts from the cooperation we need to maintain within our own ranks."

He believes, all Republicans have solid contributions they can and should be making to the MT GOP and to each other and the party should allow for those contributions to be made for the benefit of all Republicans.

He brings up how George Washington warned Americans against being controlled by our passions and forming permanent alliances. Tanner truly believes no one person is always bad or wrong or always good or right.

In reference to the debacle at the state Senate level, Tanner believes, "Each Republican should be following the lead of our leadership and I do believe in accountability and in rebuking those that sway away from our core values which includes respect for leadership-that is a biblical

principle. My question to those nine senators, 'Is it worth the damage you caused to our party by taking the actions you did to accomplish your personal goals rather than the party's as a whole?" If your answer is yes, then perhaps you need to reconsider the party you call home, because that is not how Republicans should operate-period."

"We hear about leadership all the time, and the easiest response to something we don't like is to rebel like a bucking horse, but neither the cowboy nor the horse is better off because of it," Tanner advises. He continues by surmising, "The MT GOP needs strong leadership that will harness the power of our frustrations and energy and focus them on the strategies that will advance our cause, not cause our party problems through internal strife." His goal is to coalesce Republican by putting their focus and energy towards productive uses that benefit the party as a whole, not just factions of it.

"All of us want to see the lives of our fellow Montanans improved, even the democrats, Tanner tells TLB. "Our differences lie in how to achieve those goals," he adds. Tanner understands life's not fair, and life is short. United though, he sees the positive difference his leadership can make within the party. "We are dealt certain cards and we need to make the best of them, and that starts with a fundamental need within our party to trust each other and the mission and leadership of our party," Tanner shares. "That starts with discipline and focus on our party not each other; and by understanding how to work together to make advances towards our shared goals instead of focusing on our differences and attacking each other," he adds.

Tanner understands, "At the heart of being a Republican is to be honest with our voters, our fellow Republicans and ourselves." He wants to avoid the discord at the state level of the GOP seen in so many other states. "Our focus should be on serving the grassroots of our state, not ourselves or solely those we align ourselves most closely to," he adds. "The GOP is based on a family of values we call our platform, and we should stick together like that family because that is what ultimately will make us strong," emphasizes Tanner.

When asked by TLB why he was running for MT GOP Chair, so soon after being elected MT National Committeeman, Tanner responded, "I had high hopes the National Committeeman position would afford me the opportunity to be a voice for the conservative cause and be able to enact common sense changes at the national level of the Republican Party. I soon discovered, state level delegates have no real impact at the national level-we are simply asked to rubber-stamp what the RNC has determined will be pursued."

Tanner proceeded to tell how he met many great delegates from other states who echoed his concerns and were just as disillusioned. After reflecting heavily on where he could add the most value and make the most difference, especially to each MT GOP Convention delegate who supported him with their vote to make him their National Committeeman; he realized he had to run for MT GO Chair.

"My decision to run is based on putting Montana families first including my own. I cannot stand idly by and watch my children struggle in a future I didn't attempt to improve for them and their children," Tanner shared with TLB.

After conferring with his family and making sure they were onboard, Tanner realized that in order to make a difference on the national level, Montana needs to make a difference on the state level by being an example to be emulated by other states. "When the states are on the right path, their course of action will be reflected on the national level. It is a bottom-up strategy. I realized top down doesn't work," expressed Tanner.

When asked how he would find the time to accomplish the fundraising needed in this unpaid position, Tanner's response was he was willing to make the sacrifice and "There is a lot of money available from donors who support the 'Rosendale' type of governance, that has been ignored under the current MT GOP leadership and he believes "frankly that divided us."

While in Washington D.C. representing Montana, Tanner told TLB the sentiment was reiterated by several other states. "Republicans have been told so long they don't have the numbers, the support etc., they are often afraid to take the action needed to make monumental impact. Biblically, we start with faith and God rewards that," adds Tanner.

Tanner believes, "Our party is diverse and needs to stay united in a way where everyone can contribute and feel valued for their contributions instead of being attacked or having our core principles undermined. That is partially addressed through accountability, which is achieved through transparency, and further achieved by putting up stellar candidates all of us can be proud to support."

Tanner stressed it has never been more apparent that the time is now to elect leaders willing to roll up their sleeves, bring people together, and fight for the future of Montana, in the trenches alongside their fellow Montanans and he looks forward to earning your vote as MT GOP Chair.