

George and Melissa Nikolakakos Voted to Grow Government and Deepen Federal Dependency—Leading Montana on the Road to Ruin

WRITTEN BY
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Montana has long prided itself on rugged independence and a spirit of self-reliance. But today nearly half of the state's budget comes from Washington, D.C.—federal funds that come with strings attached. When legislators vote for more spending and more programs, they don't just grow Helena's reach. They also grow Washington D.C.'s leverage.

Two legislators, husband and wife George and Melissa Nikolakakos, illustrate this problem. Both post middling 50% scores on the Freedom Index—meaning they voted against limited-government, constitutional principles as often as they voted for them. And on key big-spending bills, they helped advance the very programs that tether Montana to federal funding and the mandates that come with it.

It is not hyperbole to compare them to Julius and Ethel Rosenberg—the infamous husband-and-wife duo who betrayed America from within. The Rosenbergs spied for the Soviet Union, selling out their country's security. The Nikolakakoses may not be handing nuclear secrets to Moscow, but their voting record reveals something just as dangerous for Montana: a steady betrayal of state sovereignty and liberty, all dressed up in the language of 'Republican' representation.

Section I: George Nikolakakos



Like Julius Rosenberg transmitting secrets to a foreign power, George's votes transmit Montana's sovereignty straight into the hands of Washington. His record shows not defense of liberty, but collaboration with the very forces that weaken our independence.

District: HD-26 (Great Falls)
Freedom Index (2025): 50%
Legislator Loyalty: ~66% (Grade F)
Montana Family Foundation Score: 67/100 — a failing grade on family and values issues.
New to Great Falls, moved around 2020.

Key Votes Against Constitutional Principles:
HB 382 NO, HB 15 YES, HJ 5 YES.

Big Spending Bills He Supported: HB 2, HB 3, HB 863, HB 924 — all expanding state commitments.

Consequences of His Record: George's votes repeatedly expanded spending and government programs.

George's record of betrayal does not stop at fiscal policy. His actions against the Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA) reveal just how deceitful and untrustworthy he truly is. After begging MSSA to let him sponsor one of their gun rights bills, George was given HB 433 — the 'Innocent Until Proven Guilty' bill. This bill would have protected Montanans from having their gun rights stripped simply for being charged with a crime, unless the charge involved violence. MSSA's rationale was clear: once the FBI is alerted that someone's gun rights are revoked, it becomes nearly impossible to restore those rights even after an acquittal.

Nothing captures George's record more perfectly than this photo of him gleefully riding a RINO. It's not just a costume — it's a confession. George has proven by his votes and betrayals that he is no Republican In Name Only, but a RINO in full display.

MSSA has successfully passed over 73 gun bills since 1971. In all that time, not one sponsor had

ever dared to make substantial amendments to an MSSA bill without consultation. George broke that trust. He introduced substantial changes that watered down the bill's protections. Fortunately, the House Judiciary Committee saw through his sabotage, rejected the amendments, and advanced the bill out of committee.

But George wasn't finished. On the House floor, he again attempted to push through his amendments. Once again, they were rejected. Then, in a final act of treachery, George stood on the floor and pleaded with his colleagues to vote against the bill he had begged to sponsor — unless it included his weakening amendments. The result: the bill was voted down. MSSA is furious, and rightfully so. George's behavior was not only incompetent but outright backstabbing. He betrayed the very organization that trusted him, undermined gun rights in Montana, and showed that trust placed in him is trust misplaced.

Section II: Melissa Nikolakakos



If George resembles Julius in his legislative betrayals, Melissa mirrors Ethel Rosenberg — not merely complicit, but an active advocate. By sponsoring new spending programs and championing federal dependency, she functions as the willing partner in a husband-and-wife act of political treason against Montana's self-reliance.

District: HD-20 (Great Falls)
Freedom Index (2025): 50%
Legislator Loyalty: ~67% (Grade F)
Montana Family Foundation Score: 60/100 — showing disregard for family and faith-based values.

Also new to Great Falls, having only moved there around 2020.

Key Votes Against Constitutional Principles:
HB 382 NO, HB 15 YES, HJ 5 YES.

Key Betrayals on Critical Bills:

- HB 320 (Passed, Signed by Governor): Prohibits schools and state institutions from penalizing students or employees for refusing to use non-biological gender pronouns or compelled speech, and allows lawsuits for damages and relief. Melissa voted AGAINST.
- HB 400 (Passed, Signed by Governor): Reinforces free speech protections in public schools and institutions. Melissa voted AGAINST.
- SB 164 (Failed in House): Would have banned medical treatments aimed at altering a child's biological sex or affirming a gender identity inconsistent with their biological sex for minors under 16. Melissa voted AGAINST.
- SB 218 (Passed, Signed by Governor): Establishes a private right of action for individuals harmed physically, psychologically, or emotionally by gender transition procedures. Melissa voted AGAINST.
- SB 474 (Failed Blast Motion in House): Would have required acceptance of religious and personal medical exemptions for immunizations, protecting the First Amendment right to freedom of religion. Melissa voted AGAINST.

Her Signature Spending Push: HB 310 — Homeless Shelter Grant Program (sponsored by Melissa).

Other Spending Votes: HB 863, HB 924 — both voted FOR, deepening dependency.

"Open primaries are the best so independent voters get an opportunity to vote for Republicans," advocated Rep. Melissa Nikolakakos.



George riding in his RINO suit — the perfect metaphor for his record.

Melissa's reasoning is that in an open primary, voters who do not affiliate as Republicans can help decide Republican nominees. But let's be clear about what that really means: Democrats or left-leaning "independents" get to cross over and vote for the weakest or most liberal Republican on the ballot. That's not fair competition—it's sabotage—which the Nikolakakos husband wife team support because it benefits them. Open primaries invite people who reject the Republican platform, like the Melissa and George, to shape the Republican ticket anyway, watering down our principles and pushing forward candidates like them, who don't actually represent Republican voters. If you refuse to support the party platform, you've already admitted you don't agree with being a Republican—so you shouldn't be allowed to influence which candidate carries that banner in November; and if you are a Nikolakakos, you shouldn't be placing an "R" after your name to deceive voters into voting for you. Supporting open primaries is either naïve or outright dangerous to conservatives, and Melissa and George Nikolakakos are the perfect example of outsiders willing to sell out Republican values by inviting Democrats to hijack our elections.

Melissa's Campaign Promises vs. Her Record: On her campaign website, Melissa pledges low taxes, fiscal responsibility, and quality education. She touts policies like homestead exemptions, strong schools, and protecting Montana values. Yet her record shows the opposite: voting against parental rights, free speech protections, religious liberty, and common-sense child protections, while supporting spending bills that expand government. She promised Republican conservative values to voters but delivered the agenda of progressive liberal Democrats.

Consequences of Her Record: Melissa's sponsorship of HB 310 shows her philosophy of endless government growth. Coupled with her other votes, she has deepened Montana's reliance on federal dollars. Opponents say they risk "raiding"—where voters from one party crossover to influence another party's primary (e.g., Democrats voting in a Republican primary to nominate a weaker candidate)

The Larger Picture: Federal Dependency = Federal Control

Montana's reliance on Washington isn't hypothetical: 49% of the state budget comes from federal funds. Medicaid expansion alone brings in 80–90% federally funded dollars—with rules attached. This dependency makes it risky for Montana to challenge federal dictates. During COVID, we saw mandates tied to funding. When nearly half the budget comes from D.C., freedom is negotiated, not guaranteed.

Final Word

Just as the Rosenbergs' betrayal carried devastating consequences for national security, the Nikolakakoses' betrayal of limited government carries devastating consequences for Montana's liberty.

George and Melissa Nikolakakos may wear the Republican label, but their records tell a different story: votes for bigger budgets, more programs, and deeper ties to Washington.

Montana doesn't need politicians who pretend



to stand for liberty while voting to bind us tighter to federal chains. Every vote for George or Melissa Nikolakakos is a vote for more government, more federal control, and less sovereignty.

If we want a Montana that can stand on its own two feet, free from Washington's grip, we must demand better. That means this: do not re-elect George or Melissa Nikolakakos. Retire them both. Replace them with legislators who will fight for limited government, fiscal responsibility, and the sovereignty of our state.

Montana's future depends on it. Montana must not repeat the mistakes of history by tolerating another Rosenberg-style betrayal from within. The Nikolakakoses have shown their allegiance to federal control over state sovereignty — and the only remedy is to retire them both permanently from public office. 