

# Kurt Alme's Senate Run

## Why Montana Republicans Should Question Supporting Another Establishment Lawyer

By Pascal Redfern

In Montana's high-stakes 2026 U.S. Senate race, Kurt Alme has positioned himself as the GOP's "law and order" candidate, backed by heavyweights like President Trump, Governor Greg Gianforte, and Senator Tim Sheehy. As a former U.S. Attorney with deep establishment ties, Alme promises to fight for conservative values. But a closer look at his record reveals a pattern that should alarm grassroots Republicans: aggressive federal actions against everyday Montanans like a Missoula veteran, coupled with a glaring inaction on potential election fraud that benefited Democrats in 2006. Why would Republicans rally behind another lawyer who targets the grassroots while turning a blind eye to irregularities that could undermine election integrity? This isn't just about party loyalty—it's about whether Alme represents Montana's independent spirit or Washington's insider games.

**The Raid on a Missoula Veteran's Home: Targeting Grassroots Patriots** The February 7, 2026, ATF raid on a Missoula veteran's home exemplifies what critics call federal overreach under Alme's watch. As U.S. Attorney for Montana, Alme's office authored the probable cause warrant that sent eight to 10 armed agents to detain the veteran—a decorated combat veteran with tours in Iraq and the Middle East—at gunpoint. The incident left the veteran hospitalized from stress, yet no arrest followed. The veteran, president of the Montana Veterans Association and founder of programs like Project Masada and the Warrior Team Hunt Program, has no felony record, no domestic abuse convictions, and no mental health issues. The raid stemmed from a 2021 civil protection order filed by an ex-partner, finalized in 2024 and effective until 2028, which triggered federal firearm prohibitions under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) (8). The veteran has publicly decried the raid as political intimidation, tweeting calls for Alme and Senator Steve Daines to explain it. In a state where gun rights are sacrosanct, using a civil order—without criminal conviction—to justify such force feels like an assault on Second Amendment freedoms. Grassroots conservatives see this as "lawfare": weaponizing federal power

to silence vocal advocates. The veteran's long history in Montana politics, starting in his teens, makes him a prime target for those wary of dissent. If Alme's "America First" agenda includes raiding veterans' homes over non-criminal matters, it raises red flags about whose interests he truly serves.

Anticipating the potential for aggressive federal enforcement under burdensome laws like the 1990 Gun Free School Zones Act (GFSZA)—which risked turning everyday Montanans into federal felons by criminalizing firearm possession within 1,000 feet of schools—the Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA) was proactive in addressing the threat to Montana's gun culture and way of life. In 1995, MSSA wrote and successfully passed Mont. Code Ann. § 45-8-360, which declares that all law-abiding Montanans (not convicted of violent felonies and lawfully able to possess firearms under the Montana Constitution) are considered individually licensed and verified by the state for purposes of the federal GFSZA exemption. This forward-thinking statute shielded Montanans from exploitative federal felony charges, particularly in rural areas where schools border major routes or hunting paths. The 1995 law proved effective when, in a recent case, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (on September 23, 2025) reversed and dismissed the federal GFSZA indictment against Gabriel Metcalf in Billings, citing the plausible application of Montana's state "license" provision—affirming MSSA's proactive effort as a victory for states' rights, Montana gun owners, and resistance to burdensome federal overreach that could exploit citizens.

**The 2006 Election Oversights: Ignoring Potential Fraud** Alme's selective enforcement extends back to his time as First Assistant U.S. Attorney under Bill Mercer from 2004-2008. During the razor-thin 2006 Senate race between Democrat Jon Tester and Republican incumbent Conrad Burns—decided by just 3,562 votes—serious allegations of election irregularities emerged from the Crow Reservation in Big Horn County. Detailed in Christopher Kortlander's book *Arrow to the Heart*, witnesses reported unsecured ballot boxes, improper ballot handling, and intimidation of poll watchers at reservation precincts. Kortlander, a local resident and museum owner, filed a 2007 federal lawsuit highlighting these issues, including election judges ordering non-tribal observers to leave before counting. Despite the Bush administration's focus on voter integrity, Alme's office never launched a federal investigation. A state commission later dismissed widespread fraud claims, citing high turnout from legitimate mobilization, but critics argue the review was inadequate. Lawsuits like those from the Citizens' Equal Rights Alliance echoed concerns of voting rights abuses without resolution. In a race that flipped Senate control to Democrats, why no probe? Some point to political sensitivities around Native American voting or resource constraints, but the inaction contrasts sharply with Alme's later aggressive prosecutions. For Republicans prioritizing election security—especially post-2020 debates—this blind spot suggests Alme may prioritize establishment harmony over rooting

out fraud that aids the opposition.

**Alme's Establishment Ties: More Lawyer, Less Conservative Firebrand** Alme's Harvard Law background and career trajectory scream "establishment insider." Serving under Mercer during the 2007 U.S. Attorneys scandal (involving politicized firings), Alme later became U.S. Attorney in Trump's first term, Gianforte's budget director, and was reappointed in 2025 before resigning for his Senate bid. His rapid endorsements after Daines' abrupt withdrawal smack of backroom deals, not grassroots momentum. Adding fuel to the fire, Alme's office reportedly employs figures like Mr. Roscoe and Mr. Bacchus—sons of former Montana governors with Democratic or RINO reputations. Governors like Brian Schweitzer (Democrat) and Marc Racicot (Republican moderate) represent the bipartisan elite that grassroots conservatives often decry. These connections hint at a willingness to compromise, diluting fights against federal mandates on guns, land, and elections. In Montana, where distrust of D.C. runs deep—echoing Ruby Ridge and Waco—Alme's record positions him as an enforcer of federal control, not a defender of state sovereignty.

**Why Support Another Establishment Lawyer? A Wake-Up Call for Republicans** Montana Republicans must ask: Why back Kurt Alme, another lawyer with deep establishment ties who goes after grassroots figures like a Missoula veteran while ignoring election fraud allegations? Here's the case against him, framed for the hunters, ranchers, veterans, and small-business owners who power the GOP base:

1. **Targets Grassroots, Protects the System:** Alme's raid on a Missoula veteran—a patriot without a criminal record—shows federal power wielded against conservatives, while 2006 fraud claims went unchecked. This isn't balanced justice; it's selective intimidation that chills dissent.
2. **Establishment Over Independence:** Backed by Trump, Daines, and Gianforte, Alme embodies top-down politics. His ties to moderate legacies and scandal-era figures suggest loyalty to Washington insiders, not Montana's freedom-loving ethos.
3. **Weak on Election Integrity:** In an age of voter ID battles and fraud concerns, Alme's failure to probe 2006 irregularities—potentially flipping a GOP seat—signals he's not the warrior Republicans need against Democratic gains.
4. **Federal Control vs. Montana Rights:** From gun seizures to uninvestigated ballots, Alme's actions prioritize D.C. directives over state rights. Supporting him means more overreach, not less. Grassroots alternatives like Lee Calhoun or Charles Walking Child may better embody uncompromised conservatism. Alme talks "law and order," but his record asks: Whose law? Whose order? Montana deserves a senator who fights for the people, not the machine. As the June 2 primary approaches, Republicans should demand answers—or look elsewhere. 🗡️