



*A Trusted Voice & Experienced
Leader for Missoula County*

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PRESS RELEASE

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Missoula County Commissioner Josh Slotnick Announces His Re-Election Campaign

Missoula, MT. Commissioner Josh Slotnick, Chair of the Missoula Board of County Commissioners, announces today that he will seek a second term in 2024. He will file for re-election in January in accordance with state laws.

"I'm super proud of what we have accomplished as a Commission", Commissioner Slotnick says, "From zoning code reform in the County, to the \$13M Build grant, to increases in permitting efficiency, to our infrastructure work at the Wye, we have made real gains in housing - and everything we've done has been in partnerships. Partnerships leverage resources so the costs for this essential work is shared, not supported by county taxpayers alone."

"It's been gratifying to work closely with Josh on several projects that have helped make Missoula a stronger, healthier and more equitable community during his first term in office", said Community Leader Susan Hay Patrick. "He has reached across sectors to help build trusting, results-oriented col usive, and balanced approach to leadership and decision- making is exactly what we need in our county commissioners."

"I heartedly endorse Josh in his bid for re-election to the Missoula Board of County Commissioners," said Tom McDonald, CSKT Tribal Council. "Josh has been a great partner."

Commissioner Slotnick, working with the other Commissioners, created bold new initiatives to address community mental health, with the Mobile Support Team, Crisis Receiving and the Temporary Safe Outdoor Space (small houses near Mullan and Broadway). "There is so much more to do", says Commissioner Slotnick. "We are in the trenches with our partners every week working for a Missoula County where everyone gets the care they need, and no one lives outside. This is imperative for our economy, culture, and social stability."

"I have known Commissioner Slotnick for 20 years", says new Missoula Mayor Andrea Davis, "and we've been talking monthly on housing since he became a County Commissioner six years ago. He's a hard-working problem solver who can think on his feet. Missoula County is lucky to have him as a commissioner and the City is lucky to have him as an ally. I strongly endorse his re-election campaign."

Commissioner Slotnick is also proud of the collaborative work with the Sheriff's office to keep our citizens safe and our community protected. "Our Sheriff, Deputies, Jail staff and everyone in the department deserve our deep thanks", said Slotnick.

"Commissioner Slotnick has been a great partner to the Sheriff's office," said Sheriff Jeremiah Peterson. "He's creative, he listens, and is solutions oriented. He has my support for re-election."

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Commissioner Slotnick says Missoula County is ready to act, during this window for change, on property taxes, like never before. "This year we kept our tax increase of the County as a whole, to below the level of inflation", said Slotnick, "yet people's individual property taxes soared. That's because the equation at the core of the Montana property tax system crushes homeowners and renters, and this must change. Counties across the state now feel this problem acutely, consequently, the appetite for fixing the system has never been greater. We are working statewide right now with the Montana Association of Counties, Commissioners and staff from across the state, businesspeople and advocates, to create functional and fair options for our legislature, and we will not let up."

"The property tax system is complex, and moving forward requires statewide collaboration", said Missoula State Senator Ellie Boldman. "Josh can do that. He's collaborative by nature and understands property taxes. He's a trusted voice. I enthusiastically endorse him in his re-election."

Commissioner Slotnick promises an invigorating campaign in 2024 and is available to talk with any Missoula county resident.

"This is a job I care deeply about. I will work very hard to maintain the trust, endorsements and votes from our county citizens over the next year."

**Short BIO information about Commissioner Slotnick prior to his current position
as one of three Missoula County Commissioners, since 2018.**

Josh Slotnick moved from Grand Forks, ND., to Missoula as an 18 year old, to go to college. He got a degree in Philosophy from the University of Montana, served in the US Peace Corps, furthered his education at UC Santa Cruz, and in graduate school at Cornell (MPS 95' Agriculture Extension).

He's been farming here with his wife on their family farm since 1992. They farmed for 31 seasons, last season was their last. They were pioneers in the local food world here, developed a business to be proud of, mentored many young people, and are now in the process of selling their farm business.

In 1996 he co-founded Garden City Harvest, and the PEAS program in the Environmental Studies program at the UM. These entities have grown considerably since, and Josh's work, with many partners, has been well recognized. He has received many awards including:

Co-recipient of The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Partnership Award, 2004; Jeannette Rankin Peace Center's Peace Maker of the Year Award, 2006; the Don Aldrich Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Award, 2010; and the Alumni Impact Award, from the US State Department, 2015.

He has spoken at dozens of universities and public events and his TEDx talk has been seen by 10's of thousands of people.

Josh has served on many voluntary boards of directors, including the Missoula County Weed board, the Missoula City/County Planning Board, HomeWord, and the Missoula Farmers Market. He has written articles, essays, book chapters, and two books.

He is most proud of his family, Kim who runs their family farm, Clark Fork Organics, and their kids, Quinn (30), Sophie (27) and Tasha (23).

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PRESS: Please find attached photo for your use. Commissioner Slotnick will also make himself available for interviews both now and during the election. Please contact him directly at the number on the top of this Release.