Montana Newspaper Association

Max S. Baucus

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Senator * or Department*:  **BAUCUS**

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Opening Statement

I want to thank the Montana Newspaper Association for holding this important debate. And I’d also like to thank Mike Taylor, Stan Jones, and Bob Kelleher for being here.

We’re here to have an honest, open discussion about the future of our state. I hope we can focus on the issues and set a positive tone today for the rest of the campaign. Montanans deserve no less.

I’m so proud of Montana. It was a wonderful place to grow up. And it’s a great place to live. But what got me into public service in the first place was knowing that we can do even better.
Knowing that as a small state it was too easy to get overlooked or left behind when decisions are made in Washington.

Throughout my career I’ve tried to be a strong effective voice for Montana. There are a couple of reasons I’ve been able to do that.

First. People have got to know where you stand. With me it’s always Montana first.

I work with people who want to get something accomplished. Whether they’re Republican. Democrat. Or anything else.
And seniority is a big help. Especially when you’re from a small state. It means that you have the power to make things happen.

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee I’m using my position to do what’s right for Montana.

I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish so far. But there is still a lot more we need to do.

Top Priority

My top priority is working together with all Montanans to help create more high-paying jobs in our state.
Look. Our economy is hurting. The simple fact is that for too many Montanans it's hard to find a decent job. That's not right.

To really strengthen our economy there are short term things we've got to do. As well as some things for the long-term.

**Short Term**

Here's what we're doing to help Montana families in the short-term.

- We brought in 265 million dollars in highway funding per year which has created 11,000 good-paying jobs for Montanans.
• I've gotten business leaders on the phone and convinced them to move to our state. That's how we got Stream International right here in Kalispell. That's more than 800 jobs in the Flathead Valley.

• I'm working with Denny Rehberg and Conrad Burns to get disaster relief for our farmers and ranchers who are hard-hit by this drought.

Long Term

But if we are really going to make Montana's economy stronger there are things we need to do for the longer term as well.
• We need to let working people keep more of their paychecks. That's why I worked with President Bush to pass the largest tax cut in history. It put $115 million back into Montanans' pockets last year. And it means lower taxes for years to come.

• We need to provide a real safety net for our farmers and ranchers. That's why I worked with President Bush to pass a farm bill that will really help Montana producers.

• Our kids deserve the best education we can give them. I’ve gotten more than $26 million for Montana schools. And I helped pass President Bush's common-sense education reforms.
• But maybe nothing matters more than making sure Montanans can get affordable health care. That’s why I fought for and got millions of dollars to keep our rural hospitals open. And our new health insurance program is bringing health care to 10,000 Montana kids.

• And now I’m working to provide a real prescription drug benefit to seniors. Again, if we can set aside the politics, I know we can get this done.

• And Montana seniors should know. I will use my Finance Committee chairmanship to prevent any effort to cut Medicare or take money out of their Social Security and risk it on the stock market.
Medicare and Social Security are promises we’ve made to our seniors. And we’re going to keep them.

**Conclusion**

You know this is more than a debate among candidates. This is a debate about the future of Montana. And deciding who’s in the best position to help our state.

I’ve worked long and hard to represent Montana and make sure our state doesn’t get left behind. I’ve tried to bring Montana common-sense values to our work in Washington, and I think it’s made a difference.

Clearly we have a lot more to do. Let’s build on what we’ve accomplished together.
Opening Statement

Thank

- Montana Newspaper Association
- Mike Taylor, Stan Jones, and Bob Kelleher

Honest, open discussion about the future of our state
- focus on the issues
Proud of Montana
  • wonderful place to grow up. Great place to live

Got into public service
  • know that we can do even better
  • small state/easy to get overlooked when decisions are made in Washington.

OPENING STATEMENT
I've tried to be a strong, effective voice for Montana.

Couple of reasons I've been able to:

- where I stand. Montana first.
- work with people who want to get something accomplished. R/D/Ind
- seniority means power to make things happen.
- Use Senate Finance Committee chairmanship to do what's right for Montana
Proud of accomplishments.

- Still a lot more we need to do

Top priority

- working together
- Bring more high-paying jobs in our state
Economy is hurting

- short term things we've got to do
- as well as some things for the long-term.

Short Term

- $265 million in highway funding per year = 11,000 good-paying jobs.
- Convince businesses to move to our state.
Example: Stream International right here in Kalispell. More than 800 jobs in Flathead Valley.

- disaster relief for farmers and ranchers

Long Term

- let working people keep more of their paychecks
  Bush/largest tax cut in history
  $115m last year. Lower taxes for years to come.
• real safety net for our farmers and ranchers
  Bush/farm bill/help Montana producers
• Education/$26 million
  good teachers in our rural schools
  repair old schools
  reduce class sizes
  connect our classrooms to the Internet
• Bush/education reforms
  new resources/ accountability
• Affordable health care
  millions of dollars/rural hospitals open.
  new health program/10,000 Montana kids.
• real prescription drug benefit to seniors
  let's set aside the politics/get this done.

OPENING STATEMENT
• I've worked long and hard to make sure our state doesn't get left behind

• tried to bring Montana common-sense values to our work in Washington

• think it's made a difference

• Clearly/lot more to do

• Let's build on what we've accomplished together

• Thank you
Closing Statement

Today, you have heard from each of us about why we want to represent you in the U.S. Senate.

I'm running for re-election to the Senate for one reason. I was blessed to have been born and raised a Montanan. And I want to make sure we do all we can to give our kids the same future our parents gave us.


And good-paying jobs so our kids don't have to leave our state just make a decent living.
This election matters for Montana. I think it matters for Montana to have a strong effective voice in Washington.

It matters when Montana’s senator can work closely with the President to cut taxes. To improve our schools. To help our farmers and ranchers. And to open foreign markets to Montana products.

It matters when Montana’s senator stands up to the big insurance companies to protect patients.

And stands up to the big pharmaceutical companies to protect seniors.

And stands up to the big polluters and says ‘the taxpayers are not going to pay to clean up your mess.’
It matters when the Senate Finance Committee is chaired by someone who looks at every issue with one question in mind. What’s right for Montana?

My top priority is working together with all Montanans to help create more high-paying jobs in our state.

Building a stronger economy requires a short-term strategy to help people who are hurting right now as well as a long-term strategy to strengthen Montana’s economy for the future.
We’ve gotten a record amount of highway funding that has created 11,000 good jobs for Montanans.

We’ve helped Montana businesses grow and we’ve convinced out-of-state businesses to move to our state.

We passed a farm bill that will help us rebuild our agricultural sector. And we’re working to get disaster relief for our farmers and ranchers.

I worked hand-in-hand with the President to pass the largest tax cut in history.
We’ve gotten the money to keep our rural hospitals open and created a new health insurance program that is bringing health care to 10,000 Montana kids.

And we’ve brought in millions of dollars to improve Montana schools. Because a child growing up in Montana deserves as good an education as a child anywhere else in America.

Montana Roots, Montana Values

You know, growing up on my family’s ranch outside of Helena bucking hay, mending fences. That shaped the person I am today. I learned the values of hard work. Faith. Community. Common sense. And doing what’s right.
I feel like the luckiest guy in the world to be representing Montana. The way I look at it I’ve got 900,000 bosses. The sign on my desk says it all: “Montana comes first.”

This is an election about who is in the best position to move Montana forward. We will each spend the next few months talking about what we’ve done and what we plan to do if elected.

I’m proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish so far. By working together. By setting aside politics and using good ol’ Montana common sense we can do a lot more. Create more high-paying jobs. Boost our economy. Do what’s right for Montana.
I want to thank the Montana Newspaper Association for hosting this first debate and helping us set a positive tone for the campaign.

Thank you.
Closing Statement

heard from each of us/why we want to represent you

I’m running/one reason –

- Blessed/born and raised a Montanan
- do all we can to give our kids the same future our parents gave us
That means

- a solid education.
- Quality health care.
- A safe community.
- A clean environment.
- And good-paying jobs so our kids don't have to leave our state just make a decent living.
This election matters for Montana.

- a strong, effective voice in Washington
- important/worked closely with the President to cut taxes
- improve our schools
- help our farmers and ranchers
- open foreign markets to Montana products.
It matters when Montana's senator stands up to

- big insurance companies to protect patients
- big pharmaceutical companies to protect seniors
- big polluters and says ‘the taxpayers aren’t going to pay to clean up your mess.’
It matters when the Senate Finance Committee is chaired by someone who looks at every issue with one question in mind.

What's right for Montana?

My Top Priority

- working together/ create more high-paying jobs
Building a stronger economy requires

- short-term strategy/help people who are hurting right now
- long-term strategy/strengthen Montana’s economy for the future
We’ve...

- gotten record amount of highway funding that has created 11,000 good jobs for Montanans.
- helped Montana businesses grow
- convinced out-of-state businesses
- passed a farm bill to rebuild our agricultural sector and are working for disaster relief
• worked hand-in-hand with the President/largest tax cut in history
• gotten money/rural hospitals
• created CHIP/10,000 Montana kids
• millions of dollars/Montana schools

  a child growing up in Montana deserves as good an education as a child anywhere else in America

CLOSING STATEMENT