2-19-2008

Campaign Announcement, Billings-Bozeman Rallies

Max S. Baucus
Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

Instructions:
Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.
Prepare and insert additional forms at points that you want to index.
For example: at the beginning of a new folder, briefing book, topic, project, or date sequence.

Record Type*: Speeches

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: February-2008
(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: Baucus announces campaign for 6th term
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* Bozeman and Billings Rallies

DOCUMENT DATE*: 02/19/2008
(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"
Montana’s history has been the story of courageous men and women who forged ahead.

Men and women with calloused hands, sturdy backs, and fortitude passed down from generation to generation.

Our values were chiseled out of the bedrock of Montana; we learned them from our parents, who learned them from their parents.

Values of hard work, independence, honesty, common sense, faith, and community.
We don't shy away from challenges or a hard day's work. We come from good, Montana stock. And we're darn proud of it.

A lifetime of service:

When I was a much younger man, less gray, maybe a little lighter around the belt-line, I contemplated what I wanted to do with my life. I've always valued service, whether its service to one's state, to community, or to church. It's serving people and giving of yourself. I've always believed that service is the most noble human endeavor.
I was about 30 years old. I went to Mike Mansfield to seek out his advice. I was pretty brazen then, too, especially for a young guy.

I was thinking about running for public office. I wanted to represent our state, serve our people.

Mike, in that subtle way of his, smiled at me and said: "It takes a lot of hard work, a lot of shoe leather, and a little bit of luck. But, yup, you can win." You should do it!

Who would've guessed that 36 years later I'd be standing here today. With all of you, my friends.
Who would've guessed that I'd have the chance to serve the state I love, representing the people that I love.

Who would've guessed that I'd become chairman of one of the most influential panels in Congress.

Who would've guessed that I'd build seniority and be able to get CEOs of fortune 500 companies on the phone to bring jobs to Montana.

35 years later, because Montanans have entrusted me with this office, I get to do what's right for folks who farm the fields of the Golden Triangle.
• I get to bat for people who hike in the Bear Tooth Mountains or shoot pheasants on the plains.

• I work for Montanans who raise their kids in the Magic City, the Garden City, the Queen City, the Mining City, or the Electric City.

• I get to help people who can't get the government to do its job.

• I get to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

• I'm there for people who just can't catch a break.

Working together

I have always believed that nothing of any real consequence ever happens unless people work together. That's how you get things done. And I'm proud of our work together.
Working together:

- We helped bring new good-paying jobs to Montana.
- We increased funding for our veterans health care.
- We protected Montana's proud hunting and fishing heritage.
- Secured millions for Libby and helped its residents cope with poisonous asbestos.
- We kept lobbyists from trying to run our government.
- We secured more than $8 billion for Montana's economy, secured 18,000 good-paying highway jobs, and brought new companies to Montana.
Working together, we:

- Stopped President Bush from privatizing Social Security

- We took a historic first step to getting seniors a prescription drug benefit, provided health care to 14,000 Montana kids, and kept rural hospital doors open.

- We delivered the first minimum wage increase in a decade and got tax breaks for small businesses.

- We increased domestic energy production, boosted alternative sources, and supported real Climate Change legislation.

- We waged war on meth and got cops what they need to fight back.
• We boosted rural schools, put good teachers into small classrooms, and helped our kids compete in a new era.

Those are some important victories. Critically important. But don't you think there's still more to do?

The part I love about this job the most is helping people.

What do we really care about?

When it comes right down to it, what do most Montanans really want out of life?
• It's having a good enough job to make sure your kids get what they need. And you can retire with dignity and a pension.
• It's being able to care for our parents because they cared for us.
• Take in a baseball game or go fishing.
• It's not paying more than we have to in taxes.
• Set aside some money for college.
• Pay the heating bill.
• Go to a movie on a Friday night.
• See friends and family you might not have talked to in a while.

This is our home. And it's the greatest state in greatest nation on the planet.
There's not a place anywhere in the world where we'd rather be than in Montana. No where in the world.

6 more years of doing what's right:

That's why I love my job so much I have 900,000 of the world's best bosses.

And that's why I'm proud to say that I'm running for reelection to the U.S. Senate. We've done an awful lot. But there's still more to do. And the fire in the belly burns brighter than ever.

If you renew my job contract, we'll keep doing what's right for Montanans.
Over the next six years we'll dig in -- like we've always done -- and do what's right for folks on Main Streets -- from Ekalaka to Eureka -- and everywhere in between.

We've come a long way together, but our shift isn't over yet. We can't punch out just yet.

For the first time ever, a Montanan chairs the Senate Finance Committee -- we can't give that up now.

Why do it?

A lot of times folks ask me why I keep doing this. "Why not just hang it up, Max," they'll say. "You've had a good run."
I'll think about it for a minute. Being a senator really is not always glamorous work. You're always on the move. On the plane, off the plane. A different hotel room every night. Thousands of miles behind the windshield.

Heck, I've even changed clothes in the gas station men's room.

Someone is almost always mad at you - somewhere, sometime.

It is not always glamorous. But it's important. And I love it. I feel like the luckiest guy in the world. And at the end of a long day, I fall asleep knowing that I made a real difference.
It's about helping real people with very real problems.

I can boil it all down into one very simple reason.

I'm running again because there's still more to do.

More people to help.

I'm running again

• I'm running again because there are still young parents out there, like the ones I met in Livingston, both on the verge of tears, because they didn't know how to afford doctors visits and groceries. We're going to expand CHIP and get every Montanan health insurance
• I'm running again because of the pain I felt looking into the eyes of an 8th grader in Billings who lost his mother to meth. We're going to get this poison out of communities -- for good.

• I'm running again because of the man who came up to me at Perkins in Great Falls. He was beaming with pride because he got a job on a highway crew. And he finally saved enough to take his wife on a vacation. I'm running again because jobs at home matter.

• I'm running again because of the young soldiers who come home, and for those, like my nephew, who do not.
I'm running again because we're not done yet. Montanans value our independence. We use common sense. We don't like people to get into our business, and we stay out of theirs. We've got Western grit, a deep sense of the land, and we value the Second Amendment.

I'm proud of our Montana, can-do attitude. We're cut from the same cloth as the miners who built the biggest copper mine in the country. We sent the first woman to Congress. We're the Railroaders who built lines across our state. We're [Evil] Knievel. And we're not done yet.
I'm going to ask you now. And I want to hear your answer.

• Is it right that Montana kids have to leave our state to find a good job? No it's not. We're not done yet.

• Is it right that America has an energy policy that gets us into wars and bankrupts us at the pump? No it's not right. We're not done yet.

• Is it right that so many Montana families can't afford to get sick? We're not done yet.

• Is it right that meth still plagues our communities. We're not done yet.
• We’re not done yet because our veterans fought for their country; they shouldn’t have to fight for health care when they get home. Are you with me?!

Are you with me this November? I can’t hear you. Can I count on you?

As of right now, we have exactly [insert] until the polls open.

Bozeman Rally: 258 days, 19 hours 30 mins

Billings Rally: 258 days, 14 hours, 30 mins
Hope for a better future:

I'm running again because our state's greatest days lie ahead of us, not behind us.

In the sweep of history, we are just one little speck. We're not here forever. That's why we have a moral obligation when we leave to leave this place in is as good a shape, or better, than we found it.

As Montanans and Americans, it's the hope for a better future that drives us to greatness.

• It's hope that motivates the student to get a degree;

• It's hope for a better future that gives the single mom energy to work two jobs -- so her kids won't have to
• It's hope that gives courage to the men and women in our armed forces;

• It's hope that wakes farmers and ranchers before sunrise;

• And it's hope that brings us together.

A new horizon has dawned in Montana. And working together with all of you, we will see that horizon rise to a glorious day across this magnificent place that we get to call home.

Thank you so very much.

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