



# YOUR VOICE MATTERS: GET READY FOR THE JUNE 2, 2026 MONTANA PRIMARY ELECTION

## Why the Primary Election Matters to the Disability Community

At Summit, we believe in **self determination, choice, and full participation in community life**. One of the most powerful ways people with disabilities can exercise these rights is by voting.

On **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**, Montanans will head to the polls for the Primary Election, which determines which candidates will appear on the general election ballot in November. Primary elections shape who makes decisions about disability services, healthcare, housing, transportation, education, employment supports, and civil rights. **When people with disabilities vote, we help ensure policy decisions reflect our lived experiences—not assumptions about us.**

Voting is an act of **self advocacy and community leadership**. It sends a clear message that people with disabilities are engaged, informed, and invested in the future of Montana.

## Registering to Vote and Checking Your Registration

Before voting, it's important to make sure you are **registered and your information is up to date**.

### Check Your Registration Status

You can confirm whether you are registered—and verify your address and name—by using the Montana online voter portal at <https://votemt.gov/>. Checking early helps avoid any issues when it's time to vote.

### Registering to Vote

In Montana, you can register to vote:

- **In person** at your county election office
- **By mail**, using a voter registration form

- **During early voting or on Election Day** (same day registration until noon is allowed with valid identification)

## Accessible Ways to Vote in Montana

Montana offers several options so voters with disabilities can choose the method that works best for them.

- **Vote by Mail** (Absentee Voting)
- **Electronic Ballots** for Voters with Disabilities
- **In Person** Voting with **Accessible Equipment**
- **Curbside Voting** and **Voting Assistance**

For more information about accessible ways to vote in one, please visit the Secretary of State's website at <https://sosmt.gov/elections/disabilities/> or contact your [County Elections Office](#).

## Make Your Plan to Vote

As the June 2, 2026 Primary Election approaches:

- Check or update your voter registration
- Decide how you want to vote—mail, electronic ballot, or in person
- Ask early about accessibility options or accommodations

Voting is a cornerstone of independent living and community participation. When people with disabilities vote, we help build a Montana where inclusion is reflected not just in words, but in action.

For more information, visit the Montana Secretary of State's elections website or contact your local county election office. If you need assistance navigating your options, your local Center for Independent Living is here to help. **Your voice belongs at the ballot box.**

# Stop the Attack on Community Choice in Montana

## What's happening with Section 504 and the integration mandate?

Montanans value: independence, family, and the freedom to make decisions about where and how we live; including people with disabilities.

Montana is currently part of a multi-state lawsuit challenging federal rules under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that protect the rights of people with disabilities to receive services and live in their communities.

## What's at risk?

The US Supreme Court affirmed the integration mandate in *Olmstead v. L.C.* The decision guarantees that when individuals with disabilities can safely and successfully live in their community, they should do so and should not be unnecessarily placed in an institution.

## Why does this matter to Montana?

Institutionalization often limits personal freedom and daily life activities. It can separate individuals from family, disrupt friendships, restrict employment and educational opportunities, and reduce access to social and civic life.

Montana has long invested in home and community-based services that preserve and support individual choice. Montana is actively updating our *Olmstead* plan to strengthen community integration of people with disabilities into the wider community. The lawsuit undermines Montana's own state-led efforts. Protecting community living aligns with Montana values: freedom, fiscal responsibility, and strong families and communities.

## The lawsuit eliminates individual choice.

## What the lawsuit is about:

The states are contesting a Section 504 rule issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

## The rule requires governments and federally funded organizations to:

- Deliver services in community settings whenever possible.
- Avoid policies or practices that place people with disabilities at serious risk of unnecessary institutionalization.

## The states are asking the court:

- To declare the rule unlawful
- Stop HHS from enforcing the rule, and
- Eliminate safeguards that prevent unnecessary institutionalization

Continued on page 3...

# Stop the Attack on Community Choice in Montana

## Why this matters:

If you're a student, senior, or someone who might need help living at home - assistance with accessing accommodations in school, bathing, transportation, or cooking - 504 protections make sure programs can't push you into a nursing home or institution just because you need support.

## This includes programs most Montanans rely on, like:

- Montana Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
- Public Transportation Services
- 504 plans that provide accommodations to students in school

## What you can do:

Join Montana's disability and senior community and urge the Governor and Attorney General to withdraw from the case and protect the right of people to live in and contribute to their communities.

Protect the ability of seniors and people with disabilities to live in their communities by reaffirming Mon-tana values of freedom, family, and community.

Visit <https://www.mtcil.org/action-alerts/> for ways you can take action.



### SUMMIT BOARD



- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Molly Blair      | Randy Blevins   |
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### *Lake & Sanders County*

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**Independent Living Specialist**  
Teresa Nightingale

# New Summit Staff

## Reggie Herbert Pre-ETS Youth IL Specialist



Reggie is a blind actor, director, musician, disability advocate and all around nerd. Reggie grew up in Billings, MT and relocated to Missoula in 2009. He received his Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from the University of Montana in 2021. Reggie is an active leader in the National Federation of the Blind. He is the president of the local Missoula chapter, a board member of the Montana affiliate of the NFB and the vice-president of the National Federation of the Blind Performing Arts Division. Reggie runs a non-profit arts accessibility advocacy and non-profit theatre company called A Quantum Dream. AQD provides audio-description for live events, accessibility audits and consultation, acting classes and produces contemporary science fiction theatre. Reggie has a teaching background and was a substitute high school teacher for nine years prior to joining the team at Summit and is excited to bring his passion for advocacy and working with young people to his role as the pre-employment transition specialist at Summit.

## Hamilton Office

The Ravalli County office in Hamilton continues to be busy assisting consumers with disability applications, appeals, overpayments, and continuing disability reviews. Darcy Curry, our new full-time Independent Living Specialist, completed Community Living Skills facilitator training over the summer. She is now enrolled in Living Well in the Community facilitator training.

We expect to be offering classes in these areas in the near future. Brittany "Jesse" Brawly, a former Summit peer advocate, was promoted to Program Support Specialist and is attending various community events and assisting with office duties.

**If you have any questions about our classes and workshops, please call Darcy Curry at 406-363-5242.**

# Summit Office Updates

## Kalispell Office

Spring greetings from Kalispell!

Kalispell's YODA group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the office in Kalispell from 4:00p.m.-5:30 p.m. We promote team building with group activities that focus on collaboration, advocacy, and, of course, fun! If you are a young person with a disability who is 14-30ish, we encourage you to join.

Third Thursday Crafternoon, arts and crafts group, continues to meet each month on the third Thursday from 2:00p.m.-4:00p.m. Participants can try a provided project or work on something of their own. Abilities of all kinds are welcome to join the fun!

Are you a person with a disability? Do you consider yourself a positive role model? Do you enjoy helping your community and others? Are you looking for a very part time job? If so, The Kalispell office is looking for peer advocates to join the existing Summit Kalispell peer group. Please reach out to find out more about being a peer advocate.

Summit's Kalispell Office is also taking applications for the Kalispell Independent Living Specialist position. This is a career opportunity for the right person with a solid background in social work or human services and a passion for working with people of all ages with disabilities. This is a 40 hours per week, non-exempt position.

**For more information about workshops, peer group, or employment please contact Dianna at 406-257-0048 ext. 3 or go to [www.summitilc.org/about/employment](http://www.summitilc.org/about/employment).**

## Polson Office

Summit's branch office serving Lake and Sanders counties in Polson is keeping busy. After being closed on Mondays for several months, beginning April 13 the Polson office will be open Monday – Friday. Office hours will be 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday – Wednesday, and 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Thursday-Friday.

Teresa "Tess" nightingale continues to lead the Youth Opening Doors to Advocacy on the third Thursday of each month, Arts and Crafts to meet on Wednesdays, and Mail & Munchies on the fourth Thursday of each month. Summit staff will also assist people with letters from Social Security or Medicaid, etc. on a walk-in basis.

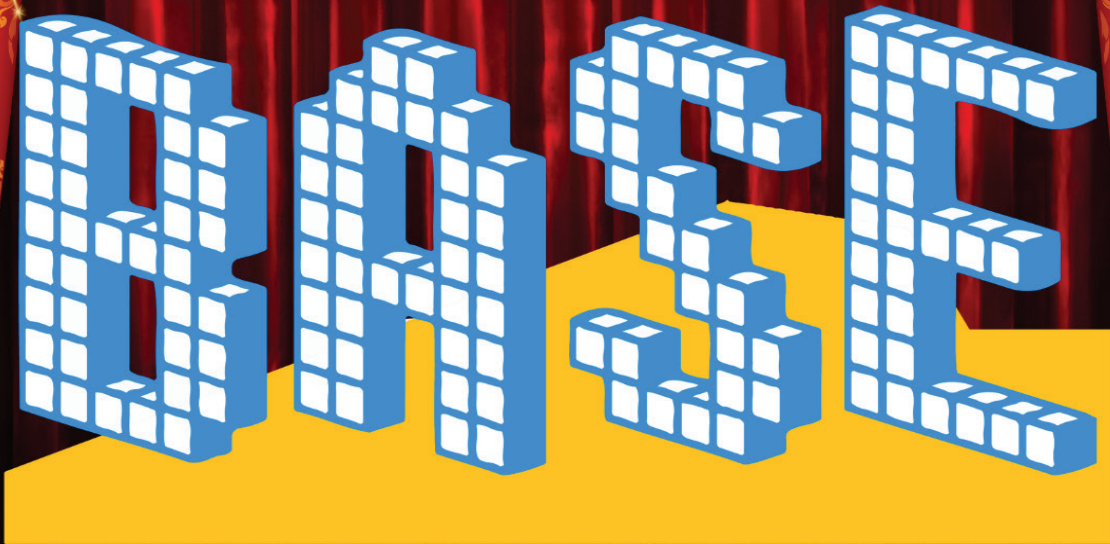
Summit is accepting application for an Independent Living Specialist based at the Polson office. More information is available on the Internet at [summitilc.org/employment](http://summitilc.org/employment) or by calling Alan Fugleberg, Deputy Director, at 406-215-1604, Ext. 3.

IL Specialist Susan Morris continues to work remotely with consumers seeking to apply for Social Security disability benefits and helps with the first-level appeals process. Alan Fugleberg, Deputy Director for Summit, continues to work from the offices in Lake and Ravalli counties, and is working a day per week in Missoula assisting with Social Security disability applications and other independent living work.

**For more information about workshops, peer group, or employment please contact The Polson team at 406-215-1604 or go to [www.summitilc.org/about/employment](http://www.summitilc.org/about/employment).**

# OPEN ★ HOUSE ★

Join us on the red carpet  
to raise funds for BASE



**FRI**  
**APRIL 10**

**GAMES, FOOD, ART, IMPROV,  
SWORD-FIGHTING, SILENT AUCTION!**

**3104 W BROADWAY ST., MISSOULA  
(406) 728-1630**

# BASE SCHEDULE

3104 W Broadway Missoula, MT

For the following activities,  
please call BASE for details:

- All Abilities Yoga
- Game Night
- Art Group
- Filmmaking
- Improv Workshop

Check out BASE films on the BASE YouTube  
channel BASE Film Extravaganza.  
(see QR code below)



For BASE Schedule Updates and  
Additional Events go to:

[www.summitilc.org/calendar](http://www.summitilc.org/calendar)

or check the BASE Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/base725>

To get involved or to share ideas of new BASE  
programs, contact BASE [jhoward@summitilc.org](mailto:jhoward@summitilc.org).

**Contact BASE:**

[www.basemissoula.org](http://www.basemissoula.org)

Phone: 406-215-1080

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### Adult Symmetry Stander

\$300 obo, in good condition  
call: Nancy 406-273-9012

### Jazzy Pride Wheelchair

Make offer, only 2yrs old  
call: Linda 406-531-4938

### Shoprider power chair

300lb capacity. Needs battery & charger.  
Free (406) 728-1630

### Symmetry Stander, Quickie Powerchair, Invacare Powerbed, Hoyer lift

Comfortable, easy-to-use seat stander Call/  
leave message: Tejeanne (406) 865-0221

### Power Scooter

\$500 obo. Please contact Adrian:  
(406) 263-8650

### Adult Tricycle

Schwinn 26" tricycle, bike pump included.  
\$500obo (406) 721-1698

### Wheelchair Lift

Ricon wheelchair lift model #S1231  
G00100100. \$400obo.  
Contact: Cory (406) 471-3314

### Silver Spring wheelchair ramp 10' L x 36" W

Made of high-strength light weight  
aluminum. \$297obo. Contact:  
[tamera144@gmail.com](mailto:tamera144@gmail.com) or 406-363-4898

### Smart Talker text scanner

Slightly used, \$700. Contact Larry at 406-  
633-4036 or [ketch1969@gmail.com](mailto:ketch1969@gmail.com)

**Nova Walker, Quontum 600  
power wheelchair, Commode, 2  
Transfer Benches, Beezy Manual  
Wheelchair.** Call Gary (406) 224-5527 or  
[garylee032051@gmail.com](mailto:garylee032051@gmail.com)

To get listed contact Tyler Stosich at (406)  
728-1630 or email [tstosich@summitilc.org](mailto:tstosich@summitilc.org).

Or, list and find items on the MonTECH  
exchange: <http://montech.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/mtdb/>

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Any statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department.



The 15th Annual National Federation of the Blind of Montana (NFBMT) Treasure State Convention is scheduled for April 17-18, 2026, in Downtown Helena, MT at the Doubletree Inn.

The event, held at the Doubletree Hilton, will feature seminars, networking, and discussions for the blind community, with registration open on the NFBMT website.

If you would like to join us, please contact [rherbert@nfbmt.org](mailto:rherbert@nfbmt.org). Hotel block rates will be made available and registration will be very modestly priced.



## BECOME AN ADVOCATE



Scan to sign up for email alerts, view posted alerts, or even see who your candidates are.

The Montana Centers for Independent Living Action Alert system is an email listserv and online portal designed to inform you about current local, state, and national issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities.

This publication is available in alternative format on request. Please call 1 (800) 398-9002.

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