

I was born on Veteran's Day in Billings following four generations of Montanans before me. My mother Kathe grew up on the highline in Chinook and met my father, Keith in Billings where they married. Following the birth of my sister, Bryn we moved to a town of four hundred called Hysham and at age eight followed my father to a new job in the beautiful Missoula Valley.

I attended Lolo Elementary just south of town and later Big Sky High School in Missoula. Following my graduation from high school I decided to attend the University of Montana where I first got involved in the political process that would shape my life.

While there I was involved in the organizations that were pushing for social, environmental and political progress. Serving as the Outreach Director for the UM Lambda Alliance, the campus' GLBT rights organization I had the opportunity to organize and facilitate workshops that dealt with fighting prejudice and stereotypes that lead to discrimination. I would later continue that work when I became a trainer for the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI), an organization dedicated to building diversity and reducing prejudice.

While sitting as a member of the University of Montana's student senate (ASUM) I worked with hundreds of students to aggressively lobby the legislature to make higher education affordable and accessible. Later, as I became a founding board member of Forward Montana I used my role as an ASUM Senator to lead a successful statewide fight to reject an appointment to the Board of Regents by outgoing Gov. Judy Martz.

During one my college summers I had the opportunity to work with MontPIRG and later the Montana Conservation Voters going door-to-door to talk to people about the need to vote down the I-147. If passed the initiative would have repealed a long time ban on cyanide leach mining, a practice that had already destroyed rivers and streams and now threatened Missoula's Blackfoot River.

As I entered the end of my college career I was elected by College Democrats statewide to become the President of the Montana College Democrats Federation. Serving in that position I worked with the Democratic Party to hugely expand chapters statewide, growing from three to seven. Working tirelessly we turned out thousands of young Missoulians to vote in 2006 that Sen. Jon Tester acknowledges was critical to his victory.

After graduation I began work for the Democratic National Committee working with central committees and candidates across western Montana to build up the Democratic Party. I had the opportunity to work for Democrats up and down the ballot and after receiving the nomination I began the work elect Barack Obama the next President of the United States.

Following the successful campaign I moved to Helena to be a part of the 2009 Montana Legislature. While there I had the opportunity to learn the process and help House Democrats as they worked to pass progressive legislation. Working for the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committees I learned invaluable information about the environment, renewable energy, and access to our outdoors.

Now I'm working on a campaign to reform our broken health care system knowing that if we can't reform health care now the opportunity will be lost for a generation.

Montana for generations has been my family's home and Missoula is mine. At a young age I have already establish a solid record of standing up for our principles and fighting for the issues that shape our lives as Missoulians. Our town deserves a strong progressive voice that has worked to move our state forward and won't compromise the values that make Missoula special. I am running for the legislature because have the leadership ability to take on the big issues and the experience to get things done.