



**June 14-16, 2026 in Billings, Montana**

**Teaching Montana's Constitution: A Summer Workshop for Educators**, will bring together Montana teachers for an in-person professional development opportunity focused on incorporating the story of Montana's Constitution in their social studies, history, and/or government curriculum. Organized by the Friends of the Montana Constitution, a statewide nonpartisan nonprofit, this workshop assembles constitutional experts, historians, retired public servants, and current educators to dive deep into the history of Montana's unique 1972 Constitution and the people who wrote it. Teachers will leave the workshop not only with new materials and resources, but also with new strategies for incorporating Montana history and government into their classrooms in exciting and engaging ways.

**Learn More:** [montanaconstitution.org/2026/04/17/teaching-montanas-constitution/](https://montanaconstitution.org/2026/04/17/teaching-montanas-constitution/)

**Target Audience:** Montana Educators, either High School or Middle School levels, teaching history, government, civics, english language arts and/or social studies.

**Cost:** FREE! Lodging and two daily meals are provided, along with a travel stipend.

**Registration is now open:** <https://forms.gle/QP5d3Dz5Hi83wW3d7>

**Renewal Units:** Participants who attend the full two days will receive 12 OPI Renewal Units

**Location:** MSU Billings Campus, SUB with overnight lodging in the Petro Residence Hall

**Session Topics Include:** A primer on Montana's Constitution, stories of the delegates to the 1972 Constitutional Convention including C. Louise Cross, the role of Judges, the history of MT in the 60's & 70's, Montana Con Law, how Article X led to Indian Education for All, understanding the initiative process and the role of the legislature, and more!

**Presenters Include:** Betsy Griffing, retired adjunct Professor of Montana Constitutional Law and Civil Rights Litigator; Pat Cotter, retired Montana Supreme Court Justice; Constance Van Kley, Assistant Professor with the Alexander Blewett III School of Law; Emily Cross, Billings Attorney and Granddaughter of C. Louise Cross- ConCon Delegate; Brad Faulhaber, Gov't and Criminal Law Teacher with Sidney Public Schools; and Susan Fox, Retired Legislative Services Director.

**Sponsors:** This workshop is organized by the Friends of the Montana Constitution with support and funding from the Montana 250 Commission and the Montana Historical Society.

**Contact:** Julia Gustafson, Coordinator, [coordinator@montanaconstitution.org](mailto:coordinator@montanaconstitution.org) or 406-422-2920

TEACHING

# Montana's Constitution

## DRAFT WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Date / Time	Session Block	Title/Content
<b>Sunday, June 14, 2026</b>		
	<i>Travel Day</i>	
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Opening Reception	Yellowstone County Museum
Evening of June 14	Lodging Provided	MSU Billings Dorms
<b>Monday, June 15, 2026</b>		
8:00 AM	Breakfast	Provided
8:30-8:45	Welcome	Welcome: Teaching Montana's Constitution!
8:45-10:15	Session 1 (for 1.5 Units)	Our State Constitution 101
10:30-11:30	Session 2	MT History 60's-70's
11:30-12:30	Session 3	"C. Louise Cross, ConCon Catalyst for a Clean and Healthful Environment" and the 1972 ConCon
12:30 - 1:15	Lunch	Provided
1:15 - 2:45	Session 4 (for 1.5 units)	Constitution Resources/Archives Using Primary Sources & Historical Documents
3:00-4:00	Session 5	Bringing the Constitution to Life in your Classroom
5:30-6:30 PM	Public Presentation	Serving in the Legislature before and after the 1972 Constitution
Evening of June 15	Lodging Provided	MSU Billings Dorms
<b>Tuesday, June 16, 2026</b>		
8:00 AM	Breakfast	Provided
8:15 - 10:15 AM	Session 6 (for 2 units)	MT Con Law: understanding declaration of rights, basic provisions, case law, etc
10:30 - 11:30	Session 7	Role of Judges and the Montana Supreme Court
11:30 - 12:30	Session 8	Civic Participation, Initiatives, and the Legislature
12:30 - 1:00 PM	Lunch	Provided
1:00 - 2:00	Session 9	Article X of the Montana State Constitution and Indian Education for All
2:00 - 3:00 PM	Session 10	Curriculum Development / Teacher Practice
	<i>Travel Time</i>	