



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/

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, behind the scenes of the Montana Supreme Court, 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 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; Brad Faulhaber, Sidney Public Schools Teacher; Martha Kohl, MT Historical Society, 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 or 406-422-2920



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Date / Time	Session Block	Title/Content
Sunday, June 14, 2026		
	<i>Travel Day</i>	
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Opening Reception	Yellowstone County Museum Light refreshments provided
Evening of June 14	Lodging Provided	MSU Billings Dorms
Monday, June 15, 2026		
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)	Introduction to the Montana Constitution
10:30-11:30	Session 2	Organizing Change: the People, the Process, and the Legislature
11:30-12:30	Session 3	A Space of Values: The Formation of Montana Political Culture and Its Influence on the 1972 Constitution
12:30 - 1:15	Lunch	Provided
1:15 - 2:15	Session 4	Article X of the Montana State Constitution and Indian Education for All
2:15 - 3:15	Session 5	Accessing Resources: Tips and Tools You Can Use
3:30 - 5:00	Session 6 (for 1.5 Units)	Bringing the Constitution to Life in your Classroom
5:30 - 7:00 PM	Public Presentation	THE BEFORE AND AFTER TIMES: Serving in the Montana Legislature Before and After Montana's 1972 Constitution
Evening of June 15	Lodging Provided	MSU Billings Dorms
Tuesday, June 16, 2026		
8:00 AM	Breakfast	Provided
8:15 - 10:15 AM	Session 7 (for 2 units)	Montana Constitutional Law
10:30 - 11:30	Session 8	Behind the Scenes at the Montana Supreme Court
11:30 - 12:30	Session 9	"C. Louise Cross, ConCon Catalyst for a Clean and Healthful Environment" and the 1972 ConCon
12:30 - 1:15 PM	Lunch	Provided
1:15 - 1:45	Session 10 (for .5 units)	Using Historic Newspapers in the Classroom
1:45 - 3:15	Session 11 (for 1.5 unit)	Teaching with Primary Sources
3:15 - 3:30 PM	Closing	