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Time Spent: 00:11:49

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Page 1: Introduction

**Q1** Please provide your name.

quentin eggart

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**Q2** Why are you running for State Legislature?

to help my community

**Q3** What do you believe is the most important issue related to growing business in Billings and what are your suggestions for addressing that issue?

lack of trained workforce. we need apprenticeship programs that help employers pay a living wage while training people in a trade.

**Q4** In the 2017 Legislative Session, local option authority was supported by the Billings Chamber, City of Billings, Big Sky Economic Development, Downtown Billings Partnership, and numerous other organizations across the state. Under what conditions would you vote for a local option authority bill?

i would have to see the bill. leaning towards it but would need to see the language.

**Q5** Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts are an important economic development tool for our community. How will you work to ensure one of local government's most useful funding mechanisms is preserved?

i would vote to keep them.

**Q6** In 2016, Yellowstone County hoteliers remitted \$3.5 million in facility use taxes to the state. That year our regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, which markets and promotes our area as a travel destination, received \$350,000 (just 10%) from the state to market and promote tourism in our area. Will you work with the Billings Chamber and lodging partners to ensure more money is returned to the areas generating lodging tax revenue? (Y/N)

**Yes,**

You may provide additional context if appropriate.:

obviously some of the money that comes into billings needs to go back out to eastern and northern Montana, as well as red lodge, etc.

## Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

**Q7** MSU Billings is an essential economic driver for our community and surrounding area. Not only does MSU Billings provide educational opportunity for Montanans, it also assists with workforce development, an increasingly important challenge facing our community. How will you help to ensure MSU Billings receives adequate funding for facility updates?

i think it needs to evaluate its workforce development because i dont think it is teaching the hands on things we need taught as employers of graduates.

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**Q8** The Billings Chamber, City of Billings, Big Sky Economic Development, Downtown Billings Partnership, and other community partners, are working with Hammes Co. on the development of One Big Sky Center, comprised of two development districts and anchored by a regional convention center. If a state funding source were identified and developed, under what conditions would you support the inclusion of state monies in the funding mix for a regional convention center in Billings?

i guess i would support those moneys. but i do not support the idea of giving 1 big sky so many millions and thinking that we are not going to have ongoing future needs to support the convention center idea. convention centers dont run profitably. they need propped up by tax dollars and hotel surcharges.

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**Q9** Sixteen percent of Billings workers are employed in the healthcare arena resulting in a total direct and indirect economic output of \$2.6 billion annually. Do you believe that cutting state reimbursement to hospitals, clinics and other healthcare providers is a way to address state budget shortfalls? (Y, N) **No**

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**Q10** Throughout the legislative interim and November 2017 Special Session the re-evaluation of Montana's funding mechanisms was a topic of discussion. What are your thoughts on the need to identify new revenue sources to address a shifting economy and our infrastructure needs?

we need to spend less in a lot of areas, and cut waste in order to fund the necessary things without increasing taxes.

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**Q11** Billings, and the greater Yellowstone County area, has the largest legislative delegation in the state and there is great potential to work together toward regional specific initiatives. How do you plan to work with all members of the Yellowstone County area delegation for the betterment of our business community during the 2019 Legislative Session?

i wont walk party lines, just use my best business judgement...

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Page 3: Finalizing Questionnaire

**Q12** If you have not sent the Billings Chamber a high-res image you would like us to use, please upload a photo here.

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