

MATT ROSENDALE/NRSC – CHOICE FACT CHECK

OVERVIEW

- Jon Tester, as Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, has been a leader in working with the Trump Administration to secure our borders, and has fought tirelessly throughout his career to put more boots on the ground and deploy technology to secure the Northern and Southern borders.
- Matt Rosendale has repeatedly opposed efforts to keep Montanans safe – he was called out by the Billings Gazette for being one of only seven state senators to vote against legislation to toughen penalties for human trafficking, voted against creating a permanent sexual assault prosecution office in the Montana Department of Justice, and voted against funding a service to notify victims or sex crimes when their attacker was released from prison.
- Matt Rosendale is a multimillionaire East Cost real estate developer who moved to Montana after buying a \$2 million trophy ranch that he doesn't even ranch himself; he's a political opportunist who has run for 5 offices in 8 years and who started his campaign with a "pants on fire" lie about Jon Tester's record. Rosendale was hand-picked by Washington insiders and special interests; his campaign has been propped up by millions in dark money outside spending – he'll do their bidding, not what's best for Montana.

CLAIM

V/O: There's a choice on immigration.

ON SCREEN: THERE IS A CHOICE ON IMMIGRATION

TRUMP: Jon Tester voted no on Kate's law.

ON SCREEN: TESTER VOTED NO ON KATE'S LAW

TRUMP: That's legislation named for Kate Steinle, who was gunned down by a five-time deported illegal immigrant.

ON SCREEN: TESTER & DEMOCRATS STOPPED KATE'S LAW

SOURCE: RECORD VOTE #120, 7/6/16

FACTS

JON TESTER HAS BEEN A LEADER IN EFFORTS TO WORK WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO STRENGTHEN OUR BORDER SECURITY

HEADLINE: "Tester Joins Bipartisan Group Working On Border Security Deal." [MTPR, [1/24/18](#)]

CNN: Jon Tester "Was One Of A Handful" Of Senators To Meet With Trump Administration Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen On Immigration Reform Negotiations. [CNN, [1/23/18](#)]

- **Jon Tester Worked With Colleagues And The Department Of Homeland Security To Push Bipartisan Border Security Plan That Included Hiring Hundreds Of New Border Patrol Agents And Investing In New Technologies To Secure The Border.** [MTPR, [1/24/18](#)]
- **MTN News:** "Jon Tester...Noted That He And Trump Agree That Borders Must Be Strengthened To Keep Out Drugs And Law Breakers." [MTN News, [1/9/18](#)]

JON TESTER HAS FOUGHT TIRELESSLY THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER TO ADD MORE AGENTS TO THE BORDERS, AND INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY TO SECURE THEM

HEADLINE: "Tester Wants More Border Personnel." [Daily Inter Lake, [1/19/18](#)]

Jon Tester Cosponsored The Border And Port Security Act To Hire, Train, And Assign At Least 500 Customs And Border Protection Officers To Ports Of Entry Annually Until 3,600 Understaffed Positions Were Filled. [Daily Inter Lake, [1/19/18](#); Cosponsors, S. 2314, Library of Congress, [1/17/18](#)]

- **National Treasury Employees Union President:** "For All The Talk About Improving Border Security And Backing Federal Law Enforcement, This Bill Actually Delivers It." [Government Executive, [1/18/18](#)]

Jon Tester Voted For The Boots On The Border Act, Which Would "Add More Border Patrol Agents In A Quicker Manner" And "Help President Donald Trump Fulfill His Executive Orders On Immigration Enforcement And Border Security." [CQ, [5/17/17](#); Arizona Republic, [3/8/17](#)]

HEADLINE: "Tester, McCain Team Up On New Border Patrol Pay Plan." [Havre Daily News, [11/15/13](#)]

Jon Tester's Bipartisan, Border Patrol-Endorsed Border Patrol Pay Reform Act Was Signed Into Law. [S. 1691, [11/13/13](#); Public Law 113-277, [12/18/14](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Border Patrol Wage Reform Would Add 1,500 Agents to Deal With Immigrant Surge."** [ABC News, [6/9/14](#)]

Jon Tester Voted For A Bipartisan "Border Surge" Amendment To Provide Billions To Hire Nearly 20,000 Border Agents, Build 700 Miles Of Border Fencing, And Utilize Drone And Camera Technology On The Border. [Vote 163, S.Amdt. 1183 to S. 744, [6/26/13](#); CQ, [6/26/13](#)]

Jon Tester Supported Efforts To Strengthen Border Security That Led To Funding Of 1,000 More Border Patrol Agents. [CQ, [7/22/10](#); Vote 219, H.R. 4899, [7/22/10](#); Arizona Daily Star, [7/24/10](#); Letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, [6/28/10](#); St. Louis Post-Dispatch, [8/6/10](#)]

- **Jon Tester Slammed Proposed Spending Plan That "Effectively Nullifie[d]" The \$600 Million Emergency Border Security Bill That Increased The Size Of The Border Patrol By 1,000 Agents And Would "Again Leave Our Agents Understaffed."** [Government Video, [2/28/11](#)]

Jon Tester Backed And Voted For A Law To Hire 3,000 New Border Patrol Agents And Invest \$1 Billion In Border Technology. [Letter to Sen. Harry Reid and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, 12/13/07; Cosponsors, S. Amdt. 3117 to H.R. 3222, Library of Congress, [10/3/07](#); Vote 441, H.R. 2764, [12/18/07](#); Homeland Security Department: FY2008 Appropriations, Congressional Research Service, [2/15/08](#)]

- **CQ: "The Law Includes \$9.4 Billion For Custom And Border Protection, Which Would Include An Additional 3,000 Border Patrol Agents."** [CQ, 1/18/08]

Jon Tester Successfully Pushed To Deploy Military-Grade Radar To Strengthen Northern Border Security. [Associated Press, [2/10/11](#); Letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Defense Secretary Robert Gates, [2/10/11](#); KRTV, 3/13/11]

TRUMP: We believe in coming into this country legally.

TRUMP: We believe in strong borders and no crime. It's very simple.

ON SCREEN: REPUBLICANS BELIEVE IN STRONG BORDERS AND NO CRIME.

MATT ROSENDALE WAS ONE OF 7 SENATORS TO VOTE AGAINST TOUGHENING PENALTIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MAKING THE LAW MORE VICTIM-CENTERED

HEADLINE: "Legislation To Combat Sex Trafficking Is Vital For Montana." [Editorial, Helena Independent Record, [4/15/15](#)]

HEADLINE: "Sex Trafficking Bills Aim To Protect Montana Children." [Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [2/2/15](#)]

Matt Rosendale Was One Of Only 7 Senators To Vote Against Strengthening Montana's Human Trafficking Laws By Allowing Victims An Affirmative Defense, Deeming A Victim's Past Sexual Behavior Generally Inadmissible, And Requiring Perpetrators Register As Sex Offenders. [Vote 1627, HB 89, [4/17/15](#); Missoulian, [5/9/15](#)]

- **Billings Gazette Editorial Called Out Matt Rosendale As One Of Seven Senators To Vote Against Anti-Trafficking Legislation Because "Voters Ought To Know [His] Record On This Disturbing Issue."** [Editorial, Billings Gazette, [7/30/18](#)]

BIPARTISAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION WAS SUPPORTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, VICTIMS GROUPS, AND ATTORNEY GENERAL TIM FOX

Republican Montana Attorney General Tim Fox: "House Bill 89 Will Help Us Defeat Human Trafficking." [Helena Independent Record, [2/2/15](#)]

Montana Regional Violent Crime Task Force's Guy Baker: "House Bill 89...Will Be Beneficial In Expanding And Improving Montana Law To Better Help Trafficking Victims"

And Hold Those Responsible Accountable For Their Victims' Suffering." [Guy Baker, Testimony on HB 89, Montana Senate Judiciary Committee, [3/31/15](#)] (VIDEO)

Montana Chiefs Of Police Association, Montana Police Protective Association, And Montana County Attorneys Association Endorsed Human Trafficking Legislation (HB 89) For Bringing "The Entire Weight Of The State Against This Problem." [Mark Murphy, Testimony on HB 89, Montana Senate Judiciary Committee, [3/31/15](#)] (VIDEO)

Billings Clinic Endorsed Human Trafficking Bill (HB 89), Noting Its Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program Had Seen A 155 Percent Increase In Sexual Assault Cases – More Than 17 Percent Children Under 12 – Since 2007. [Aimee Grmoljez, Testimony on HB 89, Montana Senate Judiciary Committee, [3/31/15](#)] (VIDEO)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENT, VICTIM RESCUE, AND MONTANA'S SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION LAW RATING INCREASED AFTER HB 89 WAS SIGNED INTO LAW

2016: Montana Division Of Criminal Investigations Brought Charges Against Five People For Human Trafficking-Related Crimes After Law Passed To Broaden The Definition Of A Human Trafficking Victim. [Billings Gazette, [5/17/16](#)]

HEADLINE: "Increase In Human Trafficking Victims Rescued." [KULR, [1/9/17](#)]

2015-2016: Republican Attorney General Tim Fox Announced 83 Percent Increase In Adult Trafficking Victims Rescued And 400 Percent Increase In Juvenile Trafficking Victims Rescued. [KULR, [1/9/17](#)]

- **Republican Attorney General Tim Fox Attributed Substantial Increase In Percentage Of Adult And Juvenile Human Trafficking Victims Rescued In Part To 2015 Law Establishing Definitions And Penalties For Human Trafficking, Protections For Victims, And New Programs To Raise Awareness.** [Billings Gazette, [5/23/17](#)]

HEADLINE: "Montana Named As Top State In Battling Child Sex Trafficking." [KULR, [11/11/15](#)]

2015: National Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Nonprofit Raised Montana's Grade From A "D" To An "A" For Trafficking Prevention After HB 89 Was Signed Into Law. [News Release, Office of Attorney General Tim Fox, [11/13/15](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE HAS REPEATEDLY OPPOSED MEASURES TO KEEP MONTANANS SAFE

MATT ROSENDALE VOTED AGAINST MEASURE TO AUTHORIZE A PERMANENT SEXUAL ASSAULT PROSECUTION UNIT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Matt Rosendale Was One Of 9 Senators To Vote Against Legislation To Establish A Special Prosecution Unit Within The Montana Attorney General's Office To Handle Sexual Assault Cases. [Vote 367, HB 75, [2/9/15](#); Great Falls Tribune, [2/20/15](#)]

- **Tim Fox: Legislation Creating A Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit "Ensures That Sexual Assault Prosecutions And Training Are Always A Priority For The Montana Department Of Justice, No Matter Who Sits In The Attorney General's Office."** [Tim Fox, Havre Daily News, [3/2/15](#)]
- **Tim Fox: Creation Of A Permanent Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit Would "Help Us Dedicate Resources To Train Prosecutors And Law Enforcement Throughout The State To Better Deal With Sex Crimes."** [Tim Fox, Bozeman Daily Chronicle, [5/13/15](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE VOTED AGAINST FUNDING FOR SEX CRIME VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT HELPED EXPAND THE SYSTEM TO 8,400 MORE FELONS

Matt Rosendale Voted Against Restoring A Service For Victims Of Sex Crimes To Notify Them When Their Attacker Was Released From The Prison System. [Associated Press, [3/12/11](#); Vote 953, HB 2, [3/12/11](#); Amendment 094, HB 2, [3/11/11](#); Version 2, HB 2, [3/11/11](#)]

HEADLINE: “Corrections Expands State’s Victim Notification System.” [Sidney Herald, [2/16/14](#)]

Sidney Herald: Montana Department Of Corrections “Major Expansion” Of Its Victim Information And Notification Everyday (VINE) System Was “Made Possible” In Part By “A 2012 State General Fund Appropriation.” [Sidney Herald, [2/16/14](#)]

- **Montana Department Of Corrections Director: FY2012 General Fund Appropriation Was “Vital” To The Expansion Of The VINE System.** [Sidney Herald, [2/16/14](#)]

Sidney Herald: VINE Expansion Included “Significant Addition” Of 8,400 Montana Felony Offenders On Probation And Parole In Addition To Those In Prisons And Pre-Release Centers. [Sidney Herald, [2/16/14](#)]

- **Montana Department Of Corrections Victim Programs Manager: “The VINE System Is Critical To Our Victim Service Strategy Because It Helps Keep Victims Safe.”** [Sidney Herald, [2/16/14](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE VOTED TO SLASH FUNDING FOR THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, WHICH OVERSAW MONTANA ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS

Matt Rosendale Voted To Slash Funding For The Montana Division Of Criminal Investigation Up To Nearly \$3 Million.

- **2011: Matt Rosendale Voted To Cut Funding For The Division Of Criminal Investigation By \$1,063,417 Over Two Years.** [Vote 920, HB 2, [3/11/11](#); Text, Amendment 085 to HB 2, [3/11/11](#)]
- **2011: Matt Rosendale Voted To Cut Funding For The Division Of Criminal Investigation By \$2,925,870 Over Two Years.** [Vote 920, HB 2, [3/11/11](#); Text, Amendment 092 to HB 2, [3/11/11](#)]

Great Falls Tribune: Division Of Criminal Investigation Administered The Montana All Threat Intelligence Center, A Fusion Center Designed To “Track Down Suspected Criminals And Prevent Terrorism.” [Great Falls Tribune, [12/26/07](#)]

- **Montana Department of Justice’s Division of Criminal Investigation Had “The Primary Responsibility For The Operation Of” The Montana All Threat Intelligence Center.** [Montana All Threat Intelligence Center Policies and Procedures, [9/23/08](#)]
- **Montana Division Of Criminal Investigation’s Investigative Support Bureau Operated The Montana All Threat Intelligence Center And Addressed Homeland Security Issues.** [Division of Criminal Investigation, Montana Department of Justice, Judicial Subcommittee, Joint Appropriations Committee, [1/28/13](#)]

TRUMP: You're going to get on your side a Montana fighter, Matt Rosendale.

ON SCREEN: MONTANA FIGHTER

MATT ROSENDALE IS A MULTIMILLIONAIRE DEVELOPER FROM MARYLAND WHO BOUGHT A \$2 MILLION TROPHY RANCH AND TURNED FARMLAND INTO REAL ESTATE

MATT ROSENDALE IS A MULTIMILLIONAIRE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER WHO MOVE TO MONTANA AFTER BUYING A TROPHY RANCH, OWNS NO CATTLE

Matt Rosendale: “I Develop Property, I’ve Said So.” [49:01, Missoula County Republican Primary Debate, [3/28/18](#)] (VIDEO)

- **Matt Rosendale: “As I’ve Told You, I Develop Property.”** [1:41:04, Primary Debate, Montana State University College Republicans, Bozeman, MT, [3/22/18](#)] (VIDEO)

ON SCREEN:
MATT
ROSENDALE

ROSENDALE: I'm
Matt Rosendale and
I approve this
message.

MTN News: “Matt Rosendale: The State Auditor And Real-Estate Manager From Glendive Reported Assets Valued From \$7 Million To \$32 Million.” “Republican Matt Rosendale: The state auditor and real-estate manager from Glendive reported assets valued from \$7 million to \$32 million, including MBA Consultants, which is his property-development company. His campaign said MBA manages the property he owns, including his ranch near Glendive.” [MTN News, [2/15/18](#)]

August 2002: Matt Rosendale Purchased A Working Ranch At Auction For \$2.175 Million In Glendive. [Glendive Ranger-Review, 8/22/02]

TPM: “Longtime Real Estate Developer [Matt Rosendale] Never Actually Ranched His Land Himself...It Appears That He’s Never Owned Any Cattle.” “But public records and his own past statements indicate the longtime real estate developer never actually ranched his land himself, instead renting it out for others to farm and run their cattle on. And the higher the office he’s run for, the more he’s talked up his supposed ranching experience...Rosendale hasn’t registered ownership of any livestock since 2011 — and before then it was limited to a few horses. It appears that he’s never owned any cattle.” [TPM, [5/29/18](#)]

- **Republican Russ Fagg: “Matt Rosendale May Describe Himself As A Rancher, But I Haven’t Met Many Ranchers Who Were Wealthy East Coast Real-Estate Developers Until They Were 40 Years Old.”** “That could be a problem for Rosendale as he looks to hang on for a primary victory next week, as his top primary opponent, former Judge Russ Fagg (R), has repeatedly questioned his roots in the state. ‘Matt Rosendale may describe himself as a rancher, but I haven’t met many ranchers who were wealthy east coast real-estate developers until they were 40 years old,’ Fagg said in a statement to TPM when asked about Rosendale’s ranching credentials.” [TPM, [5/29/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE TURNED MONTANA FARMLAND INTO REAL ESTATE

Great Falls Tribune: Matt Rosendale Planned “A Large Residential Development On 300 Acres He Bought” In Great Falls That Was Previously Farmland. [Great Falls Tribune, [3/10/04](#)]

- **Matt Rosendale On Planned Great Falls Development: “The Growth Rate Isn’t What It Was Back East, But You Have A Healthy Growth Rate, And That’s OK With Me.”** [Great Falls Tribune, [3/10/04](#)]

Matt Rosendale Predicted His Eagles Crossing Development Could Eventually Encompass As Many As 700 Units. [Great Falls Tribune, [3/22/04](#)]

- **Great Falls Tribune: “Also Receiving The Go-Ahead Was The Preliminary Plat Of The First Phase Of Eagles Crossing, A 300-Acre Development That Eventually Will Include As Many As 700 Units, According To Developer Matt Rosendale Of Glendive.”** [Great Falls Tribune, [4/8/04](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE MOVED TO MONTANA TO START A POLITICAL CAREER, AND HAS RUN FOR HIGHER OFFICE FIVE TIMES IN THE LAST EIGHT YEARS

Associated Press: Matt Rosendale Was Attacked By His Republican Primary Opponent As A “Political Opportunist Seeking His Fifth Elected Office In Eight Years.” [Associated Press, [6/6/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE STARTED HIS CAMPAIGN WITH A “PANTS ON FIRE” LIE ABOUT JON TESTER’S RECORD

HEADLINE: “Republican Senate Hopeful’s Absurd Claim Montana Sen. Jon Tester Supports A National Gun Registry.” [PolitiFact, [8/21/18](#)]

Non-Partisan Fact Checker Rated Matt Rosendale’s Claim About Jon Tester’s Record On Guns “Absurd” And Gave Him A “Pants On Fire” Rating. [PolitiFact, [8/21/18](#)]

- **Matt Rosendale Made The Claim While Announcing His Run For U.S. Senate.** [PolitiFact, [8/21/18](#)]

MATT ROSENDALE IS BACKED BY WASHINGTON SPECIAL INTERESTS AND PROPPED UP BY OUT-OF-STATE DARK MONEY SUPER PACS THAT HAVE FLOODED MONTANA WITH CASH

HEADLINE: “Conservative Groups Poured Millions Into Montana’s Senate Primary.” [Vox, [6/6/18](#)]

Vox: Matt Rosendale, “Outside Groups’ Preferred Candidate,” Won The Republican Primary Backed By Millions In Outside Spending. “The millions of dollars that flowed into Montana’s Senate race appears to have worked — outside groups’ preferred candidate emerged victorious from Tuesday’s Republican primary. State auditor Matt Rosendale, who was endorsed by three conservative US senators and backed by conservative outside groups to the tune of \$5.7 million, defeated the state’s political establishment pick, retired Judge Russ Fagg. The primary determined who would take on the incumbent Democrat, Sen. Jon Tester, in a state Trump won by 20 points.” [Vox, [6/6/18](#)]

MTN News: “Political-Action Committees Bankrolled By An Illinois Billionaire Have Spent \$1.2 Million On Radio And TV Ads In Montana, Promoting Republican U.S. Senate Candidate Matt Rosendale.” [MTN News, [4/12/18](#)]

July 2018: Dark Money Super PAC Aired Six-Figure Attack Ad Campaign Lying About Jon Tester’s Record And Erroneously Giving Him Ten Fingers. “Senate Reform Fund, a dark-money group, started airing a six-figure ad this week against Sen. Jon Tester (D) that accuses him of taking ‘a \$25,000 excursion to Israel with his wife’ as well as voting ‘to keep wasteful earmarks’ and ‘against repealing the death tax eight times.’ The announcer closes: ‘Jon Tester’s lies are too big to ignore.’ The super PAC, which formed June 29 and has not had to disclose its donors yet, on Thursday reported spending \$371,000 to Wisconsin-based Nonbox to place the ad on TV, radio, and digital platforms...Tester’s campaign blamed state Auditor Matt Rosendale’s (R) for the ‘out-of-state, darkmoney allies’ for the ad, which dismisses as having ‘erroneously and fraudulently attributes three different quotes to Tester which he did not say’ as well as noting it ‘attributes ten fingers to the seven-fingered farmer.’” [National Journal, [7/13/18](#)]

Former Republican Statewide Elected Officials Marc Racicot, Stan Stephens, Denny Rehberg, And Rick Hill: “Montanans Deserve More Than A U.S. Senator Who Puts The Party Agenda And Endorsements From D.C. Insiders Above Montana.” “As former public servants ourselves, we understand some are better suited to public service than others. While there are a number of choices on the Republican ballot for the June 5 primary, Judge Fagg stands out as the best. Montanans deserve more than a U.S. Senator whose top priority is climbing the political ladder. Montanans deserve more than a U.S. Senator who puts the party agenda and endorsements from D.C. insiders above Montana.” [Marc Racicot/Stan Stephens/Denny Rehberg/Rick Hill, Helena Independent Record, [5/28/18](#)]

- **Matt Rosendale Committed To Backing Mitch McConnell As Majority Leader.** “Rosendale had suggested he’d back Mitch McConnell to remain as majority leader leader, but he was at odds with the National Republican Senatorial Committee late last year when he praised the public service of Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore after the NRSC had already cut ties with him.” [Roll Call, [6/6/18](#)]

Koch-Backed Group Americans For Prosperity Spent \$560,000 On Television And Digital Ads Attacking Jon Tester. [Helena Independent Record, [4/19/18](#)]

- **2015: Matt Rosendale Earned A 100 Percent Score From Americans For Prosperity For His Voting Record In The Montana State Senate.** [2015 Legislative Scorecard, Americans for Prosperity – Montana, captured [7/19/17](#)]