

## PRESS RELEASE

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### ANDREA DAVIS ANNOUNCES BID FOR MISSOULA'S MAYORAL RACE

MISSOULA – Long-time housing professional and community advocate Andrea Davis, announces her bid to become Missoula's next Mayor.

"What excites me most about serving Missoula as the next Mayor, is that I will bring my working knowledge of sustainable home solutions, transportation services, and economic development expertise to ensure that all Missoulians have a prosperous future," said Davis.

Davis enters the race with decades of experience working directly to build homes that Missoulians can afford at a time when home affordability is the biggest issue for the community, and the state.

Davis took over as Executive Director of Homeward in October of 2008 when the largest housing crisis in United States history triggered the Great Recession. Homeward is now a statewide organization having built or preserved over 1,300 homes in 13 Montana communities and established a Regional Home Ownership Center providing housing and financial education and counseling to over 1,000 Missoulians each year.

"Andrea Davis is a Missoula gem," said Christine Littig (former owner of Bernice's Bakery). "A dedicated, genuine, and persistent leader. An individual steeped in community relationships of all professions or positions. Her understanding of Missoula's social and political landscape is a win for us all. Andrea has my respect, and my vote."

Recognizing the interdependence of systems, Davis said, "What brought me to Homeward was its dedication to sustainable building. I saw immediately that people cannot focus on the health of the planet or their community if they do not have a roof over their head. Fast forward 20 years, with the climate crisis literally at the front door threatening our livelihoods. Missoula has positioned itself to be a leader for positive change on numerous fronts and I want to take my practical experience and further our community's goals."

Beyond her 15 years as Executive Director of Homeward, Davis spent five years at the Missoula Housing Authority as Director of Planning and Development delivering critical rental

assistance and affordable rentals to Missoulians including developing the Valor House, 17 apartments with supportive services for veterans experiencing homelessness.

“Andrea Davis is an energetic problem solver who really listens,” said community volunteer Martha Newell. “She is smart, inspiring and committed to our community. I couldn’t be more enthusiastic in endorsing her for Mayor.”

Davis currently is the board chair of NeighborWorks Montana, a statewide Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI) providing lending, housing education and preservation of manufactured home communities.

Davis also serves on the Board of Directors of Missoula Economic Partnership and served on their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Steering Committee. “Housing and childcare are both foundational to economic development. We’re making progress on the former. We need to do more to improve childcare options for working parents,” said Davis.

In addition to 22 years as a housing professional, Davis has served on the Board of Directors for Mountain Line for the past 11 years overseeing significant service expansion, including Zero Fare, helping Missoula be a more livable and prosperous community for everyone. “Mountain Line is a vital piece of our community infrastructure,” said Davis. “It earned the prestigious 2021 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award and I am honored to be a part of that collective success.”

“Andrea Davis will be a great mayor for Missoula,” said Tom France, Missoula HD 94. “Her experience, her ability to work with people, her capacity to lead and her positive vision will help Missoula continue to be a wonderful place to live and work. I am excited to see her run for Mayor and strongly endorse her candidacy.”

Along with her spouse Denison von Maur, Davis was the co-owner, for 8 years, of Altoona Ridge Lodge in the Flint Creek mountains near Philipsburg. “We’re both avid skiers, bicyclists, hikers, and rafters. We love the recreational opportunities so close to Missoula. Our open spaces, parks and trails in and around Missoula are an amazing benefit available to all.”

Davis grew up in Kalispell, attended Flathead Valley Community College and obtained a degree in Communication Studies from the University of Montana, and notes that “I’ve lived in Montana my entire life. I’ve lived in Missoula for 25 years. Along with a fresh perspective, I have the experience and skills to successfully lead Missoula forward. I hope to earn your trust and your vote this fall.”

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**Note to Press:** A picture of Andrea is attached for your use.

Paid for by Andrea for Mayor, P.O. Box 1386, Missoula, MT 59806.