

# Montana State Senate



## SENATOR RIC HOLDEN

SENATE DISTRICT 1  
GLENDDIVE TO ALZADA

HOME ADDRESS:  
164 ROAD 253  
GLENDDIVE, MONTANA 59330  
PHONE: (406) 486-5644

*The Big Sky Country*

HELENA ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 200500  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0500  
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, CHAIRMAN  
HIGHWAYS, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY

Date: 12-13-24

Topic: Governor Appointment – 7<sup>th</sup> District Court- Glendive Montana

### LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I would like to offer my endorsement of Mr. Scott Herring for the open judgeship of the 7<sup>th</sup> judicial district court.

I respect and have known Mr. Herring for over 30 years. I have sought advice from Mr. Herring on issues concerning the application of the law and real estate transactions. His knowledge of law is broad and complete. He has operated his own law office for many years, and he has experience in both criminal and civil law. Mr. Herring is a lifelong resident of eastern Montana. He is committed to the values of rural Montana and is steadfast in his support for our state and constitution. I consider him to be a veteran in the area of law interpretation.

When comparing him to his peers, I believe that you will find him to be the best candidate for the position. Mr. Herring has my highest recommendation for the position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Mr. Herring's candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ric Holden  
Former State Senator

**December 18, 2024**

**Letter of Support for Attorney Scott Herring**

The Honorable Governor Greg Gianforte  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing to express my strong support for Attorney Scott Herring's candidacy for the district judge vacancy in the Seventh Judicial District. I had the privilege of working closely with Mr. Herring during my tenure as Mayor of Glendive, Montana, beginning in 2022, during which he served as the longstanding City Attorney for Glendive. His professionalism, legal expertise, and unwavering dedication to upholding the law make him an outstanding candidate for this judicial position.

Mr. Herring consistently demonstrated an exceptional command of legal principles, which proved invaluable in addressing the diverse and complex challenges faced by our community. His extensive knowledge of all aspects of the law enabled him to provide thoughtful and practical legal advice, ensuring that decisions were both legally sound and in the best interest of our citizens. He is a steadfast advocate for justice and consistently prioritizes fairness, rationality, and impartiality in his work.

One of Mr. Herring's most admirable qualities is his unwavering integrity. He has stood firm in the face of public criticism, always adhering to the law and doing what is right, regardless of external pressures. His commitment to ethics and justice is matched only by his humility and compassion, qualities that are essential for a judicial role. His exemplary communication skills allow him to articulate complex legal concepts clearly and effectively, ensuring that all parties fully understand the matters at hand.

Mr. Herring is patient, open-minded, courteous, and tactful. Combined with his extensive legal experience and deep understanding of the judicial system, these attributes make him uniquely equipped to serve as a district judge.

I am confident that Mr. Herring's appointment would greatly benefit the Seventh Judicial District and the State of Montana. His dedication to justice, legal experience, and strong

moral character position him as an ideal candidate for this role. I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy and respectfully urge you to consider him for this important position.

Thank you for your attention to this recommendation. Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss Mr. Herring's qualifications further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresea Olson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Teresea Olson  
401 S Anderson Ave  
Glendive MT 59330  
406-989-0267  
Tolsonpac@hotmail.com

# Montana State Senate



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When comparing him to his peers, I believe that you will find him to be the best candidate for the position. Mr. Herring has my highest recommendation for the position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Mr. Herring's candidacy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ric".

Ric Holden  
Former State Senator

**From:** [curtisrep.jc1211@gmail.com](mailto:curtisrep.jc1211@gmail.com)  
**To:** [NominateJudges](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter of support for Scott Herring  
**Date:** Sunday, December 22, 2024 11:42:52 AM

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This email-letter is to support Scott Herring for district judge for eastern Montana and McCone County. Scott has done a great job as County attorney and working for himself in the past He presents himself professionally and is a great friend and a resident and former businessman in Circle /McCone County I would like to send my support for Scott Herring as an appointee for district judge as I believe he would represent McCone County well.

Signed Jerry Curtiss  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ray Basta](#)  
**To:** [NominateJudges](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recommendation of Scott Herring for Judge  
**Date:** Thursday, December 26, 2024 7:46:33 AM

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Ray Basta  
Agricultural Property Developer/Retired CFO and Co-owner Big Sky Carvers  
1275 Hwy 200 S, Glendive, MT 59330  
[Rbasta1@gmail.com](mailto:Rbasta1@gmail.com)  
406-581-8970  
12-26-24

Judicial Nominating Commission Seventh Judicial District  
[nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Dear Members of the Judicial Nominating Commission,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Scott Herring for the judicial vacancy in the Seventh Judicial District of eastern Montana. As a native-born Montanan, Mr. Herring not only embodies the spirit of our state but also brings a profound understanding of our community's.

Mr. Herring has over three decades of experience as a reputable attorney in Dawson County. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the principles of justice, fairness, and equity. His deep-rooted knowledge of Montana's laws and his familiarity with the judicial practices of Dawson, Prairie, McCone, Richland, and Wibaux counties make him an exemplary candidate for this position.

His practice has shown a consistent pattern of respect for the law, balanced with a compassionate approach to the individuals who come before the court. Scott's integrity and judicial temperament are well-regarded by peers, clients, and the community. He has a reputation for being thorough, diligent, and always striving to ensure that justice is served with impartiality and wisdom.

Scott Herring's dedication to public service and his commitment to uphold the legal standards that our state cherishes are beyond question. His local background ensures he understands the nuances of the region's socio-economic and cultural landscape, which is crucial for a judge in this district.

I firmly believe that Scott Herring would serve the Seventh Judicial District with distinction. His extensive legal experience, combined with his personal qualities of fairness and equity, make him an ideal candidate for this judicial role. I am confident that he will continue to serve our community with the same integrity and dedication that have characterized his legal career to date.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or wish to discuss Mr. Herring's qualifications in more detail.

Sincerely,

Ray Basta

# Culver Insurance Agency

208 SOUTH MERRILL AVE • PO BOX 849 • GLENDIVE, MT 59330 • (406) 377-5631 • FAX (406) 377-8546

12/19/2024

Re: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

The Honorable Governor Greg Gianforte  
State Capital  
Helena, Montana

Dear Governor Gianforte

I am writing in support of Attorney Mr. Scott Herring for the vacant judgeship of the 7th judicial district court.

As a local businessman in Glendive, I have known and worked with Scott Herring for over 40 years. I have observed his career from the time he came to Glendive out of college and throughout his career. I have a great admiration for how he has excelled at every level of his profession from county attorney through his private practice. He has excelled as a high level of legal expertise, compassion and fair judgement.

What sets Scott apart is his unwavering commitment to community service. I have worked alongside him on various volunteer boards, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Golf Foundation Board, and the Caviar Board, among others. Throughout his years of service, he has generously shared his time and legal expertise. Thanks to his insights and sound judgment, Scott has become an integral part of our community's leadership as we strive to enhance our economy and improve the well-being of our citizens.

What has amazed me the most is that his high level of integrity has never wavered no matter what the consequences are. I have watched him through all those years as a county prosecutor as he worked endlessly under the extreme pressure of highly publicized and heart-breaking homicide case to standing strong and not allowing public criticism to pressure him to violate the law and doing what was right.

In my business dealings over the years I have encountered and I dealt with other attorneys. I have learned to respect their profession and the upholding of the law. Through it all, I have concluded that Scott Herring is very thorough and has extensive knowledge of the law and stands a good cut above his peers in his knowledge and dedication.

I am very proud to say that Mr. Scott Herring is a wonderful dear friend. As a friend I have seen things that make my respect and admiration of his values even more impressive. As

we worked together on various community volunteer programs, I found him to be a compassionate, giving and humble friend. He is dedicated not only to his friends and associates but also to a stranger who needs help. Scott has a strong moral character and

In conclusion, I offer my strongest and most empathic endorsement for Scott Herring's candidacy for this judgeship. If I can be of any further assistance to answer questions or give feedback on this matter, I would be most co-operative in my reply

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Culver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Culver" clearly distinguishable.

Jim Culver President of Culver Insurance Agency Inc

**December 18, 2024**

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The Honorable Governor Greg Gianforte  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59620

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Thank you for your attention to this recommendation. Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss Mr. Herring's qualifications further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresea Olson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Teresea Olson  
401 S Anderson Ave  
Glendive MT 59330  
406-989-0267  
Tolsonpac@hotmail.com

**From:** [Curt Williams](#)  
**To:** [NominateJudges](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Judge  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 5:40:01 PM

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To whom it my concern:

My name is Curt Williams and I am a 65 year resident of Richland County. I am writing this letter to support Scott Herring for the Richland County judge. I have known Scott for 5-6 years and I think he would be an excellent choice to have in this position. I am currently the Exalted Ruler of the Sidney Elks Lodge #2175.

I would be willing to talk to you further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Curt Williams  
609 Fourth St. NE  
Sidney, MT 59270  
1-406-480-5732  
Sent from my iPhone

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**Paula Eberling**

PO Box 262  
Sidney, MT 59270  
(406) 480-4676  
theparlour.mt@gmail.com

12th January 2025

Governor Greg Gianforte  
Via email [nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Re: Letter of support for Scott Herring for Seventh Judicial District Judge  
vacancy

**Honorable Governor Gianforte:**

I am honored to write this letter in support of Scott Herring for the Seventh Judicial District Court Judge. I have known and had the pleasure of working with Scott for over 19 years during my career as the victim witness specialist for the Seventh Judicial District.

During my time as director of the victim witness program in Eastern Montana, I worked with prosecutors, victims, witnesses, law enforcement, and defense attorneys. Scott stood out above all due to his unwavering knowledge and dedication to ensure that victims' rights were enforced and each case was handled in a timely and professional manner.

Scott's honesty and integrity showed in his everyday work, whether it was in the courtroom, during town meetings, or, in his daily interactions with his peers.

I believe Scott is an excellent choice as the Seventh Judicial District Judge. His 34 years of experience in civil, criminal, and administrative law gives him an edge over the other contenders due to his long-term residential status in Eastern Montana, and his aged wisdom in practicing law.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Paula Eberling

Governor Gianforte,

I am writing this letter to oppose the appointment of Scott Herring as the new District Court Judge for the Seventh Judicial District. I have been a member of the Glendive City Council for 11 years, and Mr. Herring was the Glendive City Attorney for over 9 of them. During our time at the City of Glendive together, I was very unimpressed with Mr. Herring. He helped write ordinances for the City and then refused to enforce them when asked to. He would routinely take a significant amount of time to complete even the most basic tasks asked of him; and sometimes he would not do them at all. I can only recall seeing Mr. Herring present at a City Council meeting on a handful of occasions during those 8 years as well, despite there being at least 2 meetings each month. Mr. Herring's inaction got so bad that none of the Council members would even reach out to him for legal assistance if something came up.

On the prosecution side of things, I spoke with members of the Glendive Police Department and Mr. Herring had not taken a case to a jury trial for several years. He has a reputation as a prosecutor for taking the "path of least resistance". My concern is that if he were appointed as Judge, he would continue to take the "path of least resistance" instead of putting in the appropriate amount of work necessary. Mr. Herring has given no indication through his prior performance that he is willing to do anything but the bare minimum required for his job. We residents of the Seventh Judicial District deserve better than Mr. Herring's "effort".

In addition to my concerns about Mr. Herring's ability to do the job, I also have concerns that the appointment of Mr. Herring would be a very unpopular move by the majority of residents of the Seventh Judicial District. He has already lost an election here in Glendive and even moved out of the community. I understand that the voters of the Seventh Judicial District will choose who they want in 2 years, but it would be a benefit if the individual appointed for the next 2 years had a chance of being re-elected. I strongly believe that Mr. Herring would have no chance of being re-elected if any of the other current candidates ran against him.

If you need me to explain further on anything stated above, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Doug Baker  
Glendive City Councilman  
Glendive, MT

I would appreciate your appointment of Scott Herring for our district judge, he has been my attorney for the past years. I find him honest and thorough, and he has always given me excellent advice, unfortunately I don't follow all the time.

Rambur Charolais by Howard Rambur

Dear Governor Gianforte,

The Prairie County Republican Central Committee would like to offer our endorsement and this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Scott Herring as Judge for the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Mr. Herring has been a very valuable member of the eastern Montana community over his 34 years of being an attorney. He has served as the Dawson County Attorney and the City Attorney for the city of Glendive; and he did a commendable job for both government entities.

In this time as an attorney for Dawson County and the city of Glendive, Mr. Herring also operated a private practice where he served and represented members of the community on wide spread issues from family law, probate, civil disputes, and real estate.

Mr. Herring has demonstrated to the eastern Montana community that he has a respect for the Constitution and a strong understanding that law must be interpreted by a plain reading of the language contained therein.

With all of these attributes, the Prairie County Republican Central Committee highly recommends Mr. Scott Herring to be appointed Judge to the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shane L. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and 'E'.

Shane L. Eaton, Chair

**Chairman:** Shane Eaton

*Shane J. Eaton*

**Financial Chairman:** Greg Berger

*Greg Berger*

**Vice Chairwoman:** Renee Pirtz

*Renee Pirtz*

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Tim Popper

*Tim Popper*

**State Committeeman:** Steve Tibbetts

*Steve Tibbetts*

**State Committeewoman:** Renee Pirtz

*Renee Pirtz*

**Congressional Committeeman:** Chris Koppenhaver

*Chris Koppenhaver*

**Congressional Committeewoman:** Tylena Eaton

**Precinct Captains**

Precinct 1 Marshall Pirtz

*Marshall Pirtz*

Precinct 3 Hary McNall

*Hary McNall*

Chele Harrington

*Chele Cole Harrington*

Precinct 4 Greg Berger

*Greg Berger*

Shelby Koppenhaver

*Shelby Koppenhaver*