



**City of Missoula, Montana  
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

**Committee:** Public Safety, Health and Operations

**Item:** Legislative Lobbyist for 2023 Session

**Date:** August 18, 2022

**Sponsor(s):** Dale Bickell

**Prepared by:** Jessica Miller

**Ward(s) Affected:**

Ward 1                       Ward 4

Ward 2                       Ward 5

Ward 3                       Ward 6

All Wards                       N/A

**Action Required:**  
Consider a contract for lobbyist services in the 2023 Montana legislative session.

**Recommended Motion(s):**  
I move the City Council: Approve and authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Central House Strategies in the amount of \$38,000 for lobbyist services for the 2023 Montana Legislature.

**Timeline:**

Committee discussion: August 24, 2022

Council action (or sets hearing): August 29, 2022

Public Hearing (if required): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Final Consideration: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Deadline: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**  
John MacDonald worked as the City’s lobbyist for the last several legislative sessions. In 2021, Central House Strategies subcontracted with Mr. MacDonald and worked closely with the City on our legislative priorities. Mr. MacDonald is no longer available to represent the City. Central House Strategies is the successor company and has an excellent working relationship with both City staff and legislators and has advocated diligently and effectively for the City’s interests.

Prior to the start of the legislative session, staff will return to Council with a presentation of our legislative tracking tool and to discuss how we will communicate with Council for the session. We will also plan to have a pre-session introduction with the Missoula legislative delegation. The City’s political interests during the legislative sessions are often complex and adequate funding is critical to support city interests.

**Financial Implications:**  
This referral is being drafted prior to adoption of the FY23 budget. If the budget is approved as proposed on August 22, the \$38,000 request will be included in the approved budget.

**Links to external websites:**