

# Missoula County Media Release

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## Officials Seek Applicants for New City-County Food Policy Advisory Board

Missoula County, the City of Missoula and the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition have partnered to establish a Missoula Food Policy Advisory Board. The board will provide policy recommendations to increase security of Missoula's local food system, promote sustainable agriculture that enhances the local economy, build regional self-reliance and climate resiliency and connect food access programs to local, nutritious food.

Missoula County commissioners voted Feb. 27 to adopt a resolution establishing the board, while the Missoula City Council approved the resolution Feb. 24.

"The creation of the Food Policy Advisory Board came as the result of fantastic intergovernmental cooperation and community participation," said Commissioner Josh Slotnick. "I look forward to integrating expertly designed food and farming policy recommendations into our deliberations at the Board of County Commissioners."

The board will consist of seven voting members: three appointed by the commissioners, two appointed by the City Council, one appointed by Missoula Mayor John Engen, and one appointed by the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition. There also will be two alternate members who serve on the board and vote in the absence of a regular member.

"I look forward to the Food Policy Advisory Board supporting existing community efforts and creating systemic change, on the city and county level," said City Council Member Heidi West, who sponsored the initiative for the city. "This board has the potential to lead to improvements for all components of the local food and agriculture network while also resulting in policy to further existing goals around health equity, climate change resiliency and zero-waste goals."

The appointing bodies may consider candidates who represent or specialize in these suggested areas:

- local agricultural producers
- retail food outlet (specifically a retail grocery and/or local restaurant)
- educational institutions
- emergency food providers
- a nongovernmental organization or researcher working in the area of health, nutrition or medical care
- a nongovernmental organization or researcher working in the area of local food systems and/or sustainable agriculture
- a Missoula city/county established farmer's market
- a food-related, non-farm business
- the youth community and other related fields of expertise required to accomplish the purpose of the advisory board

Meetings will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at the Missoula County Administration Building. Those interested in serving on the Food Policy Advisory Board and who represent one of the areas of expertise can apply for both city and county appointments online at <https://www.missoulacounty.us/community/volunteer> or at the Commissioners' Office at 199 W. Pine St. The deadline for all applications is Saturday, March 28.

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