



# State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee

PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

## 69th Montana Legislature

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REBECCA POWER, Lead Staff  
ANDRIA HARDIN, Staff Attorney  
ANIA ALDUENDA, Secretary

Name	City/State	Representing	Time & Date	Subject	Comment
Lisa Bennett	Red Lodge, MT	Self	1:01 AM 3/9/2026	Youth Voting Act Issues with SOS Reporting- recommend an audit	<p>SOS reports on Youth Voting Act lack transparency on school outreach, curriculum dev, &amp; funding under MCA 13-22. They risk indoctrination by focusing on mock votes over practical civics: election judging, hand counting, poll watching, laws, clerk/recorder roles, cheating prevention, clean voter rolls.</p> <p>Outreach: SOS/OPI contacted schools/media/counties, but no specific names for contacts—hides accountability for nonpartisan engagement.</p> <p>Curriculum: No details on who develops/reviews/accepts content; vague ballot mirroring risks bias, omits integrity training like fraud detection.</p> <p>Funding: MCA bans public spend beyond staff; no nonprofit, donations, or ledgers shown for ballots/production/hosting—potentially violating law by implying unreported costs or non-compliance.</p> <p>Omissions: No vendors/privacy/non-interference protocols/audits.</p> <p>Fix: Amend MCA for SAVA pre-approval of curricula/outreach/funding via hearings; annual audits</p>

					w/ subpoena for staff/records to ensure neutral education. See Attachment 2
Rebecca Johnson	Clancy, MT	Self	8:35 PM 3/8/2026	Comment about Secretary of State Office's Recent Actions/Reported Findings	I am concerned about what specific voter information was shared with the DOJ and how it may be used in future elections. I would like to this committee to ask the Secretary of State's Office these questions: Were the 25 voters flagged as non-citizens ever verified with the county election offices? Were any of these voters actually eligible US citizens that were mistakenly flagged by the SAVE database?
Lisa Bennett	Red Lodge, MT	Self	3:22 PM 1/12/2026	Recommendations for Changes to Title 13 laws	See Attachment 1

Attachment 1

## I. Voter Roll Integrity & Transparency

- **Free Public Access:** Voter rolls must be provided to citizens at no cost (mirroring Florida's system), ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent public auditing of the government.
- **Enhanced Data Validation:** Rolls must include birthdates to help identify deceased voters, duplicate registrations, and name changes.
- **Annual Absentee Applications:** To ensure the most accurate mailing lists, all Montana absentee voters should be required to re-apply for their ballots **annually**, aligning with the standard for UOCAVA (military and overseas) voters.
- **Administrative Penalties:** Election administrators who fail to remove inactive or deceased voters within 30 days of notification must face specific civil penalties or fines. Additionally, a county attorney most certainly will not want to prosecute one of their own, so I advise it isn't the county attorney who is required to file the charges.

## II. Ballot Chain of Custody & MCA 13-13-241 Reform

- **Prohibiting Early Separation & Ensuring Supervised Chain of Custody:** To eliminate current "security vacuums," **MCA 13-13-241(1)** must be amended to prohibit election administrators from opening outer signature envelopes or separating them from inner secrecy envelopes until the official public counting period begins. Currently, envelopes are opened up to 25+ days early, which destroys the identifying link between the voter and the ballot. To maintain a secure chain of custody, a bipartisan team of election judges and authorized poll watchers must be physically present from the exact moment an envelope is opened until the ballot is tabulated. Ballots and envelopes must never be left unattended or stored overnight without on-site bipartisan supervision to prevent tampering.
- Furthermore, the signature verification process must be fully transparent, either through direct observation by a bipartisan panel of judges or via a live-stream camera feed accessible to the public and all poll watchers. Finally, a formal, documented challenge process must be established to ensure any questionable envelopes are marked as "provisional" and set aside for further validation before being included in the final count.
- **The "Phantom Envelope" Reconciliation:** The total number of ballots counted must exactly match the number of unique signature envelopes

received. This addresses the 4,592-vote "phantom" gap discovered in the Missoula 2020 election.

- **Professional Signature Analysis:** Access to physical signature envelopes for professional analysis must be legally protected to verify findings such as the dozens of nursing home ballots in Missoula that appeared to be signed by the same person.

### III. Observer Rights & Law Enforcement (MCA 13-13-120)

- **Poll Watcher Rights Enforcement:** Although **MCA 13-13-120** legally permits poll watchers to see all entries of election results, administrators frequently block this access.
- **Law Enforcement Training:** The law must be corrected so that on-site law enforcement (Police/Sheriffs) actively enforces these observer rights rather than deferring entirely to election administrators who may be in violation of the law.
- **Mandatory POST Training:** Election law investigation must be a mandatory, 8-hour POST-certified training for all Montana Sheriffs.

### IV. Precinct-Level Structure & Size Parity

- **The 10% Population Rule:** To ensure fair representation and manageable hand-counting, the population of all precincts within a county must remain within a **10% variance** of each other.
  - **Legal Precedent:** Federal courts in Illinois (*Hulme v. Madison County*, 2001) have established that a total population deviation of **10% or less** is the threshold for a plan to be considered "presumptively constitutional".
- **Abolish Central Counting:** All ballots must be hand-counted at the precinct level by local citizens to ensure immediate, observable transparency.
- **Anonymity in Small Districts:** In districts with fewer than 25 voters, offices must be placed on a separate "Ballot C" to prevent the Cast Vote Record (CVR) from being used to identify individual voters.

### V. Transparency & Record Retention

- **Mandatory Video Retention:** Law must mandate the retention of all election-day security and counting footage for a minimum of 60 days. In Missoula, requested video "disappeared" or was deleted only 42 days after the election.
- **Record Fee Caps:** Establish a statutory cap on fees for public records to prevent administrators from charging exorbitant sums (e.g., \$7,000+) to block transparency.
- **Adjudication Logs:** Logs of "adjudicated" or "resolution" ballots must be public records to show how contested ballots were handled.

## VI. Judicial & Mental Capacity Alignment

- **Harmonized Terminology:** Align the "unsound mind" language in **MCA 13-1-111** with the "incapacitated person" language in **Title 72**.
- **Mandated Capacity Findings:** Judges in guardianship hearings must be required by law to determine if the individual specifically retains the mental capacity to vote.
- **Automated Data Sharing:** The Clerk of Court must be mandated to automatically share these judicial determinations with election offices to update voter rolls.

## VII. Protection of Citizen Challenger Rights

- **Batch Challenges:** Amend **MCA 13-13-301** to allow citizens to submit a list of voter challenges on a single form rather than requiring individual notarized affidavits for every name.
- **Ending Intimidation:** Remove felony perjury threats for honest clerical errors by volunteers to end the "chilling effect" on citizen oversight.

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## Federal Legislative Request

**To:** Senator Steve Daines, Congressman Ryan Zinke, Congressman Troy Downing, and Senator Tim Sheehy.

**Proposal: The National Mail-In Ballot Accountability & Tracking Act** We request the introduction of federal legislation requiring **full end-to-end tracking of all absentee and mail-in ballots** nationwide. This system must include:

1. **Unique Tracking Identifiers:** Every ballot must have a unique, non-identifying barcode tracked through every step of the postal and administrative process.
2. **Public Tracking Portal:** Voters and observers must be able to verify when a ballot was printed, mailed, received, and separated for counting.
3. **Real-Time Reconciliation:** Federal standards must mandate that the number of ballots counted **must exactly match** the number of unique tracking affirmations received, eliminating "phantom envelope" discrepancies.

Attachment 2

## Critical Omissions in the SOS Reports: Evidence of Evasive and Incomplete Reporting

The SOS's November 2025 Youth Voting Act Report and March 2026 SAVA response are riddled with glaring omissions that raise serious doubts about the program's integrity, the accuracy of reported participation numbers, and compliance with Montana law. How can the SOS claim thousands of students participated in a "practical voting experience" across schools statewide—allegedly for decades—while insisting no public money beyond employee salaries was spent and no nonprofit partner exists? This contradiction demands immediate scrutiny, as it suggests either misrepresentation of the program's scale or unlawful use of state resources in violation of MCA 13-22-107. Key missing elements include:

- **Named partners and contacts:** No disclosure of nonprofit funders (if any), OPI liaisons, SOS program managers, or county leads—despite the November report boasting widespread outreach to schools, media, and counties.
- **Funding details:** Absent are nonprofit names, donation amounts, restrictions, or grant/MOU texts. The March response flatly denies a nonprofit's existence, yet MCA 13-22-107 prohibits non-employee public spending—how then were ballots printed, distributed, and results hosted on state websites without violating the law?
- **Authoring and review of ballots and classroom materials:** No information on who drafted or reviewed content, including neutrality signoffs, leaving open the possibility of partisan bias in a program involving minors.
- **Ballot creation and security procedures:** Undisclosed are distinct designs, chain-of-custody protocols, or printing vendors—critical to prevent confusion with real elections.
- **Detailed participation dataset and validation methodology:** No machine-readable data by county/school/grade, nor explanations of how "over 4,000" participants were verified, casting doubt on the accuracy of inflated numbers compared to prior cycles.
- **Vendor and platform disclosures:** No contracts for data hosting, survey tools, or other services, despite results being published on sosmt.gov.
- **Privacy/consent documentation and record retention policy:** No parental consent forms or policies protecting student data, a glaring oversight for a program targeting children.
- **Neutrality review records and editorial change log:** No evidence of independent reviews, allowing unchecked content.
- **Audit or independent evaluation of neutrality and program outcomes:** No third-party assessments, despite claims of nonpartisan success.
- **Procedures proving noninterference with real elections:** No protocols against voter file use or data sharing with campaigns—essential to maintain election integrity.
- **Documentation for new elements:** No election judge training curricula, instructor rosters, hand-count protocols, observer logs, or reconciliation worksheets, despite the program's "practical" emphasis.

## Why These Omissions Undermine Integrity, Transparency, and Accuracy (No More Excuses)

Each gap isn't just an oversight—it's a deliberate evasion that erodes trust in the SOS's reporting and questions whether the program is truly nonpartisan, legally compliant, and accurately represented:

- Hiding partners and funding conceals potential conflicts, influence, or illegal spending, directly contradicting MCA 13-22-107's ban on public funds beyond employee pay.
- Omitting materials' authorship and reviews invites partisan manipulation, especially in a program the November report claims reached thousands without verifiable neutrality.
- Failing to detail ballot procedures risks blurring lines between education and official elections, potentially misleading participants or the public.
- Withholding datasets prevents independent verification of "over 4,000" participants—a number nearly quadrupling 2022's—raising suspicions of exaggeration or fabrication.
- Ignoring privacy docs exposes minors to risks and suggests disregard for data safeguards.
- Lacking hand-count and training records questions if these "new elements" were supervised properly or even occurred as claimed, further doubting the program's reported scale without nonprofit support.

The March 2026 response's curt dismissal of funding questions—pointing to quarterly reports without specifics—exemplifies stonewalling, while the November report's glowing narrative lacks substantiation. If no nonprofit exists and no public money was spent, how was this massive program executed? These inconsistencies demand proof, not platitudes.

## What the SOS Must Publish Immediately: Demands for Full Disclosure

To restore credibility, the SOS must release the following without delay, with minimal redactions only for genuine security/PII reasons—failure to do so confirms a pattern of opacity:

- **Partner and governance records:** Names/contacts for any funders, SOS/OPI managers, county leads, and vendors; all MOUs/agreements proving no unlawful ties.
- **Funding and accounting:** Donation ledgers, budgets, invoices; explicit confirmation that no public funds beyond employee pay were used, per MCA 13-22-107.
- **Materials, authorship, and neutrality review:** All ballot PDFs, curricula; author/reviewer lists, change logs, signed neutrality signoffs—proving nonpartisan vetting.
- **Ballot production and noninterference safeguards:** Design guidelines, vendor details; protocols banning voter file access or campaign data sharing, with clear "educational only" labels.
- **Election judge training and hand-count documentation:** Curricula, trainer rosters, protocols, worksheet templates, observer logs; scanned anonymized samples from counting sessions.

- **Data, vendors, and privacy:** Machine-readable CSV/JSON participation data by county/school/grade, with validation methods; vendor contracts, consent forms, retention policies.
- **Independent review and outcomes:** Any audits or evaluations, with SOS responses; lessons learned and corrective plans if discrepancies (e.g., funding gaps) are found.

### **Minimum Neutrality and Safety Safeguards: Non-Negotiable Standards for Future Compliance**

To prevent future evasions and ensure integrity, mandate these copy-ready standards in law:

- Two independent nonpartisan reviewers must sign off on all materials pre-distribution.
- All items labeled: "Educational exercise—not an official election."
- Ballots visually distinct from official ones; no access to voter rolls or tabulation systems; no participant data shared with campaigns.
- Hand counts supervised by at least two adults, using reconciliation worksheets; independent observers verify samples.
- No PII published; photo/video requires signed releases.
- Funders disclose amounts and waive content control.
- All artifacts archived and available machine-readably for the retention period.

### **Curriculum: Essential Topics for a Truly Educational Program (Fix the Gaps)**

Beyond basics, the program must teach:

- Government structure and official roles.
- Ballot organization, reading, and instructions.
- Vote counting/certification processes.
- Distinctions between exercises and real elections, with legal boundaries.
- Civic skills like fact-checking and source evaluation.
- Election administration: Judge duties, ethics, chain-of-custody.
- Practical labs: Supervised hand counts with worksheets for tallying and resolution.
- Broader participation: Contacting officials, attending meetings.
- Ballot measures, fiscal impacts, yes/no meanings.
- Election cybersecurity and privacy.

### **Sample Language to Demand Missing Records: Hold Them Accountable**

"Under MCA 13-22-107 and public records laws, provide for the 2024 Youth Vote: (1) all funding agreements/donation records, proving no prohibited public spending; (2) ballots, curricula,

neutrality logs (reviewers, checklists, approvals); (3) training materials, rosters, hand-count protocols, worksheets, logs; (4) machine-readable data by county/school/grade, validation docs; (5) vendor contracts; (6) consent forms, retention policy. Confirm no participant data used for elections/campaigns, and explain how 4,000+ participants were reached without a nonprofit or extra public funds."

**Urgent Implementation Priorities for SOS and OPI: No More Delays**

- Immediately publish partners, MOUs, funding ledgers to prove compliance and neutrality—address the nonprofit/funding contradiction head-on.
- Post all ballots, curricula, signoffs, counting methodologies in machine-readable form.
- Require two nonpartisan reviewers for materials; publish findings.
- Enforce supervised hand counts with sample worksheets/results.
- Fund and publish an independent audit in the next report, probing discrepancies in scale, funding, and accuracy.

Public Comment submitted by Shannon Wilson at the March 9, 2026 SAVA Meeting

# DON'T FEED

# THE SHARKS

We define a **"Claim Shark"** as anyone who:

- **Charges hefty fees** to "guide, assist, advise or consult" veterans with filing or appealing their VA benefit claims — this practice is illegal!
- Asserts they are an "expert" or "guardian" but **evades the professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation** — their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent!
- **Hooks you** — once you're in, you can't get out and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating — no matter who does the work!

Some of their predatory practices include:

- Claiming they are an "insider" or have inside information to fast track or maximize your VA disability rating.
- Touting better outcomes because you are paying for services.
- Advertising faster VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access sensitive personal information through government websites like VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Here is how veterans can help protect themselves:

- Always ask **"Are you accredited with VA?"**
- Insist on signing a VA Power of Attorney before agreeing to any other terms and conditions.
- Refuse to sign legal waivers of your right to accredited representation.
- Never agree to contingent payments based on your future benefits.
- Avoid medical exams or opinions from doctors affiliated with consultation companies.
- Always attend exams ordered by VA.
- Never provide access to private and secure systems or personal information.
- Always ask **"If I have to appeal VA's decision, will you still help me?"**

Who is **NOT** a **Claim Shark**?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like VFW's Accredited Service Officers.
- Private VA accredited agents.
- VA accredited attorneys, to include pro bono law clinics.
- All those who turn up here when searched:  
[www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation](http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation).



## Who are the Claim Sharks?

We used to list the usual Claim Sharks, but it began reading like a phone book. By this point you know the type – all charm up front, hidden fees in the back.

For free, accredited help from VFW's Accredited Service Officers visit

[www.DontFeedTheSharks.org](http://www.DontFeedTheSharks.org)

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# VFW Applauds Federal Court Decision Striking Down Louisiana 'PLUS Act'

## The following is a message from VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore

Feb 11, 2026

WASHINGTON — The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) applauds the federal court's **decision** (<https://cases.justia.com/federal/district-courts/louisiana/lamdce/3:2024cv00446/64834/102/o.pdf>) striking down Louisiana's so-called "PLUS Act" as unconstitutional. This ruling sends a clear message: States cannot rewrite federal law to accommodate companies that rip off veterans – and any state considering similar legislation should take notice.

For years, the VFW has warned that laws like the PLUS Act undermine Congress' carefully balanced system for veterans' benefits and open the door to abuse and even fraud by unaccredited, fee-charging operators. The court's decision confirms that those warnings were justified.

Let's be honest – this law was never about protecting veterans. It was about protecting businesses that charge veterans unjustifiable fees for services that should be free. We saw through that and so did the court. The Louisiana law sidelined legitimate, accredited representatives to prop up an unregulated industry that scams veterans and the court shut it down.

The VA claims system is governed by federal law for a reason: to ensure uniform standards, qualified representation and real accountability – especially for agents and attorneys who can already charge for certain claims in the marketplace. When states attempt to create their own fee structures and regulatory schemes, they weaken those protections and confuse veterans.

This decision should serve as a warning to every state considering similar bills. If you try to override federal law and legitimize unaccredited operators, you will lose – and veterans will pay the price in the meantime.

Veterans should never have to wonder whether someone helping them is legitimate or just looking for a payday. If you're OK with putting veterans into debt, you're not serving them, you're exploiting them.

The VFW has consistently led the fight against "Claim Sharks," even when it meant facing lawsuits, political pressure and well-funded opposition. When others hesitated, we didn't. We stood up because veterans deserve better. And we will keep standing up, no matter how uncomfortable it makes people who profit off this system.

This ruling preserves the integrity of the VA accreditation system and protects veterans from being steered toward unqualified, unregulated actors. It also reinforces a simple truth: accredited veterans service organizations like the VFW provide claims assistance free of charge – just as Congress intended.

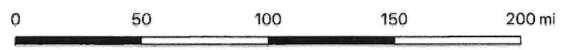
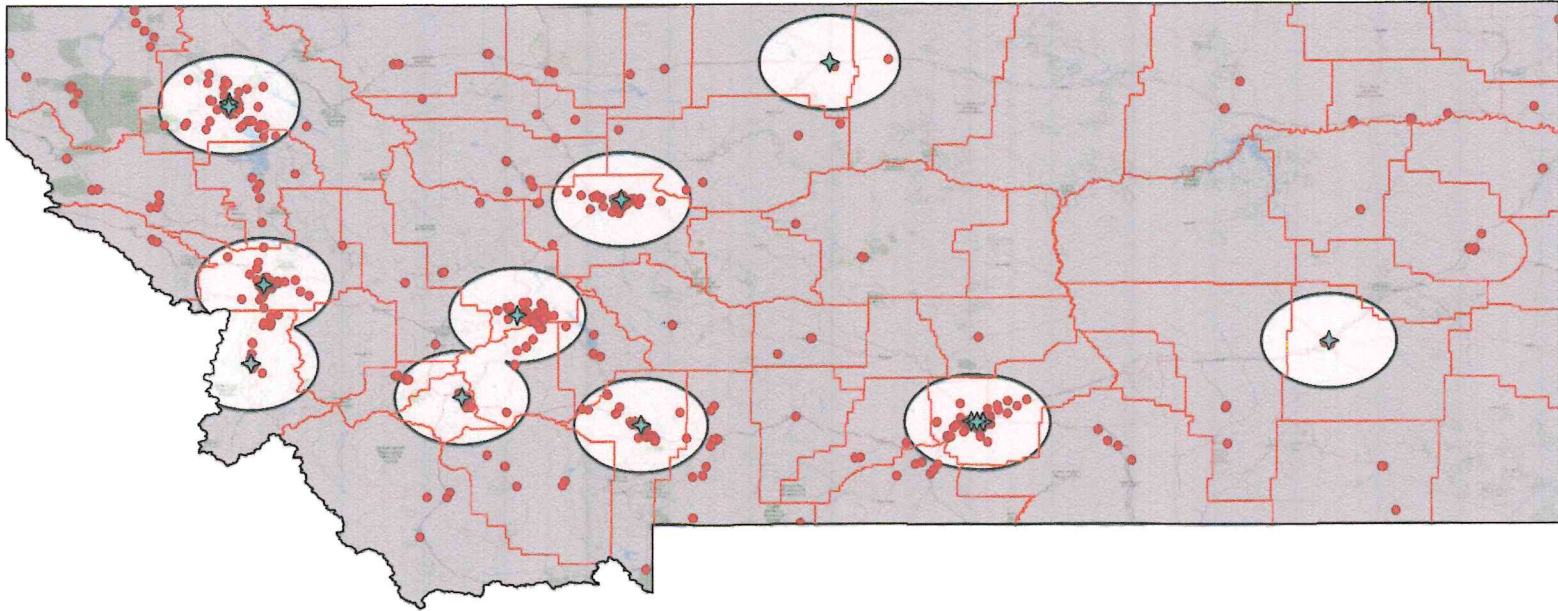
This is a win for veterans across the country. It's a win for transparency, accountability and fairness. And it's a reminder that veterans' benefits should never be treated as a get-rich-quick scheme.

The VFW urges lawmakers nationwide to learn from this decision and focus on strengthening accredited assistance rather than creating unconstitutional workarounds that benefit bad actors. We will continue working with lawmakers and regulators to ensure veterans are protected, informed, and never pressured to pay for benefits they have earned through their service.

Public Comment submitted by Roger Hagan at the March 9, 2026 SAVA Meeting

# Montana

- Veterans Guardian Clients ●
- VA Accredited Representatives ◆
- County Divisions □
- > 25 Miles from Representative [86.79%] ■



Source: Veterans Guardian, OpenStreetMap, VA OGC Accreditation Search



**VA** Claim  
Consulting

# VETERANS GUARDIAN

## VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

833-577-8387

[WWW.VETSGUARDIAN.COM](http://WWW.VETSGUARDIAN.COM)

[SUPPORT@VETSGUARDIAN.COM](mailto:SUPPORT@VETSGUARDIAN.COM)

# OUR FOUNDERS

## SCOTT GREENBLATT

Scott is the founder and CEO of Veterans Guardian VA Claim Consulting. Prior to founding Veterans Guardian in 2017, Scott spent 25 years on active duty as an officer in the Army, serving 10 overseas combat deployments. Scott has led a distinguished career of leadership, and dedication to duty throughout numerous deployments, in multiple theaters of operation, in support of United States and foreign civilian government leaders.

In the military, he was well known as a coalition builder and influencer who worked globally across industry lines to deliver results in complex situations. Scott earned a Bachelor's Degree In Criminal Justice from the University of South Florida and a Master's Degree in International Policy from the National Defense University, DC.



## BILL TAYLOR

William (Bill) Taylor is the COO of Veterans Guardian VA Claim Consulting. Prior to co-founding Veterans Guardian in 2017, Bill served as a commissioned officer in the Army spending 23 years on active duty. His experience includes six operational deployments and a wide range of senior staff positions. Bill is respected as a credible voice in strategic decision making and has a proven track record of driving operational excellence and strategic growth.

Bill graduated from the United States Military Academy and earned a Master of Policy Management from Georgetown University, and two Masters of Military Arts from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.





# WHY WE EXIST

The VA Disability process can be a difficult, elaborate, and confusing process that requires in depth knowledge and expertise to navigate successfully. Many veterans are either unaware of the benefits they are eligible for, unwilling to engage the process due to its complexity, or frustrated with previous efforts with the VA. Veterans Guardian provides the expertise, knowledge, and resources to bridge these gaps.



# OUR VISION

Champion a passionate team  
focused on serving the nation's  
Veterans and our community



# OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help veterans  
achieve the maximum VA rating  
they have earned through their  
honorable service to the nation

# EMPLOYEE DEMO- GRAPHICS

**100%**  
OF STAFF MEMBERS COMPLETE  
BASIC DISABILITY CLAIMS  
REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING CURRICULUM

**63%**  
OF STAFF ARE VETERANS,  
VETERAN SPOUSES OR ACTIVE  
DUTY SPOUSES

**11%**  
EMPLOYEE GROWTH  
RATE IN 2023

**324**  
JOBS CREATED  
NATIONWIDE

**154**  
VETERANS HIRED SINCE THE  
COMPANY'S INCEPTION

**5**  
RESERVISTS AND NATIONAL  
GUARD MEMBERS (ESGR)



# THE VA DISABILITY CLAIM

VA disability compensation (pay) offers a monthly tax-free payment to Veterans who got sick or injured while serving in the military and to Veterans whose service made an existing condition worse. You may qualify for VA disability benefits for physical conditions (like a chronic illness or injury) and mental health conditions (like PTSD) that developed before, during, or after service.

- Monthly tax-free income
- Access to VA medical care
- Additional State level benefits





**+17K** CLAIMS PENDING DECISION



AVERAGE INCREASE OF  
**\$1000**  
PER MONTH IN DISABILITY  
BENEFITS

**+4800** MONTHLY APPOINTMENTS WITH  
POTENTIAL VETERAN CLIENTS

**+70,000** UNIQUE CLIENTS  
ASSISTED

**85 DAYS**  
AVERAGE DECISION TIME

# AT A GLANCE

**+2500** FULLY DEVELOPED CLAIM  
PACKETS CREATED PER MONTH

**+3400** POSITIVE CLIENT REVIEWS

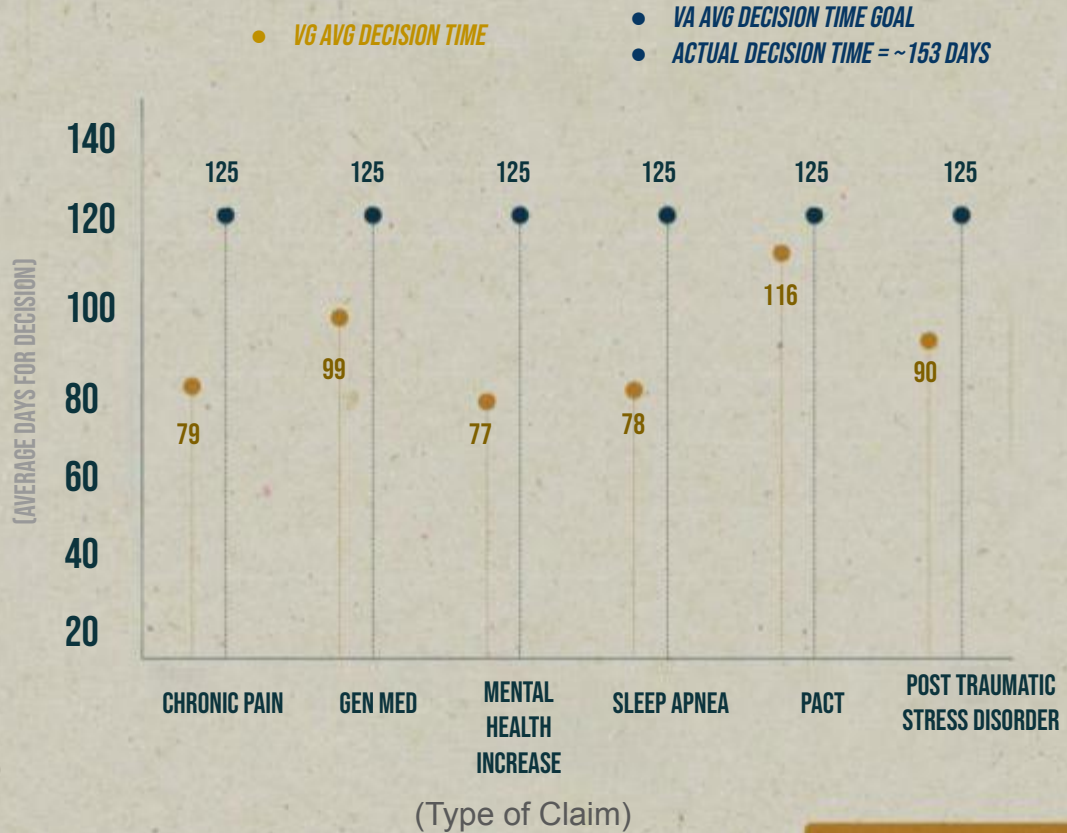


**90%**

OF THE VETERANS WE SUPPORT  
SEE AN INCREASE IN THEIR  
DISABILITY BENEFITS

# VETERANS GUARDIAN VS VETERANS AFFAIRS

## Average Days For Claim Decision



**VG AVERAGE DAYS TO DECISION = 85**

# FEE STRUCTURE

**VETERANS GUARDIAN OPERATES ON A CONTINGENCY FEE BASIS - IF THERE IS NO MONETARY INCREASE IN A VETERAN'S MONTHLY DISABILITY PAYMENT, THERE IS NO FEE**

**FEE = 5 TIMES THE MONTHLY INCREASE IN DISABILITY BENEFIT RECEIVED**

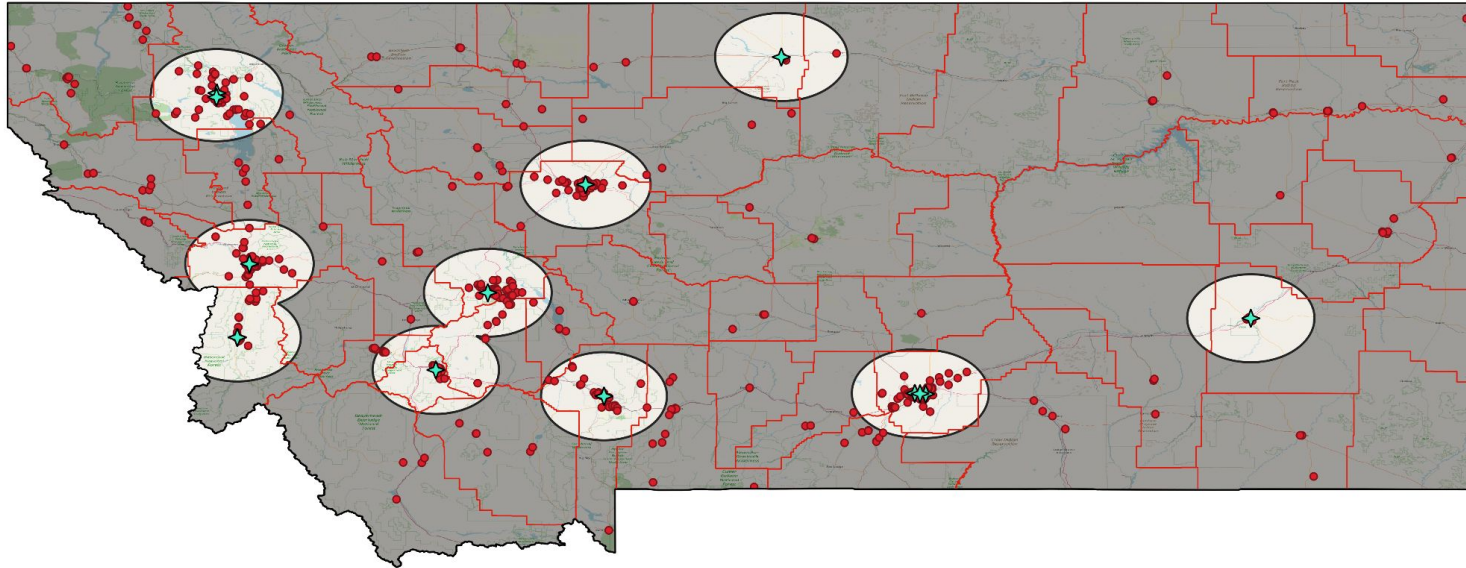
**EXAMPLE: INCREASE FROM \$100 TO \$200 PER MONTH = \$100 / MONTH  
5 X \$100 = \$500 FEE**

**LUMP SUM DISCOUNT AND PAYMENT PLANS - NO INTEREST, EVER**

**A VETERAN IS NEVER WORSE OFF USING OUR SERVICES**

# Montana

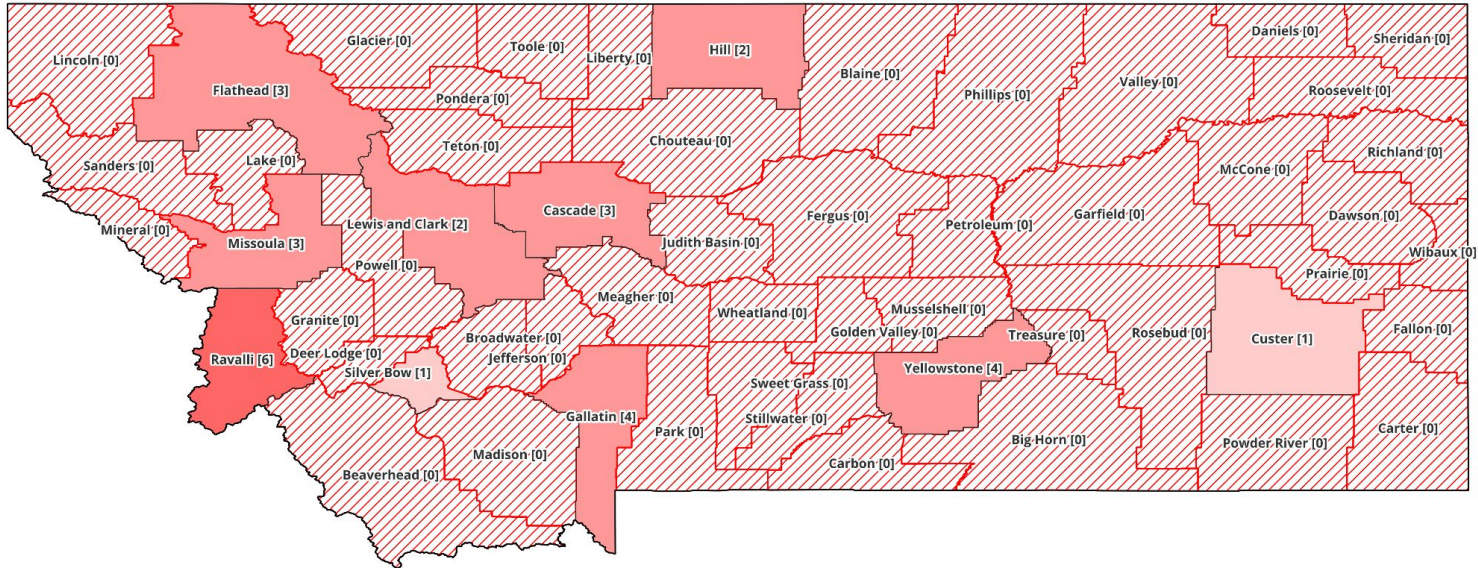
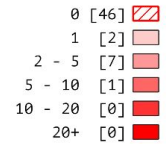
- Veterans Guardian Clients ●
- VA Accredited Representatives ◆
- County Divisions □
- > 25 Miles from Representative [86.79%] ■



0 50 100 150 200 mi

# Montana

Representatives Per County [56]



0 50 100 150 200 mi



# 2019

Veterans Guardian Was a 2019 HIREV-ETS Gold Medallion Winner



Veterans Guardian was awarded the 2019 AMVETS NC Employer of the Year and the 2019 National AMVETS



Veterans Guardian was a 2020 AMVETS NC Employer of the Year.

# 2020

Veterans Guardian was a 2020 BBB torch award winner.



## VETERAN MITCHELL

"An unbelievable Experience with this company! Went from 70% to 90% in just over a month!"

# 2021

Veterans Guardian won the award for 2021 Military Friendly Company- Top 10 designation



## VETERAN GREEN

"Veterans Guardian immediately put my case on track. I went from 80% to 100% a very short period of time."



# AWARDED 2021 BBB TORCH WINNER

Veterans Guardian was a 2020 HIREVETS Platinum Medallion Winner

Veterans Guardian won the award for 2021 Military Friendly Company-Top 10 designation



# 2022

Veterans Guardian won the award for 2022 Military Spouse Friendly Company



Veterans Guardian won the award for 2022 Military Friendly Company

## VETERAN BITTLE

"I did what I could with my VSO, but VSO so overwhelmed and therefore can only do so much."

2023 BBB Torch Award Finalist

# 2023

Veterans Guardian won the award for 2023 Military Spouse Friendly Company

Veterans Guardian was a 2021 HIREVETS Platinum Medallion Winner

# AWARDS





**OVER 100 LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHARITIES  
SUPPORTED, MANY BEING MILITARY AFFILIATED**

# GIVING BACK



**VA** Claim  
Consulting

# VETERANS GUARDIAN

## VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

833-577-8387

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[SUPPORT@VETSGUARDIAN.COM](mailto:SUPPORT@VETSGUARDIAN.COM)

Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act of 2024 (aka PLUS Act)

*Updated July 2024*

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) “Compensation” means any money, thing of value, or economic benefit conferred on, or received by, any person in return for services rendered, or to be rendered, by himself or herself or another.

(2) “Veterans’ benefits matter” means the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of any claim affecting any person who has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for any benefit, program, service, commodity, function, status, or entitlement for which veterans, their dependents, their survivors, or any other individual are eligible under the laws and regulations administered by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs or the **STATE** Department of Veterans' Affairs.

(3) “Person” means any natural person, corporation, trust, partnership, incorporated or unincorporated association, or any other legal entity.

(b) (1) No person may receive compensation for referring any individual to another person to advise or assist the individual with any veterans’ benefits matter.

(2) No person may receive any compensation for any services rendered in connection with any claim filed within the one (1) year presumptive period of active-duty release.

(3) A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting with any individual in connection with any veterans' benefits matter must, before rendering any services, memorialize the specific terms under which the amount to be paid will be determined in a written agreement signed by both parties. Compensation must be purely contingent upon an increase in benefits awarded, and if successful, compensation must not exceed five (5) times the amount of the monthly increase in benefits awarded based on the claim, or shall not exceed twelve thousand five hundred dollars, whichever is less. No initial or nonrefundable fee may be charged by a person advising, assisting, or consulting an individual on a veterans’ benefit matter. No interest shall be charged on any payment plans agreed to by the parties.

(4) A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting with any individual regarding any veterans’ benefits matter must not employ a medical provider to conduct secondary medical exams.

(5) No person will guarantee, either directly or by implication, a successful outcome or that any individual is certain to receive specific veterans' benefits or that any individual is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefit.

(6) Any person advising, assisting, or consulting on veterans’ benefits matters for compensation must provide the following disclosure at the outset of the business relationship:

"This business is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs or the **STATE** Department of Veterans' Affairs, or any other federally

chartered veterans' service organization. Other organizations including but not limited to the **STATE** Department of Veterans' Affairs, a local veterans' service organization, and other federally chartered veterans' service organizations may be able to provide you with this service free of charge. Products or services offered by this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these organizations. You may qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the benefits for which you are receiving services here."

The written disclosure must appear in at least twelve (12) point font in an easily identifiable place in the person's agreement with the individual seeking services. The individual must sign the document in which the written disclosure appears to represent understanding of these provisions. The person offering services must retain a copy of the written disclosure while providing veterans' benefits services for compensation to the individual and for at least one (1) year after the date on which the service relations terminate.

(7) Businesses advising, assisting, or consulting on veterans' benefits matters for a fee must abide by the following:

- Must not utilize international call centers or data centers for processing veterans' personal information;
- Must not use a veteran's personal log-in, username, or password information to access that veteran's medical, financial, or government benefits information;
- Must ensure that any individual who has access to veterans' medical or financial information undergoes a background check prior to having access to that information. The background check must be conducted by a reputable source and include identity verification and a criminal records check.

[(d)] (c) (1) A violation of the provisions of this section constitutes an unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under **[Insert STATE Consumer Protection Law Reference]**.

(2) Civil penalties will be in an amount ordered by the District Court in an action brought by the **STATE** Attorney General.

(3) Each day a violation continues is a separate violation.

**(IF APPLICABLE AND IF SUCH FUND EXISTS)** (4) Any civil penalty collected will be deposited in the **STATE** Veterans Trust Fund.

(5) Notwithstanding this section, an attorney or law firm seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter will be governed by the limitations set forth in 38 21 C.F.R. sec. 14.636.