



William Mercer

President Trump nominated William “Bill” Mercer to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Montana on July 15, 2025.

Career¹

- Bachelor of Arts, University of Montana, 1986
- Master of Public Administration, Harvard University, 1988
- Juris Doctor, George Mason University School of Law, 1993
- Attorney Advisor, United States Department of Justice, Office of Policy Development, 1994
- United States Attorney’s Office, District of Montana, 1994-2009
 - Assistant United States Attorney, 1994-2001
 - United States Attorney, 2001-2009
- United States Department of Justice, 2005-2007
 - Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, 2005-2006
 - Acting Associate Attorney General, 2006-2007
- Holland & Hart LLP, 2010-present
 - Of Counsel, 2010-2013
 - Partner, 2014-present
- Member, Montana House of Representatives, 2019-present

Record on Reproductive Freedom

As a member of the Montana House of Representatives, Mercer has an extensive record of supporting bills that undermine reproductive freedom. Mercer voted in favor of:

- Multiple bills to put a ballot measure to voters that would insert so-called “personhood” language defining when “life” begins into the Montana constitution.²
- Several bills that would interfere with the medical practice of abortion care under the threat of severe penalties, so-called “born alive” bills.³
- A bill to clarify that the right to privacy as provided in the Montana constitution does not include the right to abortion care.⁴
- A ban on the standard method of abortion care after 14-15 weeks, creating criminal penalties for abortion providers who deliver such care.⁵
- A ban on abortion care after 20 weeks – before the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* – and which did not provide exceptions for rape or incest.⁶

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL

- A ban on abortion care after 24 weeks, erroneously using that as a marker of so-called “viability,” even though that varies from pregnancy to pregnancy.⁷
- A post-*Dobbs* ban on abortion after 20 weeks, which did not provide exceptions for rape or incest.⁸
- Multiple bills that limited coverage for abortion care and allowed practitioners, institutions, and insurers to refuse to provide abortion care or coverage based on violation of conscience.⁹
- Several bills that imposed medically unnecessary regulations on abortion providers and care, including:
 - A clinic shutdown bill to regulate abortion clinics and place onerous and medically unnecessary requirements in the licensing process.¹⁰
 - A joint resolution to initiate a pseudo study on alleged “abortion complications and abortion pill side effects,” building off medical disinformation surrounding medication abortion.¹¹
 - A bill to restrict access to medication abortion through telemedicine and mandating that doctors share stigmatizing and medically unproven information with their patients about medication abortion.¹²
 - Multiple bills requiring medically unnecessary, mandatory ultrasounds for patients before an abortion can be performed.¹³
 - A budget bill with an amendment to the general appropriations act that would fund a panel of doctors to review Medicaid claims for people seeking abortion care for life-saving reasons, rape, or incest.¹⁴
- A bill that would shield anti-abortion, fake health centers from regulations at the state or local level.¹⁵
- The anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQ+-equality Montana Family Foundation has given Mercer a 100% rating in each of his terms in the Montana House of Representatives.¹⁶

Record on Intersectional Commitments

Democracy and Voting Rights

- Mercer introduced a bill to propose a constitutional amendment that would remove Montana voters’ right to elect their state’s supreme court justices.¹⁷

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL

LGBTQ+ Equality

- Mercer voted in favor of multiple bills that incorporated anti-trans sentiment into law, including a bill that:
 - Would allow providers to be sued for providing gender affirming care¹⁸
 - Aimed to prohibit minors from attending drag shows,¹⁹ and
 - Stipulates that misgendering and deadnaming young people is not discrimination,²⁰ and
 - Defines “sex” under Montana law in a way that purposefully excludes LGBTQ+ people.²¹

¹ William W. Mercer, Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (July 2, 2025).

² HB 302, 66th Legis. (Mont. 2019); HB 337, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021); HB 316, 69th Legis. (Mont. 2025).

³ SB 354, 66th Legis. (Mont. 2023); HB 167, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021); HB 625, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023); HB 723, 69th Legis. (Mont. 2025).

⁴ SB 154, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

⁵ HB 721, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

⁶ HB 500, 66th Legis. (Mont. 2019).

⁷ HB 575, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

⁸ HB 136, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021).

⁹ HB 229, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021); HB 620, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021); HB 303, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023); HB 544, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023); HB 862, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

¹⁰ HB 937, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

¹¹ HJ 33, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

¹² HB 171, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021).

¹³ SB 100, 66th Legis. (Mont. 2019); HB 140, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021).

¹⁴ HB 2, 67th Legis. (Mont. 2021).

¹⁵ HB 388, 69th Legis. (Mont. 2025).

¹⁶ 2019 Legislative Scorecard, Montana Family Foundation, <https://www.montanafamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2019-Legislative-score-card-print.pdf>; 2021 Legislative Scorecard, Montana Family Foundation, <https://www.montanafamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/258262-Scorecard.pdf>; 2023 Legislative Scorecard, Montana Family Foundation, <https://www.montanafamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/275571-Scorecard2023.pdf>; 2025 Legislative Scorecard, Montana Family Foundation, <https://www.montanafamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/288073-Scorecard-2025-1.pdf>.

¹⁷ HB 915, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

¹⁸ SB 218, 69th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

¹⁹ HB 359, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

²⁰ HB 361, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).

²¹ SB 458, 68th Legis. (Mont. 2023).