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**Stutz Announces Campaign for United States Congress**

Montana, August 9, 2011—On Wednesday, August 10, Rob Stutz will launch his campaign to represent the people of Montana as their next Representative in the United States Congress. Stutz has planned a campaign launch tour that includes Billings, Belfry, Helena, Missoula, and Libby, the Montana towns where he has lived and worked. Stutz's campaign website can be viewed at [www.robstutz.com](http://www.robstutz.com).

Stutz was motivated to run when he saw that many interests of the people of Montana were not represented in the recent Montana Legislature and in the United States House of Representatives. As the Chief Legal Counsel for the Montana Legislature for the 2011 session, Stutz witnessed numerous attempts to undo the will of the people and to undermine the Montana and United States Constitutions. Stutz states that, "When the people have spoken on an issue, Montana's Representative in Congress should reflect the will of the people, not undermine it. As a Representative, I would not ignore citizen initiatives or disregard our state and federal Constitutions."

Stutz believes that members of Congress should be influenced by the best interests of the people they represent, not by the most partisan voices or the institutions with the largest bank accounts. Stutz has worked with non-partisan Montana school boards, with political officials under both the Bush and Obama administrations, and with Montana legislators from both parties. Stutz grew up in a middle class family with middle class values and worked his way through college even though neither of his parents had a degree. Stutz states, "In his Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln described our government as being 'of the people, by the people, for the people.' The US House of Representatives does not currently represent the values of most Montanans."

Stutz is a Democrat because the Montana Democratic Party best protects the individual freedoms enshrined in our state and federal Constitutions. Stutz states, "The Montana Democratic Party embraces Montana values like fiscal responsibility, open government, and the right of privacy. I will make sure that Washington D.C. understands our values. As only one member of 435 in the House of Representatives, I cannot promise to fix every problem facing Montana or the United States. I will, however, support Montana workers and employers, Montanans who treasure their civil liberties and constitutional rights, and Montanans who believe that government should meet its obligations while taking a balanced approach to its finances."

## **Biographical Information:**

In 1972, the same year that the Montana Constitution was adopted, Rob Stutz was born on the Marine Corps base at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where his father was stationed. Stutz moved to Billings with his family when he was two years old. Although Billings is his hometown, during his childhood Stutz also lived with his parents and three siblings in Belfry and Libby. When his parents separated, Stutz attended high school overseas in Germany and Jordan where his mother was stationed with the United States Foreign Service. Stutz received his undergraduate degree from Purdue University and while in college worked summer jobs at the United States embassies in London, England, and Belgrade, Serbia. After college Stutz worked in Billings and traveled to Pakistan to teach elementary school before moving to Missoula to attend law school.

Rob and Blanche Nichols married in 2000 at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Missoula shortly after they both graduated from the University of Montana. After working in private practice, Stutz accepted a position as an Assistant Attorney General with the Montana Department of Justice representing Montana in criminal appeals before the Montana Supreme Court. Stutz also practiced in the field of education law while representing non-partisan school boards around Montana and while working at the Office of the General Counsel for the United States Department of Education under both the Bush and Obama administrations. Stutz was the Chief Legal Counsel to the Montana Legislature for the 2011 session and opened his own small business, Stutz Law Office ([www.stutzlawoffice.com](http://www.stutzlawoffice.com)), after the session ended.

Blanche, Rob, and their two sons, Boyd and Sam, currently reside in Helena where they enjoy outdoor activities with family, friends, and their black lab. The boys are students at a public elementary school in Helena, and the family attends Saint Peter's Cathedral. Blanche is a pediatric RN at Saint Peter's Hospital.

Stutz's father, Joe, lives in Billings and, after retiring from the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Department, works for a corrections program that transitions criminal offenders back into society. Stutz's mother, Stella, splits her time between Wyoming and West Virginia after retiring from the United States Foreign Service. Stutz's stepmother, Lorna, works in Billings with persons with challenging mental, emotional, and physical needs. Stutz's stepfather, John, passed away earlier this year after a career in the construction industry.

Stutz's older brother, David, teaches overseas with his wife and children but enjoy summers at their cabin in Rimini near Helena. Stutz's older sister, Karla, lives with her husband and children in Wyoming, where she was the elected mayor of Cokeville for two terms. Stutz's younger sister, Shari, lives in Missoula with her husband and children, where she works for a non-profit human service organization.

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