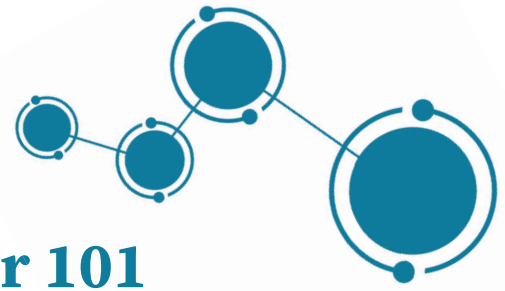




Montana Nonprofit Association



# Nonprofit Board Member 101

Did you know every nonprofit in Montana requires at least three board members? With over 10,000 nonprofits in Montana, that's a pretty hefty leadership demand. Organizations across our state are looking for leaders to help shape vision, set strategy, and support communities. Here's the Board Member 101 for any potential or current board member!

## Who can be a board member?

**Anyone!** If you have a connection to the mission and some time to volunteer, you can help an organization.

## What is board service?

Board members are often described as the stewards of the mission. They serve as a connection to the community that organizations serve. Most boards meet between 4-12 times each year, in person or on video calls. Board responsibilities usually include:

- Steward the vision and mission
- Oversee strategy, impact, and outcomes
- Manage the Executive Director
- Provide financial oversight and contribute to organization's financial sustainability through donating or participating in fundraising
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity of the organization
- Serve as ambassadors to the organization
- Bring new board members on and help them lead the organization even further!

## Three Legal Duties for Nonprofit Boards

**Duty of Care:** Showing up prepared and ready to participate as a thoughtful, competent, and leaderful board member

**Duty of Loyalty:** Making decisions only in the best interest of the organization and avoiding self-dealing

**Duty of Obedience:** Obeying federal, state, and organizational laws, policies, and practices

## Three Modes of Governance

*Developed from Governance as Leadership by Richard Chait, William Ryan, and Barbara Taylor*

**Fiduciary or Steward:** Overseeing basic responsibilities as listed above

**Strategic:** Thinking carefully about the ways in which the organization achieves its mission, setting the organization up for long-term success

**Generative:** Considering and making sense of the landscape of external factors that impact the mission

### Want more?

Check out [mtnonprofit.org/learning](https://mtnonprofit.org/learning) to view our full Board Governance 201 series

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