

TIM SHEEHY

★ U.S. SENATE ★

What Montanans Need To Know

(2/17/24)

Illegal immigration and border security are top-of-mind issues. Montana voters need to “see” and “hear” the difference between Jon Tester and Tim Sheehy when it comes to the topics of illegal immigration and border security.

On illegal immigration and border security, Jon Tester is just like Joe Biden.

- Tester supported the largest mass amnesty program for illegal immigrants in American history.
- Tester voted against building a wall along the southern border.
- Tester voted against deporting illegal immigrants who have committed serious crimes.
- Tester voted to give economic stimulus cash payments to illegal immigrants and prisoners.
- Tester even voted to allow illegal immigrants access to federally subsidized health care benefits.

Tim Sheehy is a former Navy SEAL who will be tough on illegal immigration and will fight to secure our border.

Jon Tester’s Record on Border Security and Illegal Immigration

When it comes to border security, Jon Tester is just like Joe Biden.

- **VIDEO: In 2023, Jon Tester praised Joe Biden’s border security policies: “the President has helped to [secure the border].”** (Morning Joe, [MSNBC](#), 5/4/23)
- **In May 2023, Tester stated his support for amnesty of illegal immigrants, saying “Congress needs to step up and pass a long pathway to citizenship for folks who are coming to this country.”** “Congress needs to step up and pass a long pathway to citizenship for folks who are coming to this country.” (Morning Joe, [MSNBC](#), 5/4/23)
- **Jon Tester supported Joe Biden’s Build Back Better proposal, calling it a “very good bill that works for states like Montana and other states in the union.”** “Tester predicted the Senate Democrats would make changes to Biden’s big spending and tax package but would ultimately pass a version of it. ‘We’re dealing with reasonable people here,’ he said. ‘I think we can come up with a bill that’s a very, very good bill that works for states like Montana and other states in the union.’” (Steven Dennis, “Tester: Fed uncertainty not helping inflation; Build Back Better ‘a very good bill,’” [Billings Gazette](#), 11/21/21)
 - **“If passed into law, President Biden’s Build Back Better bill would create the largest mass-legalization program for undocumented immigrants in U.S. history.”** “If passed into law, President Biden’s Build Back Better bill would create the largest mass-legalization program for undocumented immigrants in U.S. history. Roughly 7 million of the 11 million unauthorized

immigrants currently in the U.S. — including "Dreamers," coronavirus-era essential workers and farmworkers — would be eligible for the new would be eligible for the new immigration protections." (Carmen Valencia, "Immigration protections in Build Back Better bill bring hope to DACA recipients," [Yahoo! News](#), 12/3/21)

- **The CBO has determined that the Build Back Better Act would grant temporary amnesty to "an estimated 6.5 million non-U.S. nationals."** "Under President Joe Biden's current Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376), an estimated 6.5 million non-U.S. nationals, many of whom are already in the U.S. illegally, would be granted temporary amnesty, according to a report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)." (Alek Schemmel, "Build Back Better Act would grant amnesty to millions of people, CBO says," [KATV](#), 11/29/21)
- **President Biden opposes a southern border wall.** "After all, the president pledged during the 2020 campaign that he would not build "another foot" of the barrier. One of Biden's executive orders on his inauguration day brought President Donald Trump's signature project to a grinding halt, with the new president calling that effort to keep migrants from crossing into the United States a waste of money." (Nick Miroff, "Biden says the border wall is ineffective. Here are key things to know." [Washington Post](#), 10/12/23)
- **In 2013, Jon Tester voted to table S. Amdt. 1197 to S.744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.** (S. Amdt. 1197 to S. 744, [Vote Number 151](#), Rejected: 39-54, Tester voted Nay, 6/18/13)
 - **The amendment would have required the construction of a double-layered border fence.** "2013: Voted against amendment to build double-layered border fence (Thune) Sen. Tester voted against the Thune amendment to S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. Sen. Thunes amendment would have required the completion of the 350 miles of reinforced, double-layered fencing described in section 102(b)(1)(A) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 before registered provisional immigrant status could be granted and to require the completion of 700 miles of such fencing before the status of registered provisional immigrants may be adjusted to permanent resident status. The amendment failed 39-54, with a 3/5ths vote necessary for passage (18 June 2013)." (Sen. Jon Tester's Immigration Grade Card, [NumbersUSA](#), Accessed 4/24/23)
- **Jon Tester voted against S. Amdt. 1959.** (S. Amdt. 1959, [Vote Number 36](#), Rejected: 60-39, Tester voted Nay, 2/15/18)
 - **S. Amdt. 1959 would provide \$25 billion for a border wall.** "Appropriates \$25 billion to Department of Homeland Security for a new Border Security Enforcement Fund, which will be used for a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico (Sec. 1301)." ("S Amdt 1959 – Secure and Succeed Act (Grassley Amendment)- National Key Vote," [Vote Smart](#), Accessed: 3/20/23)
- **In 2021, Jon Tester voted against S. Amdt. 542 to S. Con. Res. 5, a government spending bill.** (S. Amdt. 542 to S. Con. Res. 5, [Vote Number 33](#), Rejected: 50-50, Tester voted Nay, 2/5/21)
 - **S. Amdt. 542 would have provided funding for the construction of a border fence.** "2021: Voted against Amdt. 542 to S. Con. Res. 5 to provide border fence funding Sen. Tester voted

against Amendment #542, introduced by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisc.), to S. Con. Res. 5, the 2021 COVID-19 stimulus bill. The amendment would have provided funding for border fence construction. The amendment failed 50-50.” (Sen. Jon Tester’s Immigration Grade Card, [NumbersUSA](#), Accessed 4/24/23)

- **Jon Tester voted against S. Amdt 5435 to the Inflation Reduction Act.** (S. Amdt 5435 to S. Amdt. 5194 to H.R. 5376, [Vote Number 320](#), Failed: 50-50, Tester voted Nay, 8/7/22)
 - **S. Amdt 5435 would have provided \$500 million for barriers along the southwest border.**

<p>Statement of Purpose: To replace the funding for the Office of the Chief Readiness Support Officer with a \$500,000,000 appropriation for the construction or improvement of primary pedestrian fencing and barriers along the southwest border.</p>
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(Roll Call Vote 117th Congress – 2nd Session, [The U.S. Senate](#), 8/7/22)

- **On June 1, 2023, Jon Tester voted against S. Amdt. 110 to H.R.3746.** (S. Amdt. 110 to H.R. 3746, [Vote Number 138](#), Failed: 46-51, Tester voted Nay, 6/1/23)
 - **S. Amdt. 110 would restart construction of the border wall, add “thousands more Border Patrol Agents,” and provide better technology at entry sites to detect drugs and illegal immigration.** “A House-passed border security act will be pitched as one of several Senate amendments to the debt ceiling legislation meant to prevent the U.S. from going into default as soon as next week, the Post has learned...Marshall’s amendment, modeled after the House’s ‘Secure the Border Act,’ will propose restarting construction of the border wall, adding ‘thousands more Border Patrol agents’ and providing better technology at entry sites to detect drugs and illegal immigration.” (Caitlin Doornbos, “Sen. Roger Marshall moves to add border security to debt ceiling bill as US hopes to avoid default,” [New York Post](#), 6/1/23)
- **President Biden restricted ICE’s ability to take custody of and deport criminal illegal immigrants after they finish their prison sentences.** “According to Florida’s complaint, unless the narrow set of prerequisites in the priority categories are met, immigration enforcement no longer exists. Undocumented aliens who have committed serious crimes may not be deportable unless their offenses are aggravated felonies. ‘Put simply, the Biden administration does not believe that being in the United States in violation of the immigration laws and committing serious crimes is sufficient reason to remove someone from the country....’ Biden has caused an unnecessary public safety threat with his restrictions on detainers to take custody of dangerous criminal aliens when they finish their prison sentences. I also am concerned about his rejection of the removal grounds in the Immigration and Nationality Act. He has completely replaced them with priority categories that limit removals to aliens he thinks should be deported, which I think is a violation of the separation of powers principle in the Constitution.” (Nola Rappaport, “Biden letting criminal aliens be released instead of deported; states sue,” [The Hill](#), 5/4/21)
- **Jon Tester voted to table S. Amdt. 1251 to S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.** (S. Amdt. 1251 to S. 744, [Vote Number 159](#), Passed: 54-43, Tester voted Yea, 6/20/13)
 - **S. Amdt 1251 would have prevented illegal immigrants with serious misdemeanors from obtaining legal status.**

``(III) an offense, unless the applicant demonstrates, by clear and convincing evidence, that he or she is innocent of the offense, that he or she is the victim of such offense, or that no offense occurred, which is classified as a misdemeanor in the convicting jurisdiction which involved--

``(aa) domestic violence (as defined in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a));

``(bb) child abuse and neglect (as defined in section 40002(a) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13925(a));

``(cc) assault resulting in bodily injury (as defined in section 2266 of title 18, United States Code);

``(dd) the violation of a protection order (as defined in section 2266 of title 18, United States Code); or

``(ee) driving while intoxicated (as defined in section 164 of title 23, United States Code);

``(IV) 3 or more misdemeanor offenses (other than minor traffic offenses or State or local offenses for which an essential element was the alien's immigration status, or a violation of this Act);

``(V) any offense under foreign law, except for a purely political offense, which, if the offense had been committed in the United States, would render the alien inadmissible under section 212(a) (excluding the paragraphs set forth in clause (ii)) or removable under section 237(a), except as provided in paragraph (3) of section 237(a); or

(S. Amdt. 1251 to S. 744, [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov/6/19/13), 6/19/13)

Jon Tester voted to give economic stimulus cash payments to illegal immigrants and prisoners.

- **Tester voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act.** (H.R. 1319, [Vote Number 110](#), Passed 50-49, TESTER voted Yea, 3/6/21)
 - **The American Rescue Plan passed through Congress on a partisan basis.** “The American Rescue plan made it through Congress with only Democratic support, making it stand out from the bipartisan COVID relief plans Congress passed over the last year.” (Savannah Behrmann, “Takeaways from the COVID-19 stimulus bill passing Congress: Weeks of partisan fighting comes to an end with a win for Biden,” [USA Today](#), 3/10/21)
- **Jon Tester voted in favor of S. Amdt. 888 to S. Con. Res. 5.** (S. Amdt. 888 to S. Con. Res. 5, [Vote Number 52](#), Agreed to: 50-50, Tester voted Yea, 2/5/21)
 - **S. Amdt. 888 to S. Con. Res. 5 would allow illegal immigrants to receive COVID stimulus payments through the American Rescue Plan.** “Schumer, D-N.Y., substitute amendment no. 888 that would strike the text of three provisions added to the bill by amendments previously adopted on the floor. Those amendments would include deficit-neutral reserve funds to allow

legislation to prevent immigrants from receiving direct, tax-based temporary financial assistance; limit or prohibit environmental regulations that would ban fracking; and approve the importation of oil from Canada through the Keystone XL pipeline.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 52, [CQ Summary](#), 2/5/21)

- **Jon Tester voted against S. Amdt. 968 to S. Amdt. 891 to H.R. 1319.** (S. Amdt. 968 to S. Amdt. 891 to H.R. 1319, [Vote Number 104](#), Amendment rejected: 49-50, Tester voted Yea, 3/6/21)
 - **S. Amdt. 968 to S. Amdt. 891 to H.R. 1319 would ensure that illegal immigrants cannot receive COVID stimulus payments through the American Rescue Plan.** “Cruz, R-Texas, amendment no. 968 to the Schumer, D-N.Y., substitute amendment no. 891 to the bill that would make individuals who are not considered lawfully present in the U.S. under current tax code ineligible for the 2021 individual tax rebates provided by the bill.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 104, [CQ Summary](#), 3/6/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan sent nearly \$1 billion in stimulus payments to prison inmates in 2021.** “The federal government doled out nearly a billion dollars in stimulus payments to prison inmates in 2021 under President Joe Biden’s American Rescue Plan, according to IRS records obtained by the Washington Examiner. The third-round stimulus payments to prisoners totaled \$924.3 million, which was much greater than previously reported. The checks went out despite efforts by Republican Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana to bar stimulus funds from going to prisoners. Senate Democrats voted unanimously against the amendment in a 50-49 party-line vote in March 2021.” (Jerry Dunleavy and Andrew Kerr, “Nearly \$1 billion in stimulus funds sent to prisoners in 2021, ‘terrorists and perverts’ got \$1,400 checks,” [Washington Examiner](#), 2/11/22)
 - **The American Rescue Plan sent stimulus checks to approximately 645,000 people who were incarcerated at the start of 2021.** “The IRS reported that the money went to approximately 645,000 people who were incarcerated at the start of the year, according to FOIA records provided to the Washington Examiner by the NRSC.” (Jerry Dunleavy and Andrew Kerr, “Nearly \$1 billion in stimulus funds sent to prisoners in 2021, ‘terrorists and perverts’ got \$1,400 checks,” [Washington Examiner](#), 2/11/22)

Tester voted to allow illegal immigrants access to federally subsidized health care benefits.

In 2013, Jon Tester voted against prohibiting illegal immigrants from accessing free, taxpayer-funded health care.

- **In 2013, Jeff Sessions introduced an amendment that would prohibit illegal immigrants from accessing free and taxpayer-funded health care.** “U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL), Ranking Member of the Senate Budget Committee, issued a statement tonight following a 43–56 vote on his amendment to ensure that illegal immigrants cannot access free and taxpayer-funded health care if they are granted legal status as part of any immigration bill.” (United States Senate Committee on the Budget, “Senate Democrats Vote To Give Free Healthcare And Obamacare To Illegal Immigrants As Part of Immigration Reform,” [Chairman Press](#), 3/23/13)

- **Sessions determined that “the Senate Democrat majority voted to extend free and subsidized health care – specifically, Medicaid and Obamacare – to illegal immigrants who would be granted legal status under any comprehensive immigration bill.”** “Yet today, the Senate Democrat majority voted to extend free and subsidized health care—specifically, Medicaid and Obamacare—to illegal immigrants who would be granted legal status under any comprehensive immigration bill.” (United States Senate Committee on the Budget, “Senate Democrats Vote To Give Free Healthcare And Obamacare To Illegal Immigrants As Part of Immigration Reform,” [Chairman Press](#), 3/23/13)
- **The amendment would “establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to achieve savings by prohibiting illegal immigrants or illegal immigrants granted legal status from qualifying for federally subsidized health care.”** ([Sen. Sessions S.Amdt.614 to S.Con.Res.8](#), proposed 3/22/13)
- **Jon Tester voted against Senator Sessions’ amendment.** (S.Amdt. 614 to S.Con.Res. 8, [Vote Number 77](#), Rejected, Tester Voted Nay, 3/23/13)

PAID FOR BY TIM SHEEHY FOR MONTANA