

Biography of
Attorney General Austin Knudsen
State of Montana

Before the United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Crime and Federal
Government Surveillance of the Committee on the Judiciary

**“Missing and Murdered Indigenous People: Strengthening Public Safety in Tribal
Communities”**

September 15, 2026

Austin Knudsen grew up just outside of Culbertson, in the northeast corner of Montana, where his family has farmed and ranched for five generations. After graduating from Montana State University, Austin earned his law degree from the University of Montana prior to opening a private practice where he handled a wide range of legal cases. During this time, he served four terms in the State House of Representatives, including two as Speaker of the House.

In 2018, Austin was elected County Attorney for Roosevelt County Attorney, three-quarters of which is within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. While serving as the county prosecutor, he encountered the illegal drug epidemic and its resulting violence first-hand and worked closely with law enforcement to combat crime in his community. After witnessing the effects of these harrowing realities on Montanans, Austin was elected as Montana’s 25th Attorney General in 2020, and he was re-elected in 2024.

During his time as Attorney General and as the head of the Montana Department of Justice, Austin has continued to prioritize efforts to end the missing and murdered Indigenous persons crisis. The Department of Justice administers the Montana Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Advisory Council, and during Montana’s 2025 legislative session Austin successfully advocated for a special revenue account to allow the group to receive donations from any legal source. Austin has also launched tv and radio public service announcements to bring awareness to the issue.

Austin has also prioritized combatting the drug epidemic and violent crime. In 2025, he signed an agreement with the Trump Administration to authorize Montana Highway Patrol troopers and Division of Criminal Investigation agents to arrest illegal aliens in Montana and work together with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to deport them.

In the state legislature, Austin has successfully pushed for new laws that empower Montana law enforcement and prosecutors with tools to bring perpetrators of drug and human trafficking to justice, including stiffer penalties for sex traffickers and patrons of sex trafficking, and charging adults with endangering the welfare of a child if dangerous drugs are found in their possession while a child is present.