**Sample Press Release**

{*Print your press release on your sponsoring organization's letterhead*

*or include name, address, and phone number of organization at top of release*}

**For Immediate Release**

**THE [SPONSORING ORGANIZATION] HOSTS MONTANA CONVERSATION “AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: 250 YEARS AND COUNTING” WITH RAY CURTIS**

[City–date]

The [sponsoring organization] hosts Montana Conversation “American Democracy: 250 Years and Counting” with Ray Curtis on [date of program]. The program is at [location and time of program]. The presentation is free and open to the public. Funding for Montana Conversations is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montana’s Cultural Trust, and private donations. We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana’s cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund.

The US Declaration of Independence is turning 250 years old in 2026. Although the document is just a ten-minute read in this talk, Ray Curtis, a James Madison fellow and American government educator for over 30 years, digs into the Declaration and its meaning. In *American Democracy: 250 Years and Counting*, Curtis explores the evolution, over the past two centuries, of the democratic government created by the American Founders. Perhaps more importantly, he discusses all which is required of citizens in a democracy; while wondering the same thing Benjamin Franklin did at the end of the Constitutional Convention, could Americans keep their new representative democracy? In this presentation, Curtis discusses the history of American democracy and addresses audience questions regarding the functions of American government.

Ray Curtis’ career has been devoted to teaching about American Government. He is a James Madison Fellow with an MIS in American Constitutional history and education from the University of Montana. For 30+ years Curtis taught about American government to students ranging from middle school to AP Government classes, and university students at Flathead Valley Community College, University of Montana, and Missoula College.

For more information, please call [sponsoring organization] at [phone number].

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Contact person: [project organizer and phone number]