

EMILY DEAN | 34

Tell us a bit about yourself, are you a Helena native born and raised? If not, when did you move here – what brought you to Helena?

I'm lucky to be the third generation of my family to call Helena home and was also very much shaped by growing up in Butte and living in Missoula.

OCCUPATION

I'm honored to serve in two very fulfilling roles, as Mayor of Helena and serving an education nonprofit dedicated to supporting Montana's public schools to develop the full potential of each child.

Q&A

What community service or volunteer activities/organizations are you involved with? And what interests you in being an active community member?

Serving our community in elected leadership keeps me out of trouble and keeps my cup full. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with so many incredible organizations made up of diverse perspectives who create impact for Helena in areas like housing,

mental health and substance abuse treatment, economic development, and youth engagement.

What do you like best about living, working and volunteering in the Helena area?

Helena is the full package, our way of life and tightknit community is hard to beat. Until I moved out of state after college, I did not fully appreciate how blessed I was to grow up in a place that was equal parts beautiful landscape and remarkable people. It's a good reminder of the obligation we have to preserve what makes this place so special and leave it in better shape for the next generation.

What else should people know about you?

One of my personal heroes often says that "family is the beginning, the middle, and the end." That sentiment could not be more true for me. Public service is a family endeavor and I will forever be grateful to my family and close friends who constantly demonstrate grace, compassion, and love.

