October 2020

Does your local elections office have your completed, signed ballot? If not, please get them in by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. Remember, ballots must be received by then. If you plan to mail your ballot, we recommend doing so at least a week before Election Day. We want to make sure every voter in this country has an opportunity to vote in what we believe is the most consequential election in American history.

And if you’re looking for information about the people and issues on your ballot, please head over to mtvoters.org/endorsements for a complete list of our endorsed conservation candidates. And please see Political Director Jake Brown’s update for our position on a historic opportunity to fund our public lands this election.

We began October by hosting our first-ever virtual gala. What was originally supposed to be a dinner party in Livingston turned into a Zoom presentation, but we had lots of fun anyway. To everyone who attended and contributed to MCV or the MCV Education Fund: THANK YOU! We exceeded our fundraising goal with the support of an anonymous donor who matched our fundraising.

If you have a few moments, we invite you to check out a recording of our virtual gala online at bit.ly/mcv2020gala. Congrats to our raffle prize winners, and don’t forget to check out our guest presentation from Chef Doug Adams. If you enjoy cooking, you’ll love it!

Finally, we are now in the middle of our third season of MCVcast, MCV’s weekly podcast. If you haven’t checked us out, please head over to mtvoters.org/podcast, or find MCVcast wherever you get your podcasts.

Thanks again for your support, and don’t forget to vote!

Aaron Murphy, Executive Director

Politcal Update

If you’ve already voted YES on both Initiative 190 and Constitutional Initiative 118, thank you for supporting Montana’s

MCV Newsroom

To ensure a safe and fair election, most counties in Montana have opted to hold mail ballot elections. If your county opted
public lands. We know there may be a bit
of confusion about CI-118 in particular, so
let’s clear this up.

Both of these measures work together to
legalize, regulate and tax limited amounts
of cannabis for adults 21 and older. I-190
changes the law, and CI-118 simply adds
the two words “and marijuana” to the part
of the Constitution that sets the age limit
for alcohol. So if you support I-190, we
encourage you to vote for CI-118 too to
seal the deal.

Why does MCV support these measures?
Nearly half of the tax revenue generated
by I-190--estimated to be about $18
million per year--will directly support our
state public lands: Habitat Montana, state
parks, non-game wildlife, and trails.

Get Your Free I Love Public Lands Mask!

Show your commitment to protecting our
public lands by joining or renewing your
support as an MCV member. Make a gift
of $50 or more and you’ll receive this one
of a kind face mask that is sure to be the
talk of the town or the trail.

Your MCV membership supports our
critical mission to protect our climate, our
clean air and water, our public lands, our
communities and future generations.

Take it a step further and join MCV as a
sustainable Big Sky Circle monthly

in--or if you’re on the
permanent absentee
voter list--your ballot
was mailed on Friday,
October 9. Please
visit voteinmt.org to
learn more how, when
and where to vote in Montana.

After you fill our your ballot, place it in the
clearly marked secrecy envelope. The
secrecy envelope should be sealed in the
return envelope, which is pre-addressed to
your county elections office. Make sure to
sign and date the affirmation on the back.
Your ballot won’t count unless you sign the
envelope!

MCV encourages you to complete and
return your ballot as quickly as possible.
You can drop your ballot in the mail, and
postage is prepaid in counties with mail-in
ballot elections. You can also turn in your
ballot at your county elections office or at
designated dropbox locations. For your vote
to count, your county elections office must
receive your ballot by 8pm on Election Day,
Tuesday, November 3.

If you need to register to vote, there is still
time. Until October 26, you can mail your
application to your county elections office.
From October 27 until Election Day, you
must register in person. To find your county
elections office, click here.

All MCV members received their
endorsement guides in the mail last month,
but we also have a full list of our
endorsements at
mtvoters.org/endorsements.

Stay Connected and Share!

Follow us on YouTube, Facebook,
Instagram, and Twitter, and listen to
MCVcast wherever you listen to podcasts.
Please share MCV posts with your family
and friends and encourage them to sign up
donor at $10 or more per month and also receive a free mask. Your monthly contribution is easy to set up with either an automatic deduction from your bank account or credit card and is a much greener option as it reduces the paper and printing for membership renewals. Click here to sign up now.

Face mask supplies are limited so please make your contribution today at mtvoters.org/join!

Congratulations To Raffle Prize Winners!

THANK YOU to our special raffle prize donors for making our raffle drawing a huge success:

Doug Adams of Holler Hospitality in Portland, Ryan Busse, Tim Cahill, Jock Conyngham, Colin Davis of Chico Hot Springs, Jamie Harrison, Bob Hughes, Richard Manning, Tom Murphy of Tom Murphy Photography, Reilly Neill, Oboz Footwear in Bozeman, Parks Reece of the Art of Parks Reece, P.J. Smith of P.J. Smith’s Fine Art, Bradley D. Snow, Senator Jon Tester, Todd Frank and The Trail Head in Missoula, and Dan Vermillion and Sweetwater Travel.

Meet MCV Education Fund Intern: Clara Stein

It’s an honor to serve as the MCV Education Fund’s Intern this fall. I am a Junior at Colorado College majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Mathematical Modeling and Anthropology. For the last five years, I’ve been involved in local electoral work and conservation efforts in both Colorado and my

THANK YOU!

Thanks to our members and supporters for being part of our first-ever virtual gala. With your generous support, we exceeded our fundraising goal! We raised more than $56,000 from the event and raffle drawing, and donations up to $20,000 were matched by a loyal donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

We are grateful for our amazing guest speakers Chef Doug Adams and MCV-endorsed Billings City Councilwoman Kendra Shaw, and we thank our wonderful sponsors for their dedication to our mission:

Legacy Sponsor:
The late Jim Posewitz

Champion Sponsors:
Forbes-Tate Partners, League of Conservation Voters

Hero Sponsors:
Hilltop Public Solutions, Innovo Foundation, Jock Conyngham, The Choate Family, Robin Tawney-Nichols and William Nichols

Leader Sponsors:
Liz Ametsbichler, Rick Applegate, Susan Joyce Carstensen, Sally Ericsson, Denise Hayman, Rob Forstenzer, Lore Kann Foundation, C.B. Pearson, Laura & Jess Peterson, Christopher Pope, Jay Proops, Tim Stevens, Juanita Vero, Jenny & Kenneth Younger

Friend Sponsors:
hometown, Evanston, IL. After hearing about MCV through the conservation grapevine, I was inspired to move to Billings and help in any capacity I could, and wow--what a great decision that was!

Over the last two months I have experienced the power of this organization driven by the most dedicated team out there. They have taught me about the intricacies of nonprofit work, the importance of public lands education, and the unique political environment of the Montana conservation community. I know that this experience will stay with me for the rest of my life, and I can’t wait to see how MCV and MCV Education Fund continue to grow and fight for Montanan’s shared outdoor heritage.

Brendon Cechovic, Mary Fitzpatrick, Katie S. Huso, Susan Mavor, Mary McNally, Julia Page, Geoff Stephens, Heather White, Whitney Williams

Supporter Sponsors:
Carol & Daryl Beam, Steve Caldwell, David Genter, Neil & Kathleen Harrington, John Heminway, MEIC, Adam Pimley, Susan Regele, Dave Andrew Tyler

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Montana Conservation Voters is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization, and membership dues and contributions are not tax-deductible. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to the MCV Education Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Visit mtvotersedfund.org for more information.