



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

Political 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 out 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



for our e-newsletter at mtvoters.org/newsletter.



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.