



AUGUST 2021: MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy August Montana Conservation Voters!

As temperatures turn cooler and kids return to school, we are hoping you and your families stay safe and healthy.

This summer has been a huge wake up call. The [IPPC report](#) released earlier this month confirms what we've known for years: the climate crisis is happening now and fast. Here in Montana the impacts of drought and wildfire are real and threatening livelihoods every day. We need urgent action at all levels of government and can't afford to wait!

Now is NOT the time for Governor Greg Gianforte to pull out of the U.S. Climate Coalition, yet he did.

We need bold action to combat climate change and it's obvious we can't rely on Governor Gianforte or his Administration to get it done. That's why we're working with conservation champions like Senator Jon Tester to protect our public lands and waters and advance a federal infrastructure package and budget resolution that includes historic investments in climate solutions and clean energy jobs. Read more about our new campaign, [TesterGettingItDone.org](#), below.

To support this work and keep it moving forward at this critical time please become a member or renew your membership today by clicking [HERE](#). If you're already a member we hope you will consider donating again to further strengthen our efforts. On behalf of the MCV team, thank you!

Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

MONTANA NEWS

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS UPDATE

Local communities across Montana are getting geared up for one of our favorite things —municipal elections! Our local governments have a huge impact on the things we care about, from protecting open space, drafting sustainable zoning and growth policies, crafting a clean energy transition and so much more. This year MCV will be vetting and endorsing candidates all over the state and doing everything we can to help get them over the finish line. Electing conservation champions to local offices is a great way to support a new generation of local leaders who often run for different positions later in the future.

And we need your help! Every year when MCV endorses candidates we invite our members to join us as we interview candidates about the things we care about. Serving on local endorsement interview committees is a great way to learn more about your local government, and an even better way to meet the candidates. **If you're interested in serving on a local endorsement committee, please sign up [HERE](#)** or reach out directly to our Political Director, Jake Brown at Jake@mtvoters.org.

Also, check out the [endorsements page](#) on our website if you want to see who we've already endorsed this year.

“BAD ACTOR” BAKER NEEDS ACCOUNTABILITY

MCVEF is proud to add our name to the growing list of organizations calling on Governor Gianforte to enforce the Bad Actor provision against Hecla Mining Company (Phillips Baker) and its subsidiaries. Baker, who is the current CEO of Hecla Mining Company, formerly served as a top official for Pegasus Gold when it declared bankruptcy in 1998, leaving behind a toxic mess at three gold mines in Montana, including a region of cultural significance to the Fort Belknap Indian Community, which left the state of Montana to clean up millions of dollars worth of mess.

Now Baker is with Hecla and looking to do this all over again in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the ability to enforce the Bad Actor provision which would require Hecla and Baker to pay back the cost of former cleanups before they are allowed any more mining access. But since the Governor took office, DEQ has changed its tune on the new mining proposal and dismissed any further complaints about the negligent company. MCVEF's been active in the complaint from the start and will continue to work with a host of conservation organizations to see that Baker pays back Montana taxpayers.

Want to get involved? Let's tell Governor Gianforte big mines don't run Montana and they need to pay for their consequences — sign the [petition](#) today!

TESTER. GETTING IT DONE



Earlier this month, we launched the [Tester. Getting It Done](#) campaign, aimed at celebrating Senator Jon Tester's leadership on the bipartisan infrastructure package and his efforts to secure further investments to combat climate change through a budget resolution. The Senator is in a unique position to represent Montana values as Congress considers historic investments in America's infrastructure, including investments in a clean energy economy. We're urging Montanans to thank the Senator and tell him to keep fighting to protect Montana's public lands and to support good-paying clean energy jobs.

If you haven't already, add your voice to the growing list of Montanans [HERE](#). You can also encourage your favorite local businesses to sign on to a [letter](#) to the Senator highlighting the financial impact of our outdoor recreation

economy and why it's so crucial to protect Montana as the Last Best Place.

Be sure to look out for our billboards and art installations popping up across Montana to support our campaign. You can also view [video testimonials](#) of how climate change is affecting the lives of everyday Montanans. And finally, don't forget to show your support with your own [yard sign](#)!

NEW STAFF AT MCV!

We're excited to be growing our team! Meet our three newest staff members below. To learn more about MCV's awesome team visit the staff page on our [website](#).

Angela Swatek is our new Development Director. She is based in Helena and will be leading all of our development planning and fundraising efforts, including our gala.

Kristin Cordingley is our new Program Director. She is also based in Helena and will be the point person for all of our public policy and advocacy work.

Mat Willey joined the team as our new Field Director. He is based in Billings and will be working across the state on grassroots engagement and movement building.

Member of the Month!



Liz Ametsbichler
Missoula, MT

1. Why are you an MCV member?

I am a proud member of MCV, and support monthly as part of the Big Sky Circle, because it is an organization that takes the lead on critical conservation issues in Montana. Staff and members work hard to make an impact on conservation politics in Montana by working with the legislature and politicians across the state to try to ensure that environmental issues are in the best interest not only for Montana, but for the earth.

2. What's your top conservation issue and why?

My top conservation issues are climate change and public lands. We have a devastating climate crisis on our hands and can't afford to waste any more time. We must be proactive in countering denial and partisan politics. And, I am very frightened about what will happen to public land access for all of us with Gianforte as governor and the Republican majority in Helena who seem to prefer selling us out to wealthy out-of-staters.

3. Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

The Rattlesnake Creek area in/north of Missoula with all of its many trails and recreation opportunities, so accessible from town.

EVENTS

MCV
2021 SUMMER ROAD TOUR

MONTANA CONSERVATION VOTERS
MONTANA CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

WHITEFISH
GREAT FALLS
GLENDIVE
BILLINGS
LIVINGSTON
BOZEMAN
BUTTE
MISSOULA
HELENA

There's still time to catch us on our **Summer Road Tour!** Don't miss our final stop in [Bozeman](#) on September 27. Come have a drink with us and chat about what's next for conservation in Montana!

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us on **October 28** for MCV and MCV Education Fund's Annual Gala at the Livingston Depot. We can't wait to come together and celebrate our shared commitment to conservation. [Get your tickets here!](#) More details to come. Please reach out to Angela at angela@mtvoters.org if you're interested in becoming a sponsor.

STAY CONNECTED & SHARE!

Looking for more ways to get connected with MCV? Follow us on social media [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) where we post highlights from ongoing campaigns and updates about our upcoming events! Check it out and help us spread the word about all things conservation.



Paid for by Montana Conservation Voters
2822 3rd Ave N Suite 208
Billings, MT 59101
United States

MCV is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization. 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 to learn more.

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).

