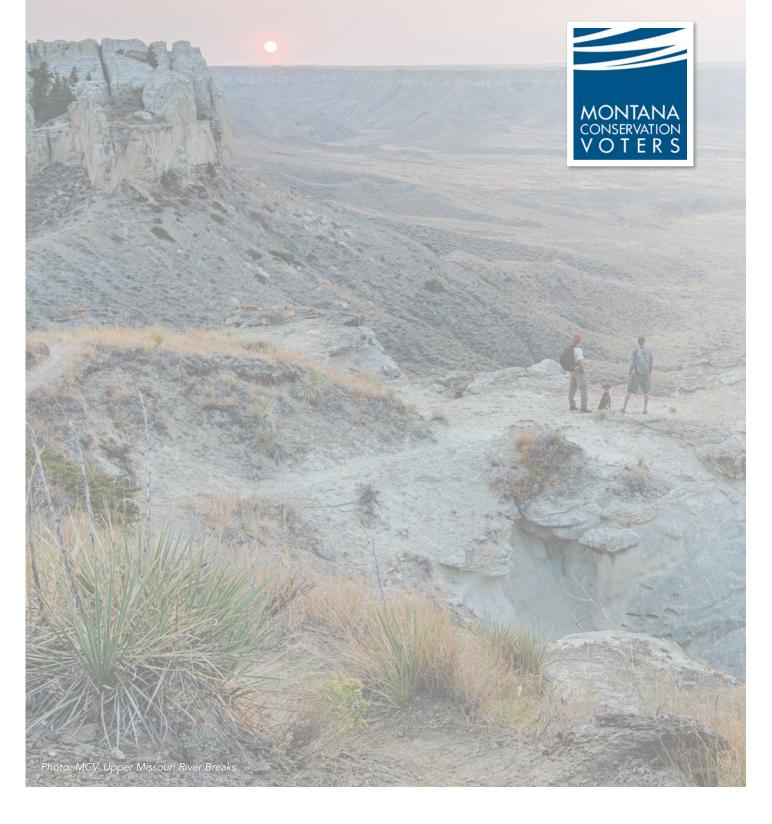
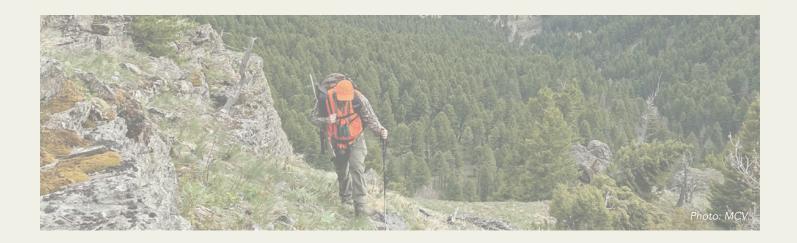
2023 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD





COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT MONTANA

Montana Conservation Voters is a statewide non-partisan membership organization dedicated to fighting for Montana's public lands, air, water, open spaces, wildlife and public health. MCV provides voter participation services to tens of thousands of Montanans.

Montana Conservation Voters identifies and determines legislative priorities in collaboration with the Conservation Working Group (CWG), a diverse coalition of organizations with staff working in the legislature. MCV produces educational materials for lawmakers and the public throughout the session, including the weekly "Conservation Hotlist." The Hotlists summarize priority legislation, provide contact information for the lead lobbyist working on a bill and clearly identify CWG's position on legislation. MCV distributes the Hotlist to legislators, the Governor's office and the public. This scorecard includes votes from bills listed on the Hotlists that represent CWG priorities.

We deeply appreciate the members of CWG and thank them for their policy expertise and continued collaboration: Montana Audubon, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Renewable Energy Association, Northern Plains Resource Council, Montana Wildlife Federation, and Wild Montana.

Visit mtvoters.org to learn more.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A NOTE FROM MCV'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Montanans:

Montana Conservation Voters proudly presents our 2023 Legislative Scorecard, a detailed report to the people of Montana celebrating our leaders who fought for conservation and holding accountable those who did not. During the 87 working days of the 68th session of the Montana Legislature, the Big Sky State was under attack like never before with blatant attempts to shut the people out of the process, dirty our clean air and water, and defund our public lands.

Thankfully YOU showed up and refused to be silenced. Folks from every corner of the state testified during hearings, sent emails, made phone calls, signed petitions, posted and shared on social media, and rallied. It made a difference.

At MCV, our mission is to empower the people of Montana to protect our public lands and our clean air and water by electing leaders who fight for conservation. We do it by helping Montanans engage in the democratic process to ensure their voices are heard.

From attempts to introduce partisan politics into our independent judicial system to egregious gerrymandering to weaken our votes and consolidate power and the barring of Rep. Zooey Zephyr from the House for being a fierce representative of her constituents and community - there were no shortage of attacks on our democracy this session (see *Deep Dive: Protecting Democracy at the Capitol*, pg.18).

Fortunately, we and other Montana conservation champions were able to punch through the noise. Efforts to amend the Montana State Constitution and take away our right to a clean and healthful environment died thanks to early and vocal opposition from Montanans of all stripes.

And we received resounding bipartisan support for our public lands through SB 442, which ultimately garnered support from over 85% of the Legislature. Unfortunately, Governor Greg Gianforte vetoed the bill at the 11th hour in a questionable way meant to keep the Legislature from voting to override his veto. (see *Deep Dive: Collaboration and Public Lands Funding with SB 442*, pg.19).

... a strong majority of Montanans care about conservation and public lands. It also rings true that when we work together, speak up, and get involved - we're heard.

The impacts of the Governor's inexplicable veto still aren't clear, but it's plain as mud that a strong majority of Montanans care about conservation and public lands. It also rings true that when we work together, speak up, and get involved - we're heard. Thankfully there are

still legislative champions who listen to the people they represent, and we want to thank them for the hard and often thankless work of fighting for us.

It's imperative that we all keep it up. Stay informed, stay engaged, and together we can keep Montana the Last Best Place by turning our values into priorities.

Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director



HONOR ROLL

These conservation champions asked the tough questions, did the hard work, and fought for the people of Montana. They should hold their heads high.



Sen. Pat Flowers (*D-Belgrade*) As the Senate Minority Leader, Sen. Flowers served on the Senate Natural Resources and Senate Fish and Game Committees, where he pushed to pass the best policies for public lands, wildlife, and hunting.

When faced with a bill that would have limited voter choice and instituted a "jungle primary" for only the U.S. Senate race, he gave an impassioned floor speech standing up for democracy and fair elections.



Sen. Mike Lang (R-Malta)

It is Sen. Mike Lang's willingness to collaborate that landed him on the Honor Roll this year. Although he started out with a bill that would strip marijuana tax revenue from Habitat Montana, he *listened*

to the people and instead put forward SB 442, a once-in-a-generation public lands and habitat bill supported by thousands of Montanans, over 100 businesses and organizations, and 131 of the 150 legislators.



Rep. Marilyn Marler (D-Missoula)

Rep. Marilyn Marler has continued to be a strong advocate for wildlife, public lands, and conservation. Her deep knowledge of fish and wildlife issues was an essential

factor in her leadership as Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and a member of the House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee. She has been a steady voice for democracy and has introduced important legislation to update the state's hunting laws to better support resident hunters.



Sen. Shane Morigeau

(D-Missoula)

Sen. Shane Morigeau consistently championed conservation and democracy this session. He introduced and passed numerous bills that

improve voting access while also serving as the Vice Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. As Vice Chair, he was a strong advocate for passing only policies that would benefit Montana's environment now and into the future.



Rep. Katie Sullivan (D-Missoula)

House Minority Whip Rep. Katie Sullivan acted as a consistent voice for common-sense legislation on issues of conservation, democracy, and energy. She worked hard to fend off attacks

on the Habitat Montana portion of the recreational marijuana tax revenue all while serving as the Vice Chair of the House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee. Her work on this committee was essential to forcing honest conversations about energy freedom and the future of energy production in Montana.



Rep. Paul Tuss (D-Havre)

Rep. Paul Tuss came in strong as a freshman legislator, landing a perfect 100% score while being a strong advocate for conservation and democracy. He made his mark in

the Appropriations Committee where he *asked hard-hitting questions*, most notably during the Legislature's attempt to redirect marijuana tax revenue away from Habitat Montana. HB 462.



Sen. Jeff Welborn (R-Dillon)

Sen. Jeff Welborn has long been a reasonable voice and a great advocate for good public lands, fish, and wildlife policy. This session, he *showed his commitment to upholding Montana's*

constitution by voting against 6 of the 7 Constitutional Amendment Proposals that made it to the Senate Floor and was a stalwart champion for public lands funding.

HALL OF SHAME

From making it easier for polluters to foul up our air to trying to strip public lands funding, these legislators have plenty of reasons to hang their heads and hide from their fellow Montanans.



Sen. Daniel Emrich (R-Great Falls)

In addition to introducing a bill that would have effectively outlawed the teaching of scientific theory in Montana's public schools (SB 235),

Sen. Daniel Emrich introduced several bills that attacked our Democracy, including SB 302 which would have required judges to declare partisan affiliation when running for office.



Gov. Greg Gianforte (R-Helena) Gov. Gianforte could be a tik-tok meme: Tell me that you don't care about the people you represent without telling me you don't care about the people you represent.

That's what Gov. Gianforte did when he not only vetoed SB 442, but did so at the 11th hour in a sneaky attempt to prevent the will of the people and legislature to override his veto. Why did the Governor choose to ignore the thousands of everyday Montanans who testified, called, wrote, or rallied in support of this bill? Why did he reject a bipartisan solution, with broad support in the legislature (including in his own party) and in communities across Montana? Is it because it wasn't his idea, his preferred way to redistribute marijuana revenue? Whatever his reason, by dismissing the hard work and earnest opinions of so many Montanans, he showed that he has no shame.



Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R-Missoula)

Rep. Lyn Hellegaard introduced several bills attacking our elections including HB 599 which would have purged inactive voters from the voter rolls.

This could have created confusion and disenfranchised voters who thought they were registered to vote only to discover at the polling place or after waiting for their ballot to arrive in the mail that they were no longer on the voting rolls.



Rep. Josh Kassmier (R-Fort Benton)

Rep. Josh Kassmier should be listed as the "Representative from NorthWestern Energy," since his focus this session was to champion

bills that were blatant giveaways to the large utility company. HB 971, introduced well past the deadline for bill introduction, is an egregious attack on the Montana Environmental Policy Act that reduces the State's ability to consider greenhouse gas emissions when assessing projects. He also introduced HB 241 which prevents cities and municipalities from enacting solar-ready building codes that would require new construction in their jurisdictions to design and build homes in such a way that adding solar would be a cheap, convenient, and efficient option for building owners. Cities and towns would lose autonomy to determine what kind of energy sources work best for their communities.



Rep. Bill Mercer (R-Billings)

Rep. Bill Mercer introduced bills this session that were bad for the environment and bad for democracy. He was the sponsor of HB 669, a bill that would have stripped away the

marijuana tax revenue benefitting our public lands. He was also the sponsor of HB 915, a Constitutional Amendment to take away our right to directly elect our Supreme Court justices.



Sen. Keith Regier (R-Kalispell)

Sen. Keith Regier shepherded through SB 109, a bill that is anti-democratic, bad for Montanans' pocketbooks, and bad for Montana's energy policy. This bill gerrymandered the Public Service

Commission districts to eliminate all competition and lock-in one-party control for the next decade, which will further reduce oversight of NorthWestern Energy and their proposed rate hikes.

LIFETIME CHAMPIONS

We value <u>all</u> our conservation allies in the legislature, but these legislators deserve special recognition for achieving perfect MCV ratings over multiple sessions.

Freshman legislators who earned 100% scores are not included here, but we look forward to our continued work together and hope they, too, become lifetime champions!



Sen. Ellie Boldman (D-Missoula)



Sen. Willis Curdy (D-Missoula)



Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D-Helena)



Sen. Janet Ellis (D-Helena)



Sen. Pat Flowers (D-Belgrade)



Sen. Mike Fox (D-Hays)



Sen. Jen Gross (D-Billings)



Sen. Denise Hayman (D-Bozeman)



Sen. Shane Morigeau (D-Missoula)



Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D-Missoula)



Sen. Susan Webber (D-Browning)



Rep. Kim Abbott (D-Helena)



Rep. Laurie Bishop (D-Livingston)



Rep. Alice Buckley (D-Bozeman)



Rep. Dave Fern (D-Whitefish)



Rep. Tom France (D-Missoula)



Rep. Jim Hamilton (D-Bozeman)



Rep. Connie Keogh (D-Missoula)



Rep. Kelly Kortum (D-Bozeman)



Rep. Marilyn Marler (D-Missoula)



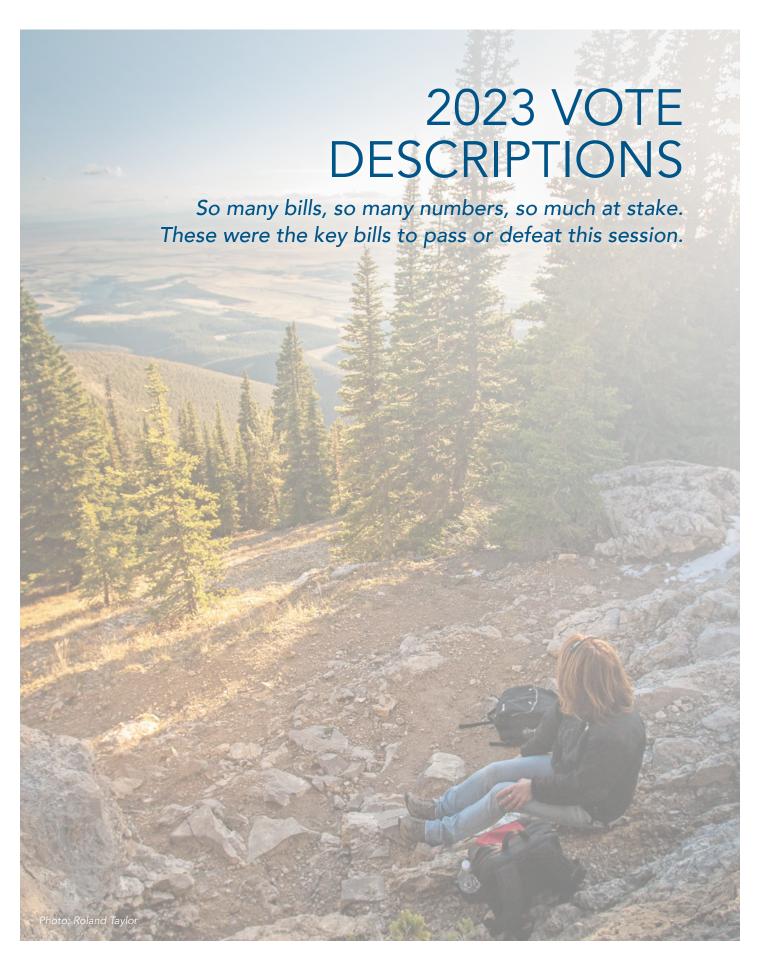
Rep. Ed Stafman (D-Bozeman)



Rep. Katie Sullivan (D-Missoula)



Rep. Mark Thane (D-Missoula)



CLEAN ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE

SB 208: Prohibit local governments from banning or limiting energy choices

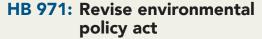
Sponsor: Sen. Jason Small (R-Busby)

SB 208, known by some as the "gas ban ban," removes the ability for local governments to make energy decisions by banning them from adopting building codes that prohibit connection to certain energy sources. Local governments have the best knowledge of the needs of their communities and with this bill, they will not be able to help electrify their communities through building regulations.

Conservation Community Position: Oppose

Senate Vote: 33-17 House Vote: 73-25

Bill Status: Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte



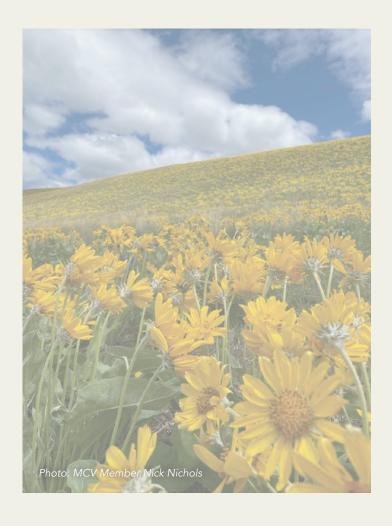
Sponsor: Rep. Josh Kassmier (R-Fort Benton)

HB 971 is an egregious attack on the Montana Environmental Policy Act. This giveaway to NorthWestern Energy and other big corporations limits the Department of Environmental Quality's ability to assess greenhouse gas emissions. This bill was introduced well past the deadline for bill introduction in response to a court decision that the Department of Environmental Quality did not adequately consider the air quality impacts from the Laurel power plant.

Conservation Community Position: Oppose

Senate Vote: 34-15 House Vote: 70-28

Bill Status: Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte



PUBLIC LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES & WILDLIFE

SB 442: Allow for marijuana tax revenue to be used for county road maintenance

Sponsor: Sen. Mike Lang (R-Malta)

SB 442 revised the allocations of the recreational marijuana tax revenue in a manner that invested in Montana and was supported by thousands of Montanans, over 100 businesses and organizations, and 131 bipartisan lawmakers. SB 442 not only invested in Habitat Montana, but also improved and expanded the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, allowing both the expansion and enhancement of public lands and wildlife habitat.

Conservation Community Position: Support Senate Vote: 49-1 House Vote: 82-17 Bill Status: Vetoed by Gov. Gianforte

HB 486: Generally revise county road access laws

Sponsor: Rep. Paul Green (R-Hardin)

HB 486 increases the fine for illegally blocking public access to public county roads. The fine had been set at \$10 per day decades ago and never increased, even to adjust for inflation. This bill sets the new fine at \$100 per day after the landowner has been asked by the county to remove the obstruction. The previous fine was so low it had never even been levied. Blocking public access is counter to Montana's strong public access ethic and this bill enhances that ethic.

Conservation Community Position: Support Senate Vote: 28-22 House Vote: 87-12

Bill Status: Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte

HB 521: Revising laws related to conservation licenses on state lands

Sponsor: Rep. Denley Loge (R-St. Regis)

HB 521 creates a new statewide conservation license that all users of state public lands must hold. Currently, only those with hunting and fishing licenses must purchase a wildlife conservation license and all users of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation lands must purchase a license. Under the new system, just one license will allow users to access all state lands. The projected increase in revenue will help our state land agencies better maintain high use fishing access sites and other public lands areas.

Conservation Community Position: Support Senate Vote: 39-10 House Vote: 80-10

Bill Status: Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte

DEMOCRACY & VOTER RIGHTS

SB 109: Revises laws related to redistricting the Public Service Commission

Sponsor: Sen. Keith Regier (R-Kalispell)

SB 109 heavily gerrymanders Public Service Commission districts and illogically splits communities. The new PSC map enacted by SB 109 divides 14 counties and splits six major cities within the state. The districts are strangely shaped without any explanation for how the configuration represents voters' interests. The districts are not intuitive based on geography or historical regional interests and would only make sense if one was trying to intentionally eliminate all competition and consolidate one party's power. Due to the division of communities, it will be challenging for PSC Commissioners to represent the energy needs of their districts, which is the primary purpose of having PSC districts, and further reduces oversight of NorthWestern Energy.

Conservation Community Position: Oppose

Senate Vote: 30-20 House Vote: 65-32

Bill Status: Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte

HB 915: Constitutional amendment to change process to select supreme court justices

Sponsor: Rep. Bill Mercer (R-Billings)

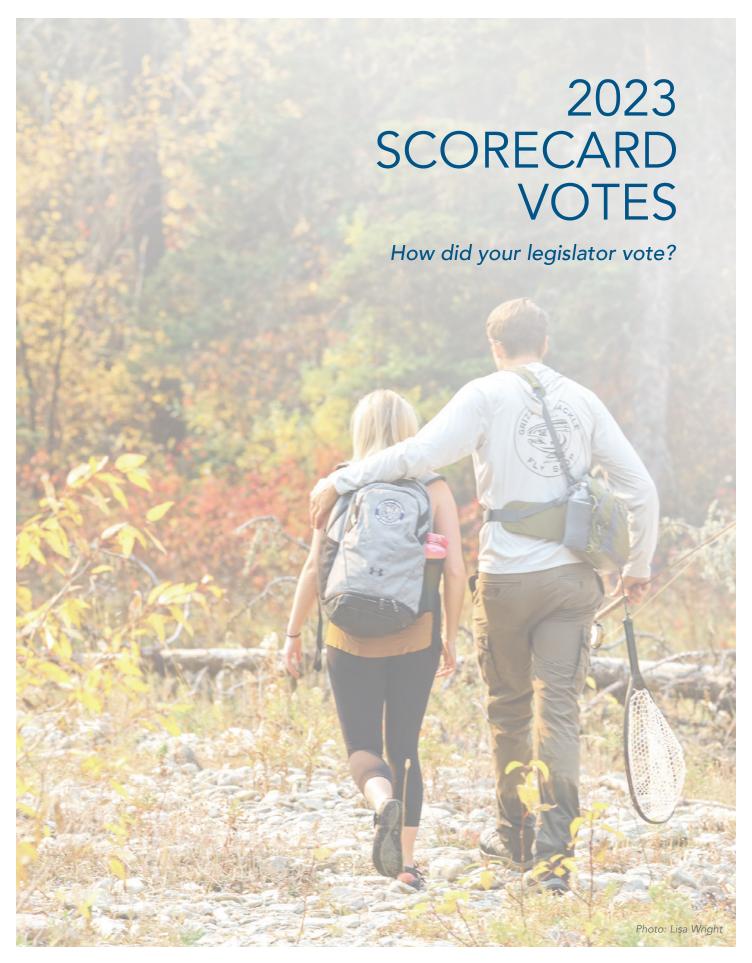
HB 915 would have given the governor the power to directly appoint Montana Supreme Court Justices and take away the electorate's ability to vote for their Supreme Court Justices. We should be trusting Montana voters to elect who they think best represents them on the Supreme Court.

Conservation Community Position: Oppose

Senate Vote: 23-27 House Vote: 59-39

Bill Status: Dead





2023 SENATE SCORECARD

✓ = Supported MCV position X = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused **BOLD**= MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Senator	City	Party	SB 208	HB 971	SB 442	HB 486	HB 521	SB 109	HB 915	2023 Score	Lifetime Score
SD 15	BARTEL,DAN	Lewistown	R	Х	Х	1	X	1	X	Х	29	18%
SD 40	BEARD,BECKY	Elliston	R	Х	Х	1	Х	Х	Х	Х	14	9%
SD 19	BOGNER,KENNETH	Miles City	R	Х	Х	1	1	Х	X	Х	29	14%
SD 45	BOLDMAN,ELLIE	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 7	BROWN,BOB	Trout Creek	R	X	X	1	X	✓	X	X	29	13%
SD 1	CUFFE,MIKE	Eureka	R	Х	Х	1	Х	1	Х	1	43	18%
SD 49	CURDY,WILLIS	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 42	DUNWELL, MARY ANN	Helena	D	1	1	1	✓	✓	1	1	100	100%
SD 41	ELLIS,JANET,D	Helena	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 43	ELLSWORTH,JASON	Hamilton	R	Х	Х	1	Х	1	X	X	29	18%
SD 11	EMRICH,DANIEL	Great Falls	R	X	X	1	X	X	X	Х	14	14%
SD 30	ESP,JOHN,R	Big Timber	R	X	X	1	X	1	X	1	43	23%
SD 10	FITZPATRICK,STEVE	Great Falls	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	1	57	30%
SD 32	FLOWERS,PAT	Belgrade	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 16	FOX,MIKE	Hays	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 26	FRIEDEL,CHRIS	Billings	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	27%
SD 4	FULLER, JOHN	Whitefish	R	X	X	1	X	1	X	Х	29	10%
SD 9	GILLESPIE,BRUCE	Etheridge	R	X	X	1	X	1	X	X	29	26%
SD 2	GLIMM,CARL	Kila	R	X	X	1	X	1	X	X	29	9%
SD 25	GROSS,JEN	Billings	D	1	A/E	1	✓	✓	1	1	100	100%
SD 33	HAYMAN,DENISE	Bozeman	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 6	HERTZ,GREG	Polson	R	Х	Х	1	Х	1	X	X	29	9%
SD 18	HINEBAUCH,STEVE	Wibaux	R	Х	Х	1	Х	1	X	Х	29	10%
SD 24	KELKER,KATHY	Billings	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	99%
SD 17	LANG,MIKE	Malta	R	Х	Х	1	1	1	1	1	71	21%

2023 SENATE SCORECARD (cont.) ✓ = Supported MCV position X = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused

BOLD= MCV Endorsed

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Dist.	Senator	City	Party	208	971	442	486	521	109	915	2023 Score	Lifetime Score
SD 27	LENZ, DENNIS	Billings	R	Х	Х	/	X	X	X	X	14	6%
SD 37	LYNCH,RYAN	Butte	D	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	86	82%
SD 29	MANDEVILLE, FORREST	Columbus	R	Х	Х	1	√	X	X	Х	29	29%
SD 44	MANZELLA,THERESA	Hamilton	R	Х	X	1	Х	1	X	Х	29	16%
SD 38	MCCLAFFERTY,EDIE	Butte	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	90%
SD 23	MCGILLVRAY,TOM	Billings	R	Х	X	✓	X	X	X	X	14	7%
SD 12	MCKAMEY,WENDY	Great Falls	R	Х	X	1	X	X	1	1	43	22%
SD 28	MOLNAR,BRAD	Laurel	R	1	X	Х	1	1	X	1	57	40%
SD 48	MORIGEAU,SHANE	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 5	NOLAND,MARK	Bigfork	R	Х	X	1	Х	1	X	Х	29	12%
SD 46	O'BRIEN,SHANNON	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 50	OLSEN,ANDREA	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	98%
SD 31	POPE,CHRISTOPHER	Bozeman	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	97%
SD 3	REGIER,KEITH	Kalispell	R	Х	X	1	X	1	X	X	29	16%
SD 35	SALES,WALT	Manhattan	R	X	X	✓	✓	1	X	1	57	30%
SD 47	SALOMON,DAN	Ronan	R	X	X	1	X	1	X	1	43	24%
SD 21	SMALL,JASON	Busby	R	Х	X	1	1	1	X	1	57	44%
SD 14	TEMPEL,RUSS	Chester	R	Х	Х	1	Х	1	1	1	57	29%
SD 13	TREBAS,JEREMY	Great Falls	R	Х	X	1	1	X	X	Х	29	29%
SD 20	USHER,BARRY	Billings	R	Х	X	1	Х	1	X	X	29	13%
SD 34	VANCE,SHELLEY	Belgrade	R	X	X	✓	X	X	X	X	14	14%
SD 39	VERMEIRE,TERRY	Anaconda	R	Х	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	43%
SD 8	WEBBER,SUSAN	Browning	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
SD 36	WELBORN, JEFF	Dillon	R	Х	Х	1	1	1	Х	1	57	22%
SD 22	ZOLNIKOV,DANIEL	Billings	R	Х	Х	1	1	A/E	1	Х	50	29%

2023 HOUSE SCORECARD ✓ = Supported MCV position X = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused BOLD = MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 208	HB 971	SB 442	HB 486	HB 521	SB 109	HB 915	2023 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 83	ABBOTT,KIM	Helena	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 20	ANDERSON,FRED	Great Falls	R	X	X	1	1	1	Х	Х	43	30%
HD 58	BARKER,BRAD	Roberts	R	X	X	X	1	1	X	1	43	43%
HD 47	BAUM, DENISE	Billings	D	1	/	✓	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 86	BEDEY,DAVID	Hamilton	R	X	Х	X	1	1	X	X	29	24%
HD 30	BERGSTROM, JAMES	Buffalo	R	X	X	/	1	1	X	X	43	43%
HD 75	BERTOGLIO, MARTA	Clancy	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	33%
HD 85	BINKLEY,MICHELE	Hamilton	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	33%
HD 60	BISHOP, LAURIE	Livingston	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 44	BREWSTER, LARRY	Billings	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	27%
HD 9	BROCKMAN,TONY	Kalispell	R	X	Х	✓	1	1	X	X	43	43%
HD 63	BUCKLEY,ALICE,D	Bozeman	D	1	/	/	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 29	BUTCHER,ED	Winifred	R	X	X	1	X	1	X	X	29	29%
HD 21	BUTTREY,ED	Great Falls	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	30%
HD 82	CAFERRO, MARY	Helena	D	1	/	/	1	1	1	1	100	93%
HD 69	CARLSON, JENNIFER	Manhatttan	R	X	X	/	X	1	X	X	29	20%
HD 98	CARTER,BOB	Missoula	D	1	1	✓	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 84	COHENOUR,JILL	Helena	D	1	/	/	1	1	1	1	100	99%
HD 55	DEMING,LEE	Laurel	R	1	X	1	1	1	X	X	57	57%
HD 70	DOOLING,JULIE	Helena	R	X	Х	✓	1	1	X	X	43	33%
HD 2	DURAM,NEIL	Eureka	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	22%
HD 52	ESSMANN,SHERRY	Billings	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	43%
HD 48	ETCHART,JODEE	Billings	R	A/E	Х	1	X	A/E	X	X	20	20%
HD 8	FALK,TERRY	Kalispell	R	X	X	X	1	1	X	X	29	29%
HD 5	FERN,DAVE	Whitefish	D	1	1	✓	1	A/E	1	1	100	100%

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 208	HB 971	SB 442	HB 486	HB 521	SB 109	HB 915	2023 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 13	FIELDER,PAUL	Thompson Falls	R	X	Х	Х	1	X	X	X	14	13%
HD 17	FITZGERALD,ROSS	Power	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	1	57	31%
HD 77	FITZPATRICK,JOHN	Anaconda	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	1	57	57%
HD 94	FRANCE,TOM	Missoula	D	>	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 78	FRAZER,GREGORY	Deer Lodge	R	X	X	1	1	A/E	X	1	50	50%
HD 24	GALLOWAY,STEVEN	Great Falls	R	X	X	1	1	X	X	X	29	20%
HD 64	GILLETTE, JANE	Bozeman	R	X	X	1	1	X	X	X	29	15%
HD 25	GIST,STEVE	Cascade	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	33%
HD 41	GREEN,PAUL	Hardin	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	43%
HD 1	GUNDERSON,STEVE	Libby	R	X	X	1	1	X	X	X	29	16%
HD 61	HAMILTON,JIM	Bozeman	D	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 74	HARVEY, DEREK	Butte	D	X	X	1	1	1	1	1	71	83%
HD 50	HASTINGS,NAARAH	Billings	R	X	X	Х	X	1	X	X	14	14%
HD 76	HAWK,DONAVON	Butte	D	X	X	1	1	1	1	1	71	86%
HD 97	HELLEGAARD,LYN	Missoula	R	X	X	Х	1	1	X	X	29	29%
HD 68	HINKLE,CALEB	Belgrade	R	X	X	Х	X	X	X	X	0	13%
HD 67	HINKLE,JEDEDIAH	Belgrade	R	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	10%
HD 92	HOPKINS,MIKE	Missoula	R	X	1	1	1	1	A/E	X	67	50%
HD 95	HOWELL,SJ	Missoula	D	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 18	JONES,LLEW	Conrad	R	X	Х	Х	1	1	X	X	29	20%
HD 96	KARLEN,JONATHAN	Missoula	D	√	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 27	KASSMIER,JOSH	Fort Benton	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	26%
HD 10	KEENAN,BOB	Bigfork	R	X	X	Х	1	1	X	X	29	29%
HD 91	KEOGH,CONNIE	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 23	KERNS,SCOT	Great Falls	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	27%

2023 HOUSE SCORECARD (cont.) ✓ = Supported MCV position X = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused BOLD = MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 208	HB 971	SB 442	HB 486	HB 521	SB 109	HB 915	2023 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 49	KERR-CARPENTER,EMMA	Billings	D	1	Х	1	1	1	1	1	86	95%
HD 38	KMETZ,GREG	Miles City	R	X	Х	1	Х	1	Х	Х	29	29%
HD 33	KNUDSEN,CASEY	Malta	R	X	Х	1	1	X	1	X	43	14%
HD 34	KNUDSEN,RHONDA	Culbertson	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	11%
HD 65	KORTUM,KELLY	Bozeman	D	1	/	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 35	LER,BRANDON	Savage	R	X	Х	1	X	A/E	X	X	17	9%
HD 14	LOGE, DENLEY	Saint Regis	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	22%
HD 73	LYNCH, JENNIFER	Butte	D	X	Х	1	1	1	1	1	71	71%
HD 59	MALONE,MARTY	Pray	R	X	Х	1	X	1	X	X	29	20%
HD 90	MARLER, MARILYN	Missoula	D	/	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 87	MARSHALL,RON	Hamilton	R	X	Х	1	1	A/E	X	X	33	28%
HD 66	MATTHEWS,ERIC	Bozeman	D	1	✓	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 46	MERCER,BILL	Billings	R	X	Х	X	X	1	X	X	14	8%
HD 19	MINER,RUSS	Great Falls	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	43%
HD3	MITCHELL,BRAXTON	Columbia Falls	R	X	Х	X	1	1	X	X	29	20%
HD 54	MOORE,TERRY	Billings	R	X	Х	X	1	1	X	X	29	13%
HD 57	NAVE,FIONA	Columbus	R	X	Х	X	1	1	X	X	29	15%
HD 53	NICOL, NELLY	Billings	R	X	X	1	1	A/E	X	X	33	33%
HD 26	NIKOLAKAKOS,GEORGE	Great Falls	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	43%
HD 40	OBLANDER,GREG	Billings	R	X	Х	1	1	A/E	X	X	33	33%
HD 39	PARRY,GARY	Colstrip	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	1	57	57%
HD 36	PHALEN,BOB	Lindsay	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	27%
HD 93	READ,JOE	Ronan	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	18%
HD 4	REGIER,MATT	Columbia Falls	R	X	Х	X	1	X	X	X	14	6%
HD 6	REGIER,AMY	Kalispell	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	X	43	27%

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 208	HB 971	SB 442	HB 486	HB 521	SB 109	HB 915	2023 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 12	REKSTEN,LINDA	Polson	R	X	Х	1	1	1	X	X	43	34%
HD 81	ROMANO,MELISSA	Helena	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD16	RUNNING WOLF,TYSON	Browning	D	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	86	95%
HD 88	RUSK,WAYNE	Corvallis	R	X	Х	1	1	1	Х	1	57	57%
HD 37	SCHILLINGER, JERRY	Circle	R	X	A/E	1	Х	1	X	X	33	17%
HD 43	SEEKINS-CROWE,KERRI	Billings	R	A/E	X	1	1	1	X	X	50	25%
HD 22	SHELDON-GALLOWAY,LOLA	Great Falls	R	X	X	1	1	X	X	X	29	12%
HD 79	SMITH,LAURA	Helena	D	X	1	1	1	A/E	1	✓	83	83%
HD 11	SMITH,TANNER	Lakeside	R	X	X	X	X	1	X	X	14	14%
HD 31	SMITH,FRANK	Poplar	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	89%
HD 7	SPRUNGER,COURTENAY	Kalispell	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	1	57	57%
HD 62	STAFMAN,ED	Bozeman	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 42	STEWART PEREGOY, SHARON	Crow Agency	D	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	86	90%
HD 89	SULLIVAN,KATIE	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 99	THANE,MARK	Missoula	D	/	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 28	TUSS,PAUL	Havre	D	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	100	100%
HD 56	VINTON,SUE	Billings	R	X	X	X	1	1	A/E	X	33	11%
HD 71	WALSH,KENNETH	Twin Bridges	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	1	57	45%
HD 15	WEATHERWAX,MARVIN	Browning	D	X	A/E	A/E	A/E	1	A/E	A/E	50	80%
HD 72	WELCH,TOM	Dillon	R	X	X	1	1	1	X	✓	57	34%
HD 32	WINDY BOY, JONATHAN	Box Elder	D	X	1	1	1	A/E	1	✓	83	83%
HD 80	WIRTH,ZACK	Wolf Creek	R	X	Х	1	1	1	Х	X	43	43%
HD 51	YAKAWICH,MIKE	Billings	R	Х	Х	1	1	1	Х	X	43	43%
HD 100	ZEPHYR,ZOOEY	Missoula	D	1	1	1	1	X	1	1	86	86%
HD 45	ZOLNIKOV,KATIE	Billings	R	X	Х	1	1	A/E	Х	X	33	22%

DEEP DIVE

PROTECTING DEMOCRACY AT THE CAPITOL

A strong democracy means a strong environment, so we were disheartened by the flagrant attempts to take power away from the people of Montana and give it to politicians and corporations.

Team MCV mobilized against attacks on our democracy throughout the 2023 Montana legislative session. We stood firm against devious ploys to shape the outcomes of future elections and silence Montanans. Feeling emboldened, extremists pledged going

into the session to attack our elections and the democratic policies enshrined in Montana's Constitution, such as our independent redistricting commission and the nonpartisan election of our Supreme Court Justices.

MCV organized against these efforts with our partners by lobbying our legislators, sending out action alerts to

our members and supporters, organizing rallies, and engaging on social media. Thankfully, we were able to defeat many of these attacks on our rights (for now), but the threat to our democratic freedoms remains. Below are examples of some of the more egregious plots against democracy during the 2023 session.

HB 915, HB 464, SB 302, and SB 200 were attacks on our independent judicial system. HB 464, SB 302, and SB 200 would have made judicial races into partisan contests, while HB 915 was a Constitutional Referendum that would have taken away Montanans' right to directly elect our Supreme Court Justices and created a system where the Governor appointed Justices to the court.

Montanans value our fair and impartial judges, yet these bills attempted to inject more vitriol and rancor into nonpartisan contests. The last thing Montanans want and need is more partisanship in our politics, but that is exactly what these bills would have achieved. Judges show up day after day to make decisions based on the law and the facts presented to them, not based on a party affiliation. A judge's

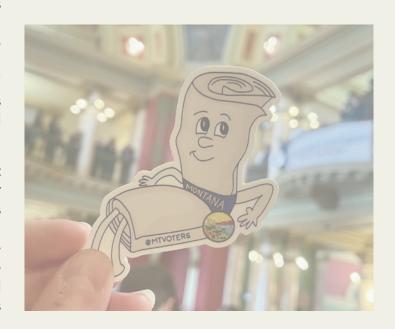
party affiliation has no place on the ballot. Montanans want to continue to vote for judicial candidates based on their qualifications and their records. Having judges identify with partisan ideology will just sew further division while working against the American

ideal of an independent judiciary. MCV testified against these bills, lobbied legislators, and mobilized our members to reach out to their legislators to tell them to reject these bills. Thanks to your work, we were successful in defeating all four bills.

In the months and years to come, Team MCV anticipates more

extremist attacks on democracy in Montana. The people of the state pride themselves as free and independent thinkers. We don't need politicians taking away our rights and shutting us out of our own democracy. We must remain vigilant in our defense and look for opportunities to create progress so we all have a voice in the future of Montana.

The last thing
Montanans want
and need is more
partisanship in
our politics



DEEP DIVE

COLLABORATION & PUBLIC LANDS FUNDING

The "win-win"

everyone looks for

In maybe the biggest fight of the session, we saw how democracy should work: threats to public lands funding resulted in passionate input from the public, broad coalition building, and bipartisan problem solving.

The result was a historic win for public lands ... until SB 442 went to the Governor's desk.

We started the 2023 session understanding that the portion of marijuana tax revenue that was previously directed towards Habitat Montana would be under

fire. Our 2021 victory on this front was short lived so we geared up for another fight. There were three bills that targeted Habitat Montana

money, with two ultimately dying in the legislative process and one becoming a gold star of collaboration and bipartisanship.

House Bill 462 and House Bill 669 both attempted to redirect money away from public lands funding. However, facing strong opposition from the conservation community, neither made it through the legislative process. Instead, the only bill that incorporated conservation funding made it to the Governor's desk.

SB 442 started out as a bill that would strip funding for Habitat Montana in favor of county roads maintenance. But, it did not remain a threat for long. Following pressure from the conservation community, Sen. Mike Lang agreed to work alongside us instead-turning SB 442 into one of the most broadly supported bills in the Legislature.

SB 442 kept money in the existing public lands and habitat programs while also improving habitat enhancement through the revisioned Wildlife Habitat

Improvement Program. This would have provided approximately \$28M annually for public land and access expansion, wildlife habitat improvement on public and private lands, studying nongame wildlife, improvements of state parks and trails, veterans programs, county roads maintenance, and the HEART fund. It was the "win-win" everyone looks for.

Once amended, SB 442 moved through the process quickly and decisively. It passed the Senate nearly unanimously with just one Senator voting against it. Once in the House the bill first went to the House Taxation Committee where a group of almost 50 people representing incredibly broad interests

> (hunters, hikers, anglers, horseback riders, veterans, county roads workers) testified in support. After passing the House Taxation Committee by a huge

margin, SB 442 eventually passed out of the House with 82 Representatives voting in favor.

When SB 442 finally found its way to Governor Gianforte's desk, he chose to ignore thousands of constituents by vetoing the bill. This surprising move occurred the same day that the Senate and House adjourned, casting the future of the bill in doubt. While the future of SB 442 is still unknown, we do know that we couldn't have gotten it to the Governor's desk without immense support from all of you, our conservation partners, and the broad coalition of groups this bill brought to the table.

This process highlighted how much can be accomplished with collaboration and bipartisanship and reinforced the idea that all Montanans want elected officials who care about clean air, clean water, public lands, and fish and wildlife. No matter the fate of SB 442, it was a win for conservation and common sense, and it shows us the way forward for future attacks on this funding, public lands, and our democracy.



Montana Conservation Voters P.O. Box 1812 Helena, MT 59624

mtvoters.org





MCV IMPACT

During the 68th Session of the Montana Legislature:



1,698 bills introduced and 802 bills passed



2,342 email messages from MCV members to legislators and the Governor



624 calls from MCV members 🗴 to legislators and the Governor

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