

MCV MATTERS

CONNECT. PROTECT. ELECT. TURNING MONTANA VALUES INTO PRIORITIES.

December 2023

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A Year of Resilience, a Future of Conservation: Celebrating Wins and Looking Ahead with Team MCV



Dear Montana Conservation Voters,

As 2023 comes to a close, we are excited for the possibilities of another year dedicated to protecting Montana's public lands, air, water and communities for all.

Despite an anti-conservation governor and attempts by the legislature to gut many of Montana's environmental protections, we have achieved tremendous wins this year. We helped protect Montanans' constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment, helped elect and re-elect pro-conservation leaders to local offices around the state, and expanded our team to take on more work to protect

Montana as the Last Best Place.

MCV remains the only conservation organization in Montana that participates in the full election process from the local level all the way up to the U.S. Senate.

We are there from endorsing and supporting pro-conservation candidates to holding electeds accountable once they're in office. And we help voters like you turn out on Election Day and stay informed and engaged on policy decisions after the polls close. Even during uncertain times, you can count on MCV to keep up the fight to protect Montana's one-of-a-kind outdoor way of life.

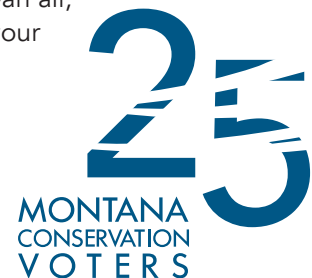
If you value this work as much as we do, we invite you to make a year end gift to Team MCV. Every gift — no matter the amount — will help us finish this year strong and prepare for 2024, where our energy will be focused on winning pro-conservation seats up and down the ballot, leveraging federal investments to help address local community issues, and ramping up our efforts to reach more Montana voters on-the-ground while holding elected officials accountable to you.

The coming year holds special significance as we celebrate our 25th anniversary. Together, let's continue building Montana's legacy of clean air, clean water and accessible public lands. Thank you for your continued support and here's to the road ahead!

Yours in conservation,



Whitney Tawney
Executive Director, Montana Conservation Voters



25
MONTANA
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

TOP 10

from 2023

TOP TEN HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023: MCV & the MCV EDUCATION FUND

We're thrilled to share the standout moments that defined our impactful year at Team MCV! Here's a glimpse into our top highlights (listed in no particular order):

- 1. UNITED VICTORY:** Safeguarded Montanans' constitutional right to a "clean and healthful environment" by holding off malicious legislative attempts and protecting a pro-conservation majority on the Montana Supreme Court.
- 2. AMPLIFYING MONTANA'S VOICES:** Team MCV helped facilitate 3,000 messages to legislators and the Governor during the 68th session of the Montana Legislature.
- 3. EMPOWERING THE PUBLIC:** We published valuable public resources including MCV's 2023 Legislative Scorecard and the MCV Education Fund's first Montana National Monuments Guidebook.
- 4. HOLDING THE POWERFUL ACCOUNTABLE:** We held Governor Greg Gianforte accountable to his veto of popular bipartisan legislation to fund our public lands, veterans' services, county roads and more through hundreds of postcards and messages from Montanans, political cartoons and billboards.
- 5. CELEBRATING SUCCESS:** We celebrated U.S. Senator Jon Tester's federal investments in clean energy freedom and our public lands with Montanans of all stripes through our TesterGettingItDone.org campaign, distributing over 200 yard signs and a dozen billboards across the state.
- 6. CONNECTING IN YOUR COMMUNITY:** Team MCV gathered with new and longtime members and supporters alike at five pint nights to recap the legislative session, current attacks on democracy and the importance of protecting our public lands.
- 7. IGNITING LOCAL ACTION:** We launched a localized issue-based field operation across the state to engage Montanans around landmark federal conservation policy and legislation.
- 8. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY & FAIR REPRESENTATION:** Alongside a bipartisan group of Montanans and Upper Seven Law, Team MCV filed litigation challenging the gerrymandered Public Service Commission map ahead of the 2024 election.
- 9. ELECTING PRO-CONSERVATION CANDIDATES:** We toasted the victories of 15 pro-conservation and MCV-endorsed municipal candidates — protecting pro-conservation majorities in the cities of Billings, Bozeman, Livingston, Missoula and Whitefish.
- 10. BUILDING POWER:** Team MCV proudly partnered with Vet Voice Foundation, Western Native Voice, Indigenous artists, and outdoor recreationists to raise up the importance of public lands and voting.



A Senator for All Seasons

As you brighten up your surroundings with holiday lights, consider adding a touch of advocacy by displaying one of our "Tester Getting it Done" signs.

Senator Tester, a proud representative of Montana, consistently ranks among the top three most effective Senators. Notably, he stands out as the sole lawmaker among the 535 members of the 118th Congress to have multiple bills signed into law.

To express your support, make a donation of \$25 or more at TesterGettingItDone.org, and we'll gladly send you your very own flattop yard sign.

Our Tax-Deductible End-of-Year Campaign

Giving Tuesday might be behind us, but you can still make your end of year tax-deductible donation to the MCV Education Fund to support our field work and more.

Contribute \$50 or more, and you'll receive a charming 2024 Pups for Public Lands calendar as a token of our appreciation!

What's more, YOUR GENEROSITY WILL BE DOUBLED, as all donations now through December 31 will be matched up to \$15,000, courtesy of the generous support of the Cinnabar Foundation. Up to \$30,000 for the MCV Education Fund's mission? Now that's impact!

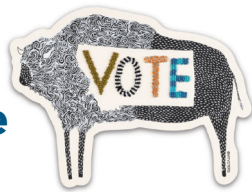


Please consider supporting Team MCV by making a donation using the enclosed remittance envelope or by scanning the QR code here to give online.



Preparing for a Pro-Conservation Future

Team MCV Gears Up for 2024



With 2024 knocking on the door, Team MCV is buzzing with anticipation, gearing up for a crucial election year dedicated to advancing conservation values in Montana. We want to keep you in the loop on our endorsement process and how you can actively engage in shaping the future of our state.

RECENT ENDORSEMENTS:

In October, we proudly announced our endorsement of U.S. **Senator Jon Tester** for his re-election, recognizing his steadfast commitment to conservation. Additionally, just this month, we endorsed **Monica Tranel**, a passionate pro-conservation advocate running for the first U.S. Congressional District.

UPCOMING ENDORSEMENTS:

Momentum continues as we prepare to endorse conservation champions in several other 2024 races. From the State Legislature and the Montana Supreme Court to top statewide positions, we are committed to supporting candidates who prioritize environmental stewardship. We will endorse some candidates with proven conservation credentials starting at the beginning of the year so stay tuned.

ENDORSEMENT PROCESS:

- 1. Release of the 2024 Endorsement Memo:** In mid-March, right after the candidate filing deadline, we will release our endorsement memo. This document will outline our endorsement process and provide specific questionnaires tailored to each race.
- 2. Considering Candidates:** All candidate questionnaires will be reviewed by MCV's independent Political Action Committee board, the MCV Action Fund, and MCV member endorsement panels will interview candidates in contested races.
- 3. Finalizing Endorsements:** By early summer, we aim to finalize all endorsements after thorough consideration of candidates' responses and alignment with conservation values. Please note, all endorsements are made by the MCV Action Fund's board.

GET INVOLVED:

- 1. Recommend a Champion:** Know someone passionate about conservation running for office? We'd love to hear from you! Nominate them as a potential conservation champion.
- 2. Join an Endorsement Interview Panel:** Want to play a direct role in our endorsement process? Consider serving on an MCV member endorsement panel interviewing candidates. Contact MCV's Program Director, Jocelyn Leroux (jocelyn@mtvoters.org), with your questions or interest.

The road to a pro-conservation future is paved with engagement, advocacy, and informed choices. Your involvement makes a difference, and we invite you to be an active part of this journey.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's make 2024 a landmark year for conservation in Montana!

LEGAL ACTION UPDATE

MCV's Fight for Democracy & Fair Representation on the PSC

Background: Earlier this fall – Montana Conservation Voters, a group of bipartisan Montanans, and Upper Seven Law filed suit to compel Secretary of State Christi Jacobson to restore a fair and competitive map for the upcoming 2024 Public Service Commission election.

Senate Bill 109, passed during the 2023 legislative session, aimed to redistrict the PSC map, consolidating one-party control through a supermajority. The resulting map, expertly analyzed, exposes its naked partisanship and discriminatory impact on voters.

Motion for Preliminary Injunction: On November 29, 2023, we filed a motion for a preliminary injunction, seeking to prevent the State from conducting the next PSC election under a gerrymandered map. This legal step is crucial in our pursuit of fair and neutral redistricting criteria, aligning with the constitutional principles that guide the Districting and Apportionment Commission for other legislative districts.

Constitutional Challenge: SB 109 faces a constitutional challenge on the grounds of discrimination against voters based on political ideas. By undermining the effectiveness of votes, it goes against the protections embedded in the Montana Constitution.

Protecting Voters' Rights: Our legal action is not just about challenging a map; it's about safeguarding the fundamental right of Montanans to fair representation. SB 109 attempts to strip voters of their decision-making power by drawing boundaries that pre-select PSC commissioners, a move that contradicts constitutional principles.

As we navigate this legal process, we will keep you updated on developments. Your support and engagement are crucial in upholding the democratic values we cherish.

Thank you for standing with us in this fight for fairness, representation, and the integrity of Montana's electoral processes. **Learn more at mtvoters.org/psc**

With your support, we are growing and making an even bigger impact!

Team MCV is Ramping Up Our Community Outreach!

As an established leader in Montana on issues like public land access and energy freedom, Team MCV is uniquely positioned to deliver a compelling, localized case to Montanans about the impacts of recent federal legislation and investments. Our team knows Montana and knows the issues that resonate with Montanans.

In November, we launched an innovative new approach to localize our communications about the positive impacts of federal legislation and policies that will include digital ads, mail, a canvass focused on the critical geographies of Yellowstone, Gallatin and Flathead Counties. The goal is to build awareness around key federal investments for our public lands, waters and clean energy economy.

We're thrilled to have returning Field Organizers Jesc Gallegos and Zachariah Tollison, as well as Forest Tindall in Billings, Belle Carnes and Andrea Cubberley in Bozeman, and Natalie Wright in the Flathead joining our team. During training, we were joined by Senate Minority Leader Pat Flowers and Bozeman Mayor-elect Joey Morrison!

The team has been hard at work hosting community events and creating education materials for their fellow Montanans. Stay tuned for events and door-knocking in your community!



An MCV Membership Makes a Great Holiday Gift!

Membership is vital to helping MCV sustain its long legacy of work. But that's not all — our newsletter, events, email updates, candidate endorsements, and action alerts offer valuable insight into pressing issues and provide opportunities for you to make a difference.

For only \$35 a year (or \$70 per household), you can become an MCV member, renew your membership, or gift a membership — so head over to mtvoters.org/join or scan the code here.



MCV Member of the Month

Terry Divoky

West Glacier, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

"We are the most dangerous species of life on the planet, and every other species, even the earth itself, has cause to fear our power to exterminate. But we are also the only species which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great effort to save what it might destroy."

— Wallace Stegner

What's your top conservation issue and why?

Electing state and federal officials who believe in our Constitutional Right to clean air, clean water and a healthful environment, which includes the need for a quiet, accessible, natural place, to slow down, and allow us to focus on other living beings besides ourselves. We owe this to ourselves and to our future generations.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

It tends to be wherever I am at the moment plus my selfish self doesn't want to tell anyone exactly where I go! Living next to Glacier for 30+ years, I have my special haunts away from many people. The Beartooth, Badger Two Med, drainages off the Middle Fork of the Flathead, the Rocky Mountain Front and Yellowstone draw me back again and again.

Are you following us on social media?

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Want to dive into the latest updates, behind-the-scenes action, and exciting news from Team MCV?

Follow us on social media and be the first to know about our conservation initiatives, events, and the incredible work we're doing to protect Montana's natural treasures. Engage with us, share your thoughts, and let's build a stronger community dedicated to environmental stewardship!

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.