

Happy November, Montana Conservation Voters!

Fall is flying by and we have a lot of exciting updates for you in this special election edition of *MCV Matters*.

Montana's municipal elections earlier this month confirm what we have always known: **Montanans continue to value and vote for conservation!**

Fifteen of MCV's endorsed candidates were elected or re-elected to local offices.

Billings, Bozeman, Livingston, Missoula and Whitefish protected or expanded the conservation majorities on their municipal councils and commissions.

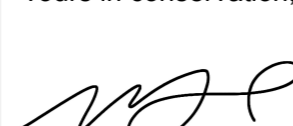
Needless to say, we were beyond excited to see these results. But we're also already looking ahead to 2024, when a U.S. Senate seat is in play, two congressional seats are up for grabs, our pro-conservation Supreme Court is hanging in the balance and many, many state House and Senate races are on the table.

The message is clear -- we need more conservation champions in office who represent our values and are going to fight for our public lands, air, water and democracy AND we need you as a Montana Conservation Voter!

If you are not an MCV member, please consider making a gift of \$35 or more to fuel our work. Visit mtvoters.org/join today to learn more.

Thank you for being part of these efforts and continuing to stay involved - we need your voice and support more than ever!

Yours in conservation,



Whitney Tawney
 Executive Director
 Montana Conservation Voters



Conservation Candidates Win Across State in Municipal Races

Last Tuesday, voters in towns across Montana voted to elect local candidates deeply committed to advancing conservation in their communities. City councils and commissions play a pivotal role in safeguarding our access to public lands, including our cherished parks and trails, while also making critical decisions regarding energy sources and protecting our clean air and water. Thank you for making a difference!

We're proud of the work the MCV Action Fund delivered to get MCV-endorsed candidates over the finish line. 15 of MCV's endorsed candidates were elected to municipal offices across the state.

This cycle, Team MCV...

- Knocked 6,199 doors
- Made 4,286 phone calls
- Sent 50,292 mail pieces
- Delivered 1,595,765 digital impressions

To learn more about MCV's endorsed candidates and our endorsement process, see our press release [HERE](#).

Top 3 Takeaways from MCV's Political Director Molly Bell

One of the compelling reasons that drew Molly to Team MCV was our unwavering commitment to championing conservation leaders across the spectrum of government, including the local level. It's at the local level where decisions are made that wield a profound impact on conservation and our communities daily. These decisions shape policies that impact the places where we recreate, such as parks and trails, and determine our energy sources. That's why local leadership matters.



Here are Molly's top 3 takeaways from the 2023 election:

1. MCV successfully safeguarded or expanded pro-conservation majorities at the local level in Missoula, Great Falls, Whitefish, Bozeman, and Billings.
2. MCV flipped an at-large city commission seat in Great Falls with a female veteran, Shannon Wilson.
3. Candidates who engaged directly with voters, addressing issues close to their pocketbooks, such as the soaring costs of housing and energy, experienced greater success.

It's clear that MCV and our endorsed candidates need to continue to engage in-person with the public. This underscores the importance of our ongoing commitment to endorsing conservation candidates and advocating for pro-conservation leaders across all levels of government. Get ready, 2024 is going to be a BIG year!

MCV Files Suit Challenging Gerrymandered Public Service Commission Map Ahead of 2024 Election

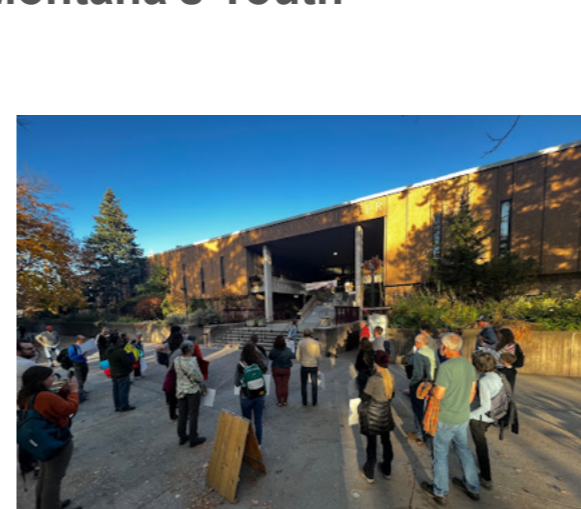
Last month, MCV filed suit alongside a bipartisan group of Montanans and Upper Seven Law to compel Secretary of State Christi Jacobson to restore a fair and competitive map for the upcoming 2024 Public Service Commission election.

First, what the heck is the PSC? The Public Service Commission is Montana's primary utility regulator. It has a major influence on Montana's energy policy, and the decisions made by the PSC have significant impacts on every business and home in the state. For example, the PSC just approved NorthWestern Energy's 28% rate hike for residents and small business owners.

Now why are we suing? On April 26, 2023, Governor Gianforte signed into law Senate Bill 109, which put in place a new PSC map for the 2024 election. The new map does away with decades of precedent determining Montana's PSC districts, and instead divides communities without any explanation for how the configuration represents voters' interests. The map does away with the traditional redistricting goal of preserving communities of interest and splits every major municipality in the state other than Butte as well as 14 counties, effectively guaranteeing noncompetitive elections. Help us fight this attack on our democracy! Visit mtvoters.org/PSC today to learn more and support our fight.

Stand Up for Montana's Youth

In early August, Montana's youth won a landmark climate case when a Montana District Court Judge ruled that the state of Montana has been violating the rights of the youth by not considering the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions. The ruling stated that Montana's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must immediately analyze the climate impacts of new projects. However, instead of doing what it is legally obligated to do, DEQ announced a comment period to review how the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) is implemented. DEQ currently has all the information needed to analyze climate impacts so what gives? It's time to speak up and stand with Montana's youth.



To gather further information from Montanans, DEQ has held listening sessions in Billings, Helena, and Missoula. Across the state DEQ has heard a resounding call to immediately consider climate impacts, with hundreds of people turning out to tell DEQ to stop wasting time. In Missoula, Team MCV helped host a climate rally before the listening session where we heard from youth speakers about why it matters that DEQ take climate change seriously.

If you missed the listening sessions, it's not too late! The comment period is open until December 1. [Click here for information on how to comment and to watch any of the listening sessions.](#) Tell DEQ that they need to do what they are legally required to do and stop wasting time!

It's Time to Back the Blackfoot

On October 27, Team MCV and our partners hosted a rally in Missoula to back U.S. Senator Jon Tester's Blackfoot Cleanwater Stewardship Act. BCSA moved out of committee on September 21 and will be debated by the full Senate for the first time since it was first introduced in 2017. With over 60 attendees and a surprise appearance by the bill's sponsor - Senator Tester himself - the crowd heard about the importance of collaboration, protecting Montana's public lands, and making their voices heard.



[Want to make your voice heard? Email Senator Daines and tell him to listen to Montanans and support our public lands today!](#)

Celebrate the Power of Voting

Your vote is your power. And to celebrate, Team MCV has partnered up with Western Native Voice to help get out the vote. Ahead of the municipal election earlier this month, we gathered in Billings and Great Falls to help promote voting in local elections. Local elections have the greatest impact on our day-to-day lives and often come down to just a handful of votes. However, voter turnout for these elections is often much less than for state or federal elections. As one event participant put it - participating in elections is like hygiene. It's important to start good habits and keep up with them. A healthy environment, a healthy democracy, and healthy communities start at the ballot box.



We're excited to keep up the momentum through 2024!

Team MCV Launches Field Teams Across the State

This month, MCV is launching teams of Field Organizers across Montana to talk to our neighbors about landmark federal legislation- such as the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act- and how they affect the day-to-day lives of everyday Montanans. We believe that, as our politics become more polarized, having meaningful conversations with folks to connect the dots between what happens in Washington and what happens in their local communities is how we will change hearts and minds.

Do you want to be a part of the next generation of leaders to help protect Montana as the Last Best Place? We're still hiring Field Organizers! Learn more about these opportunities by reading the full job descriptions linked below:

- [Billings Field Organizers](#)
- [Bozeman Field Organizers](#)
- [Flathead County Field Organizers](#)



Mark Your Calendars - Giving Tuesday is November 28!

Did you know that 25% of annual nonprofit revenue is raised in December?



Help Team MCV finish the year strong by donating to the MCV Education Fund this Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Your gift will help sustain a long legacy of work protecting our clean air, clean water, public lands and democracy. From now until the end of the year, the Cinnamon Foundation is matching every gift up to \$15,000. Here's your chance to double your impact!

As a thanks for your generosity, all gifts of \$50 and above will receive our 2024 Pups for Public Lands calendar. You can make your donation now by clicking [HERE](#).

Are You an MCV Member Yet?

Team MCV is growing and we couldn't be more excited!

We want to keep the momentum going and grow our membership too. This month, [our goal is to gain 50 new members](#) to strengthen our community ahead of the 2024 election cycle.

[For only \\$35 for an individual](#) and \$70 for a household, you can [become an MCV member](#) and help [sustain a long legacy of work protecting clean air, clean water, public lands and democracy](#). What are you waiting for? Act now by visiting mtvoters.org/join today!

Member of the Month!



Zach Meyers
 Bozeman, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

Proud to be a member of MCV, I've looked to MCV for many years to hear their opinion on candidates and on issues. It's an organization I trust and rely on to help me make informed decisions on policy issues and candidates. It is an organization that has Montana public lands at the forefront and prioritized access to our public lands as well as stewardship of our great outdoor places.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

My top issue has to be keeping our public lands accessible to the public.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

My favorite outdoor spot in Montana. I grew up hiking, camping, and fishing in Glacier National Park and the Jewel Basin. These areas hold a special place in my heart to this day. If I had to pick a few spots I would say Swiftcurrent Pass or Cracker Lake both out of the Many Glacier drainage in Glacier Park.

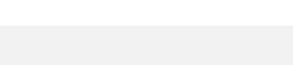
Join Our Team: MCV is hiring a Communications Manager

MCV is excited to announce we're hiring our next Communications Manager! This role is key to our success in the 2024 cycle as well as our conservation policy goals. If you or someone you know is a talented communicator, passionate about conservation, creative, organized and ready to make a significant impact -- we hope you'll apply or share this opportunity!

Our Communications Manager will take the lead on planning and carrying out internal and external communications to support Team MCV. The ideal candidate will be a self-starter who is flexible, media- and tech-savvy and a superior writer and oral communicator. The best news, you can live anywhere in Montana! Learn more about this opportunity [HERE](#).

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Stay up to date with the latest from Team MCV by following us on social media. Check us out on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)!



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