

Happy (ALMOST) Valentine's Day, Montana Conservation Voters -

We hope you're feeling the love and know how grateful we are to have you on Team MCV with Valentine's Day in just over a week!

One way to show your love for Montana is by attending and/or sponsoring our 25th Anniversary Member Celebration on March 1.

As you already know, 2024 is a critical year for Montana. Not only do we have the #1 U.S. Senate seat in the nation to protect but we also have two congressional seats up for grabs, all statewide seats in play, the fate of our pro-conservation Supreme Court in the balance, and numerous state House and Senate races - giving us a chance to break the anti-conservation supermajority.

And this year's Annual Member Celebration will help us boost momentum with our special guests U.S. Senator Jon Tester and Montana's Poet Laureate and Little Shell member Chris La Tray, great local food and so much more!

Day in and day out, we're working hard to make sure conservation champions are elected this cycle to protect our outdoor way of life. If these issues matter to you, please join us. Renew your MCV membership, join us in Helena on March 1, volunteer with us and make sure you're registered to vote.

It's time to get fired up, the Last Best Place didn't happen by accident and we've got to protect Montana with everything we've got!

Yours in conservation,



Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters



SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW FOR MCV'S MEMBER CELEBRATION

We're thrilled to invite you to join us on Friday, March 1, at the Windsor Ballroom in Helena from 6 to 8 pm for an evening of celebration and camaraderie. This year's Member Celebration holds extra significance as we mark MCV's 25th Anniversary!

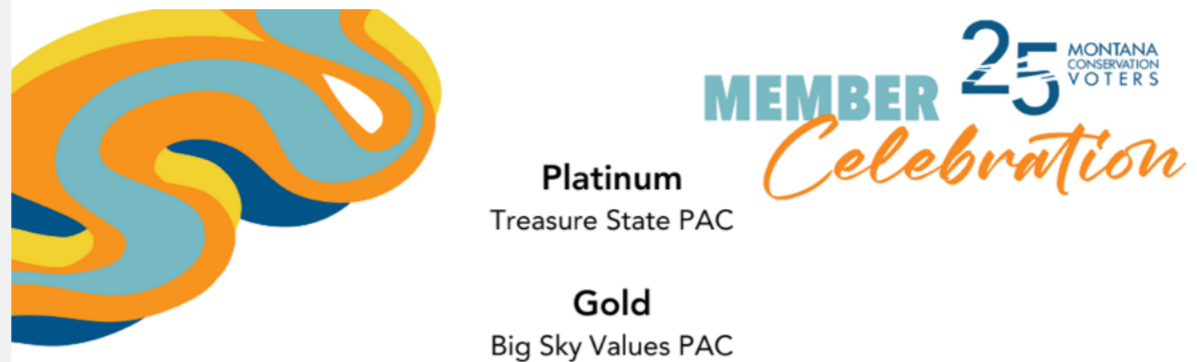
The 2024 Member Celebration promises an unforgettable experience, featuring special guests U.S. Senator Jon Tester and Montana's Poet Laureate and Little Shell member Chris La Tray.

This event is known to sell out, so act now to secure your spot by clicking [HERE!](#)

Looking to amplify your impact? Consider becoming an event sponsor! Sponsorship opportunities start at \$250 and include event tickets, special recognition across event materials, and promotion on all our communications platforms (boasting 15K followers)! As a token of our gratitude, the first 50 event sponsors will also receive an exclusive swag bag, offering a fantastic way to showcase your commitment to our cause while reveling in the festivities.

Let's make this anniversary celebration one for the books.

And a BIG thank you to those who have already sponsored!



ONE STEP CLOSER TO A PUBLIC LANDS VICTORY

In January, democracy won when the courts ruled the veto of Senate Bill 442 was unconstitutional.

A quick recap on SB 442: The bipartisan bill, supported by an impressive 87% of the Legislature, offers a new and improved approach to distributing tax revenue from recreational marijuana sales, benefiting all Montanans. During the 2023 legislative session, it gained support from a historic coalition including over 125 organizations and 130 out of 150 legislators.

Although we're closer to seeing the popular SB 442 become law, the battle is far from over. The next step involves the Secretary of State issuing a veto override poll to the full Legislature, providing our legislators the chance to assert their rights as a co-equal branch of government. We're thrilled to continue pushing for the bipartisan bill to cross the finish line, but it will undoubtedly require a significant amount of work.

As you might remember, Governor Gianforte vetoed SB 442 in the final hours of the 2023 legislative session, preventing legislators from voting to override the veto. Subsequently, our coalition partners - Montana Association of Counties, Montana Wildlife Federation and Wild Montana - filed a lawsuit.

In January, the lawsuit proved successful, marking a crucial victory. However, our work is far from done. Stay tuned for more information on how you can help ensure SB 442 becomes law.

And thank you in advance for your advocacy.

LET THEM VOTE

WE WANT YOU... TO BE A SUPER VOLUNTEER!

Last month, we launched an ambitious new program to increase community engagement and amplify our message statewide...the Super Volunteers! We met with interested community members across the state during our Super Volunteer launch tour. Connecting with Montanans is so important to us, so thank you to everyone who came out to learn about the new program. For folks that missed the tour or live in a community that we didn't make it to, we still want you to be involved!

MCV Super Volunteers are a critical addition to our team. They will write and sign powerful opinion pieces, share their insights in print and radio stories, testify at critical legislative hearings and other official meetings and more. These superheroes will be on the frontlines, helping support local events while also participating in phone banking and door knocking.

We must meet the moment during one of the most critical election years in recent history and we want your help to do it. Super Volunteers are passionate and engaged members who are committed to our mission and ready to champion our cause. This sounds like your cup of tea or know someone who is passionate about protecting Montana, get in touch!

You can fill out this questionnaire and we will add you to our list. The next step is to gather all interested Super Volunteers for a mid-March virtual training where we will dive into the specific ways that you can be a part of our mission, get your input and determine our best path to communicate with you.

We hope you will join us!

STORYTELLING & PUBLIC LANDS ADVOCACY SAVE THE DATES

There are many reasons Montana is called "The Last Best Place." Our vast, striking, and varied public lands among them. These lands have inspired people for centuries; to write stories, to go on epic journeys, and to fight for protections. Public lands bring people together and the policies surrounding them can tear people apart. So, on March 21, we're going to hear from three special guests that know this dynamic best - authors and journalists whose work is steeped in Montana, public lands, and the west.

We'll get to hear excerpts of their work, talk about what inspires them, and hear firsthand about the dynamics that they capture with their stories. We'll follow this panel discussion with an opportunity for you to use your voice and tell your stories to advocate for protecting some of Montana's most iconic landscapes. We'll provide paper, pens, and pre-addressed envelopes so you can write to our federal delegation.

Topics we'll cover? We'll talk about the Smith River - Montana's only permitted river that is threatened by a copper mine near the headwaters of a key tributary. We'll talk about the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act - a bill rooted in community that protects the headwaters of the storied Blackfoot River. And we'll talk about U.S. Senator Steve Daines' latest attempt to remove protections from Montana's public lands.

If you care about Montana's public lands and the stories that make them special and want to share your own story to advocate for stronger protections, then come on out to Steep Mountain Teahouse in downtown Bozeman on Thursday, March 21 from 5-8 pm.

[LEARN MORE AND RSVP HERE](#)

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

"It's amazing to have conversations with people who have such diverse perspectives and still feel a general appreciation for the work Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund is doing across the board!" - Natalie Wright, Lead Flathead Field Organizer

Despite historic low temperatures, our Field Organizers in Flathead, Gallatin and Yellowstone counties began knocking doors on January 8 when and where it was safe to do so. As of February 4, our Organizers have knocked on **4,829 doors** and had **307 conversations** with local Montanans about the conservation-related issues that matter most to them.

We also welcomed THREE new Field Organizers to the team in January, bringing our field team up to a total of NINE passionate individuals all devoted to conservation!

Are YOU interested in becoming a changemaker for your community? We're still hiring Field Organizers in the Flathead - learn more at mvt.org/opportunities

SAVE THE DATES

2/12 (BOZEMAN) "Love Letters to the Editor": LTE-Writing Workshop
MSU Campus-Office of Diversity & Inclusion @ 4-7pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

2/14 (WHITEFISH) Valentine's Day Community Tabling
Bookworks @ 12-3pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

2/17 (BILLINGS) "Ecohue Fest: Coloring the Future with Energy-Smart Shades"
Billings Public Library @ 1-3pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

2/17 (KALISPELL) Tabling
REI @ 12-3pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

2/19 (WHITEFISH) Bingo
VFW Post 276 @ 7pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

2/23 (BILLINGS) Bingo
VFW Post 1634 @ 7pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

2/23 (KALISPELL) Bingo
Glacier VFW @ 6:30pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

3/1 (HELENA) Annual Member Celebration
Windsor Ballroom @ 6-8pm
Get tickets and sponsorships [HERE](#)

3/6 (MISSOULA) A Conversation with MCV-Endorsed Candidate for Governor Ryan Busse, Representative Marilyn Marler and VencryMT
The Trailhead - DOWNSTAIRS - @ 6-8pm
RSVP [HERE](#)

6/4 Primary Election Day

9/1-9/30 Celebrate National Public Lands Month with Team MCV
Take part in our 2024 #PupsforPublicLands photo contest

10/5 Deadline to register by mail to vote on Election Day

10/11 (LIVINGSTON) Annual Gala
Livingston Depot @5-8pm

11/5 Election Day

Member of the Month!



Caroline Byrd
Bozeman, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

I believe in voting for your values. Conservation and a healthy environment are linked to everything I care most about - thriving natural systems that support all our communities, clean air and water, abundant wildlife, and doing everything we can to combat climate change. In short, everything that makes Montana such a wonderful and unique place to live. MCV works hard for the issues I value.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

I firmly believe everything is connected so it's hard to pick just one. If we work towards protecting healthy natural systems and repairing what we've broken, we'll create a better future for all life in our state.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

I'm not telling but urge everyone to find their own.

STAY CONNECTED WITH TEAM MCV! FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Want to dive into the latest updates, behind-the-scenes action, and exciting news from Team MCV? Follow us on our social media platforms and be part of the conversation!

Instagram: [@mvtoters](#) (we promise you - and your furry besties - don't want to miss our latest [#StoienBySheehy.mta](#))

Facebook: [@mvtoters](#) and [@mvtotersfund](#)

LinkedIn: [Montana Conservation Voters](#)

X: [@mvtoters](#)



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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 [mvtoters.org](#) to learn more.

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