



2024 Supreme Court Questionnaire

Name: _____

Website: _____

Campaign Manager: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Dear Candidate:

We have designed this questionnaire to focus on your vision and values, and to better understand your breadth of knowledge and dedication as a pro-conservation and pro-democracy candidate. MCV's endorsed candidates are bold, courageous visionaries who embrace our mission of electing leaders who will fight for our clean air, clean water, public lands, and democracy.

This questionnaire is a guide to prepare you for an interview with the MCV Action Fund (PAC) Board. *No written response is required.* Scheduling the interview is the first step to earn an endorsement from MCV. From there, the PAC Board will review the interview responses and make a determination on whether and when to endorse. The Board's decision-making process is entirely independent of MCV's staff.

Thank you for running for public office!

Please reach out to MCV's Program Director Jocelyn Leroux (jocelyn@mtvoters.org) by 5 pm on April 23, to schedule your endorsement interview with the MCV Action Fund's Board.

PART 1: GENERAL QUESTIONS

- Please list your previously held public offices and/or candidacies, if any, with dates:
- Why are you seeking the endorsement of MCV?
- Have you been endorsed by MCV in the past? If so, when and how did MCV's endorsement affect your candidacy?
- What sets you apart from your opponents?

PART 2: THE GREAT OUTDOORS

All answers should only cover the scope of the policies that are questioned. Please do not refer to your campaign or any other internal campaign information that would be inappropriate if MCV were to conduct independent expenditures.

- Please describe your position on protecting and maintaining public lands, public lands access, and how your positions differ from any of your opponents.
- Since 2015, supporters of federal land transfer have continuously made attempts to weaken public land protection. How will you handle cases that limit Montanan's public land and water access?

PART 3: MONTANA'S CONSTITUTION

- Montana's state constitution enshrines our right to a clean and healthful environment. Is the provision self executing when it comes to the constitutionality of a clean and healthful environment? What is your judicial philosophy in interpreting it?
- Montana's 'Bad Actor' statute prohibits individuals who have saddled the state with unpaid clean-up costs in the past from mining in Montana again until they pay back the state or clean up their messes. This commonsense, bipartisan measure was supported by the mining industry and signed by Republican Governor Judy Martz. Although the Bad Actor law protects Montana's environment and the interest of taxpayers, this statute may be susceptible to efforts to weaken it. What will you do to defend the Bad Actor statute?

PART 4: WATER

- Attacks from our state legislature continue to put Montana's clean water at risk, like SB 358, a measure passed by the 2021 Montana Legislature that directs the Montana DEQ to repeal numeric water quality standards for nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. What have you done and as a Supreme Court Justice, what will you do to protect Montana's 170,000 miles of rivers and 3,200 named lakes?
- Montana is renowned for its world-class fishing, in large part because of our stream access laws. How will you ensure every Montanans' right to use rivers and streams for recreational purposes?

PART 5: DEMOCRACY

- What are the top threats to democracy facing Montana and what will you do to ensure our democracy remains strong?
- During the 2023 legislative session, legislators tried to pass laws to make the Montana Supreme Court partisan. What is your philosophy on making judicial races partisan?
- In the 2021 and 2023 Legislative Session, legislators passed multiple bills that made it harder to access the ballot. How will you handle attempts to weaken Montanan's voting rights?

All answers should only cover the scope of the policies that are questioned. Please do not refer to your campaign or any other internal campaign information that would be inappropriate if MCV were to conduct independent expenditures.