

Happy May Montana Conservation Voters!

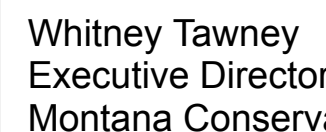
Despite the recent spate of snow, it's spring and we're steadily marching towards summer and one of the most critical elections in recent history!

The 2024 election is major. We must elect pro-conservation and pro-Constitution candidates up and down the ballot from the Legislature to the U.S. Senate. We are working hard to ensure that you as a voter are armed with the information you need at the ballot box. Montanans have a constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment, and to earn MCV's endorsements, candidates must vow to protect that right. With the primaries in less than a month, make sure you visit mtvoters.org/endorsements to learn which candidates are pro-constitution and pro-conservation. We'll be making more announcements soon, so stay tuned!

There is also no better time to check your voter registration status to ensure you can make your voice heard and take part in this year's election.

Team MCV is also kicking off our 2024 Summer Road Tour to connect with you and Montanans across the state! Our first stop is on May 21 at Blackstar in Whitefish - see our "Save the Dates" section below to find a community stop near you. Nothing fills our cups more than meeting with our members — so come on out, we can't wait to see you!

Thank you all for your support — go, fight, WIN!



Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC LANDS, WATERS STRONGER THAN EVER

Last month, the University of Montana released their [biannual public lands survey](#). This survey confirmed what we already know — Montanans love our public lands and waters and want to protect them and the access to them for future generations.

Access to public lands and water is the top aspect Montana voters want to retain for future generations.



Team MCV is tirelessly advocating for better public lands protections. These are protections we know to be bipartisan issues with strong public support, such as:

- The Smith River:** 73% support a public process to decide whether to mine copper on public lands near the headwaters of the Smith River ([sign the petition HERE](#) to ask the Forest Service to put a stop to this);
- BLM Public Lands Rule:** 70% support the new Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Rule that puts conservation on par with other uses of public lands (reach out to MCV's Program Director, Kearslyn Cook at Kearslyn@mtvoters.org to sign an opinion piece in support);
- BCSA:** 85% support the Blackfoot Cleanwater Stewardship Act - a bill made for Montanans by Montanans to protect the Blackfoot River headwaters and the communities in the area ([watch our video here](#) to hear from U.S. Sen. Jon Tester about why this bill matters).

TEAM MCV'S NEWEST ENDORSEMENTS

Since April 15, the Montana Conservation Voters Action Fund, MCV's Political Action Committee, has endorsed 35 candidates! We are proud to endorse conservation champions up and down the ballot to move conservation policy forward and protect our beloved Montana constitution. Check out our full list of endorsements [HERE](#) and read on for a list of our newly endorsed candidates!

SUPREME COURT

-Judge Jerry Lynch (Chief Justice)

-Judge Katherine Bidegaray (Justice)

MCV is proud to endorse these fair and impartial judges who are committed to upholding the Montana Constitution and our right to a clean and healthful environment.

-Erin Farris-Olsen (Clerk of the Supreme Court)

MCV endorsed Erin because of her commitment to maintaining a fair and impartial judiciary.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

-Susan Biló (PSC District 2)

-Elena Evans (PSC District 4)

MCV endorsed Elena Evans, but as an Independent candidate, the first major hurdle is gathering enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. Elena needs to gather 3,050 signatures from registered voters in PSC District 4 by May 28, 2024, and she needs your help!

If you live in PSC4, here's what you can do:

-**Sign the Petition:** Keep an eye out for shirts, clipboards, and sidewalk chalk that say "Get an Independent on the Ballot" or, if you live in Missoula, drop by the Break Espresso downtown at one of the times listed below - or contact info@elenafomt.com for other opportunities.

-**Collect Signatures:**

Join Elena for a Day of Action every Saturday in May - [sign up here](#)

Stop by the Break in Missoula to sign the petition on Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 to 7:30 or Monday and Friday from 12:15 to 12:45

Download the training and signature gathering materials right now [here](#) and start gathering with your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors TODAY!

STATE SENATE

-Sen. Chris Pope (SD 33)

-Sara Novak (SD 36)

-CB Pearson (SD 46) - co-endorsement

-Jacinda Morigeau (SD 46) - co-endorsement

-Sen. Ellie Boldman, lifetime champion (SD 47)

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

-Debo Powers (HD 3)

-Rep. Paul Tuss (HD 27)

-Lance FourStar (HD 31)

-Rep. Denise Baum (HD 45)

-Rep. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (HD 46)

-Rep. Ed Stafman, lifetime champion (HD 59)

-Alanah Griffith (HD 60 – Big Sky)

-Rep. Kelly Kortum, lifetime champion (HD 64)

-Rep. Eric Matthews (HD 66)

-Rep. Melissa Romano (HD 80)

-Rep. Mary Caferro (HD 81)

-Rep. Jill Cohenour (HD 83)

-Rep. Mark Thane, lifetime champion (HD 89)

-Rep. Connie Keogh, lifetime champion (HD 92)

-Rep. Katie Sullivan, lifetime champion (HD 93)

-Rep. Marilyn Marler, lifetime champion (HD 94)

-Rep. Zooley Zephyr (HD 95)

-Rep. Bob Carter (HD 96)

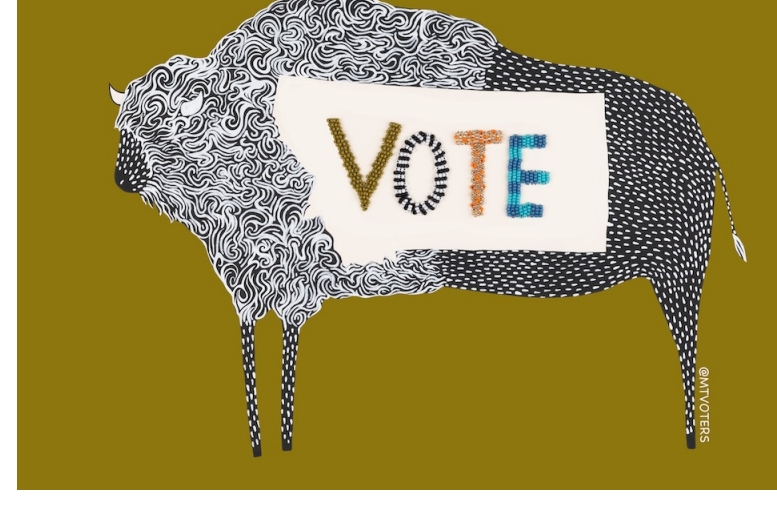
-Rep. Jonathan Karlen (HD 98)

-Rep. Tom France, lifetime champion (HD 99)

-Rep. SJ Howell (HD 100)

Get Ready to VOTE!

Montana's primary elections are just THREE weeks away! Ballots should be arriving in your mailbox any day if you are registered to vote by mail. Make sure you are informed about who is on the ballot and how to make your voice heard! Visit mtvoters.org to check your voter registration status and visit mtvoters.org/endorsements to know who's pro-conservation. Your vote is your power - use it!



YOUR MEMBERSHIP, YOUR IMPACT

Membership serves as the lifeblood of our conservation efforts, directly supporting our work to advocate for issues that resonate deeply with Montanans. Through localized community communications, we break through the noise of national discourse to address the issues that matter most to our constituents. To ensure sustained engagement, we are committed to hosting events, sending regular communications, and actively recruiting volunteers to amplify our message and broaden our reach. As we approach the upcoming election cycle, MCV will rigorously vet and endorse pro-conservation candidates, disseminate our endorsements through various channels including social media, email communications, and an endorsement guide. Your membership makes this possible! Not sure you're a member or ready to renew? Visit mtvoters.org/join or contact MCV's Development Director Jessica Lillie at Jessica@mtvoters.org.

Please also consider joining our monthly sustainer program, [the Big Sky Circle](#). By becoming a member of the Big Sky Circle, you provide ongoing support that fuels our efforts to protect Montana's environment and advocate for policies that prioritize conservation.

As a member of the Big Sky Circle, you'll enjoy the convenience of automatic monthly donations, ensuring a steady and reliable stream of support for our work.

Ready to join the Big Sky Circle? Visit our website [HERE](#) to sign up today!

TEAM MCV MEETING THE MOMENT

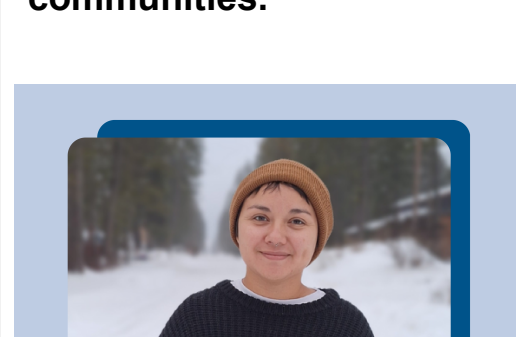
This month, we're delighted to announce some staffing changes for Team MCV.

In late April we created a new position, moving Jocelyn Leroux into the Deputy Director role from her position as Program Director. Stepping into that role is Kearslyn Cook - MCV's former Field Manager. Rounding things out, Flathead Valley's Lead Field Organizer Natalie Wright was brought on as our new Field Manager. Amid all this change, we've also added new Field Organizers to build our ground game in Billings, Bozeman and the Flathead ahead of the 2024 election.

We are thrilled that our team is growing and can't wait to see what we'll accomplish!

FIELD NOTES

MCV has field organizers in Billings, Bozeman, and the Flathead who are responsible for canvassing, outreach & engagement, and being the face of MCV in their own communities.



On April 19, our Flathead Field Organizers attended and tabled at the Earth Day Expo at the Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo. Tom McDonald was the keynote speaker at this event. For Flathead Field Organizer Miranda Hernandez who tabled at the event, words by keynote speaker Tom McDonald were a potent reminder of the crucial protections we fight for daily:

"The day started off with Tom sharing Indigenous history with us. He reminded us that there used to be rivers on fire, and massive oil spills. Since that time we have taken action as a society to prevent those things from happening again. He also reminded us that to live in such a beautiful place such as the Flathead basin, we must work to protect it. He shared the Tribe's recent success with the Canadian mines leaking selenite into the Kootenai river. These things take resiliency, persistence, restoration, and the power to not give up."

BECOME AN MCV SUPER VOLUNTEER

Our army of volunteers is growing, but we want YOU! We are looking for dedicated and active MCV members to help us center conservation in their communities.

Learn more about our Super Volunteer program [HERE](#).



SAVE THE DATES

-**May 21: WHITEFISH** Pint Night in partnership with Protect Our Winters featuring POW athlete and board member Hilary Hutcheson (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour: Blackstar, 5-9 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

-**May 23:** Paint and Sip at Steep Mountain Teahouse in **BOZEMAN** (5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

-**May 25:** Collage Night at Bitterroot Sip and Paint in **BILLINGS** (1-3 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

-**May 30:** Paint and Sip at Bias Brewing in **KALISPELL** (6-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

-**June 4: MONTANA** primary day! Get out and VOTE. Learn more about how at voteinmt.org.

-**June 17: MISSOULA** Pint Night (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour with Protect Our Winters: GILD, 5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

-**July 22: HELENA** Pint Night (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour: Brothers Tapworks, 5-8 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

-**August 15: BILLINGS** Pint Night (MCV's 2024 Summer Road Tour: Thirsty Street Brewing, 5-9 p.m.) [RSVP HERE](#)

-**October 11:** MCV's Annual Gala in **LIVINGSTON** (5-8 p.m.)

Member of the Month!

Laurie and Ed Stalling
Missoula, MT

Why are you an MCV member?

When Ed and I first moved here 20 years ago, we needed guidance on where our values fit into the political scene of Montana. After a year of research and experiencing how MCV protects Montana's natural environment along with our democracy, we became members. Over the years MCV has allowed us to have hope for our grandchildren with their hard work in keeping the public informed on political activities and fighting for a clean world. Each year our faith in MCV grows, which is needed more than ever in the coming elections. Every new person that has moved to Montana for its beauty, needs to know about MCV and join in the fight.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

Our top conservation issues in Montana are public lands and climate change. Without these our water, land and wildlife are no longer protected and the next generation will lose hope for their livelihood. Loss of hope only brings disaster to the world.

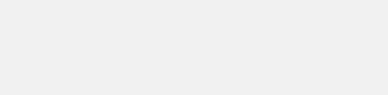
Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

Our favorite activities in Montana are backpacking in the Pintler Mountains and kayaking/rafting the Blackfoot River with our family and friends. Thanks to dedicated people who fight for a healthy world and to those who vote, more favorite places can be explored. Hope lives on!

STAY CONNECTED WITH TEAM MCV! FOLLOW US ON

Want to stay up to date on MCV's endorsements and learn more about pro-conservation candidates? Head over to our social media (linked below) to learn more and follow our work!

- Instagram
- Facebook: [@mtvoters](#) and [@mtvotersedfund](#)
- LinkedIn
- X (formerly Twitter)
- YouTube



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