

MCV MATTERS

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

December 2024

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Happy December, Montana Conservation Voters!



As 2024 draws to a close, let's reflect on all that we've accomplished together this year thanks to your support.

Thanks to you, we've made remarkable strides: from an unprecedented, long-term on-the-ground effort to breaking the anti-conservation supermajority in the state Legislature, to securing a pro-constitution majority on the state Supreme Court by electing Judge Katherine Bidegaray. While the anti-conservation forces claimed victories at the ticket - including all Land Board Seats and our federal delegation — our local successes have set the stage for even greater progress in 2025.

Looking ahead, this next year is critical, especially with the upcoming legislative session. We have much work to do to ensure that conservation remains at the heart of Montana's future. But we're ready to hit the ground running. With two team members at the Capitol, our field teams in Billings, Bozeman and Missoula, and the relaunch of our legislative action hub, MontanaPushback.org, we're prepared to fight for what matters most.

I'm confident that Montana's commitment to protecting clean air, clean water, and healthy public lands will remain strong. Together, we will continue to defend our state's constitutional right to a healthy environment and ensure that our outdoor legacy is protected for generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us this year. Your support is invaluable, and it inspires us to keep pushing forward. As we move into 2025, we're ready to face the challenges and opportunities ahead. Stay with us as we continue this important work — for Montana and for our future.

Let's make 2025 a year of even greater impact!

Yours in conservation,



Whitney Tawney
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

Montana Conservation Voters
mtvoters.org

An MCV Membership Makes a Great Holiday Gift!

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

Happy Holidays!



TOP 10 HIGHLIGHTS 2024

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. Broke the anti-conservation supermajority** in the state Legislature with 39 of our endorsed legislative candidates winning.
- 2. Elected Judge Katherine Bidegaray to the Montana Supreme Court**, helping protect a pro-constitutional majority on the state's highest court.
- 3. Knocked nearly 45,000 doors** on behalf of our endorsed candidates.
- 4. Launched our biggest Get Out The Vote campaign to date**, which included: ten billboards across the state appealing to urban, rural, and tribal communities; nine targeted GOTV ads; and helped more than 3,000 Montanans pledge to vote with Pearl Jam and our in-state partners.
- 5. Established MCV's first federal super PAC, the Montana Outdoor Values Action Fund**, to provide critical electoral support to pro-conservation, pro-democracy candidates at the federal level.
- 6. Knocked 10,375 doors and had 1,293 conversations with Montanans** about issues including the Inflation Reduction Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Public Service Commission, and the Montana Constitution.
- 7. Welcomed more than 20 field organizers** to strengthen MCV's direct connection with communities in Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, and the Flathead. By retaining three regional organizers after the election, we've deepened our ties and ensured sustained engagement with these communities moving forward.
- 8. Recruited candidates up and down the ballot to run for office**, including an Independent for Public Service Commission District 4, and endorsed 73 candidates at every level of government.
- 9. Published comprehensive state and federal candidate education memos and hosted a candidate training with state partners** on key conservation issues, with plans for more briefings ahead of the 2025 legislative session.
- 10. Engaged in advocacy campaigns to advance key conservation policies**, including delivering 10,000 signatures to the U.S. Forest Service calling for the protection of the Smith River and mobilizing over 500 Montanans to contact our federal lawmakers in support of the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act and the Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Rule.

TOGETHER FOR MONTANA: Make your matched gift today


As we celebrate MCV's 25th anniversary, our mission to protect Montana's outdoor legacy has never been more urgent. For a quarter-century, we've been at the forefront of efforts to protect public lands, safeguard clean water and air, and defend our democracy. With your continued support, we can ensure this critical work carries on for generations to come.

The recent elections have underscored the challenges we face, but Team MCV is ready to tackle them head-on with a clear and strategic plan:

Advocacy at the Capitol: We're sending two full-time advocates to Helena to help amplify your voice and hold lawmakers accountable during the upcoming legislative session.

Community Engagement: Our field organizers are actively engaged across the state, building local connections and empowering Montanans to take action.

Your tax-deductible year-end gift to the MCV Education Fund will provide the resources we need to advocate for clean water, clean air, healthy public lands, and democracy in the State Legislature. It will also help us mobilize Montanans to make their voices heard and hold decision-makers accountable for protecting our environment and outdoor way of life.

Give \$50 or more, and you'll receive our Pups for Public Lands calendar as a gift! 

Thanks to a generous match from the Cinnabar Foundation, your gift will go twice as far — all donations made by Dec. 31 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000.



Scan the QR code or use the enclosed remittance envelope to make your gift today and join us in protecting Montana's legacy for the next 25 years and beyond.

Thank you to our 25th Anniversary Donors

We are deeply grateful to the generous supporters who contributed \$2,500 and above to the Montana Conservation Voters in honor of our 25th anniversary in 2024. Thank you for making an extraordinary impact during this milestone year!



Chris & Jennifer Boyer
Brendon Cechovic
Jock Conyngham
Cliff & Susan Edwards
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Cathy Finney
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Ben Graybill
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Angus MacDonald Vaughan
Tim Charles Warner & Heather Margolis
Dan Weinberg

MontanaPushback.org is Live

MontanaPushback.org is your go-to tool to stay informed, engaged, and active during the 2025 legislative session. Track critical bills, contact lawmakers, and take action on key issues like public lands, clean energy, and democracy. Whether you're an experienced advocate or just starting, *MontanaPushback* makes it easy for your voice to be heard and your values to be represented.

Launched in 2021, *MontanaPushback* was created to simplify the fast-paced world of state politics and empower everyday citizens. The platform has grown into a powerful resource for thousands of Montanans, and we continue to improve it each session to ensure everyone can contribute.

As we approach the 2025 session, *MontanaPushback* is ready to help you take action and make an impact. Join us and be part of the movement!

P.S. Out-of-touch politicians are pushing to transfer public lands away from federal management, a move that could set a dangerous precedent. We're watching cases like the one in Utah that threatens protections for millions of acres of land. **Scan the QR code below to urge leaders to oppose these harmful actions!**



Field Notes: Lindsay Wancour



Through door-knocking and hosting events, our Field Organizers played a pivotal role in advancing pro-conservation candidates up and down the ballot this year. We're excited to continue this work by retaining Regional Organizers in Bozeman, Billings, and Missoula, who will engage Montanans on a range of key conservation issues, amplify their voices, and build momentum in preparation for the 2025 Legislative Session.

Here is what Missoula's former Lead Field Organizer, now Regional Organizer, Lindsay, has to say about her transition from electoral work and continuing the fight with Team MCV.

// *This Election Day emotionally kicked my butt. While my natural reaction was to cry and feel defeated, that isn't a sustainable approach to facing adverse times. (Don't get me wrong, I definitely did cry, and did feel defeated, I just didn't stay in that space.)*

A few weeks ago, the Regional Organizers contacted MCV's donors to say 'thanks!' and share the positive impact they made. I talked to one woman from California who had donated to MCV to support Senator Tester. She was so sad about the loss (aren't we all?), but so grateful to learn about the wins she helped make possible.

Making those calls was far and away the most therapeutic thing I've done. Sharing joy and acknowledging hardships with the MCV community, many of whom I've never met, truly pulled me out of my post-election blues.

While I'm not feeling like sunshine and rainbows yet, I am determined to put my heart and soul into protecting our magnificent state. We are so fortunate to have an amazing network ready to rally, and I am excited for this next chapter with MCV expanding the support system and helping channel their energies to create change."

SAVE THE DATES!



JANUARY 6

69th Montana Legislature begins

FEBRUARY 13

Scheduled Democracy Rally at the Capitol

FEBRUARY 19

Scheduled Public Lands Rally at the Capitol

FEBRUARY 28

MCV Annual Member Celebration (Helena)

OCTOBER 11

Annual Gala (Livingston)

NOVEMBER 4

Municipal Elections



**MCV
Member
OF THE
Month**

Cascade Tuholske
Belgrade, MT

Many thanks to all who made our 2024 Annual Gala a success!



Follow us on Social Media

With less than a month until the start of the legislative session, in addition to *MontanaPushback.org*, social media is the best way to stay connected with Team MCV and keep up-to-date. Follow us to stay informed!

@mtvoters

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Why are you a MCV member?

I wholeheartedly believe in MCV's mission to protect Montana's clean air, clean water, public lands and democracy by supporting leaders who espouse these values. I was born in Missoula and I have witnessed the threats to our state's air, water, and public lands grow throughout my lifetime. And, through my work as a faculty member at Montana State University researching the impacts of climate change, I understand that climate change is only exacerbating these threats. Thankfully, MCV has led the charge to ensure Montanans have leaders who tirelessly fight for conservation efforts across our state.

What's your top conservation issue and why?

My top conservation issue is access to Montana's public lands. Our state has a long, proud tradition of protecting access to public lands for all Montanans and visitors to our state to enjoy. Public lands not only provide invaluable wildlife habitat and core ecosystem functions, they also provide substantial economic value to our state through recreation. Whether you hunt, fish, bike, camp, or ski – or take a walk in the woods or tube down a river – fighting for public access is key to sustaining not just our economy, but our culture.

Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?

My favorite spot in Montana is the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area. It is truly wild and wonderful, no matter the seasons. We are blessed that it is protected for future generations to explore.

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.