



Happy April, Montana Conservation Voters!

While the weather is caught between winter and spring, the end of the 69th Legislature is fast approaching. May 3 is the scheduled final day.

A lot has happened over the past month, and even in just the last week. Notable victories include the defeat of House Joint 24 and Senate Bill 42. HJ 24 supported Utah's lawsuit to seize control of over 18 million acres of federal public land, and SB 42 sought to force Montana's District Court judges and Supreme Court justices to declare a political party affiliation when running for election.

These are significant wins in defense of our lands and democracy — and they're YOUR wins. Thousands of you have signed petitions, made phone calls, and even written on wood cookies to urge lawmakers to stand up for Montana, its Constitution, and its public lands.

But now, it's crunch time. The next few weeks will be critical as bills either die or become law — and the stakes are HIGH. We need to stay vigilant, continuing to oppose harmful bills and support the good ones. From public land funding to protecting our rights as citizens, there's still much to fight for.

After the legislative session wraps, MCV will release our annual scorecard to hold our elected officials accountable. We'll celebrate the good and call out the bad. Let's hope we enter May with more of the former. Now more than ever, it's vital for conservationists across the state to support and elect local officials who will protect our Montana way of life and public lands.



Yours in conservation,

Whitney Tawney  
Executive Director  
Montana Conservation Voters

---

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

We are less than a month from the end of the 69th Montana Legislature, and things are moving quickly.

Saturday, April 5, marked the deadline for transmittal of revenue bills, referenda proposals, and general joint resolutions. On Tuesday, April 8, all appropriations bills had to be transmitted to the next chamber.

Last week, we saw **major victories for Montana's public lands and democracy:**

— **HJ 24** - The resolution in support of Utah's lawsuit to seize **control of over 18.5 million acres of federal public land** was defeated in the House. This bill posed a dangerous threat to public lands in Montana, and thanks to YOU, it was stopped cold with a 66-34 vote.

— **SB 307** - The bill, which sought to **strip more than \$20 million from our public lands** over the next two years and eliminate an additional \$12.6 million for state parks, trails stewardship, and wildlife conservation programs, was stopped in the Senate.

— **SJ 14** - The resolution urging Congress to **remove protections from all Wilderness Study Areas** and inventoried roadless areas in Montana did not make it out of committee.

— **SB 42** - This bill, which would have **required Montana Supreme Court justices and District Court judges to identify with a political party** when running for election, failed on the House Floor.

THANK YOU for making these victories possible! Through your petitions, emails, and phone calls to key legislators, Team MCV has been able to make a real impact on important legislation. But the fight isn't over — there is still much more to do.

As the session enters its final weeks, legislation will continue to move quickly. It's crucial to stay informed, and thankfully, [MontanaPushback.org](https://montanapushback.org) is your go-to resource for the latest updates and actions you can take to protect our public lands and democracy. Visit [MontanaPushback](https://montanapushback.org) to take action TODAY!

---

## APRIL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**Join, renew, or become a sustaining member!**

Our spring Membership Drive is here — and it's the perfect time to deepen your commitment to protecting Montana's clean air, clean water, public lands, and democracy.

[By making your gift recurring — either monthly through our Big Sky Circle or with an automatic annual donation](#) — you're helping to build a more resilient Montana Conservation Voters.

Recurring gifts offer two key benefits: they're **convenient for you** (you set it and forget it!)

and **provide reliable, consistent funding** for our work. With steady support, **we can plan ahead, act swiftly, and stay laser-focused** on what matters most: **protecting Montana's future**.

Whether we're defending public lands from bad policy, advocating for healthy rivers, or protecting the freedom to vote, your ongoing support powers this essential work year-round.

**Bonus:** Everyone who joins, renews, or upgrades to a recurring donor in April will be entered to win a special MCV-branded Rumpl blanket — designed for your wild Montana adventure!

[Join or renew today, and help put Montana's future in good hands.](#)

## Leave a Legacy That Lasts

Montana's landscapes, clean water, wildlife, and democracy have given us so much. Now, you can give something back with a legacy gift or stock donation to Montana Conservation Voters or the MCV Education Fund.

Including MCV in your will or living trust is one of the simplest and most impactful ways to leave a lasting mark on Montana's future. A straightforward provision or amendment in your estate plan ensures your values continue to shape the state we love. These gifts are flexible, easy to arrange, and can be updated anytime.

Want to make an immediate impact? Donating appreciated stock is another powerful way to support our mission — with the added benefit of potential receiving tax advantages.

We understand that decisions like these are deeply personal. If you're considering a legacy gift or stock donation, we're here to help you explore your options and find the best fit for your goals. Please feel free to reach out directly to MCV Development Director Jessica Lillie at [jessica@mtvoters.org](mailto:jessica@mtvoters.org) or by phone at (406) 530-5105.

---

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MCV EDUCATION FUND BOARD MEMBER

Alice Collins brings extensive experience in fundraising, development, nonprofit management, and electoral politics to the boards of MCV and the MCV Education Fund. Originally from Massachusetts, Alice came to Montana in her college summers as a horse wrangler and quickly decided to make Montana her home. An advocate for conservation and empowering communities, she has built a diverse career spanning both the political and nonprofit sectors. Alice recently served as the Finance Director for Ryan Busse's 2024 gubernatorial campaign, where she traveled the state meeting with voters and supporters. Alice has also worked in fundraising and advocacy roles at Montana-based nonprofits, including Planned Parenthood of Montana and Forward Montana. She is currently the Senior Donor Relations Manager at Galvanize USA, an organization working to



support women to use their civic power. Alice feels privileged to regularly recreate on Montana's trails and rivers.

Alice will be up for election to the MCV Board of Directors next year. In the meantime, we are thrilled to have her on the MCV Education Fund Board.

---

## FIELD NOTES

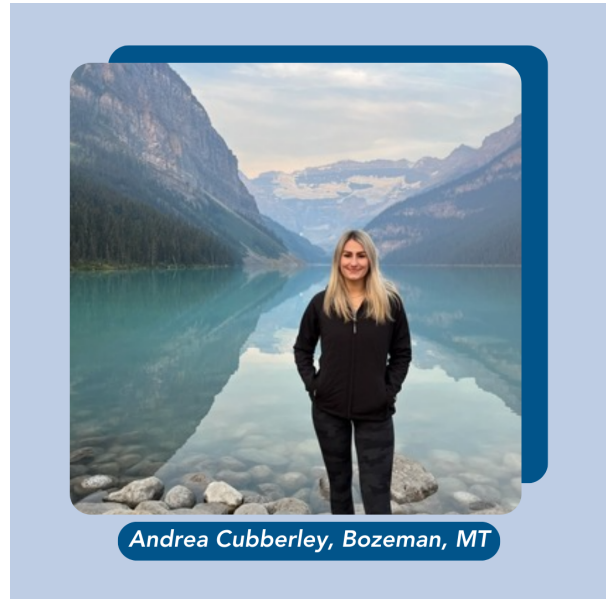
It's been an eventful time for our field teams as we've taken Helena by storm, rallying for the issues that matter most to Montanans. From the Montana Constitution Rally to the Rally for Public Lands, our organizers have been on the front lines, uniting people to defend the values that make our state so unique.

Amidst all of this, one of our team members recently visited the Montana State Capitol for the first time, and let's just say... it hit different. While the U.S. Capitol can sometimes feel distant and disconnected, the Montana Capitol holds a special, palpable energy — shaped by the people who call this place home. Montanans are tough, engaged, and fiercely protective of our constitution, our lands, and our way of life.

Read on for Andrea's reflection on what makes our state, and the people fighting for it, truly remarkable.

"Recently, I got to visit the Montana State Capitol Building in Helena for the first time. I went on a guided tour and learned about the significant history of Montana as it pertains to the capital. Growing up on the East Coast, I have visited the U.S. Capitol many times, and honestly never felt that moved by it. My experience at the Montana Capitol was the total opposite. Montana has been my home for the past eight years, the longest place I've ever lived (such is the life of a military kid) and there was something so unique and moving about our capital. Montana has a strong history, with people who were tough as nails making it into the great state we

know and love today. We have one of the strongest state constitutions and others study Montana. Last month I was positively moved by the number of strong-willed Montanans who drove from all over the state to show their love for the Montana Constitution.



People may assume Montana is just the 'Wild West,' a place with no rules; however, I have never lived in a place where people care more about their state. Montanans are fearless, hardworking individuals who care about their freedoms and their land. I am grateful to get to do the work I do with MCV and fall more in love with Montana every day."

---



# Member of the Month



**Pete Talbot**  
**Missoula, MT**

## **Why are you an MCV member?**

*I'm a political animal and I'm very impressed with MCV's electoral work. That and its lobbying efforts, and the federal, state and local conservation updates, and actions, are all exceptional. I'm proud to be a member.*

## **What's your top conservation issue and why?**

*Climate change, or should I say chaos, is my greatest concern. Just about every conservation issue we face and MCV works on plays into this existential threat facing Montana and the rest of the world.*

## **Where is your favorite outdoor spot in Montana?**

*That's a tough question. There are so many places. Close to home, it's the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area. Further afield, it's the Beartooths, Wild Horse Island, the Gallatin Range.*

---

## WE'RE HIRING

Join Montana Conservation Voters and the MCV Education Fund as our next Executive Director! We're looking for an experienced leader committed to our mission of strong advocacy to protect our clean air, clean water, public lands, and democracy for Montana's current and future generations. If you have experience in the nonprofit or political sector and are passionate about our mission, we encourage you to learn more about the position and how to apply [[HERE](#)] by April 18.

---

## SAVE THE DATES

---

**April 16:** Legislative Catch-Up, Bozeman ([RSVP HERE](#))

**April 17:** *Candidate filing opens for municipal elections*

**April 21:** Legislative Catch-Up, Missoula ([RSVP HERE](#))

**April 22:** Legislative Catch-Up, Billings ([RSVP HERE](#))

**May 3:** *Scheduled final day of the Montana Legislature*

**May 6:** *School Board Election Day*

**June 2:** Team MCV's 2025 Summer Pint Night Tour, Helena (more info soon!)

**June 4:** Team MCV's 2025 Summer Pint Night Tour, Whitefish (more info soon!)

**June 7:** Team MCV's 2025 Summer Pint Night Tour, Livingston (more info soon!)

**June 16:** *Candidate filing closes*

**July 9:** Team MCV's 2025 Summer Pint Night Tour, Bozeman (more info soon!)

**September 9:** *Municipal Primary Election Day*

**October 11:** Annual Gala, Livingston (more info soon!)

**November 4:** *Municipal Elections*

---

## STAY CONNECTED

The final weeks of the Montana Legislature are here, and things are moving fast. Want to stay in the loop? Follow MCV on social media for real-time updates from the Capitol and beyond. We're also gearing up for our annual Summer Road Tour, so be sure to stay

connected with all the latest MCV news by clicking the icons below!



Paid for by Montana Conservation Voters  
432 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite J  
Helena, MT 59601  
United States

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 [mtvotersedfund.org](https://mtvotersedfund.org) to learn more.

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please  
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).