

The background of the entire page is an aerial photograph of a Montana landscape. A wide, light-blue river flows from the bottom left towards the center right. The river is bordered by green fields and patches of trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. In the distance, rolling hills and jagged mountain peaks are visible under a clear blue sky.

2025 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

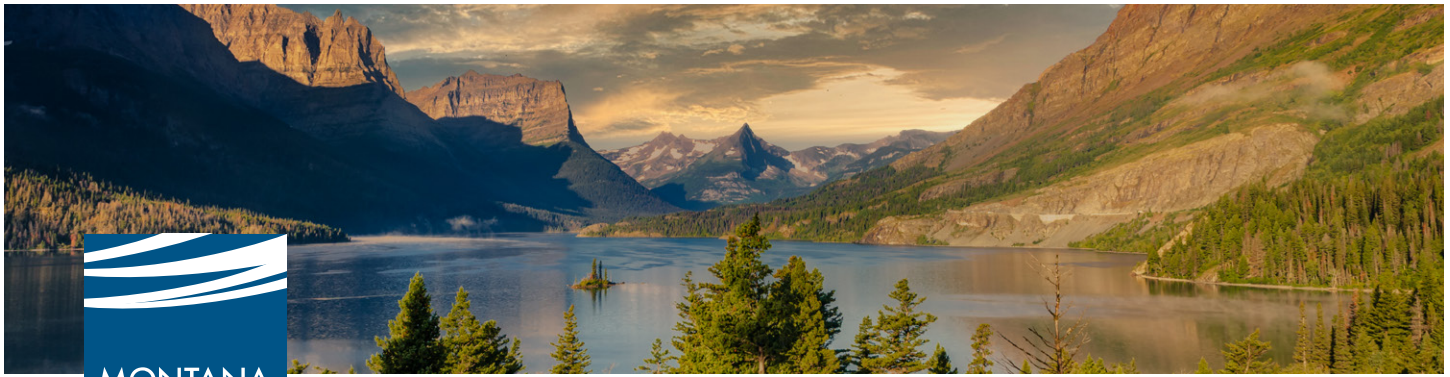


Photo: Glacier National Park (Adobe Stock)

MCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sally Ericsson
BOARD CHAIR

Dani Howlett
TREASURER

Brendon Cechovic
DIRECTOR

Alice Collins
DIRECTOR

Sarah Degn
DIRECTOR

Jill Lombardi
DIRECTOR

Chris Saeger
DIRECTOR

Matt Taylor
DIRECTOR

Heather White
DIRECTOR

Laura Wood
DIRECTOR

STAFF

Whitney Tawney
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Renee Kelley
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Molly Bell
POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Jessica Lillie
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Kearstyn Cook
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Anna Shaffer
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Natalie Wright
FIELD DIRECTOR

Jesc Gallegos
REGIONAL ORGANIZER, BILLINGS

Andrea Cubberley
REGIONAL ORGANIZER, BOZEMAN

Lindsay Wancour
REGIONAL ORGANIZER, MISSOULA

Collaborative Conservation: Working Together to Protect Montana

Montana Conservation Voters (MCV) is a statewide non-partisan membership organization dedicated to fighting for Montana's clean air, clean water, public lands, and democracy. MCV empowers tens of thousands of Montanans to make informed choices at the ballot box.

MCV works closely with the Conservation Working Group (CWG) — a diverse coalition of organizations with legislative expertise — to identify and advance shared priorities. Together, we track and support legislation that protects Montana's public lands, clean air, clean water, and communities.

Throughout the session, MCV produces educational resources for lawmakers and the public. A key tool is our weekly Conservation Hotlists, which highlight priority legislation, outline the CWG's positions, and provide contact information for the lead lobbyists working on each issue. These Hotlists are distributed widely to legislators and the public to ensure transparency and informed advocacy.

This scorecard includes votes on legislation featured in the Conservation Hotlists that represent CWG-endorsed priorities.

We are deeply grateful to the members of CWG for their policy expertise and steadfast partnership: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Montana Audubon, Montana Environmental Information Center, Montana Renewable Energy Association, MontPIRG, Northern Plains Resource Council, and Wild Montana.

Visit mtvoters.org to learn more.

A Note from MCV's Executive Director



Dear Montana Conservation Voters,

We're proud to present MCV's 2025 Legislative Scorecard — a transparent, informative report for the people of Montana. This scorecard celebrates the lawmakers who stood up for conservation and holds accountable those who did not.

Over the 85 working days of the 69th Legislative Session, Montanans faced unprecedented challenges. From attempts to roll back clean air and water protections, to efforts aimed at politicizing our judiciary (see *Deep Dive: A Judiciary Under Attack*, pg. 18), the stakes were nothing short of historic.

Yet in the face of these threats, conservation champions — both inside the Capitol and across the state — stood strong. Montanans showed up. You testified at hearings, emailed and called your elected leaders, signed petitions, rallied, and made your voices heard. Your engagement made a real difference.

Among the victories were two major conservation funding bills: House Bill 932 and Senate Bill 537, which established the Habitat Legacy Account. This account creates a long-term, sustainable home for recreational marijuana tax revenue that supports public access, habitat restoration, conservation, and working lands. The passage of not one, but TWO bills to secure this funding underscores the strong bipartisan support for public lands — despite setbacks like House Joint Resolution 24, which threatened to pave the way for public land selloff (see *Deep Dive: Montanans Show Up for Public Lands*, pg. 19). Public lands remain a top priority for Montanans.

At MCV, our mission is to empower Montanans to protect public lands, clean air, clean water, and democracy by electing leaders who will fight for them. We do this by helping people engage in democracy and holding decision-makers accountable.

One thing is clear: **When Montanans speak up and stand together, we are heard.**

We're proud to recognize the legislators who upheld conservation values and stood with the people of Montana. Their leadership is essential — and so is your continued engagement and support.

Stay informed. Stay active. And together, let's turn our shared values into lasting policy to protect the Last Best Place.

Yours in conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WT', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Whitney Tawney
Executive Director



**P.S. Unsure who
your legislators are?
Scan here or go to
legmt.gov/districts**

Hall of Fame

These conservation champions asked the tough questions, did the hard work, and fought for the people of Montana. Join us in celebrating these legislators!



Rep. Marilyn Marler (D-Missoula)

As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Marler was an outspoken voice in support of our clean air, clean water, and healthy lands. Her ability to work across the aisle is reflected in the passage of HB 477, which aimed to phase out the use of styrofoam containers in the food

service industry. Rep. Marler's bill successfully made it through both chambers — a rare feat for environmental legislation — before ultimately being vetoed by the governor.



Sen. Shane Morigeau (D-Missoula)

As Vice Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Morigeau was a vital voice in discussions on how to responsibly manage Montana's greatest assets. He also achieved a long-sought victory with the successful passage of SB 224, officially establishing Indigenous Peoples' Day

as a state holiday. This outcome followed years of determined efforts and setbacks in previous legislative sessions.



Sen. Chris Pope (D-Bozeman)

As Vice Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, Sen. Pope played a leading role in defending Montana's renewable energy future. He stood firm against efforts to undermine clean energy progress and championed SB 188, the Montana Solar Shares Act.

This landmark legislation expands

access to community solar programs, allowing more Montanans to benefit from solar energy while promoting market-driven growth in solar infrastructure across the state.



Rep. Ken Walsh (R-Twin Bridges)

Rep. Walsh's strong partnership with the conservation community and sponsorship of HB 932 — which protects allocations of recreational marijuana tax revenue for vital conservation programs — earned him a well-deserved place in the Hall of Fame. We applaud Rep. Walsh not

only for shepherding this important bill to passage, but also for honoring the will of the overwhelming majority of Montanans who believe this funding should continue to support conservation efforts.

Freshmen to Watch



Rep. Becky Edwards (D-Bozeman)

As a key member of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Edwards was a powerful force against legislation that threatened Montana's air and water quality. She was a strong and vocal opponent on the

House floor against attempts to weaken the Montana Environmental Policy Act and played a leading role in the conservation funding fight by authoring HB 932, which secured recreational marijuana tax revenue for critical conservation programs.



Rep. Debo Powers (D-Polebridge)

Rep. Powers remained a bold and unapologetic defender of Montanans' constitutional right to clean air, clean water, and healthy lands. She introduced practical, common-sense legislation to uphold these rights, including

HB 229, which would have repealed unconstitutional language from a previous session that barred the state from analyzing greenhouse gas emissions in environmental reviews. She also sponsored HB 660, which would have directed the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to develop greenhouse gas regulations aimed at curbing environmental deterioration and protecting Montana's future. Both bills missed the deadline for transmittal to the Senate.



Rep. Josh Seckinger (D-Bozeman)

As a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Seckinger was a tireless advocate for responsible stewardship and the protection of Montana's public lands. He sponsored the session's only pro-public

lands resolution and successfully championed HB 763, which strengthens incentives for landowners to participate in the state's block management program — expanding public access by encouraging cooperation between private landowners and outdoor enthusiasts.

Hall of Shame

From dismantling safeguards for our clean air, clean water, and public lands, to undermining the independence of our judiciary, these legislators disregarded the will of Montanans in favor of an extreme and out-of-touch agenda — they should be held accountable.



Sen. Daniel Emrich
(R-Great Falls)

As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sen. Emrich consistently rubber-stamped a wave of legislation designed to weaken judicial independence and politicize Montana's courts. He was the sponsor of SB 42, a bill that would have replaced Montana's

nonpartisan judicial elections with partisan contests. While SB 42 was the only partisan judiciary bill to pass its originating chamber, it was ultimately defeated in the House thanks in large part to public opposition and bipartisan concern over preserving an impartial court.



Rep. Paul Fielder
(R-Thompson Falls)

As a member of both the House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee and the House Energy Committee, Rep. Fielder consistently opposed pro-conservation legislation and advanced measures that jeopardized Montana's wildlife and ethical hunting traditions. He

sponsored multiple bills that undermined science-based wildlife management, including HB 258 and HB 259, which proposed extending wolf hunting into critical denning periods and legalizing the use of thermal imaging scopes. These bills violate long-standing fair chase principles and threaten the sustainability of Montana's wildlife population.



Sen. Wylie Galt
(R-Martinsdale)

As Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Galt was a driving force behind some of the most harmful environmental legislation of the session. Most notably, he sponsored SB 221, which undermines the Held decision by prohibiting state environmental

reviews from considering the indirect effects of fossil fuel operations. The bill also adopted an intentionally narrow and incomplete definition of fossil fuel activity — limiting the scope of environmental oversight and putting Montana's air, water, and public lands at greater risk.



Rep. Brandon Ler
(R-Savage)

Rep. Ler, in his role as Speaker of the House, wielded significant political influence to push forward anti-conservation legislation. He sponsored HB 285, a deeply damaging bill that weakens the Montana Environmental Policy Act and undercuts Montanans'

constitutional right to clean air, clean water and healthy public lands. By reducing environmental reviews to a mere data-gathering formality — stripped of any real accountability — HB 285 represents one of the most destructive blows to conservation passed this session.



Rep. Tom Millett
(R-Marion)

Freshman legislator Rep. Millett quickly drew concern from the conservation community by sponsoring HJ 24, an extreme and out-of-touch proposal that endorsed Utah's lawsuit to seize control of so-called "unappropriated" federal lands

and claimed that federal land management in Montana is unconstitutional. Transferring public lands to the states is a dangerous step toward privatization and loss of public access. Thankfully, a decisive majority in the House rejected this resolution, standing with Montanans who value and defend our public lands.

(Dis)honorable Mention



Gov. Greg Gianforte (R)

continues to show how out of touch he is with Montanans — Democrats and Republicans alike. He defied the will of the Republican-majority legislature by vetoing HB 477, a bipartisan effort to phase out toxic styrofoam from the food service industry. He also vetoed SB 537, a widely supported bill that would

have responsibly reallocated recreational marijuana tax revenue — preserving critical conservation funding while directing unallocated funds to mental health, homeless shelters, and law enforcement programs. By vetoing these bills, Gov. Gianforte sided with powerful special interests over the bipartisan will of the legislature and the people they represent — once again signaling that he doesn't value their voices in his administration.

Still, not all was lost. The governor did sign an important bipartisan bill: HB 932, which preserves the allocations of recreational marijuana tax revenue for programs like Habitat Montana, state parks, trail systems, and nongame wildlife conservation. This meaningful win kept Gov. Gianforte from earning a formal spot on this year's Hall of Shame — a reminder that even our governor occasionally listens to the people of Montana and that public engagement matters. While this is a significant win, we're still awaiting his decision on SB 188, which allows households and businesses to invest in community solar arrays, expanding access to renewable energy.

Lifetime Champions

We value all our conservation allies in the legislature, but these legislators deserve special recognition for achieving perfect MCV ratings over multiple sessions. Freshman legislators who earned 100% scores are not included here, but we look forward to our continued work together and hope they, too, become lifetime champions!

Representatives



Denise Baum
(D-Billings)



Bob Carter
(D-Missoula)



Mike Fox
(D-Hays)



Tom France
(D-Missoula)



SJ Howell
(D-Missoula)



Jonathan Karlen
(D-Missoula)



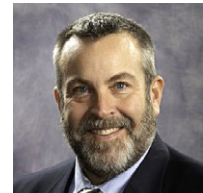
Connie Keough
(D-Missoula)



Kelly Kortum
(D-Bozeman)



Marilyn Marler
(D-Missoula)



Eric Matthews
(D-Bozeman)



Melissa Romano
(D-Helena)



Ed Stafman
(D-Bozeman)



Katie Sullivan
(D-Missoula)



Mark Thane
(D-Missoula)



Paul Tuss
(D-Havre)

Senators



Ellie Boldman
(D-Missoula)



Willis Curdy
(D-Missoula)



Mary Ann Dunwell
(D-Helena)



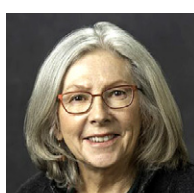
Janet Ellis
(D-Helena)



Dave Fern
(D-Whitefish)



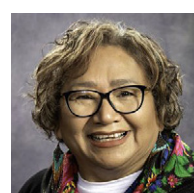
Pat Flowers
(D-Belgrade)



Denise Hayman
(D-Bozeman)



Shane Morigeau
(D-Missoula)



Susan Webber
(D-Browning)

Photo credit:
Montana Legislative Services



2025 VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

Photo: Logan Creek, Glacier (Adobe Stock)

2025 Vote Descriptions

So many bills, so many numbers, so much at stake.
These were the key bills to pass or defeat this session.

Clean Air and Clean Water:

SB 188: Revising solar energy policy laws

Sponsor: Sen. Christopher Pope (D-Bozeman)

SB 188, otherwise known as the Montana Solar Shares Act, allows households and businesses to purchase shares in an energy-generating solar array. Participating customers can receive a credit on their power bill equal to the shares of the energy produced each month. SB 188 creates more affordable energy options when so many people are struggling with rising costs, in addition to encouraging more solar energy development.

Conservation Community Position: **SUPPORT**

Senate Vote: 46-4 **House Vote:** 54-43

Bill Status: **Awaiting a decision from Gov. Gianforte**

HB 285: Generally revise environmental policy act

Sponsor: Rep. Brandon Ler (R-Savage)

HB 285 diminishes the role of environmental assessments in the decision-making process for state actions and weakens the ability of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to help the state uphold our constitutional right to clean air, clean water, and healthy lands. HB 285 directly undermined this constitutional obligation by effectively reducing environmental assessments under MEPA to a data-gathering tool the state can simply ignore.

Conservation Community Position: **OPPOSE**

Senate Vote: 32-18 **House Vote:** 58-42

Bill Status: **Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte**



HB 477: Phase out polystyrene single use food containers (with exceptions)

Sponsor: Rep. Marilyn Marler (D-Missoula)

HB 477 would have phased out the use of styrofoam containers through statewide uniform regulation. Styrofoam is known to have toxic health effects and contributes to litter that remains in the environment indefinitely, as it does not biodegrade. HB 477 also supported our local farmers and processors by promoting alternative containers made from agricultural byproducts.

Conservation Community Position: **SUPPORT**

Senate Vote: 26-22 **House Vote:** 56-41

Bill Status: **Vetoed by Gov. Gianforte**



Public Lands and Natural Resources:

HB 932: Generally revise conservation financing laws

Sponsor: Rep. Ken Walsh (R-Twin Bridges)

HB 932 maintains the allocations of marijuana tax revenue toward Habitat Montana, state parks, trails, and nongame wildlife conservation. This bill also establishes the Habitat Legacy Account, which helps ensure that we have the resources to support wildlife highway crossings and address challenges such as drought, invasive species, and declining wildlife habitat through the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.

Conservation Community Position: **SUPPORT**

Senate Vote: 38-11 **House Vote:** 88-12

Bill Status: Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte



SB 537: Generally revise marijuana tax laws

Sponsor: Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R-Billings)

SB 537 mirrors HB 932 in maintaining conservation funding and establishing the Habitat Legacy Account, but goes further by specifying additional uses for recreational marijuana tax revenue. These uses include law enforcement support, investments in Montana's public health programs, and increased assistance for unhoused Montanans.

Conservation Community Position: **SUPPORT**

Senate Vote: 42-8 **House Vote:** 74-26

Bill Status: Vetoed by Gov. Gianforte

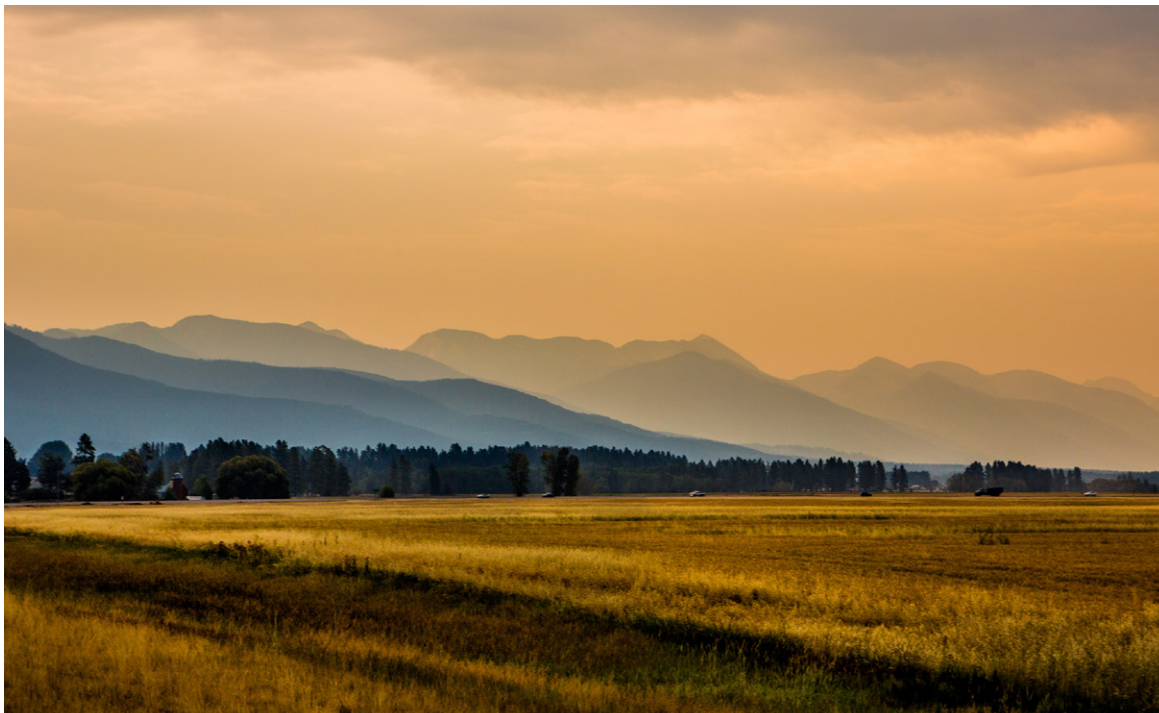


Photo: Fall Mountains in Montana (Adobe Stock)

Democracy and Voter Rights:

SB 42: Provide for the partisan election of judges and justices

Sponsor: Sen. Daniel Emrich (R-Great Falls)

SB 42 would have required both Montana District Court and Montana Supreme Court judges to identify a party when they are running for a judicial position. This change would have injected unnecessary partisanship into our judicial system, which should only apply the facts and the law, NOT partisan considerations. SB 42 was an extreme threat to the independent judiciary, the rule of law, and the ability of Montana residents to pursue justice in our court system. SB 42 was the only partisan judiciary bill to pass out of its originating chamber, but it was ultimately defeated in the House.

Conservation Community Position: OPPOSE

Senate Vote: 28-22 House Vote: 41-59

Bill Status: DEAD



HB 413: Revise election laws regarding residency

Sponsor: Rep. Jane Gillette (R-Three Forks)

HB 413 aims to prevent individuals residing in Montana temporarily for work, training, or educational purposes from registering to vote. This bill clarifies that Montana residency and voting eligibility is reserved only for those who intend to remain in the state indefinitely. HB 413 effectively disenfranchises temporary residents, such as students, without providing clear guidelines for how intent to remain in Montana is measured or enforced and discourages citizens from voting on policies and candidates that shape the places they live and work.

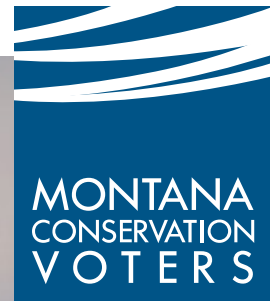
Conservation Community Position: OPPOSE

Senate Vote: 30-18 House Vote: 56-42

Bill Status: Signed into law by Gov. Gianforte



Photo: Smith River (Pat Clayton)

The background of the page is a photograph of a Montana landscape. It shows a vast green field in the foreground, with a line of trees in the middle ground, and dark, forested mountains in the background under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

2025 SCORECARD VOTES

How did your legislators vote?

Photo: Little Smith Creek Ranch (MCV)

2025 SENATE SCORECARD

✓ = Supported MCV position ✗ = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused **BOLD**= MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Senator	City	Party	SB 188	HB 285	HB 477	HB 932	SB 537	SB 42	HB 413	2025 Score	Lifetime Score
SD 38	BEARD, BECKY	Elliston	R	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	29%	13%
SD 18	BOGNER, KENNETH	Miles City	R	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	57%	25%
SD 47	BOLDMAN, ELLIE	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 1	CUFFE, MIKE	Eureka	R	✓	✗	✗	A/E	✓	✓	✗	50%	22%
SD 49	CURDY, WILLIS	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 42	DUNWELL, MARY ANN	Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 41	ELLIS, JANET	Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 43	ELLSWORTH, JASON	Hamilton	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	24%
SD 11	EMRICH, DANIEL	Great Falls	R	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	43%	28%
SD 29	ESP, JOHN	Big Timber	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	29%	24%
SD 2	FERN, DAVE	Whitefish	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 31	FLOWERS, PAT	Belgrade	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 4	FULLER, JOHN	Kalispell	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	14%
SD 39	GALT, WYLIE	Martinsdale	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	13%
SD 9	GILLESPIE, BRUCE	Ethridge	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	57%	34%
SD 3	GLIMM, CARL	Kila	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	9%
SD 37	HARVEY, DEREK	Butte	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	87%
SD 32	HAYMAN, DENISE	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 7	HERTZ, GREG	Polson	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	A/E	50%	15%
SD 15	HUNTER, GREGG	Glasgow	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	29%	29%
SD 13	KASSMIER, JOSH	Fort Benton	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	29%	27%
SD 23	KERR-CARPENTER, EMMA	Billings	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	97%
SD 21	LAMMERS, GAYLE	Hardin	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	29%	29%
SD 25	LENZ, DENNIS	Billings	R	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	29%	11%
SD 45	LOGE, DENLEY	St Regis	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	43%	26%

2025 SENATE SCORECARD

✓ = Supported MCV position ✗ = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused **BOLD**= MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Senator	City	Party	SB 188	HB 285	HB 477	HB 932	SB 537	SB 42	HB 413	2025 Score	Lifetime Score
SD 28	MANDEVILLE, FORREST	Columbus	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	22%
SD 44	MANZELLA, THERESA	Hamilton	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	57%	23%
SD 26	MCGILLVRAY, TOM	Billings	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	57%	24%
SD 12	MCKAMEY, WENDY	Great Falls	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	43%	26%
SD 46	MORIGEAU, JACINDA	Arlee	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 50	MORIGEAU, SHANE	Missoula	D	✓	✓	A/E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 30	NEUMANN, CORA	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
SD 6	NOLAND, MARK	Bigfork	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	17%
SD 36	NOVAK, SARA	Anaconda	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	95%
SD 48	OLSEN, ANDREA	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	98%
SD 17	PHALEN, BOB	Glendive	R	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	29%	28%
SD 33	POPE, CHRISTOPHER	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	98%
SD 5	REGIER, MATT	Kalispell	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	14%
SD 27	RICCI, VINCE	Billings	R	✓	A/E	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	33%	14%
SD 40	SMITH, LAURA	Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	92%
SD 14	TEMPEL, RUSS	Chester	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	57%	35%
SD 35	TEZAK, TONY	Ennis	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	43%
SD 10	TREBAS, JEREMY	Great Falls	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	22%
SD 19	USHER, BARRY	Billings	R	✓	✗	A/E	✗	✓	✗	✗	33%	17%
SD 34	VANCE, SHELLEY	Belgrade	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	43%	28%
SD 20	VINTON, SUE	Billings	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	17%
SD 8	WEBBER, SUSAN	Browning	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A/E	100%	100%
SD 16	WINDY BOY, JONATHAN	Box Elder	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	85%
SD 24	YAKAWICH, MIKE	Billings	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	57%	50%
SD 22	ZOLNIKOV, DANIEL	Billings	R	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	43%	31%

2025 HOUSE SCORECARD

✓ = Supported MCV position ✗ = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused **BOLD**= MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 188	HB 285	HB 477	HB 932	SB 537	SB 42	HB 413	2025 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 28	ALBUS, ERIC	Glasgow	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	14%	14%
HD 55	BARKER, BRAD	Red Lodge	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	57%	50%
HD 45	BAUM, DENISE	Billings	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A/E	100%	100%
HD 86	BEDEY, DAVID	Hamilton	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	43%	29%
HD 4	BENNETT, LYN	Columbia Falls	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	14%	14%
HD 75	BERTOGLIO, MARTA	Clancy	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	43%	36%
HD 43	BREWSTER, LARRY	Billings	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	23%
HD 21	BUTTREY, ED	Great Falls	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	29%	29%
HD 11	BYRNE, ED	Bigfork	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	43%
HD 81	CAFERRO, MARY	Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	94%
HD 96	CARTER, BOB	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 65	CLOSE, BRIAN	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 90	COCHRAN, CURTIS	St Regis	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 83	COHENOUR, JILL	East Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	99%
HD 15	CROWE, THEDIS	Browning	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 97	CUNNINGHAM, MELODY	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 84	DARLING, JULIE	Helena	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	43%	35%
HD 71	DEMAROIS, SCOTT	Anaconda	D	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	86%
HD 54	DEMING, LEE	Laurel	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	36%
HD 1	DURAM, NEIL	Eureka	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	23%
HD 61	EDWARDS, BECKY	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 82	ELVERUM, PETE	Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 49	ESSMANN, SHERRY	Billings	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	57%	50%
HD 51	ETCHART, JODEE	Billings	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	A/E	33%	27%
HD 10	FALK, TERRY	Kalispell	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%

2025 HOUSE SCORECARD

✓ = Supported MCV position ✗ = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused **BOLD**= MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 188	HB 285	HB 477	HB 932	SB 537	SB 42	HB 413	2025 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 14	FIELDER, PAUL	Thompson Falls	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	18%
HD 42	FITZPATRICK, CHIP	Crow Agency	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 76	FITZPATRICK, JOHN	Anaconda	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	43%	50%
HD 24	FITZPATRICK, STEVE	Great Falls	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	29%	30%
HD 32	FOX, MIKE	Hays	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 99	FRANCE, TOM	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 91	FYANT, SHELLEY	Arlee	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 77	GILLETTE, JANE	Three Forks	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	24%
HD 25	GIST, STEVE	Cascade	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	36%
HD 78	GREGG, RANDYN	White Sulphur Springs	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	14%	14%
HD 60	GRIFFITH, ALANAH	Big Sky	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 72	HAWK, DONAVON	Butte	D	A/E	✓	A/E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	90%
HD 67	HINKLE, CALEB	Belgrade	R	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	29%	18%
HD 68	HINKLE, JEDEDIAH	Belgrade	R	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	29%	13%
HD 100	HOWELL, SJ	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 58	ISALY, JAMIE	Livingston	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 18	JONES, LLEW	Conrad	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	29%	21%
HD 46	JOY, DENISE	Billings	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 98	KARLEN, JONATHAN	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 9	KELLY, STEVEN	Kalispell	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 92	KEOGH, CONNIE	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 37	KLAKKEN, SHANE	Grass Range	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	29%	29%
HD 36	KMETZ, GREG	Miles City	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	22%
HD 64	KORTUM, KELLY	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 74	LEE, MARC	Butte	D	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	86%

2025 HOUSE SCORECARD

✓ = Supported MCV position ✗ = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused **BOLD**= MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 188	HB 285	HB 477	HB 932	SB 537	SB 42	HB 413	2025 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 33	LER, BRANDON	Savage	R	✗	A/E	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	17%	11%
HD 85	LOVE, KATHY	Hamilton	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	14%
HD 73	LYNCH, JENNIFER	Butte	D	✗	✓	A/E	✓	✓	✓	✓	83%	77%
HD 70	MANESS, SHANNON	Dillon	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 94	MARLER, MARILYN	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 66	MATTHEWS, ERIC	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 52	MERCER, BILL	Billings	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	13%
HD 2	MILLETT, TOM	Marion	R	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 26	MINER, RUSS	Stockett	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	29%	36%
HD 5	MITCHELL, BRAXTON	Columbia Falls	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	14%	18%
HD 29	MOORE, VALERIE	Plentywood	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	57%	57%
HD 79	MUSZKIEWICZ, LUKE	Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 56	NAVE, FIONA	Columbus	R	A/E	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	17%	15%
HD 87	NELSON, TERRY	Stevensville	R	✗	A/E	✗	✓	✗	✗	A/E	20%	20%
HD 50	NICASTRO, ANTHONY	Billings	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 53	NICOL, NELLY	Billings	R	A/E	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	17%	25%
HD 22	NIKOLAKAKOS, GEORGE	Great Falls	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	57%	50%
HD 20	NIKOLAKAKOS, MELISSA	Great Falls	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	71%	71%
HD 38	OBLANDER, GREG	Shepherd	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	57%	45%
HD 88	OVERSTREET, GREG	Stevensville	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 35	PARRY, GARY	Colstrip	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	29%	43%
HD 3	POWERS, DEBO	Polebridge	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 47	REAVIS, JAMES	Billings	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 6	REGIER, AMY	Kalispell	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	28%
HD 13	REKSTEN, LINDA	Polson	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	43%	37%

2025 HOUSE SCORECARD

✓ = Supported MCV position ✗ = Opposed MCV position A/E = Absent/Excused **BOLD**= MCV Endorsed

Dist.	Representative	City	Party	SB 188	HB 285	HB 477	HB 932	SB 537	SB 42	HB 413	2025 Score	Lifetime Score
HD 80	ROMANO, MELISSA	Helena	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 57	ROSENZWEIG, SCOTT	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 16	RUNNING WOLF, TYSON	Browning	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	97%
HD 34	SCHILLINGER, JERRY	Circle	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	21%
HD 48	SCHOMER, CURTIS	Billings	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 8	SCHUBERT, LUKAS	Kalispell	R	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	43%	43%
HD 62	SECKINGER, JOSHUA	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 39	SEEKINS-CROWE, KERRI	Billings	R	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	14%	21%
HD 12	SHARP, TRACY	Polson	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	29%	29%
HD 31	SMITH, FRANK	Poplar	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	93%
HD 41	SOOTKIS, JADE	Lame Deer	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 7	SPRUNGER, COURTENAY	Kalispell	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	29%	43%
HD 59	STAFMAN, ED	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 63	STRAND, PETER	Bozeman	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 93	SULLIVAN, KATIE	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 89	THANE, MARK	Missoula	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 30	THIEL, MORGAN	Sidney	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	43%
HD 23	TILLEMANN, ERIC	Cascade	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	29%	29%
HD 27	TUSS, PAUL	Havre	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 40	VINTON, MIKE	Billings	R	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	43%	43%
HD 69	WALSH, KENNETH	Twin Bridges	R	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	43%	44%
HD 19	WEBER, JANE	Great Falls	D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%
HD 17	WIRTH, ZACK	Wolf Creek	R	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	14%	29%
HD 95	ZEPHYR, ZOOEY	Missoula	D	✓	✓	A/E	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	93%
HD 44	ZOLNIKOV, KATIE	Billings	R	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	57%	34%

A Judiciary Under Attack

Montana's independent judiciary plays a vital role in upholding the rights enshrined in our Constitution — including the right to a clean and healthy environment. But during the 2025 Legislative Session, that independence came under direct assault.

We witnessed an onslaught of legislation aimed at politicizing Montana's fair, impartial, and nonpartisan court system this session. These proposals sought to give the legislature influence over judicial decisions, create a governor-appointed court, and — most alarmingly — force judges to run in partisan elections. Together, they amounted to an unprecedented attempt to undermine the judiciary's ability to serve as a constitutional check on legislative overreach.

At the core of this push was a belief amplified by Republican leadership that the courts are “legislating from the bench” by striking down unconstitutional legislation, which they see as politically motivated. This was most evident in the response to the decision of *Held v. Montana*, in which the Montana Supreme Court reaffirmed that banning the analysis of greenhouse gas emissions in environmental reviews violated Montanans' constitutional rights.

This is precisely why the judiciary matters to conservation: Our courts **have consistently upheld the right to a clean and healthful environment**, one of the most powerful and unique provisions in any state constitution. Thanks to court rulings, critical watersheds have been protected, industrial pollution has been challenged, and public lands have been protected for future generations. So while Republican leadership was quick to accuse the Supreme Court of progressive activism, what it really comes down to is our Constitution.

Despite this, Republican leadership pushed ahead with legislation to inject partisanship into the judiciary — a move rejected by Montanans and even by Republican-backed Supreme Court Chief Justice Cory Swanson, who told the legislature in a joint address:

The judiciary should remain nonpartisan, despite the almost irresistible pull of partisan spending and messaging in these highly-contested campaigns.”

Of all of the bills that aimed to make judicial races partisan — **SB 42, HB 295, HB 751, HB 838, and SB 543** — only **SB 42** passed its chamber of origin. Thanks to public pressure and bipartisan opposition, none made it to the governor's desk.

Team MCV and our supporters took action at every turn. We mobilized through phone banks, digital advocacy, community briefings, and a Capitol rally in defense of our Constitution and our courts. Most importantly, we stood alongside Montanans who made it clear that **judicial independence isn't negotiable**.

This fight is far from over. But the 2025 Legislative Session showed that when Montanans raise their voices — when we stand up for the rule of law, for our Constitution, and for our right to a clean and healthful environment — we can and will push back against partisan overreach.

We're ready for what's next.

Deep Dive

Montanans Show Up for Public Lands

Some lawmakers in Helena tried — and failed — to back Utah’s dangerous attempt to seize 18 million acres of federal public land. Thanks to a groundswell of grassroots advocacy and a strong bipartisan stand in the legislature, Montanans once again made their message unmistakably clear: public lands belong to the people, not politicians or special interests.

In late December, as snow blanketed the mountains and the 2025 Legislative Session loomed, Team MCV launched a petition with a simple but urgent call to action: **Keep public lands in public hands.** That message resonated across the state.

In a matter of weeks, the petition gathered over 1,000 signatures from Montanans of every background — hunters, hikers, ranchers, anglers, campers, and everyday citizens — each one a reminder that public lands aren’t just part of Montana’s landscape; they’re central to its identity and way of life.

The stakes rose quickly when freshman Representative Tom Millett (R-Marion) introduced **House Joint Resolution 24**. This resolution would have aligned Montana with a fringe lawsuit led by Utah Governor Spencer Cox and Attorney General Sean Reyes, seeking to strip the federal government’s control over more than 18 million acres of public lands. Although the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case in January, Rep. Millett pressed forward with HJ 24 under the banner of “state sovereignty.”

But Montanans saw through the rhetoric. They understood the truth: **This was a direct threat to public access, our economy, and the foundational values of our state.**

The consequences of such a land transfer would be staggering. In April 2025, former Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Director John Tubbs released a report estimating that managing these lands at the state level would cost Montana taxpayers nearly \$8 billion over the next two decades — due to wildfire mitigation, mine reclamation, and deferred infrastructure maintenance alone.

Polling reinforced what we already knew. The **2025 Conservation in the West Poll** found that 68% of Montanans oppose transferring federal lands to state control. **A University of Montana survey** showed that **95% of Montanans visited federal lands** in the past year, and **83% agree** that these lands are essential to the state’s economy — an economy in which outdoor recreation generated **\$3.4 billion** in GDP in 2023, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

And in the end, public pressure prevailed. On April 1, the House rejected HJ 24 in a striking 66-34 vote — a resounding defeat for an out-of-touch resolution and a powerful affirmation of Montanans prioritizing public lands over partisan politics.

But the fight isn’t over. While these state-level threats persist, broader efforts — like proposed staffing cuts and budget slashes to the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service under the Trump administration — continue to erode the federal support public lands depend on.

Montanans have shown time and again that they’re ready to defend our outdoor legacy. To keep our lands public, protected, and accessible, we must continue to speak up, organize, and hold the powerful accountable.

Because in Montana, public lands aren’t for sale. They’re who we are.



Photo: 2025 Rally for Public Lands
(Christian Sawicki, Wild Montana)



Montana Conservation Voters
P.O. Box 1812
Helena, MT 59624
mtvoters.org



BY THE NUMBERS: How Montanans Took Action in the 2025 Legislative Session

1,759 bills introduced

884 bills passed by the legislature

52 events hosted across Montana
educating, organizing, and empowering
Montanans in their own communities to
take action

**Over 1,000 Montanans rallied
with Team MCV**

at the Capitol in defense of our Montana
Constitution and public lands

1,000+ signatures collected

on an MCV petition to elected officials rejecting
the public land grab proposed by HJ 24

1,538 calls by MCV Regional Organizers
connected Montanans directly with their legislators
and the governor

5,867 emails sent by MCV supporters
urging lawmakers to protect clean air, clean water,
public land and constitutional rights

Want to support our work?

Become an MCV member for just \$35/year
by scanning the code or going to
mtvoters.org/donate



Montana Conservation Voters is a 501(c)4 nonprofit organization. Membership dues and contributions are not tax-deductible.

Cover photo: Paradise Valley (Adobe Stock)