

MCV MATTERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MCV

Sally Ericsson
CHAIR

Dani Howlett
TREASURER

Katie McKalip
SECRETARY

Jill Lombardi
DIRECTOR/
MCV ACTION FUND CHAIR

Brendon Cechovic
DIRECTOR

Sarah Degn
DIRECTOR

Aileen Gleizer
DIRECTOR

Chris Saeger
DIRECTOR

Matt Taylor
DIRECTOR

Heather White
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MCV Education Fund

Jock Conyngham
CHAIR

Jeanne-Marie Souvigny
TREASURER

Katie McKalip
SECRETARY

Brendon Cechovic
DIRECTOR

Aileen Gleizer
DIRECTOR

STAFF

Ben Super
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Molly Bell
POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Jessica Lillie
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Kearstyn Cook
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Renee Kelley
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Natalie Wright
FIELD DIRECTOR

Anna Shaffer
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Jennifer Gross
FIELD COORDINATOR

Jesc Gallegos
BILLINGS REGIONAL ORGANIZER

Ryan Houser
BOZEMAN REGIONAL ORGANIZER

Hello, Montana Conservation Voters!

It was inspiring to gather with so many members and supporters in Helena in March for the 2026 Member Celebration. Each year, this event brings together the community working to protect Montana's clean air and water, public lands, and democratic values. Seeing so many people in the room, from across the state and across generations, was a powerful reminder that this work is sustained by people who care deeply about Montana and the future we share.

A highlight of the evening was announcing MCV's endorsement of Judge Amy Eddy for the Montana Supreme Court. Judge Eddy has served on the Eleventh Judicial District Court since 2015 and has built a reputation for fairness, independence, and respect for the rule of law. Her record reflects a principled commitment to upholding the Montana Constitution and the liberties that shape life in our state.

Through the primary election season, MCV also proudly announced the endorsements of Ryan Busse for Montana's First Congressional District and Seth Bodnar for U.S. Senate. Elections matter, and you can count on MCV to provide further endorsements and information throughout this critical election cycle. We will always support conservation champions who consistently demonstrate the grit needed to stand up to special interests.

Our work continues. We endeavor to elect officials and support policies that protect Montana's democracy and outdoor way of life for every generation. That work is only possible because of the commitment of MCV members and supporters across the state.

Thank you for being part of this community and for making this work possible.

Yours in conservation,



Ben Super
Executive Director
Montana Conservation Voters

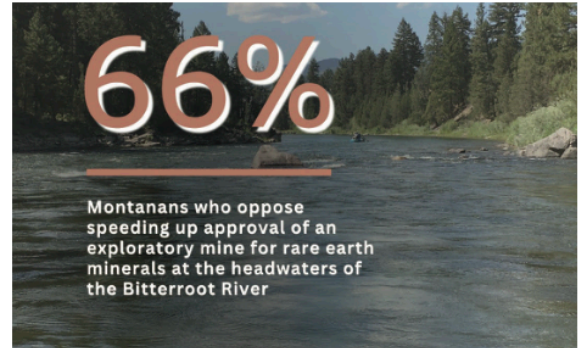


2026 VOTER SURVEY: MONTANANS DEMAND STRONGER PROTECTIONS FOR PUBLIC LANDS

Montanans continue to speak clearly about the value of our public lands. According to the **University of Montana's Crown of the Continent & Greater Yellowstone Initiative's 2026 Voter Survey on Public Lands**, voters overwhelmingly oppose limiting public input on mining projects like the one currently proposed at the headwaters of the Bitterroot River, and a majority are concerned that federal funding cuts and staffing reductions will increase wildfire risk on public lands.

At the same time, **many Montanans are questioning whether Montana's federal delegation is matching their rhetoric with action.** Our federal delegation has raised concerns about projects that threaten public lands and water quality in Montana, but when it came to the Boundary Waters, Representative Ryan Zinke led the effort to strip mining protections — and just recently, Senators Steve Daines and Tim Sheehy voted to finish the job. Meanwhile, Montana's federal delegation has gone along with D.C. funding cuts that have resulted in massive staffing shortages and major disruptions to how our public lands are managed.

See the survey for yourself at <https://www.umt.edu/crown-yellowstone/voter-surveys/2026/>.



PUBLIC LANDS INTEGRITY ACT

Around this time last year, a **federal budget proposal threatened to sell off millions of acres of public land**, sparking intense backlash across the nation. While Montana's federal delegation ultimately opposed the sale and the proposal was dropped, a similar fight is brewing again this year.

In response, some lawmakers have introduced the Public Lands Integrity Act to permanently prevent future attempts to sell public lands through fast-track budget processes. **Now, we need Senators Daines and Sheehy to help lead this effort.**

TAKE ACTION with two quick calls today!

- **Senator Steve Daines: (202) 224-2651**
- **Senator Tim Sheehy: (202) 224-2644**

The Message: "My name is [Your Name] from [City]. I'm calling to urge the Senator to protect Montana's public lands by supporting the Public Lands Integrity Act. We need leaders who will keep public lands in public hands."

Thank you for taking a couple of minutes to make your voice heard and protect our public lands for future generations!

THE COST OF TRANSPARENCY: DATA CENTERS AND MONTANA'S ENERGY FUTURE

MCV is calling for transparency and regulation as tech companies eye Montana for development. With four data center projects now planned in Butte, Broadview, and Missoula, and NorthWestern Energy in talks considering 11 more projects, supplying just the initial facilities would triple Montana's base energy demand. **Without any proper regulatory framework, this massive load will likely force an increased reliance on fossil fuels** from the Colstrip and Yellowstone Generating stations, while also **leaving everyday ratepayers to foot the bill** for costly grid upgrades and dirtier, more expensive power.

To fight back, we are educating the public and demanding accountability from the PSC, especially as it holds hearings on a proposed \$15.4 billion merger between NorthWestern Energy and Black Hills Energy. Executives openly admit this merger is about expanding infrastructure to "capture data center opportunities" and meet booming AI demands. Yet they are asking the PSC for approval while **withholding critical details about these projects from regulators and the public**. As part of our push for answers, MCV staff moderated community panel discussions earlier this year in Billings, Broadview, and Helena, drawing hundreds of residents and sharing how Montanans can raise their concerns with the PSC.

Want to share your voice? Contact the PSC today and tell them to stand up for Montana consumers by demanding total transparency around data centers before any utility merger is approved.



Tell the PSC that Montanans have a right to know what's going on with data centers & energy development in our state!

MEMBERSHIPS FUEL MCV!

Every membership powers:

- Conservation action
- Democracy defense across Montana
- Political accountability & leadership



You can support this work right now. Use the enclosed remittance envelope to mail your membership gift, or scan the QR code above to give securely online. We've also added Venmo for an even faster, simpler way to contribute at mtvoters.org/donate.

Choose a one-time gift or become a monthly supporter. Every membership, whether \$35, \$70, \$100, or more, strengthens our ability to hold powerful interests accountable and protect the Montana we love.

Renew today and power conservation across Montana!

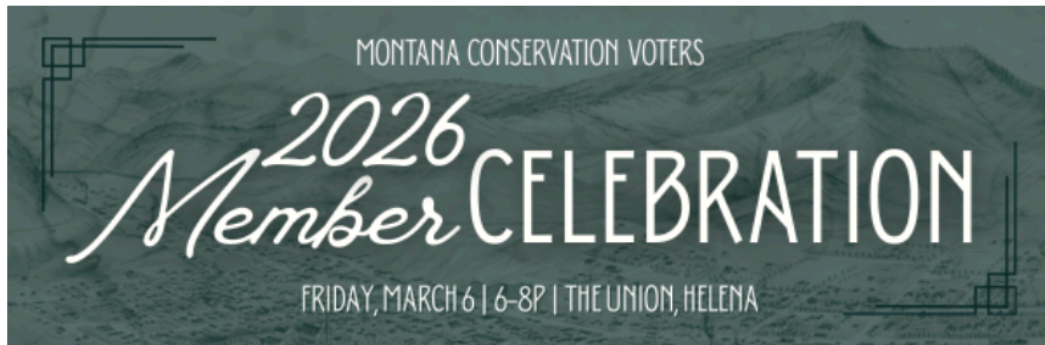
WE'RE HIRING!

Team MCV is growing, and we're looking for dynamic leaders to help protect the Last Best Place.

We're accepting applications for:

- **Government Affairs Director**
- **Outreach & Advocacy Manager**
- **Billings & Bozeman Canvassers**

Visit mtvoters.org/opportunities to learn more and apply!



We proudly kicked off spring with our 2026 Member Celebration on March 6. MCV members and conservation champions packed The Union in Helena, and it was a powerful reminder of the passion we share for Montana's vast landscapes and the democracy that helps preserve this Last Best Place for every generation. We are so grateful to each of our guests, and we send a special thank you to the sponsors who helped make the event possible.

DIAMOND SPONSORS

Earth Justice Action
Western Conservation Foundation

SILVER SPONSORS

Alice Collins
Jock Conyngham
Harris Compliance & Consulting
Josh Lozman & Kristen Sramek
Montana Trial Lawyers
Montana Wildlife Federation
Navigate Campaigns
Reilly Neill
C.B. Pearson
Chris Saeger
Tim Speyer
John & Debbie Svaldi

PLATINUM SPONSORS

The Harder Foundation
Plazby Solutions, LLC

GOLD SPONSORS

Brendon & Kerri Cechovic
Clearwater Credit Union
Sally Ericsson & Tom Garwin
Graybill Law Firm
Roy and Susan O'Connor
Protect Our Winters
Spitfire Strategies
Kathleen Williams

BRONZE SPONSORS

Brandon DeMars
Janet Ellis
Steve Held
Jill Lombardi & Max Croes
Jeremiah Lynch
Montana Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Sportsmen Alliance
John Patrick
Roots to Results
Lynda Saul
Simple Majority
Chuck & Joanie Tooley



SAVE THE DATES

June 2: Primary Election Day
June 6: National Trails Day
June 19: Juneteenth
Aug. 11: National Poll Worker Recruitment Day
Aug. 22: National Park Week begins

STAY CONNECTED!

@mtvoters
 @mtvoters
@mtvotersedfund
 Montana Conservation Voters
 @mtvoters
 Montana Conservation Voters

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.