

Montana Conservation Voters 2009 Legislative Campaign

This is Montana Conservation Voters' 10th anniversary year. The political landscape has shifted incredibly since I began working as MCV's founding staff person in the 1999. Then, a big legislative priority was to stop attempts to over turn the 1998 voter-approved ban on new cyanide leach mines. As a community, we stopped this attack, thanks to canvassing in key districts to let voters know their legislators were going to roll back a measure they had just approved in the ballot box - because the legislature "knew better". The "stupid voter" canvass piece and lots of grassroots organizing, involving every conservation group that worked in the legislature, defeated this attack. And it helped defeat of a couple of unwise legislators in the 2000 election. MCV's state legislative scorecard voting average that year was 42%. In 2007, MCV's scorecard voting average was 53%, meaning, legislators on average were voting a little more than half the time with the conservation and environmental community.

It's up to us to keep that number moving up in 2009. Can that happen? With the election of some great conservation champions, we'd hope for a banner year. But the loss of key seats in the Senate, shifting partisan control to 27 Republicans and 23 Democrats, and a 50:50 Democratic/Republican partisan split in the House means the best legislation will have tough sailing. Holding the line on Montana's environmental protection laws will again be a top priority. Work with Governor Brian Schweitzer and the newly-elected officials who will comprise the Montana Board of Land Commissioners featured on page 2 is paramount.

Montana Conservation Voters' 2009 State Legislative Campaign is based on these political realities, and this plan 1) grassroots organizing to hold legislators accountable, including those who MCV endorsed and supported in the 2008 election, and those who made commitments on conservation and environmental measures; 2) collaborating with the environmental and conservation groups working in the legislature; 3) providing leadership and training opportunities for Montana Conservation Voters members and allies, to be effective citizen advocates; 4) building the political strength of the conservation community, including candidate recruitment for the 2010 election and involvement in reapportionment; and 5) expanding

alliances with labor, public health, religious, education, women's and business groups and leaders.

This 2009 Montana State Legislative Guide is a tool to help you become informed, involved and activated at home, and in Helena. That's the best way to see MCV's legislative scorecard average get above 53% this year.

Theresa Keaveny, MCV Executive Director

Conservation Working Group Priorities

Sarah Cobler, MCV Program Director

MCV determines its legislative priorities in a collaborative working group process, led by the state's diverse conservation policy experts. Groups work together prior to the legislative session to identify common legislative opportunities to protect Montana's outdoor heritage.

These shared legislative priorities promote a vibrant and growing green economy, and protect the fresh water resources that define the state. Now is the time to create new jobs, build public infrastructure and promote economic stimulus that drives us toward healthier, more efficient and more livable communities.

The working group includes the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO), Clark Fork Coalition, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Montana Audubon, Montana Conservation Voters, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC), Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG), Montana Sierra Club, Montana Trout Unlimited, Smart Growth Coalition, Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), National Wildlife Federation, Northern Plains Resource Council, and the Policy Institute.

2009 Conservation Priorities

- **Energy Efficiency in Montana Schools.** Montana public schools spend a significant amount of money (second largest line item) on energy costs. This bill establishes necessary resources for public schools to improve energy efficiency in their facilities, providing funding for efficiency improvements along with the expertise to plan and implement the improvements. It helps schools save money by reducing their energy bills,



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Our Mission

Montana Conservation Voters (MCV) is the statewide non-partisan political voice of Montana’s environmental and conservation communities. MCV is a membership organization that shines a spotlight on the voting records and actions of elected officials – from the courthouse to Congress – on key environmental policies. Through its affiliated political action committee, Montana Conservation Voters supports the election of candidates who stand up for Montana’s clean air and water, outdoor traditions, and public health, wildlife, forests and open spaces.

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Justice James C. Nelson
Justice W. William Leaphart
Justice Patricia O’Brien Cotter
Justice James A. Rice
Justice John Warner
Justice Brian Morris

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Hoven, Brian (R)
Howard, David (R)
Kerns, Krayton (R)
MacDonald, Margaret (D)
McClafferty, Edith (D)
Randall, Lee (R)
Regier, Keith (R)
Roundstone, J. David (D)
Taylor, Janna (R)
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McChesney, Bill (D)
McNutt, Walter (R)
Mehlhoff, Robert (D)
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Nooney, Bill (R)
Pease-Lopez, Carolyn (D)
Roberts, Don (R)
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Boland, Carlisle (D)

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Butcher, Edward (R)
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Lake, Bob (R)
Malek, Sue (D)
McClafferty, Edith (D)
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Howard, David (R)
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McClafferty, Edith (D)
Menahan, Mike (D)
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Regier, Keith (R)
Sands, Diane (D)
Wagner, Bob (R)
Warburton, Wendy (R)

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Himmelberger, Dennis (R)
Jones, Llew (R)
Kasten, Dave (R)
Klock, Harry (R)
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McClafferty, Edith (D)
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Bennett, Gerald (R)
Berry, Tom (R)
Driscoll, Robyn (D)
Ebinger, Bob (D)
Grinde, Wanda (D)
Hamilton, Robin (D)
Ingraham, Pat (R)
Menahan, Mike (D)
More, Michael (R)
Reichner, Scott (R)
Reinhart, Michele (D)
Sands, Diane (D)
Stahl, Wayne (R)
Vance, Gordon (R)

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Blewett, Anders (D)
Cohenour, Jill (D)
Dickenson, Sue (D)
Hands, Betsy (D)
Hoven, Brian (R)
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Menahan, Mike (D)
Mendenhall, Scott (R)
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Reinhart, Michele (D)
Van Dyk, Kendall (D)
Vincent, Chas (R)
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Mendenhall, Scott (R)
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Sonju, Jon (R)

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Belcourt, Tony (D)
Boniek, Joel (R)
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Caferro, Mary (D)
Calf Boss Ribs, Frosty (D)
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Randall, Lee (R)
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Mail any Representative:

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Montana House of Representatives
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Contact Information

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for 2009 Legislators

Legislator at 406-444-4800.

Montana Conservation Voters website at www.mtvoters.org

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SD 09: Rick Ripley (R) - Ripleys@3rivers.net
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SD 13: Joe Tropila (D) 453-1124
SD 14: Jerry Black (R) 434-5363 Blacks@3rivers.net
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SD 50: Cliff Larsen (D) 728-1601 Cliff@larsenusa.com

2009 Montana Senate Leadership and Committees

Officers of the Senate

President:
Robert Story (R)
President Pro Tempore:
Dan McGee (R)
Majority Leader
Jim Peterson (R)
Majority Whips:
Roy Brown (R)
Greg Barkus (R)
Minority Leader
Carol Williams (D)
Assistant Minority Leader
Jesse Laslovich (D)
Minority Whips
Trudi Schmidt (D)
Kim Gillan (D)
Secretary of the Senate
Marilyn Miller
Sergeant at Arms
Nancy Clark

Ag., Livestock, and Irrigation

Tue, Thu, 3 p.m., Rm 335
Steinbeisser, Donald (R) (Ch)
Murphy, Terry (R) (V Ch)
Branae, Gary (D)
Brown, Taylor (R)
Hamlett, Bradley Maxon (D)
Hansen, Ken (D)
Jackson, Verdell (R)
Larsen, Cliff (D)
Ripley, Rick (R)

Bus., Labor, and Econ. Affairs

Mon-Fri, 8 a.m., Rm 422
Balyeat, Joe (R) (Ch)
Jackson, Verdell (R) (V Ch)
Barkus, Gregory (R)
Brown, Roy (R)
Keane, Jim (D)
Peterson, Jim (R)
Squires, Carolyn (D)
Steinbeisser, Donald (R)
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon (D)
Tropila, Joseph (D)
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)

Committee on Committees

On Call
Esp, John (R) (Ch)
Bales, Keith (R)
Black, Jerry (R)
Essmann, Jeff (R)
Gebhardt, Kelly (R)
Perry, Gary (R)

Ed. and Cultural Resources

Mon, Wed, Fri, 3 p.m., Rm 303
Laible, Rick (R) (Ch)
Ripley, Rick (R) (V Ch)
Branae, Gary (D)
Brown, Taylor (R)
Hamlett, Bradley Maxon (D)
Hawks, Bob (D)
McGee, Daniel (R)
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon (D)
Zinke, Ryan (R)

Energy and Telecom.

Tue, Thu, 3 p.m., Rm 317
Black, Jerry (R) (Ch)
Curtiss, Aubyn (R) (V Ch)
Brown, Roy (R)
Erickson, Ron (D)
Esp, John (R)
Gebhardt, Kelly (R)
Hawks, Bob (D)
Lewis, Dave (R)
Moss, Lynda (D)
Stewart-Peregoy, Sharon (D)
Tropila, Mitch (D)

Ethics

On Call
Shockley, Jim (R) (Ch)
Hawks, Bob (D)
Perry, Gary (R)
Schmidt, Trudi (D)

Finance and Claims

Mon-Fri, 8 a.m., Room 317
Bales, Keith (R) (Ch)
Lewis, Dave (R) (V Ch)
Barkus, Gregory (R)
Barrett, Debby (R)
Brenden, John (R)
Brueggeman, John (R)
Cooney, Mike (D)
Esp, John (R)
Gallus, Steve (D)
Hansen, Ken (D)
Hawks, Bob (D)
Laible, Rick (R)
Peterson, Jim (R)
Ripley, Rick (R)
Schmidt, Trudi (D)
Tropila, Mitch (D)
Wanzenried, David (D)
Williams, Carol (D)
Zinke, Ryan (R)

Fish and Game

Tue, Thu, 3 p.m., Rm 422
Barkus, Gregory (R) (Ch)
Brenden, John (R) (V Ch)
Balyeat, Joe (R)
Barrett, Debby (R)
Gallus, Steve (D)
Jent, Larry (D)
Schmidt, Trudi (D)
Shockley, Jim (R)
Tropila, Joseph (D)

Highways and Transportation

Tue, Thu, 3 p.m., Room 405
Brueggeman, John (R) (Ch)
Tutvedt, Bruce (R) (V Ch)
Hinkle, Greg (R)
Keane, Jim (D)
Laible, Rick (R)
Laslovich, Jesse (D)
Wanzenried, David (D)
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)
Zinke, Ryan (R)

Judiciary

Mon-Fri, 8 a.m., Rm 303
Perry, Gary (R) (Ch)
Shockley, Jim (R) (V Ch)
Curtiss, Aubyn (R)
Esp, John (R)
Hinkle, Greg (R)
Jent, Larry (D)
Juneau, Carol (D)
Larsen, Cliff (D)
Laslovich, Jesse (D)
McGee, Daniel (R)
Moss, Lynda (D)
Murphy, Terry (R)

Legislative Administration

On Call
Curtiss, Aubyn (R) (Ch)
Barkus, Gregory (R)
Gallus, Steve (D)
Lewis, Dave (R)
Tropila, Joseph (D)

Local Government

Mon, Wed, Fri, 3 p.m., Rm 405
Esp, John (R) (Ch)
Essmann, Jeff (R) (V Ch)
Barkus, Gregory (R)
Erickson, Ron (D)
Gallus, Steve (D)
Gillan, Kim (D)
Jackson, Verdell (R)
Laslovich, Jesse (D)
Tutvedt, Bruce (R)

Natural Resources

Mon, Wed, Fri, 3 p.m., Rm 422
Gebhardt, Kelly (R) (Ch)
Barrett, Debby (R) (V Ch)
Curtiss, Aubyn (R)
Hansen, Ken (D)
Kaufmann, Christine (D)
Keane, Jim (D)
Perry, Gary (R)
Peterson, Jim (R)
Steinbeisser, Donald (R)
Tropila, Mitch (D)
Wanzenried, David (D)

Pub. Health, Welfare, and Safety

Mon, Wed, Fri, 3 p.m., Rm 317
Brown, Roy (R) (Ch)
Murphy, Terry (R) (V Ch)
Hinkle, Greg (R)
Juneau, Carol (D)
Larsen, Cliff (D)
Lewis, Dave (R)
Schmidt, Trudi (D)

Rules

On Call
Peterson, Jim (R) (Ch)
Barkus, Gregory (R)
Brenden, John (R)
Brown, Roy (R)
Cooney, Mike (D)
Esp, John (R)
Essmann, Jeff (R)
Gallus, Steve (D)
Gebhardt, Kelly (R)
Gillan, Kim (D)
Hawks, Bob (D)
Laslovich, Jesse (D)
McGee, Daniel (R)
Story Jr, Robert (R)
Wanzenried, David (D)
Williams, Carol (D)

State Administration

Mon, Wed, Fri, 3 p.m., Rm 335
Shockley, Jim (R) (Ch)
Brueggeman, John (R) (V Ch)
Bales, Keith (R)
Balyeat, Joe (R)
Black, Jerry (R)
Brenden, John (R)
Cooney, Mike (D)
Jent, Larry (D)
Squires, Carolyn (D)
Tropila, Joseph (D)
Windy Boy, Jonathan (D)

Taxation

Mon-Fri, 8 a.m., Rm 405
Essmann, Jeff (R) (Ch)
Brown, Taylor (R) (V Ch)
Black, Jerry (R)
Branae, Gary (D)
Erickson, Ron (D)
Gebhardt, Kelly (R)
Gillan, Kim (D)
Hamlett, Bradley Maxon (D)
Kaufmann, Christine (D)
Story Jr, Robert (R)
Tutvedt, Bruce (R)

creates good paying jobs, and reduces global warming pollution. Lead group is the Northern Plains Resource Council, Matt Leow, lobbyist.

• **Energy Efficiency Standard.** An Energy Efficiency Standard for Utilities requires utilities to increase efforts to improve energy efficiency. It would save ratepayers money on their utility bills, decrease the demand utility services, help develop green jobs and decrease global warming pollution. Lead group is Montana Environmental Information Center, Anne Hedges, lobbyist.

• **Protect Our Water Act.** Currently in Montana, a loophole in water law allows developers to use hundreds of individual water wells for subdivisions without permit review or any cumulative impact study. This bill amends both the subdivision code and the water use act to tighten the “exempt well loophole” in high growth counties like Gallatin, Ravalli and Missoula, protecting our water resources, public health, and wildlife. Lobby led by Montana Trout Unlimited, Mark Agenes.

• **Big Sky Rivers Act.** This bill requires new homes and commercial buildings to be set back at least 250 ft from the ordinary high water mark on up to 12 legacy rivers, to protect water quality and private property. Additionally, the legislation will outline a process that local governments can use—at the local government level—to protect other rivers and/or streams. Lobby led by Janet Ellis with Montana Audubon.

• **Protect Montana’s Bedrock Environmental Laws.**

Maintain current environmental protections afforded by Montana statute and the constitution.

Members Matter! Get Involved in the Citizen Lobby!

- Find weekly updates and action alerts on our website, www.mtvoters.org.
- Sign up for **Action Alerts** on our website, and get the most up-to-date information on how to support environmental legislation.
- Make a special gift to Montana Conservation Voters State Legislative Fund, to support our legislative campaign.
- Join us in Helena on March 13th for our Grassroots Lobby Day, which will include a training, and is followed by our fun Annual Meeting and party.

MCV 2009 Legislative Campaign Team

Sarah Cobler, MCV Program Director serves as MCV’s chief lobbyist. Kevin Olp, a political science and international relations student at Carroll College, serves as MCV’s Legislative Assistant. Consultant Jeanne-Marie Souvigny covers voter law issues. Theresa Keaveny will coordinate the communications team, working with the groups to get the word out about critical conservation legislation. Ross Prosperi will direct field efforts, engaging grassroots activists in the legislative process with support from other organizers. Eric Halstvedt provides technical support and web based services. Christiana Schweitzer leads ongoing fundraising efforts.

Montana Voter Rights Legislation in the 2009 Session

The 2009 session promises significant challenges to Montana’s voter registration and election laws, with 43 bills or bill drafts already announced. The bills run the gamut of attacking Election Day registration, a right that Montana Conservation Voters successfully helped pass in the 2005 session, to establishing a mail ballot pilot program to making it much more difficult for Montanans to register and vote. Some bills are clearly designed to suppress Montana voters.

The most egregious bill is an attack by newly-elected Republican Representative Ted Washburn of Bozeman, to end the ability of Montana citizens to register and vote at their county election offices on Election Day (HB 88). Washburn proposes to end late registration on the Friday before the election. Montana Conservation Voters and its allies successfully fought similar efforts in 2007. Election Day registration is becoming increasingly popular: according to figures from the Secretary of State, over 6,000 Montanans registered and voted in 2008 during the period that Rep. Washburn now wants to close to Montana residents who need to register. Defeating this bill is a priority for MCV and its allies.

House Bill 99, also sponsored by Rep. Washburn, will also make it much more difficult for Montana residents to register and vote by adding onerous new identification requirements, representing yet another attempt to stifle public participation in voting in Montana. His proposal eliminates certain forms of

identification currently allowed under Montana law from being accepted when registering or voting, such as school district or postsecondary photo IDs, as well as certain government documents.

Another significant proposal before the legislature will be one sponsored by Rep. Pat Ingraham (R-Trout Creek) as the result of an interim election study on switching to all mailed ballots in Montana. HB 18 would establish a mail ballot pilot project for all elections in 2009-2010 in 17 volunteer counties. The program requires that certain data be collected during the trial period to assess the impacts on Montana voters of going to an all mail ballot, with particular focus on potential impacts to transitional populations such as students and low income residents, the Native American population, and inactive voters who have previously reactivated at the polls. MCV supports vote by mail as an option, along with voting at the polls, and only supports the pilot if the strongest side boards are placed on the study, and because the analysis of the pilot project voting data is very important to assess the fairness and efficacy of a switch to all mailed ballots. Only one other state, Oregon, now operates elections exclusively through the mail.

MCV will also be engaging in other election bills, including ones that might limit disabled access to voting, allow for youth election judges, and provide for post-election audits of vote counting machines.

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In order to save paper and money, reduce our carbon footprint and to provide you with more timely information, we encourage you to sign up for delivery of MCV and MCVEF publications via email. If you wish to keep receiving paper copies of all publications, do nothing. If you wish to have any or all items emailed instead, please fill out and return this card. Items with an asterisk (*) are email-only publications.

- Yes! Please deliver **all** future publications to me via email.
 Please email the items I've checked below, but continue to mail me the others.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>MCV Publications</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MCV Annual Report</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2009 Legislative Scorecard</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Election Year Voter Guide</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting Brochure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local membership and chapter meeting notices</p> | <p>MCVEF Publications</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Publication*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Voter Rights in Montana</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Briefing Papers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local public education & leadership development workshop notices</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Congressional Watch*</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vote-by-mail application</p> |
|---|---|

Name: _____
 Email address: _____

Support MCV's 2009 Legislative Campaign

Montana Conservation Voters is counting on its members to speak with an informed and vibrant voice in the 2009 Montana Legislature. One of the best ways to do that is to support MCV's Legislative Fund which pays for our grassroots lobbying effort. Please contribute as much as you can to help pass important environmental legislation this year. You may contribute on the web at www.mtvoters.org/contribute, or by filling out this form:

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1000
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*Inside: MCV's 2009
 Legislative Guide*



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|--------|---|-----------|---|
| Apr 4 | Last day to request Study Resolution or Committee Bills to implement HB 2 | Jan 16 | Last day to request General Bills |
| Apr 14 | Transmittal of amendments to Appropriation Bills | Jan 24 | Last day to request Revenue Bills |
| Apr 16 | Transmittal of amendments to Revenue Bills & Revenue-Estimating Joint Resolutions | Feb 16 | Last day for Committee to request General Bills |
| Apr 25 | Legislative Session Ends | Feb 26 | Transmittal of General Bills to other Chamber |
| Apr 20 | Transmittal of Interim Study Resolutions | Feb 27-28 | Transmittal Break - Legislature out of Session |
| June | MCV Scorecard Legislative Release | Mar 18 | Transmittal of Revenue-Estimating Joint Resolutions |
| | | Mar 20 | Last day for Committee to request Revenue Bills |
| | | Mar 26 | Transmittal of Appropriations Bills |
| | | Mar 31 | Transmittal of Revenue Bills |
| | | Apr 2 | Transmittal of amendments to General Bills |

2009 State Legislative Calendar