Voter Guide for 2018 Elections on November 6, 2018

As citizens, we enjoy the right to vote for the people who make and uphold our laws. This right is the foundation upon which our democratic form of government is based. Many people in the world do not share this right. Besides being a right, it is a civic duty that we should all feel privileged to perform.

BECOME INFORMED AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6

A project of the League of Women Voters of the Bozeman Area
Half of newspaper insertion cost courtesy of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE BOZEMAN AREA

BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE
empowering the community
The Fall 2018 Voter Guide covers elections for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court, Montana Senate, Montana House, Gallatin County Commissioner, County Clerk and Recorder, County Auditor and County Treasurer. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order and their responses are presented exactly as submitted. Candidates running for uncontested seats are listed but were not asked to submit information.

The League of Women Voters presents this guide a part of its Voter Education mission. The League does not endorse candidates and we are not affiliated with political parties. We thank the Bozeman Daily Chronicle for its assistance with this Voter Guide. We hope this information is helpful to you in determining which candidates will best represent you in the coming term and we urge you to exercise your right and your civic duty to vote on November 6.

**UNITED STATES SENATE**

Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. **What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected to the U.S. Senate and what are your positions on them?** (100 words or less)
2. **What will you do to bridge the partisan divide so that you can be an effective senator?** (50 words or less)

**Rick Breckenridge (L)**

*Age:* 59  
*Education:* Chiloquin High School, Chiloquin, Oregon ('77); USAMPS, Ft. McClellan, AL ('77); United States Army Wheeled Vehicle Mechanics School, Vilseck, Federal Republic of Germany, ('79); Associates Engineering Technology, Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, OR ('85); Bachelor of Science Surveying, Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls, OR ('87); Infantry Officer Basic Course (w/honors), Ft. Benning, GA ('87).  
*Campaign Website:* www.mtlp.org  

**Question 1:** The Federal deficit is the paramount issue. Since Jon Tester has taken office, he has, especially during the ballooning deficits of the Obama years, managed to facilitate $22 trillion of debt. In another three years, we will be faced with very painful choices if this out of control spending is not brought into abeyance. We have to bring spending under constitutional constraints. Immigration reform is the other impending crisis. We can allow immigration through the front door with a resident alien registration program. We cannot fuse immigration with naturalization. Resident Aliens would not be eligible for social services.  

**Question 2:** Libertarians acknowledge an axiom of government: anything you ask the government to do for you, they will do with an equivalent force to you. I am a surveyor. I find solutions to problems that people don't know they have and fix them. I will do the same in the Senate.

**Matt Rosendale (R)**

*Age:* 57  
*Education:* Queen Anne's County High School  
*Campaign Website:* www.mattformontana.com  

**Question 1:** I’m running to represent our Montana values and put an end to the political games and special interest influence we see back in Washington. When I was elected to the Montana Legislature, the Glendive community asked me to reduce spending and regulations and defend our gun and property rights and protect the sanctity of life – and I did exactly that. I serve the way I campaign. As your next U.S. Senator, I will go to Washington and reduce spending, lower health care costs, protect our public lands, secure the border, and always defend our Second Amendment Rights.  

**Question 2:** Like many Montanans, we’re frustrated that politicians are not representing us. Montanans believe in term limits, taking care of business, and coming home – and so do I. I’ll serve no more than two terms if elected as your next U.S. Senator. I will only be beholden to the people of Montana.

**Jon Tester (D)**

*Age:* 62  
*Education:* University of Great Falls  
*Campaign Website:* jontester.com  

**Question 1:** Whether I'm on the farm, meeting with Montanans, or working in the Senate, I'm defending Montana and our values. I'll continue to defend Montana from outsiders who want to buy our elections, take our public lands, and chip away at our personal freedoms. I will continue to work with anyone from any party to invest in our infrastructure, improve our schools, and take care of our veterans to make sure they get the care they've earned. That’s the way I've always defended Montana and that’s the Montana fight I'll continue to bring to Washington.  

**Question 2:** I'll work with anyone to get things done for Montana. President Trump has signed 18 of my bills into law and I'll never stop fighting to defend Montana. Montanans expect folks to roll up their sleeves, sit down at the table, and get things done—and that is what I've done.

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. **What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and what are your positions on them?** (100 words or less)
2. **What will you do to bridge the partisan divide so that you can be an effective representative?** (50 words or less)
Greg Gianforte (R)
Did not respond

Elinor Swanson (L)
Age: 36
Education: Attorney
Campaign Website address: www.swanson4liberty.com

Question 1: The federal debt is the most important issue we all face. The debt has been skyrocketing regardless who has Congressional control. It's a national security issue, its taxation without representation of future generations, it must be addressed. I would ensure we live within our means primarily by decreasing spending: on international meddling unrelated to national defense; on enforcement of victimless crimes; and decreasing spending on federal agencies and administrations, which violate separation of powers, replacing them if possible with properly-enacted Congressional laws. I would also always uphold individual rights and liberties in the face of any government overreach.

Question 2: We currently question whether taxpayers must fund entities like Planned Parenthood or adoption agencies that don't consider gay couples. The government should stop directly funding any entity, whether for-profit, nonprofit, religious, or public in nature; that causes corruption and hostility. Let people, not politicians, determine how to live their lives.

Kathleen Williams (D)
Age: 57
Education: M.S. in Recreation Resources from Colorado State University
Campaign Website: www.KathleenForMontana.com

Question 1: The issue I hear the most about as I travel across Montana is the increasing cost of healthcare. It's a personal issue for me: when I was eleven, I became a caregiver for my mother, who came down with Alzheimer's when she was 49. In Congress, I will fight hard to lower healthcare costs for all Montanans. I will work to restore stability to the individual market, lower prescription drug prices, protect Montanans with pre-existing conditions, and defend programs like Medicare and Social Security. You can read my detailed plan for quality, affordable healthcare online at www.KathleenForMontana.com/Healthcare

Question 2: In the Montana Legislature, I worked with folks of all political stripes to get results. I found common ground with various interests to pass legislation that required insurance companies to cover life-saving cancer care and created hundreds of new businesses in Montana. I will bring that same approach to Congress.

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT

Candidates answered the following two questions:
1. What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected Clerk of the Supreme Court and what are your positions on them? (100 words or less)
2. What qualifications do you have that will allow you to accomplish your objectives? (50 words or less)

Bowen Greenwood (R)
Did not respond

Rex Renk (D)
Age: 52
Education: Carroll College, B.A. in History and Minor in Business Administration; Washington State University, M.A. in American History
Campaign Website: www.rexformontana.com

Question 1: Montanans have both a constitutional right to know and to openly observe how its government works and a constitutional right to individual privacy. It's the independent clerk who bears this important responsibility regarding court records. All Montanans, regardless of background, status, or influence deserve and should expect their elected clerk of the Supreme Court to protect and guarantee these rights. I believe the more and better ways the public can access the important work of the Supreme Court, the more trust it will have in our courts and our institutions. That's no small matter for our state and our society.

Question 2: I've served as the Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court for over 23 years. My entire professional career has been assisting people with their cases before the Supreme Court and aiding the court with its tremendous responsibility in making those decisions while promoting access through modernization of the clerk's office.

Roger Roots (L)
Age: 50
Campaign Website: rogerroots.com

Question 1: Access to the courts. Across Montana (and the nation) access to justice has become overregulated and controlled by government. Prisoners are prevented from communicating and consulting with attorneys and legal helpers of their choice. And the rules of procedure in place in Montana give the government greater filing privileges and advantages than private citizens. Government lawyers are given more time to file pleadings, answers and responses. As Clerk of the Supreme Court I will work tirelessly to improve access and fairness for individuals. I will also work to ensure that government agencies must pay the same filing fees as others.

Question 2: As a lawyer and legal historian I have studied court systems for years. I have written numerous law review articles showing the increase in the government’s power and control. I have worked on some of the biggest cases in recent American history—always on the side of liberty.
### SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

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### MONTANA SENATE

Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. **What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected to the Montana Senate and what are your positions on them?** (100 words or less)
2. **What will you do to bridge the partisan divide so that you can be an effective state senator?** (50 words or less)

#### Senate District 32

**Pat Flowers (D)**

- **Age:** 62
- **Education:** University of Montana, Bachelor of Science in Forestry – 1978; University of Montana, Master of Science in Forest Economics – 1981
- **Campaign Website:** patflowersformontana@gmail.com
- **Question 1:** I plan to ensure our Legislature fulfills its most critical task: pass a balanced budget based on reliable revenue estimates and planned expenditures that reflect well run state programs representing the highest priorities of Montanans. Based on voter input those priorities will include: Continue support for the expanded Medicaid program that provides health insurance to 96,000 Montanans that were previously uninsured; Provide adequate funding to maintain the quality of our public schools, and work to reduce higher education costs to students; Support a comprehensive infrastructure bill; Resist all efforts that would diminish our public land legacy.
- **Question 2:** I will focus on finding solutions to Montana's most pressing challenges, rather than spending time and resources defending an ideology or partisan position. My problem-solving approach is to seek agreement on the problem, and then focus on solutions that satisfy underlying interests. This collective process creates enduring solutions.

**Jedediah Hinkle (R)**

- **Age:** 38
- **Education:** Fish and Wildlife Management Degree, Montana State University
- **Campaign Website:** jedediahhinkle.com
- **Question 1:** There are many important issues that we will face, however here are a couple I expect to come before us. We unfortunately live in a culture where school shootings have become far too commonplace. Considering past shootings, one common denominator that could consistently saves lives is increased school safety/security which can serve to keep weapons out of school grounds and increase response time to stop the incident. It is appropriate for the State to find funding to help schools with these security needs. Increasing access to and keeping public lands public are issues I've worked on, and will continue to support!
- **Question 2:** As an effective legislator, I've already bridged that partisan divide by carrying legislation for both Republicans and Democrats in my district. I've even brought Conservatives and Democrats together, while carrying legislation for a Democrat organization. Most all my bills pass with 85%-98% legislative support and all have had bi-partisan support.
Francis Wendt (L)
Age: 36
Education: 
Campaign Website: https://franciswendt.com
Question 1: Three issues that guide me are political reform, land usage, and social welfare. They are tied together by a common thread: economic prosperity. The tenor of politics and campaign finance laws have led to apathy for civic engagement. Approximately, forty percent of voters simply don't. This presents a problem when the primary revenue in Montana is property taxes. Current land usage in Gallatin County makes it difficult for low income individuals to succeed. Economic stress is tied to social problems such as crime, mental health, and poverty. We must evaluate our taxes for individual effect to determine if they are needed.
Question 2: I have a unique ability to truly represent the people of Gallatin County. I lead the Montana Libertarian Party as the Chair, and thus am not bound by the desires of political leaders. Third parties bridge the gap in the partisan divide by forming collations with both Republicans and Democrats.

Jennifer “JP” Pomnichowski (D)
Unopposed

Sam Newville (D)
Did not respond

Gordon Vance (R)
Age: 66
Education: BA in Political Science from MSU (Bozeman)
Campaign Website: none
Question 1: When we are sworn in to office in the State Legislature we take an oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Montana. To me, this is the guiding principle for everything we do as legislators. Based on that oath my priority is to be responsible when we as legislators spend taxpayer's dollars. During the five sessions I have served in the state legislature I have seen the size of state government double. If re-elected I will do all I can to make government responsible to the taxpayers.
Question 2: In the 2017 session I carried SB 44. It provides a process to hold patients harmless from balanced billing by air ambulance companies. It passed the Senate 46-0 and the House 96-4 with NO Democrat opposition. On a very important issue this shows that I do work across the aisle.

MONTANA HOUSE

Candidates answered the following two questions:
1. What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected to the Montana House of Representatives and what are your positions on them? (100 words or less)
2. What will you do to bridge the partisan divide so that you can be an effective state representative? (50 words or less)

A. Alexander Fetto (L)
Did not respond

Jim Hamilton (D)
Age: 62
Education: B.S. Special Education
Campaign Website: Twitter: @JimHamiltonHD61 | FB: Jim Hamilton for Montana
Question 1: The most important issues in the upcoming session will be continuation of Medicaid, how we solve the crisis created in mental health services and how we fund infrastructure needs in Bozeman and Montana. Key to solving these problems will be our shaping of the budget. Some cost of Medicaid will be covered if I-185 passes but additional resources are needed. Research has shown significant financial benefits statewide to the expansion. We should reach a consensus that continuation is critical. Mental health services and infrastructure will depend on reaching agreement about priorities and efficiencies in budgeting.
Question 2: The divide seems exceptionally wide and acrimonious now but I believe the solutions are timeless. Developing relationships by being respectful, listening closely to what is intended, as well as said, while behaving consistently with your moral and civic values are essential to legislative colleagues trusting in the process of compromise.

Tom Woods (D)
Unopposed
**Zach Brown (D)**  
*Age: 28*  
*Education:* BA, University of Montana  
*Campaign Website:* brownformontana.org

**Question 1:** I will continue to work on issues such as student debt reform, criminal justice reform, opioid abuse, sustainable water policy, and protecting Montana’s stream access laws for fisherman and recreationists. I believe that the legislature needs to promote a fair tax code that provides adequate funding for mental health services and public education, thus reducing our community’s reliance on property taxes to provide basic services. I am an advocate for policies that support small business development and entrepreneurs, and I support investments in our state’s crumbling infrastructure. The legislature should invest in education, support small business owners, and protect our public lands.

**Question 2:** I will continue to: treat my colleagues across the aisle with the respect they deserve; speak my truth; focus on common ground, common sense issues; and work honestly and openly on behalf of the people I represent – both those who vote for me, and also those who do not.

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**Joey Chester (R)**  
*Age: 19*  
*Education:* Columbia Falls High School; Studying Economics at Montana State University through 2021  
*Campaign Website:* facebook.com/chesterformontana

**Question 1:** This session I expect to face a heated gun regulation debate. I will not support new gun regulations but will advocate for school safety. I expect to face discussions on tax increases, I will never vote for a tax increase as there is already too much of a burden on Montanans. I expect education issues to come up, especially because I am a student. I will advocate for choice in education, responsible educational institution spending, and equality in education for all Montanans.

**Question 2:** I want to start a young legislators bipartisan caucus to work on issues facing our state’s youngest generation. As a student, I embrace difference in ideas and am always wanting to learn. I work to understand every side of an issue.

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**Denise Albrecht (D)**  
*Age: 56*  
*Education:* Master of Social Work – Catholic University of America; Washington, DC – 1992; Bachelor of Arts (Early Childhood and Family Development major) – University of Utah; Salt Lake City, UT – 1985; High School Diploma – Great Falls High; Great Falls, MT – 1980  
*Campaign Website:* albrecht4you.com

**Question 1:** The primary concerns I hear from residents of House District 64 involve the tremendous growth that is taking place in Gallatin County and protection of our public lands and rivers. While growth has brought economic prosperity to the area, the increasing population has put great stress on infrastructure, education systems, and public lands. If I am elected, I will strive to ensure that state funding for local infrastructure and school districts is maintained at adequate levels. Also, I will work to protect the quality our public lands and waters, a vital part of our state’s economy.

**Question 2:** Our leaders must stay focused on solving problems rather than practicing political one-upsanship. As your representative, I will always listen respectfully to others’ views, and work tirelessly to find reasonable solutions to Montana’s problems. By putting the public first, we will find many things to unite us.

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**Kerry White (R)**  
*Age: 64*  
*Education:*  
*Campaign Website:*  

**Question 1:** Arrive at an accurate as possible revenue projection to provide a balanced budget as required by the Montana Constitution.

**Question 2:** Continue to work across party lines to address the needs on Montana citizens.

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**Dr. Jane Gillette (R)**  
*Age: 47*  
*Education:* University of Montana, Master’s in Public Health (graduation Fall 2018); University of Washington, Doctor of Dental Surgery (2002); Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Science – Biology (1998).  
*Campaign Website:* JaneForBozeman.com

**Question 1:** Protecting and promoting services for disadvantaged populations will be an ongoing and significant issue for Montana. Government needs to be efficient, effective, and accountable to ensure that valuable tax dollars get to the people who need it most. Bozeman is the fastest growing micropolitan area in the nation. Of great importance is providing a stable and empowering business environment to ensure a sufficient number of adequately paying jobs, affordable housing, first-class education, and investment in smart and sustainable infrastructure. Finally, one of the greatest treasures Montana has to offer is our public lands. Public lands belong in public hands.

**Question 2:** I won’t vote party lines. What our world needs now, more than ever, is for us to come together as community of concerned individuals, and to make good choices for the benefit of all man-kind (and woman-kind!). This singular goal isn’t possible with the mentality of “us” and “them”.

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**House District 63**

**House District 64**

**House District 65**
Christopher Pope (D)
Age: 65  
Education: Master of Public and Private Management, Yale University  
Campaign Website: PopeforHouseDistrict65.com  
**Question 1:** My first priority will be to rebuild and reprioritize state budgets in the wake of devastating cuts to state mental health programs and other essential services. I will vote to extend Medicaid. And, I will protect a woman's right to manage her health care without governmental interference. I will advocate for clean energy policies that generate quality jobs and protect our environment. And, I will support prudent investments in aging state infrastructure, including the renovation of MSU's iconic Romney Hall. I will advocate for teachers and state workers, and for expanded educational opportunities for students with special needs.  
**Question 2:** I have spent the past 20-plus years working with other local leaders to renovate Bozeman's historic downtown. The achievements were accomplished without partisanship or rancor. I will take that same solutions-based, bipartisan attitude to Helena, where voters are currently underserved by the unacceptable level of polarity in politics.

House District 66

Denise Hayman (D)  
Unopposed

House District 67

Tom Burnett (R)  
Age: 64  
Education: Bozeman High 1972; bachelor's degree in agriculture from Montana State University  
Campaign Website:  
**Question 1:** If I am re-elected to the state House of Representatives, I will work on shoring up public employee pensions. I am concerned about government spending and debt and do not want taxes increased. I want all government spending to be justifiable and transparent.  
**Question 2:** I do and will speak with my colleagues in kindness.

Kristine Menicucci (D)  
Age: 67  
Education: BA in History, Montana Tech; Elementary Education Endorsement, Montana State University  
Campaign Website: www.menicucciforhd67.com  
**Question 1:** Medicaid expansion and funding for Health and Human Services will be top issues. I strongly support Medicaid expansion and adequate funding for programs serving low-income families, senior citizens, and people with physical or mental health disabilities. Funding of public education is another top issue. I am an advocate of quality public education for students in pre-kindergarten through higher education, and support a state budget that adequately funds our public school system. Funding Montana's infrastructure is another issue. I support adequate funding for public facilities such as water, sewer, public school building maintenance and streets and highways.  
**Question 2:** State representatives can bridge the partisan divide by deliberating together, beginning with meaningful conversations. Legislators must stop thinking about who is right or wrong and begin thinking about the fundamental issues facing Montanans. Through conversations, shared experiences and personal stories, legislators can find common ground from which to legislate.

House District 68

Bruce Grubbs (R)  
Age: 68  
Education: B.S. Meteorology & Oceanography, University of Michigan  
Campaign Website: www.brucegrubbs.us  
**Question 1:** The challenges for the coming session will include the budget and revenue to support the needs of the state. The reliance on property taxes to fund local government most likely will bring bills such as “local option taxes” to assist local governments in high growth areas of the state. We also need to look at how we fund the needs of both “urban” and “rural” areas of the state fairly. The needs are very different. Rapid growth vs. few opportunities. Also, the HELP Act, which expanded Medicaid coverage will need to be addressed. The current law sunsets in 2019.  
**Question 2:** I try to do this every day by listening to people. If we don't listen we don't understand. If we try to understand why someone believes differently we can usually find some common ground where we can make progress towards a solution.
Seth Mangini (D)

Age: 35
Education: B.S. Chemistry from John Carroll University 2006; M.S. Earth Sciences from Montana State University 2015
Campaign Website: sethformontana.com

Question 1: The most important issue is to give a voice to my constituents. Therefore, I am trying to make myself as accessible as possible to the people I hope to represent. I am eager to listen to the things that matter to them so that I can be a good representative. In the legislature some of the most important issues that I expect to face will be how to fund important social services, such as mental health care and Medicaid. In the future we will be judged based on how we treat our most vulnerable; I wish to see us judged favorably.

Question 2: I think that despite a partisan divide, most people in government service share the common value that they are there to make people's lives better. It is tempting to demonize people who disagree with us and we must resist this temptation instead. People are hard to dislike up close.

Joshua-Luke O'Connor (L)

Age: 25
Education: Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science from LeTourneau University. Almost completed a Master of Science in Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Campaign Website: www.oconnor4montana.com

Question 1: Montanans face issues of many kinds, but the most important have to do with taxation and government regulations. Montanans deserve more money in their pockets, more efficient government, and less intrusion from the government in our daily lives. Government exists to protect life, liberty, and property, and anything outside of those bounds is a grave misuse of power. As a representative for HD69 I will be a passionate voice from less taxes, less government, and more individual liberty.

Question 2: This is quite simple. As a Libertarian, I am not beholden to either of the two parties. My presence at the bargaining table forces compromise. I plan to be a negotiator in a room that is too often divided, to provide more efficient governing for Montanans.

Walt Sales (R)

Age: 58
Education: Graduated from Manhattan High school in 1978, before attending Montana State University
Campaign Website: waltsales4montana.com

Question 1: Building a Montana that welcomes and encourages our children and grandchildren to stay and invest here. This would include proper maintenance of infrastructure (high-speed internet included), quality public and private education (workforce development programs) and a healthy dose of respect and trust within your community (local control). We must realize the value in management and use of our “Treasure State” resources. Building on past lessons will allow growth, providing a healthy economy for the future. Continued research and innovation in agriculture productivity will not only give returns in “yearly yields” as well as succession of our family farms possible.

Question 2: Build relationships through respect…..allow differing opinions to be heard and expressed, without fear of destructive judgments. I would expect the same offer when approaching an issue that may differ from mine. The goal is to be part of the solution……not the problem…….

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Candidates answered the following two questions:
1. What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected County Commissioner and what are your positions on them? (100 words or less)
2. What qualifications do you have that will allow you to accomplish your objectives? (50 words or less)

Scott MacFarlane (D)

Age: 38
Education: Attended Montana State University and Utah Valley University. Certified Commercial Helicopter Pilot and Flight Instructor
Campaign Website: MacFarlaneforGallatin@gmail.com

Question 1: Rapid population growth and our current ability (or inability) to absorb it is the most important issue we face. Much of the anxiety our residents feel about growth stems from the feeling our county does not have an adequate plan and does not collaborate effectively with other governing bodies. The responsibilities for our County Commission are to effectively communicate the issues we face and to include the county community in decision making processes. I seek to foster an environment for community input in county planning and decision making that recognizes all county residents.

Question 2: I respect my neighbors and trust their input is valuable in the process of managing our county. I have extensive work experience facilitating discussion and input for planning and decision making. I am motivated to assist residents in affecting desired outcomes from county management and decision making processes.

R. Stephen White (R)

Age: 67
Education: Bozeman Senior High School (1969), Montana State University (1974) / Geology, w/ Minor in Computer Science, Post Grad studies at Montana Tech / Geohydrology
Campaign Website: www.stevewhite18.org

Question 1: Planning and Growth: Gallatin County has 22 zoning districts that rely on an important Growth Policy. I support the current review of the Growth Policy. I also support Gallatin County’s partnership with Bozeman and Belgrade for growth planning (‘triangle’). Budget: I support the growth of Gallatin County’s government using ‘new construction dollars’.

Law & Justice Center: I am committed to a solution that will address the present inadequacies. Logan Landfill Land Exchange: I have worked hard over the last number of years to complete a swap with the state that will conclude with the landfill residing on county property.

Question 2: Since 2007, I have served as a Gallatin County Commissioner. Prior, was a geohydrologist for DNRC, followed by operating a software business for 25 years. Before 2007, I served on a number of volunteer county boards. I presently represent our state association on the Montana Ground Water Assessment Steering Committee.
Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected County Clerk & Recorder/Surveyor and what are your positions on them? (100 words or less)

2. What qualifications do you have that will allow you to accomplish your objectives? (50 words or less)

**Greg P. Metzger (R)**
Age: 62
Education: B.S. Industrial Technology, Western Washington University; MBA, City University, Seattle, WA
Campaign Website: https://metzgerforclerkandrecorder.com/

**Question 1:** The most important aspect of the Clerk and Recorders Office is to maintain accuracy and excellent service to the public. The growth of the county will require new or improved systems to accomplish dealing effectively with these changing demographics. I have managed change at every level of my business life, from my time as a Veteran (USN), through the management of large and small companies. We will look at other regions with similar growth patterns and populations and learn from them, using the best practices possible. This will occur with effective leadership and communication with staff and public.

**Question 2:** A combination of education, business and public service has given me a broad base of experience to apply in the required change management. My experience in systems development and team building has created a powerful base of knowledge to apply to current and the future needs of our county.

**Eric Semerad (D)**
Age: 53
Education: Bachelor of Science in Earth Science from Montana State University
Campaign Website: semeradforclerk.com

**Question 1:** The Clerk and Recorder's most important duties are conducting elections effectively, preserving the county’s public records, and granting easy access to both. I believe strong democracy requires open, efficient and secure elections and demands accountability. The foundation for election integrity begins and ends with diligent attention to details and strict adherence to timelines. A successful election creates positive voting experiences. A primary duty of the Clerk is to safely keep recorded documents. Timely accurate record of these public documents is critical to our community and those that rely on them. I will effectively use modern technology to safeguard these records.

**Question 2:** I have worked in the Clerk's Office for over 28 years with 25 years as supervisor. I am a public servant dedicated to ensuring accurate and accessible public records and elections. As the Clerk and Recorder/Surveyor, experience is paramount. I respect the process and the responsibility of this Office.
GALLATIN COUNTY AUDITOR

Candidates answered the following two questions:
1. What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected County Auditor and what are your positions on them? (100 words or less)
2. What qualifications do you have that will allow you to accomplish your objectives? (50 words or less)

Erin Cox (D)
Age: 29
Education: B.S. in Accounting from Colorado State University
Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/erinforauditor

Question 1: Gallatin County is growing. We know this and we need to be prepared. That’s why the Auditor’s office is updating its financial software system this fall. This will be a big change for our employees and our processes, but one that will benefit every department in the county by helping us spot fraud and misuse of funds. In turn, this will make the county more responsible and efficient for our taxpayers. I look forward to playing a key role in the implementation of this system upgrade because it’s exactly what our county needs to grow.

Question 2: My Accounting degree gives me the knowledge to evaluate financial transactions for accuracy and appropriateness. My years of experience in internal auditing, including the last year and a half as Deputy Auditor have prepared me to take over an Auditor’s office that is looking toward the future.

Jason Humberger (R)
Age: 51
Education: BA, Montana State University

Question 1: 1) Managing the increasing demands on Gallatin County financial strength and resources. As our county continues to grow, demand for our limited services grows as well. 2) Maintaining an unbiased and objective commitment to transparently reporting accurate findings of all payments in accordance with state laws. 3) Working independently and with the Commission to ensure all claims, books, and accounts are reviewed in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. 4) Maintain a cohesive team of honest, effective, and accountable auditors for the citizens of Gallatin County.

Question 2: Gallatin County resident since 1971. United States Navy Petty Officer Second Class 1985 – 1991. BA Montana State University. Small business Owner/Partner of a local bookkeeping company for small businesses. Strong math, bookkeeping, and organizational skills. Invested in family and community relationships based on team work, honesty, and integrity.

GALLATIN COUNTY TREASURER / ASSESSOR

Candidates answered the following two questions:
1. What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected County Treasurer / Assessor and what are your positions on them? (100 words or less)
2. What qualifications do you have that will allow you to accomplish your objectives? (50 words or less)

Jennifer Blossom (D)
Age: 49
Education: Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Montana State University - with honors
Campaign Website: www.blossom4treasurer.com

Question 1: Among other things, County Treasurers process and distribute property taxes and levies – including those for schools and districts, and manage the Motor Vehicle Department. Present issues: A lack of timely and transparent access to financial records necessary for agencies to make informed decisions; A lack of transparent cash handling; Inefficient Motor Vehicle processes. I intend to: Implement real-time access to financial information; Increase efficiency in the MVD and schedule twice monthly appointments in West Yellowstone, Big Sky, Manhattan and Three Forks; Utilize the County’s new software system to increase the efficiency, accuracy and transparency of cash management.

Question 2: Serving as County Auditor for 15 plus years, I’ve audited the Treasurers Office’s tax processing, cash management and reporting. I know where increases in accuracy, efficiency, transparency and internal controls must be implemented. Having affected those changes in my current position, I know how to make them happen as Treasurer.

Kimberly Buchanan (R)
Age: 58
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree Business (Accounting) from MSU; 120 hours of Treasurer’s Certification through Montana County Treasurers Association
Campaign Website: www.votebuchanan18.org

Question 1: The most important issue facing Gallatin County Treasurer/Assessor is responding to the demands created by the increase of county population while still maintaining efficiency. For the current fiscal year, there are two (2) new positions to Motor Vehicle, one (1) position for Belgrade Office and one (1) position for Bozeman Office. Opening the Belgrade Motor Vehicle Office was a great success for the citizens of Gallatin County. The office continues to adjust procedures in accordance with changes to laws, software, and rules made by State of Montana - Department of Revenue (taxes) and Department of Justice (motor vehicle).

Question 2: I have lived in Gallatin County for 29 years, worked 20 years in Gallatin County Treasurer’s Office, serving the last 13 years as County Treasurer/Assessor. My experience with Montana statutes and the tax billing/collection software is invaluable. I have remarkable support staff providing outstanding service for Gallatin County citizens.
To vote in Montana, you must:
• Be registered as required by law.
• Be 18 years old or older on or before the next election.
• Be a citizen of the United States.
• Have lived in Montana for at least 30 days.

To register:
• Visit your local elections office Visit your local elections office (Gallatin County Elections Office, 311 W. Main, Room 210, Bozeman, MT 59715; phone 582-3060) Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and complete a registration form. You must provide your Montana driver’s license or Montana ID number when you register. If you do not have a Montana driver’s license, you will need to provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you have neither number, you will need to provide another form of identification. You will need to provide a residence address or specific geographic location information from which your residence address may be determined. The residence address must be in the county in which you are registering. The deadline for regular registration is 30 days before any election. If you miss that deadline, you can still register and vote in the election by late registering at the county election office beginning October 10, 2018 and through the close of polls on November 6, 2018.

• Fill out a registration form when you apply for or renew your driver’s license or State of Montana ID at the office where you apply for or renew your Montana driver’s license. (Make sure you sign a Voter Registration form before leaving the office.)

• For more information or to download a registration form, go to the Secretary of State website: sos.mt.gov/elections.
Your voter registration confirmation card lists the location of your polling place. If you've misplaced your card, call your local election administrator to find out where to vote or check your polling place location on-line at sos.mt.gov/Elections.

If you’re unable to drive to the polls yourself, contact your county election office for options for voting including voting by absentee ballot, or getting a ride from a community service organization that may be providing transportation in your community.

Before you will be permitted to receive a ballot, you will need to present a current ID. If you do not have a photo ID, you can provide a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, voter confirmation notice, government check or other government document that shows your name and current address. If you do not have any of the items listed, you can vote a provisional ballot. Your provisional ballot will be counted only if you provide one of the items on the list to the county election office in person by 5:00 p.m. the day after the election, or mail it to the county election office postmarked no later than the day after the election.

Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot.

For more information about voting, contact your local elections office (Gallatin County Elections Office, 311 W. Main, Room 210, Bozeman, MT 59715; phone 582-3060; email charlotte.mills@gallatin.mt.gov) or call the Secretary of State’s toll-free voter hotline: 1-888-884-VOTE (8683) or visit sos.mt.gov/elections.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. With more than 90 years of experience and over 800 local and state affiliates in all 50 states, the League is one of America’s most trusted grassroots organizations. Join the League and be directly involved in shaping the important issues in our community. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

For more information, contact Faye Boom at 406-582-4915 or fdboom@gmail.com
Visit our website: www.lwvbozeman.org

Watch for more information on the Candidate Forums being held in early October.

BECOME INFORMED AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6