



# *The Bozeman Voter*

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Bozeman Area

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March, 2019

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

**Charlene Krygier**

Greetings LWV members of the Bozeman Area.

Here's my March checklist that I hope becomes yours.

1. Grab "A Guide to Government".
2. Shout out a big thanks to Teri Ball for compiling this pamphlet of voting info and government contacts.
3. Join us at the March 23 Annual Meeting. **Invite will be emailed separately.**
4. Look for your fund raising letter in the U.S. mail.
5. Send in or hand deliver a donation, big or small, to our finance drive.

On March 23 at our Annual Meeting, my position as president will end. For the past two years, I have been honored to serve you.

## **FEBRARY MEETING**

MSU Political Scientist Dr. David Parker spoke at the February 11, meeting about survey research he conducted for the Montana Television Network and Montana State University both before and after the 2018 Fall election. This mail poll was the largest conducted in Montana and was a joint project of MSU and MTN. The response rate of about 70% was exceptional. The poll before the election had about 2,000 responses, while the post election survey had about 1,400

responses. One half of the responses came from rural areas of the state.

Dr. Parker said that senate races are different from house races. The Republicans had only 10 seats in this midterm election. He said this was hard for Democrats. However, voters always punish the President in midterm elections because they have had two years to observe their performance and it influences how they vote in the midterms. He cited the President's four visits to Montana on behalf of Matt Rosendale. The President was upset with Senator Tester for causing the failure of the appointment of Dr. Ronnie Jackson to head the VA and was determined to see Tester lose the election. In this case it influenced voters, particularly independent voters to come out and vote for Tester. Parker said that over time midterm elections tend to rebalance the political system and this has happened this year with the Democrats regaining control of the House in Congress. This is a pretty regular phenomenon.

In the 2012 election the political map of Montana was very red. Sen. Tester won with less than 50% of the vote. In the 2016 presidential election Trump won with 56% of the Montana vote. So it appeared that Tester would have a difficult race in 2018. Parker compared two political ads for Tester with two political ads for Matt Rosendale. Tester emphasized that he fights for Montana citizens in DC. That's how the voters see him. He fought for health care. That was a huge issue during the campaign. Tester also worked with the President to get things done. Rosendale's message was that he was Trump's man.

The Kavanah hearings for the Supreme Court before the election tended to polarize the electorate. That effect happened several weeks before the election so that its effect faded by election day. Tester won with just over 50% of the votes. Parker showed the political map for the recent election and it was not as red as in 2012, but still pretty red. Seventy million dollars were spent on this Senate race and was much more expensive than the 2012 race. Outside sources contributed \$40 million. Tester raised \$20 million himself which enabled him to publicize his own message. Rosendale on the other hand didn't raise much himself, and depended on outside funding which wasn't enough. He did not create a narrative outside of Trump. Likeability is a very important factor also. Tester was likeable, Rosendale not so much. Tester was also able to do better than other Democratic candidates in rural areas of Montana.

Parker talked about the MSU-MTN poll results. The turnout was really high with 71% of voters participating in the election, the highest since 1990. Young voters came out and voted overwhelmingly Democratic. Parker looked at the status of voters, age, gender, education and found that these factors contributed little to explain the outcome in the Senate race. Independent voters tended to vote for Tester. If voters were concerned about health care covering preexisting conditions they voted for Tester. If they were concerned about Supreme Court nominations they voted for Rosendale. The issue of whether the candidates were born in Montana also mattered in this race.

On the other hand the House race was hard to evaluate. The attack of Gianforte on the reporter mattered. For the most part other issues didn't seem to matter. It was harder for candidates to create their story. Incumbency mattered and helped Gianforte. Voters knew who he was. This was a more traditional race. Williams didn't have enough early financial help to publicize herself to voters. If Williams decides to run again she needs to start earlier

and raise more money which will help her to succeed. Independent voters supported Tester, but not Williams.

Lessons from the election are that events can mobilize opposition. This time Democrats over whelmingly voted for Democratic candidates. Trump probably got more Republicans out to vote by visiting Montana four times prior to the election. He probably motivated more Democrats to come out as well. Parker thinks that there is less rural resentment in Montana among voters so it's not as much of an issue as in other states. However, Democrats do need to recruit candidates who are both likeable and who understand rural Montana better.

The following website provides information about the MSU-MTN poll:  
[helpslab@montana.edu](mailto:helpslab@montana.edu)

## **OBSERVER CORPS**

### **Sally Maison**

Hello League Members,  
I am restarting the Observer Corps. Our job is to observe the City Commission meetings (they meet every Monday at 6pm in the City Commission Building on Rouse) and the County Commission meetings (they meet every Tuesday at 9am on the third floor of the County Commission Building at Third and Main). Our job is to simply sit and observe the meeting and wear our LWV nametags.

When I first started doing this I thought it was silly but thought I'd be a team player and help. What I learned was that the commissioners noticed that I was there. I've had several of the commissioners mention that they liked it that we were there.

So, the time commitment is very small. We would like members to volunteer for one of the commissions, one time per month. Also, if the event drags on too long (or gets too irrelevant) it's just fine to leave. If something interesting happens and you want to write about it for the Voter that is a bonus for the League.

This is a perfect job for a newcomer to the League or for an old comer who's willing to help. Call me

(406-556-1859) or e-mail me  
([sally.maison3@gmail.com](mailto:sally.maison3@gmail.com)) if you'd be willing to  
join us.

## **NEW MEMBER COFFEE**

### **Faye Boom**

A "coffee" for new LWV members was held on Feb. 28 at Faye's house. Present were Connie Campbell-Pearson, Gail Dillaway, Susan Ewing, Sharon Hanton, Marilyn Klein, and Bonnie White. It was a good chance to get to know each other and to welcome the new members. We had a good time chatting and nibbling and we look forward to these new members being active in our league.

## **BOZEMAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS March 23, 2019, ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA (9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)**

Call meeting to order & welcome from President  
Charlene Krygier

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes - Anne  
Banks, Rosanne Nash

Treasurer's Report - Priscilla Dysart

### **Annual Reports**

Membership - Faye Boom  
Observer Corp - Sally Maison  
Finance Drive - Susan Foster  
Voter - Judy Mathre  
Program - Jan Benham  
President - Charlene Krygier

### **Committee Reports**

Membership/Leadership/Development  
Jan Young  
Voter Registration - Faye Boom  
Letters to the Editor - Jan Young  
Standard Operative Procedures Committee

**Announcement** - Montana State Convention -  
April 27 - 28, - Charlene Krygier

**Nominating Committee Report** - Patti  
Steinmuller  
(Members Susan Crawford, Helen Tobol,  
Patti Steinmuller)

**Continuing officers and board members  
Nominees - 2 year terms**

President: Rosanne Nash  
First vice-president: Sally Maison  
Secretary: Beth Sirr  
Directors: Teri Ball, Charlene Krygier, Barb  
Worthen

### **Nominating Committee 2019 -2020**

Susan Ewing, Patti Steinmuller, Helen Tobol

Continuing Officers:

2nd vice-president: Judy Mathre  
Treasurer: Priscilla Dysart  
Directors: Jane Hawks, Judi Maloney

### **Current appointed board members**

(Terms end at this meeting; new appointments  
made after the meeting is adjourned.)

### **Review of Bozeman League Positions**

Judy Mathre

### **Directions to the Board**

Adjournment

Speaker - Charlotte Mills, speaking about her  
experience as the Gallatin County Clerk &  
Recorder.

### **Highlights from the Board Minutes Feb. 11, 2019**

**Women's Policy Leadership Institute:** Sally and  
Charlene ended up not going because of the  
weather. Amara went to the Saturday session.  
She reported that the workshops were really good.  
SK Rossi from the Montana ACLU did a  
workshop on the "Criminalization of Poverty".  
Only one third of the people in jail in Montana are  
charged with a violent crime. Many people are  
jailed because they are unable to pay their court  
fines for minor offenses. This mostly affects poor  
people and people of color. There is currently a  
bill proposed in the legislature that would prevent  
jailing people for unpaid fines. Other workshops  
were on "Working with the Media" and "Running  
for Office".

### **TREASURER'S REPORT Priscilla Dysart**

Checking Account	\$1,750.82
Savings Account	6,423.74
LWV Education Fund	<u>1,124.72</u>
Total Assets 2/28/19	\$9,299.28



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE BOZEMAN AREA  
731 S. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Bozeman, MT 59715

## THE BOZEMAN VOTER

### March, 2019

- Mon. 4 LWV Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Hope Lutheran Church.  
**No program meeting scheduled.**
- Mon. 11 LWVMT Legislative Day, Helena, MT.
- Sat. 23 LWV Annual Meeting 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Law & Justice Center Meeting Room. Charlotte Mills, speaking about her experience as Gallatin County Clerk & Recorder.

### April, 2019

- Mon. 8 LWV Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m. Hope Lutheran Church.  
LWV Meeting, 11:45 a.m. Hope Lutheran Church, Michael Foust, Executive Director of the Western Montana Mental Health Center, will be our speaker at our April 8 meeting. He was to speak at the meeting we canceled on February 25, and, fortunately, he was available on April 8. Brown bag.
- Fri. 12 Wonderlust Friday Forum, Noon - 1:30 p.m., Bozeman Public Library large Community Room. Civics Education program.
- Sat. - Sun. 27-28 State Convention, Bozeman.