



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE BOZEMAN AREA

Voter Guide for 2022 Elections on November 8, 2022

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 IN THE NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION

A project of the League of Women Voters of the Bozeman Area

BOZEMAN DAILY
CHRONICLE
empowering the community



The fall 2022 Voter Guide covers elections for the U.S. House, Montana Supreme Court Justices, Montana Senate, Montana House, Gallatin County Commissioner, Gallatin County Clerk and Recorder, Gallatin County Superintendent of Schools, Gallatin County Attorney, Gallatin County Treasurer, Gallatin County Sheriff/Coroner, Gallatin County Auditor, District Court Judges, and Justices of the Peace. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order and responses are presented exactly as submitted. Candidates running for uncontested positions are listed but were not asked to submit information.

The League of Women Voters presents this guide as 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 8.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Candidates answered the following two questions:

- 1. As you have talked with the people of Montana what are their most pressing issues and what legislation would you propose to address those issues? (100 words or less)
- 2. What will you do to bridge the partisan divide so that you can be an effective representative of the people of Montana? (50 words or less)

John Lamb (L)

Age: 49
Education: High school/Homeschool
Campaign Website address: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063792285535>

Question 1: I 100% support the second amendment. I would vote ‘no’ on all proposed gun laws. I am pro-life and will protect the life of the mother and child. I supported the Supreme Court’s ruling overturning Roe V Wade. Vaccine mandates have no place in a free society. I believe in medical freedom of choice and privacy. I will protect and fight for Montanans while in Congress, reducing and limiting the Federal Government by voting ‘no’ on more spending and advocating for large budget cuts within government. I would introduce a prison reform bill to abolish prisons for profit.
Question 2: Running as a Libertarian is just that. I am neither left nor right, and will work to unite all in common sense goals, upholding and protecting the constitution. I will offer good-will to all while maintaining principle. I will advocate for life, liberty and justice for all.

Monica Tranel (D)

Age: 56
Education: Gonzaga University (BA); Rutgers University, Camden (JD)
Campaign Website address: <https://monicatranel.com/>

Question 1: The most pressing issues facing Montanans are the affordability crisis and the loss of women’s rights. I will always defend a woman’s right to choose and fight for working families. My Affordability Plan will help families earn a better living by creating good jobs and supporting workers, and address housing affordability and supply so that people can live and work in the same community. The plan also challenges corporate monopolies and reduces prescription drug costs. It encourages domestic manufacturing and developing affordable energy. This will ensure corporate monopolies pay their fair share which will lower costs for Montanans.
Question 2: People aren’t being heard and don’t know who to trust. I will show up and listen. I’ve put over 35k miles meeting with voters on the trail and I’m not stopping. I grew up on a ranch in Eastern Montana and spent my career representing Montanans, small businesses and workers.

Ryan Zinke (R)

Age: 60
Education: Whitefish High School; B.S. in Geology, University of Oregon; Masters in Business Finance from National University; Masters in Global Leadership, University of San Diego.
Campaign Website: www.RyanZinke.com

Question 1: The skyrocketing cost of living and energy to include Biden’s inflation and tax hikes is the top issue. Unlike my opponent, I would oppose Biden’s tax increases and excessive spending and return to a sane regulatory framework. I would introduce legislation to help us return to American energy independence (like when I was Secretary of the Interior) to drive down energy-related inflation and gas prices, and propose a series of regulatory holidays to fix the supply chain crisis. Forest management and sustainable yield timber harvests will also lower materials costs for home-building which should be coupled with permitting reform.
Question 2: I’d continue my work as Montana’s Congressman and Secretary of the Interior when I worked across the aisle on issues that brought us together like veterans and public lands. I bucked many in my party to stop mining claims in the Paradise Valley and create The Great American Outdoors Act.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Candidates answered the following two questions:

- 1. How would you describe the independent role of the Montana Supreme Court in balancing the powers of the executive and legislative branches of state government? (100 words or less)
- 2. What experience do you have that would be useful to you in this position? (50 words or less)

Justice No. 1

Bill D’Alton

Age: 59
Education: 1986–University of Montana – Bachelor’s Degree in History; 1990 – University of Montana Master’s Degree in History; 1995 –Juris Doctorate from the University of Montana School of Law.
Campaign website: www.billformontanasupremecourt.com

Question 1: The Montana Supreme Court must not be influenced by politics if the Court is to balance the powers of the executive and legislative branches. Political neutrality means judicial independence. The Court’s institutional integrity must be beyond reproach. It must be if the Court is to balance the powers of the legislature and executive branches of state government. We have seen the Court’s credibility strained when it engages in politics. If the Court remains independent, the Court will naturally issue legally sound decisions when balancing the powers of the executive and legislative branches of government.
Question 2: Living most of my life in Montana is an experience useful to me as Justice if elected. Additionally, my private law practice has provided me with a vast insight into what is important to Montanans. Going door to door and talking with Montanans about what they expect of the Montana Supreme Court is an invaluable experience.

Jim Rice
Age: 64
Education: Glasgow High School; 1975; Montana State University-Bozeman (B.A., Pol. Sci.), 1979; University of Montana School of Law, 1982; internships, Missoula City Attorney and Lewis and Clark County Attorney.
Website: jimriceforjustice.com
Question 1: It is unquestionably the exclusive role of the Supreme Court to determine the constitutionality of actions taken by the Executive and Legislative branches, and is a solemn responsibility. The Court has no police force or army to enforce this power; rather, authority is derived directly from the citizenry who respect and support the Court’s role in our constitutional system. Consequently, to maintain this support, the Court must be careful to act within its own constitutional boundaries--upholding legislative acts unless clearly unconstitutional, adhering to precedent, and not legislating from the bench or making public policy decisions.
Question 2: I’ve been privileged to serve Montanans, first as a legislator, and now as a Supreme Court justice for over 20 years. I offer a proven record of impartiality, fairness, and adherence to principle, and have been a leading voice in opposition to efforts to undermine the judiciary.

Justice No. 2

James Brown
Age: 51
Education: Beaverhead County High School class of 1989. University of Montana – Missoula, double major in history and political science. Juris Doctor (law) degree from the Seattle University School of Law and hold a Masters in Tax Law from the University of Washington. Montana insurance producer’s license.
Website: www.jamesbrownformontana.com
Question 1: Article III of the Montana Constitution makes clear that Montana’s government is divided into three branches, the legislative, executive, and judicial. The Constitution also makes clear that powers belonging to one branch shall not be exercised by another branch. Therefore, it’s the role of the Montana Legislature to make law; and legislative enactments are, as a matter of law, presumed to be constitutional. The Supreme Court has the power to interpret the law and to declare laws unconstitutional; but it does not have the power to legislate from the bench or substitute its policy judgements for that of the Legislature.
Question 2: I’m a 4th generation Montanan and have represented Montana farmers, ranchers, and small businesses as a private practice attorney before the Montana Supreme Court and federal courts. As President of the Montana PSC, I have acted as a judge on legal cases involving energy, transportation and other utility-related matters.

Ingrid Gustafson
Age: 60
Education: Juras Doctorate, University of Montana School of Law (1988) - graduated with honors; B.S., Business – Montana State University (1983) - graduated with honors
Website: gustafsonformontana.com
Question 1: The Judiciary, a Constitutionally created separate, distinct, and co-equal government branch, is responsible for interpreting the constitution and laws and applying that interpretation to case disputes. A fair and independent judiciary is a cornerstone to preserving our democracy. To provide justice for everyone, maintain our rule of law, and assure the branches of government work as our Constitution provides, judges must act free of the pressures of partisan politics, special-interest groups, and the other governmental branches. I understand the gravity of judicial decisions, the significant impact they have on individuals, and the necessity of courts operating independent of partisan politics.
Question 2: I have served nearly 20 years as a judge in Montana, five of them as a Montana Supreme Court Justice. I have handled thousands upon thousands of district court cases and have participated in nearly 1,100 cases while on Montana’s highest Court. My opponent has zero judicial experience.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

District 18, Department 1

Peter Ohman
Unopposed

District 18, Department 4

Andrew “Andy” Breuner
Unopposed

JUSTICE of the PEACE

Department 1

Rick West
Unopposed

Department 2

Bryan Adams
Unopposed

MONTANA SENATE

Candidates responded to the following question and statement:

1. How could the Montana State Tax System be reformed to provide property tax relief while maintaining sufficient revenue for needed services? (100 words or less)
2. Please describe what you consider to be the strengths and/or weaknesses of the Montana State Constitution. (50 words or less)

Senate District 32

Randy Chamberlin (R)

Did not respond

Pat Flowers (D)

Age: 66

Education: Bachelor of Science in Forestry - University of Montana; Master of Science in Forest Economics - University of Montana

Campaign website: <https://patflowersformontana.com/>

Question 1: We should adopt a system that offsets property tax with an income tax credit on a sliding scale: lower incomes receive higher income tax credit and higher incomes receive lower income tax credit. With that, property tax relief would come to those that need it most. This formula would also allow funding for public schools to remain intact, while the funding shortfall would be realized in the State General Fund. The associated shortfall in the General Fund could be offset with slightly higher income tax on annual income that exceeds \$500,000.

Question 2: The Montana State Constitution has provided a strong foundation for state governance. The specific strengths: “Right to Know” - ensuring accountable state agencies; “Right to Privacy” - keeping the state out of private affairs; and “Right to a Clean and Healthful Environment” - guaranteeing our natural legacy is conserved.

Senate District 33

Adam Dewis (R)

Did not respond

Denise Hayman (D)

Age: 71

Education: Junior College

Campaign Website: <https://www.haymanformontana.com/>

Question 1: Montana currently has a surplus of at least 1.5 billion. Most property taxpayers pay the most taxes for bonds and levies for public schools. I would suggest we use the surplus to pay off the school tax commitments and then the property taxes will decrease and schools will not be harmed. Also, making sure second homes are fully taxed.

Question 2: The Montana State Constitution is one of the best constitutions in the country and protects the most important rights that Montanans value: rights to privacy, voting, and a transparent government to name a few. Next session Dems will work hard to protect this important document.

Senate District 34

Damion Lynn (D)

Age: 26

Education: B.S. of Environmental Science

Campaign Website: <https://lynnformontana.com/>

Question 1: We can implement a vacation home tax and create property tax circuit breakers to assist individuals on fixed incomes. Additionally, we can raise the minimum corporate tax from \$50, set decades ago, to \$360 which would account for inflation. Another option is to end Net Operating Loss Carryback, which allows businesses to take back tax money from previous years. Finally, the State could adjust Income Tax beyond minor inflation adjustments, to fund programs the State was historically responsible for.

Question 2: Our state constitution does a fantastic job of protecting our environment and our right to privacy. Contrary our state constitution desperately lacks in the areas of suffrage protections and measures to prevent gerrymandering.

Shelley Vance (R)

Age: 66

Education: Graduation, Bozeman Senior High School

Campaign Website: Voteforvance.com

Question 1: I am not sure what the “Montana State Tax System” is. Montana collects many types of taxes (corporate, income, oil & gas, utilities) to fund state government. The majority of property taxes are collected to fund local government entities (county, city, school, fire, water/sewer, are the fundamental examples). County & City governments have many purposes while other local governments have limited purposes. The people elect officials to oversee these local governments. It is the responsibility of the elected officials to convey to the taxpayer WHY more funding (taxes) are needed for the government they are elected to oversee.

Question 2: Article II, Section 8. Right of participation; Article II, Section 9. Right to know; Article V, Section 11. Bills. (3) Each bill...shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title.; Article VIII, Revenue and Finance Section 9. Balanced budget. Appropriations by the legislature shall not exceed anticipated revenue.

MONTANA HOUSE

Candidates responded to the following question and statement:

- 1. How could the Montana State Tax System be reformed to provide property tax relief while maintaining sufficient revenue for needed services? (100 words or less)**
- 2. Please describe what you consider to be the strengths and/or weaknesses of the Montana State Constitution. (50 words or less)**

House District 61

Pat Bower (R)

Age: 35

Education: Juris Doctorate

Campaign Website: bowerformontana.com

Question 1: Montana currently has nearly \$1 billion dollars in tax surplus which needs to be returned to the taxpayers. I would introduce legislature that any surplus be returned within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year. Most property taxes, however, are levied by school districts and voters, not legislature. What we can do though is provide tax relief that is based on both income and how much property taxes people pay in, so retired people can receive relief as well.

Question 2: The Montana Constitution recognizes the beauty and value of our State's natural resources and defends public access to state lands. We need to continue to ensure that our natural resources are preserved for generations to come.

Jim Hamilton (D)

Age: 66

Education: B.S. in Special Education

Campaign Information: Twitter: @JimHamiltonHD61; FB: Jim Hamilton for Montana

Question 1: For years, in little nibbles, the Legislature has been shifting the property tax burden to residential property owners. Their share of total property taxes paid is significantly larger than historical amounts and it is unsustainable. Multiple solutions need to be employed but I would recommend what I believe to be the first and most impactful. We should reform the system to include a "circuit breaker". This would, in effect, limit the amount of property tax a homeowner pays based on their income. The higher your income the higher percentage of the assessed amount one would pay.

Question 2: Our constitution is an enviable jewel. Article II Sections 8-10 are special and deserve fervent protection. The rights of participation, to know and to privacy stand out as being unique, even foresightful. The section 3 reference to a "...clean and healthful environment" is another thoughtful strength.

Steve Kelly (Gr)

Did not respond

House District 62

Marc Greendorfer (R)

Age: 58

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Psychology, University of California Davis (1986); Juris Doctorate, magna cum laude, Yeshiva University/Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (1996).

Campaign Website: www.marc4hd62.com

Question 1: A state has to live within its means. Over the years, I've reviewed many budgets and have found that there is usually ample opportunity to address shortfalls by eliminating bloated, unnecessary, or redundant expenses. Only after that process has been completed, and it has been determined that increased revenues are in fact needed, should there be any consideration of tax changes. Furthermore, homeowners must not be saddled with the costs of rampant government excesses. Gimmicks like caps on property tax, without spending reform, always fail. I know, I was a California homeowner and saw the failures of Proposition 13.

Question 2: Our State Constitution's Declaration of Rights (Article II) is a model of clarity and has the right focus on individual rights. Like any other constitution, though, our State Constitution lacks specificity as to what government may, and may not, do, and this enables activist courts and legislatures to undermine rights.

Ed Stafman (D)

Age: 68

Education: B.S. Math, 1971-1975; J.D. (law) with honors, 1975-1977; M.A. & completed all course work for a Ph.D. in Religion, 2001-2008; Rabbinic school and ordination, 2000-2008

Campaign Website: www.edstafmanformontana.com

Question 1: Tax primary residences at a lower rate than second homes, investment properties and short-term rentals. Create a circuit breaker to cap property taxes based on income, replacing lost revenue by a small increase in capital gains tax. Revise education funding so State pays a larger share of education, allowing school districts to reduce millage. Allow for a local option sales tax so that local governments can tax tourists who use our roads and parks, in lieu of taxing Montana homeowners.

Question 2: Montana's constitution is a gem, adopted in true bipartisan fashion by a broad spectrum of Montanans. Its strengths include the unique right to "a clean and healthful environment," the "right to privacy" (which includes women's privacy in healthcare decisions), strong voting rights, open government, and an independent judiciary.

House District 63

Alice Buckley (D)

Age: 29

Education: Yale University, BA Environmental Studies, 2015

Campaign Website: Aliceformontana.com

Question 1: Property tax owners unduly shoulder the burden of paying for our community’s infrastructure, emergency services, and law enforcement. Shifting the tax burden to tourists who rely on services and safe roads would create a more equitable and diverse tax base. Currently, the bed tax that tourists pay is put towards attracting more out of state tourists – instead, let’s put that money towards local government infrastructure to offset the cost of services and lower property taxes. Secondly, we must expand eligibility for Montana’s elderly homeowner tax credit and property tax assistance program to help those most impacted by rising property taxes.

Question 2: The Montana Constitution is powerful in explicitly enshrining the fundamental rights of individuals – privacy and individual dignity, clean, healthful environment, quality education, equality of opportunity – as well as ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness across government. Our constitution takes power away from corporations and puts it in the hands of Montanans.

Catherine Purcell (R)

Did not respond

House District 64

Doug Campbell (L)

Age: 59

Education: Montana State University, 1980-1982, Electrical and Chemical Engineering

Arizona State University, 1982-1985, Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering

Campaign Website: DougForMT.US

Question 1: I propose that all taxation, including taxation on real property and other durable assets, should be progressive. This progression should be mathematically linear, as opposed to “brackets”, such that there is no incentive to “cheat” into a lower bracket. Property tax code should be expanded to include additional classifications, to accommodate for varying levels of production and revenue from land, and to allow for improvements on a parcel to be classified separately from the parcel itself. Valuations should remain static on non-revenue properties until change in title or ownership, to protect residents on fixed incomes.

Question 2: Strengths: the Montana State Constitution places more emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of the individual, rather than any collective.

Weakness: the language of the Constitution, while straightforward and colloquial, is vulnerable to attack by extremism. It would be improved by defining both what a principle IS and IS NOT.

Jane Gillette (R)

Age: 51

Education: University of Montana, Master’s in Public Health (2018); University of Washington, Doctor of Dental Surgery (2002); Pacific Lutheran University, Bachelor of Science - Biology (1998).

Campaign Website: drjanegillette.com

Question 1: Nearly 100% of all property taxes come back to communities to fund services such as local government, fire, and schools. Although, homeowners and renters are understandably worried about high property taxes, by a simple majority vote, communities frequently choose to increase their property taxes by passing bonds/levies to fund additional services and infrastructure. Mitigation of the impact of bonds/levies could be achieved by revising the law to require that instead bonds/levies be passed by a super majority vote. School funding is frequently a priority. If enacted, accommodations could be made to allow for increased flexibilities for permissive school levies.

Question 2: Children are our society’s most precious asset. A unique strength of our Montana Constitution is a section which grants individual rights to children and guarantees, among other things, free-speech, due process, and “maximum opportunities for the love, guidance, and support of both natural parents.” In re Marriage of Cole (1986).

Alanah Griffith (D)

Age: 47

Education: B.A. in Philosophy, Psychology with an Honor’s Minor in History of Ideas. J.D. University of Montana’s Blewett School of Law, 2002 with Honors

Campaign Website: <https://www.griffithformt.com/>

Question 1: As our Montana Constitution requires a balanced budget, it is simply a question of what goes into the budget and who pays for it. Because Montana relies on tourism, we need to adjust our tax system to ensure that those who do not live in Montana share in the burden of paying for the infrastructure that they use while visiting our state. One change I would propose is to allow tourist areas who can show that a certain percentage of their revenue comes from Tourism to institute a “resort tax.” There are other ways I would address taxes as well.

Question 2: As an attorney, I work with our Constitution. It was a product of Montanans, setting aside politics to create a document scholars call “groundbreaking.” Strengths? It’s clear protections of our individual rights, including privacy and dignity. Weakness? It is not in the document itself, but that many Montanans are unfamiliar with it.

House District 65

James Cocco (R)

Age: 52

Education: University of Montana, B.A. Journalism

Campaign Website: www.coccoformontana.com

Question 1: I am not sure this is a problem that can be solved solely in Helena. This is a problem that mostly falls on city and county governments themselves. Here in Gallatin Valley, our property tax burden continues to spiral out of control because of out-of-control budgets. In the last eight years, the Bozeman and Gallatin County budgets have grown 110% and 97%, respectively. Yes, we have seen unprecedented population growth - but not enough to justify those numbers. Until we rein in our reckless spending, this problem will get worse long before it gets better.

Question 2: I believe what makes the Montana Constitution so great is that it is so young. But commenting on its strengths and weaknesses is a moot point. If I become a legislator, I will swear an oath to defend the Montana Constitution - no matter what I think of its strengths or weaknesses.

Kelly Kortum (D)

Age: 37
Education: B.S. Computer Science Montana State University, Bozeman MT; Carter County High School, Ekalaka, MT
Campaign Website: kellyformt.com

Question 1: Some combination of any of these methods could reduce property taxes: Reform income tax brackets, so that once again those making \$20000/year pay a lower rate than those making \$1 million/year. Primary residence deduction, offset by vacation/luxury/additional homes tax. Formula to consider income when calculating property tax, helping folks on fixed incomes. Increase public schools funding from state funds to reduce local taxes.
Question 2: Montana's Constitution is incredible for codifying many civil and human rights, including our right to know what our government is doing, our right to privacy, our right to a clean and healthful environment, and our right to individual dignity.

House District 66

Eric Matthews (D)

Unopposed

House District 67

Jedediah Hinkle (R)

Age: 42
Education: Bachelors Degree, Fish and Wildlife Management, Montana State University
Campaign Website: Jedediahhinkle.com

Question 1: First, legislatively increasing the property values and income levels in the PTAP program will provide relief to elderly residents especially on fixed incomes. Second, counties/cities should be increasing their budgets based upon population growth plus inflation. A study recently revealed that while some counties budgets are shrinking despite population growth, Gallatin's increased by over 60% and Bozeman's increased by over 70%. Legislatively, we need to consider a cap on spending above population growth/inflation or require local governments to dedicate 75% of spending to pay down existing bonds and levies. Reduced excess spending will require less property taxes from the resident.
Question 2: A positive in the Montana Constitution is Article V Section 6 which lays out when the legislature may convene. Our legislature may convene every odd numbered year for only 90 days. This is a positive because it prevents career politicians. Many states have year-round legislatures and use the legislature as their full-time career.

Elizabeth Marum (D)

Age: 70
Education: 3 yr. in a BS Nursing program (no degree)
Campaign Website: <https://www.marum4mt.com/>

Question 1: Montana's property taxes are out of control, and since they fund our schools, change is vital. Most states tax out-of-state residential owners at a higher rate. Allowing them to pay a little more as they enjoy our amenities, infrastructure and culture is only fair to those who invest time, wages, family and public participation in our state 12 months a year. Higher taxes on second homes and luxury properties should be considered. I propose taxing vacation rentals as the commercial properties they are. This would fully fund schools while bringing down residential taxes on those investing in Montana with full-time effort.
Question 2: The Montana Constitution is a document that represents the geographic magnificence and noble ideals of our state. Clearly stating the right to privacy, and the right to a clean and healthful environment shows insight by the citizen-authors who wrote it. Their words carry meaning for all of us today.

House District 68

Joe Hancock (D)

Age: 39
Education: Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Technology, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Campaign Website: <https://www.gjioformontana.com/>

Question 1: “Tax reform is hard,” they say. Like squeezing a balloon, everything just moves back and forth without really going anywhere. Homeowners are feeling the squeeze now, but if we aren’t careful, we’ll put all the pressure on working-class renters. In 2022, Montana’s balloon has roughly \$1.7 billion worth of extra air in it. Surpluses like this could help pay down the tax mills that fund our schools. Summers bring millions in lodging taxes to Montana that aren’t being well spent. That revenue could help fill county coffers statewide and offset the tax bills of homeowners.
Question 2: The strength of Montana’s constitution lies in its protection of the rights we cherish, such as popular sovereignty, a clean and healthful environment, freedom of expression, and the right of privacy. The document also provides a robust framework for the administration of free and fair elections across the state.

Caleb Hinkle (R)

Age: 30
Education: MSU & UofM
Campaign Website: <https://calebformontana.org/>

Question 1: The vast majority of property taxes come from the City and County level. Montanans now more than ever need all levels of government to spend within their means. Last session the Legislature achieved just that, and now we have roughly a 2 billion dollar surplus statewide. Cities and Counties must follow this example or property taxes will continue to skyrocket. I believe that capping City and County spending to a model based on population, will solve some of this. You know how to spend, save, or invest your hard-earned paycheck more than any bureaucrat does.
Question 2: The strength of any Constitution is that they are living documents, that only the will of the people have the power to change. Any amendment that the legislature brings, or petition brought by the people, is a ballot initiative that we all have a say on come election day.

House District 69

Jennifer Carlson (R)

Age: 51

Education: B.S. in Biomedical Sciences, Montana State University, 1994

Campaign Website: <https://www.carlsonforliberty.com/>

Question 1: Property tax in Montana is a great tool for local control. Communities decide where to spend their money by voting. Unfortunately, only a small percentage of voters vote on most of the biggest ticket issues (such as schools), because the election is held outside the normal election cycle. I agree with three solutions - school elections be moved to the primary or general date to increase voter participation, and require higher threshold of turnout or positive votes to institute bonds that will have a large impact on people's property tax. Lastly, the state should end unfunded mandates.

Question 2: One area of our state constitution that I feel could use some clarification is the portion that vests the Board of Regents with authority over the university system. I would like it better if it clarified that they must follow state laws and the Constitutions while they do it.

Rocky Hamilton (D)

Age: 41

Education: Associate in Business Management

Campaign Website: rockyformt.com

Question 1: A local option sales tax is one solution for this issue. Because Montana is so diverse, issues in Bozeman are not the same as issues in Three Forks, this allows the voters in each area a voice. Voters can choose this method to ease the burden if it makes sense for where they live. This could be especially helpful in areas where tourism is high.

Question 2: The extended right to privacy in the Montana Constitution is the keystone to what makes our state great. I learned about this while I was in law enforcement and love the protections afforded to Montanans through this right. Simply said, this right makes our state the best to live in!

Carl Mohler Jr. (L)

Age: 51

Education: High School Diploma, with some college

Campaign Website: www.carlmohler.com

Question 1: It's important to recognize that property does not pay taxes—people do. Leaving aside the question of whether property value is a legitimate basis for taxation or not, rising property values can cause people to be taxed out of their homes and off their property. We deserve a predictable tax burden. Property values are theoretical and subjective until the property is sold. Limiting property valuations to when an actual sale takes place—realizing that value—or assessing only changes to the property is a much fairer approach than periodic reassessment by a government with an incentive to maximize its revenue.

Question 2: A couple strengths of the Montana Constitution are: 1; an explicit right to privacy. 2; Individual right to keep and bear arms but is ambiguous about concealed carry. In some instances the Montana Constitution steps outside its role of setting the structure of the government and limits of the actions of the government.

GALLATIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. What steps would you recommend to enhance livability in Gallatin County? (100 words or less)

2. What qualifications do you have that would make you an effective County Commissioner? (50 words or less)

District 3

Jennifer Boyer (D)

Age: 54 years old

Education: BS Cornell University, MS Oregon State University

Website: www.boyerforgallatin.com

Question 1: Growth in Gallatin County has many families struggling to make ends meet. To enhance livability, there are approaches that we can advance to make a difference: implement our existing plans to grow in a manner that fosters connection and limits sprawl; coordinate with local municipalities to address how new housing impacts traffic and is compatible with its neighbors and natural surroundings; develop drought response plans to secure water for drinking, agriculture and instream flows; maintain public safety and social services like mental health; update codes to support a variety of housing types; and explore options to reduce property tax burdens.

Question 2: For 25+ years, I've worked with businesses, citizens, landowners, organizations and local governments to craft local solutions, tackling growth and development; drought response; river conservation; and trail and transportation systems. My collaborative, pragmatic approach brings people together so everyone is heard, and has deepened my understanding of our community.

Joe Flynn (R)

Age: 68

Education: University of Washington

Website: www.FlynnforGallatin.com

Question 1: Short term: Continue to support all police within Gallatin County. Currently, county police are weighted more towards reactive and less towards being proactive. I would like to identify how the office of County Commission could be of assistance to the County Sheriff in moving the needle in the direction of proactive policing. Infrastructure for continuous road maintenance and additional road/highway additions to stay ahead of growth. Work with the building community to advance affordable housing opportunities. Long term: Have meaningful discussions now regarding water usage that will be needed 10-20 years from now for projected growth.

Question 2: Seasoned business professional with 30+ years of experience in operations and budget management, I have successfully led in leadership roles (CEO, VP, National Director) across various industries, software and technology, hospitality, insurance and home improvement. I'm actively involved in our community (Thrive, HS Official) and look to serve our county.

GALLATIN COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER/SURVEYOR

Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. What measures do you propose to improve and secure elections and voting access in Gallatin County? (100 words or less)
2. What qualifications do you have that would make you an effective County Clerk & Recorder/Surveyor? (50 words or less)

Marla Davis (R)

Age: 52

Education: High School - Coweta, OK – Valedictorian; College -1992; Graduate of the University of Oklahoma, College of Allied Health, BS in Physical Therapy - with Distinction

Website: Marla4Montana.com

Question 1: I believe that Election Integrity/Security should be a non-partisan issue. We ALL should desire to have and maintain free, fair, and transparent elections. Outside money and influence should not be “granted” and run through the election administrator’s office (\$295,681from CTCL in 2020). Our voter rolls need to be cleaned up and verifiable so that we don’t repeat having a 103% voter registration rate. I recommend a precinct level hand count of paper ballots, with a simultaneous hand audit, live streamed and recorded, with all parties represented by election judges and volunteers. All legal votes count, machines not required!

Question 2: As a PT and Director of Rehab, I must use good organizational, multi-tasking, and people skills to accomplish the patient and employer goals. I am well versed in expectations of governmental paperwork requirements and deadlines. No one will work harder to provide excellent service to citizens of Gallatin County.

Eric Semerad (D)

Age: 57

Education: Bachelor of Science in Earth Science from Montana State University in 1987

Website: None

Question 1: As the current Clerk & Recorder, I’ve worked to initiate extensive security measures resulting in Gallatin County’s elections being safe and secure. In collaboration with our Technology Department, we have implemented dedicated IT security staff, security awareness training, physical security, near real-time endpoint detection response and separation of election system components from the county network. My experience allows Gallatin County to be at the forefront of election security practices. I also serve on our associations’ executive board. We are working hard on a website that combats disinformation and promotes correct and reliable information about elections for all Montana voters.

Question 2: Experience with proper document recording and elections are critically important to this work. Having served the public in this office for 32 years, I bring extensive knowledge of the laws required to ensure accuracy, and relationships of trust and competence with those who rely on the Clerk & Recorder’s Office.

GALLATIN COUNTY SHERIFF/CORONER

Dan Springer (R)

Unopposed

GALLATIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. What do you perceive are the proper and necessary priorities of the County Attorney and what changes would you implement if elected? (100 words or less)
2. What qualifications do you have that would make you an effective County Attorney? (50 words or less)

Audrey Cromwell (D)

Age: 40

Education: Billings West High School, Billings, MT: High School Diploma, high honors

Carleton College Northfield, MN: Bachelor of Arts (American Studies), Minor (Spanish), cum laude; Alexander Blewett III, Missoula, MT: Juris Doctor, School of Law, University of Montana

Website: www.audreycromwell.com

Question 1: Over the last 25 years, Gallatin County’s growth has far outstripped that of the County Attorney’s Office, straining our community and greatly impacting public safety. As County Attorney, I will hold offenders accountable while supporting appropriate diversion programs; address (rather than criminalize) the current mental health crisis, and release data to help identify and eliminate racial, poverty and disability bias. As an experienced mediator, I will use collaborative law to address conflict between the County and other entities. My proven leadership will galvanize a modern vision of the County Attorney’s office as an effective leader in crime prevention and rehabilitation.

Question 2: As a successful attorney and business owner, I have an exceptional grasp of criminal law and will build stakeholder consensus, implement complex civil and criminal justice policies, and provide balanced legal advice to county officials. My experience and leadership will bring meaningful change to Gallatin, now and in the future.

Marty Lambert (R)

Age: 67

Education: Bozeman High (1973); Montana State University - BA (Pol. Sci. with Honors) (1978)

University of Montana School of Law – JD (1983)

Website: www.martylambert.com

Question 1: The County Attorney must effectively advocate for law abiding citizens, crime victims, and law enforcement officers. The County Attorney must work to ensure that offenders are held accountable for their crimes through appropriate charging decisions and advocating for sentences that protect society and crime victims. Of equal importance is the County Attorney’s responsibility to assist with the rehabilitation of offenders. The mental health needs of our community would continue to be a top priority for me if re-elected. We must do a better job in this County to assist and treat those suffering from mental illness.

Question 2: As your County Attorney for the past 26 years, I’ve proven an effective advocate and leader; successfully prosecuted felonies including homicides; protected the County from illegal subdivision and land use practices, and helped create our Treatment Court, Domestic Violence Response Team, Sexual Assault Response Team, and child Multi-Disciplinary Team.

GALLATIN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Candidates answered the following two questions:

1. What are the most important issues you expect to face if elected County Superintendent of Schools and what are your positions on them? (100 words or less)
2. What qualifications do you have that will make you an effective County Superintendent of Schools? (50 words or less)

Matthew Henry (R)

Age: 56

Education: MA, Educational Administration, Ohio State University; BA, Elementary Education, Ohio Wesleyan University

Website: henryforcountysoup.com

Question 1: There are several important issues in education in the County, not the least of which are school safety, the difficulty of recruiting staff, and population growth. But among the most important is a growing concern that schools have strayed from their mission to serve as centers of academic learning. Related to this is the rising number of parents seeking alternatives to traditional education. As the County's chief education officer, my approach is to assist schools in holding high standards for education while upholding the rights of parents to participate in their children's education, whether in public, private, or home schools.

Question 2: In twenty-four years as a Montana teacher and administrator, I have strived to model professionalism to shape the culture of education for the better. As County Superintendent, I am committed to serving children, parents, teachers, and schools by providing leadership that is balanced and objective and puts principle before politics.

John Nielson (D)

Age: 53

Education: Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, BA American Studies

University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, BA Elementary Education

Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, MA Curriculum and Instruction

Website: www.nielsonforgallatin.com; Facebook: nielsonforgallatin; Instagram @nielsonforgallatin

Question 1: Growing up in Montana, raised by two educators, my heart is invested in protecting access to quality education. Now is a time for not only championing for adequate funding, but also making smart financial choices locally and at a state level. I want to generate creative solutions to enhance learning environments. For example, many local grants require community out-reach, making them an under-utilized resource in our county. The superintendent can connect our students with these educationally rich, real-world opportunities. I believe collaboration between government, schools, and communities is needed for the success of schools in Gallatin County.

Question 2: I have been an educator for 30+ years, teaching elementary, middle, and high school (public, private, homeschool). As an instructional coach and educational consultant, I collaborated with teachers and administrators. I am personally committed as a father of two. These lenses allow me to think broadly about our educational system.

GALLATIN COUNTY AUDITOR

Erin Cox (D)

Unopposed

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 make you an effective County Treasurer/Assessor? (50 words or less)

Charli Heavrin (D)

Did not respond

Maureen Horton (R)

Age: Timeless

Education: Ten Years in Banking, Ten Years as Legal Secretary, and 5 years with the Department of Revenue

Website: hortonformontana.com

Question 1: The biggest hurdle the Treasurer will face is rising costs of real and personal property and the affect on taxpayers. Tax rates have not been raised but values have, and Montana is a Market Value state. That means the state assessment notices are based on 2020 values, so price increases for the past 2 years will be in your next assessment. This will be concern for our older and lower income citizens. As Treasurer I want you to understand your taxes, where they are spent, and how it will affect you.

Question 2: I have worked with citizens of this County helping get your business loans as a banker. I have helped some of you through Bankruptcy while in the legal field. Most importantly, I currently am at the Department of Revenue working with your realty transfers, tax assessments and plats. I have valuable experience.



Access My Voter Page (<https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/>) to check the following:

- If you are registered to vote
- Your voter registration address*
- Location and directions to your county election office
- The status of your mailed ballot
- View a sample ballot
- If you are on the list to have ballots mailed to you

**Mailed ballots will not be forwarded to another address. Check "My Voter Page" to ensure that your mailing address is correct.*

REGISTER TO VOTE

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.
- Be a resident of Montana for at least 30 days.
- Not be incarcerated in a penal institution
- Not be adjudicated by a court of law to be of unsound mind

TO REGISTER:

- Download the Voter Registration application from the Gallatin County website (https://gallatincomt.virtualtownhall.net/sites/g/files/vyhlf606/f/uploads/voter_registration_application.pdf) or the Secretary of State website: <https://sosmt.gov/elections/vote/>
- You also can call your local county election office and they will mail or email a Voter Registration Application to you.
- Fill out the form and drop it off or mail it to your county election office (Gallatin County Elections Office, 311 W. Main, Room 210, Bozeman, MT; phone 406-582-3060).
- Regular Voter Registration for the General Election is October 11, 2022, 5:00 pm.
- If you miss the regular registration deadline, you may still register to vote by appearing in-person at the Election Department in the County Courthouse at 311 West Main – Room 210 in Bozeman until noon the day before the election (on election day, November 8, 2022).
- For this election on November 8, 2022, you may also register and vote at the County Courthouse from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8

Source:

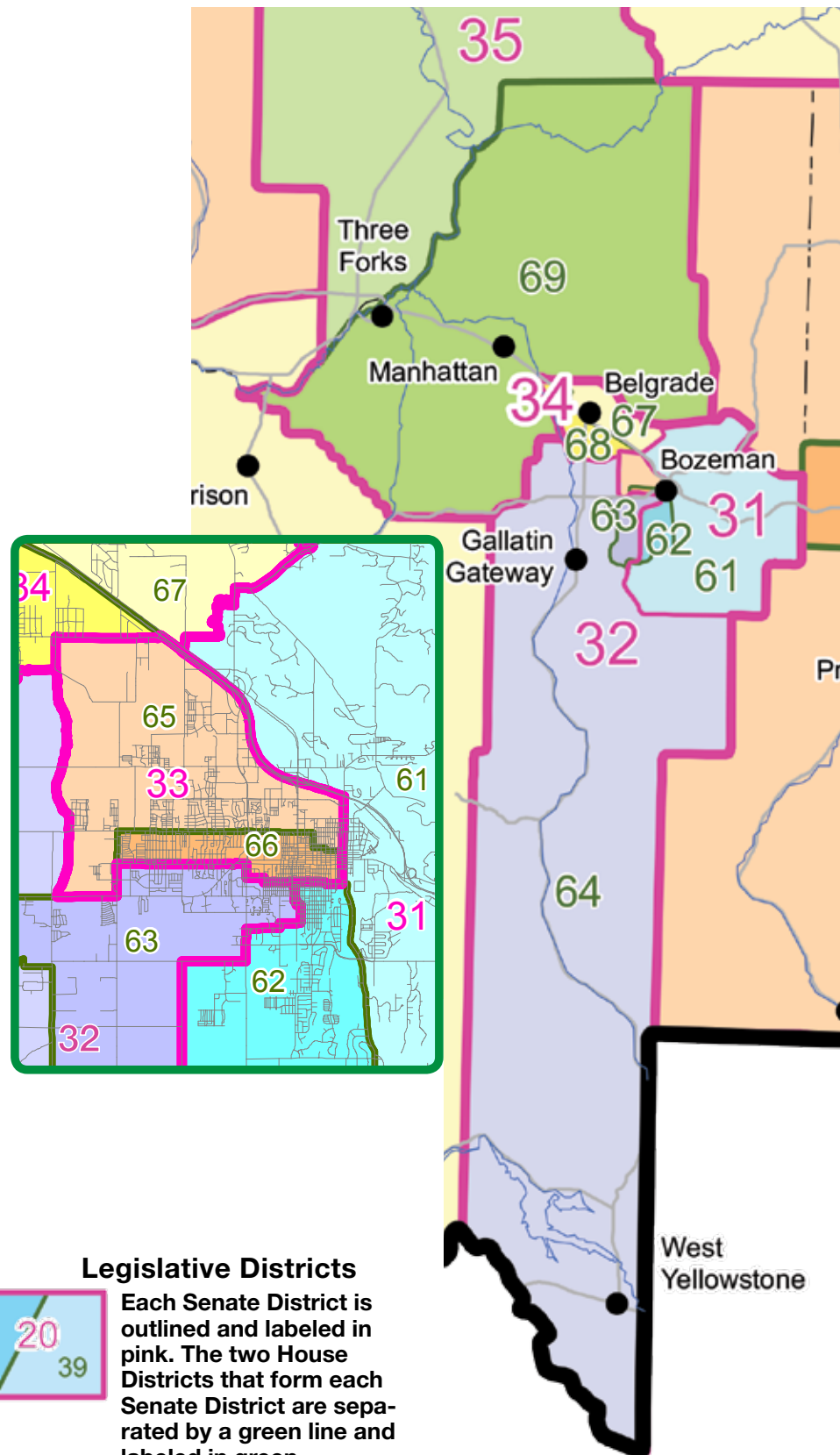


- County Line
- Stream or Lake
- Highway



Montana Legislative Districts

For Elections Held in 2014-2022



Legislative Districts

Each Senate District is outlined and labeled in pink. The two House Districts that form each Senate District are separated by a green line and labeled in green.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8

TO VOTE IN PERSON

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 one of the following forms of current identification: a Montana driver's license, Montana state identification card pursuant to 61-12-501, military identification card, tribal photo identification card, United States passport, or Montana concealed carry permit or student photo identification that shows your name including but not limited to school district or post-secondary education student identification.

If you do not have a photo ID, you can provide a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, 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.

TO VOTE ABSENTEE

Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot.

- Complete an Application for Absentee Ballot to have ballots mailed to you.
- Mail or drop off the application at the county election office.
- Applications must be received by the county election office by noon the day before the election. When ballots are available, one will be mailed to you, or you will be able to pick up a ballot at the county election office.
- When you have completed the absentee ballot, return it in the envelope provided. Carefully read the instructions included with your ballot.
- Be sure to assign the affirmation on the signature envelope before mailing or delivering your ballot to the county election office. The signature on the envelope must be that of the person who the ballot was issued to.
- Absentee ballots for federal/state elections can be tracked at My Voter Page.

Absentee ballots must be received at the election office or polling place by 8:00 pm on Election Day.

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 eric.semerad@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 logo for the League of Women Voters (LWW) features the letters "LWW" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A thick, red, diagonal brushstroke is positioned behind the letters, extending from the bottom left towards the top right.

League of Women Voters of the Bozeman Area

Join us in making our communities Fair, Vibrant and Strong.

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. With more than 100 years of experience and over 700 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.

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

For more information, contact Faye Boom at 406-582-4915 or fdboom@gmail.com

Visit our website: <https://my.lww.org/montana/local-leagues/bozeman>

BECOME INFORMED AND VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8