

See Update on Ryan Zinke's issues and the MT Supreme Court.

Please FORWARD now

2022 Update 11 Voters' Guide – Congressional, Yellowstone County, Supreme Court, MT Legislature, PSC, Recreational Marijuana

This is YOUR election; your participation does not suggest complete agreement on all matters. Please Pass this on to a friend.

Dick Pence – Coordinator, [Big Sky Worldview Forum](#), rapence45@gmail.com

- If you know of a Republican legislative, primary – send me a similar write up on the candidates.
- Register to vote or check on your registration [here](#).
- One more thing – elections are expensive get out your checkbook and help

Contents: (emphases on primaries)

- We found good info. at 2022 iVotersGuide.com [here](#)
- Montana Family Foundation Legislative Scorecard 2021 Legislative Session [Here](#)
- Montana Family Foundations voters' guide for legislature and Courts [here](#).
- The Center for Legislative Accountability is also helpful [here](#)
- Details and Principles – p. 1 (Seven Principles of Voting)
- *Western District Congressional race & why the East cares – p.3 (See note on Zinke's issues)
- *Eastern District Congressional Race – p.7
- *Montana Supreme Court UPDATE p. 8
- *Yellowstone County Commissioner – p.11 ([John Ostlund's Ghost written letter](#) and a [rebuttal from Commissioner Don Jones](#))
- *Montana Legislature Races with Republican Primaries – p.16
- *Public Service Commission – p. 24
- Recreational Marijuana in County Elections – p.25 VOTE YES (See NOTES on illegality owning fire arms and lies about Marijuana below [this drug is devastating](#))

***(These are primary races – the General election will be addressed later)**

Details and Principles:

Design: This document is not designed for soundbite voters. I will add as much info as I can and you can read what you want

Stay tuned, this guide is a work in progress. Information, candidates, and issues will be added as we proceed. I will focus first on the Western Congressional District and then on the general Billings area, but will add other information as I receive it.

Election Dates:

Federal, State and County – Tuesday, June 7th.

My Seven Principles of Voting:

1st. My bottom line – is the candidate **primarily conservative** that will promote Christian based values? My only SINGLE ISSUE is LIFE.

2nd. Never vote for a Democrat. The Democratic party is now ruled by socialists. If the candidate is one, they are disqualified. If they are too uninformed to know what the party is, they don't belong in office. And, they will be pressured to vote in lock-step.

3rd. Never vote based on friendships – vote based on principles and values. Separate relational-emotional interests from principles.

4rd. Don't get in a hurry to vote. Liberals love early and mail in voting. So many times, I hear *"I would never have voted for him if I had known..."* and the information came out after they voted.

5th. Don't rely on mailer information you get in your mailbox. Do your homework and listen to people you trust. Case in point – Penny Ronning won in Ward 4 in 2016. Her flyers made her sound **like a Reagan conservative** and she is a Progressives activist, running for Congress.

6th. Be discerning, listen between the lines. Liberals know they **can't win on Socialist values** – they are masters at sounding conservative. Messaging

conservative values in short sound bites is difficult. Don't be a sucker for emotional appeals.

7th.Vote Principles not Gender – oh yes, many will vote for a woman ONLY because she is a woman. Of all the women I have known on the City Council the last three elections, only one was and is consistently conservative. Most were radically liberal.

Western District Congressional Race – Primary. Dr. Albert Olszewski

This election is about Integrity, Character, and Judgement:

What is the track record of these two, relative to these three measurements?

What is the *“Baggage Factor”*

Albert's [TV ad](#) may be a bit snarky, but it is also accurate. Will we set back and allow Ryan Zinke to coast into office as if it was his intitlement?

After a prominent friend assured me that the accusations of Ryan Zinke **being a Californian were false** and that his Congressional voting record was good (implying that it was better than when he was in the Senate in Montana) I went back to the drawing board. I found even more evidence that there is plenty of reason to question much about Mr. Zinke

First, Zinke is no conservative. The [Center for Legislative Accountability](#) has become to Gold Standard for rating the voting records for all legislators. In order to depict how closely a lawmaker adheres to conservative principles, the CLA selects from the full spectrum of issues relating to the economy, culture, national security and government integrity. They develop rating for the [American Conservative Union](#). Here, you will find records for a few Montanans.

- ✓ Ryan Zinke's score of a **69** is well below many Democrats. Lowest of any Montana Republican in Congress.
- ✓ Congressman Matt Rosendale's score stands at **100**.
- ✓ When Rick Hill was in congress, his life time score was **88**,
- ✓ Ron Marlenee was an **88** and
- ✓ Denny Rehberg was at **88**.
- ✓ Steve Daines score in the Senate is **85**.

- ✓ Governor Greg Gianforte (who is supporting Zinke) – his score in Congress was a **72**.

Second Ryan residency is extremely problematic. It's not just Democrats that are saying so. **This would become the Democrats biggest weapon against Ryan Zinke:**

- ✓ [Politico](#) points to several problems the Zinke's have and yes, we see more problems **with both ethics and integrity** with Ryan. In fact, both prominent and trusted Republicans, local residence, and [Los Angeles Reporters](#) shed light on the fact that "they haven't seen much of Zinke in Montana the last couple of years."
- ✓ More evidence makes this whole issue smell even more. We see [a tax filing](#) submitted with the Santa Barbara county government shows a [homeowner exemption for the California home](#) for the fiscal year that started last July. The exemption, which offers a \$7,000 deduction on property value assessments, [applies to homes that](#) "must have been the principal place of residence of the owner" at the beginning of the calendar year.
- ✓ A [Politico reporter](#) spoke with Zinke's Son's girlfriend at the claimed Whitefish residence and she said she lived there but Ryan did not.
- ✓ Zinke's claim their *Primary Residence* in California then he claims he and his wife have different primary residences. That is not true, they can not have different declared primary residences if they are still married.
- ✓ Maybe Politico, the Los Angeles reporter, the New Your Times, a prominent Republican (former State Senator and current member of the Public Service Commission) and my local residents ALL got it wrong. There has been plenty of damage control by the Zinke campaign and his prominent Republican supporters. I leave it to you to read these articles and their LINKS.

3rd Zinke's Voting Record in the Montana Senate.

In the [2022 ivoersGuide for Montana](#), Zinke refuses to answer questions about LIFE issues, immigration and many others and for good reason. The thing this guide gets wrong about him is his record on LIFE issues as you will see below.

- ✓ Dr. Albert Olszewski's lifetime voting record rating from the American Conservative Union is 88%, Ryan Zinke hold a score of 69%.
- ✓ A Billings colleague of Ryan's in the Montana Senate said the **Democrats** gave Zinke recognition for **voting with them** more than any other Republican.
- ✓ Albert holds a **Montana Family Foundation Lifetime rating** of 100% - Consistent supporter of LIFE issues and carried multiple LIFE related bills.
- ✓ Ryan's mailers **suggest that he is 100% Pro-Life**. He repeated this lie in front of the recent GOP convention in Helena. **In his two terms in the Montana Senate**, he voted against three critically important prolife bills.
 - Against Senate Bill 46 Amendment to protect unborn human life as a compelling state interest.
 - Against Senate Bill 406 Personhood Amendment referendum defining legal protection at conception.
 - Against House Bill 574 Amendment to clarify that the Montana Constitution does not grant or secure a right to abortion.
- ✓ Voting Record, MT Senate Legislative Loyalty Scores - Ryan Zinke 2009 **Legislative Loyalty Index** 66%, Grade – F
- ✓ 2011 **Legislative Loyalty** Index 81% Grade – D, Dead last.

4th Ryan Zinke's **Military Record** and record in the **Trump Cabinet**:

- ✓ Zinke's ads boast that he was a **Navy Seal**.
- ✓ He was quietly censored and removed for misrepresenting actions he took.
 - taking Seal teams to Montana for training that were mostly recreational trips.
- ✓ Ryan boasts that he was **Trumps Interior Secretary**.
- ✓ Reality is that Ryan was **forced to step down as Interior** Secretary for misconduct in business deals in Montana still being investigated.

Meanwhile, Albert Olszewski served honorably for **13 years as a Major in the Air Force** - as a flight surgeon and came back to Kalispell and building an orthopedic business that employed a large number of people.

5th **Follow the Money**:

- ✓ The vast majority of Al's **donations** are from inside Montana.

- ✓ A large percentage of Ryan's are from outside of Montana and from Washington Insiders. If you don't believe that **listen to what the Democrats are already saying about Zinke's money.**

5th A lighting round look at how close Ryan Zinke is to what Trump stood for. All of Zinke's ads emphasize his **likeness to President Trump**, see **how that plays** as you read about just these four issues .

- ✓ **Immigration:**

- Olszewski - opposes amnesty and believes we need to secure our southern border and finish the wall.
- Zinke – finishing Trump's wall is too difficult, supports rewarding illegals with amnesty. (1&2)

- ✓ **Election Security:**

- Olszewski – supports requiring all voters in federal elections to present a government issued photo ID.
- Zinke – Voted against requiring Montana voters to present a government issued photo ID and opposed efforts to verify signatures on mail-in ballots (3&4)

- ✓ **Second Amendment:**

- Olszewski – Avid hunter with life-time rating of “A” from the NRA. Will never waver on protecting our Second Amendment rights.
- Zinke – Voted to limit hunting and fishing rights for Montana residents, voted to expand hunting options for non-residents, and supports limitations on gun ownership, including a ban on .50 caliber rifles. (5,6,7, & 8)

- ✓ **Residency: Expanded**

- Olszewski's – raised their family (including foster and adopted children), built their business, have always lived in Montana except for time in the military. Will always put Montana first.
- Zinke – Washington D.C. lobbyist and Santa Barbara resident who is trying to use a hotel as his “residence” to run for office. Ryan will put California and Washington D.C. first. He returned to Montana to run for Congress and said on the Aaron Flint *Montana Talks* program that he would even run against Rosendale in the East if he thought he had a better chance of winning. (9,10, &11)

- **Documentation:** (1) Associate Press, 3/30/17 (2) Montana Standard, 4/25/14. (3) Billings Gazette, 10/21/16 (4) HB209, 4/11/11 Zinke voted Yes, Veto 05/10/11. (5) SB 400, 3/30/11, Zinke voted Yes (6) SB436, Passed on 28-22 on 2/24/09, Zinke Voted Yes. (7) Hotline 6/16/14, 53:03-53:10 (8) Montana Shooting Sports Association, 6/02/14 (9) Politico 2/13/19 (10) "2020-2021 Property Tax Statement", County of Santa Barbara. For Fiscal Year July 12020 to June 30, 2921. (11) Intelligent Discontent, 10/4/16.

Will Montana have ANY conservative voice in Congress?

As I have demonstrated, there is only ONE true conservative in this race, his first name is Albert. Ryan's Republican supporters are claiming all his past has been "litigated." – it's in the past. Ryan Zinke touts his endorsement from Trump but his record is completely **inconsistent with Trump's**. If Ryan Zinke is elected, estimates are (based on his record) he will cancel out Congressman Matt Rosendale's vote over 40% of the time. Effectively we would be a **state without any Congressman**. Ryan is a GOP Establishment candidate. Is Ryan a RINO?

The only reason he got to congress is that, in the Primary, the conservative vote got split between Matt Rosendale, Corey Stapleton, and Elsie Arntzen. He walked in as the moderate. The General was a cake-walk.

[Learn More About Dr. Albert Olszewski](#) and his issues from family and farming to Police and Public Lands.

Eastern District Congressman **Primary** – **Matthew Rosedale**

Bottom line, Congressman Matt Rosendale **will always stand for godly, constitutional principles** that put Montana and America first. His argument that securing OUR border comes before securing FOREIGN borders is consistent with that stand. In a recent conversation, he said to me, **the real issues in D.C. are spiritual**. He is absolutely right.

Relative to the border – his mailers say: *Walls work, build the wall. Secure our border is as important as securing other borders. Demand illegal immigrants remain in Mexico or be returned there. Criminalize fleeing from law enforcement at the border or here.*

At this point, I will not waste your time talking about other Republican Primary candidates. They are all closer to being Democrats than republicans. The 2022 [ivotersGuide for Montana](#), if you the time to look, makes it clear that **there is only one consistent conservative in this race.**

I have no patience with lazy people who make no effort to meet candidates - people who don't know him that say he is not personable and doesn't have a nice smile. **Even less with those [bigots](#)** that say he has an eastern accent. (Offense intended)

His service record: Matt has been in Montana for about 20 years:

- One term in the Montana House of Representatives
- Two terms in the Montana Senate – Voted Majority Leader.
- One term as Montana's State Auditor – cut operating expenses 23% and eliminated 7 vacant jobs.
- One term as Montana's Congressman

His Conservative Commitment: Congressman Rosendale is a member of the [House Freedom Caucus](#) (*There is no official list*) with founding members such as Ron DeSantis (now Governor of Florida), Jim Jordan from Ohio.

The mission of the Freedom Caucus says volumes about Rosendale:

“The House Freedom Caucus gives a voice to countless Americans who feel that Washington does not represent them. We support open, accountable and limited government, the Constitution and the rule of law, and policies that promote the liberty, safety and prosperity of all Americans.”

Rosendale is clearly the most consistent conservative Congressman Montana has had in decades. His list of issues is identical to Olszewski's. Solidly Pro-Life, Second Amendment, for border security and election security.

- **His Voting Record and Issues:**
- **LIFE issues:** As a committed Christian, Matt is solidly Pro-Life and has opposed abortion and Dr. Assisted Suicide issues.
- **Second Amendment:** He is an avid hunter, allows people on his home ranch near Glendive to hunt. He holds a lifetime rating from the NRA of “A.”
- **Border Security:** As an America first Congressman, he supports building the wall and securing our border even above working on other nations issues.
- **Election Security:** He supports requiring all voters in federal elections to present a government issued photo ID.

We see no challengers who even come close to being as solidly and consistently conservative and driven by Christian values as Matthew Rosedale.

Primary - Montana Supreme Court, Seat 2

This is a hugely important race. Vote for ONE, the top two vote - getters in each District go to the General election

(NOTE of interest – Montana’s Supreme Court is known to be one of the most liberal-activist courts in America. If the current Roe v. Wade decision by the US supreme court stands, Montana will become a magnet for abortions because of our Supreme Court’s interpretation of a clause in our constitution.)

Jim Rice – is an incumbent. A conservative that has drifted moderate. The hope is that if we can get Brown in to support him, he will move back. All of [Rice’s contributions](#) we have record of have been to Republicans. His competitor Dalton has given nothing either way.

James Brown Esq. – Is **clearly the lone Conservative** in this race, the other two are far Left. James web page is [here](#) . He said this:

Frankly there was no pro liberty candidate running for State Supreme Court this year. And so, I jumped in.”

Discover more about Brown at [ivoterguide.com](#) where he is **characterized as an Originalist.**

Why Brown?

- He is rated as **highly Conservative.**
- In his role as **Chairman of the Montana Public Service Commission**, Brown serves the same role as judges by deciding on legal matters and cases that come before the PSC for decision.
- Former **Council** for the Republican Party
- Litigated on behalf of **First Amendment** Rights
- He is **endorsed by** Montanans for Limited Government, Senator Steve Daines, Governor Greg Gianforte, Attorney General Austin Knudson, and the Montana GOP.

- Brown owns his own law firm, wherein he employs multiple Montanans. As a business owner, Brown understands what it means to **sign both the front and back of a paycheck**.
- Brown has represented a **variety of clients** – ranging from agriculture producers, to state employees, to single mothers, to multiple use of public lands groups.
- Brown is a **member of** the Leadership Montana program, the Montana Wool Growers Association, the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Historical Society,

His early days: Brown grew up in Dillon, attended Beaverhead County High School, and graduated in 1994 with a double major in History and Political Science from the University of Montana – Missoula. Brown earned his law degree from the Seattle University School of Law and his Masters in Tax Law from the University of Washington. Prior to attending law school, Brown worked six years in Washington D.C. as a Congressional Aide, including for U.S. Senator **Conrad Burns** of Montana.

In his own words: “As a fourth-generation Montanan whose family homesteaded in Beaverhead County in the 1880s and as a private practice attorney for the last 17 years, I represented and defended the interests of Montana’s farmers, ranchers, and small businesses—and I’ll take those same Montana values to the Supreme Court as your next justice. **I’m running to preserve our rule of law, follow the Constitution, bring accountability back to the judicial branch,** and to protect our Montana way of life. As a member of the Montana Supreme Court, I will work to bring consistency to the Court, to **avoid the appearance of conflicts** of interest, to **avoid legislating from the bench**, and to be an impartial judge... At a time when confidence in the judiciary is being shaken, I will work to **restore faith** in the rule of law.”

Ingrid Gustafson is an incumbent, presently on the Supreme Court since 2017. She is rated as a **Proven Activist** [by iVotersGuide.com](https://www.IVotersGuide.com)

Ingrid Gustafson has [served](#) on the Montana Supreme Court since 2017. Justice Gustafson was appointed to the Montana Supreme Court in December 2017 and then elected in 2018. Prior to that, she presided over a general jurisdiction court serving for 14 years as a District Court Judge. Prior to taking the bench in 2004,

Justice Gustafson practiced law for 16 years maintaining a broad-based private practice that included state and federal criminal defense, personal injury, and domestic relations cases

Notable Cases:

- [Gustafson wrote *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*](#) (2018): Wrote concurrence. The case was over a program which "provide[d] a taxpayer a dollar-for-dollar tax credit based on the taxpayer's donation to a Student Scholarship Organization (SSO). SSOs fund tuition scholarships for students who attend private schools meeting the definition of Qualified Education Provider (QEP). The Department of Revenue later adopted Rule 1, **excluding religiously-affiliated private schools** from qualifying as QEPs, (The US Supreme Court reversed this)
- [Weems v. State](#) (2019): Signed Justice Baker's majority opinion. Held that Weems and Doe had standing to bring a suit against a law excluding their professions from providing abortions. (**Expanded who could administer abortions**, see [more here](#))
- [McLaughlin v. Montana State Legislature](#) (2021): Signed Justice McKinnon's majority opinion. Held that the legislature's motion to disqualify all members of the Montana Supreme Court was denied (16)... **The court's duty would be compromised if it stepped aside for every case involving separation of powers.** This was a case of the Legislature vs. the Court. (Read more [here](#))

Yellowstone County Commissioner

[District 2 Map \(Open election, everybody votes\)](#)

Commissioner Denis Pitman vs. Mark Morse

The Elephant in the Room on this Race:

Anyone who has held public office and voted realizes that many of the issues voted on are complex. It is easy for a challenger to **use Sound Bite messaging** to attack an incumbent's votes on these complex issues. By depending upon the public's lack of in-depth knowledge of the issue, it is easy to use half-truths that do not honestly represent the issues.

While you were sleeping, 😊 I was paying attention. I spent hours over the last 10 months talking to Pitman and Jones. This Primary is happening for ONE REASON. **Because RINO Commissioner John Ostlund wanted to dump the other two Republican Commissioners.** In simple terms, he had controlled the Yellowstone County commission until Pitman was elected but now, he can not control Pitman or Jones and he wants control back.

On 5/11/2022 Bill Dutcher, the recently retired leader of MetraPark, did a hit piece on Pitman and Jones in the Gazette. You can read it [here](#) but the truth is, this was probably Ghost written by John because Bill was not at the meetings. You can also read Commissioner Don Jones rebuttal letter that will soon be in the Yellowstone County New and the Gazette [here](#). **You decide who you're going to believe.**

The plan was, and Ostlund didn't hide it, was to support a RECALL of Don Jones and Primary Denis Pitman so he would be **back in control of the Commission that he has been on for 20 years.** John is now drawing a retirement from the county as well as a healthy check as a commissioner.

When his plan to Re-call Don Jones failed, his disdain for Pitman only increased and he recruited Mark Morse to run against Denis. Last week, they demanded equal time on [Montana Talks](#) because George Blackard and Denis Pitman co-hosted the program two of the days when Aaron Flint was gone. They did not talk about the Commissioner race. But John joined Mark on Aaron's program and did most of the talking and they did talk about the race.

About the Candidates:

Who is Denis Pitman? ([His website is here](#)) He and his wife Paula have been foster parents for over 15 years, they have adopted 7 children. He owns several businesses and has officiated the funerals for hundreds of residents who were wanting God as part of their grieving process. For almost 30 years, Denis has been a mortician, entrusted with caring for families at a difficult time in their lives.

Solid Leadership: Denis Pitman has been providing leadership in our community for over a decade. His vision for the future of our community is not only practical but visionary for generations to come.

The Defining Issue: Bottom line issue in this election is **what are the candidates' reputations for working with people** - those in a committee or governing group? **Mark Morse** has been categorized by three **very different officials as problematic to work with**. He is hyper critical of elected officials but has never had to make "that tough vote, that controversial call."

- A former Legislator categorized him as **hard to pin down** – one who would throw out random sound bites but not go on record.
- A current Montana Senator categorized him as having almost no people skills – hard to work with.
- Another elected official echoed similar concerns.

Pitman's Service record: When you look for a candidate **always look for one who has *already* been serving**.

- Billings City Council – 8 years.
- Yellowstone County Commissioner – 6 years.
- Past-President - Heights Kiwanis.
- Past-President - Heights Business Optimist club.
- Past Chair of Heights Community Development Task Force
- Board Member of the Friends of the USS Billings LSC15.
- Yellowstone County Veterans Cemetery Board.
- Open and Accessible – one of the lies about Denis is that he is **not accessible, does not listen**. Follow him on Facebook for a week. He is all over the County working, listening, making input.

Issues and Values: Leadership in this day can be challenging. One person can't be everything to everyone, including people of similar political and ideological associations. Denis has been a compassionate, thoughtful person who has challenged the status que, stood up to social and political pressures from extremists, and been a man of faith and conviction.

- **Non-Discrimination Ordinance – Billings City Council:** Pitman quietly helped us defeat this LGBTQ agenda as a “Special Class” – leading by asking questions and talking to council members. Here we saw his ability to work with those who passionately disagreed with him with grace and respect.
- **City Council Races:** Denis helped us find candidates and coach them in their races the last several elections.
- **Recreational Marijuana:** After a confusing start, all of the Commissioners voted to put this issue on the ballot again in the county. He and Don Jones actually led the way.
- **Globalism Issues:** Pitman understands the issues that cities and counties are already facing from Progressive Elites to force global governance and take away local control.
- Pitman and Jones have done the hard work of reforming how some of the **down-town services with the disadvantaged** is being done. Several organizations like **Tumbleweed** were operating in unethical ways. They would get Federal dollars for each “touch” they had with these people. You get a little flavor or what these organizations were promoting [here](#). I accompanied a City Council person to a meeting put on at **United Way of Billings**. They along with several of the above-mentioned organizations, brought in a **TRANS Activist from Helena**. This was a two-hour indoctrination program with one speaker and continuing education credits were offered to teachers. **What’s my point?** The Commissioners took heat from the Gazette but made some needed changes to clean up this mess and better these services to the marginalized.
- **The Metra Management Issues - what you haven’t been told:** The bottom line of this issue boiled down to a discussion of **private vs. public control – Capitalism vs. Government control**. Commissioners Jones and Pitman both run their own private businesses – i.e., capitalism and they - understand that private companies are generally more efficient because they have to answer to a bottom line. **Every survey this group did came back pointing to the need for better management**. Were we to continue to let these facilities deteriorate under poor governmental management or look at using private enterprise management? This complex is about 180 acres and includes many very old, deteriorating buildings nearly a century old and a

50-year-old arena recently renovated with insurance money after tornado damage. After much dis-information from the Billings Gazette, at this point, the commissioners have agreed to study the management issue.

Commissioner Jones talked to similar venues in Casper and Boise to discover alternatives. Meanwhile, Commissioner Ostlund insisted “private management would never work.” Now, Don Jones tells me that Ostlund is taking credit for the idea. **The Commissioners eventually asked [Venue Solutions](#) to analyze the Metra complex** and management. They have suggested two professional management firms that manage facilities to present their case to the Commissioners and the board. No, these are not Montana companies, there appears to be none of this type in Montana. In the end, the current discussion about the operation of the Metra has been an **example of looking to the future and taking on a hard task** in spite of public pressure, doing your homework, and making difficult calls to benefit Yellowstone County. **The dirty little secret is** that much of this brouhaha was stirred up by Commissioner Ostlund who recruited Mark Morse to run against Pitman. Much more could be said but at this point, it **appears there is agreement amongst all the Commissioners that there is merit in re-examining how the Metra** is run in order to make it serve the community better and also be less of a financial burden to the county.

- **The Election Money Issue:** Before the last election, Yellowstone County Elections Administrator, Bret Rutherford asked the Commissioners to accept a grant of \$320,593 to run the election in the county. This was needed money and the Commissioners had a limited time to make the decision to accept it. Most of the counties in Montana accepted similar grants. It turned out to be money from Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook but this was not learned until later. My position would have been to investigate and not take the money. From my discussions with one commissioner, I think it is accurate to say that they have learned to be more careful in the future. Generally, they are careful about taking Federal grants with strings attached. At this point, while the source was problematic, **there were no strings attached.** None of the money was spent on voting equipment or electronics. You can examine a detailed accounting (every \$) at [CTCL Breakdown of the money spent](#). This was provided by the Commissioners.

Mark Morse for Commissioner: Primary ([His website is here](https://www.morseforcommissioner.com/platform))

<https://www.morseforcommissioner.com/platform>

Mark is described as *very conservative* but his actions in this campaign are the *actions are those of a Democrat* – dishonest and manipulative. If you read his Facebook posts, you see accusations about the MetraPark issue and moving downtown services out of the center of Billings. These posts follow the liberal, Democratic mantra. Mark has **followed the lead** of the Billings **Gazette** using half-truths and outright deception. These are complex problems that have developed over a long period of time. Moving the HUB increased the safety downtown and increased efficiency for those served. These issues don't lend themselves to sound bite arguments but can easily be misrepresented in sound bites and are hard to counteract.

Mark in the issues of crime, local control of Metra Park, economic growth and agriculture as you will see on his web site. I could find no significant record of him serving in local or county matters.

- Mark spent 25 years as a Postal Inspector
- Twelve years Yellowstone County Sheriffs Reserve.
- Ran a private investigator business specializing in workers compensation.
- Ran a large ranch in central Montana for two years.
- One of his big issues is management of the Metra – covered above.

Montana Legislative Candidates Primaries

Our endorsements are in BLUE and Opponents are in Red

At this moment, I only have information on **Primary** Republican candidates in Yellowstone, Gallatin and Flathead Counties. If you wish, send me information on other Primaries. Include a similar type of description of their qualifications. No, I will not do the work for you. 😊

Senate District 4 – Primary John Fuller Republican, Kalispell

- Rated [Very Conservative by iVotersGuide](#) where you can find more
- John is a life-long Montana – he and wife Cynthia are committed Christians.

- **His teaching background in History, Government and Economics** prevents him from riding his horse into the sunset quietly while our nation stumbles into socialism, tyranny and bankruptcy.
- John has a [100% rating](#) from the Montana Family Foundation
- He is solidly Pro – Life and Pro-Second Amendment
- As a Representative in HD 8, Among other Bills, he sponsored HB112 to protect women’s sports. See much more on his web site [here](#).
- He scored a [97%](#) on the Montana Legislative Loyalty for 2021.

Senate District 5 – Primary Mark Noland, Republican, Big Fork

- Rated [Very Conservative by iVotersGuide](#)- is a verified conservative and that means he has a strong track record
- He has a 100% rating by the Montana Family Foundation
- He is strongly Pro-Life
- 100% rating by Montanans for Limited Government
- 100% by National Federation of Independent Business MT
- 88% rating by American Conservative Union MT
- Montana Human Rights Network 0%

Senate District 20 — Primary Barry Usher, Republican, Billings. He is about ***USHERING CONSERVATIVE POLICIES INTO LAW FOR MONTANA*** His website is [here](#). The [iVotersGuide](#) for MT gives you additional information on this race.

Barry is **clearly the conservative in this race** – no comparison. Geraldine Custer is generally considered to be more of a Democrat. Compare their experience and service records. This will be a very competitive race!

Barry says, “For the first time in 16 years, Montana elected a Republican Governor. During the 2021 session, I had the opportunity to Chair the House Judiciary Committee where I was able to ensure a conservative agenda that made it to the Governor's desk and was signed into law. These laws include pro-life legislation, pro-second amendment legislation and a variety of pro-freedom bills. As you can see in this [article](#), there were countless other pieces of conservative legislation passed through my committee.”

Chairing the House Judiciary is a huge responsibility.

Endorsements:

- 100% [Montana Family Foundation Legislative Score Card](#): Save Women's Sports, Pro-Life Issues, Freedom legislation etc.
- NRA (National Rifle Association) rating 92%
- MSSA (Montana Shooting Sports Association)
- UPOM (United Property Owners of Montana)
- American Conservative Union rating – 85%.
- Been a staunch *supporter of developing coal oil and natural gas* resources, my opponent has not.

Experience and Service:

- U.S. Coastguard
- Law Enforcement – US Customs, Federal/State Drug Task Force
- Has owned several businesses – Computer Technology and now owner of Beartooth Harley-Davidson, Mahindra Roxor & Royal Enfield
- Family: Barry is extremely proud of his wife Ann Marie and 4 children, Jennifer Ellingham (Tom), Katherine, Brian (Jamie) and Hannah and 5 grandchildren, Daniel, Reagan, Barry, Allison and James.

SD 20 Primary Geraldine Custer, Republican, Forsyth. Her website is [here](#).

Note: The problematic issue here is that, yes, she does reach across the aisle and vote Democrat a lot. (See her Legislative Loyalty scores below)

Before she was elected to the legislature, Custer served as the Rosebud County Clerk and Recorder 36 years. She was responsible for running elections, managing public records, handling county budgeting and payroll, annual reporting, and provided human resource services for Rosebud County employees.

- 67% - [Montana Family Foundation Legislative Scorecard](#) – **The lowest score of any Republican in the House.**
 - Against HB 112 Save Women's Sports
 - Against SB 215 Religious Freedom Restoration Act

- Against Sex Designation on Birth Certificates (Reversing Bullock-era allowing change in sex on birth certificate without court order)
- Against SB 99 – Parental Permission for Sex Education.
- American Conservative Union rating – 57%.
- NRA rating – 17%
- Custer takes a common-sense approach to the issues facing the state. She’s **not afraid to put politics aside and reach across the aisle** to benefit Montanans.
- Her [Legislative Loyalty score in the 2019 Session](#) was 48, she ranked dead last amongst Republicans, letter grade F. If you hit on the name, it gives you the Bills she voted against. (Usher scored 92%, 19th, letter grade B.)
- Her [Legislative Loyalty Score in the 2021 Session](#) was 69%, she ranked 66th, next to last, letter grade F. (Usher scored 97%, 11th, letter grade A.)
- Geraldine Custer has served as the state representative for House District 39 since 2015
- Custer served on the 13-member Colstrip advisory group

Senate District 49 Missoula area: Primary

Brad Tschida, Republican, Missoula his website is [here](#)

This will be one of the toughest races in Montana. SD 49 has been held by a radical, Lesbian activist for 8 years. Please consider making a contribution.

Brad is married to Leslee – they have five children and eight grandchildren. He is a life-long Montana, educated in Montana. It’s not hard to find information on him and his beliefs. He has 12 years of educational experience as a teacher and administrator. He is also a former business owner and understands that business and not government creates strong communities that prosper economically.

He has been endorsed by the NRA, MSSA, and MTSFW. His memberships include NRA / MSSA / MT Fish and Game Association / St. Anthony Parish / Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife / Knights of Columbus

Up front on his webpage, Brad says this: **I have proven my commitment to:**

- Protecting and Preserving the Rights and Freedoms of all Montanans.

- Providing Necessary Resources for Local and State Law Enforcement and Fire Protection.
- Promoting Job Creation Through Limited Taxation.
- Forever Protecting and Preserving Access to Montana's Public Lands.
- Fighting to Reduce Business, Income and Property Taxes.
- Encouraging Responsible Development of Montana's Plentiful Natural Resources.
- Returning Healthcare Options & Control to Montanans.
- Defending Personal Freedoms & 2nd Amendment rights
- Creating More Efficient State Governance

Brad has served four terms in the Montana House of Representatives. He is recognized as one of the conservative leaders that is rock solid. In my personal dealings with Brad, that related to Republican party issues, he demonstrated solid commitment to doing things ethically in state-wide issues and treating campaign workers justly. He is a committed Christian.

His Record:

[Montana Family Foundation Legislative Score Card rating](#) – 100% (the previous woman in SD 49 held a Zero) This means that Brad voted For:

- The Born Alive Infant Protection act.
- Abortion Pill Protocols to protect women.
- Protecting Freedom of Association Speech on campuses.
- No abortion coverage in health care.
- Religion is Essential Act.
- Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
- Sex Designation on Birth Certificates not being easily changed.
- Parental Permission for Sex Education.
- (Further explanation of these bills is on the Family Foundation LINK)

Legislative Loyalty Score Card Score: (A good indicator of conservative consistency)

[2019 Session](#) – 96% (Third highest Republican)

[2021 Session](#) – 97% (Ranked tenth)

You can find much, much more on his web site [here](#).

Nancy Burgoyne, Republican Missoula – I could not discover a website for Nancy except for a run for the House last election.

Nancy is listed as having three children and was married to Jared Dahle (recently deceased.)

She holds a PhD in Political Science and has taught for years on the East Coast, Seattle and now teaches at the UofM in Montana. She has lectured globally on elections and their impact in areas of conflict and post conflict.

She has put in little effort and appears as more of a “place holder” in this race. She has run as a Republican before but with little effort. **So, the question is, why is she running.**

One of the few things I could find on her was a rant about Brad Tschida and others [crying wolf](#) about election fraud - claiming that their accusations were proven wrong and they wasted a lot of money. **She goes on to extol the virtues of the Missoula board of elections:** (Remember, she touts herself as an election expert) She says:

*“The takeaway from this significant undertaking is that all voters in Missoula can be assured that **the election office takes the democratic process of voting very seriously. They are a model for all democratic elections.** If elections were organized and executed in the manner that I witnessed, every citizen in the U.S. could be assured that their vote was counted fairly.”*

But hold the phone, Nancy’s article was a lie. In a Federalist article April, 18, 2022 [Montana’s 2020 Election Irregularities Are Still Unaddressed Despite Recounts Gone Wrong, Erased Records, And Suddenly Surfacing Ballots](#) we see a different story. The first recount Jan. 4, 2020 there were 4,592 fewer envelopes than ballots. In a March 28th recount, the Missoula election board produced two more boxes of envelopes and there were then only 71 fewer envelopes. Why the difference? Meanwhile, the county prematurely erased the videos of the count that could have used to settle the discrepancy – breaking county rules and federal law in doing so. There were other issues but I will let you read the article. **Nancy**

obviously new about this and conveniently left them out of her article about Brad.

I have another major problem with the Missoula election board. When Matt Rosendale ran against John Tester for Senate, I did a lot of data mining on Missoula and Gallatin Counties. In short Tester would never have come close to Rosendale without these two counties. If the differences had been anything close to even those in other Democratic strongholds, Tester would not have been elected. **More important**, with any reasonable calculations, I could not come close to the **number of votes counted** in the Missoula County considering the **population**. Using extravagant assumptions in Tester's favor, on percent of people registered, percentage of people voting etc., I could not come close – even if every UofM student voted for Tester. There should have been some hard questions asked about the data. There also need to be close monitoring of students. Without question, the same-day registrations (that the last legislature outlawed and Judge Moses overturned) had significant impacts in all Montana campuses.

So, my conclusion is, Nancy, I may not have a PhD in Political Science but I am pretty good at basic math and have a strong background statistics.

Bottom Line? I smell a **Republican in name only** and would ask – again – why is she running.

HD 52 — **Primary Sherry Essmann**, Republican Billings vs. Rodney Garcia. Her website is [here](#)

Let's keep this simple. Sherry Essmann and her husband Jeff have served Montana for years. They are solid conservatives and level headed people. Rodney Garcia has been in the legislature twice and is nothing short of problematic. Only one choice here.

Her Goals for Montana

- Build a robust, vibrant economy where everyone can learn the value and the virtues of self-reliance and a strong work ethic.
- Recognize and uphold the Constitutions of the United States and Montana and maintain our freedoms and liberties.

- Provide safe and sound communities where the police are respected, supported, and praised for their good work
- Maintain a school system that respects the values of its students and their parents, and provides for educational choice.
- Accept personal responsibility and maintain our independence.

Republican, Billings; Rodney Garcia, Republican, Billings

[Legislative Loyalty Score](#) in the 2019 House of Representatives was 64%, he ranked 48th, and scored an F.

HD 55 — **Primary Lee Deming**, Republican, Laurel – website is [here](#) vs. Curtis Schomer.

What Lee Deming Stands For:

- Promoting a Healthy Economy and Creating More Jobs
- Defending Our 2nd Amendment Rights & Outdoor Heritage
- Protecting **ALL** Our Freedoms and Liberties
- Defending the Right to Life

Favorite quote *"The tree of liberty must, from time to time, be watered by the blood of patriots and tyrants."* (Thomas Jefferson.)

Lee is a very conservative retired teacher – teaching for 35 years. He taught High School Seniors Civics and Government from the perspective of the Founders. He holds a Master's degree in Education and Leadership from U.M. and a B.S. degree from Carroll Social Science Teacher Education.

HD 68 Primary Caleb Hinkle, Republican Bozeman Website is [here](#)

Is rated as a Conservative by [2022 IVotersGuide](#) while Bruce Grubbs is rated as a Moderate.

Caleb served his state and country in the Montana Army National Guard as an 11C Indirect Fire Infantryman. He has also over the past 10 years fought for a more free and fiscally conservative Montana at the grassroots level. My votes this session shows I am a conservative. More info also [here](#).

Endorsements:

- 100% [Montana Family Foundation Legislative](#) score cared.
- He is Pro-Life and carried the Personhood Amendment, defining life as beginning at conception and giving the unborn full legal rights.
- "A" rating with the American Conservative Union.
- Montanans for Limited Government - 100%.
- "A" rating from the NRA
- Single highest rated legislator with Americans for Prosperity
- Human Rights Network – 6% (That’s a good score for a conservative)

My Opponent: Bruce Grubbs, Bozeman – 2019 (Legislature) Rated Moderate.

Voting Record:

- Was the only Republican legislator who voted against the Born Alive Act (carried by Albert Olszewski in 2019) which banned the infanticide of children who survived an abortion attempt. Montana Family Foundation score in 2019 60%
- He also voted against every other Pro- Life legislation in 2019.
- American Conservative Union 35% in 2019
- Montana Human Rights Network 2019 – 58% (That is a bad score for a conservative)
- [Legislative loyalty 2019](#)- Other partisan bills voted with the Democrats 50% of the time, ranked 57th worst, letter grade F. If you click on our names, you can see our votes, with bill numbers.

Montana Public Service Commission Primary

Districts 1 & 5 Have Elections in 2022

Find the PSC Map [here](#)

District 1 – Randy Pinocci – Incumbent, Republican, Conservative, Incumbent.

More info [here](#)

- Randy Pinocci was elected to serve on the Public Service Commission in 2018. District 1.
- While serving as a commissioner, Randy is committed to a market-based approach to safe, reliable, and affordable utility infrastructure.

- Pinocci was a small business owner in the printing business for over 32 years.
- He also has served as a statewide director for former United States Senator Conrad Burns,
- Chaired the Second Amendment Committee for the Republican Party
- Pinocci served in 2015 as a member of the Montana State House.
- Member of the Board of Directors for the Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA).

District 5 – **Derek Skees** – Republican, Kalispell Verified Conservative

Derek’s experience on the **Energy Committee in the House** of Representatives will be a strong plus for him. He will be strongly for the people in this office.

- Montanans for Limited Government – 100%
- Montana Conservative Union – 89%
- Montana Family Foundation - 100% very Pro-Life
- Strongly for Religious Liberty
- Derek is a person who will work hard to serve Montana and promote conservative values.

Recreational Marijuana in County Election – Selling our Souls for a Mess of Pottage?

If you live in a county where recreational Marijuana is on the ballot **VOTE YES**. You may have received a hugely expensive ad from *Better For Montana* and is full of lies.

- First, **THE BIG LIE**, that recreational pot will benefit us financially. It will not, the mental health and other costs far out way any tax benefits. And, would you really sell your soul for a mess of pottage even if it was a tax benefit?
- Second, that “**their polling shows that residents are even more supportive.**” *So have you been polled???*
- Third, in Yellowstone County 600 jobs would be lost. Let’s do the math. There are about 70 pot shops selling this junk. Do you believe that they would lose 8 ½ employees? The TRUTH is, **we desperately need workers and, in many businesses, you won’t be hired if you can’t pass a drug test.**

Marijuana is flat out evil! It is very harmful and anyone that says otherwise is either too lazy to do research or promoting it for bad reasons. Hillsdale College's Imprimis from [2019 Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence](#) is a good start. The author's wife, a doctor, said to him about marijuana studies:

You should read them. So I did. The big studies, the little ones, and all the rest. I read everything I could find. I talked to every psychiatrist and brain scientist who would talk to me. And I soon realized that in all my years as a journalist I had never seen a story where the gap between insider and outsider knowledge was so great, or the stakes so high.

So should you before you vote No on this issue.

Can you own a gun and use? **NOTE on Fire arms:** It is illegal to own, carry, or possess fire arms or ammunition if you are using marijuana regardless of state law. <https://www.usconcealedcarry.com/resources/federal-ccw-law/persons-federally-prohibited-from-possessing-firearms/>

Federal law prohibits medical marijuana users from possessing or buying firearms and ammunition — even if state law allows the drug's use. An individual can't have both licenses. Under federal law, any marijuana user is an unlawful user of a controlled substance. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld this rule. Marijuana in any form is illegal under federal law. Users of marijuana are prohibited persons. Checking 'no' on question 11(e) on the Form 4473 would be a lie if you use marijuana, which is a federal offense. See this [ATF letter](#) on the topic.

Vote Yes to Overturn the sales and growing of recreational marijuana in Yellowstone and other County's.

NOTE ONE: This does NOT affect sales of medical marijuana or the use of recreational marijuana in the county. It stops the sales of this gateway drug next door to you!

NOTE TWO: You CAN NOT buy a fire arm legally, if you are taking any kind of marijuana.

In the June election, Yellowstone County will again have an opportunity to ban the sale and growing of recreational marijuana. Other counties will have similar opportunities depending upon past votes and the actions of their County Commissioners.

Billings and vicinity are awash in drug and crime issues – recreational marijuana will only add to this problem.

The Big Lies:

Marijuana will bring in large tax relief to counties:

Of the \$4.5 million of marijuana sales in March, Yellowstone County will receive \$54K. Commissioner Pitman said “the money the county receives is fractional.” Denis realizes that the costs of crime and other social-medical issues that have come with recreational marijuana in Colorado and other states that have legalized, far out way this tax small tax benefits. (See the exhaustive Hudson Institute study [The Colorado Experiment: Legalized Marijuana’s Impact on Colorado](#).)

Talk to an informed Law Enforcement person – listen to what they say about pot!

The original marijuana referendum was crafted by the far-left Bullock administration. The average voter bought their lies, and seemed willing to sell their soul for a few dollars of tax relief.

Marijuana is not harmful and is not a gateway drug to the use of other drugs:

Talk to anyone who really knows the issues with the use of this addictive drug. It slows brain development in young people. It is harmful to the brain in all users and has many other social affects.

If you read *real research* (not just self-reporting by users) you see that marijuana regularly leads to the use of more harmful, even more addictive drugs.