

## 2022 Voters' Guide – Congressional, Yellowstone County, Billings School Trustees, Montana Legislature

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- **Please Pass this on to a friend in Yellowstone County.**
- **If you know of a Republican legislative, primary – send me a similar write up on the candidates.**

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  - **Find the Montana Family Foundation Legislative Scorecard 2021 Legislative Session [Here](#)**
- \*(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:**

School Trustee's – Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Federal, State and County – Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **My Seven Principles of Voting:**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup>. 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.

**3<sup>rd</sup>. Never vote based on friendships** – vote based on principles and values. Separate relational-emotional interests from principles.

**4<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

**5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**7<sup>th</sup>.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**

**Why we in the East should care?**

Western Montana leans Progressive, we in the Eastern District need to [help finance](#) this campaign. [Listen to Dr. Olszewski at the GOP winter conference](#)

**Will Montana have ANY conservative voice in Congress?**

As I will demonstrate, there is only ONE true conservative in this race, his first name is Albert. 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.

- 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.

### **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 holds a **Montana Family Foundation Lifetime rating** of 100% - Consistent supporter of LIFE issues and carried multiple LIFE related bills.
- He served **13 years as a Major in the Air Force** as a flight surgeon and came back to Kalispell and built an orthopedic business that employed a large number of people.
- 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 fishing and 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](#).
- 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.

- Zinke suggests he has a 100% rating from the NRA and Americans for Prosperity. This and many other claims on his mailer don't pass the smell test.
- The vast majority of AI'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.**

#### A Look at Issues:

All of Zinke's ads emphasize his **likeness to President Trump**, see **how that plays** as you read about just these four issues.

#### **Voting Record, MT Senate:**

- [2009 Legislative Loyalty Index](#) 66%, Grade – F
- [2011 Legislative Loyalty Index](#) 81% Grade – D, Dead last.

#### **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:

- 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.

## [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 that securing OUR border comes before securing FOREIGN borders is consistent with that stand. Contrary to what you might hear from those who don't know him, he is gracious and listens well.

**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.**

## **Yellowstone County Commissioner**

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

#### **Commissioner Denis Pitman vs. Mark Morse**

**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, has officiated the funerals for hundreds of residents who were

wanting God as part of their grieving process. For almost 30 years, 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, almost toxic.
- 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 quo, 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. You get a little flavor or what these organizations were promoting [here](#). Mostly, the promotion of the LGBTQ community with emphases on TRANS. The Commissioners took heat from the Gazette but made some needed changes to better these services that few know of.
- **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>

Mark is a conservative who is interested 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.

**Billings District 2 School Trustees – Recommending Four Candidates**

Ballots mailed out – April 13

Election date – Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

[Election Zone Map](#) – (You can only vote for those in your district.)

**[“Four Parents File for School Board to Bring Change to Billings School District 2”](#) (Evelyn Pyburn – Helpful article)**

These candidates are all campaigning on the issue of transparency and parents right. They are concerned about the lack of transparency with the current board, the disrespect being shown to parents, and the issues such as CRT, BLM, and other *equity and inclusion* issues. As the Father of a Billings teacher, I can tell you these *issues are on fire* in the high schools. It’s the first time in at least seven years that a board position has been contested. Two years ago, for example, four of the trustees simply retook their seats after election night because no one ran against them. A tip of the old Stetson to these for making the effort. Shame on the rest of the Conservatives!

**Zone 3 (North Billings Heights) Shannon Johnson.** ([Learn more on her website](#))

This lady has been working hard for months and is well informed. Shannon is a very articulate, well-informed parent. She has two children in high school. Shannon has an extensive background in business and is trained in

traditional naturopathy about which she is an author. She also has her own coffee business – Campfire Blend Coffee. She works for SCL Health as a director of operations for clinics in rural areas. She is a native of Billings, although she and her husband, who is a policeman, lived for a period in Boise, ID for a period of time.

Issues: [\(Learn more on her website\)](#)

- I am for parental involvement - parents should be allowed back in the schools and given a voice both in school board meetings AND with teachers.
- Communication and partnership - This is a relationship that must be fostered and encouraged by our board to support the relationship between parents and teachers to work together, and not against one another.
- Transparent Curriculum - FREE of Critical Race Theory, or any element that remotely relates to or resembles the teaching of this ideal.
- Teachers should feel psychologically safe to go to school and work in an environment free from threats of losing their jobs for speaking up for what they believe in, not forced to enforce rules that resemble nothing more than bullying.
- An END to 1905; the result of which Superintendent Upham was given supreme power and authority to act alone in a political decision that affected the lives of all 16,000 students within this district that you and I both serve.

#### **Zone 4 (Central Billings) Chad Nelson [\(website\)](#)**

Chad is a very conservative, concerned father. He has particular interests in the budget matters. Chad has paid attention to issues in our schools, even some of the books in the library. He says “We have seen in the news that school boards are becoming front and center. I believe that it is imperative that we have elected officials, not special interest appointees.”

**Here are the agenda items** I intend to focus on:

- Transparency in School District 2

- Parental Rights
- Cutting waste and prioritizing spending
- Promoting our system of government, our history, and our religious freedoms
- Finding opportunities for our children
- Monitoring the actions of the Superintendent
- Watching for the infringement of rights, laws, and decency.

**Zone 5 (Central Billings) Kristen Gilfeather [Website](#)**

Knowing I have one in school and one anxiously awaiting to be old enough for school, I see the value in participating in the future of my children's education. The best way to get involved is to take a seat at the table. *"I want to be known for always doing what is right over what is fast, fun or easy, for being authentic and vulnerable, for giving grace to others and for showing up."*

**If elected I will:**

- Act with integrity
- Demand accountability
- Listen to you
- Zone 5 has not had an elected member since 2013 – it's past time.

Learn more about Kristen on her web site.

**Zone 7 – (West Billings) Jon VonLangen [\(his website\)](#)**

Jon has expressed particular concerns about the curriculum issues. Jon says: *Parents must have a voice in their children's education. Parents cannot sit on the sidelines hoping for the current Board of Trustees to actually listen to them. It's time to change from hope to action. It's time to get involved. It's time to make our voices, as parents, heard.*

I'm a proud dad of three (3) children in Billings School District 2.

**I'm running for School Trustee to ensure that:**

- Children are our first priority,
- Parents have a voice in the education of their children and

- Billings School District 2 operates in an open and transparent manner including transparency in the budget and curriculum.
- School District should not be in a state of emergency, that policy 1905 should be terminated and that masking should remain optional."

I am here to represent the residents of Zone 7 and provide practical, common-sense oversight of our Billings School District 2.

### Montana Legislative Candidates Primaries

At this moment, I only have information on **Primary** Republican candidates in Yellowstone and Gallatin 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. 😊

**SD 20 — Primary Barry Usher**, Republican, Billings. He is about ***USHERING CONSERVATIVE POLICIES INTO LAW FOR MONTANA*** His website is [here](#).

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.

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 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)
- MSSA (Montana Shooting Sports Association)

- UPOM (United Property Owners of Montana)
- American Conservative Union

### 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.
- 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%, 19<sup>th</sup>, letter grade B.)

- Her [Legislative Loyalty Score in the 2021 Session](#) was 69%, she ranked 66<sup>th</sup>, next to last, letter grade F. (Usher scored 97%, 11<sup>th</sup>, 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

**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 48<sup>th</sup>, and scored and 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 Masters 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](#)

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.

#### **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.
- "A" rating from the NRA
- Single highest rated legislator with Americans for Prosperity

**My Opponent: Bruce Grubbs, Bozeman – 2019 (Legislature)**

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.

He also voted against every other Pro- Life legislation

[Legislative loyalty 2019](#)- Other partisan bills voted with the Democrats 50% of the time, ranked 57<sup>th</sup> worst, letter grade F. If you click on our names, you can see our votes, with bill numbers.