

## UPDATE 2 - 2024 VOTERS GUIDE TO KEY MONTANA RACES

Will **\$MONEY\$** Determine who Montana votes for in these races - Governor, Senator, Congress-East, and Supreme Court? Not if we do our homework!

(Stay tuned for updates that you can find here

<https://www.bigskyworldview.org/library> (Please consider forwarding this)

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### Links and Score Cards of Voter Info:

#### About this Guide:

This year, I have attempted to talk people I trust people who know the individual and the related office. I cannot document all of my comments with LINKS or references or this would become a book. You can **look at my choices and make your own evaluations**. You may choose to look at only certain issues or candidates. However, there are a couple of races that I will use LINKS for. **Some will disagree** with these calls and choose not to use this guide or forward it. Where there is not a Republican Primary race, I will not comment. **I will only comment on races where I have information I trust**. On the issue of Judges (other than the Supreme Court) the best you can do is the Montana Family Foundation LINK below. That will probably not be up until early May. **I encourage you NOT to vote early and often, good information comes after people have already voted. Never vote for a person just because they are your friend.**

**Update Note: Places where I have changed my endorsements due to new information and other new information will be in GREEN**

#### Table of Contents:

- Links, Unity considerations, and Basics – p. 2-3
- MT Supreme Court – p. 3-5
- Local Judicial Races – **will come later** or check [bigskyworldview.org/library](https://www.bigskyworldview.org/library)
- President, **Governor**, and U. S. Senate Races – p. 6-12
- U.S. Congress District 2 East – p. 12-17
- Secretary of State, Attorney General, Auditor – p.17-18
- Office of Public Instruction (OPI) – p. 18
- Public Service Commission (PSC) – p. 18-19
- Montana Legislature – Senate Races p.19-20
- Montana Legislature – House of Representatives – p.20-23

- Montana Ballot Initiatives – best resource I could find [is BallotPedia – Montana 2024 ballot measures](#). All of these are **in process** but VERY IMPORTANT. For example, Ballot **Issue - 14** (they have changed the name to **CI-128**) would **establish abortion as a right in the Montana Constitution**. You want to pay attention to the **“Decline to Sign”** work that is being done. Here are [Six Things CI128 will do](#). **Be aware of a huge effort by Progressives to gather signatures to get this on the Ballot**. DO NOT assume, this would never pass in Montana! As I understand it, the most recent polling by the Montana Family Foundation suggests that it might. As you will see, none of the statewide ballot measures have been certified. At the above LINK, the **page is interactive**. Click on the blue links for more information. On the side, you will see more info.

#### Useful LINKS:

- This is the **LINK to the Montana Secretary of States** list of Candidates that have filed:<https://prodcandidatefiling.mt.gov/candidatefiling/CandidateList.aspx?e=450002570> At this LINK you will also find **Websites for some candidates**. For Legislature, you are only going to vote for two people. Take a few minutes and look at their webpages.
- **Scorecards and a word about them:** First, I try to use score cards that are from sources that I trust as reliable and not from basically one perspective. Scorecards are also not a sole determiner of a candidate. Character issues should always be bottom line in your evaluation.
- This [LINK](#) is to the **Montana Family Foundation Legislative Scorecard, you can also find more than one legislative session**.
- This [LINK](#) to the **Montana Family Foundation Voter guide on Judges** will be useful. Look for this to be **completed in early May**. They do an extensive survey of candidates. Best source for info on local/regional judges
- This [LINK](#) to the **CPAC Center for Legislative Accountability** – very useful.

#### Considering the Issue of Unity:

How do Principled Conservatives arrive at Unity? Do we hold to *integrity* informed by **truth**, seasoned with *grace*? Or, do we arrive at unity by *compromising* on truth and principle until we arrive at a *common consensus* which is always a *lower standard*? If we take the later approach, we cave to the *rulers or this age* – emotion, and feelings. The former approach is harder because it *requires honest dialogue* informed by education and godly, critical thinking. THIS CHOICE TODAY will determine the America our children live in tomorrow. **Finally, we do not shun or divorce each other because of differences of opinion.**

### **Basics:**

Let me say that I will **never endorse or vote for a Democrat, Libertarian or Green Party candidate**, so I only discuss Republicans. Why? Because the Democratic party is now so far LEFT that I can confidently call it malevolent. If you're running as a Democrat, you are either embracing that malevolence or you're so naive that you can't discern it. Either way, I will not support you. For that reason, I do not list Democrats in this survey. That is NOT an endorsement of all things Republican.

**Montana Supreme Court Race:** I consider the Courts the most important races, because, too often, they have now overruled the other two branches of government. The races are supposedly a non-partisan race. Don't you believe it - there is no such thing. For this reason, I will put it first.

### **Clerk - Montana Supreme Court**

**Bowen Greenwood** is the incumbent who is endorsed by Montana's Attorney General, the Secretary of State and the Montana Family Foundation. He has taken this position very seriously, and would very much like to continue. Bowen has worked with the Montana Family Foundation and has been a consistent conservative. His Republican challenger, Jason Ellsworth has a reputation of being inconsistent in terms of how he works with colleagues. This is critical for a person working with the court.

### **Montana Supreme Court Judges:**

There are **two open seats**. Our MT supreme court is arguably the most LEFT leaning in America. Make no mistake, **this will be a battle** and the Democrats have already taken the gloves off. They know that there are issues they can't win in legislation so they work to control the courts. **The two liberals are obviously activists that have been recruited by the Progressives**. Finally, I will only discuss candidates who are **qualified** to be on this court. There are serious questions from knowable people, about **Jerry O'Neil** being qualified. My understanding is that he has no law degree. and therefore, has not met that qualification of having practiced law for five years.

Corey Swanson and Dan Wilson are endorsed by **ALL the conservatives** that I trust. You can read about them on their web pages.

**Cory Swanson for Chief Justice**, Townsend, MT [swansonforjustice.com](http://swansonforjustice.com) **Cory is a solid conservative and my choice for Chief Justice.** No other candidate has more Montana state courtroom experience than Cory Swanson. Cory joined the Montana National Guard in 1997 and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in 1998. He was deployed to the Middle East three times and currently holds the rank of Colonel. He is close to retirement from the Guards. He got his law degree at the University of Montana. In January 2013, Swanson was hired as a Deputy Attorney General in the Montana Department of Justice. Cory's primary challenger is...

**Jeremiah (Jerry) Lynch**, for Chief Justice. Lives in Missoula, Butte native. [lynchformontana.com](http://lynchformontana.com) Jerry served 13 years as a Federal Magistrate – he has never been elected to a bench position. **At age 71 he is coming out of retirement (2019) to run. The question is why?** Progressives can be very crafty at disguising motives, especially in the judiciary. You often have to pick up **bits and pieces** from different articles. One of the things, you begin to sense with this individual is a **motive of activism** on issues. As you are vetting candidates, **look for buzz words** or phrases, so let's look at a couple here:

- **He is very Pro-Abortion:** In the one-minute video on his webpage you hear. *He is a **Staunch advocate** of the Montana Constitution with its “**protection for the right to privacy**”* – this phrase has been used by our Supreme Court to support the right to abortion. (See [Armstrong v. State](#) issue discussion).
- **He is a Climate Change Activist:** The Montana Constitution guarantee of “**a clean and healthful environment**” – this phrase is currently being used by a group of kids from Missoula to sue the state for environmental pollutions and our Supreme Court has taken their side.
- **More Environmentalism:** *Embraces a **sustainable** future for the Big Sky State* – the word sustainable is almost always a **signal of environmentalism** and if you read his experience, you find this in his background.
- He speaks of a “**brilliant career in public service of Chief Justice McGrath.**” Actually, McGrath has the distinction of presiding for 16 years over the most liberal state [supreme court in America](#).

**Judge Dan Wilson - for Associate Supreme Court Judge**, from Kalispell. Find him at [wilsonforjustice.com](http://wilsonforjustice.com) **Dan is the clear choice for Associate Justice.** In a

meeting with Judge Wilson, you encounter a measured, man who is committed to the rule of law. He does not cave to special interests. This is the kind of man we want on our highest court.

**Judge Katherine Bidegaray for Associate Court Judge.** [Judge Katherine Bidegaray](#) from Sidney. **Reported to be endorsed by the Montana Trial Lawyers Association.** Translation? Big\$. Knowledgeable people have serious questions about this lady's professional skills. Every person I talked to labeled her is an activist. She met Dan when they both filed. He pledged to run an honest campaign, she agreed. Since then, she has accused him of accepting dark money and – in typical Democrat fashion – has **invented lies of every sort**. Those in eastern Montana cringe at the idea of this woman being on our high court.

But more concerning are [her statements](#) about the **current Supreme Court situation** she says this:

*“In the face of current **unprecedented challenges confronting the Montana Supreme Court**, including assaults on the rule of law that endanger the liberties and rights dear to Montanans, Judge Bidegaray grasps the magnitude of these issues. **She stands ready to confront these challenges head-on, committed to defending the Constitution and delivering justice for everyone.**”*

If you are aware of the current LEFTISM in our Supreme Court and some of their shenanigans, you know this is dangerous language. They have been challenged for doing “polling on bills in the legislature” – a move that is clearly compromising and much more.

She has also said she is *a **visionary, an innovator***... poised not merely to follow, but **to lead**. This is activist language. We don't want this activist judge anywhere near the Montana Supreme Court.

On her webpage you read *“Alongside **her then-husband**, she raised five children on their family farm/ranch in northeastern Montana.”* What you don't see is that she **divorced that husband and is now allegedly living with another man.**

## President of the United States:

The Republican Party has given us Donald J. Trump. I am not anti-Trump but there are concerns besides the court issues. There are conservatives who will not vote for him, but I would argue that is short-sighted. With all of his warts, let me say this **to the Never-Trumpers and others**. Joe **Biden** is a demonically inspired (a Biblical term the church used to teach on), full blown pagan. You will see more [evidence of his Paganism](#) in this Federalist article. He has not one Catholic bone in his body! He is also a puppet, but make no mistake, Joe himself is also doing the acting – he and his Comrades hate America. If he is elected again, [America will become a full-blown PAGAN nation](#). We are well on our way, but Joe will seal our doom.

## Montana Governor: (we report you decide)

**Greg Gianforte** – incumbent from Bozeman find at [gregformontana.com](http://gregformontana.com). He is considered a moderate Republican, leaning Establishment. He has stood with our Republican legislators to sign many bills. For that, we should be grateful, but there are many concerns. He operates more as a CEO than a governor for the people – not considered a good listener.

At the GOP winter kickoff, when he introduced **HIS candidate in the primary** for U.S. Senate, Tim Sheehy, he was booed. **His approval rating** is about like President Biden's, hovering around 37%. In his term in the U.S. Congress, he had the **most liberal voting record of any Republican from Montana, in that chamber in our life time**. The Gianforte's attitude towards primaries appears to be that **Montanans don't know enough to vote well** so he and his friends will tell them WHO they will be allowed to vote for.

He has **exerted himself into two key Primary races**. First, in the Western Congressional Race between **Ryan Zinke and Albert Olszewski** when he endorsed Zinke in the primary, and now into the U.S. senate race, endorsing **Tim Sheehy** in this primary. He and Senator Steve Daines have financed much of Sheehy and Zinke's races. And, again, in primaries. When you see an ad listing "financed by *More Jobs, Less Government* you should know that that is Steve Daines' PAC. Greg would do well to consider the Montana voter, and put them first.

**Representative Tanner Smith**, Lakeside, MT. [Tannerformontana.com](http://Tannerformontana.com)

The Smith family is not particularly wealthy so will **\$MONEY\$** determine this outcome? **Here is a key question I think we need to ask** in this and other races: **HOW MUCH...** how much money, how much time in service, how much does a candidate have to pay to the Establishment before they are *qualified* to run for office?

Representative Tanner Smith, is well-spoken and is a solid conservative. He has served one session in the Montana House of Representatives. Tanner is NOT an **Establishment Darling!** A setting Montana Senator essentially said, *“when Tanner started talking about running for governor during the legislative session, I thought who is this guy? But the more I listened, the more I think YOU should.”*

Before you vote, take THREE MINUTES, go to Tanner’s website and just listen to the one-minute segments on ***Water Rights, Marijuana in Montana, and Parent’s Rights.***

Tanner is a contractor and business owner. He is very passionate about Montana and has a lot of potential. He is a hard-charger, with limited legislative experience, but is **strong on the issues.** Tanner is bright and is bringing up **some VERY good questions.** Before you “pull the lever” give Tanner a good look.

Tanner spoke in the Billings area 04/10/24 and I have concerns about some of the things he said. He addressed a large number of issues that he would change as governor and many of those issues are concerns. The crowd certainly liked what he was saying. However, there were a good number of things he claimed he would do that I question whether the governor has the authority to do. Some of them might be constitutional limitations, functions of the legislature, or functions of other government agencies. Inaccuracies about such matters will not benefit his campaign in the long run. He also needs to keep in mind that most conservative’s appetite is for the executive office to do less and the legislature more.

**United States Senate:**

**Integrity and Experience are the key issues.**

[Brad Johnson](#) from Helena, MT. [Bradformontana.com](#)

**Dr. Albert Olszewski endorses Brad** in a letter [here](#) saying in part:

*“Only Secretary Brad Johnson is proven to be a Republican candidate to **win the vote of Montanans in two statewide elections...** Of the three candidates for Republican U.S. Senate primary, **only Secretary Brad Johnson has proven himself to support the Montana Republican Party Platform 100%...** Of the three Senate candidates, **only Secretary Brad Johnson has been an active and involved Montana Republican for greater than one year...** **The other two candidates have no experience serving in the Montana Republican Party.** They have **been invited guests** to every Montana Republican event since declaring they are Montanan **Republicans one year ago or less.**”*

Brad is not particularly wealthy so will **\$MONEY\$** determine this outcome? Some of my *friends* would have you believe that: Brad is **old** (he is 5 years younger than President Trump), has been **out of politics** for a while, has been **unsuccessful** in many elections, and **isn't campaigning hard**. **Let's examine these charges:**

**Right out of the gate**, in the 36 days (minus 5 Sundays when one can hardly campaign) so 31 days between March 31<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>, Brad will have been or will be at 12 events not counting small groups, coffees etc. **That's a campaign event every 2.58333 days.** 😊 **Except at the Yellowstone County GOP LRDD event where he will be excluded despite his request to speak**, (and Tim Sheehy will be interviewed for 20 minutes), he has accepted every event that he could reasonably get to!

**Do Montanans know Brad and will they vote for him?** In 2018, Brad ran for Public Service Commission District 5. In that election, in the counties in his district, (West-central - Teton, Lake, Flathead, Lewis & Clark) Brad got **more votes than Senator John Tester**.

**Brad is the former Montana Secretary of State and the former head of the Montana Public Service Commission.** He has a long history of serving Montana. He is a business man and former County Extension agent. He has been criticized for running for many different offices, and being out of politics for a while. Actually, he just finished his term in the **Public Service Commission in January**



**2023.** On the positive side, **if you look at the numbers, Brad owns an enviable record** where voters are concerned as you will see below.

He has also been criticized for a past record of alcohol use but, commendably, he has emerged from that victorious. *“Johnson **withdrew** from the race for Public Service Commissioner **in 2010** after pleading guilty to [driving under the influence](#) in [Broadwater County](#). He subsequently entered an alcohol treatment program.”* (The Missoulian) How I wish *“Sheehy and Friends”* would demonstrate this much integrity.

**Name Recognition Issues: During the Democratic glory days in Helena of Brian Schweitzer, Brad was the only Republican on the Land Board – State Offices.**

While he has lost races here are several, he was victorious in:

Secretary of State:

**2004 – 2008 Republican - Brad 51%.** Democrat - Bill Kennedy 49% (yes, the same Bill Kennedy who pretended to be a conservative and lied his way on to the Billings City Council in 2023)

**In 2008, he was unopposed in the Primary** and lost to Linda McCulloch, former Superintendent of Public Instruction by 5,300 votes and a Constitution Party member split the conservative vote taking 11,722 votes.

**In 2012 he won the Republican Primary with 55%** of the vote and lost in the General to incumbent McCullouch.

2020 – In a 5-way race against Christi Jacobsen and the former President of the Montana Senate, Scott Sales, and a setting member of the Montana Legislature - **Brad still got 23%** of the vote, Jacobsen got 29%.

**What is my point?** Even in races where he lost, he **showed strong Republican voter support.**

Public Service Commission:

**2014 - Brad won taking 61% of the vote** – 60,434 votes and was chosen to be the Chair of the Commission.

2018 – Brad won taking **57.8% of the vote** serving until January of 2023.

**Brad lacks the outright arrogance of his opponent. He does have a history in government, and does not carry nearly the baggage that Tim Sheehy does at this very moment in time**

**Tim Sheehy** – from the Bozeman area, you can find Tim at [timformontana.com](http://timformontana.com).

**Integrity and experience are the key issues.** (I have spent hours vetting Tim Sheehy, I will be as brief as I can and use LINKS to help you find my research and do your own.)

*“Pay attention to what they **DO**, not to what they **SAY**.”*

In examining a candidate, it is important to consider **who they are**. What is their record, and **how** did they get to where they are?

Candidate Tim Sheehy has built massive wealth and a huge company in a about ten years - a relatively short period of time. I do not fault wealth, generally.

**Asking how he accomplished that is a reasonable question that expects answers from someone running for U.S. Senate.** Privacy is no longer a privilege. Multiple sources have asked that question and Tim has skirted the issue.

**My premise:** Tim Sheehy built his business by compromising - embracing Climate Change and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) - to appeal to and obtain government money - contracts that now include over 90% of Bridger Aerospace business. He denies this as an issue, but has not answered the accusation. His accomplices - Senator Steve Daines, Governor Greg Gianforte, and Congressman Ryan Zinke - played key roles in this. Tim will hitch his wagon to anything or anybody that will advantage him.

Prior to being named as a “[Rising Star in the Republican Party](#)” by Senator Daines, Tim was [selected by Mitch McConnell and Senator Steve Daines](#). Daines had been [maneuvering for months](#) (p. 1 middle) behind the scenes to promote Sheehy and get him before Trump for an endorsement. Sadly, Trump endorsed Tim – as he has other candidates he knew little about. The truth is that **Tim has no history of service or involvement in the Republican party.**

Prior to that *coronation*, **Tim was all in on Climate Change (he now calls it a cult) to build his business.** In a **must-see-documentary** [Climate: The Movie](#), (endorsed by my friend Dr. Jay Richards from the Heritage Foundation) you find some **issues very relative to this campaign:**

- **First**, while climate change advocates are telling us that **forest fires** are getting **worse**, the data tells us that actually over time, they **are declining**. Obviously, when Tim approached the government for contracts, his business played to the **narrative in Washington** that they “needed his services for the **worsening forest fire situation**.”
- **Additionally**, as you will see elaborated in this documentary, the key to **getting government money** in this environment is **hitching your wagon to climate change**. And, that is exactly what Tim did with the help of his Navy Seal buddy, Ryan Zinke when he was Trumps Secretary of the Interior. Climate Change is a scam and true conservatives know it. Yes, the climate is always changing but no, it is not a catastrophe.

**Tim Sheehy, being more opportunist** than principled conservative, dove into these waters head first to do business – primarily with these Government Contracts.

As an example of his former stance, [Here](#) you can read *“When it came to growing and promoting his aerial firefighting company...Tim Sheehy was, for years, **outspoken about the need to combat global climate change**, even publicly supporting a major initiative to curb emissions and invest in climate resilience.”* Reading on from his webpage... *“In a presentation to investors... the company boasted that its **mission is to “directly attack CO2 emissions to combat climate change.”*** Much of this type information has been scrubbed from his company web page even though he denies it.

**At the heart of this issue are three of the most threatening issues in America**, Tim has a [record of supporting](#) (see p.11) [Climate Change](#), [DEI \(Diversity, Equity and Inclusion\)](#), and [ESG \(Environmental, Social, and Governance\)](#). When asked about these issue, his response to me was [“I don’t owe you any explanation”](#) (see p. 1), calling me a liar on a voicemail. In my direct interaction with Tim, he demonstrated that he is **unable to have a [respectful conversation](#)** (p. 1 bottom and p. 3 bottom) **with someone who questions him**. More publicly, he has claimed that he **had to embrace these evils in order for his company to go public**.

Tim Sheehy and his family moved to Montana about a decade ago. His claim to fame is that he was a **decorated Navy Seal** for which I – as a former Air Force

Officer - salute him. **However, I do not consider his military experience a substitute for legislative involvement or experience.**

**Tim has accepted the support of Americans for Prosperity**, wrongly considered to be the largest not-for-profit CONSERVATIVE organization. [Here](#) (pages 15-16), I document the fact that AFP and the Koch brothers spent \$70M to dump Donald Trump, are pro-amnesty, for open borders, and were initially supporting Nikki Haley. **Why would Tim hitch his wagon to this questionable group?**

There are a lot of unanswered questions that you can read about [here](#). How did he [finance his business startup](#), (p. 3-4)? With over 90% of his business [government contracts](#) (p7), did his Navy Seal buddy [Ryan Zinke](#) (p. 2) help him get these contracts when he was Secretary of the Interior? How did he get these huge contracts? **What will this mean if he is in the Senate.** Tons of unanswered questions.

**My Conclusions:** Tim Sheehy lacks experience and there are sincere questions about conservative consistency. Without Senator Steve Daines, Governor Greg Gianforte, and Congressman Ryan Zinke – Tim would be nowhere near this senate race and every honest, informed person knows it! Clearly, Tim **compromised** on the issues of Climate Change, DEI, and ESG to build his business and refuses to explain this. **We have no assurance that he will not compromise** in the U.S. Senate. **Be assured, he won't hide from the Democrats on these concerns.**

### **The United States Congressional District 2, Eastern Montana:**

**This race will probably be decided by money** (see the \* by their names) **because of voter ignorance.** Here is what I know by personal observation or by networking, you can find their websites:

**Senator Kenneth Bogner** from Miles City, find him at [kennethbogner.com](#) Ken is **endorsed by Republican Senator Tom McGilvray, Majority Whip from Billings.** Ken is not wealthy so will **\$MONEY\$** determine this outcome?

After considerable networking, my conclusion is to support Senator Ken Bogner for **Congressional District 2 East.**

Here is the **Executive Summary** in a paragraph:

**Senator Bogner is “in the game at the moment” as an informed legislator.** Ken is humble, self-aware and a good listener. Those are **rare, but necessary**, traits for a good legislator. He is able to communicate effectively and respectfully. He is intelligent, well educated in terms of political science and public policy, and has **been an effective legislator. You don’t get elected Senate President Pro-Tempore by fellow legislators if you are not.** Ken was placed in the *Conservative Achievement* category from **CPAC Score Card**. He scored 93% (like many other, he voted against SB210 that failed) on the **Montana Family Foundation** Legislative score card and in 2019, he scored 100%. Even the *Montana Conservative Alliance* (not sure who all they represent) gave Ken a score of 47 labeling him as **CENTRIST**, but *Senators* Barry Usher (member of the Freedom Caucus), Keith Regier, Carl Glimm and Dennis Lenz were in that same category. Also, *Representatives* Matt Regier, Tanner Smitt, Bob Phalen, and Greg Kmetz were in that category. **Pretty good company in my book -- for those claiming he is voting liberal!** In a **3-minute stump speech** at the Roundup Lincoln-Reagan dinner, Ken gave the **most concise and effective presentation** of the night, especially of the 9 congressional candidates. He is well versed on issues that he will have to know in Congress.

### **General information about Sen. Ken Bogner:**

**Kenneth Bogner** lives in Miles City. He has worked full time as the **Montana Outreach Coordinator** for [VETJOBS](#) for three years. VetJobs is owned and operated by [Corporate America Supports](#), a 501(c3), the leader in job placement and career progress for our military and veterans. Ken served in the United States Marine Corps as a combat engineer and completed two tours in the middle east during the Iraq war. He then earned a bachelor’s degree in **Political Science** from Columbia University and then a Master of **Public Policy** from Middlesex University. Ken has served three terms in the Montana Senate from SD 19 and was elected President Pro-Tempore in the 2023-24 session.

Ken Bogner has a strong track record of **securing our borders, ensuring election integrity, and protecting our privacy rights from the government.** (See his legislation issues)

**His critics** accuse him of working with the *Republican Solutions Caucus*. In an interview he simply said “*As President Pro-Tempore, I talk to all of the Senators. I am **not in the Solution Caucus TEXT group. I am not on their email lists, and I don’t get invited to their meetings.***” Ken would not be perceived as aggressive enough or loud enough to please some.

### **His Voting Record:**

The Montana Family Foundation Legislative Score Card gives Ken Bogner a 93% for the 2023 session and a 100% rating for the 2019 session.

**The CPAC Center for Legislative Accountability** at this [LINK](#) gives Ken Bogner a score of 88% putting him in the **Conservative Achievement group**. Note that he is also listed in the “**Improved since last year group.**” The Republican average is 85%. For those who are paying attention, Sen. David Howard was in Ken’s group in the previous session, he scored an 85% (life time 81%) Anybody calling David a liberal? FYI - **Ed Buttrey** scored a 74% and **Llew Jones** scored an 80% - lifetime 65%. These are the leaders of the Solutions Caucus.

**Some of the Legislation he passed:** (A few examples, find more on [his webpage.](#))

Protecting Our Borders: SB 203 Prohibits foreign adversaries from purchasing critical infrastructure.

Election Integrity: SB 254 – Makes all precincts subject to post-election audit.

Privacy Rights – SB 397 Keep the government from spying on its citizens by prohibiting continuous facial surveillance.

Medical Freedom: SB – 308, Montana Patient Visitation Rights Act. (Loved ones must be allowed to visit). SB 422 Expands medical right-to-try.

Constitutional Rights: SB203 – Amending Montana Constitution to protect electronic communications from unreasonable search and seizure.

Parental Rights: SB 339 Gives parent’s protection for traditional parenting.

**Joel Krautter** from Billings. Find him at [joelformontana.com](#). Joel did serve a term in the legislature several years ago. Those who I trust clearly label him as a RINO – even those who don’t like the term. Joel is considered by many to be a Democrat.

**Kyle Austin**, find him [here](#). Kyle has **zero experience** in the political arena and worse – **zero credibility**. A Pharmacist from Billings. There are some character issues that I have to be careful about, suffice it to say, Kyle’s values and most Conservatives values would be poles apart. Those that I trust have also spoken of dubious professional issues with this man. **The danger is**, statistically, with 9 people in this race, that the **Montana Republican Party could send someone like Kyle to D.C.**

**Stacy Zinn** from Billings is a retired DEA agent, find her [here](#). Not a lot on her webpage, you might try her Facebook. Stacy is a **conservative and a decent lady** with experience in drug enforcement. She is about 57 and has **no experience in legislating or similar involvement**. **In my conversation with Stacy early on**, I suggested that - with her lack of governing experience and limited understanding of basic issues - she would be **well served if she would run for the legislature**. At that time, they were still looking for candidates. Furthermore, with her passion for issues related to the law, drugs etc. **the Legislature is the place to have that impact**. She has declined to do that. Starting at the top may seem great, but often does not turn out well. When you hear her talk at events, her claim to fame is that she **“is not a politician, never will be”** but that is what every *politician* says.

**Ric Holden** from Glendive, find him at [Holdenformontana.com](http://Holdenformontana.com) Ric is a farmer-rancher and former state Senator from 1995 to 2003 and was term limited out and did not pursue further election to the House. Ric is **well respected in the agricultural community**. His website does not seem to demonstrate a seriousness about this campaign. Ric is a solid guy, but does not seem to be well invested in political issues recently. No compelling reasons to vote for him.

**Elsie Arntzen\*** from Billings is at [elsiearntzen.com](http://elsiearntzen.com) has been the Superintendent of Public Instruction for eight years. No question, she inherited a Progressive mess at OPI. There are currently **many questions about her tactics** in this office and the **staff turnover in OPI was very high** in her term. She taught school in Billings. She has served in both the Montana House of Representatives and the Montana Senate. She has run for Congress before. After Congressman Rosendale bowed out of the U.S. Senate race **and before** he entered the race for Congress, **she told me and others that she would not run if Matt did**. Later, claiming that she never said that, **she continued** in this race even before Matt dropped out. Elsie has

served well, but I have many questions about her in this office. In public events, Elsie is coming across **more as a cheerleader who is trying to ride on Trumps coattails**. Elsie is not the articulate communicator Montana needs in Congress. The “CIRCUS” with her bell that went on and on in Roundup LRDD was disrespectful of other candidate’s time She does have the **money** to run this race.

[Denny Rehberg\\*](#), I don’t know anyone, whose opinion I value, that thinks this is a good idea! He comes across as entitled, full of himself, and out of touch. There is talk of the “Montana Republican Establishment” making phone calls to solicit money from doners, so keep your ear to the ground. Rehberg will **probably have the money** to do this campaign. His time as a Lobbyist leaves many unanswered questions, but there are reasons to believe that he is **IN** with the **Montana Establishment wing of the Republican** party and they are raising money for him.

[Ed Walker](#) has dropped out of the race

[Troy Downing\\*](#) from the Bozeman area, current State Auditor find him [here](#). On his web page you find very little except a place to donate. Another guy featuring his military experience up front.

Of those I would look to, none are excited about Troy in this race. If you read the **Research Report on Troy Downing** [here](#) this is what you find in the executive summary. His Republican opponents may not use this, but the **Democrats sure will**. Sadly, Troy appears to have integrity issues. In part it says:

Since Downing’s defeat in the Republican primary for a U.S. Senate seat in Montana, he has pleaded guilty to charges of purchasing resident hunting licenses in Montana as a non-resident. [No big deal so far, but then] **Before making a plea deal with prosecutors, Downing denied the charges**, sought to have them dismissed, and eventually blamed accountants for incorrectly filing his taxes. After insisting during his Senate campaign that he had moved to Montana in 2009, Downing appears to have made an attempt to **shore up the political liability presented by questions over his residency by purchasing a home in Bozeman** and subsequently filing a Declaration of Homestead for the property in July of 2019. He then sold his California home in December 2019. **Downing was critical of candidate Donald Trump** [on his web page he **now endorses Trump** like all lock-step R candidates] during the 2016 Republican presidential primary, calling him “either a liar or



an idiot” in March 2016 and declaring that he was unelectable. In 2018, Downing said that **deporting 11 million illegal immigrants was “just not feasible”** and said he would favor legislation that would create a skills-based path to legal status for illegal immigrants who are already in the country. **Downing also contributed to moderate Republican Jon Huntsman’s presidential campaign.** Huntsman said he hated the thought of building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, declared that he believed in **climate change**, and called Barack Obama a “remarkable leader.

**Troy also has the money** to run a Congressional race. The question is, does he have the passion, the integrity, and the backing of enough Montanans?

#### Secretary of State:

**Christi Jacobsen**, from Helena find her at [Christijacobsen.com](http://Christijacobsen.com)

Christi Jacobsen is the incumbent endorsed by many in Helena. She appears to have done a respectable job in general terms. I endorse her with reservations. My reservations are chiefly around voter integrity issues. Christi refused to address questions of 4,592 ballots in Missoula County missing envelopes. She refused to acknowledge questions from informed Montana citizens about this, preferring to meet them with stone-cold silence. Plus, how did she, as a relatively unknown candidate in 2020, received more votes than Trump. She has been endorsed by Daines and Zinke for those that trust those two.

#### **Montana Attorney General:**

**Austin Knudsen**, find him at [Austinformontana.com](http://Austinformontana.com). from Culberson, is the incumbent and has been a **rock-solid AG fighting for Montana values.** Austin has been willing to risk coming against a corrupt Supreme Court in Montana. He is one of the most respected conservatives in Montana. He is also the former Speaker of the Montana House of Representatives. Enough said!

#### **State Auditor:**

**James Brown**, from Dillion. Find James [here](#). James is an **extremely well-respected conservative** who ran for the Montana Supreme Court and probably would have won had it not been for voters in Billings who gave 11,000 votes to abortion advocate Judge Ingrid Gustafson. **As President of the Public Service**

**Commission**, Jim was able to clean up an organization that was in much disarray. He will take those same skills to the Auditors office. Much of the work at the PSC is similar to what the Auditor does. These same talents will help him in this position. Jim has the name recognition, credibility, and experience to get elected and to do this job well for Montana. A tested Conservative and we need him on the land board.

### **Superintendent of Public Instruction – OPI**

**Susie Hedalen, from Townsend, find her [here](#).** The conservatives I know and trust are supporting her. Susie Hedalen is the Superintendent of Townsend School District and the Vice-Chair of the Montana Board of Public Education. She previously served as Deputy Superintendent for Montana Office of Public Instruction and has extensive experience working in the K-20 school systems throughout the state. She believes parents have a right to know what is being taught in the classroom. Her Republican opponent appears not to be able to communicate her thoughts well.

**Sharyl Allen** from Helena, find her [here](#) Hearing her speak at an event just was not at all impressive. Any woman her age who shows up in jeans and a tee shirt to address a Republican dinner will never get my endorsement.

### **Montana Public Service Commission:**

The past two Presidents of the PSC tell me that this is NOT a policy making board, but regulates according to the will of Legislators and this has been a major issue on the board. (I will only comment on a couple of Districts)

**PSC District 2 Kirk Bushman** is from the Billings area and has served on the Commission before. He is good at analysis - which is much of what the job is all about. He will not be as inclined to become political or activist trying to enact policy as his competitor Brad Molnar would. Working respectfully with a Commission requires having a respectful attitude towards others.

**PSC District 3: Suzzann Nordwick** from Butte vs. Jeff Welborn from Dillon vs. Rob Elwood from Harlowton. Suzzann Nordwick and Jeff Wellborn are worlds apart on their views. Welborn scored **13% on the Montana Family Foundation Score Card. That is by far the lowest score for any Republican – House or Senate.** He was the ONLY Senate Republican to vote against SB99, the bill to stop Transgender

surgeries etc. This score card relates to LIFE issues, Religious Liberty, and school choice. That alone is the **DEATH KNEEL for any legislator**. Jeff also scores low with other scoring groups. Suzzann is State Federation of Republican Women President and a firm Conservative. PRO-Life, big on religious freedom, and strongly opposed to child sex mutilation, unlike her opponent. She's an engineer with 30 years' experience in technology applications. This position is an excellent fit for her.

**PSC District 4 – Jennifer Fielder**, find her [here](#). Jennifer is a solid conservative and good critical thinker. Prior to joining the PSC, Fielder was a popular, Montana State Senator and nationally recognized advocate for Liberty. Her current work on the Commission and 8 years as a lawmaker complement more than two decades of professional planning, design, and project management experience involving the types of industries regulated by the PSC. **Rock Solid!**

#### **Montana Legislature - Senate Races:**

(Races where there are Republican Primaries.)

**Sen Dist. 5 Representative Matthew Regier** has a primary challenger who has no history of involvement. Matt Regier was is the former Speaker of the House from last session. Matt is a strong Christian, a SOLID conservative, but also demonstrated fairness and grace. Even Democrats will tell you he is fair minded. **They don't come any better than Matt!**

**Sen. Dist. 13 Representative Lola Galloway** from the Great Falls area. Lola has been very active and a consistent conservative.

**Sen. Dist. 15 Rhonda Knudson.** When in HD 34 last year, she scored 100% on the Montana Family Foundation Scorecard and in the Conservative Excellence group in the CPAC report. Prior to entering politics, Knudsen worked as a civil engineer for the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) and [Bureau of Indian Affairs](#). Knudsen was elected to the [Montana House of Representatives](#) in 2018 took office in 2019. If you're wondering if she is Conservative, look no further than her son Austin, our AG.

**Sen. Dist. 17 Representative Bob Phalen.** Glendive area, being primaried by Mike Newton. Try and find a more conservative guy than Phalen. **Vote Phalen.**

**Sen. Dist. 21 Gayle Lammers** vs. Christian Takesnemy Harden and Xavier. Lammers is a solid conservative. **Vote Lammers.**

**Sen. Dist. 27 Vince Racci** vs. Chris Friedel. Here I have made a **change** based upon feedback from the Laurel area. Vince has been in the legislature, House of Representatives, before. He is solid, reliable conservative, lives in Laurel, has owned a business there and is well thought of. He has a reputation of being humble and easy to communicate and work with. In this case relationships and mutual respect will dictate. **Vote Racci.**

**Sen. Dist. 47 Abigail Maki** vs. Erica Slate. Slate ran as a Democrat in SD 45 in 2022. Maki is considered to be a solid conservative. **Vote Maki.**

### **Montana House of Representatives**

(The House Districts have changed so you don't have true incumbents but I have tried to note the ones who were in the House previously)

**HD 2 Tom Millett from Marions** vs Thomas Jenkins from Libby. Thomas lists zero contact info so I can't take him seriously. **Vote Millett.**

**HD 7 Shaun Pandina vs Courtenay Sprunger** - Shaun is the true conservative in this race. **Vote Panina.**

**HD 8 Lukas Schubert**, Kalispell vs Tony Brockman, Kalispell. Shubert is considered to be the conservative in this race. **Vote Schubert.**

**HD 9 Steven Kelly** vs. Lee Huestis both Kalispell. Kelly is the conservative and Huestis ran last time with the support of moderates and Democrats. **Vote Kelly**

**HD 11 Ed Byrne** vs. Rob Tracy both Bigfork. Byrne is the conservative. **Vote Byrne.**

**HD 18 James Coombs** vs. Llew Jones both from Conrad. Llew is the incumbent but a leader in the Solutions Caucus, leaning liberal and very controlling. **Vote Coombs.**

**HD 19 Hannah Trebas** vs Derren Auger, Great Falls. The Trebas family are solid conservatives. **Vote Hannah.**

**HD 20 Steven Galloway** vs Melissa Nikolakakos, Great Falls. Steve is the incumbent and is a solid conservative.

**HD 21 Ed Buttrey** vs. James Osterman. Buttrey is the incumbent but is part of the Solutions party and leans more liberal and very controlling. **Vote Osterman.**

**HD 22 James Whitaker** vs. George Nikolakakos both from Great Falls. George is the incumbent but is not considered conservative. **Vote Whitaker.**

**HD 26 Russel Miner** vs. Dana Darlington. Russ is the incumbent and has a very good voting record. **Vote Miner**

**HD 29 Miles Knudsen** vs. Valerie Moore from Culbertson and Plentywood. Miles is Rhonda Knudsen's husband and Austin's Father. This is a solid conservative family. Need I say more? My consultants say **Vote Knudsen.**

**HD 33 Brandon Ler** vs. Kathy Hoiland. Brandon is the incumbent and **rock solid**

**HD 38 Greg Oblander** vs. Nancy Kelmer, Roundup. Greg is the incumbent and clearly the conservative choice. **Vote Oblander.**

**HD 53 Nelly Nichol** vs David Austin both from Billings. Nelly is the incumbent and has been a solid conservative. She is also a person of faith who stands for her values. **Vote Nichol.**

**HD 55 Mary Horman is the best choice.** Brad Barker vs. Mary Horman vs Lisa Bennett – all Red Lodge. This is an important race. Brad is the incumbent. but his voting record is not conservative. Lisa and Mary would probably rank about the same in terms of how they would vote. However, Lisa has a **history of being disruptive** on several levels and not just in Carbon County. She seems to wear the label of disrupter with pride. Too many people that I respect saying she needs to change that before she is in office.

**HD 68 Jennifer Carlson**, Manhattan is running against Caleb Hinkle from Belgrade due to redistricting. Both are incumbents, both conservatives. Scott Sales of Bozeman is also running. Scott Sales served 8 years in the House and 8 years in the Senate. He now is running to return the House. We respect Scott for his service to Montana, but do think term limits have a place.

You can look at the legislation Carlson and Hinkle carried [HERE](#). **I am supporting Jennifer because she has been a very effective legislator carrying about 23 bills, passing 11**, and working with Republican Senators on their bills, carrying them in the House. Two the bills she worked on got Vetoed by the governor, but were

overridden by the full legislature. These bills both related to the state the hospital. **Caleb carried 7 bills and 3 passed.** Jennifer has been accused of “playing both sides.” She does have a **reputation of working respectfully**, even with Democrats and supporting their legislation when it is solid. These are attributes of an effective legislator. **Contrary to some of the information** you may have heard, the scoring groups score these two very close to the same. I give zero credence to the Montana Conservative Alliance who give Jennifer Carlson, Matt Regier, Amy Regier, and Tanner Smith a score of 56.

Here are the scores if you wish to look?

- **CPAC (Center for Legislative Accountability)** – Caleb 94%, Jennifer 91. Both scoring in the *Conservative Excellence Group*.
- **Americans for Prosperity:** Caleb 95%. Jennifer 91%.
- **Legistats:** Caleb 90%. Jennifer 88%.
- **Montana Family Foundation:** both 100%.

**HD 76 Dave Kesler** vs John Fitzpatrick from Phillipsburg/Anaconda. John is the incumbent, but scored a 66% on the Family Foundation score card signaling weakness on conservative values. That alone is reason to **replace him. Vote Kesler.**

**HD 77 Jane Gillette** vs. Jeremiah Dawson both from Three Forks. Jane is the incumbent with solid scores. **Vote Gillette.**

**HD 78 James Bergstrom** vs. Randyn Gregg from Buffalo/White Sulphur. James is the incumbent with a solid voting record. **Vote Bergstrom.**

**HD Julie Dooling** vs. Jon Jackson both of Helena. Julie is the not the best in terms of her voting record but Jackson ran against her as a Democrat in 2022. **Vote Dooling**

**HD 85 Kathy Love** vs. Michelle Binkley of Hamilton. Michelle is the incumbent, but. Binckley voted with the Solution Caucus on HB 402. which would have given the vote to unregistered / potentially illegal voters. Scores don't always tell all. **Vote Love.**

**HD 86 Robert Wallace** vs David Bedey vs. Kenneth Allen from Hamilton/Florence/Hamilton. Bedey is the incumbent, **but sponsored HB 402,**

which would have given the vote to unregistered / potentially illegal voters. He is a Solutions Caucus supporter. **Vote Wallace.**

**HD 88 Kim Dailey** vs. Greg Overstreet from Florence/Stevensville. Both are conservative. My advisors are split on this one. Get on their websites and talk to them if you're in HD 88.