

YOUR VOTE IS YOURS TO DECIDE!!!

FORWARD MONTANA 2024 MONTANA GENERAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

We hope this independent, local, non-profit prepared info helps.

Who is FORWARD MONTANA

Forward Montana is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, mobilizing and electing a new generation of leaders across Montana. Since our establishment in 2004, we've grown into the largest youth civic engagement organization in Montana with year-round staff in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Missoula, Glendive, and in the Flathead Valley.

We build political power with and for young Montanans by driving a culture of civic engagement and by electing leaders that are representative of the needs and vision of our generation. Every year, Forward Montana creates voter guides to help Montanans cast an informed vote across their entire ballot.

FORWARDMONTANA.ORG @FORWARD_MONTANA

KEY VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Election Day: Tuesday, November 5th

October 1 | Absentee Ballots Are Mailed Out.

If you are registered absentee and do not receive your ballot by October 18, check in with your local county elections office.

November 4 @ 12pm | Final late voter registration deadline.

Late voter registration closes at 12PM on November 4. You can still register and vote in-person through 8pm on Election Day November 5 at your local county elections office.

November 5 | Election Day!

At 8 p.m. all ballots must be received by your county elections office. Vote in person, turn in your ballot to your local county elections office, drop it off at a drop box, or mail your ballot by October 28th, (i.e., 8 days before the election) to ensure it is received on time.



If you are mailing in your ballot, make sure to put a stamp on the envelope. Ballots must arrive at the county elections office before or on election day.

Check Your Voter Status and Find Election Offices

To check your voter registration or find your polling location visit the My Voter Page at <https://prodvoterportal.mt.gov/WhereToVote.aspx>. You can also check this page to verify if your ballot has been accepted, or denied by the county elections office.

Click Here

For a list of county election offices, visit our online voter guide by using this link <https://forwardmontana.org/voterhub/>.

Click Here

About This Voter Guide

Every year, Forward Montana releases a voter guide to help Montanans make an informed vote across their entire ballot. While this pamphlet only covers statewide races and ballot initiatives, you can find more information on the races and issues unique to your local community on our online voter guide at <https://forwardmontana.org/voterhub/>.

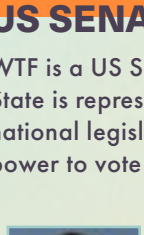
US REPRESENTATIVES

WTF do U.S. Representatives do? Our U.S. Representatives are Montana's voice in the lower chamber of Congress, where there are a total of 435 Representatives from across the nation. Representatives vote on laws and budgets, introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments, and are responsible for making sure their constituents' needs are reflected in national conversations. U.S. Representatives have the power to vote on laws that impact the whole nation, including us here in Montana!

CD-1



Monica Tranel (Dem.)
ENDORSEMENTS Senator Jan Tester, League of Conservation Voters, National Organization For Women



Ryan Zinke (Rep.)
ENDORSEMENTS This candidate did not respond to the voter guide questionnaire

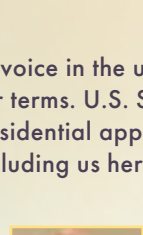


Dennis Hayes (Lib.)
ENDORSEMENTS Patriots Run Project

CD-2



John Driscoll (Dem.)
ENDORSEMENTS Driscoll stated "I am my own man"



Troy Downing (Rep.)
ENDORSEMENTS This candidate did not respond to the voter guide questionnaire

*Candidates Ryan Zinke (Rep.) & Troy Downing (Rep.) elected to not fill out Forward Montana's Voter Guide Questionnaire

Q&A

WHAT DO THEY SUPPORT?

Do you support CI-128, upholding the right to abortion as currently guaranteed by the Montana State Constitution?

Do you support protecting access to the ballot for all voters by maintaining and expanding vote by mail programs, same day voter registration services, satellite elections, and automatic and online voter registration?

We sent each candidate a questionnaire; 'N/R' indicates a selection of 'no response' from the candidate or a lack of sufficient information to confidently assess the candidates' position. A '-' indicates that the candidate did not fill out the questionnaire.

	CD-1		CD-2		
	Tranel	Zinke	Hayes	Downing	Driscoll
Do you support CI-128, upholding the right to abortion as currently guaranteed by the Montana State Constitution?	YES	-	N/R	-	YES
Do you support protecting access to the ballot for all voters by maintaining and expanding vote by mail programs, same day voter registration services, satellite elections, and automatic and online voter registration?	YES	-	NO	-	YES

Candidate Opinions

THEIR THOUGHTS ON KEY ISSUES

The climate change crisis is ever evolving with calls to center Indigenous communities. What steps, if any, would you take to help prevent further climate related disasters and center Indigenous peoples at the federal level?

If elected, what policies, if any, would you support to ensure the rights of LGBTQ2S+ people are protected at the federal level?
*2S REFERS TO INDIGENOUS TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE.

Tranel (cd-1 | Dem.)

My climate platform is based on the principles of accountability, fairness, and the Montanan conservation ethos. I support the implementation of climate policies in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. I'll prioritize an expedient transition to clean energy that includes good jobs for Montanans and safeguards our lands, water, and wildlife. The Tribal Nations in Montana have been leaders on these issues, and I'll continue to partner with them.

Tranel (cd-1 | Dem.)

LGBTQ2S+ Montanans are our neighbors, friends, and family. Everyone in our communities should feel safe and welcome, and able to contribute their skills and resources to the world we all share. I will work to protect all people from discrimination and ensure all are safe in public places. I will not waiver from those values of freedom and privacy.

Hayes (cd-1 Lib.)

There is no climate change it's all a hoax and man made up.

Hayes (cd-1 Lib.)

Everyone has their own rights it's not for me to judge who those people are.

Driscoll (cd-2 | Dem.)

Frame climate change response by major river basin and incorporate tribal colleges in federally funded response strategies.

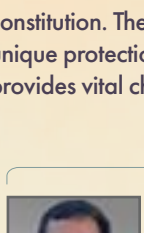
Driscoll (cd-2 | Dem.)

Remove LGBTQ2S related questions from security related background investigations.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOV 5TH

US SENATE

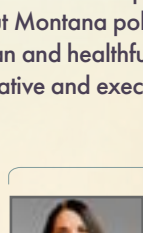
WTF is a US Senator? Our US Senators are Montana's voice in the upper chamber of Congress. Each State is represented by two senators who serve six year terms. U.S. Senators sit on committees, put forth national legislation, and have the power to confirm presidential appointments. U.S. Senators have the power to vote on laws that impact the whole nation, including us here in Montana!



Jon Tester (Dem.)
ENDORSEMENTS Planned Parenthood, Montana Conservation Voters, & MT AFL CIO



Tim Sheehy (Rep.)
ENDORSEMENTS This candidate did not respond to the voter guide questionnaire



Sid Daoud (Lib.)
ENDORSEMENTS This candidate did not respond to the voter guide questionnaire

*Candidates Tim Sheehy (Rep.) & Sid Daoud (Lib.) elected to not fill out Forward Montana's Voter Guide Questionnaire

Q&A

WHAT DO THEY SUPPORT?

Do you support taking action to address climate change including a just transition to renewable energy?

Do you support CI-128, upholding the right to abortion as currently guaranteed by the Montana State Constitution?

We sent each candidate a questionnaire; 'N/R' indicates a selection of 'no response' from the candidate or a lack of sufficient information to confidently assess the candidates' position. A '-' indicates that the candidate did not fill out the questionnaire.

	Tester	Sheehy	Daoud
Do you support taking action to address climate change including a just transition to renewable energy?	YES	-	-
Do you support CI-128, upholding the right to abortion as currently guaranteed by the Montana State Constitution?	YES	-	-

Candidate Opinions

THEIR THOUGHTS ON KEY ISSUES

Montana's Constitution differs from the US Constitution, what do you consider to be the most unique difference?

As senator, how would you prioritize tribal sovereignty when making decisions for Montanans?

Bidegaray

Unlike the US Constitution, the 1972 Montana Constitution specifically enshrines a right to privacy, a right to equal opportunity for education, a right to access to public lands and waters, and a right to a clean and healthful environment.

Bidegaray

My vision for the future of Montana's judicial system is to keep it fair and impartial with justices who understand the importance of the rule of law, the separation of powers, and the responsibility of the Montana Supreme Court, as a co-equal branch of government, to rein in the executive and legislative branches when they exceed their power.

Lynch

I have great respect for the U.S. Constitution and have sworn an oath to protect and defend it. The 1972 Montana State Constitution is the best of all fifty states. Its most unique and important differences with the U.S. Constitution are the sacrosanct rights for all Montanans that are protected, including the right to privacy, the right to a clean and healthful environment, the right to dignity and the right to a high-quality public education.

Lynch

As Chief Justice of the Montana State Supreme Court, I will fight to protect the independence, integrity and impartiality of the Montana Judicial System, while ensuring the rights of all Montanans are protected. Montanans need a judicial system that is consistent, reliable, efficient and stable so business owners, managers and individuals can live and make decisions with confidence that the rule of law exists and applies to everybody.

BALLOT INITIATIVES

WTF is a ballot initiative? There are many different types of ballot initiatives. They all have one thing in common: they are proposed laws that can be passed or rejected by voters (that's you!). In Montana, any person or group can propose a ballot initiative or constitutional amendment. If they pass a legal review and gather enough signatures, that proposal will appear on the ballot. That is how CI-126, CI-127, and CI-128 got on the ballot this year!

CI-126

This ballot initiative creates a top 4 open primary, meaning all qualified candidates of all parties would appear on one single ballot in June and all voters would have the freedom to choose between them, regardless of party. The top four candidates would then move on to the November election, where voters would choose between them.

A YES vote on CI-126 means:

You support establishing open primaries in Montana, giving voters better choices on the ballot and the freedom to vote for the person, not the party.

A NO vote on CI-126 means:

You believe voters should be forced to choose one party's ballot to vote in primary elections, restricting their choices.

CI-127

This ballot initiative requires the winning candidate to receive 50% or a majority of the total votes in the general election. If a candidate is unable to amass half the votes, then the legislature would be required to pass a law for the outcome. This initiative would apply to elections for governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, state representative, state senator, United States representative, and United States Senator.

A YES vote on CI-127 means:

Our elected officials will work to earn support from a broad majority of all voters in the state or their districts, instead of a narrow few.

A NO vote on CI-127 means:

Candidates in Montana can win a general election simply by having more votes than their opponent, but not necessarily a majority.

CI-128

This would protect the constitutional right to make personal medical decisions about pregnancy and abortion. It prohibits the government from interfering in reproductive decisions and abortion, especially when the patient's life is at risk and their health care professional deems it medically necessary.

A YES vote on CI-128 means:

You support a person's right to make their own decisions about a pregnancy and believe that abortion should remain protected in the Montana State Constitution.

A NO vote on CI-128 means:

You oppose a person's right to make their own decision about a pregnancy and believe that Montana should not have explicit protections for abortion in the Montana State Constitution.