

MONTANA

VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

Celebrating

250

1776 - 2026





Dear Fellow Montanans,

2026 marks our nation's 250th anniversary—a milestone that reminds us of one of our greatest civic duties: voting. Our country has been shaped over 250 years, and each election offers an opportunity to influence the direction of the years ahead.

This guide offers information on this year's ballot issues. I encourage you to read about what issues are on the ballot, including arguments both for and against each measure.

It is the honor of a lifetime to serve you, Montana, and I feel especially grateful to hold this role during such a significant milestone year for our nation.

Thank you for voting, and God bless America and Montana!

Sincerely,

CHRISTI JACOBSEN
Secretary of State



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Ensure your voter information is accurate



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View acceptable forms of ID at the polling place



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View accessibility information, including the Electronic Ballot Request System (EBRS)



View resources for absent active-duty military/families and overseas citizen electors



HOW TO TRACK YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT

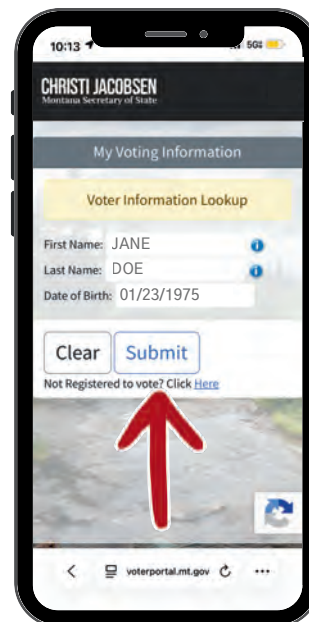
1. Visit **votemt.gov**.
2. Scroll down. Click **Track Your Ballot Montana!**
3. Enter your name and date of birth. Click **Submit**.
4. Click **Menu**, then **Track my Ballot**.



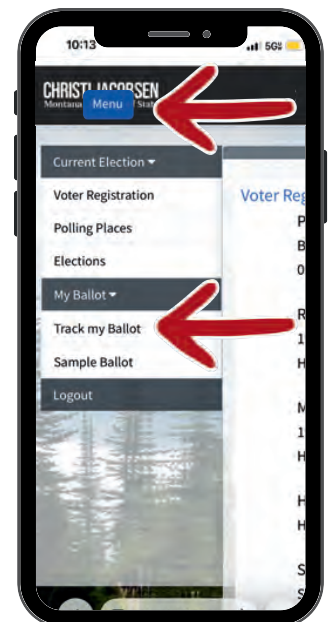
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DISCLAIMER: The information included in the Voter Information Pamphlet for each ballot issue is the official ballot language, the text of each issue, and the arguments and rebuttals for and against each issue as provided to the Secretary of State’s Office. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Secretary of State or the State of Montana. The Secretary of State does not guarantee the truth or accuracy of the included statements.

This Voter Information Pamphlet is also available at VoteMT.gov.
For copies or an alternative format, contact the Secretary of State’s
Office at (406) 444-9608 or email soselections@mt.gov

CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 132 (CI-132)

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 132

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

CI-132 amends the Montana Constitution to require that judicial elections remain nonpartisan.

☐ YES on Constitutional Amendment CI-132

☐ NO on Constitutional Amendment CI-132

COMPLETE TEXT:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Article VII of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended by adding a new section 12 that reads:

Section 12. Nonpartisan Judicial Elections. Judicial elections shall remain nonpartisan.

ARGUMENTS FOR CI-132:

Judges should be elected based on their record and qualifications, not politics.

Constitutional Initiative 132 protects the high value we as Montanans place on impartial judges free from political influence. **CI-132 is a one-sentence initiative that simply ensures that judicial elections in Montana remain nonpartisan.**

CI-132 helps everyday Montanans.

Most Montanans interact with judges in family, traffic, civil, and criminal courts, which decide everything from child custody to employment and property disputes. There is no Republican or Democratic way to handle these cases – there’s only the law. Mixing politics with these everyday cases will hurt Montanans who just want an unbiased, fair hearing without worrying about politics influencing the judge’s decision.

CI-132 protects the impartiality of our judges and our courts.

Politicians in Helena recently passed House Bill 39, a law allowing political parties to contribute up to nearly \$90,000 to Montana judicial candidates. That’s a dangerous step toward making judges cater to political parties. Politics today runs on money, and we need to protect our courtrooms. **We need independent courts with judges who remain impartial and accountable to the constitution, not politics.**

CI-132 has broad support.

Nine retired members of the Montana Supreme Court are backing this proposal alongside Montana legal experts, retired sheriffs, and criminal prosecutors. More than 100,000 Montanans from every county signed the petition to get this issue on the ballot. Montanans know that we must keep the power over our courts in the hands of Montana citizens and ensure our judges are fair, unbiased, and accountable to us.

CI-132 keeps judges accountable to Montanans.

Montanans began electing judges in nonpartisan elections in 1935 in response to the powerful Copper Kings who were buying judges to rule in their favor. This simple measure protects that longstanding tradition so we can keep judges accountable to the people’s interests, not deep-pocketed political interests.

Vote YES on CI-132 to ensure our judicial elections remain nonpartisan, keep our judges impartial, and make sure politics stays out of our courts.

Approval Committee: *Jeffrey Sherlock, Craig J. Anderson, Katherine “Kitty” Curtis*

ARGUMENTS AGAINST CI-132:

CI-132 is not what it seems. It has nothing to do with keeping courts impartial. Actually, it is an anti-transparency measure.

Have you ever been frustrated by the lack of information about the candidates for judge? That's because the current system—which CI-132 would make permanent—isn't transparent. It forces Montanans to vote with a blindfold on. It prevents us from learning crucial facts about the candidates.

Why would anyone want to do this? According to the authoritative website Ballotpedia, CI-132 is largely funded from out-of-state special interests based in places like New York City and Washington, D.C. They've already spent over \$2 million to sell us this bill of goods, and apparently plan to spend a lot more.

Don't let them fool you.

We all want impartial courts, and most judges do try to be impartial. But let's face it: Like most other people, judicial candidates usually have political party preferences. So before we vote, we are entitled to know what those preferences are.

But CI-132 would deny us that information—forever.

Thomas Jefferson said, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." By contrast, CI-132 enshrines ignorance in the Montana constitution. That's bad for Montana, bad for the justice system, and bad for democracy. The proponents of CI-132 don't trust you with your own government.

Tell the rich out-of-state special interests to pick up their cash and go home. Montanans decide what happens in Montana!

Vote "NO" on CI-132 and let the sun shine in!

Rejection Committee: Robert "Rob" Natelson, David Nobel, Derek Oestreicher, Representative Greg Overstreet, Duncan Scott

PROPONENTS' REBUTTAL OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST CI-132:

Montanans have selected fair and impartial judges in nonpartisan elections for over 90 years. **That's because we believe that judges should be elected based on their record and qualifications, not politics.**

Voting "yes" on CI-132 means Montana citizens can hold judges accountable to "we the people" instead of politics. Our country's founders knew that an independent judiciary was essential for a free republic. CI-132 helps keep our courts independent of the politics that dominate the other branches of government.

Courts should be fair to everyone who stands before them, no matter what they're worth or who they know. But politics today runs on money, and we can't let that into our courtrooms. Justice shouldn't be for sale, and CI-132 helps keep money-driven politics out of our courts.

As two retired District Court judges and a retired Dawson County Sheriff, we know Montana voters aren't fools. There is no Republican or Democratic way to handle cases like child custody, employment, or property disputes - there's only the law and the Constitution. Montana provides voters with an independent judicial performance report about every judicial candidate's experience, courtroom conduct, and decisions. For generations, Montanans have cast their vote based on a judge's record and qualifications – why do opponents want to bring politics into our courts?

Vote YES on CI-132 to:

- **Ensure judges are elected based on their record and qualifications.**
- **Keep money-driven politics out of our courts.**
- **Ensure Montanans can get a fair and impartial trial without worrying about politics.**

Approval Committee: Jeffrey Sherlock, Craig J. Anderson, Katherine "Kitty" Curtis

OPPONENTS’ REBUTTAL OF ARGUMENTS FOR CI-132:

If you are reading this rebuttal, you are precisely the type of voter that CI-132 seeks to blindfold—an informed voter. The out-of-state special interests pushing CI-132 have spent over \$2 million to lock you into a broken system. What are they trying to hide?

They want to hide how these same special interest groups pour money into judicial campaigns. The false “non partisan” label hides this dark money from voters.

The truth is that judges have political leanings. They are human after all. Judges don’t transcend ordinary existence and become blind to politics once they put on a black robe. If the out-of-state special interests truly want judges elected based on their record, they would want voters informed about a candidate’s entire record—which necessarily includes political leanings. Why do these out-of-state special interests want you to have less information?

The “non partisan” label has not made our state supreme court more impartial. On the contrary, the Montana Supreme Court, among other defects, has been repeatedly identified as biased. Nor is it surprising that former judges and certain attorneys—who have perhaps benefitted from this broken system—would prefer that voters remain uninformed.

Voters like you—who take the time to read about the candidates and issues—should think twice about supporting CI-132. Would you vote while wearing a blindfold? Or, would you prefer to make informed choices about judicial candidates?

Vote “no” on CI-132 and let the sun shine in!

Rejection Committee: *Robert “Rob” Natelson, David Nobel, Derek Oestreicher, Representative Greg Overstreet, Duncan Scott*

What Your Vote Will Do

YES	A YES vote would APPROVE amending the Montana Constitution as proposed.
NO	A NO vote would make NO CHANGE to the current Montana Constitution.

CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 133 (CI-133)

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVE NO. 133

A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

The Montana constitution reserves to the people the powers of initiative and referendum. CI-133 amends the constitution to secure this fundamental right from interference by the government. Specifically, CI-133 requires impartial, predictable, open, and timely processes for ballot issues. Petitions and ballot statements must be approved within 90 days of the initial submission, and legal challenges to ballot qualification must be resolved before the deadline for finalizing ballots. CI-133 requires the state to allow ample time for signature gathering, prohibits disqualification of petitions because of minor or technical issues, allows voters to withdraw their signatures if they so choose, and prohibits the use of government resources to support or oppose a ballot measure.

☐ YES on Constitutional Amendment CI-133

☐ NO on Constitutional Amendment CI-133

COMPLETE TEXT:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1.** Article II of The Constitution of the State of Montana is amended by adding a new section 37 that reads:

Section 37. Right to initiative and referendum. (1) The people have a fundamental right to exercise their powers of initiative and referendum under Article III and Article XIV. The government may not deny or burden this right unless justified by a compelling government interest achieved by the least restrictive means.

(2) This right guarantees impartial, predictable, transparent, and expeditious processes for proposing a ballot issue, qualifying a ballot issue for the ballot, and submitting a ballot issue to the qualified electors without interference from the government or the use of government resources to support or oppose the ballot issue. This right includes but is not limited to:

(a) proposing a ballot issue by submitting the full text of the ballot issue and proposed ballot statements, with the government modifying the proposed ballot statements only if they are not a true and impartial explanation expressed in plain, easily understood language;

(b) obtaining a determination regarding whether the ballot issue and ballot statements are legally sufficient for submission to the qualified electors prior to the petition being approved for circulation;

(c) the resolution of legal challenges to the determination made in subsection (2)(b) and the issuance of an approved petition for circulation within 90 days of the initial submission of the ballot issue to the government;

(d) reasonably ample time to gather signatures without unjustified burdens on signature gathering, on signature gatherers, or on the preparation or submission of signed petitions;

(e) verification of signatures and petitions without the invalidation of a signature or petition due to a technical or minor deficiency;

(f) the ability to withdraw one's signature from a petition, with the deadline for a withdrawal being the same as the deadline for submitting signed petitions to the government;

(g) the resolution of legal challenges to the qualification of a ballot issue for the ballot prior to the deadline for finalizing ballots for the election; and

(h) submission of a ballot issue to the qualified electors in an impartial manner for their approval or rejection by a majority of those voting thereon at a single election.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Self-executing. [This act] is self-executing.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on approval by the electorate.

ARGUMENTS FOR CI-133:

Vote yes on CI-133 to protect your right to propose and vote on laws that affect your life without government interference. CI-133 guarantees a fair, transparent, and timely ballot measure process.

What it means to vote YES on CI-133:

- YES on CI-133 protects the ballot measure process and safeguards your fundamental right to propose, vote on, and veto laws without government interference.
- YES on CI-133 bans the government from taking sides on ballot measures and using taxpayer money to sway your vote.
- YES on CI-133 requires impartial, predictable, open, and timely processes for approving petitions and ballot statements, resolving legal challenges, gathering signatures, and verifying signatures.

Lobbyists and outside interests have too much influence in Helena. That's why we need CI-133. It protects citizens' right to pass laws without interference from a government that caters to special interests and their money. Ballot measures give voters the power to keep the government accountable to us, not lobbyists.

Ballot measures are how citizens come together to protect and preserve what makes Montana great. Montana citizens across the political spectrum have passed ballot measures to protect our right to hunt and fish, cap taxes, protect public lands, restrict lobbying, expand access to healthcare for kids, raise the minimum wage, and keep the government out of our private, family medical decisions. By voting YES on CI-133, we protect the mechanism Montana citizens use to pass laws that protect and preserve Montana values.

Ballot measures give Montanans the voice we need to act as a check on government overreach. Ballot measures aren't just for passing laws, they allow citizens to veto bad laws when the government goes too far. We all deserve the chance to veto government overreach into our lives. CI-133 protects the right of "Citizens Veto" from government interference so we can have the final say without government putting its fingers on the scales.

Vote YES on CI-133 to protect our citizen initiative process and preserve Montana for ourselves and future generations.

Approval Committee: *Raphael Graybill, Jason Small, Tara Veazey*

ARGUMENTS AGAINST CI-133:

Vote NO on Constitutional Initiative No. 133.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Montanans cherish our constitutional right to initiative and referendum, but CI-133 complicates our rights with a wordy and unnecessary amendment. It undermines representative government and invites abuse of the ballot process. CI-133 is a trojan horse for billionaires and out-of-state special interests to simply **purchase** the laws they want.

The fact that CI-133 is on the ballot, along with numerous other initiatives, is pretty good evidence that Montana has a healthy initiative process. Why would we “fix” a system that isn't broken? Why complicate a process that works for Montanans? Just vote no.

CI-133 restricts the ability of elected officials and courts to protect voters from flawed or deceptive measures. It handcuffs the Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Montana Supreme Court from doing basic due diligence.

Passing laws and constitutional amendments should not be taken lightly. When an initiative passes, it becomes binding law for a minimum of two years before it can be changed or undone.

Montana's current process – including financial and legal reviews – ensures initiatives are constitutional, transparent, and won't bankrupt the state. CI-133 scraps these commonsense protections, making it easier for well-funded special interests and paid signature gatherers to place poorly-drafted measures on the ballot.

The ballot initiative constitutional right was originally designed so Montana citizens can directly vote on popular ideas when elected officials aren't responsive to voters' desires. Today, though, special interests have discovered the process also allows them to simply **purchase the laws** that they want, if they spend enough money.

Ballot initiatives are becoming a “cottage industry,” according to the *Helena Independent Record*. It's so common nowadays that it even has a standard price tag: **\$1 million**.

“That's why in at least the last four election seasons, nearly every proposal that has made it onto the ticket has done so with the added manpower of paid signature gatherers, most of whom are working for companies that collect north of \$1 million for their work on a single initiative in Montana...a run-of-the-mill price these days,” reports the *Helena IR*.

CI-133 follows the same pattern. Out-of-state special interests spent \$1 million to get CI-133 on your ballot, as the *Helena IR* also reported.

One of us writing this argument against CI-133 – Sen. Wylie Galt – went through the initiative petition process earlier this year myself.

While I ultimately decided not to pursue my initiative all the way to finish line, I can personally vouch that the process was not overly difficult. As a rancher, I fix broken things all the time. Montana's ballot initiative process is not broken. Our system works. CI-133 is unnecessary.

CI-133 would **remove all reasonable checks and balances** on the ballot initiative process. That's a winning proposal for groups with \$1 million or more to spend buying the laws they want, but it's a loser for Montanans who have to live under those laws.

Vote NO on CI-133.

Rejection Committee: Senator Wylie Galt, Randy Brodehl, Representative Greg Overstreet, Charles Robison

PROPONENTS' REBUTTAL OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST CI-133:

CI-133 keeps government accountable to us.

The same outside interests buying up our land, housing, and water have armies of lobbyists, lawyers, and political consultants working for them in Helena. The average Montanan's voice doesn't stand a chance of being heard against those odds.

We need CI-133 to protect our right to vote on laws that affect our lives and reject bad laws when the government oversteps, without interference from a government that caters to special interests and their money. Ballot measures are the citizen's voice and the citizen's veto.

CI-133 holds government accountable by:

1. Protecting your right to vote on laws that affect your life **without government interference**. CI-133 bans the government from taking sides on ballot measures or using taxpayer dollars to sway your vote.
2. Ensuring a **fair, transparent, and timely** ballot measure process so the ideas citizens want to put on the ballot get a fair shake from the government.

CI-133 does **NOT** do away with financial or legal reviews of ballot measures. It simply requires they be done impartially and efficiently – you're expected to do your job in a timely manner; why shouldn't the government?

The opponents say nothing is broken but also note ballot measures can cost \$1M just to qualify for the ballot. That's because of government bureaucracy and red tape. When Montanans must spend millions just to exercise their rights, that's the definition of broken.

Vote yes on CI-133 to ensure a fair, transparent, and timely process for holding government accountable.

Approval Committee: *Raphael Graybill, Jason Small, Tara Veazey*

OPPONENTS’ REBUTTAL OF ARGUMENTS FOR CI-133:

Supporters claim CI-133 protects people from lobbyists and government interference. There are solid reasons to vote no.

1. It mostly helps well-funded groups, not everyday citizens. Ballot initiatives sound democratic, but organized and wealthy interests—sometimes from out of state—often drive them. Collecting signatures is expensive and usually needs paid workers. Much of the money for CI-133 came from nonprofits that hide their donors. Past initiatives have passed popular ideas, but CI-133 would make it harder for elected lawmakers (who answer to voters) to fix problems or update laws.
2. “No government interference” is unrealistic and risky. Government must check signatures, review legality, stop fraud, and run elections smoothly. Strict new rules could cause rushed reviews, endless lawsuits over vague phrases like “minor mistakes” or “ample time,” and confusion for election workers.
3. It weakens representative democracy. Montana is a republic with checks and balances. Initiatives are a helpful backup tool, not the main way to govern. Lawmakers face regular elections and must balance budgets and priorities. CI-133 would make future improvements to the initiative process much harder.

Bottom line: Voting no on CI-133 does not end the initiative process. It keeps the current system and avoids rigid new rules, more lawsuits, and less flexibility. The initiative tool is useful, but turning it into a super-protected right with unclear standards could favor well-funded campaigns over balanced government. Montanans should be careful about changing the Constitution to shield one process from normal oversight.

Rejection Committee: *Senator Wylie Galt, Randy Brodehl, Representative Greg Overstreet, Charles Robison*

What Your Vote Will Do

YES	A YES vote would APPROVE amending the Montana Constitution as proposed.
NO	A NO vote would make NO CHANGE to the current Montana Constitution.

INITIATIVE NO. 194 (I-194)

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

INITIATIVE NO. 194

A LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

I-194, if passed, limits the powers of artificial persons to those powers necessary or convenient as provided by law. These powers must exclude contributing anything of value to candidate elections, supporting or opposing political parties, or supporting or opposing state or local ballot issues. Artificial persons include non-profits, trusts, partnerships, corporations, trade associations, or unincorporated associations and includes all such entities doing business in Montana. Any violation of I-194 is punished by forfeiting all privileges to do business in Montana. Those privileges may be, but are not automatically, restored upon disgorgement and certification of compliance with I-194. I-194 does not apply to the distribution of news, commentary, or editorial content. I-194 also does not apply to the state of Montana, political subdivisions, individuals, political committees, or public corporations.

☐ YES on Initiative I-194

☐ NO on Initiative I-194

COMPLETE TEXT:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 10] may be cited as “The Montana Plan Act.”

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Findings and purpose. (1) The people of the state of Montana find that all political power is inherent in the people and that corporations and other artificial persons are creations of statute that exist only by virtue of powers affirmatively extended by the state.

(2) The creation, continued existence, and enjoyment of charter privileges by an artificial person are not natural rights; they are conditional grants of legal status made by the state of Montana and accepted subject to the state’s reserved authority to define, limit, revise, or withdraw the powers and privileges it confers.

(3) The people find that Montana law has historically included broad grants of powers to artificial persons, including powers described as necessary or convenient to lawful purposes, and that these broad formulations have more recently been construed to

include the legal capacity to expend money or anything of value to support or oppose the outcome of a vote of the electorate.

(4) The people find that, because the general grants of powers to artificial persons have been construed to include political spending power in a manner that does not reflect the will of the people, it is therefore necessary to enact [sections 1 through 10] to redefine those grants and make their limits explicit, so that the legal privileges conferred on artificial persons by the people through the state are not used to compromise the integrity of the people's political process.

(5) The people find that every artificial person formed under the laws of this state, or authorized to transact business or hold property in this state, has accepted its legal status and any charter privileges subject to the continuing authority of the state to define the scope of its powers, that an artificial person has not acquired a vested right to the continuation of a particular statutory grant of power, and that this principle is well established in law.

(6) The purposes of [sections 1 through 10] are to:

(a) establish that state-conferred legal status and charter privileges are granted to an artificial person only on the condition that the artificial person operate within the powers extended by the state;

(b) make explicit that political spending power is not among the powers extended to artificial persons, except as expressly provided by law for political committees;

(c) establish a single, uniform definition of the powers extended to artificial persons under [sections 1 through 10];

(d) provide clear and enforceable consequences for the exercise of political spending power not extended by the state; and

(e) leave wholly undisturbed the constitutional rights of natural persons.

NEW SECTION. Section 3. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 10], and solely for the purposes of defining the scope of artificial-person powers and the consequences that attach to acts outside that scope, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Artificial person" means an entity whose existence, legal status, or limited liability shield is conferred by the laws of the state of Montana, including an entity organized or existing under the laws of another jurisdiction that is authorized to transact business, is otherwise transacting business, or holds property in Montana. An entity organized or existing under the laws of another jurisdiction that directly or indirectly undertakes, finances, or directs the exercise of political spending power in the state of Montana is conclusively considered to be transacting business in this state for the purposes of [sections 1 through 10].

(2) “Artificial-person powers” means powers necessary or convenient to carry out lawful business, charitable, cooperative, or organizational purposes as provided by Montana law, excluding political spending power. Political spending power may not be deemed necessary or convenient under any circumstances.

(3) “Charter privilege” means any legal benefit that exists only because the state of Montana confers it on an artificial person, including limited liability, perpetual duration, succession in entity name, or any statutory limitation on personal liability.

(4) (a) “Political spending power” means the legal capacity to pay, contribute, or expend money or anything of value to support or oppose:

(i) a candidate, political party, or political committee in an election held in this state; or

(ii) any initiative, referendum, recall, constitutional amendment, charter amendment, or other question formally certified or submitted to the electors of this state or any political subdivision of the state.

(b) The term does not include the distribution of bona fide news, commentary, or editorial content unless the publishing entity is owned or controlled by a political party, a political committee, or a candidate.

(c) Political spending power may be exercised by political committees, as provided by law.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. General rule -- political spending power not extended. (1) Except as expressly provided by law for political committees, the state of Montana does not extend political spending power to an artificial person, and an artificial person subject to [sections 1 through 10] does not possess any legal capacity to expend money or anything of value to support or oppose the outcome of a vote of the electorate.

(2) The absence of political spending power under [sections 1 through 10] is a condition of state-conferred legal status and charter privileges. An artificial person that exercises political spending power not extended by the state acts outside the powers granted as a condition of that status.

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Applicability. (1) [Sections 1 through 10] apply to all artificial persons formed, organized, or existing under the laws of the state of Montana.

(2) [Sections 1 through 10] apply to an artificial person organized or existing under the laws of another jurisdiction that is authorized to transact business, is otherwise transacting business, or holds property in the state.

(3) [Sections 1 through 10] apply to any trust, statutory trust, business trust, or similar arrangement to the extent Montana law confers limited liability, perpetual duration, succession in name, or any other charter privilege by reason of that form.

(4) [Sections 1 through 10] do not apply to:

(a) natural persons acting solely in an individual capacity;

(b) the state of Montana or any agency, authority, or political subdivision of the State; or

(c) a public body corporate and politic expressly identified as corporate and politic by statute.

(5) [Sections 1 through 10] do not restrict the lawful activities of political committees organized under Montana law or federal law.

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Exercise of political spending power beyond the scope of authority -- voidness -- nonratification. (1) An act by an artificial person that constitutes an exercise of political spending power not extended by the state under [sections 1 through 10] is beyond the scope of authority and void.

(2) An act described in subsection (1):

(a) is void from the beginning;

(b) may not be ratified, validated, or given effect by consent, waiver, estoppel, reliance, course of dealing, or any other equitable doctrine; and

(c) creates no enforceable rights, obligations, or defenses.

(3) The character of an act that is beyond the scope of authority under this section arises solely from the absence of political spending power as a condition of state-conferred legal status and charter privileges.

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Forfeiture of charter privileges -- reinstatement. (1) An artificial person that exercises political spending power not extended by the state under [sections 1 through 10] forfeits all charter privileges as a matter of law.

(2) Charter privileges forfeited under subsection (1) include, without limitation:

(a) limited liability;

(b) perpetual duration;

(c) succession in entity name; and

(d) any statutory limitation on personal liability conferred by Montana law.

(3) Forfeiture under this section applies only to charter privileges conferred by Montana law. [Sections 1 through 10] do not purport to affect privileges conferred by the laws of another jurisdiction.

(4) An artificial person whose charter privileges are forfeited under this section may be reinstated only pursuant to procedures enacted or administered by the state and only upon:

(a) full disgorgement of all money or things of value expended, contributed, or transferred in the exercise of political spending power;

(b) certification of future compliance with [sections 1 through 10]; and

(c) satisfaction of any additional conditions the legislature or a designated state authority considers appropriate.

(5) Disgorgement under subsection (4)(a) is required regardless of whether the political spending supported or opposed a position that prevailed or failed in the outcome of a vote of the electorate.

NEW SECTION. Section 8. Administration and enforcement. (1) The secretary of state shall adopt rules and procedures necessary to implement and enforce [sections 1 through 10], including procedures governing forfeiture, reinstatement, disgorgement, certification of compliance, notice, and the opportunity to be heard consistent with due process.

(2) The attorney general has the authority and responsibility to bring actions to enforce [sections 1 through 10], including actions seeking declaratory relief, injunctive relief, disgorgement, and confirmation or enforcement of forfeiture.

(3) The authority granted under this section is in addition to any other enforcement authority provided by law.

NEW SECTION. Section 9. Supersession of inconsistent law. (1) The powers of an artificial person under Montana law are limited to artificial-person powers as defined in [section 3].

(2) A provision of Title 35, or any other law of this state may not be construed to extend political spending power to an artificial person except as expressly provided by law for political committees.

(3) A statutory grant of power, authority, or capacity that could otherwise be construed to include political spending power is superseded by [sections 1 through 10] and must be given no effect.

NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effect on organizational documents. A provision of articles of incorporation, articles of organization, partnership agreements, operating agreements,

bylaws, trust instruments, or other organizational documents purporting to grant or confer political spending power is void.

NEW SECTION. Section 11. Savings Clause. (1) [This act] does not invalidate, impair, or modify any contract, debt instrument, security, or other legal obligation lawfully entered into before [the effective date of [this act]].

(2) [This act] does not authorize the exercise of political spending power after [the effective date of [this act]].

NEW SECTION. Section 12. Severability -- nonrevival. (1) If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

(2) A power, privilege, or capacity withdrawn or not extended by [this act] may not be revived, reinstated, or implied by operation of law or judicial construction.

NEW SECTION. Section 13. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 10] are intended to be codified as a new chapter in Title 35, and the provisions of Title 35 apply to [sections 1 through 10].

NEW SECTION. Section 14. Effective date. If approved by the electorate, [this act] is effective January 1, 2027.

ARGUMENTS FOR I-194:

The Montana Plan, I-194, will end the ability of artificial persons (such as corporations, associations, unions) to spend to support or oppose candidates and ballot issues in Montana.

The 2024 presidential election year saw a total of \$14.8 billion spent on federal campaigns: \$9.5 billion on congressional races and \$5.3 billion on the presidential race. In contrast, the entire general fund budget for the state of Montana in 2026 was \$3.5 billion, less than a quarter of the amount of money spent on federal campaigns.

That amount of money alone makes it critically important to understand where that money is coming from and who is bankrolling campaigns.

Money spent to influence the decision of a voter without being required to disclose the original donor is referred to as “dark money.” The source is often concealed from the public - but not the politicians.

Anonymous “dark money” is typically used to pay for incessant digital ads, mailers and television that are intended, on the one hand, to negatively attack and “carpet bomb” an opposing candidate with grainy photographs and insinuations of corruption or incompetence; or, on the other hand, to elevate the opposing candidate whose alleged attributes and competencies are inflated but alleged to be indispensable to the existence of the country. Neither representation is completely accurate nor helpful for voters trying in good faith to determine the best candidate to serve the public good.

In the 2024 Montana Senate race, outside groups, including super PACs, spent \$162.7 million on independent expenditures, including mailers, TV ads, and digital and social-media advertising. Just one “dark money” group alone, The Last Best Place PAC, sponsored approximately 39,000 ad airings in Montana, and neither Montana voters or candidates had any idea where its money came from. It had been intentionally shrouded in a tangled web to generate confusion and disarray among Montana voters.

Business corporations can transfer money directly to super PACs and other outside groups. In 2024, Koch Industries, for example, spent \$49 million, \$40 million of which went to Americans for Prosperity Action, which, in turn, spent money on Montana elections.

Artificial persons (such as business corporations, nonprofits, and unions) are neither constitutional nor human creatures. They are pure creations of state law. Montana grants them every power they have. And Montana has reserved the authority to modify those powers at any time, for any reason.

If I-194 is passed by the people, Montana will no longer grant artificial persons the power to spend in Montana's politics. It's that simple. No longer would anonymous "dark money" be allowed in Montana campaigns - every dollar would be from a human person, would be disclosed, and would be voluntary. If corporate officers and the great titans of business and industry decide to spend money to support a candidate or an issue, they'll have to do it the same way the rest of us do. They'll have to use their own money, observe contribution limits, comply with reporting requirements, and disclose their name.

Approval Committee: Gary Buchanan, Marc Racicot, Raymond Jon Tester

ARGUMENTS AGAINST I-194:

I-194 has nothing to do with protecting elections, removing money from politics, getting rid of the influence of money in politics, or addressing undisclosed dark money spending. Instead, it's a misguided, poorly drafted, authoritarian attempt to unconstitutionally restrict Montanans' free speech rights under the guise of targeting spending in elections—even though there isn't a single example provided of corporate election spending but examples abound of PAC and dark money spending that would continue to be allowed under I-194.

I-194 allows individuals to continue to spend unlimited amounts on elections and PAC and many dark money groups to operate just as they do now. But it would target small Montana businesses, churches, and community groups, and similar groups—referred to as “artificial persons” in the measure—even though these entities are just groups of individual Montanans. If such a group voices an opinion—whether by printing a pamphlet, running an advertisement, creating a film, or even maintaining a website—I-194 threatens extreme penalties, including the loss of legal protections that could expose Montanans to personal liability and put their personal assets at risk

Federal courts have already struck down twice similar laws as unconstitutional restrictions on free speech, and the result would be the same here. If I-194 passes, it will accomplish little beyond wasting Montana taxpayer dollars while it is tied up in court and ultimately struck down.

The United States Supreme Court has already decided that the government cannot directly ban a group of Montanans from engaging in political speech. In a famous case, a group of individuals wanted to show a documentary about a presidential candidate during a campaign, but federal law barred them because they acted through an organization rather than as a single individual. The group sued under the First Amendment. The Supreme Court decided that political speech during a campaign for public office is the core type of speech protected by the First Amendment and determined that the government banning a documentary about a candidate was a violation of free speech whether the documentary was made by an individual or a group of individuals. I-194 seeks to accomplish the same result of banning political speech during elections, not by directly banning it, but instead by imposing extreme penalties on any group of Montanans who choose to engage in free speech. The government cannot, and should not, be allowed to impose bans on free speech during elections, directly or indirectly, and for that reason Montanans should reject I-194 and vote no.

Rejection Committee: David Knobel, Matthew Dolphay, Todd O'Hair, Representative Greg Overstreet, Dale Schowengerdt

PROPOSERS' REBUTTAL OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST I-194:

Read the opposition statement and notice what it leaves out: Montana's experience with elections flooded and distorted by outside secret money with no regard for the truth nor issues Montanans face every day: healthcare, housing, taxes, schools, utility bills, and public lands. Instead, they resort to scare tactics in a twisted attempt to portray the defenders of unlimited "dark" money political spending as the underdogs and Montanans reclaiming their elections as the threat. It's the same old bait and switch Montanans have seen before.

Elections should be decided by the votes of Montanans, not the dark money spent by anonymous donors and corporations.

The opposition falsely claims that dark-money groups could continue spending as they do now. Another bait and switch. I-194 eliminates the power of all artificial persons—including 501(c)(4) dark-money groups—to spend money supporting or opposing candidates and ballot issues.

They also falsely suggest businesses and community groups could not even publish a website. That is absurd. They may speak, organize, publish, and advocate on any issue they choose. But, when they spend to support or oppose a candidate or ballot issue, they must do so through a transparent political committee so voters can see who funds the message. Small-business owners, church members, union members, employees, and nonprofit supporters keep their individual voices.

Ruggedly independent Montanans once stood up to the Copper Kings . . . and we can do so again by ending anonymous and corporate money in our elections.

I-194 serves the people of Montana.

Approval Committee: Gary Buchanan, Marc Racicot, Raymond Jon Tester

OPPONENTS’ REBUTTAL OF ARGUMENTS FOR I-194:

“The Montana Plan” claims to end dark money and corporate influence in Montana elections. It does neither. It imposes sweeping, unconstitutional restrictions on the free-speech rights of Montana small businesses, churches, and community groups, while leaving untouched the out-of-state PACs and dark money that dominate Montana campaigns. I-194 is a sham.

Proponents have not identified a single Montana corporation that has spent money to influence a Montana election. Instead they point to Koch Industries and national super PACs — entities Montana has no power to regulate. Their "creature of state law" theory only works, by their own logic, for corporations Montana itself charters. The only entities I-194 actually restricts are Montana’s own small businesses, ranches, churches, and community groups, exposed to steep penalties for speaking up.

Courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have already rejected this theory. In *First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti*, the Court struck down a nearly identical Massachusetts law, holding the First Amendment protects political speech regardless of corporate source; *Citizens United v. FEC* reaffirmed it. I-194 asks voters to relitigate a settled question — and pay the legal bills when it loses again.

The irony: I-194’s own campaign is bankrolled by dark money, much of it from out of state, funneled through the Transparent Election Initiative, a nonprofit that need not disclose its donors, with help from a Washington, D.C. advocacy group.

Montanans deserve real transparency, not a doomed measure that punishes local businesses while true outside spending goes untouched. Vote no on I-194.

Rejection Committee: David Knobel, Matthew Dolphay, Todd O’Hair, Representative Greg Overstreet, Dale Schowengerdt

What Your Vote Will Do

YES	A YES vote would APPROVE adding language to Montana law.
NO	A NO vote would make NO CHANGE to Montana law.

COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

COUNTY	MAILING ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
BEAVERHEAD	2 S Pacific St No 3, Dillon MT 59725	(406) 683-3720
BIG HORN	PO Box 908, Hardin MT 59034	(406) 665-9796
BLAINE	420 Ohio St N # 278, Chinook MT 59523	(406) 357-3240
BROADWATER	515 Broadway St, Townsend MT 59644	(406) 266-3405
CARBON	PO Box 887, Red Lodge MT 59068	(406) 446-1220 opt 5
CARTER	Box 315, Ekalaka MT 59324	(406) 775-8749
CASCADE	Box 2305, Great Falls MT 59403	(406) 454-6803
CHOUTEAU	PO Box 459, Fort Benton MT 59442	(406) 622-5151
CUSTER	1010 Main St Ste 22, Miles City MT 59301	(406) 874-6059
DANIELS	Box 247, Scobey MT 59263	(406) 487-5561
DAWSON	207 West Bell, Glendive MT 59330	(406) 377-3058
DEER LODGE	800 Main, Anaconda MT 59711	(406) 563-4046
FALLON	Box 846, Baker MT 59313	(406) 778-7106
FERGUS	712 W Main Ste 204, Lewistown MT 59457	(406) 535-5242
FLATHEAD	290 B North Main, Kalispell MT 59901	(406) 758-5535
GALLATIN	311 W Main Rm 210, Bozeman MT 59715	(406) 582-3060
GARFIELD	PO Box 7, Jordan MT 59337	(406) 557-2760
GLACIER	512 E Main, Cut Bank MT 59427	(406) 873-3607
GOLDEN VALLEY	PO Box 10, Ryegate MT 59074	(406) 568-2231
GRANITE	Box 925, Philipsburg MT 59858	(406) 859-3771 opt 2
HILL	315 4th St, Havre MT 59501	(406) 400-2412
JEFFERSON	Box H, Boulder MT 59632	(406) 225-4020
JUDITH BASIN	Box 427, Stanford MT 59479	(406) 566-2277 opt 1
LAKE	500 1st Street East, Polson MT 59860	(406) 883-7269
LEWIS & CLARK	316 N Park Ave Rm 168, Helena MT 59623	(406) 447-8339
LIBERTY	Box 459, Chester MT 59522	(406) 759-5365
LINCOLN	418 Mineral Ave, Libby MT 59923	(406) 283-2302
MADISON	Box 366, Virginia City MT 59755	(406) 898-4406
MCCONE	Box 199, Circle MT 59215	(406) 485-3505
MEAGHER	Box 309, White Sulphur Springs MT 59645	(406) 547-3612 opt 2
MINERAL	Box 550, Superior MT 59872	(406) 822-3520 opt 4
MISSOULA	140 N Russell St, Missoula MT 59801	(406) 258-4751
MUSSELSHELL	506 Main, Roundup MT 59072	(406) 323-1104
PARK	414 E Callender St, Livingston MT 59047	(406) 222-4110
PETROLEUM	Box 226, Winnett MT 59087	(406) 429-5311
PHILLIPS	PO Box 360, Malta MT 59538	(406) 654-2423
PONDERA	20 4th Ave SW, Conrad MT 59425	(406) 271-4000 opt 2
POWDER RIVER	Box 200, Broadus MT 59317	(406) 436-2361
POWELL	409 Missouri Ave, Deer Lodge MT 59722	(406) 846-9786
PRAIRIE	Box 125, Terry MT 59349	(406) 635-5575
RAVALLI	215 S 4th St Ste C, Hamilton MT 59840	(406) 375-6550
RICHLAND	201 W Main, Sidney MT 59270	(406) 433-1708
ROOSEVELT	400 2nd Ave S, Wolf Point MT 59201	(406) 653-6250
ROSEBUD	Box 47, Forsyth MT 59327	(406) 346-7318
SANDERS	Box 519, Thompson Falls MT 59873	(406) 827-3038
SHERIDAN	100 W Laurel Ave, Plentywood MT 59254	(406) 765-3403
SILVER BOW	155 W Granite Rm 208, Butte MT 59701	(406) 497-6342
STILLWATER	Box 149, Columbus MT 59019	(406) 322-8000
SWEET GRASS	Box 888, Big Timber MT 59011	(406) 932-5152
TETON	Box 610, Choteau MT 59422	(406) 466-2693
TOOLE	226 1st St S, Shelby MT 59474	(406) 424-8300 opt 2
TREASURE	Box 392, Hysham MT 59038	(406) 342-5547 opt 3
VALLEY	501 Court Sq Box 2, Glasgow MT 59230	(406) 228-6226
WHEATLAND	Box 1903, Harlowton MT 59036	(406) 632-4891
WIBAUX	PO Box 199, Wibaux MT 59353	(406) 796-2481
YELLOWSTONE	Box 35002, Billings MT 59107	(406) 256-2740



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election administrators, county
election staff, and poll workers,
who help make elections run
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New!

2026 **I Voted** Sticker





PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED AT THE POLLS

Be prepared when you arrive! Bring one of the following acceptable forms of identification:

- ☒ Driver's License
- ☒ State ID Card
- ☒ U.S. Passport
- ☒ Concealed Carry Permit
- ☒ Military ID
- ☒ Montana University System or NAIA Photo ID
- ☒ Tribal Photo ID

Learn more at **votemt.gov/voter-identification**.

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION PREAMBLE



We the People of the United States, in
Order to form a more perfect Union,
establish Justice, insure domestic
Tranquility, provide for the common
defence, promote the general Welfare,
and secure the Blessings of Liberty to
ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain
and establish this Constitution for the
United States of America.



Montanans may request a printed Constitution or Declaration of Independence by
emailing soscommunications@mt.gov.

*Thank you for voting,
Montana!*



The Lady Montana statue stands atop the Montana State Capitol dome.

MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATOR
PO BOX 202801
HELENA, MT 59620-2801



ELECTION DAY IS
NOVEMBER 3, 2026.

Are you vote ready?

VOTEMT.GOV

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