TAYLOR LUTHER GROUP PLLC

TO: Montana's Credit Unions
FROM: Taylor Luther Group
DATE: November 5, 2026
RE: Montana General Election Results

The General Election was held on November 3. Voter turnout was slightly lower due to this being a midterm election at 60.16%. In 2024's Presidential election, voter turnout was 74% and in the last midterm election in 2022, turnout was also low at 61.38%. There were not many races to drive voter turnout this election as it is not a Presidential election year and none of the Montana statewide offices were up for election. The top of ticket races were our U.S. Senate race and Montana's two Congressional races. The most competitive race by far was the Flint-Forstag Congressional race, and while Montana saw some Democrat pick-ups at the Congressional and legislative levels, we did not have a "blue wave" that was seen in other parts of the Country.

U.S. Senate

Republican Kurt Alme (48%) was elected over Democrat Alani Bankhead (12%), Independent Seth Bodnar (38%) and Libertarian Kyle Austin (2%). This was an interesting race with Independent Bodnar running a well performing campaign, but with a second major party candidate also running, an Independent challenger was likely to be unsuccessful. However, it is the second time in four years that an Independent candidate significantly outperformed a Democratic challenger in a federal race in Montana.

U.S. Congress

Both the Western and Eastern congressional seats are up this cycle.

> **Congressional Seat 1.** This election evolved into the most competitive General Election race in the State. Democrat Sam Forstag (50%) defeated Republican Aaron Flint (47%), Libertarian Nick Sheedy (3%). This is the first time in 32 years that Montana has elected a Democrat to Congress. The last Democrat to represent Montana in Congress was Pat Wiliams, who won his last election in 1994.
>
> **Congressional Seat 2.** Republican incumbent Troy Downing (58%) unsurprisingly defeated Democrat Brian Miller (32%), Libertarian Patrick McCracken (2%), and Independent Michael Eisenhauer (8%).

Montana Ballot Initiatives

There were three ballot initiatives appearing on the General Election ballot: I-194 bans corporate money in all campaigns, including ballot measure campaigns; CI-132 amends the constitution to require all judicial races to remain non-partisan; and CI-133 enshrines the right to initiative and referendum in the constitution and prevent the legislature from making changes to the review process. All three initiatives passed by similar margins. I-194 ultimately passed 65% to 35%. We expect an immediate legal challenge from the business community regarding the limitations infringing on speech. CI-132 was successful, passing 68% to 32%, as was CI-133 65% to 35%.

Montana Statewide Offices

None of Montana's five statewide offices are up for election this cycle. There was one nonpartisan Montana Supreme Court race.

Supreme Court 4. A battle of Western Montana district court judges, Amy Eddy (59%) defeated Dan Wilson (41%).

Montana State Districts

Public Service Commission 1. Republican Jeff Pattison (65%) defeated Democrat Angeline Cheek (35%).

Public Service Commission 5. Incumbent Republican Annie Bukacek (53%) defeated Democrat Kevin Hamm (47%).

Montana Legislature. Legislative General Elections were general quiet and uncompetitive. As reported earlier, the Montana Primary Election saw a huge influx of outside spending in legislative races. We then saw the different factions of the Republican Party continue in conflict as term limits arguments were used in an Attorney General opinion and multiple court cases to prevent some primary winners from appearing on the General Election ballot.

The makeup of the Senate is: 30 Republicans-20 Democrats, and the House is: 56 Republicans-44 Democrats.

SENATE

- **SD 1:** Steve Gunderson-R 76% over Jonathan Russell Jameson-D 24%.
- **SD 4:** Amy Reiger-R 60% over Kyle Waterman-D 40%.
- **SD 6:** Mark Noland-R 69% over Patrick Fitzpatrick-D 31%.
- **SD 8:** Tyson Running Wolf-D 62% over Christopher Paul Buckles-R 38%.
- **SD 9:** Llew Jones-R 75% over Noy Holland-D 25%.
- **SD 10:** Margaret Mitchell-D 57% over Jessica Dyrdahl-R 43% - Democrat Flip.
- **SD 11:** Steven Galloway-R 54% over Valynda Holland-D 46%.
- **SD 12:** George Nikolakakos-R 52% over Mindy Leach-D 48%.
- **SD 14:** Eric Albus-R 66% over Blake Borst-D 34%.
- **SD 18:** Greg Kmetz-R 75% over Stan Taylor-D 25%.
- **SD 19:** Chris Rindal-R 79% over Deanna Daigrepoint-D 21%.
- **SD 22:** Daniel Zolnikov-R 86%, defeating two late write in challengers.
- **SD 23:** Emma Kerr Carpenter-D 57% over JoAnna Oblander-R 43%.
- **SD 25:** Dennis Lenz-R 57% over Julie Hippler-D 43%.
- **SD 28:** Forrest Mandeville-R 69% over Kelly Hale-D 31%.
- **SD 29:** Scott Rosenzwig-D 56% over Jason Gunderson-R 44% - Democrat Flip.
- **SD 31:** Kathleen Williams-D 69% over Richard Aungier-R 31%.
- **SD 32:** Kelly Kortum-D 64% Neal Ganser-R 36%.
- **SD 34:** Caleb Hinkle-R 61% over Carl Anderson-D 39%.
- **SD 41:** Erin Farris-Olsen-D 66% over Dru Koester-L 34%.
- **SD 42:** Mary Ann Dunwell-D 51% over Stephen LaPraim-R 49%.
- **SD 43:** David Bedey-R 74% over Stephen Luechtman-D 26%.

- **SD 48:** Andrea Olson-D 100% - unopposed in general.
- **SD 49:** Willis Curdy-D 68% over Brad Tschida-R 32%.
- **SD 50:** Shane Morigeau-D 100% - unopposed in general.

HOUSE

- **HD 1:** Michelle Bianco-R 76% over Dakota Adams-D 24%.
- **HD 2:** Thomas Millett-R 75% over Jane Maahs-D 25%.
- **HD 3:** Debo Powers-D 55% over Derek Peachy-R 45%.
- **HD 4:** Paula Koch-D 55% over Shaun Pandina-R 45% - Democrat Flip.
- **HD 5:** Braxton Mitchell-R 71% over Luca Welle-D 29%.
- **HD 6:** Jim Riley-R 63% over Darren Fix-D 37%.
- **HD 7:** Courtenay Sprunger-R 56% over Madison Evans-D 44%.
- **HD 8:** Lukas Schubert-R 67% over Calvin Lime-D 33%.
- **HD 9:** Steven Kelly-R 69% over Kate McLaughlin-D 31%.
- **HD 10:** Terry Falk-R 68% over Catherine Allen-D 32%.
- **HD 11:** Edward Byrne-R 75% over Maeve Kintzler-D 25%.
- **HD 12:** Tracy Sharp-R 66% over Cindy Bruckner-D 34%.
- **HD 13:** Finley Warden-R 55% over Dalton Bradford-D 45%.
- **HD 14:** Paul Fielder-R 74% over Colleen Hinds-D 26%.
- **HD 15:** Thedis Crowe-D 59% over Ralph Foster-R 41%.
- **HD 16:** Lorna Running Wolf-D 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 17:** Justin Cleveland-R 70% over Chris Bechtold-D 30%.
- **HD 18:** Butch Gillespie-R 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 19:** Jane Weber-D 64% over Hannah Trebas-R 36%.
- **HD 20:** Steve Keller-D 51% over Melissa Nikolakakos-R 49% - Democrat Flip.
- **HD 21:** Trevor Funseth-R 58% over Lela Graham-D 42%.
- **HD 22:** Jason Lorang-R 54% over Neal Miller-D 46%.
- **HD 23:** Eric Tilleman-R 51% over Rebecca Bogden-D 49%.
- **HD 24:** Steve Fitzpatrick-R 58% over Pamela Carroll-D 42%.
- **HD 25:** Steve Gist-R 71% over Jerry Ferderer-D 29%.
- **HD 26:** Russ Miner-R 69% over Paul Jefferson-D 31%.
- **HD 27:** Paul Tuss-D 67% over Jordan Ophus-L 33%.
- **HD 28:** Chisholm Christensen-R 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 29:** Valerie Moore-R 79% over Tess Fahlgren-D 21%.
- **HD 30:** Morgan Thiel-R 82% over Jason Boeshore-D 18%.
- **HD 31:** Natalie Weeks-Oneal-D 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 32:** Mike Fox-D 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 33:** Brandon Ler-R 77% over Tristan Veverka-D 23%.
- **HD 34:** Jerry Schillinger-R 87% over Jasmine Erikson-D 13%.
- **HD 35:** Gary Parry-R 81% over Natalie Parker-D 19%.
- **HD 36:** Ty Linger-R 73% over Benjamin Keyes-D 27%.
- **HD 37:** Shane Klakken-R 74% over Tracy Karcher-D 26%.
- **HD 38:** Greg Oblander-R 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 39:** Kerri Crowe-R 61% over Melissa Smith-D 39%.
- **HD 40:** Mike Vinton-R 70% over Gabriel Bradshaw-D 30%.
- **HD 41:** Jade Sootkis-D 100% - unopposed in general.

- **HD 42:** Sidney Chip Fitzpatrick-D 55% over Jeremiah Jabs-R 45%.
- **HD 43:** Larry Brewster-R 59% over Rudolf Haden-D 41%.
- **HD 44:** Katie Zolnikov-R 63% over Micheal Eaton-D 37%.
- **HD 45:** Denise Baum-D 59% over Bryce Walston-R 41%.
- **HD 46:** Denise Joy-D 57% over Kimberly Welzenbach-R 43%.
- **HD 47:** James Reavis-D 61% over John Maxwell-R 39%.
- **HD 48:** Curtis Schomer-R 50% (1,748) over Tucker Colvin-D 50% (1,716). *This race is extremely close and may change when provisional ballots are counted on Monday.*
- **HD 49:** Charles Loveridge-R 54% over Rebecca Noell-D 46%.
- **HD 50:** Stewart Harris-R 62% over Mark Peters-D 38%.
- **HD 51:** Jodee Etchart-R 58% over McKenzie Precious-D 42%.
- **HD 52:** Stacey Zinn-R 62% over Elizabeth Heald-D 38%.
- **HD 53:** Troy Charbonneau-R 72% over Matthew Hankins-D 28%.
- **HD 54:** Lee Deming-R 69% over Janin Coole-D 31%.
- **HD 55:** Brad Barker-R 69% over Richard Gessling-D 31%.
- **HD 56:** Fiona Nave-R 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 57:** Becky Edwards-D 55% over Bob Crank-R 45%.
- **HD 58:** Jamie Isaly-D 62% over Joshua Congleton-R 38%.
- **HD 59:** Katie Fire Thunder-D 65% over Marc Greendorfer-R 35%.
- **HD 60:** Alanah Griffith-D 56% over Gregory Leman-R 44%.
- **HD 61:** Rio Roland-D 86% over Eric Jacobs-R 14%.
- **HD 62:** Joshua Seckinger-D 59% over Esther Fishbaugh-R 41%.
- **HD 63:** Peter Strand-D 65% over Lawrence Moore-R 35%.
- **HD 64:** Brady Bremer-D 61% over Daniel Martinez-R 39%.
- **HD 65:** Brian Close-D 62% over Joe Flynn-R 38%.
- **HD 66:** Eric Mathews-D 63% over Owen Lang-R 37%.
- **HD 67:** Jedediah Hinkle-R 54% over Logan Henke-D 46%.
- **HD 68:** Randy Chamberlin-R 68% over Jocelyn Kent-D 32%.
- **HD 69:** Trevor Walter-R 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 70:** Shannon Maness-R 69% over Abigail Thomas-D 31%.
- **HD 71:** Scott DeMarois-D 63% over Suzzanne Nordwick-R 37%.
- **HD 72:** Donavon Hawk-D 70% over Michael Saul-R 30%.
- **HD 73:** Jennifer Lynch-D 67% over Gerry Kennedy-R 33%.
- **HD 74:** Marc Lee-D 66% over Trenin Bayless-R 34%.
- **HD 75:** Mark Reinschmidt-R 62% over Patrick Sullivan-D 34% and Greg Devries-L 4%.
- **HD 76:** Trish Schreiber-R 67% over Shayne Morgan-I 33%.
- **HD 77:** Jane Gillette-R 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 78:** Randyn Gregg-R 77% over Mark White-D 23%.
- **HD 79:** Luke Muskiewicz-D 60% over Chiko Olson-R 40%.
- **HD 80:** Megan Lane-D 58% over Katie Fruits-R 42%.
- **HD 81:** Janet Ellis-D 61% over John Looney-R 39%.
- **HD 82:** Pete Elverum-D 61% over Clinton McKay-R 39%.
- **HD 83:** Joe Cohenour-D 62% over Aaron Leas-R 38%.
- **HD 84:** Roy Caldwell-R 63% over Tia Nelson-D 37%.
- **HD 85:** Kimberly Dailey-R 72% over Laura Jackson-D 28%.
- **HD 86:** Wayne Rusk-R 60% over Archie Thomas-D 40%.

- **HD 87:** Terry Nelson-R 71% over Bill Jones-D 29%.
- **HD 88:** Greg Overstreet-R 65% over Evan Schroedel-D 35%.
- **HD 89:** Mark Thane-D 62% over Lyn Hellegaard-R 38%.
- **HD 90:** Jeffrey Stanek-R 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 91:** Shelly Fyant-D 59% over Charles Headley-R 41%.
- **HD 92:** Monica Tranel-D 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 93:** Ben Davis-D 68% over Roy Handley-R 32%.
- **HD 94:** Robin Kendall-D 66% over Greg Woodard-R 34%.
- **HD 95:** Zooey Zephyr-D 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 96:** Bob Carter-D 100% - unopposed in general.
- **HD 97:** Melody Cunningham-D 67% over Michael Hagestad-R 33%.
- **HD 98:** Jonathan Karlen-D 67% over Bryan Muzzana-R 33%.
- **HD 99:** Tom France-D 64% over Ryan Darling-R 36%.
- **HD 100:** SJ Howell-D 84% over Michael Daniel Bowles-R 13% and JC Windmueller-L 3%.