



# The Liberty Bell

# VOTER GUIDE



## The Liberty Bell Editorial Board's

## Rationale for Endorsements

## June 2, 2026 Cascade County

## Primary Election

After weeks of reviewing candidate filings, voting histories, public records, campaign platforms, and direct interviews, the Editorial Board of The Liberty Bell has made its endorsements for the June 2, 2026 primary. Our guiding principles remain unchanged: we support candidates who have proven records of defending liberty, limited government, fiscal responsibility, Second Amendment rights, and Montana values — and who possess the personal integrity to serve without ethical cloud.

Although the majority of our endorsed candidates this cycle are Republicans, The

Liberty Bell evaluates every candidate — Republican, Democrat, Independent, or from any other party — and selects only those who best align with the convictions of the Editorial Board. We choose the best person for each office regardless of party label.

In several contested races, the Board was forced to withhold endorsement from otherwise qualified individuals after examining formally filed complaints and active lawsuits that raised serious questions about ethics, transparency, and fitness for office. Where such red flags existed, we disqualified those candidates from consideration, regardless of party or past rhetoric. The Liberty Bell will not risk endorsing anyone whose integrity could later embarrass our community or compromise public trust.

**Federal Endorsements** We proudly endorse the following candidates for federal office who have demonstrated unwavering commitment to constitutional principles, limited government,

and putting Montana first in Washington, D.C.:

- U.S. Senate – Charles Walking Child (R)
- Congressional District 1 – Dr. Al Olszewski (R)
- Congressional District 2 – Troy Downing (R)

**State Legislative Endorsements (House & Senate)** We proudly endorse the following Republicans who have earned our support through consistent prior votes for conservative priorities and demonstrated character.

Each of these candidates has a track record of voting against tax increases, for protecting private property rights, and for safeguarding Montana's agriculture and energy sectors from radical environmental overreach. They have shown integrity in office and a willingness to stand up to special interests.

### County Offices

**County Commissioner – Rick Wolke (R):** Proven fiscal conservative with a strong prior voting record on local budgets and infrastructure.

**County Sheriff/Coroner – Mindy Kahle (R):** Law-and-order leader with unquestioned integrity and law-enforcement experience.

**County Clerk & Recorder – Desarea Valentine (R):** Demonstrated competence and commitment to election integrity.

**County Treasurer – Diane Heikkila (R):** Solid record managing public funds responsibly.

**Public Administrator – Gerald Boland (D):** In a non-partisan role requiring absolute trustworthiness with estates and vulnerable citizens, Mr. Boland stands out for his integrity and decades of reliable service. We cross party lines when the candidate is clearly the best person for the job.

**Justice of the Peace – Dept. 1: Robert Polich – Dept. 2: Cayle Halberg** Both bring judicial temperament and a commitment to the rule of law.

### County Attorney – “No Confidence”

After exhaustive review of all candidates in this critical race, the Board could issue **no endorsement**. None demonstrated the

combination of prosecutorial toughness, ethical clarity, and conservative principles we demand for the county's top law-enforcement attorney.

## COUNTY RACES IN CASCADE COUNTY

Sheriff, County Attorney, Justice of the Peace, Public Administrator, Clerk & Recorder, Treasurer - 4 year terms  
County Commissioner – 6 year term

County Commissioner	• Rick Wolke (R)
County Attorney	• No Confidence
County Sheriff/ Coroner	• Mindy Kahle (R)
County Clerk & Recorder	• Desarea Valentine (R)
County Treasurer	• Diane Heikkila (R)
Public Administrator	• Gerald Boland (D)
Justice of the Peace	• Robert Polich – Dept. 1 • Cayle Halberg – Dept. 2

**Public Service Commission (PSC) Races** Both Jeff Pattison (District 1) and David Sanders (District 5) are strong conservatives whose values align with ours. However, the PSC is not a legislative body. It is a regulatory commission with direct oversight of energy policy, electric and gas utilities, railroads, pipelines, and telecommunications — highly technical areas that demand deep institutional knowledge.

After careful deliberation, we endorse **Jeff Pattison (R) for PSC District 1** over challenger Jeremy Trebas. He possesses the most extensive experience and specialized knowledge in these complex regulatory matters. While we genuinely like Jeremy Trebas and would enthusiastically support him for a legislative or county-level seat, the PSC requires the candidate best equipped to protect Montana ratepayers and energy producers right now. Experience and expertise win this one.

**Final Note** These endorsements reflect a deliberate, evidence-based process. We chose candidates with clean records, proven conservative voting histories where applicable, and the personal integrity to serve Cascade County (and Montana) without distraction from complaints or lawsuits. The Liberty Bell exists to defend freedom and hold public officials accountable. On June 2, 2026, we urge every voter to do the same.

Vote like your liberty depends on it — because it does.

—The Liberty Bell Editorial Board Cascade County, Montana

## LEGISLATIVE RACES IN CASCADE COUNTY

Senate & Public Service Commission Term = 4 years  
House Term = 2 years

HD 19	• Hannah Trebas (R)
HD 20	• Tony Rosales (R)
HD 21	• Trevor Funseth (R)
HD 22	• Kevin Leatherbarrow (R)
HD 23	• Brett Mills (R)
HD 24	
HD 25	• Steve Gist (R)
HD 26	
HD 78 (Cascade County / Meagher)	• Randyn Gregg (R)
SD 10	• Jessica Dyrdaahl (R)
SD 11	• Steven Galloway (R)
SD 12	• Randy Pinocci (R)
Public Service Commission, District 1	• Jeff Pattison (R)
Public Service Commission, District 5	• David Sanders (R)