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Cynthia Louise Kesel October 7, 1959 - October 26, 2026



Cindy was born in Dillon, Montana, to Leonard and Jo Kesel. After graduating from Beaverhead County high school, Cindy moved to Billings and began working at what is now Wells Fargo Bank and became supervisor of word processing. After five years, Cindy pursued a legal secretarial career. She was very proud of her accomplishments and worked at premier law firms in Billings, San Francisco, and Walnut Creek CA.

After her mom passed away, Cindy moved back to Dillon to take over care of the family home that was built by her parents. The friendships she made in Dillon the second time around carried her through the tough battle with pancreatic and liver cancer. There is no way to adequately express her thanks to family, friends, hospital staff, the community, and especially Renaissance Senior Care on Center Street who have helped through these hard times.

Cindy is proceeded in death by her parents, her sister Jolyn, and her ex-husband John Babb. She is survived by her nephew Douglas Beringer, and brother-in-law, Jack Beringer.

Cindy became a proud Dillon Elks Lodge member in 2013. She enjoyed volunteering at Lodge events and getting the Facebook page and Member Bar up and running. In 2023, Cindy received the Elk of The Year award. Through the Elks, Cindy made many new friends who enriched her life. Please make donations to the Dillon Elks Lodge #1554 and help them continue their good work.

Celebration of Life at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of K&L Mortuaries. Condolences for the family may be posted online at www.kandlmortuaries.com & www.brundagefuneral.com.



Timothy Bullard

Longtime Malta resident Timothy Bullard left this earthly realm on October 12, 2026, at home, peacefully, and in the loving presence of his children. He was born December 29, 1952, to Peggy Nelson Garlie and Tracey Bullard, and graduated from Malta High School in 1971.

At the age of eighteen, Tim rode his motorcycle to Texas, where he worked on his father's ranch. He returned to

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Montana and married his high school sweetheart, Julie Henderson Bullard, in 1973. Together they had four children, Danny, Lisa, Chris, and Scott, of whom he was deeply proud. Over the years they lived in Bozeman, Billings, Havre, and Dillon. After Tim and Julie's divorce, Tim lived in Nevada and then Washington, eventually returning home to Malta.

Tim was a man of many talents and seemingly endless capability. In Dillon and Malta, he worked as a general contractor, known for his quality craftsmanship. Over the years, he also drove semis, hauling gold in Nevada and logs in Montana, and carrying freight throughout the lower 48 and beyond, including a regular route between Portland, Oregon, and Fairbanks, Alaska. Whatever the job, Tim knew how to work, build, fix, figure things out, and get things done. He rarely sat still for long and always had a project underway at home.

Friendship mattered deeply to Tim. He often said how lucky he was to have such good friends. For many years, one of his greatest pleasures was opening his home on Saturdays, when friends gathered around his kitchen table to swap stories, tell jokes, and enjoy one another's company.

His Irish roots came through in his humor. Tim always seemed to have a joke ready and loved making people laugh. Stories followed him wherever he went: some told by Tim, some told about him, and some that grew better with time. He had many stories because he had many wild adventures.

He hunted, fished, camped, and headed outdoors whenever he had the chance. Hunting on horseback in the mountains around Dillon and fishing for trout in the East Fork of the Blacktail were among his favorite pleasures. Tim tended to go a little farther than most in pursuit of a fish, a deer, a campsite, or simply a good view; fear didn't get in his way, as those who ventured out with him can attest.

His children learned early that, in their dad's hands, a vehicle apparently had fewer limits than the manufacturer intended. Steep terrain, rough roads, and creek crossings



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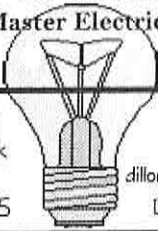
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were challenges to be met rather than reasons to turn around.

Hunting season was not only about filling his own freezer. Tim was generous with the work that came afterward, too. A friend recalled a season when he and Tim processed 27 deer, not just their own, but deer belonging to friends and family too. They didn't charge anyone a dime. If there was work to be done and someone needed a hand, Tim was likely to be there.

Tim is survived by his children, Danny Bullard (Cassi Schmit), Lisa Bullard (Justin O'Dea), Chris Bullard, and Scott Bullard (Cassie Bergum); his grandchildren, Suzi Stufflebean, Seamus Bullard, Mike Stufflebean, Ember and Aidan Bullard-O'Dea, and Opal and Ivy Bullard; his sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Pete Osterman; his nephews, Eric (Erika) Osterman and Steve Osterman; and his faithful four-legged companions, dogs Marge and Scanlin and cat Willa. He was preceded in death by his brother, Skipper Tank; his father, Tracey Bullard; and his mother and stepfather, Peggy and Bill Garlie.

Tim told his children not to be sad when he died because he saw death as another adventure—and Tim loved adventure.

At his request, his ashes were scattered at Fanning Hill, a place dear to his heart. He did not want a funeral service; he wanted a party. His family honored that wish with a celebration soon after his death.

They knew that, because it came together quickly, many people who loved Tim would not hear about it in time to attend. For those who could not be there, the family hopes you will raise a glass, tell a good story, maybe a questionable joke, and toast the life of Tim Bullard.

For anyone who wishes to send a card, you can mail it to Lisa Bullard at 27908 NE Hancock Road, Camas, WA 98607, and she will share it with family.

Tim's children would like to thank the Malta community for the friendship, love, and care shown to their dad and to their family. It was there throughout his life but felt especially deeply during his final weeks. The calls, visits, meals, help, and simple acts of kindness meant

Public Land Water Access Association new Access Desert Initiative

Please join us at Patagonia on Thursday, October 29th at 6:30pm for an event with Public Land Water Access Association (PLWA). Learn about the new Access Desert Initiative and how they're working to defend and maintain public access in the Pioneer Mountains. Light refreshments will be served.

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Brad Reis, Owner

Montana Western Women's Basketball Takes Down (RV) LC State, 52-49

The UMW women's basketball program (3-0) earned a gritty 52-49 victory over (RV) LC State (0-2) on day 2 of the Northwest Crossover Classic.

The Bulldogs prevailed in a back-and-forth ball game that featured six ties and 11 lead changes.

NOTABLES: Bailee Sayler posted a career-high in points on her way to her second double-double of the season. Mila Hawk dished out a career-high in assists. Tayva Phillips snagged three steals for the third-straight contest. Kyle Pancost tied her career high in rebounds.

The Bulldogs out-rebounded and out-assisted their opponent for the third game in a row.

STAT BREAKDOWN: UMW shot 28.8 percent (17-59) from the field, 30.8 percent (8-26) from downtown and 76.9 percent (10-3) from the free-throw line in the contest.

The Bulldogs tallied 46 rebounds, 14 assists, 6 steals, and five blocks. They put up 16 points in the paint, nine points off turnovers, three second-chance points, seven fast-break points, and five bench points.

LEADERBOARD: Bailee Sayler led the field with 28 points. Sayler and Kyle Pancost tied for the game-high with 11 rebounds apiece. Pancost also swatted a team-leading three blocks. Mila Hawk served up a game-best six assists. Tayva Phillips posted a team-high three steals.

GAME SUMMARY: The two sides were evenly matched from the jump, with the score tied at nine with three minutes remaining in the opening period.

Western scored the final six points of the first to lead 15-9 after 10 minutes. The Bulldogs stretched their lead to nine, 21-12, midway through the second frame, but the Warriors went on a 12-2 run to take the lead once more. LC State led by one, 24-23, as the teams headed into the break. The Red and Black shot 23.5 percent (8-34) from the floor, 25.0 percent (4-16) from distance, and 75.0 percent (3-4) from the line in the first half.

The Warriors led by as many as four early in the third quarter, but the Bulldogs caught up and pulled ahead by five with a little over five minutes remaining in the period. UMW led by two, 41-39, with 10



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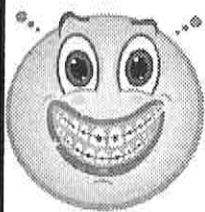
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minutes of action to go. Western went back up by seven 30 seconds in to the fourth, but LC State clawed its way back once again. The Warriors tied it at 49 with two minutes left in regulation.

The Bulldogs made some key defensive stops and Sayler made three clutch free-throws down the stretch to walk away with the three-point victory.

COMING UP The Bulldogs are on the road again next weekend when they compete in the Caldwell Classic. They will face #22 College of Idaho (10/30) and (RV) Eastern Oregon (10/31).

Tendoy Fine Art Gallery is closing it's doors

After serving Dillon for 10 years we will be shutting the gallery down at the end of October. All of the art is currently on sale for 25% off. We would like to thank the Dillon Community for it's support through the years.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, October 29th, 2026
9:00 A.M.

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Letter to the Editor

Keep Dillon's elected mayor; vote NO on a city manager.

On the November 3, 2026 ballot, Dillon residents will decide whether to replace the mayor and Director of Operations with a city manager. I will be a 'No' vote and preserve the current system, which has functioned for about 40 years.

In the early 1980s, a prior attempt to install a city manager under Mayor Nicholas failed within six months amid community revolt; both the mayor and manager resigned. The Director of Operations position was then created to support the mayor. Most mayors over the past 50 years have served their community for 10 to 20 years or more in various roles, aiding continuity.

Key advantages of an elected mayor:

1. Direct voter accountability. Residents can question the mayor, judge performance, and vote the person out. A manager is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the City Council under Montana's commission-manager form, inserting an extra layer between citizens and leadership. The public should not have to lobby the council to change direction.

2. Community voice and accessibility. In a smaller city, residents value a recognizable, approachable elected leader who hears concerns about streets, safety, economic development, housing, and growth and brings them to the council. A manager handles administration but lacks a public electoral mandate.

3. Vision and priorities. An elected mayor can set and be held accountable for community priorities (infrastructure, downtown revitalization, parks, responsible growth). A manager's statutory role is administrative—managing departments, enforcing ordinances, advising on finances—and includes no veto over council actions, especially financial ones.

4. Local knowledge. A resident mayor brings firsthand understanding of Dillon's economy, geography, history, and character when allocating limited funds. Professional credentials alone do not guarantee that local insight; expertise should support, not replace, elected representation.

5. Accountable planning and zoning. Growth decisions with lasting impacts should remain under elected oversight, supported by professional staff, so policies reflect public priorities rather than becoming insulated.

6. Cost. The mayor's base salary plus the Director of Operations' \$39,000 totals about \$89,000 that could theoretically fund a manager

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without new debt. Yet of Montana's 127 cities and towns, only 12 use a manager form; just one (West Yellowstone) is smaller than Dillon. Available data show most of those managers earn \$157,500 or more. No savings should be assumed without local budget review. A successful manager may also be recruited away by larger communities, as happens with other local professionals.

7. Stability and oversight. An elected mayor carries a voter mandate that can sustain priorities across staff changes. A manager serves at the council's will and, under the initiative, would lead the police department without the traditional oath of office, potentially shifting oversight toward the strongest council member.

Professional administration matters, but an appointed city manager should replace direct voter control only if it clearly improves services, accountability, and efficiency at a justified cost. Dillon's current mayor-led system preserves local leadership, continuity, and a direct public mandate. Keep that accountability where it belongs—with Dillon voters. **Vote NO.**

Harv Lake, Jr.

Mental Health Musings

Have you noticed our publicity for an upcoming Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training, FREE to the public, on November 14? See today's insert for information regarding how to register for this and/or the upcoming Science of the Positive training on November 9!

MHFA is a standardized psychoeducational program designed to train laypeople to recognize, respond to, and support individuals experiencing mental health challenges or crises. Over the past two decades, empirical evaluations have assessed MHFA across diverse populations. There is abundant evidence on the effectiveness of MHFA training, highlighting outcomes in knowledge, attitudes, confidence, helping intentions, and behaviors.

Here is some of the data related to Mental Health First Aid training:

MHFA consistently enhances mental health literacy, with participants demonstrating improved recognition of common mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, and psychosis. Trainees also acquire greater understanding of evidence-



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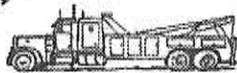
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Changing Dillon's Form of Government

We, the undersigned, wanted to present to the residents of the City of Dillon why we should keep the Mayor instead of removing the position and hiring a City manager. On November 3, 2026 an option is placed on the ballot to replace the Mayoral and the Director of Operations position with a City Manager. In what follows, we will give our opinions to the electorate on why to keep the two positions by voting NO.

We've been here before. In the early 1980's Mayor Nicholas ran on the platform of replacing the day to day management of the city with a city manager. Within six months the community was in revolt and both the mayor and city manager resigned in disgrace. What followed was the establishment of the Director of Operation position who worked in support of the mayor, our current system of administration for the last forty years. Almost all of our mayors over the past 50 years have given extensive service for more than 10 to over 20 years to our community in various other positions to influence a beneficial continuity of government.

1. Direct accountability to the voters.

The most important advantage of an elected mayor is democratic accountability. Residents can question their mayor, evaluate the mayor's performance, and vote for a different candidate if they are dissatisfied.

A city manager will be appointed by the governing body (i.e. City Council) under Montana's statutory commission-manager form of government. The manager serves at the council's will, rather than being directly elected by city residents. This creates a different chain of accountability. For Montana communities, local government should be responsive first and foremost to the citizens it serves. Keeping an elected mayor preserves a direct connection between municipal leadership and the voters.

The public should not have to persuade a city council to replace an administrator/manager before it can change the direction of its local government.

2. A mayor provides a recognizable voice for the community.

In smaller cities, residents often value personal relationships, familiarity, and accessibility in their local leadership. An elected mayor provides a recognizable point of contact for citizens, local businesses, civic organizations, and community groups.

A mayor can listen to concerns about streets, infrastructure, public safety, economic development, housing, and growth, and then bring those concerns before the governing body. An appointed manager can perform many administrative functions effectively, but the elected mayor represents the community through a public mandate.

3. The mayor can establish a community vision.

Cities need more than efficient administration. They need decisions about what kind of community they want to become.

An elected mayor can help establish priorities for infrastructure, downtown revitalization, economic development, housing, parks, and responsible growth. Residents can hold the mayor accountable for communicating that vision and working toward it.

A city manager's primary role under Montana's statutory commission-manager model is administrative: managing departments, enforcing laws and ordinances, recommending measures, and advising the council on municipal finances. Unlike a mayor, the city manager can't veto ordinances or resolutions that the City Council has passed especially financial matters.

4. Local knowledge matters for the City of Dillon.

Montana communities differ substantially in their economies, geography, infrastructure needs, development pressures, and traditions.

A mayor who lives in the community and regularly interacts with its residents can bring firsthand knowledge of local concerns to municipal decisions. This knowledge can be particularly valuable when setting priorities for limited public funds or balancing growth with the character of an established community.

A professional city manager may bring valuable expertise, but professional credentials alone do not guarantee an understanding of local history, neighborhood concerns, or community expectations.

The best approach is to use professional expertise to support local leadership rather than replace local representation.

5. Planning and zoning should remain accountable to the public.

Planning, zoning, subdivisions, housing, and future growth can have lasting consequences for property owners and the entire community.

An elected mayor can help ensure that these issues receive public attention and that the governing body's decisions reflect community priorities. Professional planners, zoning administrators, engineers, and legal advisers can provide the technical expertise needed to evaluate proposals properly.

The goal is not for a mayor to bypass established zoning procedures or substitute personal preferences for the law. The goal is to ensure that growth and development policies remain accountable to elected representatives and the public.

The City of Dillon should retain both professional technical assistance and democratic oversight.

6. Retaining a mayor may be more financially practical.

A city manager position brings a salary and potentially additional benefits, recruitment expenses, professional development costs, and other employment-related obligations. The actual cost depends on the city's existing staffing structure and the manager's compensation.

Before changing the form of government, the City of Dillon should compare the full cost of a manager with alternatives such as strengthening existing administrative staff, hiring specialized consultants when necessary, or improving the responsibilities and support provided to the current mayor and department heads. Currently, the Mayor's yearly base salary is approximately \$50,000 along with the Director of Operations yearly base salary of \$39,000 giving \$89,000 for a possible salary for a City Manager without increasing the city's debt. In the State of Montana currently, there are 12 cities and towns out of the 127 that operate under a City Manager form of government. Of these 12, only one has a smaller population compared with the City of Dillon (West Yellowstone). While salary information is limited, of the 12, ten cities are paying at least \$157,500 or more for one city manager and salary information on the other two was not found.

No savings should be assumed without reviewing actual local budget figures. However, a city should not create another senior position without demonstrating how the added expense will improve services, accountability, or efficiency. Especially in smaller communities, public resources should be directed toward measurable municipal needs. Additionally a successful manager will be courted by larger communities with more money and resources as currently occurs with our college chancellors and city police officers.

7. A mayor can provide continuity and stability

Elected mayors provide leadership shaped by local voters and an electoral mandate. They can help maintain long-term community priorities through changes in department personnel and administrative practices.

City managers can also offer continuity, and they may be particularly effective at maintaining institutional knowledge. However, under Montana's statutory commission-manager model, the manager serves at the City Council's will. A change in council leadership can therefore affect the manager's tenure.

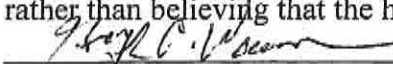
A municipality should carefully consider how much authority it wants concentrated in an appointed administrator and how it will preserve long-term policy direction through leadership transitions. As the ballot initiative is written, the city manager is an employee and is not under oath of office yet this position would be the leader of the police department. If it remains consistent with past practice or contrarily, the police department would not have the oversight it traditionally has had and could leave management to the politically strongest council member.

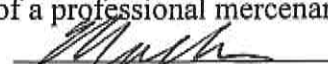
Conclusion

The City of Dillon should carefully consider the long-term consequences before replacing an elected mayor-led structure with a city-manager form of government.

An elected mayor provides direct voter accountability, recognizable community leadership, local knowledge, and a public voice for the city's priorities. Professional staff and department heads can support that leadership without necessarily requiring a separate city manager position.

The central question is not whether professional administration is valuable. It is whether creating an appointed city manager will produce enough additional benefit to justify its cost and the change in the city's system of accountability. Without dedicated, honest people willing to serve Dillon and without sufficient resources and funding directed to maximize beneficial returns in services it is irrelevant as to the form of government you choose, it will fail. We believe that your current form of government is superior to attract capable candidates rather than believing that the hiring of a professional mercenary is a long term answer.


George Warner, Mayor


Michael Klakken, Mayor

Paid for by George Warner (1315 Montana Hwy 41, Dillon, MT 59725) and Michael Klakken (835 E. Morse, Dillon, MT 59725)

Dillonite Advertiser

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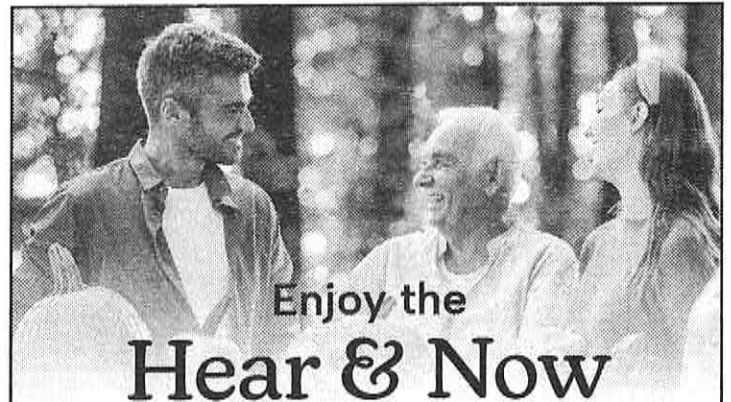
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Health and the Near Term Initiative 11 grant!***



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Beaverhead County Study Commission

VOTE

November 3rd

Beaverhead County Charter Form of Government Beaverhead County Comparison of Specific Government Form Duties

CHARACTERISTIC	PRESENT FORM OF GOVERNMENT	PROPOSED FORM OF GOVERNMENT	EVALUATIVE COMMENTS
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	COMMISSION FORM Merges legislative, administrative and executive functions in commission	CHARTER-COMMISSION Charter is a local constitution and describes a commission form of government.	Commission form is written into the Charter. Basic change is that county gains self-governing powers and flexibility to respond to the citizens' concerns.
POWERS	GENERAL GOVERNMENT POWERS State Law defines what government may do and specifically how it shall do it. Very limited local power to pass ordinances.	SELF-GOVERNMENT POWERS County government shall exercise any power which the state does not deny. Local government gains more ordinance-making authority. Brings the power of government back local vs. at the State level.	Self-government powers bring to the county the power to act in its own best interest, and flexibility in shaping government structure.
FLEXIBILITY TO ADDRESS CITIZENS' CONCERNS	Limited form of government to address citizens' concerns with regards to ordinances, etc.	Self-Governing Power form of Government.	Commissioners will have more power to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide services not permitted by the legislature.• Lawfully acquire and operate utilities (gas, electric) within and outside of boundaries of the county. (solar farm?)• Greater authority to dispose of public lands.• Authority to provide more ordinances that address citizens' concerns.

There are no changes to the following: Governing Body size, Election, Term Presiding Officer, Duties, Other Elected Officials, Chief Administrative Officer, Appointment Powers, Budget Preparation, or Service Delivery.

A SELF-GOVERNMENT CHARTER IS A LOCAL GOVERNMENT EQUIVALENT OF A STATE OR NATIONAL CONSTITUTION. IT PUTS THE POWER INTO THE HANDS OF THE VOTERS ON THE LOCAL LEVEL.

Ballot on the Alternative form of Local Government

Instructions to voters: Place an "X" in the boxes which express your preferences. Make sure to read your ballot! Some ballots choices may be switched!

[] For adoption of the commission form of government with a self-government charter proposed for Beaverhead County proposed by the Beaverhead County Local Government Study Commission.

[] For the existing commission form of government.

The Beaverhead County Local Government Study Commission was established in 2024 by voter mandate to review the structure, powers, and procedures of Beaverhead County's local government. The commission's charge, as defined by Montana state law, was to compare the existing county government, which is a Commission Form of Government, with alternative forms available under state statutes and, if warranted, propose changes to the electorate.

The elected commission of Brooke Erb, Rebecca Jones, and Taylor Rose conducted a review through public surveys, public meetings held in Dillon, Lima, and Wisdom, and received opinion from county commissioners, county department managers, and elected county employees. Comparative data was obtained from various Montana counties, as well.

After extensive review and public consultation, the Study Commission concluded that there is public interest in commissioner's expanded ability to exercise more flexibility and make decisions with more efficiency and responsiveness locally. We concluded that a Self-Government Charter would best facilitate these objectives.

For example, an ordinance for building codes could be enforced, requiring construction projects to adhere to state building codes. Fireworks could be restricted in fire prone areas when drought conditions are present. Situations that require expediency in decision making would produce timely results.

To support the recommended change in local government to "A Self-Government Charter", a ballot would be marked: ☒ For adoption of the commission form of government with a self-government charter proposed for Beaverhead County proposed by the Beaverhead County Local Government Study Commission.

Thank you for entrusting this elected Study Commission to review existing local government and recommend this proposed change to the citizens of Beaverhead County.



The Beaverhead County Republican
Central Committee encourages you to **Vote NO** on the
following Initiatives:

Save this list for reference!

CI 132-

- Supreme Court Judges should be elected on their party affiliations so we know where they would stand on the issues at hand.
- **VOTE NO on CI 132**

CI 133-

- This initiative would circumvent the Montana Legislature and Constitution.
- Out-of-State interests would buy and pay for petition signing and the gatherers, giving out misinformation.
- Millions of dollars would be spent to go around our form of Government and change our Laws.
- **VOTE NO on CI 133**

CI 194-

- Would harm Free Speech in Montana by imposing extreme penalties on people or groups (such as Farm Bureau and local citizens) for engaging in Free Speech.
- Out-of-State entities would not be under this rule and could proclaim whatever they wanted.
- **VOTE NO on CI 194**

Paid for by the Beaverhead Republican Central Committee PO Box 846 Dillon, MT 59725 ~

Connie Carroll, Treasurer



**The Beaverhead County Republican
Central Committee encourages you to Vote for the following
Republican Candidates!**

Save this list for reference!

Kurt Alme- United States Senate

Aaron Flint- United States Congress

Shannon Maness- MT House of Representatives- Dist 70

Mark Boka- Beaverhead Co. Commissioner- District 1

Kelly Rowe- Beaverhead Co. Commissioner- District 3

Stacey Reynolds- Beaverhead Co. Clerk & Recorder

David Wendt- Beaverhead Co. Sheriff

Sky Jones- Beaverhead Co. Attorney

Dana Basile- Beaverhead Co. Superintendent of Schools

Cathy Hucke- Beaverhead Co. Treasurer

VOTE: Dan Wilson (Non-Partisan)

for Montana Supreme Court Justice

Conservative ~ Experienced ~ Constitutionalist