



## 'This is about voting your JOB'

What would drive MEA-MFT members to give up a beautiful summer or fall evening to sit inside and make political phone calls?

Carole Addis, a member in Missoula, put it succinctly: "If we don't elect Steve Bullock (as governor) and Denise Juneau (as superintendent of public instruction), everything we've worked for will be down the drain."

Addis is one of dozens of volunteers participating in a massive effort to reach

all 18,000 MEA-MFT members across Montana, talking about how crucial the November election is.

"We are mobilizing as never before," said MEA-MFT President Eric Feaver. "Never have the stakes been higher, and never have the choices been starker. We've seen what happened in states like Wisconsin, Ohio, and Idaho, where extremists got elected in 2010. We're not letting that happen here in Montana."

(Continued on page 3)

## ▲ MEA-MFT volunteers rock the phone banks

in Helena, Missoula, Billings, Kalispell, & Great Falls, talking to fellow members about the 2012 election. Clockwise from top: Nicole Peterson, John George, Jennifer Kirby, Ashley Glover, Tom Glover, Paul Northey, Mary Verploegen, Pat Rosenleaf, Marilyn Hamer, Jean Tutskey.

### INSIDE:

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# Good-bye, Jim

I've lost family and friends before. Rode each event out pretty much whole.

But losing Jim McGarvey has been a hard ride, maybe not yet over.

Jim was my friend.

And I was his.

Jim was a comrade in arms.

Right now, losing Jim, I feel empty... somewhat the way I felt another raw moment 43 years ago on a godforsaken LZ hard by the Ho Chi Minh trail.

A huge part of MEA-MFT has died.

At first Jim and I warred against each other as MEA and MFT competed for members and affiliates... sometimes oblivious to the wreckage we left around and the outside, predatory, anti-union dangers our warfare invited.

But once we figured out our respective union interests were better served united than not, we built one hell of a union.

Then we warred together, joined at the hip in common cause, for the best things good government exists to provide: public schools, public health and human services, public safety, minimum wage, universal health care... and against right-wing, libertarian, political evil that would destroy the social compact, drown government in a bathtub, privatize public schools, sell out Social Security and pensions, and prohibit workers from organizing to bargain collectively for competitive salaries and benefits — the stuff that makes the American middle class.

The war continues. It is a war, you know.

Now without Jim.

And I have other memories:

Decoding Jim's history lessons and instructional stories. He was a book of infinite chapters, and he never began a story on the first page.

Fishing Jim out of truly dangerous rapids in the Alberton Gorge.

Jim painstakingly ordering dinner a la carte and not eating most of it.

Jim and his damned tea bags.

Jim calling whenever and demanding, "Tell me

what I don't know."

Jim's three cell phones buzzing at once, one in his ear.

Jim and his fat, beat-up book of multi-colored

## OUR POINT OF VIEW



BY ERIC FEAYER  
MEA-MFT PRESIDENT

Jim McGarvey passed away suddenly August 28. He was president of the former Montana Federation of Teachers, vice president of MEA-MFT, president and then executive secretary of the Montana State AFL-CIO, and a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers. He will be greatly missed.



Jim McGarvey and his wife, Suzanne, at his Montana State AFL-CIO retirement party in 2011.

note pages that he carried everywhere but rarely opened in my presence. Each color meant something to Jim. I don't know what.

Jim forcefully calming troubled waters between MEA-MFT and the governor's office setting the stage for successful legislation creating state-funded quality educator payment, education loan repayment, and full-time kindergarten.

Jim and the iron-clad friendships he built, nurtured, and never forgot.

Jim and the implacable enemies he made, nurtured, and never forgot in the rough-edged world of union organizing...because, well, because he was Jim...and he despised jealous competitors who failed to grant or even acknowledge his success. They gave it back in kind.

Jim and Butte, the sacred city of his birth.

Jim, a Montana organizer, without peer.

Jim's funeral was Monday, Labor Day, as it should be.

Goodbye, Jim.

*Eric Feaver*

P.S. Despite rumors to the contrary, I don't believe Jim ever really fished with dynamite. ■

# 'Vote your job'

(from p. 1)

MEA-MFT leaders, staff, and volunteers have been working for a year to inform members about the issues in this year's election.

The phone calls are part of that effort. They began in June and will continue through Election Day, November 6. Volunteers have been calling and writing fellow members from phone banks in Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Helena, Kalispell, and Laurel. More phone banks are planned in other towns. The calls focus especially on Steve Bullock for governor and Denise Juneau for superintendent of public instruction.

"These are the offices that have the most direct impact on our members and their jobs, though every race is crucial," explained MEA-MFT Political Director Terry Minow.

**"Our volunteers are having a great time,** and they're making a huge difference. They're finding that most other members appreciate hearing from them about the candidates."

Volunteers are also recruiting more members to help elect candidates who support public education, public services, and employees' rights:

MEA-MFT's endorsed candidates. "Nearly a thousand said they would volunteer," said Minow. "Our members get it. They know this election is about saving their jobs. It's about their ability to provide for their families, the very existence of public education and public services in Montana."

Meanwhile, MEA-MFT leaders and staff are meeting with members around the state, talking about the election and showing the now-famous "Not in Montana" presentation, which explains what happened in states where public employees lost collective bargaining rights. (See p. 4.)

As MEA-MFT board member Mike Picking, president of the Great Falls Education Association, recently wrote to his local members, "I know some of you may have a hard time separating your other political views from your professional views. I understand that, believe me, but this is about voting your JOB." Picking's advice: "Vote your job, lobby your hobby."

**Join the team!** Want to help elect candidates who support you? Contact Terry Minow at MEA-MFT: [tminow@mea-mft.org](mailto:tminow@mea-mft.org). ■



**'Our members get it. This election is about saving their jobs. It's about their ability to provide for their families, the very existence of public education & public services in Montana.'**

## Super Volunteer JANE SHAWN 1st grade teacher

Jane Shawn has cheerfully reported for phone bank duty at MEA-MFT's Helena office more than a dozen times. For two hours, she talks to fellow MEA-MFT members about the importance of electing Steve Bullock as governor and Denise Juneau as superintendent of schools.

She plans to keep volunteering until Election Day, November 6.

"I think it's important to do whatever I can to help get people elected who are going to support me in my job and support my community," she says.

"I'm really impressed with Denise's Graduation Matters program and her Schools of Promise program. Steve Bullock and I are on the same side of the issues. We share the same values."

She adds, **"It's not just about my job security. I'm advocating for the kids I teach and their families.** Teachers can't do their jobs with crowded classrooms, without resources. Balancing the budget on the backs of public employees doesn't make sense. We're part of the economy. We shop locally, we put money back in the local economy. We pay taxes."

**Thank you, Jane!** You are making a difference.



# Not in Montana! We're not following Wisconsin & Idaho



## What's at stake in Montana's November election:

- Your job, salary, working conditions, & benefits.
  - Funding for education and public services.
  - Collective bargaining: the right of workers to stick together as a group.
  - Privatization of public schools and other public services.
  - Teacher tenure (the right to due process before dismissal).
  - State pay plan.
  - Your pension: Will the Teachers Retirement System & Public Employees Retirement System continue to exist?
- It all depends on who gets elected.**

Workers have a right to stick together, so their employers take them seriously. It's as fundamental as the right to free speech and religious freedom.

But powerful interests, acting on a national level, want to destroy that right, especially for public employees. Why? It gets in their way.

**Take a look at Wisconsin:** Scott Walker, with help from the billionaire right-wing Koch brothers, won election as governor in 2010 and immediately set out to unravel Wisconsin's public employee unions.

Without warning, the lives of thousands of Wisconsin public employees and educators changed overnight when Governor Walker pushed a law through the legislature that destroyed 50 years of collective bargaining rights.

Due process, health insurance, and retirement benefits disappeared. Thousands lost their jobs. Others suffered huge pay cuts.

Funding for public services was slashed. Classrooms grew so crowded that teachers had no room to walk up and down the aisle.

**Right next door to us, in Idaho,** State Superintendent of Education Tom Luna pushed bills through the 2011 Idaho legislature that rolled back collective bargaining rights of educators. Idaho now has no renewable contracts for teachers, no due process for salary reduction or assignment changes, and no just cause for dismissal. Teacher pay is now partly determined by student test scores. State funding for public schools was cut

by \$156 million. Similar atrocities happened in many other states in 2011.

And in Montana's 2011 legislature, Tea Party legislators tried to follow suit, with bills aimed at destroying workers' rights, ending public education as we know it, and privatizing public services like the Montana Veterans Home.

**"The only thing that saved Montana** from following Idaho and Wisconsin in 2011 was having a governor who vetoed bad bills," said MEA-MFT President Eric Feaver.

"We've already seen similar bill draft proposals from the same Tea Party legislators for the 2013 session. We have to elect a governor, superintendent of public instruction, and legislators who will fight for our members and the Montana people our members serve."

Feaver continued, "Rick Hill has publicly embraced an agenda similar to Wisconsin's Scott Walker. Sandy Welch says she shares Hill's agenda. We have to elect Steve Bullock and Denise Juneau.

**"We can do it.** Our 18,000 members and their families can swing the course of this election."

This issue of *MEA-MFT Today* shows which candidates measure up.

**NOTE:** As we go to press, a Wisconsin judge has just ruled that Governor Walker's anti-union law violates the state and U.S. constitutions. This follows a lawsuit brought by Wisconsin public employees' unions. The Walker administration is expected to appeal the ruling. ■

## MEA-MFT TODAY

*MEA-MFT Today* published bimonthly September through May by MEA-MFT. Third Class Nonprofit Postage Paid at Billings, MT 59101. Permit No. 1

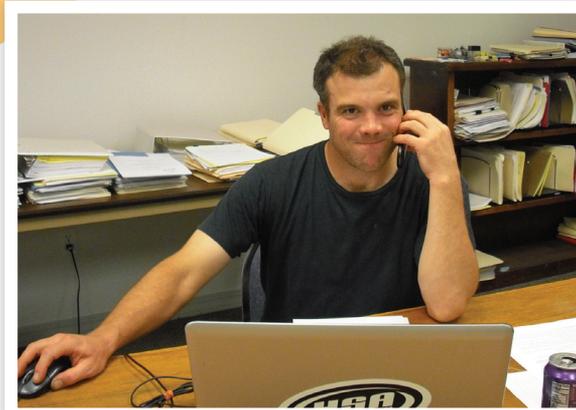
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## Super Volunteer JOE SPICHA, Head Start



Joe Spicha, super volunteer at the Missoula phone bank, not only gave up many of his summer evenings to call fellow members about MEA-MFT's endorsed candidates, he showed up at the phone bank with fresh tomatoes from his garden to share.

He even shared his huckleberries — not something most pickers are willing to do.

Talk about **going the extra mile** for your fellow members. **Thank you, Joe!**

# MEA-MFT's endorsed candidates for STATEWIDE OFFICE

## Steve Bullock for Governor



Steve Bullock & family: Strong Montana values.

Steve Bullock's priorities are clear: strong public schools, strong public services, a strong economy, and a strong middle class.

Steve shares our values. He knows education is directly tied to economic development. He will fight for workers' collective bargaining rights.

MEA-MFT is proud to make Steve's election our top priority. He will continue Governor Schweitzer's legacy of working with MEA-MFT

to stop bad ideas like giving public dollars to private schools run by for-profit, out-of-state corporations. He will fight to uphold the public retirement systems that provide security and dignity to our members at the end of their careers.

With Steve Bullock as governor, MEA-MFT (Continued on p. 7)



Your fellow MEA-MFT members did the research. Here are the candidates for statewide office who will support you, your job & benefits, public schools & public services, your collective bargaining rights, & Montana's middle class.

**More statewide endorsements on page 6. ▶**

## Denise Juneau for Superintendent of Public Instruction



Denise Juneau: a champion for ALL Montana children!

Denise Juneau is a proven champion for all Montana children. MEA-MFT is proud she is our friend, our fellow member, and a nationally recognized leader.

Denise is running for re-election as superintendent of schools. She deserves another four years to continue her good work, including her Graduation Matters campaign, which has improved Montana's graduation rate.

Denise is a talented, articulate advocate for quality education for all. She knows first-hand that public education, from Head Start to k-12 to the university system, gives our children the chance to make a good life for themselves.

(Continued on p. 7)

### How endorsements are made:

- Elected members of MEA-MFT's Committee On Political Education (COPE) interview candidates, research voting records, and study candidates' position statements.
- Local MEA-MFT members help by interviewing local legislative candidates.
- COPE endorses candidates who demonstrate clear and consistent support for public education, public services, and employees' rights.
- Endorsements are based solely on issues, not on political party.



## MEA-MFT's endorsed candidates for STATEWIDE OFFICE (Continued)

### Don't be a down-ballot dropout!

There are many hot races at the top of the November ballot. But some of the most important races are down the ballot. Every race is important! Every race affects you, your family, and your job.

### Don't stop at the top!

### Voting by mail?

Watch for your ballot the week of October 8. For peace of mind, fill it out and send it right in!



#### Jon Tester for U.S. Senate

Jon Tester brings Montana values to the United States Senate. As the senate's only farmer, he has a unique perspective on protecting our state's farms and ranches.

As a former teacher and school board member from a small rural community on the Hi-line, he knows that Montana's quality public schools and universities need fund-

ing and support. He has been willing to stand up to the Obama administration on federal policies that don't work for Montana, policies like No Child Left Behind.

MEA-MFT enjoys a working relationship with Jon that began during his years in the Montana Senate and that continues today. He takes our calls, and he deserves our votes.



#### Kim Gillan for U.S. Congress

Kim Gillan is a longtime friend of public education and public services. As a Montana legislator from Billings, she worked with both Republicans and Democrats to make life better for Montana families.

She got the insurance companies to cover autism and diabetes. She successfully fought for better job

training opportunities for Montanans.

As our congresswoman, Kim Gillan will protect Medicare and speak up for Montana's working families.

MEA-MFT is proud to recommend a candidate who will truly stand up for Montana in Washington. That candidate is Kim Gillan.



#### Pam Bucy for Attorney General

Pam Bucy has dedicated her career to public service. She has been a staunch advocate for public services and public education in Montana.

Pam previously worked for former Attorney General Mike McGrath, serving as his chief deputy. She knows the ropes!

As Montana's top law enforce-

ment officer, Pam will make safe neighborhoods her priority.

She has extensive experience in prosecuting those who would harm our citizens, especially our children. As Montana's chief consumer advocate, Pam Bucy will prosecute those who would take advantage of Montanans.



#### Linda McCulloch for Secretary of State

MEA-MFT member Linda McCulloch deserves a second term as Montana's secretary of state. Linda has proven herself to be a champion of fair, open, honest, and accurate elections. She has successfully fought bills that would infringe on Montanans' right to vote.

Linda has made the secretary of

state's office, which licenses businesses in Montana, a model of fiscal responsibility and improved customer service. This has saved money for business owners and taxpayers alike.

Linda's opponent, Brad Johnson, supports oppressive "voter ID" laws that would make it harder for Montanans to vote.



### Monica Lindeen for State Auditor

In her four years as state auditor, Monica Lindeen has successfully protected Montana securities and insurance consumers from fraud. She prosecuted the largest Ponzi scheme in Montana history, returning millions to victims across the state.

Monica's opponent, Derek Skees, is a Montana legislator who had a miserable 25% voting record in the 2011 legislative session on public education, public services, and other issues that matter to MEA-MFT members.



### Ed Sheehy for Montana Supreme Court Justice

The Montana Supreme Court is the court of last resort for Montana citizens to obtain justice.

Ed Sheehy is a talented, experienced, and ethical attorney with 34 years of experience in Montana.

Ed has the breadth of experience and knowledge of the law, legal procedures, and the legal system needed in order to be a great justice. MEA-MFT is proud to recommend Ed Sheehy for Supreme Court justice.



### Brian Morris for Montana Supreme Court Justice

Montana law requires that state supreme court justices who run unopposed for re-election be placed on the ballot with the question of whether or not they be retained.

Justice Brian Morris is running

for re-election unopposed, and he needs our "yes" votes to be retained.

Brian has proven he has the judicial temperament, talent, and legal knowledge to serve as a valued member of the court.

### The values we share as MEA-MFT members:

- We want Montana to be a state we can be proud of: a state with educated citizens, safe communities, and opportunities for all.
- Public education and public services make these possible. They help families, communities, and businesses thrive.
- Working people deserve a voice in their working conditions.
- Public tax dollars should go to public services; not to private, for-profit ventures.

**These are the values we look for in our endorsed candidates.**

## Ballot measure recommendations

The MEA-MFT COPE Board studied these measures, which will appear on Montana's November ballot, and made the following recommendations:

**NO on LR-121:** Legislative Referendum 121 would basically force Montana state employees to become immigration agents. LR-121 would "deny certain state services to illegal aliens." State and higher education staff would have to determine a person's status when that person applied for state services. Determining citizenship has always been the federal government's job. LR-121 shifts that burden to the state.

**YES on I-166:** Stop unlimited corporate spending on campaigns. The U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision ruled that corporations have the same rights as people, and that unlimited corporate political spending equates to constitutionally protected free speech.

I-166 establishes a state policy saying corporations are not entitled to constitutional rights because they are not human beings.

### Steve Bullock (from p. 5)

members will know they have a friend at the state capitol, a friend who believes in the work we do, work that matters.

Learn more about Steve Bullock, and his opponent, on page 9.

### Denise Juneau (from p. 5)

Denise goes to the experts — teachers, students, and parents — to get their ideas on how to make Montana's great public schools even better.

Learn more about Denise Juneau, and her opponent, on page 10.



# MEA-MFT's endorsed candidates for MONTANA LEGISLATURE



**Bold** = MEA-MFT Member    HD = House District    SD = Senate District

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HD 3	Zac Perry	Hungry Horse
HD 4	Ed Lieser	Whitefish
<b>HD 10</b>	<b>Alex Schaeffer</b>	<b>Kalispell</b>
HD 12	Luke Walawander	Ronan
<b>HD 15</b>	<b>Frosty Calf Boss Ribs</b>	<b>Heart Butte</b>
HD 16	Lea Whitford	Cut Bank
HD 17	Mike Henning	Fairfield
HD 18	Colter McCarty	Great Falls
HD 19	Richard Liebert	Great Falls
HD 20	Lindsay Love	Great Falls
<b>HD 21</b>	<b>Jean Price</b>	<b>Great Falls</b>
<b>HD 22</b>	<b>Casey Schreiner</b>	<b>Great Falls</b>
HD 23	Carlie Boland	Great Falls
<b>HD 24</b>	<b>Tom Glover</b>	<b>Great Falls</b>
HD 25	Tom Jacobson	Great Falls
<b>HD 26</b>	<b>Bob Mehlhoff</b>	<b>Great Falls</b>
<b>HD 31</b>	<b>Bridget Smith</b>	<b>Wolf Point</b>
HD 33	Brenda Skornogoski	Havre
HD 34	Karen S. Sloan	Havre
HD 35	Floyd Hopstad	Glasgow
HD 38	Jim Hicks	Glendive
HD 40	Bill McChesney	Miles City
HD 44	Wallace Yovetich	Billings
<b>HD 45</b>	<b>Carolee Hagstrom</b>	<b>Roundup</b>
<b>HD 47</b>	<b>Dale Rumph</b>	<b>Billings</b>
<b>HD 48</b>	<b>Rita Wells</b>	<b>Billings</b>
<b>HD 49</b>	<b>Mary McNally</b>	<b>Billings</b>
<b>HD 50</b>	<b>Deborah D. Willis</b>	<b>Billings</b>
HD 51	Kelly McCarthy	Billings
HD 52	Virginia Court	Billings
HD 53	Joseph Sands	Billings
HD 54	Margie MacDonald	Billings
HD 55	Bob Winger	Billings
HD 58	Cole Olson	Laurel
HD 59	Paul Beck	Red Lodge
HD 62	Reilly Neill	Livingston
<b>HD 63</b>	<b>Franke Wilmer</b>	<b>Bozeman</b>
<b>HD 64</b>	<b>Tom Woods</b>	<b>Bozeman</b>
HD 65	Kathleen Williams	Bozeman
HD 66	JP Pomnichowski	Bozeman
HD 70	April Buonamici	Bozeman
HD 72	Norma J. Duffy	Dillon
HD 73	Pat Noonan	Ramsay

HD 74	Ryan Lynch	Butte
<b>HD 75</b>	<b>Edie McClafferty</b>	<b>Butte</b>
<b>HD 76</b>	<b>Amanda Curtis</b>	<b>Butte</b>
HD 77	Adam Lythgoe	Clancy
HD 79	Chuck Hunter	Helena
HD 80	Kelsen Young	Helena
HD 81	Galen Hollenbaugh	Helena
HD 82	Jenny Eck	Helena
<b>HD 84</b>	<b>Everett G. Sheets</b>	<b>Deer Lodge</b>
HD 85	Gordon Pierson Jr	Deer Lodge
HD 86	Kathy Swanson	Anaconda
HD 88	Pam Erickson	Hamilton
HD 91	Chuck Erickson	Milltown
HD 92	Bryce Bennett	Missoula
<b>HD 93</b>	<b>Doug Coffin</b>	<b>Missoula</b>
HD 94	Ellie Hill	Missoula
HD 95	Tom Steenberg	Missoula
HD 96	Carolyn Squires	Missoula
HD 97	Nancy Wilson	Missoula
HD 98	Jenifer Gursky	Missoula
HD 99	Kimberly Dudik	Missoula
HD 100	Dave Andrews	Missoula

## MONTANA SENATE

SD 2	David B. Fern	Whitefish
SD 6	Nancy Lindsey	Polson
SD 7	Mark Sheets	Thomp. Falls
SD 9	Ron Szabo	Great Falls
SD 10	Brad Hamlett	Cascade
SD 17	Greg Jergeson	Chinook
SD 18	Julie E. French	Scobey
SD 19	Fred Lake	Sidney
SD 22	Jean Dahlman	Forsyth
<b>SD 24</b>	<b>Wanda Grinde</b>	<b>Billings</b>
<b>SD 26</b>	<b>Robyn Driscoll</b>	<b>Billings</b>
<b>SD 27</b>	<b>Gary Branae</b>	<b>Billings</b>
SD 33	Mike Phillips	Bozeman
SD 36	Richard Turner	Dillon
SD 37	Jon C. Sesso	Butte
SD 38	Jim Keane	Butte
SD 41	Christine Kaufmann	Helena
SD 43	Gene Vuckovich	Anaconda
SD 46	Sue Malek	Missoula
<b>SD 47</b>	<b>Dick Barrett</b>	<b>Missoula</b>
SD 50	Cliff Larsen	Missoula

Your vote counts...if you use it.

We expect an extremely high voter turnout for Montana's 2012 November election. **Every vote will count.** Montana has seen many races won or lost by a handful of votes, especially legislative races.

**Are you registered to vote?** You can register online at the secretary of state's web site: <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/index.asp> Or visit your county clerk's office. Or contact your local MEA-MFT president.

**Do you know where to vote?** If not, visit: <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/index.asp> Click on "My voter page."

**Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 6**

# Candidates for **GOVERNOR**: the choice is crystal clear



**STEVE BULLOCK**



**RICK HILL**

## BACK-GROUND

As Montana’s Attorney General since 2008, Steve Bullock has: • Put more cops on the street to make our children & communities safer. • Cracked down on scam artists. • Led the national fight against unlimited corporate spending on elections (“Citizens United”). Steve previously was a lawyer in private practice, representing businesses, individuals, & citizen groups.

Rick Hill is a lobbyist, ex-congressman, and former insurance executive. He has spent his career advocating for powerful special interests, helping Wall Street weaken consumer protections, and helping health insurance companies charge women more than men.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Steve Bullock and his wife attended Montana public schools. So do their three young children.
- Steve passionately believes in public education.
- He will fight for adequate funding of education on all levels, with incentives for public schools to innovate and grow.
- Steve respects Montana educators and supports teacher tenure, knowing teachers deserve the right to due process before dismissal.

- Ex-Congressman Rick Hill would dismantle public education as we know it. He supports taking money from public schools and giving it to private, for-profit schools. (HR 2746, Roll Call 569, 11/4/97)
- In Congress, he voted to cut \$137 million from Montana schools. (HR 2264, Roll Call 615, 11/7/97)
- He insulted Montana teachers, calling them second worst in the nation. (Bitterroot Star 7/11/12)
- He would eliminate teacher tenure and move to a merit pay system. (Yellowstone GOP Women’s Forum, 11/12/11)

## YOUR PENSION

- Steve Bullock supports fixing the financial solvency of Montana’s existing teachers and public employees retirement systems (TRS and PERS).

- Rick Hill has called for ending Montana’s existing TRS & PERS retirement systems by putting all new employees in a defined contribution system (much less stable for employees). He won’t say how he would fund the retirement costs of current employees. (KMMS radio, 4/13/12)

## STATE EMPLOYEE PAY PLAN

- Steve Bullock believes that state employees deserve a raise after having their base pay frozen for four years. He supports collective bargaining rights for all Montana’s public employees.

- Rick Hill said the average state employee is overpaid by \$8,000 per year. Instead of pay increases, he wants merit pay for state employees. (KMMS radio, 4/13/12)

## JOBS

- Steve’s jobs plan includes new incentives for Montana-based small and medium-sized businesses to create jobs; developing traditional resources like coal & gas and alternative energy sources like wind & biofuels; and helping more students afford college.

- Rick Hill says we need to give more tax breaks to out-of-state corporations, and eliminate regulations and oversight for development of coal, oil, and natural gas. (NAIFA luncheon, 4/19/12)

## MINIMUM WAGE

- Steve led the fight to increase the minimum wage in Montana, raising wages a dollar an hour for 20,000 of Montana’s lowest paid workers.

- Rick Hill voted against a minimum wage increase five times in Congress. (4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 42, 4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 43, 4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 44, 4/9/00-HR 3846 Roll Call 45, 10/30/00- H Res 663, HR2614 Roll Call 582)

## RIGHT-to-WORK for LESS

- Steve opposes so-called “right-to-work” union-busting legislation. As governor, if such a bill ever made it to his desk, he would veto it.

- When asked if he would make Montana a “right-to-work” state, Rick Hill answered, “Yes. What more do you want?” (Ravalli Co. Pachyderm Meeting, 1/6/12)

**Steve Bullock for Governor!**

**Ex-Congressman Hill: Too extreme.**

# Candidates for **SUPERINTENDENT** of Public Instruction: a stark contrast



**DENISE JUNEAU**



**SANDY WELCH**

## BACK-GROUND

- Denise Juneau grew up in Montana and attended Montana schools from Head Start through law school.
- She is a third-generation Montana educator,
- Denise was elected as superintendent of public instruction in 2008 and has been an outstanding, nationally acclaimed superintendent.
- She is running for re-election.

- Sandy Welch was educated in California and previously taught in California's Silicon Valley.
- She served six years as a principal in Ronan and taught several months in the Flathead area.
- She worked for senate Republicans during Montana's 2011 legislative session.
- Currently she is self employed.

## CLASS SIZE

- Denise Juneau supports Montana's class size requirements to keep class sizes down.
- She knows teachers can't give individual attention to students when classes are too big.

- Sandy Welch doesn't believe in limiting class sizes.
- She says the state has no business telling schools what the student-teacher ratio should be. (Speech to GOP Convention 7/16/12, Welch opinion in Billings Gazette, 7/20/12)

## TAX \$\$ for PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- Denise Juneau is passionately committed to public education, the foundation of our democracy and the root of our middle class.
- Denise won't let the next legislature give away public tax dollars to private, for-profit schools.

- Sandy Welch supports private charter schools, which would take money from public schools.
- She has sidestepped questions on vouchers and tuition tax credits for private schools, but aligns herself with Rick Hill on education issues. (MEA-MFT interview)

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

- Denise Juneau has tackled some of the toughest problems in our schools with innovative strategies like Graduation Matters, Bully Free Montana, and Montana's first-ever Student Advisory Council.
- Denise believes educators should be full partners in any school improvement efforts.
- She has stood up to the punitive federal mandates in the No Child Left Behind law and Race to the Top.

- Sandy Welch supports adopting Florida's system of grading schools from A to F, using standardized test scores. The system is like No Child Left Behind, except schools get a letter grade. (Havre Daily News, 9/12/12)
- She supports unproven charter school schemes as a tool for school improvement.

## EVALUATION & TENURE

- Denise Juneau believes in high quality teacher evaluation designed collaboratively *with* teachers. She won't tie evaluation to test scores.
- She supports teacher tenure, preserving teachers' right to due process before dismissal.

- Sandy Welch would tie teacher evaluation to students' test scores, even though teachers have no control over factors like students' health issues, poverty, or lack of parental involvement.
- She wants to get rid of teacher tenure. (Speech to GOP Convention, 7/16/12, MT PBS Equal Time)

## STATE PAY PLAN & BARGAINING

- Denise Juneau supports public employees and educators and respects the important work they do. She supports their right to collectively bargain.
- She supports a salary increase for state employees.

- Sandy Welch has been silent on the state pay plan.

**Denise Juneau for State Superintendent!**

**Sandy Welch: wrong priorities for Montana.**

## Super Volunteer MIKE HOFFMAN County employee

Phone bank volunteer Mike Hoffman has devoted two evenings a week for months to call fellow members about the elections.

"We have to emphasize to our members the importance of electing public service candidates," he says.

"Steve (Bullock) and Denise (Juneau) are willing to support public employees.

All you have to do is look at what's offered by their opponents. It's two very different paths. I consider myself a conservative. But I can't endorse what Rick Hill supports: cuts to education, cuts to retirement, cuts to services. Let's not go backward. I feel very passionately about that."

**Thank you, Mike!**



## Super Volunteer LOU ANN HANSEN Teacher & mom

Lou Ann Hansen is an active member of the Missoula Education Association and a super volunteer at the Missoula phone bank.

MEA-MFT gives prizes to volunteers who work

multiple phone bank shifts. Missoula phone bank captain Heather Diehl reports that for her prize, Hansen chose a hat with an American flag on the back.

The hat has special significance to Hansen because she has two sons doing tours of duty in Afghanistan.

"Caleb is a drone pilot," Diehl says, "and Mike is airborne infantry; he jumps from planes into some very dangerous

situations. Mike's unit lost 11 members since being deployed. Lou Ann recently received a flag from Caleb's entire unit along with a certificate of appreciation for all she has done for them. The flag had flown over their base. Her commitment to others is far reaching beyond her MEA-MFT family."

**Thank you, Lou Ann!** And huge thanks to all our volunteers statewide.



## 2012 MEA-MFT Educators' Conference October 18-19, Billings

The annual MEA-MFT Educators' Conference brings top-quality professional development to Montana educators. No matter what your field, you'll find dozens of workshops and keynotes designed just for you, to provide you with inspiration, information, and renewal units.

### Special conference events: all participants invited

#### Thursday, October 18

- Montana Teacher of the Year Celebration  
6:00 - 8:00 P.M., Billings Depot, 2310 Montana Ave
- Visit with AFT President Randi Weingarten  
2:00 - 2:50 P.M., Skyview High Choir Room
- Candidate Conversation: Steve Bullock  
3:00 - 3:50 P.M., Skyview High Choir Room  
(Rick Hill declined our invitation to speak.)

#### Friday, October 19

- Candidate Conversation: Denise Juneau  
1:00 - 1:50 P.M., Skyview High Choir Room
- Candidate Conversation: Sandy Welch  
2:00 - 2:50 P.M., Skyview High Choir Room



### It's all online:

You'll find the conference program and all the info you need at this web site:

**[mea-mft.org/educators\\_conference.aspx](http://mea-mft.org/educators_conference.aspx)**

**MEA-MFT**

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Montana's **fall election** is for

**all the  
marbles.**

Vote carefully.

For MEA-MFT members, **everything is at stake** in the November election.

- Our jobs & paychecks.
- Our ability to support our families.
- Our retirement pensions.
- Our right to a voice in the workplace.
- The state pay plan.
- The very existence of public education and public services in Montana.
- Montana's middle class.

We've seen what happened in states like Wisconsin & Idaho. We can't let it happen here. **It all depends on who gets elected.**

Your fellow MEA-MFT members did the research, interviewed the candidates, studied the voting records, and endorsed the candidates who will fight for you. Learn who they are inside.



**VOTE  
NOV. 6**