

Great Falls Rising

Monthly Newsletter

April 2022

THIS IS NO JOKE, IT IS ELECTION TIME AGAIN: Election questions? Visit the Great Falls Rising post [Elections in Great Falls for 2022: Everything You Need to Know – Great Falls Rising \(greatfallsrisingmt.org\)](#).

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION: The Board of Trustees for School District No. 1 & A, Cascade County, State of Montana, will hold the Annual Regular School Election on Tuesday, **May 3rd**. The election will be conducted by: **Mail Ballot**. You can vote at the County Elections Office downtown on the day of the election if you are a registered voter in the district. The ballots are being sent out on **April 18th**. Regular voter registration for this election closes **April 4th**, and close of late registration ends at noon on **May 2nd**, the day before the election. There are no levy issues on the ballot this year. This is a non-partisan race. For current requirements to vote in Montana, click [here](#).

SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT ELECTIONS: Also being held on **May 3rd**, an election for Transit Board, which provides bus service for Great Falls and Black Eagle, will be held for two positions. Great Falls Rising supports the following candidates: **Carl J. Donovan** and **Ann Marie Meade**. They both have experience on the board, which is important as this board is not just an advisory board, but actually prepares the budget and does other important duties. Carl has been on the board for 20 years. He has helped push the paratransit system to help disabled folks get to

appointments, and kept the paratransit system running through the pandemic.

NO MORE VIOLENCE WEEK: Starts Monday, **April 4th**. Lots of activities planned, check them out and register at allianceforyouth.org.

THE FIGHT FOR THE 19th AMENDMENT: Saturday evening, **April 2nd**, the League of Women Voters together with the UM President's Lecture Series and the AAUW are co-hosting a lecture by Elaine Weiss, nationally known journalist, and author of *The Woman's Hour*, to speak on the fight for the 19th Amendment in 1920 and what it reveals about politics and women today. *The Woman's Hour* tells the compelling story of the adoption of the 19th Amendment by the final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment. Many of the divisions we see in our country today were present back in 1920, when the 19th Amendment just barely made it through the Tennessee legislature. The Lecture will be presented both in-person, at 7:00 pm in the University Center Ballroom, and live-streamed on the President's Lecture Series website. Both are free and open to the public. Here is the link for more info:
<https://www.umt.edu/president/events/lectures/default.php>

WOOD WINDOW RESTORATION: The Great Falls-Cascade County Historic Preservation Office is very excited to offer a historic wood window restoration workshop Saturday, **May 7th** at 9 AM until 1 PM at CMR High School. This half-day class will be geared toward owners of historic homes but is open to anyone interested, though attendance is capped at 12 people. Mary Webb, Restoration Director at Preserve Montana, will teach the skills needed to restore and maintain antique windows and discuss retrofits available to increase energy efficiency while avoiding a costly replacement. We're partnering with the High School House program to use their space at CMR High School and offer seats to students in the program! This workshop, including materials, will cost only \$10 and **seats will fill up FAST** so email the Preservation Office at slong@greatfallsmt.net to reserve your spot!

KGPR PLEDGE WEEK CONTINUES THROUGH APRIL 4th: Your local voice, PUBLIC RADIO STATION KGPR 89.9 FM is dedicated to serving the Great Falls community and appreciates their listeners, donors and underwriters. They encourage all to 'Join the Journey' to keep KGPR the ONLY truly independently and locally governed public radio station in Montana. Folks can donate directly to the kgpr.org website in addition to contacting MTPR at 406-243-6400. Pledge Week is **March 28th** through **April 4th**.

KGPR is happy to share vital events held by the wonderful non-profits and community-minded organizations and businesses. Go to the website at kgpr.org to leave your message promoting the activities and events of your organization. Tune in for in-depth reporting and varied programming. KGPR thanks you for your support and loyalty.

SOLAR 101 on APRIL 5th: Join the Montana Renewable Energy Association and their guests for an evening dedicated to helping you understand rooftop solar. They will give a brief presentation about going solar, including how easy the process is, the latest updates on costs, and a description of key policies to be aware of. Then, experts from the Montana Energy Office will talk about financing and loan options available to help pay for the system. After the brief presentation, you can engage directly with two solar professionals who can answer any questions you have and discuss how to move your project forward. They hope to see you there!

Featured Speakers:

Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association
Meranda Bass, Montana Energy Office

Solar Professionals at the event:

Jackson Isbell, Solar Montana
Richard Leach, RDV Solar

Date and Time: Tuesday, **April 5th** at 5:30 pm (Presentation to last approx. 45 minutes)

Location: 2300 Central Ave., Great Falls (Ursuline Center)

[RSVP on Facebook](#)

AN EVENING WITH JOHN KERRY AND MAX BAUCUS: From the Friends of the Baucus Institute, they are thrilled to invite you to their spring Stockman Bank Speakers Series event, [A Conversation with John Kerry](#), US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, on **April 21st** at 6:30 pm MST. The Zoom registration link is here: tinyurl.com/3zwwwuzd. Their Director, Sam Panarella, will be moderating the conversation between Secretary Kerry and Ambassador Max Baucus on the international and domestic challenges of responding to the climate change crisis. If you have questions/subjects you'd like to see addressed, they welcome your input! Reply to mel.brittnerwells@mso.umont.edu.

1972 MONTANA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION EVENTS HELD IN MARCH: Did you miss the Montana Free Press and Montana State University event held on **March 22nd**? You can watch it [here](#). Bestselling author Sarah Vowell and MTFP founder and editor-in-chief John S. Adams was joined by Former U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus, former Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, former state Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau, 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention delegate Mae Nan Ellingson and longtime state political journalist Charles S. Johnson to explore the state Constitution's history, legacy, influence and future.

The Helena Chapter of the League of Women Voters and the Lewis & Clark Library hosted a panel discussion on voting issues in Montana on **March 29th**. Four speakers with extensive and varied expertise on voting rights addressed current Montana threats: **Jeremy Johnson**, chair of Political Science and International Relations at Carroll College, **Mike Meloy**, a Helena-based trial practice attorney focusing on Constitutional issues, **Alex Rate** is the Legal Director at ACLU of Montana, **Keaton Sunchild** is the Political Director for Western Native Voice. The speakers specifically addressed current legal challenges to laws passed by the 2021 Montana Legislature that ended same day voter registration, prevent ballot collecting, restrict political campaign activities on campuses and changes to voter ID laws. You can view the program [here](#).

A LOOK AT LAWSUITS ON LEGISLATION STILL PENDING: Check the Montana Free Press page on cases seeking to nullify laws or proposed voter referendums passed by the 2021 Legislature. The list can be accessed [here](#).

Thank you to our contributors, we appreciate you greatly. Have a great month and enjoy our spring weather!