

## **2016 Lewis and Clark County State Legislative Races: Candidate Answers and Additional Comments**

- a. *Question 1: "It is the role of government to make sure that safety net programs (ie. Medicare, Medicaid, social security, and SNAP) are in place so those most in need don't fall through the cracks."*  
(Agree/Disagree)

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Agree
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Agree

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Agree
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Agree
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Agree
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Agree
  - a. "These important social programs are great equalizers that level the playing field towards economic equality and justice to provide equal opportunity for all."

- b. *Question 2: "Do you agree or disagree with state support for programs that address the economic insecurity faced by Montana women and families in low-wage jobs?" (Agree/Disagree)*

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Agree
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Agree

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Agree
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Agree
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Agree
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Agree
  - a. "Montana women and families should not work hard all day and still barely scrape by and struggle to make ends meet. I sponsored bills to

raise the minimum wage and study a living wage in Montana. I would be honored to work with Montana Women Vote on such public policy for fair compensation."

c. *Question 3: "Do you support or oppose tax credits that divert public education dollars from public education to private schools including religious schools?" (Support/Oppose)*

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Oppose
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Oppose

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Oppose
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Oppose
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Oppose
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Oppose

a. "Public dollars must go to public education that is the great equalizer."

d. *Question 4: "Do you agree or disagree with investing state funding in family planning programs to ensure access for all women, regardless of income?" (Agree/Disagree)*

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Agree
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Agree

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Agree
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Agree
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Agree
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Agree

a. "We must continue to assure reproductive justice, provide access to women's health care and guarantee choice."

e. *Question 5: "Do you support or oppose statewide policies to create paid family and medical leave and paid sick days so workers don't have to choose between taking care of themselves or their families and their job security?" (Support/Oppose)*

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Support
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Support

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Support
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Support
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Support
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Support
  - a. "I made the motion to amend in paid family leave to the recent MT Democratic Party Platform."

f. *Question 6: "Do you support or oppose religious exemptions that allow employers or businesses to refuse preventative healthcare measures to employees and/or service to LGBTQ Montanans?"*  
(Support/Oppose)

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Oppose
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Oppose

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Oppose
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Oppose
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Did Not Reply
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Oppose
  - a. "Employer exemptions to discriminate is wrong and violates human rights."

g. *Question 7: "Do you support or oppose the HELP Act, the legislation that expanded access to Medicaid to low-income Montanans?"* (Support/Oppose)

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Support
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Support

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Support
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Support
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Did Not Reply
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Support
  - a. "To expand Medicaid in Montana was why I ran for the legislature in 2014 and together we got it done during the 2015 session. There's still lots more to do, however."

h. *Question 8: "Do you support or oppose increases to state funding for domestic and sexual violence intervention and prevention, including an increased focus on the issue of violence against Native women and other marginalized groups?" (Support/Oppose)*

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Support
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Support

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Support
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Support
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Did Not Reply
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Support
  - a. "We need to devote more efforts to prevent domestic and sexual abuse in Montana."

i. *Question 9: "9. Do you agree or disagree with the creation of a state earned income tax credit to provide greater economic stability to low-income working families?" (Agree/Disagree)*

**i. Senate District 40**

1. Hal Jacobson, Democrat: Agree
2. Terry J. Gauthier, Republican: Did Not Reply

**ii. House District 80**

1. Becky Beard, Republican: Did Not Reply
2. Elizabeth Cain, Democrat: Did Not Reply
3. Valerie Clague, Independent: Disagree

**iii. House District 83**

1. Kim Abbott, Democrat: Agree
2. Bob Leach, Republican: Did not reply

**iv. House District 84**

1. Paula Bonar, Libertarian: Agree
2. Steve Gibson, Republican: Agree
3. Mary Ann Dunwell, Democrat: Agree
  - a. "I made the motion that included EITC in the state Democratic Party Platform"