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Managing Editor: David Wheelihan
Director of Communications: Mack McConnell
Editorial Offices: 501 Bay Drive,
Great Falls, MT 59404
Telephone (406) 761-8333 - Fax 761-8339
Website: www.mtco-ops.com
E-mail: rural@sofast.net

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Viewpoint



*By Dave
Wheelihan,
CEO,
Montana
Electric
Cooperatives'
Association*

**Voters will find
many important
issues on ballot**

This month, many electric cooperatives in Montana placed articles about the importance of voting in their center pages of Rural Montana magazine. With November elections rapidly approaching, it's always good to remind people that their vote makes a difference. This election is certainly no exception. The outcome of the presidential election will set tone and direction for four years. The presidential candidates certainly have differing views of where America needs to go as we look to the future.

We also have an election for the

United States House of Representatives and given that Montana has only one seat, it's even more important to choose the candidate who will represent our state for the next two years.

At the state level, we have many races. We know we will have a new governor. We also know we will have a new secretary of state. Other state offices are also up for grabs. We have a Supreme Court election, always an important race. Control of the state house and senate is in play with all the elections going on there. And of course, there are many local races from county commissioners to justices of the peace. There are also several ballot initiatives that Montanans will be voting on.

It's a full ballot and obviously it will take some time and effort by each of us to become informed about the candidates, their positions, what the ballot initiatives mean or don't mean and then to actually take the time to vote. But we encourage you to do just that. All of the races and ballot measures are important in their own way. The sacrifices that Americans have made in the last 200 plus years, and are still making today, to allow this privilege should not be forgotten. So please, get to know the candidates, inform yourself on the issues and be sure to vote this November.

About our cover: Tile mural artist Debbie Porter creates fine art in her studio near Manhattan. (See the story on page 14)

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