

# Political Organizer

## Joint Position: Northern Plains Resource Council and Montana League of Rural Voters Billings, Montana, and Helena, Montana

*This thriving citizens organization exemplifies the ideal of public involvement in public processes.*

- Billings Gazette, Nov. 16, 2001

For 37 years, the Northern Plains Resource Council has been committed to organizing Montana citizens to protect our water quality, family farming and ranching, and our unique quality of life. Northern Plains is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The Montana League of Rural Voters is a complimentary 501(c)(4) sister organization to Northern Plains that supports the laws and lawmakers who share our values. The League engages in grassroots lobbying, educating voters on ballot measures, voter registration and turn out, and when needed, helping elect candidates to local and state office.

Northern Plains and the Montana League are seeking a shared employee.

### **Job Description:**

The Political Organizer will initially work out of our offices in Billings, Montana, in one of the greenest buildings in the nation. He/she will work with Northern Plains as a whole, our issue task forces, the Montana League, and also with our locally based affiliate groups, mostly in small, rural communities. Overnight travel will be necessary to fulfill the expectations of this position, probably at least a night each week. You won't be tied to a desk, you'll meet lots of people, and you'll make change happen at the grassroots level.

This position is responsible for helping facilitate our work during the 2010 election cycle and getting our organizations ready for the 2011 legislative session. The Political Organizer will work with Northern Plains' member committees and board of directors to develop our legislative agenda for 2011. This will involve writing draft legislation with member assistance, meeting with allies, meeting with targeted legislators, helping to develop a media plan, and coordinating member lobbying and actions.

During this coming election year, the Political Organizer will work part time with the Montana League to ensure its members register and turn-out to vote. He/she will be responsible for educating its members about the ballot measure choices they face, and communicating organizational endorsements on issues and candidates to our membership. The Political Organizer will activate League members to get involved in endorsed candidates' election campaigns.

In December 2010 this position will relocate to Helena, the Montana state capitol, to serve as the lobbyist for Northern Plains from January until the end of the session in April. Likely legislative priorities for 2011 include Coalbed Methane, Energy Conservation, and Local Foods.

The position will most likely remain in Helena after the 2011 session to staff our affiliate there, lobby interim legislative committees, the state agencies, and attend coalition meetings.

Northern Plains Resource Council and the Montana League of Rural Voters have a strict grassroots methodology. You will be supervised by the Director of Organizing and Campaigns and will be directed by our member-leaders. Your work with the Montana League of Rural Voters will be directed by the MLRV Executive Director. Staff are not spokespeople but rather our members are, so part of the job is training members how to speak to the media or to legislators.

This position is an exempt position under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

### **Specific Duties Include:**

- Work with member committees on legislative agenda, bill preparation, lobby strategy
- Developing and implementing all aspects of a political campaign from direct voter contact (canvass) to media to fundraising
- Lobby the Montana State Legislature
- Plan and implement strategy on issues
- Conduct research
- Participate in grassroots fundraising
- Conduct one-on-one meetings with members, potential members, allies and decision makers
- Recruit new members
- Generate turnout for events
- Help members in their contacts with public officials and the press
- Assist with duties such as member renewal, special events, fundraising, and routine office tasks
- Potentially coordinate our work on ballot initiative campaigns, as needed

### **Qualifications:**

Commitment to our issues and values, ability to get along well with people from diverse backgrounds, strong speaking and writing skills, ability to travel and be away overnight, willingness to work long hours when needed. Candidates should have excellent written and oral communication skills and experience with state legislative politics, procedure, and policy is preferred. Experience with political campaigns and/or lobbying preferred. Also helpful: experience (either as a volunteer or staffer) with a nonprofit organization working for social change or on environmental issues, experience in a political campaign, general familiarity with

the workings of legislative bodies and agencies, familiarity with conservation and agriculture issues, experience with the media and fundraising. This is very much a "people" job.

**Salary and Benefits:**

Salary: \$27,000-\$36,000 depending on experience; includes health insurance (20% employee contribution required); 4 weeks vacation; pension program; use of staff vehicle and gas reimbursement for job-related travel; sabbatical program after 5 years of employment; and the satisfaction of making Montana and the world a better place.

**Please submit your application materials as soon as possible or no later than March 22, 2010. We are currently interviewing on a rolling basis.**

Send:

- \* Cover letter (tell us why you want the job),
- \* Resume,
- \* A short writing sample,
- \* Three professional references, and
- \* Date of availability

**Contact:**

Olivia Stockman, Director of Organizing and Campaigns  
Northern Plains Resource Council and Montana League of Rural Voters  
220 South 27th Street, Suite A  
Billings, MT 59101

If your materials are in an easy-to-open format, you can email to [olivia@northernplains.org](mailto:olivia@northernplains.org). Please include as subject line: "Application for Political Organizer."

Call 406.248.1154 with any questions or email [olivia@northernplains.org](mailto:olivia@northernplains.org)