

RM

Rural Montana

National Winner, Award of Excellence

2006 Best Statewide Magazine, Spotlight on Excellence contest, NRECA Council of Rural Electric Communicators.

Vol. 55, No. 12, December 08 (ISSN0199-6401)

Rural Montana is an official publication of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association and is published monthly by Montana's rural electric and telephone cooperatives in the interest of better rural and urban understanding of the benefits and the problems of rural utilities.

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Design/Layout: Sherri Carl, MECA.

Printer: River's Edge Printing
Great Falls, Montana

Change of Address: Mail change of address to your local rural electric cooperative or if the code ME is above your name, the Rural Montana office, P.O. Box 3469, Great Falls, MT 59403. Please include the mailing label from a recent issue of Rural Montana.

Subscriptions: \$6.75 per year.

Postmaster: Published monthly by Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, 501 Bay Drive, Great Falls, Montana. Periodicals postage paid at Great Falls, Montana. Postmaster send address corrections to P.O. Box 3469, Great Falls, MT 59403.

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VIEWPOINT Dave Wheelihan



Dave Wheelihan

Changing legislative landscape ahead

After what seemed like an eternity to most, the 2008 elections are over. With the results of the election, we will see new agendas, new faces and new ideas.

In the U.S. Senate alone, 10 percent of the body will be there for the first time. The U.S. House of Representatives will have over 50 first-time members. A Democratic administration for the first time in eight years will also add to the changing dynamics of our country's politics.

The challenges will be many as will the opportunities so we will continue to work with our national association and our elect-

ed officials so your voice as consumer owner of your electric cooperative will be heard.

In Montana, we have been preparing for the 2009 legislative session through work of our legislative subcommittees and have been giving our message to legislators, both new and incumbent.

The Senate in Montana will be controlled by Republicans 27-23, while at press time, the House looks to be a 50-50 split pending several recounts.

When the dust has settled, we will again be publishing our legislative guide, which is chock full of important information on the officeholders and

the process.

Check out the rest of Rural Montana and see what our congressional delegation sees on the horizon for Montana. We are also featuring how the cooperative business model can help boost Main Street, Montana.

In January, we will return to the issues of importance to rural electric cooperatives but, for now, we wish you and yours a happy and joyous holiday season.

We hope you find peace and happiness with your friends and family. As always, we hope you enjoy this month's Rural Montana.

Dave Wheelihan is CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

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