

## Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

August 22, 2025

- 1. Montana Commissioner of Securities & Insurance Luncheon** – Bitcoin & Crypto ATMS are being used to scam our citizens. Senior citizens are the primary target. In June the City of Spokane city council voted unanimously on ordinance C36704 titled “Virtual Currency Kiosk Prohibition for a Safer Spokane.” MT Financial Education Coalition will be holding a Billings Elder Fraud Prevention Summit on September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at St Johns United Lillis Center 3940 Rimrock Road. We’ve attached a series of informational flyers, and a DRAFT letter request that property owners voluntarily remove the Bitcoin ATM(s) OR implement visible, proactive safety measures to help reduce fraud.
- 2. Commissioner Waters and White** – we met separately to discuss the collaborations between the city and county, the important partnership on the jail expansion project and any other opportunities to serve our citizens together.
- 3. Budget & Finance Committee** – The committee reviewed the line-item budget report for July – no areas of concern. The committee approved recommendations for amendments to the FY25 and FY26 budgets that are on Monday’s council agenda.
- 4. Public Works** – Please see the attached presentation for Wastewater Wholesale Rates that are on Monday’s council agenda.
- 5. Parks and Recreation** – Please see the attached Amend Recreation Center weekly update.
- 6. Community Development News** - The Downtown Billings BID applied for Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funding from the Community Development Division in 2021 to install the City’s first public restroom and handwashing station in downtown Billings. A pre-fabricated “Portland Loo” was purchased and installed. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held August 17, 2023. The unit was subsequently wrapped with artwork by local artist Terri Porta in 2024.



Usage Numbers July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	
Water Used	45,950 gallons
Flushes (1.28 gallons/flush)	35,898
Flushes per day	98
Rolls of toilet paper used	564
Calls for Service (RotoRooter)	5 <i>(which is lower than anticipated and is completely sustainable by the BID Team)</i>

Downtown Billing BID staff also reports:

- Use more than doubled in the second year, compared to the first year of service.
- Overall, the installation of the downtown public restroom has been one of our greatest successes. The facility is used heavily, and we could easily sustain 4+ additional facilities in downtown Billings.

**7. 2025 Council Meeting Schedule** – Please review the attached draft agendas and provide any feedback regarding the order of business, modification of agenda items, or other changes to the consent or regular agendas. City code requires a specific order of business as it relates to certain items on meeting agendas, e.g., placement of public hearings first on the regular agenda, so your feedback will be incorporated with those code requirements in mind. [\(BMCC 2-214\)](#) Work session agendas are more flexible and can also easily be modified by the mayor with the consensus of Council during those informal meetings.

**8. Next Week's Meetings/Task Forces**

- a. Heights Task Force, Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Oasis, 943 Aronson.

# Don't fall victim to scams! Remember these 2 words:



## **STOP** and ask yourself: “Could this be a scam?”

- **Always be vigilant -- be on the constant lookout for imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request — whether it comes as a text, a phone call, e-mail or in person.
- **Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.
- **Verify independently by doing online searches.** Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like “review,” “complaint” or “scam.” Or search for a phrase that describes your situation, like “IRS call.” You can even search for phone numbers to see if other people have reported them as scams.

## **DROP** all communication with the suspected scammer.

- **Don't be pressured.** If you did not initiate a phone call, feel free to hang up.
  - If the person who called you is demanding money or financial information or your or social security number, DO NOT GIVE IT! Just hang up.
  - If someone is pressuring you in person, don't worry about being polite it's okay to pretend you didn't hear them and simply walk away.
  - If they contacted you via e-mail, do not respond, just delete the message.



- **If you receive a call from someone claiming to be a family member** who is in trouble and needs money, hang up and call them back at a number that you know is legitimate. Or call another family member to find out if the story is true – chances are, it's a scam.
- **Hang up on robocalls.** If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up. Most of these calls are bogus. Don't press 1 to speak to a person or to be taken off the list. That could lead to more calls.
- **Never pay upfront for a promise.** Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, a job or even work to be done. They might even say you've won a prize, but first you must pay taxes or fees. If you do, they will take your money and disappear.
- **Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That's also true for gift cards, debit cards and reloadable cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit or Vanilla. Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.
- **Don't deposit a check and wire money back** – in other words, don't exchange your good money for their phony money. By law, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you're responsible for repaying the bank.

## Talk to friends, family or the authorities.

- **Talk to someone – don't remain silent!** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Con artists want you to make decisions in a hurry. They might even threaten you or tell you to "tell no one." Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, call the regulators, consult an expert — or tell a friend or family member.
- **If you spot a scam or suspect you have been the victim of a scam, report it.** Your reports help law enforcement investigate scams and bring crooks to justice.
- **If you suspect that a friend or family member has been the victim of a scam, talk to them.** Ask them if they have been targeted by suspicious activity or if they have been asked by strangers to send money or share confidential information. Many times, people need help, but don't want to admit they were scammed.
- **Warn others about the scam.** Word of mouth is a powerful tool in the fight against fraud.

## If you think you're a victim, contact Montana authorities.

- **In Montana, two criminal justice agencies handle the vast majority of complaints** -- the Montana Department of Justice, Office of Consumer Protection and the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance. If neither of these agencies can help you, they will assess your complaint and refer you to the correct agency.

For Scams, Fraud & Consumer Issues, contact:	For Securities, Insurance & Investments contact:
 <p><b>Montana Department of Justice</b> Office of Consumer Protection 555 Fuller Ave, Helena, MT 59620 (800) 481-6896 or (406) 444-4500 Website: <a href="http://doj.mt.gov/consumer">doj.mt.gov/consumer</a> Fax: (406)-442-2174 E-mail: <a href="mailto:contactocp@mt.gov">contactocp@mt.gov</a></p>	 <p><b>Montana State Auditor</b> Commissioner of Securities &amp; Insurance 840 Helena Ave, Helena, MT 59601 (800) 332-6148 or (406) 444-2040 Website: <a href="http://www.csimt.gov">www.csimt.gov</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:cse.securities@mt.gov">cse.securities@mt.gov</a></p>



Fraud Watch Network

AARP Fraud Watch Network Fraud Fighter Call Center: 877-908-3360  
Sign up for Watchdog Alerts: [www.aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork](http://www.aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork)



## Fraud Watch Network

# Tip Sheet: Fraud in Tribal Communities

### Fraud against American Indians & Alaska Natives is underreported.

Everyone is at risk for fraud, but scammers often target more vulnerable populations such as older adults and members of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes, bands, villages, nations, or communities.

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) data suggests that AI/AN individuals are more likely to be victims of scams and less likely to report scams than other racial and ethnic groups, which makes them an even more attractive target for con artists.

Fraudsters frequently look to gain the trust of those with ready access to money, which includes individuals receiving trust fund payments and tribal members in charge of investment committees.

Fighting fraud is particularly challenging when disasters strike. These events give scammers opportunities to prey on more people who are facing financial difficulties and seeking help.

### How to Spot a Scam

- **You're presented with an offer that sounds too good to be true.** If someone presents you with a life-changing opportunity, you should always be suspicious.
- **You're asked to provide personal or financial information.** Legitimate banks, companies and government agencies will only ask consumers to provide confidential information in rare circumstances and will never do so by phone, email, or text message.
- **You're told to keep a secret.** Fraudsters do not want victims to get a second opinion from someone who could detect a scam.
- **You're pushed to act quickly.** Scammers know that it is hard for people think clearly when they have less time to evaluate an offer.
- **You're asked to send money via wire transfer or a cash reload card.** Scammers often tell consumers to send funds through wire transfer or a prepaid card because it is like giving someone cash, which is very hard to trace.
- **You're contacted by a stranger.** You should only send money or provide personal information to people and entities that you know and trust.
- **You're required to pay upfront.** No organization would ever require someone to pay money upfront in order to receive a prize, product or deal in return.

Even if a source seems credible and has worked with tribal members or tribal investment committees in the past, it is always wise to seek advice from a registered financial professional and discuss your options with trusted family members and friends.

## How To Avoid a Scam

- **Block unwanted calls and text messages.** Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages. Use your phone's "block" features.
- **Don't give your personal or financial information** in response to a request that you didn't expect. Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers. If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.
- **Resist the pressure to act immediately.** Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.
- **Know how scammers tell you to pay.** Never pay someone who insists you pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service like Western Union or MoneyGram, or a gift card. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.
- **Stop and talk to someone you trust.** Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

## How do I Report a Suspected Scam or Fraud that Happened in a Tribal Community in Montana?

Report crimes to local law enforcement. Local law enforcement and prosecutors can investigate and charge crimes.

## Other Resources

There are different kinds of help for victims of scams and fraud provided by state and federal agencies.

- **Montana Office of Consumer Protection:** You can report suspected scams or identity theft to the Montana Office of Consumer Protection under the Department of Justice at (800) 481-6896 or (406) 444-4500, or visit <http://dojmt.gov/consumer>.
- **Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities & Insurance:** You can report suspected investment fraud or insurance fraud to this Montana state agency. E-mail: [contactcsi@mt.gov](mailto:contactcsi@mt.gov) Website: [www.csi.mt.gov](http://www.csi.mt.gov) Phone: (800) 332-6148 or (406) 444-2040
- **Federal Trade Commission:** You can help protect your family, friends, tribal community, and others by reporting scams. Government agencies use scam reports to analyze patterns of fraudulent activity and may take legal action against companies or individuals based on the reporting. Web: [FTC.gov](http://FTC.gov). Complaint Assistant Website: [ReportFraud.FTC.gov](http://ReportFraud.FTC.gov) Identity Theft site, to report and recover from IDT: [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov). FTC Consumer Response Center: (877) FTC-HELP (877-382-4357)
- **U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation**, Salt Lake City Division, Helena. Rebecca Leary, Community Outreach Specialist, E-mail: [rileary@fbi.gov](mailto:rileary@fbi.gov) | Phone: (503) 312-3790. Web: [www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/saltlakecity](http://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/saltlakecity)

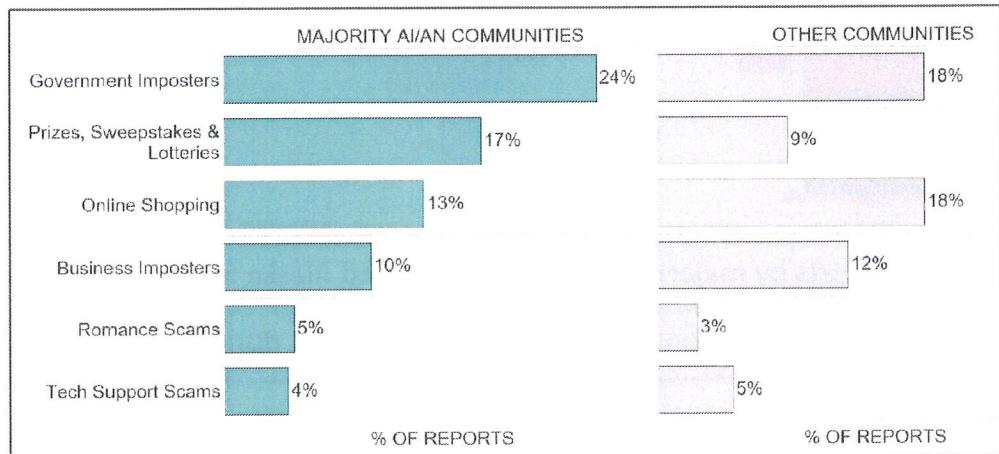
## Fraud and Scams Affecting Tribal Communities

### TOP FRAUD TYPES: Comparing Majority American Indian & Alaska Native Communities to Other Communities



The top fraud types reported by majority American Indian and

Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities were also frequently reported by other communities. However, government imposter scams, prize, sweepstakes, and lottery scams, and romance scams accounted for a larger share of reports from majority AI/AN communities during 2018 – 2022.

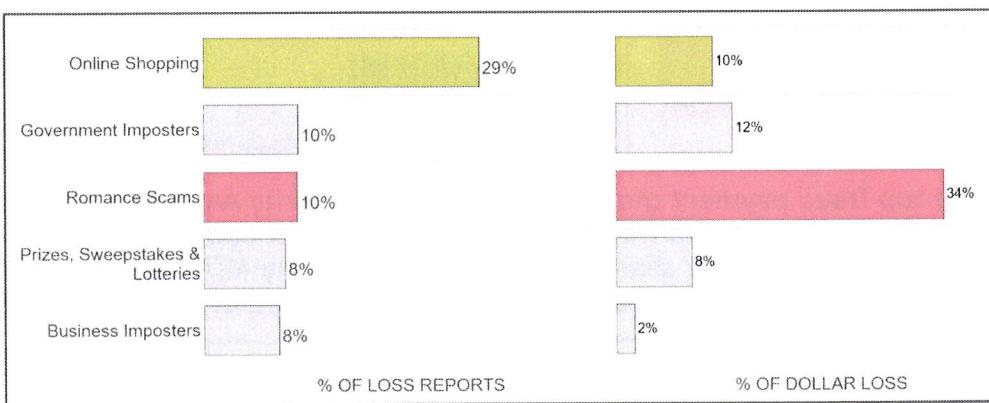


### SHARE OF LOSS:

### Share of Loss Reports and Total Reported Loss by Majority American Indian & Alaska Native Communities



Majority American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities filed more loss reports about online shopping fraud than

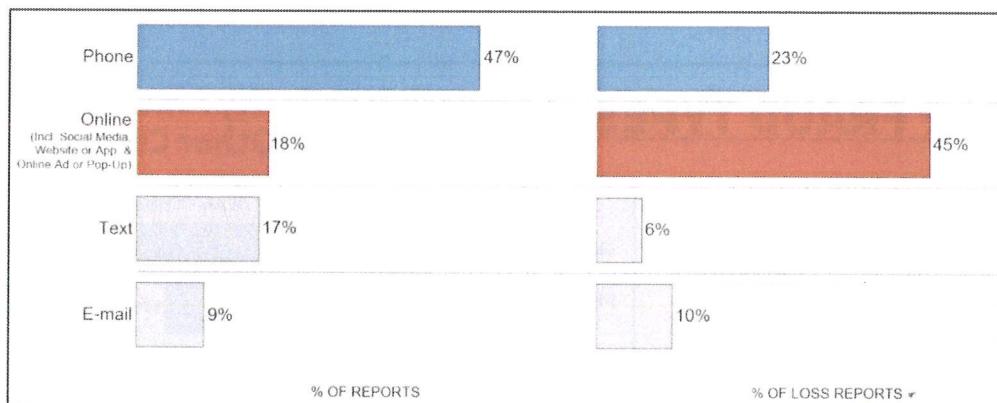


about any other fraud type, but the largest share of aggregate reported losses by these communities were on romance scams during 2018 – 2022.

# Fraud and Scams Affecting Tribal Communities

## **CONTACT METHODS:**

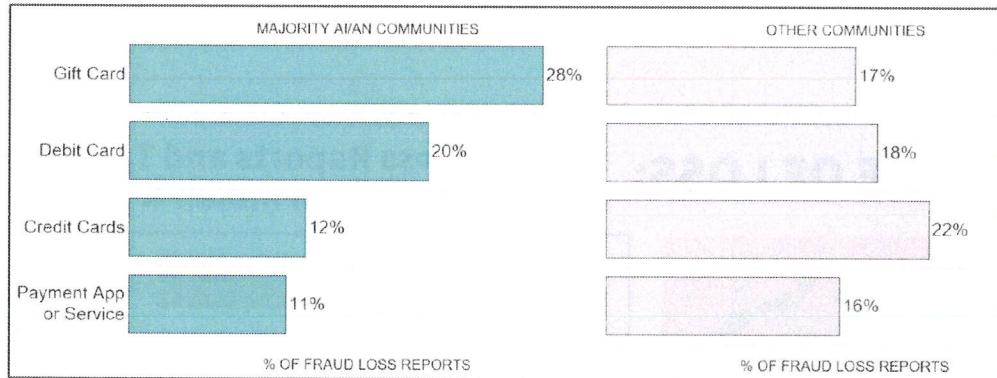
### Top Fraud Contact Methods Reported by Majority American Indian & Alaska Native Communities



Fraud reports by majority American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities most often identified a phone call as the method of contact, but online contact methods were most often reported when the contact resulted in a dollar loss during 2018 – 2022.

## **PAYMENT METHODS:**

### Top Fraud Payment Methods: Comparing Majority American Indian & Alaska Native Communities to Other Communities



The top fraud payment methods reported by majority American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities were also frequently reported by other communities. However, gift card payments accounted for a larger share of reports from majority AI/AN communities, and credit cards and payment apps or services accounted for a lower share of their reports during 2018 – 2022.

Data sets are from the *Consumer Issues Affecting American Indian and Alaska Native Communities Report* issued by the Federal Trade Commission, March 2023. For the full report go to: [ftc.gov/NativeAmerican](http://ftc.gov/NativeAmerican)



**MFEC**  
Montana Financial  
Education Coalition

## BILLINGS ELDER FRAUD PREVENTION SUMMIT 2025

### Fraud Fighters Unite

Join the Montana Financial Education Coalition in Billings for a powerful summit aimed at combating fraud in the modern world. **(For senior providers and professionals in financial services.)**

**Sept 25**

Starts At 1:00 PM

**Sept 26**

Ends At 1:30 PM

**St. John's United Lillis Center  
3940 Rimrock Road  
Billings, MT 59102**



# BITCOIN

& CRYPTO ATMS

## Government Agencies Don't Ask For Payments In Bitcoin

Utilities, jails, and governments agencies do not ask for payments in Bitcoin. If you get a call or email telling you to pay a bill, fine, or fee with Bitcoin, it is a SCAM.

## Bitcoin Payments are Final

Once you send Bitcoin to another person you cannot get your money back. Be wary of new online "friends" who ask you to help them by sending bitcoin.

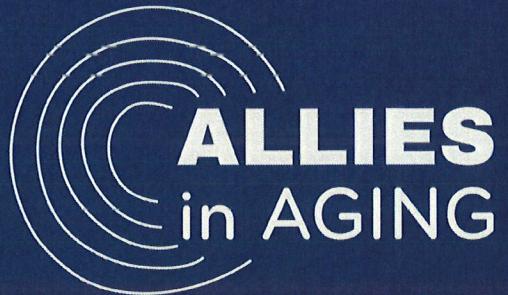
## Report potential Scams to

[www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

Report suspicious requests to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center

Information  
Provided by  
Allies in Aging

Thanks to the  
Federal Bureau  
of Investigation





August 14, 2025

**Subject: Request for Action on Bitcoin ATM Safety Measures**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

As City Administrator for the City of Billings, I am reaching out to express serious concern over the increasing number of financial scams involving Bitcoin ATMs located throughout our community. In recent months, multiple residents - many of them elderly or otherwise vulnerable - have been defrauded out of thousands of dollars, in some cases their entire life savings, by criminal enterprises exploiting the ease and anonymity of these machines.

These scams often begin with a phone call or message impersonating law enforcement, government agencies, or tech support. Victims are then directed to withdraw large sums of money and deposit them into Bitcoin ATMs, with the false promise that it will “secure” their accounts or resolve a fabricated issue. Once the funds are transferred, they are virtually untraceable and unrecoverable.

While the City respects lawful commerce and emerging financial technologies, we cannot ignore the real and repeated harm these machines are facilitating in our community. We are asking for your cooperation in one of the following ways:

1. **Voluntarily remove the Bitcoin ATM(s)** from your business; or
2. **Implement visible, proactive safety measures** that include:
  - Prominent warning signs in English and other common languages that include a message like the following:  
*“STOP: If someone is telling you to send Bitcoin to avoid arrest, protect your bank account, or help a loved one—this is a scam.”* Please call the police or other law enforcement agency.
  - Surveillance cameras clearly monitoring the ATM area.
  - A delay or multi-step verification process for large transactions.
  - Employee training to recognize and assist potential scam victims.
  - Limitation on the amount of withdrawal.

We appreciate those businesses that have already taken steps to protect residents. Unfortunately, scams continue, and additional action is needed. We are also exploring legislative and enforcement options at the local and state level should voluntary measures prove insufficient.

Sincerely,



# **FY26 Wholesale Wastewater Rates**



# Changes to Capacity Side of Equation

	Flow (MGD)	Concentrations (mg/L)			Loadings (#/Day)		
		BOD	TSS	TKN	BOD	TSS	TKN
2038 Design	32.6	144.00	191.00	28.00	39,100	52,000	7,612.75*
Par Montana*	2.50	25	27	38	521.25	562.95	792.30
P66*	1.50	124	73	55	1,551.24	913.23	688.05
Lockwood	0.728	230	236^	27.4^	1,396.61	1,433.65	166.38
Retail (Remaining)	27.872	151.65	208.93	25.39	35,630.90	49,090.17	5,966.02

\*Concentrations are based on 3<sup>rd</sup> party review and based on 7-day rolling average

Max month limits set to permit limits, consistent with Par Montana

^Based on available data, set to average day

Re-evaluated other assumptions on I&I and total loadings to align with 2038 plant design capacities/simplified capacity side by removing I&I and basing it on design



# Changes to Use Side of Equation

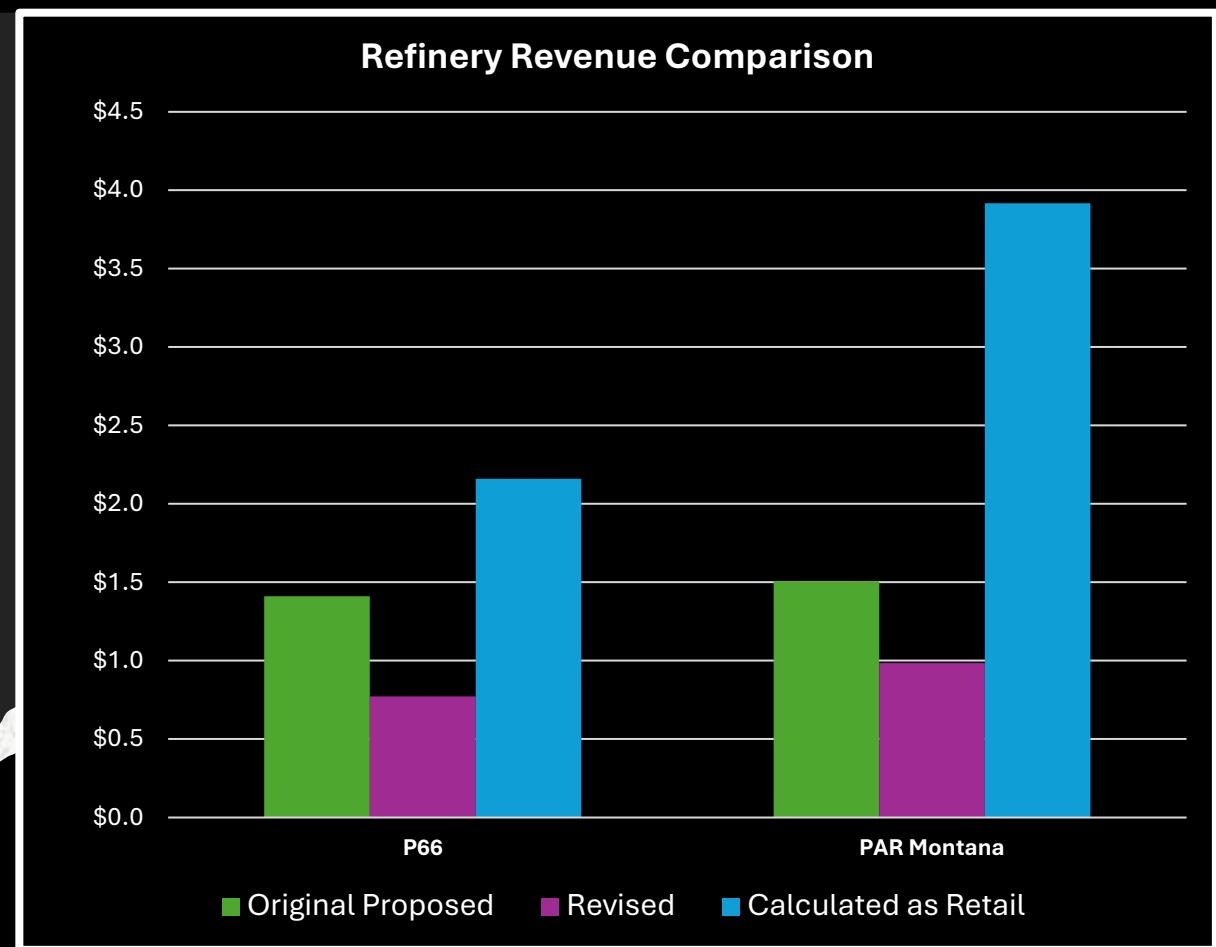
	Flow (MGD)	Concentrations (mg/L)			Loadings (#/Day)		
		BOD	TSS	TKN	BOD	TSS	TKN
FY24 Plant Influent	20.55	114.00	172	26.6	19,538.12	29,478.56	4,558.89
Par Montana	1.865	22.610	12.631	19.342	351.76	196.51	300.91
P66	1.028	32.245	25.560	18.321	276.45	219.14	157.08
Lockwood	0.151	179.700	236.100	27.400	226.08	297.03	34.47
Retail* (Remaining)	17.506	126.61	194.93	27.56	18,683.82	28,765.88	4,066.44

Plant influent used so I&I is incorporated into retail allocation



# Revenue Requirements

	FY25	FY26 – ORIGINAL	FY26 – REVISED
Par Montana	\$836,106	\$1,507,288	\$984,642
Phillips 66 Refinery	\$742,669	\$1,411,347	\$772,984
Lockwood	\$460,055	\$520,089	\$519,037





# Calculated Rates

Par Montana	Current	FY26
Fixed, \$/mo	\$31,346	\$52,377
Variable, \$/kgal	\$0.648	\$0.523
Revenue Requirement	<b>\$836,106</b>	<b>\$984,642</b>

Phillips 66	Current	FY26
Fixed, \$/mo	\$35,244	\$46,882
Variable, \$/kgal	\$0.895	\$0.561
Revenue Requirement	<b>\$742,669</b>	<b>\$772,984</b>

Lockwood	Current	FY26
Fixed, \$/mo	\$30,036	\$37,621
Variable, \$/kgal	\$1.475	\$0.918
Revenue Requirement	<b>\$460,055</b>	<b>\$519,037</b>



# Financial Impact = \$1.1M

## Criteria Weights - in Percent

### Billings DPW MODA-Based 2023 CIP Prioritization

Use MODA techniques to develop a priority rank of projects in Billings'

ID#	Criteria Name	Wastewater
1.0	Provide Safety	20%
1.1	Provide staff safety	12%
1.2	Provide public safety	8%
2.0	Comply with Regulations	15%
3.0	Maintain Current Performance	20%
3.1	Maintain service level	16%
3.2	Maintain staff working environment	4%
4.0	Provide Enhanced Performance	14%
4.1	Enhance service level	6%
4.2	Enhance staff working environment	2%
4.3	Enhance resilience	6%
4.4	Provide multi-modal solutions	0%
5.0	Serve New Growth	9%
6.0	Promote Efficiency	12%
7.0	Protect the Environment	10%

\$700k remaining

Project Name	Service	FY26 Cost (	MV Wt
		Cost Wt	100
Rehberg Ranch Lift Station (Large)	Wastewater	\$1,612,000	52.5
Monad Sewer Phase II	Wastewater	\$3,750,000	55.0
Highway 3 Sanitary Sewer	Wastewater	\$1,650,000	56.9
Grand Ave Sewer Extension	Wastewater	\$855,000	57.2
Annual Sewer Line Extension	Wastewater	\$1,000,000	60.6
Monad Sewer - Shiloh Road to 32nd Street	Wastewater	\$5,250,000	71.2
Annual Wastewater Treatment Plant Campus Electrical	Wastewater	\$300,000	73.8
Hydrogen Sulfide Mitigation	Wastewater	\$633,000	80.0
Annual Wastewater Main Replacements	Wastewater	\$6,300,000	86.1
Buried Digester Gas and Sludge Pipe Replacement	Wastewater	\$536,000	89.6
Digester Gas Interior Piping Replacement	Wastewater	\$1,290,000	91.3

### Recommendation:

- Cut remaining \$700,000 in wastewater pipe extensions
- Use \$400,000 of reserve funds

# Next Steps

- Begin working on FY27 wholesale rates
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting – August
  - Rates based on permitted maximums/surcharges for exceedances
  - Will need to update permits and/or agreements





## Amend Recreation Center: Weekly Update

8/22/2025

VP-Eastern District:	Jason Hubbard	<a href="mailto:jhub@langlas.com">jhub@langlas.com</a>
Project Manager:	Rachel Guisti	<a href="mailto:rachelb@langlas.com">rachelb@langlas.com</a>
SR. Project Superintendent:	Lane Huffman	<a href="mailto:lhuffman@langlas.com">lhuffman@langlas.com</a>
Field Engineer:	Si Ryan	<a href="mailto:sir@langlas.com">sir@langlas.com</a>

## Progress Summary: Week of August 18<sup>th</sup>

- Langlas:
  - Interior Wall Layout & Grid Lines.
  - Schedule & Coordination with all Sub-Contractors
  - Quality Control
- Castlerock:
  - Working on the Storm in the south parking lot and the tie in between Dairy Queen and Starbucks. This entry should be re-opened on Tuesday
- Weave:
  - Backfilling of the Gym Area and laying out the tie beams
- Tru North
  - Steel Delivery and Shagging out pieces
- Plumb MT
  - Starting Under Ground Rough In Administration Area



2685 Gabel Road Billings, MT 59102 P 406.656.0629 F 406.656.1088  
4555 Valley Commons Drive Bozeman, MT 59718 P 406.585.3420 F 406.585.4110  
4852 Kendrick Place Missoula MT, 59808 P 406.215.1356 F 406.926.2005  
101 E. Park Street Butte, MT 59701 P 406.490.2824

## **Schedule: Upcoming week of August 25<sup>th</sup>**

- Langlas:
  - Laying out Gridlines in the Administration Area for Underground Rough-In
  - Coordination with Underground Rough in
  - City/Special Inspections
  - Gym Tie Beams
  - Review Submittals
- Billings Concrete:
  - Tie Rebar for the Tie Beams
  - Prep Tie Beams
- Weave:
  - Backfilling- Over the Exterior Gas Line
  - After Backfill of the West Gym- Excavate Tie beams across running North & South
- Plumb MT:
  - Gas Line
  - All Underground Rough In-Administration Area
  - Working on Submittals
- Central Electric:
  - Underground Rough In- Administration Area
  - Transformer Pad Layout
  - Working on Submittals
- Castlerock:
  - Working on Storm South of the Ice Rink

## **Meetings:**

- Sub-Contractor Meeting - Schedule, Expectations, Coordination etc.
- Safety Meeting - Langlas Safety Manager/Safety Observations

## **Three Week Schedule: (Milestone Dates)**

- Steel Delivery- 8-25-2025
- 1<sup>st</sup> Gym Slab Pour- 8-28-2025
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gym Slab Pour 9-3-2025
- Going Vertical with Steel 9-10-2025
- ITP Panel Delivery 9-11-2025