

Lake County Republican Central Committee Zoom

24 March 2026

Minutes

Recap

The Lake County Republican Central Committee held their first-ever Zoom meeting with **23 participants** present. The main focus was featuring two candidates: **Charles Walking-Child**, who is running for US Senate, and **Dr. Al Olszewski**, who is running for Congress. Charles discussed his platform of border security, statehood, job development and constitutional reform, while Dr. Al outlined his positions on healthcare tax credits, energy development and educational reform. The meeting included questions from attendees and discussions about upcoming events, including a congressional debate in Bozeman on 22 April and a platform convention scheduled for June. The group also discussed the need for a vetting committee to evaluate candidates and plans for future in-person meetings, including a plenary on April 7th.

Summary

LCRCC First Meeting Overview

Tracy opened the LCRCC Zoom meeting, which had an excellent turn out with a quorum present. He led the invocation and pledge of allegiance before introducing the agenda, which primarily focused on hearing from special guests.

Charles Walking Child Senate Campaign

Charles Walking-Child presented his campaign for the U.S. Senator, focusing on key issues of:

- Border security, statehood, job development, and educational reform.
- He emphasized his commitment to upholding the Constitution while making necessary corrections, particularly in light of new technologies and challenges.
- Charles stated his intention to avoid taking PAC money and sought support from Montana voters.
- He highlighted his and Al's commitment to benefiting Montana citizens rather than aligning with extreme political factions.

Political Background and Name Discussion

Charles shared his background in politics, including his involvement with the NAACP in Montana and his perspective on current political issues.

- He discussed the need for policies focused on uplifting people out of poverty and strengthening family values.
- Steve asked about the origin of Charles's name "Walking Child" and how Native American names are given.
 - Charles explained his family history and the meaning behind his name.
- Tracy why Charles has never run for local office.
 - Charles cited health issues and a desire to focus on influencing change at a higher level.

- Steve's final question was about comparing Charles to Ben Nighthorse Campbell and any potential influence. Charles has followed the political careers of other Ameri-Indians.

Political Policy Proposals Discussion

Charles discussed his political views and policy proposals during the meeting.

- He criticized the current tax system, particularly how corporations like Walmart benefit from tax credits while making relatively small donations.
- Charles opposed the Tester-Daines water compact, arguing it benefits big business rather than Native American tribes.
- He proposed building another pipeline from Alaska to replenish oil.
- He suggested creating a state insurance program for the elderly and less advantaged, offering coverage for \$30 per month with a \$25,000 liability.

Montana Political Strategy Discussion

Charles discussed his political strategy focused on appealing to seniors in Montana, noting that voters under 35 are less active in elections.

- He criticized the current federal Indian policy, arguing that the reservation system has been harmful to Native Americans and that tribal casinos primarily benefit non-tribal organizations rather than tribal members.
- Tracy invited Charles to participate in upcoming Tiger team and plenary meetings in the Lake County region.

Olszewski's Congressional Candidacy Announcement

Dr. Al Olszewski announced his candidacy for the United States Congress, highlighting his local roots, legislative experience, and commitment to addressing key issues affecting Western Montana.

- He proposed solutions including tax credits for health insurance, unlocking natural resources through timber and mining, reforming environmental protection laws, and implementing education reforms that give parents more control over their children's education.
- Olszewski also stated his opposition to the water compact and his intention to modify it to ensure a fair quantification of water requirements for the CSKT.

Political and Energy Policy Discussion

During the meeting, Tracy announced that he had obtained DocAl signs and materials for distribution to Lake County Republicans.

- Michael raised concerns about the effectiveness of tax credits for medical insurance due to current high costs, to which Olszewski responded that while tax credits come a year later, they could help drive down prices through increased competition.
- Olszewski also discussed energy policy, opposing the construction of data centers in Montana due to their high energy demands and potential for rolling blackouts, advocating instead for full cost recovery for data centers and increased development of domestic energy resources including coal and oil from the Bakken region.

Montana Political Events Planning Meeting

The meeting then focused on planning upcoming political events and activities in Montana.

- Charles and Dr. Al discussed the importance of uniting Montana citizens and encouraging voter participation, with a congressional debate scheduled for April 22nd in Bozeman.
- The group discussed organizing candidate vetting and debates, with the vetting committee meeting the next day to address staffing needs.
- Platform committee work was assigned to Tiger team members, with a deadline to complete platform development by June.
- The meeting also covered upcoming flag-waving events and the need to establish a headquarters location.
- Key dates mentioned included *May 11th*; the date when absentee ballots would be mailed out.