

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP COVID-19 RESPONSE PANEL

**Call to Order:** President Mark Blasdel, on January 8, 2021 at 10:30 A.M., in Room 335 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Jason Ellsworth, Chair (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Kim Abbott, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Cary Smith (R)  
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Ashley Duncan, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Todd Everts, Legislative Branch  
Susan Fox, Legislative Branch  
Gwynivere Schooler, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:** Election of Chair and Vice Chair, Adoption of Rules and Procedures, Discussion of COVID Panel, Public Comment, Proposed Rules

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

10:31:18 President Blasdel  
10:31:21 Sen. C. Smith  
10:31:30 President Blasdel  
10:31:38 Sen. C. Smith

10:31:52 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. C. Smith moved **TO ELECT** Sen. Ellsworth, chair, and Rep. Vinton and Rep. Abbott, vice chairs of the COVID-19 Response Panel. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:32:06 Chair Ellsworth

**ADOPT RULES AND PROCEDURES**

10:32:24 Chair Ellsworth

10:33:45 **Motion:** Sen. Blasdel moved that **THE RULES FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE PANEL** allow for public comment and public notice, allow for proxy votes, and follow the rules for proper decorum.

10:34:07 Chair Ellsworth  
10:34:15 Rep. Abbott  
10:34:32 Chair Ellsworth  
10:34:54 Rep. Abbott  
10:35:04 Sen. Blasdel

10:35:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

10:35:33 Chair Ellsworth

**DISCUSSION OF COVID PANEL**

10:35:50 Chair Ellsworth  
10:39:59 Rep. Abbott  
10:40:35 Chair Ellsworth  
10:41:01 Rep. Abbott  
10:41:03 Chair Ellsworth  
10:41:07 Rep. Abbott  
10:41:09 Chair Ellsworth  
10:47:11 Rep. Abbott  
10:47:30 Chair Ellsworth  
10:48:14 Rep. Abbott  
10:48:31 Chair Ellsworth  
10:49:00 Rep. Abbott  
10:49:42 Chair Ellsworth  
10:50:28 Rep. Abbott  
10:50:35 Rep. Vinton  
10:50:58 Chair Ellsworth  
10:51:45 Rep. Vinton  
10:52:12 Chair Ellsworth  
10:52:18 Sen. Cohenour  
10:53:19 Chair Ellsworth

10:53:37 Sen. Cohenour  
10:54:14 Chair Ellsworth  
10:54:33 Sen. Cohenour  
10:54:56 Chair Ellsworth  
10:55:05 Rep. Abbott  
10:55:48 Chair Ellsworth  
10:56:27 Rep. Abbott  
10:58:23 Chair Ellsworth  
10:58:47 Rep. Abbott  
10:58:58 Susan Fox, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
11:00:02 Chair Ellsworth  
11:01:33 Rep. Vinton  
11:02:00 Ms. Fox, LSD  
11:02:38 Rep. Vinton  
11:02:52 Chair Ellsworth  
11:02:56 Sen. Cohenour  
11:05:07 Chair Ellsworth  
11:06:10 Rep. Abbott  
11:07:00 Chair Ellsworth  
11:07:12 Rep. Abbott  
11:07:15 Chair Ellsworth  
11:07:44 Rep. Abbott  
11:08:02 Chair Ellsworth  
11:08:34 Sen. Cohenour

**EXHIBIT(IIs05a01)**

11:10:33 Chair Ellsworth  
11:11:57 Sen. Cohenour  
11:14:55 Chair Ellsworth  
11:15:32 Rep. Abbott  
11:15:54 Chair Ellsworth  
11:16:49 Rep. Abbott  
11:16:58 Chair Ellsworth  
11:19:16 Rep. Abbott  
11:21:35 Chair Ellsworth  
11:21:42 Sen. Cohenour  
11:22:41 Chair Ellsworth  
11:22:58 Sen. Cohenour  
11:26:05 Chair Ellsworth  
11:27:13 Sen. Cohenour  
11:29:06 Chair Ellsworth  
11:31:40 Sen. Cohenour  
11:32:14 Chair Ellsworth  
11:32:26 Rep. Vinton  
11:33:22 Chair Ellsworth  
11:33:34 Rep. Abbott  
11:34:30 Chair Ellsworth  
11:34:46 Rep. Abbott  
11:34:56 Chair Ellsworth

**Public Comment:**

11:35:30 Ashley Duncan, remote meeting coordinator  
 11:35:34 Chair Ellsworth  
 11:36:33 Jacob Batts, restaurant manager, Billings  
 11:38:15 Joan Vetter Ehrenberg, Whitefish Convention Visitors Bureau  
 11:42:33 James Vincent, retired chairman of cardiology  
 11:47:17 Lora Wier, Montana Public Health Association  
 11:49:43 Jon Ellingson, Big Sky 55+  
 11:52:11 Grace Benasutti, Missoula  
 11:53:53 Terry Dennis, internal medicine physician, Billings

**EXHIBIT(IIs05a02)**

11:56:27 Julie Williams, teacher  
 11:58:15 Eliza Donahue, self

**EXHIBIT(IIs05a03)**

11:59:55 Madison Hebner, Bozeman  
 12:01:53 Derek Ivester, owner of wholesale manufacturer in Gallatin County  
 12:03:37 Stacey Anderson, policy director, Montana Primary Care Association  
 12:05:57 Helena Lovick, Great Falls  
 12:07:36 Alanna Wulf, Big Sky 55+  
 12:09:22 Ming Cabrera  
 12:11:38 Terry Minow, vice chair, Big Sky 55+  
 12:12:56 Abby Sophir, Forward Montana  
 12:14:12 Elizabeth Marum, Big Sky 55+  
 12:16:25 Colleen Wulf, self  
 12:16:59 Brian Hoffman, Kalispell

**EXHIBIT(IIs05a04)**

12:18:54 Michelle Zizian, Gardiner  
 12:20:43 Sen. Ellsworth

**Additional Public Comment Received Online:****EXHIBIT(IIs05a05)****PROPOSED RULES**

12:21:33 Sen. Cohenour

**EXHIBIT(IIs05a06)**

12:21:58 Chair Ellsworth  
 12:22:22 Rep. Abbott  
 12:22:26 Chair Ellsworth  
 12:23:09 Sen. Blasdel  
 12:25:04 Rep. Abbott

12:25:14 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Blasdel moved that **RULES 1-8 AND 10-14 OF THE COVID PANEL RULES BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried 6-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Abbott and Sen. Cohenour voting no.

12:25:38 Chair Ellsworth  
12:26:57 Nadine Spencer, committee secretary supervisor  
12:27:08 Chair Ellsworth

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:28 P.M.

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Gwyn Schooler, Secretary

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**Additional Documents:**

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([lls05aad.pdf](#))**