

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Wendy McKamey-R, on February 22, 2023 at 3:01 PM, in 335

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Mike Cuffe, Chair (R)  
Sen. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Mark Noland (R)  
Sen. Shelley Vance (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)

**Staff Present:** Joe Carroll, Attorney  
Daisy Rhodes, 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:**

Hearing & Date Posted:

SB 232 02/17/2023

SB 338 02/17/2023

SB 341 02/17/2023

Executive Action:

SB 302 DO PASS

SB 232 DO PASS AS AMENDED

SB 338 DO PASS

**HEARING ON SB 338 - Revise election laws related to candidate filing fees**

**Opening Statement:**

15:02:50 Chair Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 338, Revise election laws related to candidate filing fees.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:04:57 Stuart Fuller, Secretary of State (SOS)

15:06:17 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (CoC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:08:44 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

15:09:15 Stuart Fuller, SOS

15:09:42 Sen. Janet Ellis

15:10:02 Stuart Fuller, SOS

**Closing Statement:**

15:10:23 Chair Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SB 338.

**HEARING ON SB 232 - Provide for deadlines to respond to public information requests**

**Opening Statement:**

15:13:06 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on SB 232, Provide for deadlines to respond to public information requests.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230222STSa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:22:06 Rob Cook, Montana Newspapers Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:23:33 Lisa Bennett, Self

15:29:05 Lant Barney, Self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:30:03 Don Harris, Department of Administration (DOA)

15:31:20 Rebecca Harbage, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:32:23 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:32:58 Sen. Janet Ellis-D

15:33:54 Sen. Theresa Manzella

15:35:09 Sen. Janet Ellis-D

15:35:12 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:35:20 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:35:51 Joe Carroll

15:36:05 Vice Chair Wendy McKamey

15:36:09 Chair Mike Cuffe

15:36:20 Sen. Dan Bartel

15:37:33 Sen. Janet Ellis-D

15:39:01 Don Harris, DOA

15:39:50 Sen. Dan Bartel

15:39:58 Don Harris, DOA

15:40:36 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:40:59 Sen. Janet Ellis-D  
15:41:42 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:41:52 Sen. Dan Bartel  
15:42:11 Don Harris, DOA  
15:42:26 Sen. Dan Bartel  
15:43:00 Sen. Janet Ellis-D  
15:45:08 Chair Mike Cuffe  
15:45:42 Sen. Janet Ellis-D

**Closing Statement:**

15:46:36 Sen. Janet Ellis (D), SD 41, closed the hearing on SB 232.

**HEARING ON SB 341 - Revise laws related to election equipment contracts**

**Opening Statement:**

15:48:30 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, opened the hearing on SB 341, Revise laws related to election equipment contracts.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:54:18 Patrick Colbeck, self  
15:58:02 Mark Cook, self  
16:05:01 Chiko Olsen, self  
16:07:12 Roy Mckenzie, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:12:56 Lisa Bennett, self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:18:11	Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:22:03	Sen. Theresa Manzella-R
16:22:31	Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:22:45	Sen. Shelley Vance
16:27:01	Sen. Theresa Manzella-R
16:27:35	Sen. Janet Ellis
16:28:17	Sen. Theresa Manzella-R
16:31:03	Sen. Mike Fox
16:31:39	Sen. Theresa Manzella-R
16:33:06	Sen. Mike Fox
16:33:38	Sen. Theresa Manzella-R
16:34:03	Mark Cook, self
16:37:16	Chair Mike Cuffe
16:38:13	Sen. Theresa Manzella-R
16:40:42	Chair Mike Cuffe
16:40:57	Mark Cook, self
16:41:24	Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:45:23	Chiko Olsen,self
16:45:41	Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:46:26	Chair Mike Cuffe
16:46:40	Chiko Olsen,self
16:47:09	Vice Chair Wendy McKamey
16:47:38	Chiko Olsen, self

16:48:00 Sen. Dan Bartel

**Closing Statement:**

16:48:57 Sen. Theresa Manzella (R), SD 85, closed the hearing on SB 341.

16:53:54 **Recessed**

17:22:18 **Reconvened**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 302 - Require partisan general elections for judges**

17:22:49 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 302 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:23:00 Chair Mike Cuffe

17:23:43 Vice Chair Denise Hayman

17:22:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Ellis, Sen. Fox, Sen. Hayman, voting no.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 232 - Provide for deadlines to respond to public information requests**

17:26:58 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 232 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:27:18 Sen. Janet Ellis

13:21:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:28:13 **Motion:** Sen. Janet Ellis moved that **SB 232 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:28:26 Sen. Janet Ellis

17:29:43 Sen. Theresa Manzella

17:29:56 Sen. Janet Ellis

17:30:26 Chair Mike Cuffe

17:27:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:31:27 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 232 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

17:31:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 338 - Revise election laws related to candidate filing fees**

17:33:44 **Motion:** Vice Chair Wendy McKamey moved that **SB 338 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

17:34:06 Sen. Mike Fox

17:34:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:35:12 **Committee Discussion:** SB322 Amendment Draft

17:35:23 Joe Carroll

17:35:37 Chair Mike Cuffe

17:36:12 Joe Carroll

17:36:42 Chair Mike Cuffe

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:39:48

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Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230222STSaad\)](#)