

# MONTANA LEGISLATURE

## 2009 Legislative Session Planning

### CAUCUSES, ORIENTATION, AND CONTINUING EDUCATION DATES

For Consideration by the Montana Legislative Council  
January 2008

Activity/Event	Proposed Dates
General election	Tuesday, November 4, 2008
<b><i>Senate caucuses</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, November 17, or Wednesday, November 19, 2008 (noon)</i></b>
<b><i>House caucuses</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, November 17, or Wednesday, November 19, 2008 (noon)</i></b>
<b><i>Leadership Orientation (new)</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, November 17, or Wednesday, November 19, 2008 (afternoon)</i></b>
<b><i>New Legislator Orientation</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, November 17 (afternoon) through Wednesday, November 19, or Wednesday November 19, through Friday, November 20, 2008</i></b>
<b><i>Legislative College (new and for all★)</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, November 17 (afternoon) through Wednesday, November 19, or Wednesday November 19, through Friday, November 20, 2008</i></b>
Bobcat-Griz Game Thanksgiving	Saturday, November 22, 2008 Thursday, November 27, 2008
<b><i>Rules Committee</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, December 8, or December 15, 2008 (morning)</i></b>
<b><i>Committee chair training</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, December 8, or December 15, 2008 (afternoon)*</i></b>
Start of session	Monday, January 5, 2009 (noon)
<b><i>Legislative Rules Training</i></b>	<b><i>Monday, January 5, 2009 (afternoon)</i></b>
<b><i>Law School for Legislators</i></b>	<b><i>Tuesday, January 6, 2009 (morning)</i></b>

\* In the past, the Legislative Council recommended that the Joint, Senate, and House Rules Committees meet in conjunction with the committee chair training.

#### Budget information:

- House and Senate budgets for caucus/ start-up (includes mileage, lodging, per diem for 150 legislators; Rules Meetings, Leadership trips, staff costs from caucus to session, and pre-session operating costs):
 

House	\$108,400
Senate	76,822

- House and Senate budgets for orientation and training (includes salary and per diem for new legislators and chairman training - 2 days each)
 

House	\$31,757
Senate	21,529
- Some costs for **Issue Caucuses** may be subsidized through by Program 21 (up to \$21,000 may be available in carryforward). If it will be a recurring cost in 2011 - need to include in next feed bill.
- ★Legislator College funding - Would need to find funding for salary and per diem for some legislators over what was budgeted for caucuses, new legislator orientation. Issue caucus costs may offset. Legislative college adds up to 2 days of salary and per diem, mileage is already accounted for. If it will be a recurring cost in 2011 - need to include in next feed bill.
- May want to have Banquet/Social Event on the night of caucuses - could be part of "Legislative College" event.

#### **Ideas for Training: "Legislative College"**

- First afternoon spent on getting people signed up for all of the payroll, insurance, committee preferences, and next 3 days of classes, page applications,
- 2 or 3 tracks - Beginning (traditional New Legislators orientation) and Advanced
- More in-depth policy and budget information in shorter more specific classes
- Policy caucuses hosted by interim/standing committee staff and members
- Monday night dinner (sponsors: could use some carryforward or just make it no-host, caucus/leadership sponsored, remainder of leadership funds, etc.)
- Spouse and family track - assistance from chamber, housing information, fun
- Course ideas: Would want to solicit ideas from Legislative Council, interim committees, current legislators, legislative staff.

Some ideas for topics and sessions from Humanities Montana, Mark Sherouse:

- A Great Conversations dinner is a great model, particularly for the more informal and social aspects; topics can be coordinated with what might go on in the more formal day sessions. 150 legislators would suggest at least twenty tables...lots of room to address a great variety of topics, some governmental/legislative, some just interesting and fun (e.g., fly-fishing as a philosophy of life).
- A session on civic/public discourse; based on Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau program "Let Us Reason Together" (PowerPoint, but humorous); the emphasis is more on its relationship to democracy than "how-to"
- A "how-to" regarding public discourse; Humanities Montana has been using Pat Hughes' *Gracious Space*, or if there is a preference for more local talent...Brian Kahn, for example, can do these things, and knows Montana issues and sensibilities as well as anyone.
- The history and culture topics must be relevant to the legislators' impending work. (topics could range from policy areas such as histories of taxation, labor, environment and economic development, or Montana culture and tourism or concentrate on Montana art and history, i.e. cowboy poetry, Harry Fritz' Lincoln, Montana songs and symbols, regional specialities, etc.
- Under the heading of "variety of formats", a case could be made for reading (and discussing) something together, a poem, a novel, or work of non-fiction.