



# Criminal Justice Oversight Council

69th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

## SENATE MEMBERS

LAURA SMITH  
BARRY USHER - Chair

## HOUSE MEMBERS

SJ HOWELL  
AMY REGIER

## PUBLIC MEMBERS

DAVID ARMSTRONG  
HON. LUKE BERGER – Vice Chair  
ELDENA BEAR DON'T WALK  
CHARLIE BRERETON  
ALAN DOANE  
HON. MARK DUNN  
JESSICA FLINT

## PUBLIC MEMBERS

SHANTELE GAYNOR  
BRANDON KELM  
KOAN MERCER  
JIMMY PATELIS  
ERIC STRAUSS  
AMY TENNEY  
SCOTT TWITO

## COMMITTEE STAFF

LAURA SHERLEY, Lead Staff  
ABBIE CZIOK, Staff Attorney  
ANIA ALDUENDA, Secretary

## AGENDA

January 15, 2026

State Capitol, Room 102 and Zoom

### PLEASE NOTE:

- All times are approximate; some agenda items may take more or less time than allotted.
- The agenda may be adjusted or be paused for breaks at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- See page 3 of this agenda for information on accessibility and public participation.

### 8:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

*Chair Barry Usher*

### 8:05 a.m. **Criminal Justice Data Warehouse Update**

*Kayla Bragg, Executive Director, Montana Board of Crime Control*

*Janice Fries, Statistical Analysis Center Director, Montana Board of Crime Control*

*Adam Carpenter, Chief Data Officer, Department of Administration*

- Public comment\* on the topic
- Council discussion and questions

### 8:30 a.m. **Community, Counseling, and Correctional Services (CCCS) STEP Program**

*Mike Thatcher, Chief Executive Officer, CCCS*

- Public comment\* on the topic
- Council discussion and questions

### 9:00 a.m. **Fines and Fees in the Criminal Justice System**

National overview of recent policy responses

*Anne Teigen, Associate Director, Civil and Criminal Justice, NCSL*

*Jessica Guarino, Policy Associate, Civil and Criminal Justice, NCSL*

Perspectives on Montana's legal financial obligations

*Hon. Jessie Connolly, President, Montana Magistrates Association*

*Hon. Kelly Mantoath, President, Commission of Courts of Limited Jurisdiction*

- Public comment\* on the topic
- Council discussion and questions

### 10:00 a.m. **Break**

### 10:15 a.m. **Department of Corrections: Agency workgroup update**

*Eric Strauss, Director, Department of Corrections*

- Public comment\* on the topic
- Council discussion and questions

- 11:45 p.m.     **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m.     **HJ 45 - Collateral consequences of criminal record expungement**  
National research  
*Meagan Forbes, Dir. of Legislation & Sr. Legislative Counsel, Institute for Justice*  
*Joshua Gaines, Deputy Program Dir., Corrections, & Reentry, CSG Justice Center*  
*Vittorio Nastasi, Dir. of Criminal Policy, Reason Foundation*  
*Sarah Anderson, Assoc. Dir., Criminal Justice and Civil Liberties, R Street Institute*
- 2:00 p.m.     Montana stakeholders  
*Amy McGhee, Missoula County Clerk of Court*  
*Paige Trautwein, Ravalli County Clerk of Court*  
*Scott Eychner, Rehabilitation & Programs Chief Exe. Officer, Dept. of Corrections*  
*Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry*
  - Public comment\* on the topic
  - Council discussion and questions
- 2:30 p.m.     **Break**
- 3:00 p.m.     **Implementation of SB 94 (2023)**  
Feedback from Montana recovery residences  
*Rod Ostermiller, Exe. Dir., Bridgemont - Stefans House*  
*Kacy Keith, Owner, A Sober Start*  
*Tara Williamson, Exe. Dir., Support and Techniques for Empowering People*  
*Stephen Ferguson, Exe. Dir., Crosswinds Recovery*  
*Carolyn Belling, Regional Director, Hope Center Ministries*
- 3:30 p.m.     Feedback from program stakeholders  
*Megan Coy, Community Corrections Facilities & Prgms Bur. Chief, Dept. of Corrections*  
*Meghan Peel, BHDD Administrator, Dept. of Public Health and Human Services*  
*Peter Maney, Executive Director, Recovery Access Montana*  
*Terri Todd, National Sober Living Association*  
*Rich St. John, Chief of Police, Billings Police Department*
  - Public comment\* on the topic
  - Council discussion and questions
- 4:00 p.m.     **Public Comment\*** on any topic under the council's jurisdiction but not on this agenda
- 4:15 p.m.     **Council Work Session**
  - Next meeting date
  - Direction to staff: assigned study, member topics, required reports, etc.
  - Other directions to staff?
- 5:00 p.m.     **Adjourn**

## Public Participation

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

**To offer public comment** via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting: <https://participate.legmt.gov/>.

**Written public comment** may be submitted either through the [online form](#) for written comment or by mailing the comments to the Criminal Justice Oversight Council, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

*\*Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

## Accessibility

The Montana Legislative Services Division makes reasonable accommodations for persons who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator, Leah Hibbs, at 406-444-3073 or [leah.hibbs@legmt.gov](mailto:leah.hibbs@legmt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.