



## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**

### **69th Montana Legislature**

#### **SENATE MEMBERS**

Mary Ann Dunwell  
Forrest Mandeville  
Jeremy Trebas  
Daniel Zolnikov

#### **HOUSE MEMBERS**

Pete Elverum  
Alanah Griffith  
Shane Klakken  
Greg Oblander  
Jolanda Songer  
Courtenay Sprunger

#### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Maxwell Parson – Lead Staff  
Maddie Krezowski – Legal Staff  
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

## **MINUTES LOG**

November 20, 2025  
Capitol Room 137 & Zoom  
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Presiding Officer (R)  
Rep. Alanah Griffith, Vice Presiding Officer (D)  
Rep. Pete Elverum (D) – Via Zoom  
Rep. Shane Klakken (R)  
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)  
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)  
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)  
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff  
Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff  
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

## **AGENDA** [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

## **VISITORS' LIST** [\(Attachment 2\)](#)

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- 09:02:08 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll.
- 09:03:28 Rep. Pete Elverum

### **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30: PRESENTATION ON POTENTIAL UPDATES TO ELEVATOR BUILDING CODES**

- 09:03:34 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
- 09:04:24 Stephen Smith, Executive Director, The Center for Building in North America  
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

### **Public Comment**

- 09:23:26 Eric Copeland, Bureau Chief, Building and Commercial Measurements Bureau, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

- 09:23:47 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
- 09:24:17 Eric Copeland, DLI
- 09:25:57 Rep. Shane Klakken
- 09:26:32 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
- 09:29:29 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
- 09:30:21 Eric Copeland, DLI
- 09:32:17 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
- 09:33:06 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
- 09:36:14 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
- 09:37:48 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
- 09:39:28 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
- 09:40:11 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America
- 09:41:26 Rep. Shane Klakken
- 09:41:58 Stephen Smith, The Center for Building in North America

### **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 57: PANEL WITH DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) AND USERS OF THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

- 09:45:23 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
- 09:45:51 Laura Schultz, Program Administrator, Montana Emergency Communications Program, DOJ
- 09:48:14 Jamin Howell, Technical Manager, Montana Emergency Communications Program, DOJ

09:53:09 Lee Johnson, Director, Criminal Investigation Division, DOJ  
09:58:39 Jeff Newton, Chief of Police, Great Falls  
10:03:38 Mike Linder, Sheriff, Yellowstone County

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

10:07:59 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
10:08:09 Laura Schultz, DOJ  
10:08:33 Rep. Shane Klakken  
10:09:23 Laura Schultz, DOJ  
10:10:49 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
10:11:22 Jamin Howell, DOJ  
10:14:01 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
[EXHIBIT 2](#)  
10:14:51 Laura Schultz, DOJ  
10:14:58 Jamin Howell, DOJ  
10:18:47 Rep. Shane Klakken  
10:18:58 Jamin Howell, DOJ  
10:21:58 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
10:22:18 Jamin Howell, DOJ

**Public Comment**

10:23:38 Shelby Demars, L3Harris Technologies, Inc

**COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

**MSU LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMENTS OR REMARKS**

10:26:19 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
10:27:23 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

**MONTANANS AGAINST IRRESPONSIBLE DENSIFICATION (MAID) LITIGATION UPDATE**

10:28:36 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

10:33:43 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
10:33:52 Maddie Krezowski, LSD  
10:33:57 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
10:34:11 Maddie Krezowski, LSD

10:35:14 **Recessed**

10:57:15 **Reconvened**

## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47: PANEL WITH COUNTY SAFETY ENTITY REPRESENTATIVES ON COOPERATION**

10:57:20 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
10:59:24 Jason Jarrett, Assistant to Gallatin County Sheriff & Assigned to Sheriff's Mutual Aid Program, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association  
[EXHIBIT 3](#)  
11:08:13 Scott Van Dyken, Undersheriff, Cascade County Sheriff's Office & Board Member of Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association  
11:13:00 Randy Okon, Deputy Fire Warden, Office of Emergency Management, Missoula County  
11:18:14 Rich Cowger, Fire Chief, Columbus Rural Fire District

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

11:31:04 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
11:31:37 Scott Van Dyken, Cascade County  
11:32:32 Randy Okon, Missoula County  
11:34:28 Rep. Shane Klakken  
11:35:15 Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County  
11:39:54 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
11:40:41 Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County  
11:42:15 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
11:42:34 Jason Jarrett, Gallatin County  
11:44:40 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
11:46:12 Rich Cowger, Columbus  
11:49:55 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
11:50:24 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

### **Public Comment**

11:51:58 None

## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 28: FEDERAL GRANT PRIMER PRESENTATION**

11:53:09 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 4](#)  
[EXHIBIT 5](#)  
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

12:06:44 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
12:07:49 Maxwell Parson, LSD  
12:07:59 Ethan Bergen, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
12:09:14 Rep. Shane Klakken  
(See Exhibit 4)

12:09:45 Maxwell Parson, LSD  
12:10:37 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
12:12:46 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
12:13:44 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

**Public Comment**

12:14:12 Mary Craigle, Self  
12:16:58 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

12:19:05 **Recessed**  
13:31:28 **Reconvened**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47: PANEL WITH MUNICIPAL SAFETY ENTITY REPRESENTATIVES ON COOPERATION**

13:32:02 George Richards, Captain, Billings Fire Department  
13:43:53 Brian Black, Captain, Great Falls Police Department  
13:44:49 Greg Tryon, Assistant City Manager, City of Belgrade  
13:48:51 Jordan Venezio, Chief of Police, City of Kalispell

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

13:50:26 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
13:51:31 Greg Tryon, City of Belgrade  
13:54:10 Brian Black, Great Falls Police Department  
13:54:40 George Richards, Billings Fire Department  
13:56:45 Jordan Venezio, City of Kalispell  
13:57:14 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
13:58:04 Greg Tryon, City of Belgrade  
13:59:31 Brian Black, Great Falls Police Department  
14:01:11 George Richards, Billings Fire Department  
14:04:12 Jordan Venezio, City of Kalispell  
14:04:49 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

**Public Comment**

14:06:43 Rep. Steve Gist, HD 25, Cascade County  
14:10:11 Jeff Hurley, Deputy Fire Chief, Central Valley Fire District  
14:12:24 Nick Stinson, Central Fire Fighters Union Local #4939, Central Valley Fire District

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

14:14:09 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

14:15:25      **Recessed**  
14:48:20      **Reconvened**

**PRESENTATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HB 681**

14:48:44      Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Administrator, Water Resources Division,  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:09:14      Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
15:10:12      Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC  
15:17:04      Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
15:17:23      Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC  
15:20:37      Rep. Shane Klakken  
15:22:12      Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC  
15:22:07      Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
15:23:50      Anna Pakenham Stevenson, DNRC

**Public Comment**

15:25:01      Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited  
15:29:40      Lindsey Krywaruchka, Administrator, Water Quality Division, Department of  
Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
15:31:01      Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association

**UPDATE ON THE WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE'S EXEMPT WELL STUDY**

15:35:00      Toni Henneman, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD) & Lead  
Staff, Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC)

**Public Comment**

15:41:57      None

**EXEMPT WELLS: PANEL WITH LOCALITIES AND INDUSTRY ON WATER USE**

15:42:44      Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
15:43:28      Adrienne Cotton, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)  
[EXHIBIT 8](#)  
15:48:24      Ronda Wiggers, Lobbyist, Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA)  
15:54:33      Brian Heaston, Engineer, City of Bozeman  
16:03:35      Ryan Leland, Public Works Director, City of Helena

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:06:59      Rep. Shane Klakken  
16:07:08      Adrienne Cotton, MBIA  
16:09:25      Rep. Shane Klakken

16:09:52 Ronda Wiggers, MWWDA  
16:11:13 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
16:11:33 Brian Heaston, City of Bozeman  
16:11:49 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
16:12:17 Adrienne Cotton, MBIA  
16:14:10 Rep. Shane Klakken  
16:14:24 Ryan Leland, City of Helena  
16:15:22 Rep. Shane Klakken  
16:15:42 Brian Heaston, City of Bozeman  
16:18:29 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

#### **Public Comment**

16:19:53 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
16:21:07 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

#### **COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

##### **Letter to Congress on Capital Gains Taxes when Selling Homes**

16:25:39 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 9](#)

#### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:27:50 Rep. Shane Klakken  
16:28:38 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
16:29:04 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
16:30:07 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
16:32:45 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
16:34:12 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
16:36:39 Rep. Shane Klakken  
16:36:45 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
16:37:36 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

#### **Motion**

16:38:00 Presiding Officer Forest Mandeville moved to approve the draft and send the letter to the Montana Federal Delegations.

#### **Vote without Quorum**

16:38:02 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

#### **Discussion Regarding Vote without Quorum**

16:38:27 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

#### **Public Comment**

16:39:55 None

**Senator Zolnikov Joined The Meeting to Meet the Quorum Requirements for Voting**

16:40:19 Sen. Zolnikov joined the meeting via Zoom.

**Vote**

16:40:44 Carried 4 – 1 by voice vote with Sen. Trebas voting no.

**Discussion regarding the vote**

16:41:20 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

16:41:26 Presiding Officer Forrest Griffith

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM IN LGIC'S SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

16:41:51 None

**WRAP UP**

16:42:03 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

16:42:16 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:42:47