



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
Courtenay Sprunger

COMMITTEE STAFF

Maddie Krezowski – Legal Staff
Maxwell Parson – Lead Staff
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

July 22, 2025
Capitol Room 317 & 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. Daniel Zolnikov (R)
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)
Rep. Pete Elverum (D)
Rep. Alanah Griffith (D)
Rep. Shane Klakken (R)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Rep. Greg Oblander (R)
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff
Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:30:02 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

09:31:15 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell
09:31:42 Rep. Pete Elverum
09:32:04 Rep. Alanah Griffith
09:32:35 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
09:33:19 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:33:49 Rep. Shane Klakken
09:34:42 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
09:35:18 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
09:36:09 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:36:22 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, LSD
09:36:38 Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary, LSD
09:37:05 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

09:38:11 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:41:00 Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, LSD
09:42:46 Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary, LSD

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS- Continued

Rules Procedures and Guidelines for Interim Committees

09:42:37 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell
09:43:07 Maxwell Parson, LSD

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

09:48:43 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell
09:49:01 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
09:49:12 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell
09:49:35 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:49:59 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
09:50:33 Maxwell Parson
09:51:07 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

09:51:30 Maxwell Parson
09:51:44 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:52:18 Rep. Pete Elverum
09:52:32 Maxwell Parson

Motion

09:52:54 Rep. Pete Elverum moved to adopt the rules with an amendment to note 5 partisan bills.

Vote

09:53:18 Carried by roll call vote 7-1, with Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell voting 'no'.

Committee Discussion/Questions

09:54:30 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell
09:55:17 Rep. Greg Oblander
09:55:30 Rep. Alanah Griffith
09:55:46 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell
09:55:55 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
09:56:25 Rep. Alanah Griffith
09:56:47 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell
09:57:04 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
09:57:40 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell

Motion

09:57:45 Sen. Forest Mandeville moved to amend the rules as written to include the use of a written proxy form.

Vote

09:58:09 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion

09:58:39 Rep. Greg Oblander moved to adopt the rules as amended.

Vote

09:58:50 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

09:58:55 Acting Presiding Officer Mary Ann Dunwell

Motion

09:59:30 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov nominated Sen. Forest Mandeville as Presiding Officer of the Local Government Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

10:00:14 Sen. Forest Mandeville
10:00:59 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

Vote

10:02:17 Carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Continued

10:03:06 Sen. Forest Mandeville nominated Rep. Alanah Griffith as Vice Presiding Officer

Discussion on the Motion

10:03:34 Rep. Alanah Griffith
10:04:02 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
10:04:33 Rep. Shane Klakken

Vote

10:05:07 Carried unanimously by roll call vote.

10:06:14 **Recessed**

10:13:03 **Reconvened**

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS- Continued**Summary Of Local Government Legislation**

10:13:14 Maxwell Parson, LSD
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:14:30 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
10:15:02 Maddie Krezowski, LSD

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - Continued**Compensation Overview**

10:15:37 Maxwell Parson, LSD
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
10:17:27 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:18:09 Angie Carter, Financial Director, LSD

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:20:59 Rep. Greg Oblander
10:21:20 Angie Carter, LSD

10:21:46 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
10:22:05 Angie Carter

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - Continued
Website Overview

10:23:19 Maxwell Parson, LSD

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS – Continued
Introduction of Work Plan

10:25:41 Maxwell Parson, LSD

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:31:00 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:31:16 Maxwell Parson

Public Comment

10:32:19 Jacob Kuntz, Executive Director, Helena Habitat for Humanity
10:37:35 Adrienne Cotton, Montana Building Industry Association
10:38:09 Kevin Nelson, Billings
10:43:25 Railee Honeycutt, Montana Stock Growers Association
10:46:06 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
10:48:46 Jake Brown, Shelter Whitefish
10:49:41 Matt Elsaesser, Deputy Director, Upper Missouri Waterkeeper

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:50:33 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
10:52:03 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
10:52:40 Rep. Greg Oblander
10:53:09 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
10:53:49 Jacob Kuntz

MONTANA LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS, MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
REPRESENTATIVE REMARKS

10:56:47 Jason Rittal, Deputy Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
11:07:04 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns

Committee Discussion/Questions

11:22:05 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
11:23:04 Jason Rittal, MACo
11:23:49 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
11:24:44 Jason Rittal

11:26:43 Director Kelly Lynch, Montana League of Cities and Towns
 11:30:05 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
 11:30:25 Director Kelly Lynch
 11:31:34 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
 11:35:43 Jason Rittal
 11:35:51 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
 11:36:00 Kelly Lynch
 11:36:56 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
 11:37:34 Jason Rittal
 11:38:30 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
 11:38:38 Kelly Lynch
 11:39:41 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 11:43:16 Kelly Lynch
 11:43:30 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER

11:44:15 Dan Clark, Executive Director, Montana State University Extension, Local Government Center

[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

11:58:17 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
 11:58:40 Director Dan Clark, Local Government Center
 11:59:13 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
 11:59:22 Director Dan Clark
 12:01:00 Rep. Greg Oblander
 12:04:45 Director Dan Clark
 12:04:59 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
 12:05:21 Director Dan Clark

Public Comment

12:05:58 None

12:06:27 **Recess**

13:03:55 **Reconvened**

Committee Discussion

13:04:00 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 13:04:57 Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary, Legislative Services Division

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL OVERVIEW

13:05:14 Eathan Bergen, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:11:34 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

13:11:57 Eathan Bergen, LFD

Public Comment

13:12:58 None

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (DOA) REMARKS

13:13:49 Van Harrison, Chief Legal Counsel, DOA

13:14:34 Danielle Vincent, Local Government Services Bureau Chief, DOA

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:22:35 Rep. Pete Elverum

13:22:37 Danielle Vincent, DOA

13:24:04 Rep. Greg Oblander

13:24:24 Danielle Vincent

13:25:31 Rep. Greg Oblander

13:25:41 Danielle Vincent

13:27:22 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

13:30:43 Danielle Vincent

Public Comment

13:32:28 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:34:35 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

13:35:13 Jason Rittal, MACo

WORK PLAN MEMBER/STUDY TOPICS

13:36:34 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 4)

13:38:50 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

13:39:27 Maxwell Parson, LSD

13:44:26 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

13:47:20 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

13:47:47 Maxwell Parson

13:48:31 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

13:50:35 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

13:52:00 Maxwell Parson
 13:52:05 Rep. Greg Oblander
 13:52:51 Maxwell Parson
 13:53:51 Rep. Shane Klakken
 13:56:58 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
 13:57:44 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 13:58:26 Maxwell Parson
 14:00:50 Rep. Pete Elverum

Public Comment

14:01:21 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties
 14:02:01 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns
 14:02:22 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
 14:04:59 Danni Hess, Cities of Bozeman, Belgrade and Missoula

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

14:06:25 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
 14:08:36 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 14:12:07 Maxwell Parson, LSD
 14:12:59 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 14:13:30 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
 14:14:51 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 14:14:57 Maxwell Parson
 14:16:51 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
 14:18:33 Rep. Pete Elverum
 14:19:40 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
 14:19:54 Maxwell Parson
 14:21:37 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 14:21:58 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
 14:23:44 Rep. Shane Klakken
 14:24:00 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 14:25:12 Maxwell Parson
 14:26:16 Rep. Pete Elverum
 14:26:57 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
 14:28:13 Rep. Pete Elverum
 14:28:47 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
 14:29:44 Maxwell Parson
 14:30:35 Rep. Greg Oblander
 14:31:09 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
 14:31:24 Rep. Greg Oblander

14:32:03 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:33:43 Rep. Pete Elverum
14:35:17 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:35:44 Maxwell Parson
14:36:40 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:37:30 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:37:52 Maxwell Parson
14:41:31 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:42:05 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:43:48 Maxwell Parson
14:44:42 Sen. Jeremy Trebas
14:45:06 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

Motion

14:45:17 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov moved to adopt the preliminary workplan as decided by the committee.

Vote

14:45:34 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION - Continued

Meeting dates

14:46:03 Maxwell Parson

Motion

14:48:23 Rep. Shane Oblander moved to adopt proposed committee meeting dates.

Discussion on the Motion

14:48:41 Rep. Shane Klakken
14:48:42 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:50:02 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:50:08 Maxwell Parson

Vote

14:50:39 Carried unanimously by voice vote of those present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM IN THE JURISDICTION OF LGIC

14:50:59 None

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:51:24 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:51:50 Katya Grover, Remote Meeting Coordinator, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

14:52:11	Maxwell Parson
14:52:50	Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
14:53:32	Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:53:57	Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
14:54:28	Rep. Pete Elverum
14:54:44	Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
14:55:31	Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
14:55:48	Rep. Greg Oblander

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:56:13