



## **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  
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

# **MINUTES LOG**

September 25, 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)  
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D) – Via Zoom  
Rep. Pete Elverum (D) – Via Zoom  
Rep. Shane Klakken (R)  
Rep. Greg Oblander (R) – Via Zoom  
Rep. Courtenay Sprunger (R)  
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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

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

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

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

09:00:13 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

### **TRAINING REPORT, 7-1-206, MONTANA CODE ANNOTATED**

09:01:45 Dan Clark, Director, Local Government Center, Montana State University (MSU)  
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

09:17:41 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
09:18:26 Dan Clark, MSU  
09:20:46 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
09:21:32 Dan Clark, MSU  
09:22:53 Rep. Shane Klakken  
09:23:10 Dan Clark, MSU  
09:26:35 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
09:26:51 Dan Clark, MSU

### **Public Comment**

09:31:24 None

### **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 47: PRIMER PRESENTATION ON PUBLIC SAFETY ENTITY COOPERATION**

09:31:52 Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 2](#)  
[EXHIBIT 3](#)  
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

09:44:20 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
09:44:55 Maxwell Parson, LSD  
09:46:03 Rep. Greg Oblander  
09:46:52 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
09:47:05 Maxwell Parson, LSD  
09:47:44 Rep. Shane Klakken  
09:49:01 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

### **Public Comment**

09:49:37 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

09:50:57 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

09:51:28 Kelly Lynch, MLCT  
09:52:05 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
09:52:50 Kelly Lynch, MLCT  
  
09:55:44 **Recessed**  
10:02:26 **Reconvened**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30: PANEL WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
REPRESENTATIVES ON HOUSING DENSITY**

10:03:12 David Fine, Manager of the Bozeman Urban Renewal Program, City of Bozeman  
10:15:29 Jeremy Fadness, Contract Planner, City of East Helena  
10:24:25 Jordan Green, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Deer Lodge  
10:35:57 Kelly Lynch, Executive Director, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

10:45:46 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
10:48:12 Kelly Lynch, MLCT  
10:52:13 David Fine, City of Bozeman  
10:53:51 Jeremy Fadness, City of East Helena  
10:55:18 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
10:56:29 David Fine, City of Bozeman  
10:59:37 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
11:00:06 Kelly Lynch, MLCT  
11:03:37 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
11:03:51 Rep. Shane Klakken  
[EXHIBIT 5](#)  
11:06:50 Kelly Lynch, MLCT  
11:08:48 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
11:15:59 Jeremy Fadness, City of East Helena  
11:18:35 Jordan Green, City of Deer Lodge  
11:19:47 David Fine, City of Bozeman  
11:21:58 Kelly Lynch, MLCT  
11:25:52 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
11:26:22 Jeremy Fadness, City of East Helena  
11:28:18 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
11:28:32 David Fine, City of Bozeman  
11:29:41 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
11:30:24 David Fine, City of Bozeman  
11:35:39 Kelly Lynch, MLCT

11:36:01 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
11:36:08 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

**Public Comment**

11:36:16 Tanner Avery, Policy Director, Frontier Institute  
11:38:59 Nathan Dugan, Shelter Whitefish  
11:42:12 Joe DeFilippis, Operations Manager, Montana Housing Division, Department of Commerce (DOC)  
  
11:43:42 **Recessed**  
13:17:45 **Reconvened**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 30: PANEL WITH BUILDING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES ON HOUSING DENSITY - Continued**

13:18:54 Ron Bartsch, Chief Executive Officer, Sussex Construction  
13:31:06 Adrienne Cotton, Owner, Cotton Construction & Lobbyist, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA) & Government Affairs, Helena Building Industry Association (HBIA)  
[EXHIBIT 6](#)  
13:36:02 Jacob Kuntz, Executive Director, Helena Area Habitat for Humanity (HAHH)  
13:42:04 Brad McCall, Co-Owner, McCall Homes  
13:47:37 Keith Miller, Co-Founder, Upslope Group  
13:54:13 Kaia Peterson, Executive Director, NeighborWorks Montana (NWMT)  
14:01:20 Andy Shirliff, Executive Director, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)  
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

14:08:48 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
(See exhibit 6)  
14:09:30 Adrienne Cotton, Cotton Construction, MBIA, and HBIA  
14:10:04 Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction  
14:14:28 Brad McCall, McCall Homes  
14:15:07 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
14:15:18 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
14:16:07 Adrienne Cotton, Cotton Construction, MBIA, and HBIA  
14:18:29 Rep. Greg Oblander  
14:19:05 Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction  
14:20:51 Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
14:21:08 Rep. Jeremy Trebas  
14:21:23 Adrienne Cotton, Cotton Construction, MBIA, and HBIA  
14:21:57 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
14:22:38 Adrienne Cotton, Cotton Construction, MBIA, and HBIA  
14:23:01 Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction

14:24:05	Rep. Shane Klakken
14:25:33	Adrianne Cotton, Cotton Construction, MBIA, and HBIA
14:27:42	Andy Shirtliff, MBIA
14:28:58	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction
14:29:54	Jacob Kuntz, HAAH
14:32:04	Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
14:33:25	Brad McCall, McCall Homes
14:34:19	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction
14:34:46	Andy Shirtliff, MBIA
14:35:18	Rep. Shane Klakken
14:36:47	Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
14:38:25	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction
14:39:52	Jacob Kuntz, HAAH
14:43:14	Brad McCall, McCall Homes
14:44:34	Jacob Kuntz, HAAH
14:46:34	Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith
14:47:04	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction
14:48:18	Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville
14:50:57	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction
14:52:29	Kaia Peterson, NWMT
14:53:05	Brad McCall, McCall Homes
14:54:10	Jacob Kuntz, HAAH
14:56:06	Rep. Pete Elverum
14:59:29	Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell
15:00:59	Adrianne Cotton, Cotton Construction, MBIA, and HBIA
15:01:37	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction
15:02:20	Rep. Greg Oblander
15:03:23	Kaia Peterson, NWMT
15:03:59	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction
15:06:12	Rep. Courtenay Sprunger
15:07:34	Brad McCall, McCall Homes
15:09:03	Ron Bartsch, Sussex Construction

#### **Public Comment**

15:10:23	Jennifer Olson, Government Affairs Director, MLCT
15:14:44	Shibu Arens, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Front Step Community Land Trust
15:15:51	Ashley Martinez, Helena Building Industry Association
15:18:07	Dani Hess, City of Bozeman & City of Belgrade

15:21:07     **Recessed**  
15:33:48     **Reconvened**

## **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 57: PRIMER PRESENTATION ON THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

15:33:59     Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

### **Public Comment**

15:38:49     Laura Schultz, Manager, Montana Emergency Communications Program,  
Department of Justice (DOJ)  
15:39:34     Shelby Demars, L3Harris Technologies, Inc.  
15:41:16     Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

15:42:28     Rep. Shane Klakken  
15:43:21     Laura Schultz, DOJ  
15:47:05     Jamin Howell, Technical Manager, Montana Emergency Communications  
Program, DOJ  
15:52:48     Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith  
15:53:26     Jamin Howell, DOJ  
15:53:55     Rep. Shane Klakken  
15:54:23     Jamin Howell, DOJ  
15:55:39     Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
15:56:23     Laura Schultz, DOJ

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERIM TIMELINE**

15:58:20     Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

### **Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:00:01     Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
16:00:17     Maxwell Parson, LSD  
16:04:14     Maddie Krezowski, Legal Staff, LSD  
16:04:37     Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville  
16:05:15     Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
16:05:53     Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

## **COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

16:06:30     Maxwell Parson, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 10](#)  
[EXHIBIT 11](#)  
16:08:15     Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

**Committee Questions / Discussion**

16:09:50 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith

16:10:09 Maxwell Parson, LSD

16:10:33. Presiding Officer Forrest Mandeville

**Motion**

16:10:36 Vice Presiding Officer Alanah Griffith moved to adopt the Work Plan.

**Discussion on the Motion**

16:10:41 None

**Vote**

16:10:46 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

16:11:05 None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:11:50