



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

# Law and Justice Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

## SENATE MEMBERS

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BARRY USHER  
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## COMMITTEE STAFF

LAURA SHERLEY, Lead Staff  
JULIANNE BURKHARDT, Staff Attorney  
ANIA ALDUENDA, Secretary

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

November 18 and 19, 2025  
Missoula, MT

(Updated 11/17/2025)

### PLEASE NOTE:

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

### November 18, 2025

Joint tours with the Criminal Justice Oversight Council

1:00 p.m. **Tour of Missoula County services funded by MacArthur Foundation grants**  
*Missoula County Community Justice Department*  
Location: 2200 Mullan Rd. Suite B  
Missoula, MT 59808

3:00 p.m. **Tour of the Montana Prerelease Center\***  
*Montana Correctional Services*  
Location: 2350 Mullan Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59808  
*\*Tour is limited to committee/council members and staff*

### November 19, 2025

University of Montana – University Center Room 326/327  
32 Campus Dr, Missoula, MT 59812

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

8:05 a.m. **Public comment\*** on November 18, 2025, tours

8:10 a.m. **Agency Oversight:** Department of Corrections update  
*Brian Gootkin, Department of Corrections Director*  
Public comment\* on the topic

- Questions from the committee

8:30 a.m. **HJ23 – Youth Court Laws:** Missoula and surrounding area stakeholder panel  
*Hon. Jason Marks, 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judge*  
*Hon. Jennifer Lint, 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court Judge*  
*Mark Handelman, Missoula County Attorney's Office*  
*Meghan Benson, OPD Missoula Region Managing Public Defender*  
*Christine Kowalski, Missoula County Youth Court Chief Juvenile Probation Officer*  
*Kelly Norton, Missoula County Youth Court Juvenile Probation Officer II*

- Public comment\*
- Questions from the committee

- 9:45 a.m. **(Tentative) HJ32 – Advanced Investigator Qualifications:** Overview of and services provided by the Montana Violent Crime Investigators Association  
*TBD*
- Public comment\* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
- 10:15 a.m. **Blue Envelope Program:** Program overview and implementation in other states  
*Laura Sherley, Research Analyst*
- Public comment\* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
- 10:30 a.m. **Recess** for tour and lunch
- 11:00 a.m. **Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home Tour\***  
Location: 2824 W Central Ave  
Missoula, Mt 59804  
*\*Tour is limited to committee members and staff*
- 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Reconvene** at University of Montana – University Center Room 326/327
- 1:05 p.m. **Reference checks for Public Safety Officers:** Stakeholder panel  
*Jeremiah Peterson, Missoula County Sheriff*  
*Michael Colyer, Missoula Chief of Police*  
*Jordan Venezio, Kalispell Chief of Police*  
*Scott Van Dyken, Great Falls Undersheriff*  
*Andrea Bethel, Dept. of Corrections Probation & Parole Captain*  
*Shane Hildenstab, Dept. of Corrections Deputy Public Safety Chief*
- Public comment\* on the topic
  - Questions from the committee
- 2:00 p.m. **Committee Work Session**
- Instructions to staff
    - Agency Oversight
    - Assigned Studies
    - Member Topics
  - Additional instructions to staff, if any
- 2:30 p.m. **Public comment\*** on any item within the committee’s jurisdiction but not on this agenda
- 2:40 p.m. **Public comment\*** on November 19, 2025, tours
- 2:45 p.m. **Adjourn**
- 3:00 p.m. **Montana Juvenile Detention Center Tour\***  
Location: 2340 Mullan Road  
Missoula, MT 59808  
*\*Tour is limited to committee members*

## Public Participation

This meeting is scheduled as an in-person event only. The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in person or in writing.

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

*\*Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is taped, 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.