



STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Cuffe
Theresa Manzella
Wendy McKamey
Jacinda Morigeau

HOUSE MEMBERS

Kelly Kortum
Marc Lee
Kathy Love
Mark Reinschmidt
Lukas Schubert
Peter Strand
Eric Tilleman

COMMITTEE STAFF

Rebecca Power - Lead Staff
Andria Hardin - Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

September 25, 2025
Capitol Room 102 & 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. Theresa Manzella, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Marc Lee, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Kathy Love (R)
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Mark Reinschmidt (R)
Rep. Lukas Schubert (R)
Rep. Peter Strand (D)
Rep. Eric Tilleman (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Rebecca Power, Lead Staff
Andria Hardin, Legal Staff
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**VISITORS' LIST** ([Attachment 2](#))**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

08:32:21 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

Meeting Overview

08:34:13 Sen. Theresa Manzella
08:34:29 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
08:34:48 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe

WORK SESSION - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

08:35:44 Acting Presiding Officer Mike Cuffe
08:36:03 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Motion

08:37:14 Rep. Kathy Love nominated Sen. Theresa Manzella to be the Presiding Officer of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

08:37:25 Rep. Lukas Schubert

Motion

08:37:36 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau nominated Rep. Eric Tilleman to be the Presiding Officer of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

08:38:01 Rep. Eric Tilleman declined the nomination for Presiding Officer.

Vote

08:39:19 Carried 8-2 by roll call vote on the motion to nominate Sen. Theresa Manzella by roll call vote. Rep. Kelly Kortum and Rep. Peter Strand voting 'no'. Sen. Wendy McKamey abstained.

Motion

08:41:42 Rep. Eric Tilleman nominated Rep. Marc Lee to be the Vice Presiding Officer of the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee.

Discussion on the Motion

08:41:51 Sen. Mike Cuffe

Vote

08:42:19 Carried unanimously by roll call vote.

08:43:04 Sen. Mike Cuffe

08:43:32 **Recessed**

08:48:53 **Reconvened**

OPENING REMARKS

08:48:54 Sen. Mike Cuffe

08:49:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Committee Introductions

08:54:09 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee

08:55:36 Sen. Mike Cuffe

09:01:48 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:02:06 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

09:03:28 Rep. Eric Tilleman

09:04:34 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:05:05 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt

09:06:13 Rep. Kelly Kortum

09:07:02 Rep. Lukas Schubert

09:08:17 Rep. Peter Strand

09:09:25 Rep. Kathy Love

09:10:06 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

09:10:33 Ania Alduenda, Secretary, LSD

09:11:03 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, LSD

09:11:22 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:11:54 Sen. Mike Cuffe

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 48: STUDY OF MOVING THE PRIMARY ELECTION DATE**Introduction of Panels**

09:13:08 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:13:52 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Panel Discussion #1

09:18:13 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

09:26:43 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:27:13 Andrea Mohammadi, Business Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

09:29:18 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:30:04 Cheryl Wilson, Compliance Specialist, Office of the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP)

09:31:11 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:32:39 Rebecca Power, LSD

Committee and Panel Discussion

09:33:28 Rep. Kelly Kortum

09:33:48 Lance Melton, MTSBA

*An error in the recording failed to capture the discussion from 09:38:25 - 09:38:38. A buzzing tone starts then and ends at 9:42:47.

09:42:16 Deborah Belford, Compliance Specialist, COPP

09:43:02 Rep. Lukas Schubert

09:43:23 Lance Melton, MTSBA

09:48:52 Sen. Mike Cuffe

09:52:00 Lance Melton, MTSBA

09:52:26 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

09:53:01 Lance Melton, MTSBA

09:58:05 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

09:58:30 Cheryl Wilson, COPP

09:59:30 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee

10:00:00 Lance Melton, MTSBA

10:03:57 Sen. Mike Cuffe

10:05:00 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

10:05:18 Rep. Kathy Love

10:05:38 Lance Melton, MTSBA

10:07:03 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

10:07:14 Lance Melton, MTSBA

10:15:55 Rebecca Power, LSD

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

10:16:34 **Recessed**

10:30:54 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 48: STUDY OF MOVING THE PRIMARY ELECTION DATE - Continued

Panel Discussion #2

10:31:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

10:33:13 Toni Kramer, Election Administrator, Lake County

10:36:35 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder and Election Administrator, Ravalli County

10:38:04 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

10:41:20 Eric Semerad, Clerk & Recorder and Election Administrator, Gallatin County

Committee and Panel Discussion

10:49:56 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

10:51:27 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County

10:56:28 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
 11:00:52 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 11:01:31 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
 11:02:37 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
 11:03:40 Toni Kramer, Lake County
 11:06:56 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 11:07:08 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 11:07:17 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
 11:07:49 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
 11:08:11 Rep. Lukas Schubert
 11:08:37 Toni Kramer, Lake County
 11:08:53 Rep. Kelly Kortum
 11:09:39 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
 [EXHIBIT 5](#)
 [EXHIBIT 6](#)
 11:11:36 Toni Kramer, Lake County
 11:11:54 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
 11:13:54 Rep. Kathy Love
 11:14:01 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
 11:14:25 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
 11:14:46 Rep. Lukas Schubert
 11:16:07 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
 11:17:34 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 11:17:44 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
 11:17:58 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
 11:19:21 Rep. Kelly Kortum
 11:19:52 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 11:19:58 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
 11:20:01 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
 11:21:32 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 11:22:06 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 11:25:11 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
 [EXHIBIT 7](#)
 11:25:45 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 11:25:55 Rebecca Power, LSD
 11:26:20 Sen. Mike Cuffe

Additional Instructions to Staff

11:26:43 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 11:27:38 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
 11:29:01 Rebecca Power, LSD
 [EXHIBIT 8](#)

11:29:55 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:30:19 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
11:33:54 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:34:09 Rebecca Power, LSD

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

Overview of September Rule Review Memo

11:34:46 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:35:08 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:53:13 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
(See Exhibit 9)
11:54:44 Andria Hardin, LSD
(See Exhibit 10)
11:59:54 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
12:00:12 Andria Hardin, LSD
12:00:31 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, LSD
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
12:02:37 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
12:02:55 Andria Hardin, LSD
(See Exhibit 10)
12:04:01 Rep. Kelly Kortum
12:04:37 Rep. Lukas Schubert
12:04:51 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
12:05:00 Andria Hardin, LSD
12:05:29 Sen. Mike Cuffe
12:05:42 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
12:06:20 Andria Hardin, LSD

Public Comment

12:08:21 Mary Beveridge
12:09:04 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County
12:10:41 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

12:11:22 **Recessed**
13:10:48 **Reconvened**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN SAVA JURISDICTION

Written Public Comments ([Attachment 3](#))

13:10:49 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
13:11:26 Tom Stusek, Bozeman

13:23:53 Mary Beveridge
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
 13:26:34 Marla Davis, Gallatin County
[EXHIBIT 13](#)
 13:30:42 Gina Reilly
[EXHIBIT 14](#)
 13:36:31 Elizabeth Hale, Helena
[EXHIBIT 15](#)
 13:38:32 Loy Chvilicek, Helena
 13:42:02 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County

CYBERSECURITY WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS)

13:53:52 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 13:54:25 Austin Lindsay, Information Security Officer, SOS
 13:54:47 Rep. Kelly Kortum
 13:54:56 Austin Lindsay, SOS
 13:57:32 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 13:57:54 Austin Lindsay, SOS
 13:59:44 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
 (See Exhibit 11)
 14:05:00 Rep. Kelly Kortum
 14:05:19 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 14:05:33 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, LSD
 14:06:51 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 14:07:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 (See Exhibits 9, 10, and 11)
 14:08:17 Rep. Eric Tilleman
 14:08:43 Rep. Peter Strand
 14:09:11 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 14:09:37 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 14:10:14 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt

Motion

14:10:22 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella moved to informally object the amendment proposed by the Secretary of State's office to subsection (2) of ARM 44.3.2902. (See Exhibits 9 and 10)

Discussion on the Motion

14:10:38 Sen. Mike Cuffe
 14:10:55 Andria Hardin, LSD
 14:11:27 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
 14:11:44 Rep. Eric Tilleman

Vote

14:12:38 Carried 6 - 5 by roll call vote with Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee, Rep. Peter Strand, Rep. Eric Tilleman, Sen. Mike Cuffe, and Sen. Jacinda Morigeau voting 'no'.

Discussion on the Vote

14:14:36 Andria Hardin, LSD
14:15:04 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:16:13 Sen. Wendy McKamey

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35: STUDY OF VOTER LIST MAINTENANCE & INTEGRITY**Introduction of Senate Joint Resolution 35**

14:21:17 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
[EXHIBIT 16](#)
14:28:41 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:29:05 Sen. Wendy McKamey
14:29:36 Rep. Kelly Kortum

Introduction of Panel

14:29:56 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
EXHIBIT 19
Note: Exhibit 19 is a video presentation that may be viewed at 14:33:46 in the [video recording of the meeting](#).
14:32:50 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Panel Discussion

14:46:59 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder, Ravalli County
14:47:19 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:47:34 Laurie Bakri, Administrator, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD)
14:50:44 Toni Kramer, Election Administrator, Lake County
14:57:09 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
14:58:01 Sen. Mike Cuffe
14:58:19 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:00:00 Sen. Wendy McKamey left the meeting via zoom.
15:00:13 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:01:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:01:11 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:01:19 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:01:51 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:02:12 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:05:50 Eric Semerad, Clerk & Recorder, Gallatin County
15:07:32 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

15:08:15 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
15:09:19 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
15:09:56 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:12:19 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:12:34 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:12:39 Janel Tucek, Clerk & Recorder, Fergus County

Committee and Panel Discussion

15:16:09 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:16:31 Sen. Mike Cuffe
[EXHIBIT 20](#)
15:17:16 Laurie Bakri, MVD
15:18:46 Janel Tucek, Fergus County
15:21:29 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:22:48 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:23:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:24:03 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
15:24:43 Janel Tucek, Fergus County
15:27:31 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:28:12 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:28:42 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
15:29:14 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:29:36 Janel Tucek, Fergus County
15:29:57 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
15:31:40 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:33:52 Laurie Bakri, MVD
15:38:00 Sen. Mike Cuffe
15:38:16 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
15:38:38 Janel Tucek, Fergus County
15:39:16 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:40:03 Laurie Bakri, MVD
15:40:21 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:40:46 Andrea Mohammadi, Business Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
15:42:22 Rep. Eric Tilleman
15:42:41 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:43:16 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:43:47 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:43:58 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
15:44:02 Janel Tucek, Fergus County
15:44:21 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
15:44:34 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County

15:45:25 Rep. Kathy Love
15:45:37 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:47:19 Toni Kramer, Lake County
15:47:43 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:47:57 Eric Semerad, Gallatin County
15:48:05 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
15:49:19 Rep. Peter Strand
15:49:33 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Public Comment

15:50:09 Dave Nims, Butte
16:02:16 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:09:01 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County
16:16:58 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:18:24 Mary Beveridge

Committee Discussion / Questions

16:21:11 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:22:04 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:24:25 Rep. Eric Tilleman
16:24:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:26:01 Rep. Peter Strand
16:26:48 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:27:38 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:28:26 Regina Plettenberg, Ravalli County
16:29:31 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:29:45 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:30:14 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:30:52 Andria Hardin, LSD
16:31:14 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:31:33 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:32:32 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:32:54 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

16:34:03 **Recessed**
16:42:47 **Reconvened**

Committee Comment

16:42:48 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:43:02 Sen. Mike Cuffe

WORK SESSION - SAVA WORK PLAN

Draft Work Plan

16:44:43 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:45:09 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 21](#)
[EXHIBIT 22](#)
[EXHIBIT 23](#)
[EXHIBIT 24](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

16:50:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:51:26 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:52:04 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:52:09 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:52:31 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Draft Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Allocation

16:52:44 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:54:49 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Committee Discussion / Questions

16:54:55 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:55:10 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:55:43 Sen. Mike Cuffe
16:56:09 Rep. Eric Tilleman

Public Comment

16:56:33 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:56:56 Lisa Bennett, Carbon County

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

16:58:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:58:19 Rebecca Power, LSD
16:59:53 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
17:00:33 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
17:00:58 Sen. Mike Cuffe
17:03:31 Rep. Kelly Kortum
17:04:00 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
17:04:13 Rebecca Power, LSD
17:04:22 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Motion

17:04:41 Rep. Eric Tilleman moved to adopt the work plan as discussed in committee.

Vote

17:04:54 Carried 9-1 by voice vote with Rep. Kelly Kortum voting 'no'. Sen. Wendy McKamey was not present for the vote.

17:05:09 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:05:30