



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

State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JOSH KASSMIER
GAYLE LAMMERS
SUSAN WEBBER
JONATHAN WINDY BOY

HOUSE MEMBERS

LYN BENNETT
SHELLY FYANT
TERRY NELSON
TYSON RUNNING WOLF
CURTIS SCHOMER
JADE SOOKTIS

COMMITTEE STAFF

CASEY PALLISTER, Research Analyst
MADDIE KREZOWSKI, Attorney
MADDELYN BLACK, Secretary

DRAFT AGENDA

August 25, 2025

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 137 and Zoom

(Updated 8/19/2025)

Please note: All times and agenda items are subject to change

9:00 a.m.

STRC Call to Order – Roll Call

Sen. Susan Webber, Acting Presiding Officer

- Opening Prayer and Welcome
- Committee and Staff Introductions

9:10 a.m.

Committee Overview and Administration

Dr. Casey Pallister, Committee Research Analyst

- Committee overview
- Staff Roles and Responsibilities

9:25 a.m.

Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees

Dr. Casey Pallister, Committee Research Analyst

- Compensation and Expense Reimbursement and Explanation of SB 64
Angie Carter, Financial Director, Legislative Services Division
- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion, and adoption of rules

9:45 a.m.

Election of STRC Chair and Vice Chair

Sen. Susan Webber, Acting Presiding Officer

10:00 a.m.

Break

10:15 a.m.

Tribal Sovereignty & Political Classification: The Legal Power of Treaties

Dr. Patrick Lozar, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Native American Studies, University of Montana

Kristina Lucero, Director, American Indian Governance & Policy Institute, University of Montana

- Committee questions, discussion

10:45 a.m.

Update on Public Law 280 and the Flathead Reservation

Melissa Schlichting, Attorney, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

- Public comment
- Committee questions, discussion

- 11:00 a.m. **STRC Work Plan Overview**
Dr. Casey Pallister, Committee Research Analyst
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 11:15-11:30 a.m. **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. **Updates from the Montana Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Advisory Council**
Alan Doane, Advisory Council Member
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 1:15 p.m. **Indian Education for All and the Indian Language Preservation Program: Overviews and Updates from the Office of Public Instruction**
Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Dr. Brooke Gondara, Indian Education Director
Matt Bell, Language and Culture Specialist
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 1:45 p.m. **Updates from the Office of American Indian Health**
Stephanie Iron Shooter, Director, Office of American Indian Health, DPHHS
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 2:00 p.m. **Updates from the Dept. of Labor & Industry**
Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, DLI
Donnie Wetzel, Jr., Tribal Liaison, DLI
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 2:15 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 p.m. **Work Plan Discussion**
- Public comment
 - Committee questions, discussion
- 3:45 p.m. **Public comment** on any matter not contained in this agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the STRC
- 4:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Public comment provided in person to the committee is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a committee meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the committee meeting.

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