



Thursday, June 25

9:00 a.m. - Noon	Opening Plenary Session Room 303 • Ethics & Bill Draft Requests • Demographics & Economics • 2029 Biennium State Financial				
	Lunch				
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Property Tax 101	Local Government Basics	Wildfire: Risk, Funding, & Policy	State Expenditures & Revenues	
	Room 172	Room 154	Room 455	Room 472	
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	School Funding 101	Energy & Data Centers	Audit 101	Transportation Basics	Website Review
	Room 172	Room 154	Room 455	Room 472	Room 152
Evening	Off-site Dinner				

Office of Legislative Information Services (OLIS) will host IT drop-in support all day Thursday & Friday in Room 335

Friday, June 26

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Property Tax 101	Public Employee Pensions	Criminal Justice Process	State-Tribal Relations	Website Review
	Room 172	Room 154	Room 455	Room 472	Room 152
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Property Tax & School Funding 201	Medicaid Policy Landscape	Water Law Basics	Federal Fiscal Impacts	
	Room 172	Room 154	Room 455	Room 472	
Noon	Lunch				
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Closing Session Room 317				
	“Improving Your Session Game Plan: Notes from Senior Staff” (Todd, Amy, Marissa, Margaret, Jerry)				

Other Friday Afternoon Options:

- Tour of the New Capitol Legislative Space
- MT Heritage Center Public Tour



EXTENDED AGENDA

THURSDAY, June 25

OPENING PLENARY SESSION (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Room 303)

Ethics & Bill Draft Requests – Receive a basic introduction regarding your ethical obligations as a public servant and a review of the bill draft request process for the 2027 session.

Demographics and Economics – Montana's population and economic landscape have shifted over time. Consider what those trends might mean for the future of Montana and the decisions you make as a legislator.

2029 Biennium State Financial Outlook – This will be the first public presentation by the Legislative Fiscal Division on the budget outlook for the 2029 biennium, as will be budgeted for in the 2027 Legislature.

LUNCH (12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.)

Meet in the Rotunda to reconnect and enjoy a Mediterranean Pita Bar. Feel free to eat outside on the lawn, weather permitting.

AFTERNOON POLICY & FISCAL WORKSHOPS

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Property Tax 101 (Room 172) – Need a refresher on the 2025 changes to the property tax system? Learn the (new) basics of the property tax system, including how taxes are set, how revenue is used, and the availability of property tax assistance programs. Discover tools for exploring property tax data.

Local Government Basics (Room 154) – A presentation highlighting two aspects of local government, policy and fiscal. The policy aspect of the presentation will focus on the various governing structures of localities within the state, powers granted to localities, and where state legislation may intersect with local governance. Within a fiscal perspective, this illustrates a historical and comparative view of local government financial data.

Wildfire: Risk, Funding, & Policy (Room 455) – A rampant wildfire season can foul air and water, blacken forests, and destroy homes. It may also worsen state finances and wreak havoc on property insurance markets. This workshop reviews how the state fights and pays for wildland firefighting, the state's relationships with landowners and federal agencies, and the work of two interim committees investigating how fires affect the property insurance market.

State Expenditures & Revenues (Room 472) – This workshop provides a high-level overview of historical state expenditures and general fund revenues. Interactive dashboards will be used to put both the revenues and expenditures in a statewide context. This workshop is designed for less budget-focused or new legislators.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

School Funding 101 (Room 172) – Always wanted a basic grasp of how school funding works? This workshop is for you! We'll provide a big picture overview and then spend some time working through the main formula for the school district general fund.

Energy and Data Centers (Room 154) – Recently, data centers have emerged as a focal point of energy-related discussions in Montana following the announcement of several proposed projects. These developments intend to feed the artificial intelligence boom, but also have prompted examination of potential impacts on the electric grid, the environment, utility regulation, and local communities. Learn more about actions the Legislature has taken and potential policy initiatives that may be considered in the upcoming session to address data center development.

Audit 101 (Room 455) – The Legislative Audit Division is the legislature's eyes and ears on the complex machinery of state government. Your LAD staff of 49 includes Certified Public Accountants reviewing the state's financial activities, and professionals with experience in public policy, business operations/management, and information technology, ensuring that state programs and data systems are running efficiently and effectively. In addition to an overview of the role and responsibilities of the division, this introduction to the Legislative Audit function will include an update on recently released audit reports and potential areas where legislation could lead to meaningful improvements to the operations of state government.

Transportation Basics (Room 472) – This workshop will focus on a variety of current transportation topics including Autonomous Vehicles (AVs), funding sources like fuel taxes and GVW fees, and preliminary results of the TIC's interim study on Public Transportation in Montana.

Website Review (Room 152) – Get a glimpse of the new Lists & Notifications feature in Bill Explorer and review Saved Filters (personalized reports) across Bill Explorer, Committee Explorer, and Legislator Explorer. There will also be a demo of IPTV, the new closed circuit television system in the Capitol, and Media Explorer, the new location to watch live stream of legislative events.

DINNER (Off-Site)

FRIDAY, June 26

MORNING POLICY & FISCAL WORKSHOPS

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Property Tax 101 (Room 172) – Need a refresher on the 2025 changes to the property tax system? Learn the (new) basics of the property tax system, including how taxes are set, how revenue is used, and the availability of property tax assistance programs. Discover tools for exploring property tax data.

Public Employee Pensions (Room 154) – An overview of Montana's statewide public employee pension systems, including information about plan design, funding models and sources, and changes made during the 2025 legislative session.

Criminal Justice Process (Room 455) – Montana's criminal justice system is a complex network of government agencies, stakeholders, and resources dedicated to maintaining public safety, enforcing laws, and administering justice through apprehension, prosecution, and rehabilitation. This workshop offers a general overview of the system and highlights of legislative changes and financial investments in distinct areas such as law enforcement, sentencing, corrections, and reentry.

State-Tribal Relations (Room 472) – An overview of state-tribal relations with an emphasis on Montana. Issues of sovereignty, government-to-government relationships, legal jurisdiction, treaty rights, relevant Montana statutes, and recent issues inside and outside of the legislature will be discussed.

Website Review (Room 152) – Get a glimpse of the new Lists & Notifications feature in Bill Explorer and review Saved Filters (personalized reports) across Bill Explorer, Committee Explorer, and Legislator Explorer. There will also be a demo of IPTV, the new closed circuit television system in the Capitol, and Media Explorer, the new location to watch live stream of legislative events.

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Property Tax & School Funding 201 (Room 172) – Delve more into property taxes and school funding and explore tools to understand the nexus. Topics will include 2025 changes to local government levy limits, the workings of HB 483, HB 156, and the 95 mills, and school district funds beyond the district general fund. *Recommended attendance at Property Tax 101 and School Funding 101 or a basic understanding of those topics.*

Medicaid Policy Landscape (Room 154) – Medicaid basics along with policy and funding updates as a result of the 2025 Session and federal HR 1, including: community engagement requirements and exemptions, changes to eligibility and redetermination, state vs. federal contributions, and provider tax limitations.

Water Law Basics (Room 455) – From the early days of trapping and mining to today's recreation and housing needs, water has always been closely tied to Montana's development. As our state has developed, the legislature has also adapted to meet the changing needs of the state. Learn more about the basics of water law, state funding for water projects, and hot topics about water.

Federal Fiscal Impacts (Room 472) – Staff will review the financial and programmatic impact of significant federal actions that have occurred since the close of the 2025 session. The primary topic will be HR 1, which was signed into law in July 2025 and significantly affects both revenues and expenditures in Montana.

LUNCH (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Meet in the Rotunda to reconnect and enjoy a BBQ Sandwich Buffet. Feel free to eat outside on the lawn, weather permitting.

CLOSING SESSION (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.):

Improving Your Session Gameplan: Notes from Senior Staff (Room 317) – Senior staff of the legislature will share observations and examples of legislator and leadership choices during session. You can see how those choices impact outcomes.

2026 WEEK AT A GLANCE				
Monday, June 22	Tuesday, June 23	Wednesday, June 24	Thursday, June 25	Friday, June 26
Interim Budget Committees (IBCs)	Interim Budget Committees (IBCs)	- Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) - Legislative Audit Committee (LAD)	- Plenary Session - Workshops - IT Assistance - Dinner	- Workshops - IT Assistance - Closing Session