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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

May 4, 2026
Room 154 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Minutes logs provide an annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of a meeting and the time at which a topic is presented or discussed, a motion made, or a vote taken. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion in the video. The minutes log is only a guide to the video of the meeting. The official record of the meeting is the video. Minutes logs can be accessed at <https://committees.legmt.gov> and videos can be accessed at <https://media.legmt.gov>.

For more information, please contact:

The Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for policy committees;
The Legislative Fiscal Division at 406-444-2986 for fiscal committees; or
The Legislative Audit Division at 406-444-3122 for the Legislative Audit Committee.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Theresa Manzella, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Marc Lee, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
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:

Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

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

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH MANAGEMENT: JERRY HOWE, LEGISLATIVE SERVICES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • ANGUS MACIVER, LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR • AMY CARLSON, LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST • TODD EVERTS, LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTOR • DALE GOW, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER • RACHEL WEISS, RESEARCH DIRECTOR • ANGIE CARTER, FINANCIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR • KELLY DASILVA HR DIRECTOR

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:01:12 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

OPENING REMARKS

08:01:56 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

08:02:29 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

EMERGING ISSUE - VETERANS CLAIM CONSULTING

Veterans Guardian

08:03:27 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

08:03:42 John Blomstrom, Manager, Government & Public Affairs, Veterans Guardian & Member, National Association for Veterans Rights (NAVR)

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

08:16:54 Peter O'Rourke, President, NAVR

Public Comment

08:23:15 Irene Dickerson, Vice Commander, American Legion of Montana (MT Legion)

08:29:01 Shannon Wilson, National Legislative Committee Person of Montana, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

08:34:38 Roger Hagan, National Vice Chair, Legislative Commission, MT Legion

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

08:38:04 Duane Cunningham, Department Adjutant, MT Legion

Committee Discussion / Questions

08:41:46 Rep. Kelly Kortum

08:42:07 Roger Hagan, MT Legion

08:43:01 Rep. Kathy Love

08:43:09 John Blomstrom, Veterans Guardian

08:45:03 Rep. Lukas Schubert

08:45:19 Peter O'Rourke, NAVR

08:46:59 Sen. Wendy McKamey

08:47:13 Roger Hagan, MT Legion

08:50:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

08:50:41 John Blomstrom, Veterans Guardian

08:53:04 Peter O'Rourke, NAVR

EMERGING ISSUE - RESIDENCY V. DOMICILE

Staff Summary

09:01:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

09:02:02 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

09:21:48 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
09:23:02 Andria Hardin, LSD
09:24:28 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
09:25:12 Rep. Lukas Schubert
09:25:53 Andria Hardin, LSD
09:27:16 Sen. Wendy McKamey
09:29:37 Andria Hardin, LSD
09:31:08 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
09:31:32 Andria Hardin, LSD
09:32:58 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
09:33:46 Andria Hardin, LSD
09:42:23 Sen. Wendy McKamey
09:43:23 Andria Hardin, LSD
09:44:32 Rep. Kelly Kortum
09:45:01 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
09:46:27 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, LSD

EMERGING ISSUE - ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

Staff Summary

09:47:07 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
09:47:26 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Public Comment

09:55:18 Elizabeth Hale, Helena Resident
09:55:48 Tom Stusek
[EXHIBIT 8](#)
09:59:14 Rep. Kelly Kortum

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:01:42 Rebecca Power, LSD
10:02:09 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:03:26 Tom Stusek
10:03:52 Sen. Wendy McKamey
10:04:48 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
10:05:47 Rep. Eric Tilleman
10:06:03 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:07:09 Rep. Lukas Schubert
10:07:36 Rep. Peter Strand
10:08:21 Rep. Kelly Kortum

10:08:56 Rep. Kathy Love
10:09:34 Rebecca Power, LSD
10:09:53 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

10:11:40 **Recessed**
10:26:10 **Reconvened**

Clerk and Recorder Input on Signature Verification Process for Voter Registration

10:26:11 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:26:19 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
10:27:36 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk and Recorder, Ravalli County
10:28:38 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, LSD

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35: STUDY OF VOTER LIST MAINTENANCE & INTEGRITY
The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) Data**

10:29:36 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:29:51 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

10:51:08 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
10:51:47 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:52:38 Rebecca Power, LSD
10:54:24 Regina Plettenberg, Clerk and Recorder, Ravalli County
10:55:18 Rep. Kelly Kortum
10:55:38 Rebecca Power, LSD
10:56:01 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
10:56:54 Rebecca Power, LSD

Voters of Unsound Mind: Litigation Update

10:57:32 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, LSD

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:06:31 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:07:02 Andria Hardin, LSD
11:11:39 Sen. Wendy McKamey
11:19:32 Rep. Peter Strand
11:20:19 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:20:41 Rep. Kelly Kortum
11:20:58 Andria Hardin, LSD
11:22:29 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:22:49 Andria Hardin, LSD
11:23:29 Rep. Eric Tilleman

11:25:21 Rep. Peter Strand
11:27:09 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
11:29:49 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
11:30:17 Andria Hardin, LSD
11:30:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:31:53 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 11](#)
11:32:37 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:34:58 Rebecca Power, LSD

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER SAVA JURISDICTION

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

11:35:36 David Sanders
11:41:44 Rep. Kelly Kortum
11:42:54 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:43:36 Elizabeth Hale, Helena Resident
11:45:27 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:46:01 EJ Redding, Veterans Guardian
11:47:58 Elizabeth Hale, Helena Resident
11:48:29 Jacob Rosen, Forward Montana
11:50:24 Hannah Gale, Missoula Resident

Committee Discussion / Questions

11:53:29 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
11:54:44 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

11:55:24 **Recessed**
13:03:18 **Reconvened**

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 48: STUDY OF MOVING THE PRIMARY ELECTION

13:03:19 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
13:03:53 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
[EXHIBIT 13](#)
[EXHIBIT 14](#)
[EXHIBIT 15](#)
[EXHIBIT 16](#)
[EXHIBIT 17](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

13:11:14 Rep. Lukas Schubert
13:12:28 Rebecca Power, LSD
13:13:01 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Committee Work Session

- 13:13:44 Rebecca Power, LSD
- 13:14:06 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Public Comment

- 13:14:33 Jennifer Hensley, Lobbyist, Missoula County

Committee Discussion / Questions

- 13:19:19 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
- 13:20:58 Rebecca Power, LSD
- 13:21:48 Rep. Lukas Schubert
- 13:22:56 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

Motion

- 13:23:57 Rep. Eric Tilleman moved to keep the primary and school election dates as they currently are.

Discussion on the Motion

- 13:24:41 Rep. Lukas Schubert
[EXHIBIT 19](#)
- 13:26:33 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

Vote

- 13:27:44 Carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella, Rep. Lukas Schubert, Rep. Kathy Love, and Rep. Kelly Kortum voting no. Sen. Mike Cuffe by proxy.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (DOA)

DOA Centralization Initiatives

- 13:29:27 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
- 13:29:53 Misty Ann Giles, Director, DOA
[EXHIBIT 20](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

- 13:59:33 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
(See Exhibit 20)
- 13:59:56 Dir. Misty Ann Giles, DOA

DOA Centralization Initiatives - Continued

- 14:01:44 Kevin Gilbertson, Chief Information Officer, State Information Technology Services Division, DOA
(See Exhibit 20)

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

- 14:16:27 Rep. Kelly Kortum
- 14:16:39 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA

14:17:19 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
(See Exhibit 20)
14:17:42 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA
14:18:18 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:18:37 Kevin Gilbertson, DOA

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLITICAL PRACTICES (COPP)

14:22:48 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:23:58 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:24:32 Chris Gallus, Commissioner of Political Practices, COPP

MEMBER TOPIC: ELECTION SUPPORT PILOT PROGRAM

Programs in Other States

14:35:14 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:35:28 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 21](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

14:45:43 Rep. Kelly Kortum
14:46:04 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:47:52 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
14:48:06 Rep. Lukas Schubert
14:48:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:48:28 Rebecca Power, LSD
14:51:32 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
14:52:12 Rep. Kelly Kortum
14:52:32 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Motion

14:53:01 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau moved to direct staff to put together a provisional draft to apply jury duty protections to election workers.
14:53:54 Rebecca Power, LSD

Vote

14:54:17 Carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Mike Cuffe by proxy.

Committee Discussion / Questions - Continued

14:54:33 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:55:04 Rebecca Power, LSD
14:55:16 Rep. Kelly Kortum
14:56:27 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
14:56:39 Rebecca Power, LSD
14:57:08 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:57:19 Rebecca Power, LSD

14:58:17 Rep. Eric Tilleman
14:58:34 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
14:58:49 Rep. Kelly Kortum

Motion

15:00:01 Rep. Kelly Kortum moved to direct staff to put together a provisional draft to allow youths ages 16 and older to serve as election judges, and that they be given an excused absence from school on election day and community service hours for their time.

Vote

15:00:48 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

15:01:26 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 22](#)

Public Comment

15:03:48 Elizabeth Hale, Helena Resident
15:04:22 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Committee Discussion / Questions

15:04:43 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
15:05:26 Andria Hardin, LSD
15:08:11 Rep. Lukas Schubert
15:08:44 Andria Hardin, LSD
15:09:26 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

15:09:47 **Recessed**

15:15:12 **Reconvened**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE (SOS)

Response to Committee Requests – SOS Presentation and Committee Discussion

15:15:13 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:15:44 Austin James, Chief Legal Counsel & Director of Elections, SOS
15:18:15 Stuart Fuller, Elections Specialist, SOS
[EXHIBIT 23](#)
15:45:21 Sen. Wendy McKamey
15:45:48 Stuart Fuller, SOS
15:46:43 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
15:46:56 Stuart Fuller, SOS
15:48:02 Dir. Austin James, SOS
[EXHIBIT 24](#)
[EXHIBIT 25](#)
16:35:31 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

16:36:06 Dir. Austin James, SOS
16:53:47 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
16:54:09 Dir. Austin James, SOS
16:54:26 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
17:11:12 Rep. Kelly Kortum
17:11:54 Dir. Austin James, SOS
17:13:21 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
17:13:56 Dir. Austin James, SOS
17:15:33 Rep. Kelly Kortum
17:16:17 Dir. Austin James, SOS
17:18:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
17:18:24 Dir. Austin James, SOS

Public Comment

17:21:47 Keegan Nashan, Livingston Resident
[EXHIBIT 26](#)
17:27:24 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
17:28:01 Barbara Reed, Helena Resident
[EXHIBIT 27](#)

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Legislation Idea Tracker

17:32:03 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
17:32:17 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 28](#)

Provisional Draft 1 - Forwardable Voter Registration Notifications

17:38:49 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 29](#)
17:40:31 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Provisional Draft 2 - Changing Frequency of Death Notifications to County Clerks

17:41:36 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 30](#)
17:42:42 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Provisional Draft 3 - Align Filing Deadlines for Special District & School Elections

17:46:42 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 31](#)
17:47:28 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Committee Discussion / Questions

17:48:04 Rep. Peter Strand
17:48:38 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Provisional Draft 4 - Providing Funding for 3 Additional Veteran Service Officers

17:48:55 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 32](#)
17:49:26 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

Committee Work Plan

17:50:34 Rebecca Power, LSD
[EXHIBIT 33](#)

Committee Discussion / Questions

17:52:36 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
17:53:09 Rebecca Power, LSD
17:54:34 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
17:56:11 Rep. Peter Strand
17:56:42 Rep. Eric Tilleman
17:57:16 Rebecca Power, LSD
17:58:27 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
17:58:36 Rep. Peter Strand
17:59:04 Rebecca Power, LSD
17:59:41 Rep. Lukas Schubert
18:00:53 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
18:01:03 Rebecca Power, LSD
18:01:32 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:02:04 Andria Hardin, Legal Staff, LSD
[EXHIBIT 34](#)
18:05:14 Sen. Wendy McKamey
18:08:16 Rep. Lukas Schubert
18:08:57 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:10:08 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
18:10:51 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
18:11:18 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
[EXHIBIT 35](#)
18:11:44 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:12:27 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
18:12:53 Rep. Peter Strand
18:13:46 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
18:14:08 Rebecca Power, LSD
18:14:44 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
18:16:38 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:22:06 Vice Presiding Officer Marc Lee
18:23:14 Sen. Wendy McKamey
18:24:08 Rep. Kathy Love

18:24:38 Andria Hardin, LSD
18:25:02 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
18:25:36 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:26:24 Andria Hardin, LSD

Motion

18:27:05 Rep. Kelly Kortum moved to direct staff to draft a subpoena for the Montana Secretary of State's Office (SOS) requesting the headers in the data file of voter records that the SOS shared with the federal government.

Discussion on the Motion

18:27:31 Rep. Kathy Love
18:27:47 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:28:03 Rebecca Power, LSD
18:28:12 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
18:28:36 Andria Hardin, LSD
18:29:29 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
18:29:44 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:31:29 Rep. Lukas Schubert
18:32:12 Andria Hardin, LSD
18:32:56 Rebecca Power, LSD
18:33:16 Rep. Mark Reinschmidt
18:33:32 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:33:47 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella
18:33:57 Rep. Lukas Schubert
18:34:04 Rep. Kelly Kortum
18:36:34 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
18:36:54 Andria Hardin, LSD

Vote

18:37:49 Carried 6-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Mike Cuffe, Sen. Wendy McKamey, Rep. Mark Reinschmidt, Rep. Lukas Schubert, and Rep. Eric Tilleman voting no. Sen. Mike Cuffe by proxy.

MEETING WRAP UP

18:39:15 Rebecca Power, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
18:39:39 Presiding Officer Theresa Manzella

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:39:46