



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Comm. Secy
LINDA McCULLOCH

HB 484: Clarify receipt of absentee ballot is not permanent
House State Admin, RM 455
February 16, 2011 @ 8 AM
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

EXHIBIT # 5
DATE 2-16-11
HB 484

- Good morning Madam Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I support this bill, because it will help to eliminate possible confusion regarding the administration of absentee ballots in elections.
- Thank you Representative Squires for introducing this legislation. It's simple, and needed.
- Montana has an "annual" absentee ballot list. Despite popular terminology used by the public, the media, and even this legislature, the list is not "permanent."
- In order for voters to receive their absentee ballot, they must annually verify their address. It's a quick and easy process, and yet there are folks who ask why they must verify their address each year if they are on a "permanent" list.
- Nearly 50% of voters cast an absentee ballot in the 2010 General Election. Some counties reached nearly 80% absentee turnout.
- Clarifying the rules for obtaining a ballot on the annual absentee list will help these voters, and the future voters who sign up to vote by absentee ballot.
- Vote "yes" for HB 484. Thank you for your time this morning.