

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Call to Order:** Chair Jon Sonju, on January 21, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Jon Sonju, Chair (R)  
Sen. Art Wittich, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Shannon Augare (D)  
Sen. Edward Buttrey (R)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)  
Sen. Alan Olson (R)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Leanne Kurtz, Legislative Branch  
Kirk Lundby, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 150, 1/17/2011; SB 155, 1/17/2011; SB 180 1/18/2011

**HEARING ON SB 155**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:28 Sen. Bob Hawks (D), SD 33, opened the hearing on SB 155, Revise establishment of election precincts.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:38 Gordon Morris, representing the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:07:56 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)  
[EXHIBIT\(los16a01\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:47 Vice Chair Wittich  
00:12:27 Sen. Hawks  
00:13:57 Vice Chair Wittich  
00:14:17 Sen. Hawks  
00:15:24 Sen. Tutvedt  
00:15:46 Sen. Hawks

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:17:01 Sen. Hawks  
00:17:27 Sen. Vuckovich  
00:18:01 Chairman Sonju

**HEARING ON SB 150**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:19:19 Sen. Art Wittich (R), SD 35, opened the hearing on SB 150, Provide for protection of rights through actions against public officials.  
00:28:49 Sen. Gallus entered the committee room

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:30:13 Niki Sardot  
[EXHIBIT\(los16a02\)](#)

00:32:28 Gary Marbut, President, Montana Shooting Sports Association (MSSA)  
 00:36:51 Charles Woolley  
 00:37:37 Tom Baird, representing the Lewis and Clark County Tea Party (LCCTP)  
 00:38:26 Tim Ravndal  
 00:40:00 Vincent Vaccarro

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:41:27 Bill Gianoulis, Chief Defense Counsel, Montana Risk Management and Tort Defense Division (RMTD)

00:52:33 Marty Lambert, representing the Gallatin County Commissioners

**EXHIBIT(los16a03)**

00:56:48 Jan Anderson, representing the Montana Newspaper Association and the Boulder Monitor

**EXHIBIT(los16a04)**

01:00:44 Bob Gilbert, representing the City of Glendive

01:03:56 Ross Swanson, Deputy Warden, Montana State Prison

01:05:03 Pam Bunke, Administrator, Department of Corrections

01:07:02 Tim Twardoski, Executive Director, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

01:08:28 John Barrows, Executive Director, Montana Newspaper Association

**EXHIBIT(los16a05)**

01:09:44 Gordon Morris, representing the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners

01:10:57 Alec Hanson, representing the Montana League of Cities and Towns (LCT)

01:11:33 Tom Schneider, representing the Montana Public Employee Association (MPEA)

01:12:23 Sharon Blunn, representing herself

**EXHIBIT(los16a06)**

01:15:48 Al Smith, representing the Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

01:16:45 Mark Murphy, representing the Montana County Attorneys Association (CAA)

01:18:11 Butch Huseby, Deputy Chief, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)

01:22:47 Nancy Sweeney, Clerk of District Court, Lewis and Clark County

01:23:56 Sarah Corbally, representing the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

01:25:01 J.C. Weingardner, representing the Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT)

01:25:42 John MacDonald, representing the City of Missoula

01:26:04 Andy Hunthausen, County Commissioner, Lewis and Clark County

01:26:29 Bob Vogel, representing the Montana School Boards Association

01:26:56 Allen Hulse, representing the Montana Municipal Authority

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:27:44 Sen. Gallus

01:29:05 Marty Lambert

01:29:49 Sen. Buttrey

01:30:44 Vice Chair Wittich

01:32:28 Sen. Olson  
01:36:30 Vice Chair Wittich  
01:36:37 Sen. Olson  
01:36:45 Vice Chair Wittich  
01:36:56 Sen. Vuckovich  
01:38:04 Vice Chair Wittich  
01:38:57 Sen. Vuckovich  
01:40:16 Chairman Sonju  
01:40:25 Vice Chair Wittich  
01:40:34 Sen. Moss  
01:41:39 Vice Chair Wittich

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:42:41 Vice Chair Wittich  
01:47:16 Recess  
01:54:55 Reconvened  
01:55:10 Sen. Sonju turned chairmen duties over to Vice Chair Wittich

**HEARING ON SB 180**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:55:28 Sen. Jon Sonju (R), SD 4, opened the hearing on SB 180, Substitute term criminal mischief damage for damage to rental property.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:56:22 John Sinrud, representing the Montana Landlords Association (MLA)  
01:56:58 Jerry Hackett, Harlowtown  
01:58:08 Bill Staffeldt, (MLA)  
02:00:05 Don Knox, Lewistown  
02:01:33 Rick Linafelter, President, Great Falls Landlords Association  
02:02:28 Cleora Lodge, Bozeman  
02:02:58 William Semenza, President, Helena Landlords Association  
02:03:46 Sharon Lodge, Bozeman

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:04:37 Chairman Wittich  
02:05:18 Sen. Sonju  
02:05:39 Chairman Wittich  
02:06:06 John Sinrud (MLA)  
02:09:19 Chairman Wittich  
02:09:25 John Sinrud

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:09:33 Sen. Sonju

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment:  
02:10:02

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Kirk Lundby, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([los16aad.pdf](#))**