



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 8 3-18-2011

By **LINDA McCULLOCH**

Title No. HB 180

HB 180: Eliminate Election Day Voter Registration
Senate State Administration, Rm 335
March 18, 2011 @ 3 PM
Secretary Linda McCulloch's Testimony

- Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.
- I am here today to respectfully, but strongly oppose House Bill 180, because I believe that eliminating same-day voter registration runs counter to the core freedoms that our country was founded on.
- Liberty. Democracy. The right to vote. Those are principles that should never be infringed upon by bureaucracy and government imposed timelines.
- That's something I think you and I can agree upon. It's also something I know **18,747** Montanans can agree upon.
- **18,747** Montanans have used Election Day registration to vote in a statewide election since 2006. ***See Handout: Election Day Voter Registration by Senate District.
- These are real people in each and every one of your legislative districts. These are Montanans who have voted in your elections.
- They are also our military voters.
 - The 2009 Legislature passed a bill authorizing Montana's absent military and overseas citizen voters, or (UOCAVA voters), to late register through the close of polls on Election Day. (MCA 13-21-201)
 - Removing this right could prevent members of our military from voting in 2012, and would be a step backward in affording absent military voters every opportunity to cast a ballot in Montana.
- Voting is one of the most fundamental rights we share as citizens of this great state and nation. This right is the foundation upon which our Democracy is formed.
- So, if you support "Freedom" and you support "Democracy," then how can you support a bill that could turn your neighbors away at the polls?
- That's exactly what HB 180 will do. It will strip away someone's right to vote.
- When you cast your vote on this bill, ask yourself, "Do I support bureaucracy or do I support Democracy?" I urge a "no" on House Bill 180. Thank you for your time this afternoon.