



Montana Legislative Services Division
Office of the Executive Director

To all existing and prospective legislators:

GET READY FOR THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION!
Legislator Caucuses, Orientation & Continuing Education

In the next few months, the Montana Legislative Council will sponsor several events to help prepare new and returning legislators for the 2015 session (see events in bold). The council has tentatively established dates for these events, although they are subject to change. **Please reserve these important dates!** All Legislative events will be held in the ***State Capitol in Helena***. You will be reimbursed for the costs of attending.

After the November election, election winners will receive more information about these events. We will also be posting information on the legislative branch website at leg.mt.gov as the time nears. We need your experience and expertise! Good luck to all of you on Election Day!

SAVE THE DATES!

| Activity / Event | Dates |
|--|---|
| General Election | Tuesday, November 4, 2014 |
| <i>Caucus Breakfasts</i> | <i>Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 8 a.m.</i> |
| <i>Senate Caucuses</i> | <i>Wednesday, November 12, 2014 (10 a.m.)</i> |
| <i>House Caucuses</i> | <i>Wednesday, November 12, 2014 (10 a.m.)</i> |
| <i>Legislator Orientation</i> | <i>Wednesday, November 12 (starting at 1 p.m.) to Friday, November 14 (ending at noon)</i> |
| <i>Legislative Dinner</i> | <i>Wednesday, November 12 (evening)</i> |
| Bobcat-Grizzly Football Game | Saturday, November 22 |
| Thanksgiving Holiday | Thursday, November 27 |
| <i>Rules Committee: Training and Hearing on Rules</i> | <i>Wednesday, December 3, 2014 (morning)</i> |
| <i>Committee Chair Training</i> | <i>Wednesday, December 3, 2014 (afternoon)</i> |
| <i>Ethics/Budget Training</i> | <i>Thursday, December 4, 2014</i> |
| Start of 64th Legislative Session | Monday, January 5, 2015 (noon), House & Senate Chambers |
| <i>Law School for Legislators</i> | <i>Tuesday, January 6, 2015 - morning joint session</i> |
| <i>Legislative Rules Training</i> | <i>Tuesday, January 6, 2015 - afternoon joint session</i> |
| <i>Ethics Training</i> | <i>Wednesday, January 7, 2015 - morning joint session</i> |

(over)

About These Events

Senate and House Party Caucuses: All legislators will meet with the members of their party and chamber to elect leadership and conduct other pre-session business.

New Legislator Orientation: This 2.5-day training will be packed with sessions on legislative processes and procedures to assist all legislators during the session. First we will attend to administrative matters such as legislator pay and benefits. We'll then cover topics ranging from facilities, staff, and computer services to the session basics of bill drafting, budgeting, media, constituent services, and committees to help you hit the ground running. Several activities for legislative spouses are also being planned.

Legislator Dinner: Sponsored by the Legislative Council to give you a chance to meet your colleagues from both sides of the aisle and both chambers. The evening will include a fun activity based on our shared Montana heritage to help break the ice and inspire you.

Rules Committee Training and Hearing, and Committee Chair Training: Members of the Joint, Senate, and House Rules Committees will meet to receive some training on rules and to consider the rules for the 2015 session as proposed by the Legislative Council. There will also be a training for newly appointed chairs and vice-chairs of committees and joint subcommittees to go over committee procedures, rules, and effective techniques for facilitating committee discussion, public testimony, and executive action.

Law School for Legislators: This half-day event is open to all legislators and is intended to give legislators a nutshell look at legal terminology, reasoning, and application, as well as pressing legal issues facing Montana.

Legislative Rules Training: This program, sponsored by the Legislative Council, will provide continuing education for all legislators on selected Joint, Senate, and House rules. It also will cover Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure and any proposed changes to legislative rules.

Veteran Legislators! Please consider attending all of the legislator orientation -- the agenda will be available soon! We will be holding a session on committees and collecting your committee preference forms for leadership at that time. And your experience will be valuable in the mentoring process of new legislators! If you are a veteran legislator and would like more information or will help with the New Legislator Orientation, please contact Susan Byorth Fox, Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division, at (406) 444-3066 or sfox@mt.gov. Thanks!