



Nominating Committee for Commissioner of Political Practices

65th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

SCOTT SALES
JON SESSO

HOUSE MEMBERS

AUSTIN KNUDSEN
JENNY ECK

COMMITTEE STAFF

SUSAN FOX, Executive Director
LAURA SHERLEY, Secretary

MINUTES LOG

Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Room 472, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides a notation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video record of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. SCOTT SALES
SEN. JON SESSO

REP. AUSTIN KNUDSEN
REP. JENNY ECK

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

NONE

STAFF PRESENT

SUSAN BYORTH FOX, Executive Director
LAURA SHERLEY, Committee Secretary

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 1](#))

AGENDA ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

NONE

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

- 00:00:06 Sen. Sales called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The committee secretary recorded roll ([Attachment 3](#)).
- 00:00:50 Rep. Eck asked Sen. Sales to review the interview process. Ms. Fox provided an outline of the interview questions ([Exhibit 1](#)).

INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Commissioner of Political Practice Applicant -- Michael Larson

Applicant Introduction

- 00:02:37 Mr. Larson ([Exhibit 2](#))

Questions 1 and 2: Outline Qualifications and Give Reason for Applying to the Commissioner of Political Practice Position

- 00:06:30 Mr. Larson

Question 3: Detail Experience with Campaigns, Candidates, Political Parties or Committees

- 00:08:43 Mr. Larson

Question 4: Provide Examples from Past Experience that Demonstrate Abilities to Interpret Statutes, Legal Opinions, and Regulations and Experience with Judicial or Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

- 00:10:30 Mr. Larson

Question 5: Provide further Information or Ask Questions of the Committee Pertaining to the Commissioner or Political Practices Position

- 00:12:41 Mr. Larson

Committee Questions

- 00:16:05 Rep. Knudsen asked Mr. Larson to detail how he would handle different contrasting aspects of the Commissioner of Political Practices position.
- 00:19:17 Sen. Sesso asked Mr. Larson to detail why he wants to be Commissioner of Political Practices and how this position fits in his career path.

Commissioner of Political Practices Applicant -- Jamie MacNaughton

Applicant Introduction

- 00:21:08 Ms. MacNaughton ([Exhibit 3](#))

Questions 1 and 2: Outline Qualifications and Give Reason for Applying to the Commissioner of Political Practice Position

- 00:23:40 Ms. MacNaughton

Question 3: Detail Experience with Campaigns, Candidates, Political Parties or Committees

- 00:26:02 Ms. MacNaughton

Question 4: Provide Examples from Past Experience that Demonstrate Abilities to Interpret Statutes, Legal Opinions, and Regulations and Experience with Judicial or Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

00:27:16 Ms. MacNaughton

Question 5: Provide further Information or Ask Questions of the Committee Pertaining to the Commissioner or Political Practices Position

00:29:23 Ms. MacNaughton

Committee Questions

00:30:33 Sen. Sesso asked Ms. MacNaughton to detail why she wants to be Commissioner of Political Practices and how this position fits in her career path.

Commissioner of Political Practices Applicant -- Michael Black

Applicant Introduction

00:32:48 Mr. Black ([Exhibit 4](#))

Questions 1 and 2: Outline Qualifications and Give Reason for Applying to the Commissioner of Political Practice Position

00:34:30 Mr. Black

Question 3: Detail Experience with Campaigns, Candidates, Political Parties or Committees

00:42:50 Mr. Black

Questions 4 and 5: Provide Examples from Past Experience that Demonstrate Abilities to Interpret Statutes, Legal Opinions, and Regulations and Experience with Judicial or Quasi-Judicial Proceedings and Provide further Information or Ask Questions of the Committee Pertaining to the Commissioner or Political Practices Position

00:45:30 Mr. Black

Committee Questions

00:47:48 Rep. Knudsen asked Mr. Black to detail how he would handle different contrasting aspects of the Commissioner of Political Practices position.

00:50:34 Sen. Sales asked Mr. Black if he believes it is prudent that the Commissioner of Political Practices handles the investigating, trying, and convicting aspects of a case collectively.

Commissioner of Political Practices Applicant -- Debbie Shea

Applicant Introduction

00:53:38 Ms. Shea ([Exhibit 5](#))

Questions 1 and 2: Outline Qualifications and Give Reason for Applying to the Commissioner of Political Practice Position

00:55:06 Ms. Shea

Question 3: Detail Experience with Campaigns, Candidates, Political Parties or Committees

00:58:43 Ms. Shea

Question 4: Provide Examples from Past Experience that Demonstrate Abilities to Interpret Statutes, Legal Opinions, and Regulations and Experience with Judicial or Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

00:59:44 Ms. Shea

Question 5: Provide further Information or Ask Questions of the Committee Pertaining to the Commissioner or Political Practices Position

01:00:45 Ms. Shea asked for clarification of the day-to-day proceedings for the Commissioner of Political Practices.

01:04:32 Ms. Shea commented on her desire and qualifications for the position.

Committee Questions

NONE

Commissioner of Political Practices Applicant -- Jeff Mangan
Applicant Introduction

01:05:54 Mr. Mangan ([Exhibit 6](#))

Questions 1 and 2: Outline Qualifications and Give Reason for Applying to the Commissioner of Political Practice Position

01:07:25 Mr. Mangan

Question 3: Detail Experience with Campaigns, Candidates, Political Parties or Committees

01:11:14 Mr. Mangan

Question 4: Provide Examples from Past Experience that Demonstrate Abilities to Interpret Statutes, Legal Opinions, and Regulations and Experience with Judicial or Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

01:12:04 Mr. Mangan

Question 5: Provide further Information or Ask Questions of the Committee Pertaining to the Commissioner or Political Practices Position

01:13:24 Mr. Mangan commented on the importance of the educational aspect of the Commissioner of Political Practices.

Committee Questions

01:14:42 Rep. Knudsen asked Mr. Mangan to detail how he would handle different contrasting aspects of the Commissioner of Political Practices position.

01:17:03 Sen. Sesso asked Mr. Mangan to detail why he wants to be Commissioner of Political Practices and how this position fits in his career path.

Commissioner of Political Practices Applicant -- Benjamin Tiller

Applicant Introduction

01:19:45 Mr. Tiller ([Exhibit 7](#))

Questions 1 and 2: Outline Qualifications and Give Reason for Applying to the Commissioner of Political Practice Position

01:22:04 Mr. Tiller

Question 3: Detail Experience with Campaigns, Candidates, Political Parties or Committees

01:24:37 Mr. Tiller

Question 4: Provide Examples from Past Experience that Demonstrate Abilities to Interpret Statutes, Legal Opinions, and Regulations and Experience with Judicial or Quasi-Judicial Proceedings

01:26:14 Mr. Tiller

Question 5: Provide further Information or Ask Questions of the Committee Pertaining to the Commissioner or Political Practices Position

01:27:22 Mr. Tiller commented on the importance for the Commissioner of Political Practices candidate be an attorney or person with a legal background due to the nature of the position's work.

01:28:29 Mr. Tiller spoke on his legal background and work ethic.

Committee Questions

01:29:05 Rep. Knudsen asked Mr. Tiller to detail how he would handle different contrasting aspects of the Commissioner of Political Practices position.

ADJOURNMENT

01:32:30 Sen. Sales recessed the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

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