Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Montana, at the hour of 12:00 noon, the House of Representatives of the 59th Legislature of the State of Montana was called to order by the Honorable Brad Johnson, Secretary of State of the State of Montana.

The Montana National Guard under the leadership of Chief Dawn Trbovich posted the colors. Secretary Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation was given by Rev. George Harper. Secretary Johnson thanked the Montana National Guard and Rev. Harper.

Chief Clerk Marilyn Miller called the roll of the members of the House of Representatives of the 59th Legislature.

District 1, Ralph Heinert
District 2, Rick Maedje
District 3, Dee Brown
District 4, Mike Jopek
District 5, George Everett
District 6, Ver Dell Jackson
District 7, Jon Sonju
District 8, Tim Dowell
District 9, William Jones
District 10, Bernie Olson
District 11, Janna Taylor
District 12, Jeanne Windham
District 13, Paul Clark
District 14, Gordon Hendrick
District 15, Joey Jayne
District 16, Carol C. Juneau
District 17, Rick Ripley
District 18, Joe Mckinney
District 19, Mike Milburn
District 20, George Golie
District 21, Tim Callahan
District 22, Bill Wilson
District 23, John Parker
District 24, Eve Franklin
District 25, Sue Dickenson
District 26, Kathleen Galvin-Halcro
District 27, Llew Jones
District 28, John Witt
District 29, Edward Butcher
District 30, Jim Peterson
District 31, Margarett Campbell
District 32, Jonathan Windy Boy
District 33, Bob Bergren
District 34, John Musgrove
District 35, Wayne Stahl
District 36, Karl A. Waitschies
District 37, Walter McNutt
District 38, Ralph Lenhart
District 39, Carol Lambert
District 40, Gary Matthews
District 41, Norma Bixby
District 42, Veronica Small-Eastman
District 43, Monica J. Lindeen
District 44, William Glaser
District 45, Alan Olson
District 46, Mark E. Noennig
District 47, Dennis Himmelberger
District 48, Wanda Grinde
District 49, Roy Brown
District 50, Tom McGillvray
District 51, Robyn McGillvray
District 52, Arlene Becker
District 53, Elsie Arntzen
District 54, Gary Branau
District 55, Michael Lange
District 56, Don Roberts
District 57, Penny Morgan
District 58, Emelie Eaton
District 59, Joan Andersen
District 60, Jack W. Ross
District 61, Bruce Malcolm
District 62, Pat Wagman
District 63, Bill Warden
District 64, Larry Jent
District 65, Brady Wiseman
District 66, Christopher Harris
District 67, John Sinrud
District 68, Scott Sales
District 69, Jack Wells
District 70, Roger Koopman
District 71, Diane Rice
District 72, Debby Barrett
District 73, Art Noonan
District 74, George Groesbeck
District 75, Jim Keane
District 76, Jon Sesso
District 77, Scott Mendenhall
District 78, Jill Cohenour
District 79, Dave Gallik
District 80, Mary Cafiero
District 81, Christine Kaufmann
District 82, Hal Jacobson
District 83, Harry Klock
District 84, John Ward
District 85, Cynthia Hiner
District 86, Dan Villa
District 87, Ron Stoker
District 88, Bob Lake
District 89, Gary MacLaren
District 90, Ray Hawk
District 91, Kevin Furey
District 92, Robin Hamilton
District 93, Rosalie Buzzas
District 94, Dave McAlpin
District 95, Tom Facey
District 96, Teresa Henry
District 97, David Wanzenried
District 98, Holly Raser
District 99, Gail Gutsche
District 100, John Balyeat
All members present. Quorum present.

Brad Johnson, Secretary of State of the State of Montana, extended greetings to the members on behalf of the State of Montana and then delivered the following speech:

"Before the Chief Justice administers the oath of office to all of you, I would like to take a few minutes to say what an honor and privilege it is to be here presiding over this very important event. This is a historic moment in a very historic setting. Little more than an hour ago I was sworn in as Montana’s Secretary of State. Governor Schweitzer was sworn in as Montana’s new Governor. Now you are about to be sworn in as members of the Montana House of Representatives. I look forward to working with Governor Schweitzer and all of you. While we have our individual duties to perform, it is incumbent upon all of us to serve the people of Montana to the utmost of our collective ability.

We have just been through an historic election with record turnouts and record turnabouts. Although this is a House divided evenly between two great political parties – Democrat and Republican – you are not in fact a House divided in the sense that you are a House about to fall. We are here together sharing a common purpose. The people of Montana have seen fit to send us here, and now we must live up to their most noble expectations. The people of Montana sent us here as representatives of their own diversity. The only mandate we have is to work together to administer a system of government that is not only civic-minded, but civil. We are here to represent the people, not ourselves.

As Secretary of State, one of the things I am going to be doing is reaching out to young Montanans all across this great state of ours, encouraging them to be active and informed participants in our very vital political processes. Montana’s youth are critical to how we unfold as a self-governing body of diversely opinioned citizens. None of us is without a constituency that did not vote for us. With that in mind, let us conduct our mutual business in this hallowed Capitol with the utmost dignity and the utmost respect for one another.

I salute all of you for being here. I salute all of the people who voted to send you here. While we are Democrats and Republicans in this elected body, more importantly we are all fellow citizens and fellow Montanans."

Secretary of State Johnson introduced the Honorable Karla Gray, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Montana. Chief Justice Gray administered the following oath of office:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Montana and that I will discharge the duties of my office as a member of the House of Representatives with fidelity, so help me God."

Secretary of State Johnson informed the members of the House of Representatives that he had been advised that all oaths of office had been signed and received. These were presented to Chief Justice Gray for her acknowledgment and then filed in the Secretary of State’s office.

Secretary of State Johnson called for nominations for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Representative John Parker nominated Representative David Wanzenried, House District 97 to be the Speaker of the House. Secretary of State Johnson asked if there were any further nominations.

Representative Keane nominated Representative Gary Matthews.

Representative Facey nominated Representative Roy Brown. Representative Brown declined the nomination.

Representative Golie nominated Representative Sales. Representative Sales declined the nomination.

Representative Clark nominated Representative Noennig. Representative Noennig declined the nomination.

Representative Eve Franklin nominated Representative Joe McKenney. Representative McKenney declined the nomination.

Representative Clark nominated Representative Mike Lange. Representative Lange declined the nomination.
Representative Brown moved the nominations be closed.

Total 53

Total 47

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

Secretary Johnson asked that all Representatives voting for Representative Wanzenried press the nay (red) button and all Representatives voting for Representative Matthews press the aye (green) button.

Total 53

Total 47

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

Secretary Johnson declared that Representative Matthews had been duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 59th Legislature. Speaker Matthews was escorted to his chair on the Rostrum.

Representative Parker moved the following be nominated as officers of the House of Representative for the 59th Legislature:

Chief Clerk - Marilyn Miller
Sergeant-at-Arms - Nancy Clark

The House officers were unanimously elected.

Speaker Matthews appointed a committee of six members to the Rules Committee:
The House adjourned for the Rules Committee to meet in the Speaker’s office.

The House reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

The Rules Committee will meet after today’s session.

Representative Brown made the following comments:

"Mr. Speaker, members of the body, friends, relatives, and the people of Montana, thank you for the opportunity to make a few brief comments.

What a difference a couple of years make! 2 years ago there was a $250 million deficit. Many said, "Raise taxes; increase spending so we can meet the need." Our side of the aisle said, "Hold the line on spending so we can grow our economy out of a deficit."

That is exactly what happened. Now our percentage of job growth, income growth and unemployment rate are among the best in the nation. In 2 years we turned a $250 million deficit into a $300 million surplus because we held that line on spending and made more taxpayers instead of raising taxes.

The drum beat grows to increase spending again. Budgets have been proposed that even exceed the statutory limits on growth in spending.

We cannot go back to the tax-and-spend philosophy that failed so miserably in the past. We are now climbing up the economic ladder slowly but surely.

And if we do not succumb to the temptation to be all things for all people, the working families of Montana can continue to climb that economic ladder to a better future.

Timing is everything. For the past 8 years, we have put in place the rungs on that ladder to grow our economy.

Through the marvels of an unjust redistricting plan, through help from the courts and through a level of complacency by a Republican majority in this state, the Democrat political hierarchy can now try to take credit for what we have done.

A Democrat governor, a Democrat Senate and a divided House with a Democrat leader means Democrats now control whether we continue up that ladder to a better future.

The people in this chamber are watching. The people in those galleries are watching. The people across this state are watching.

Let’s not disappoint them.

Thank you very much. God bless."

Representative Parker moved that the Speaker appoint a committee of four members to inform the Governor that the House is now organized and ready for business. Motion carried. Speaker Matthews appointed Rep. Buzzas, Chairman, Rep. Alan Olson, Rep. Wiseman and Rep. Morgan.

Representative Parker moved that the Speaker appoint a committee of four members to notify the Senate that the House is now organized and ready for business. Motion carried. Speaker Matthews appointed Rep. Bixby, Chairman, Rep. Roberts, Rep. Lenhart, and Rep. Andersen.


Mr. Speaker directed the House to stand at ease to await the report of the Select Committee from the Senate and the three Select Committees of the House.

Rep. Wanzenried made the following remarks.
"We begin the 2005 Legislature in the midst of great challenges and opportunities.

By now, we have all received letters commending us on our willingness to sacrifice by being away from home and family to serve our great state.

We must, however, keep our deliberations here in the proper context and perspective.

It is in that spirit that I ask that we observe several moments of silence to honor the brave women and men in the armed forces, especially those abroad in harm’s way, who are making far more significant sacrifices, including the possibility of the ultimate sacrifice.

Following the moment of silence, please extend an expression of peace to one another.

With the permission of the House, I would like to make the expression of peace part of daily routine following the pledge of allegiance.

We convene this session believing that we can make a difference.

We must cooperate.

We must work together.

Hard-working Montanans demand that we roll up our sleeves, put our shoulder to the wheel and get to work.

There has been a great deal of attention given to the fact that, at least from a partisan standpoint, the House is evenly divided. 50 - 50.

Throughout the session, it will be our charge to form a team of 100, mindful that we will be judged by the fruits of our labors, not by the number of proposals and spoken words.

Each day, we must remind ourselves that our deliberations are not about those of us in this magnificent setting, in this building, in Helena - - - no, instead, it is about the people outside of this building:

Kids and teachers, workers, truck drivers, sawyers, clerks, seniors, farmers and ranchers, the Indian Nations, homeowners, small business-owners, those with disabilities, and those without hope.

We must recognize the significance of this opportunity and bring forward reasoned proposals to address the many challenges facing our state.

The state’s economy and its overall poor performance should be our number one concern.

We frequently refer to our home as “The Last Best Place.”

Tragically, when compared statistically to other states, in too many important measures, Montana has become “The Best Place to Be Last” (or close to it). Yes, there are some promising signs, but, this has to be tempered by the recognition that there has been very little job growth (other than to replace jobs lost previously) and very little wage growth (other than for those holding jobs for extended periods).

And, yes, our unemployment rate compares us favorably to other states. However, in Indian Country, unemployment exceeds 70 percent!

An unemployment rate of 70 percent would be unacceptable in any of our urban areas - - - it should be no less acceptable in American Indian communities.

Montana’s first citizens deserve our special consideration.

Beginning with kick-starting Montana’s economy, we must adopt not only a ‘Can do’ attitude, but a ‘Can do better’ attitude as well.

We must forge strong partnerships with the business community. This will assist in the creation of a robust economy that will allow us to care for our less fortunate neighbors, to educate our kids and to protect this place we call home.

It is time that we regard some government expenditures as investments, not simply as costs.

It is time that we take a step forward to begin the process of investing meaningfully in human resource development.

Sound and measured investments in education at all levels kindergarten through grade 12, technical colleges, tribal colleges, community colleges and our University system are key to better equipping and adapting our workforce now and in the future to compete in a global economy.

These, as well as investments in workforce development, job-training and job-retraining, are essential, if we are to reverse the out-migration of too many younger Montanans and skilled workers. Currently, they leave because they cannot afford the costs of education here or to seek better financial opportunities elsewhere.

We need to direct our attention to the plight and opportunities of small businesses, which comprise 88 percent of all businesses in Montana. Providing incentives and initiatives, including venture capital for entrepreneurs, will assist in strengthening and expanding this important base of our economy.

Additionally, far too many workers in Montana have no health insurance and too many small businesses cannot afford to offer health insurance to their workers.

We must carefully examine the feasibility of extending tax credits to small businesses and the formation of shared risk pools, so that they can offer health insurance coverage for their workers.

We can do better. We must do better.
Too many Montanans are one medical examination away from economic ruin. We must also stop the cost shifting to other patients with health insurance. We must search for ways to bring down the costs of prescription medications. As we deliberate on health care issues, however, we must be mindful that federal dollars for Medicaid are likely to be slashed and that state matching dollars must be stretched creatively to the limit.

Simply acknowledging the challenges posed by an aging population and the costs of medical care is not enough. It will take an investment. We must recognize that the consequences of inattention, indifference and inaction are very costly to Montanans.

Natural resources have been an essential part of our state’s legacy and will continue to play an important part of our state’s future. We must commit ourselves and those who seek to develop our resources to the principles of good stewardship. We must protect our pristine waters and air and the untamed vistas that anchor us to this very special place. We must ensure that Montanans have access to public lands to hunt, fish and recreate.

Finally, we must find a way to provide property tax relief to homeowners and small businesses.

I commit to creating a working environment that is open, fair and respectful.

We must all commit ourselves to burn the midnight oil whenever necessary to catch up . . . hard-working Montanans should expect no less. And, as I challenged last session, just when we believe our work is completed, we need to step back and ask ourselves, “Is this really the best that we can do?” Let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work.”

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

A committee from the Senate composed of Senators Gillan, Chairman, Smith and Brueggeman were admitted and reported to the House that the Senate was organized and ready for any legislation the House might care to send it.

The committee appointed to notify the Senate that the House is ready for business reported it had done so. The committee was thanked and discharged.

The committee appointed to notify the Supreme Court that the House is ready for business reported it had done so. The committee was thanked and discharged.

The committee appointed to notify the Governor that the House is ready for business reported it had done so. The committee was thanked and discharged.

FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS

The following House bills were introduced and read first time:

HB 1-9, HB 11-13, HB 121-218

The following House joint resolution was introduced and read first time:

HJR 1

The following House Bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

HB 10, introduced by Matthews, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 14, introduced by Golie, referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 15, introduced by Keane, referred to Appropriations.
HB 16, introduced by Ripley (by request of the State-Tribal Relations Committee), referred to Education.
HB 17, introduced by Buzzas (by request of the Montana Historical Society), referred to State Administration.
HB 18, introduced by Juneau (by request of the State-Tribal Relations Committee), referred to State Administration.
HB 19, introduced by Andersen, referred to Local Government.
HB 20, introduced by Dickenson (by request of the Board of Public Education), referred to Education.
HB 21, introduced by Gallik (by request of the Department of Administration), referred to State Administration.
HB 22, introduced by McNutt (by request of the Environmental Quality Council), referred to Natural Resources.
HB 23, introduced by Parker (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 24, introduced by Golie (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to Human Services.
HB 25, introduced by Roberts (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to Human Services.
HB 26, introduced by Golie (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to Human Services.
HB 27, introduced by Noennig (by request of the Montana Historical Society), referred to State Administration.
HB 28, introduced by Wanzenried (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to Appropriations.
HB 29, introduced by Golie (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to Business and Labor.
HB 30, introduced by Wanzenried (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to State Administration.
HB 31, introduced by Roberts (by request of the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee), referred to State Administration.
HB 32, introduced by Cohenour (by request of the Department of Public Health and Human Services), referred to Human Services.
HB 33, introduced by Gallik, referred to Judiciary.
HB 34, introduced by McNutt (by request of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 35, introduced by Jent (by request of the State Administration and Veterans’ Affairs Interim Committee), referred to State Administration.
HB 36, introduced by Lambert (by request of the Public Employees’ Retirement Board), referred to Appropriations.
HB 37, introduced by Lambert, referred to Agriculture.
HB 38, introduced by McNutt (by request of the Department of Revenue), referred to Taxation.
HB 39, introduced by Gutsche (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 40, introduced by Harris (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 41, introduced by Wilson (by request of the State Auditor), referred to Business and Labor.
HB 42, introduced by Stahl, referred to Judiciary.
HB 43, introduced by Musgrove, referred to Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications.
HB 44, introduced by Dickenson, referred to Appropriations.
HB 45, introduced by A. Olson (by request of the Department of Administration), referred to State Administration.
HB 46, introduced by Parker (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 47, introduced by Galvin-Halcon (by request of the Office of Public Instruction), referred to Appropriations.
HB 48, introduced by Dickenson, referred to Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications.
HB 49, introduced by Wilson (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 50, introduced by Roberts (by request of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 51, introduced by A. Olson (by request of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation), referred to Natural Resources.
HB 52, introduced by Cohenour (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Transportation.
HB 53, introduced by Jacobson (by request of the Legislative Audit Committee), referred to Business and Labor.
HB 54, introduced by Small-Eastman (by request of the Department of Revenue), referred to Taxation.
HB 55, introduced by Wanzenried (by request of the Department of Transportation), referred to Transportation.
HB 56, introduced by Warden (by request of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 57, introduced by Harris, referred to Natural Resources.
HB 58, introduced by Harris, referred to Judiciary.
HB 59, introduced by Harris, referred to Human Services.
HB 60, introduced by Harris, referred to Human Services.
HB 61, introduced by D. Brown, referred to Judiciary.
HB 62, introduced by Harris, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 63, introduced by Villa (by request of the Office of Public Instruction), referred to Education Select Committee.
HB 64, introduced by R. Brown (by request of the Legislative Council), referred to Human Services.
HB 65, introduced by Maedje, referred to Transportation.
HB 66, introduced by Jent (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 67, introduced by Jent (by request of the Department of Administration), referred to State Administration.
HB 68, introduced by Andersen, referred to Judiciary.
HB 69, introduced by Barra, referred to Natural Resources.
HB 70, introduced by Stahl, referred to Local Government.
HB 71, introduced by Lake, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 72, introduced by Peterson (by request of the Department of Revenue), referred to Taxation.
HB 73, introduced by Buzzas, referred to Local Government.
HB 74, introduced by Buzzas, referred to Education.
HB 75, introduced by Buzzas, referred to Local Government.
HB 76, introduced by Buzzas (by request of the Legislative Finance Committee), referred to Appropriations.
HB 77, introduced by B. Olson (by request of the Department of Environmental Quality), referred to Natural Resources.
HB 78, introduced by Harris (by request of the Department of Environmental Quality), referred to Natural Resources.
HB 79, introduced by Golie (by request of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 80, introduced by Campbell (by request of the Department of Public Health and Human Services), referred to Human Services.
HB 81, introduced by Ross, Lange, referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 82, introduced by Ross, Lange, referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 83, introduced by Campbell (by request of the Office of Public Instruction), referred to Education.
HB 84, introduced by Kaufmann (by request of the Department of Revenue), referred to Taxation.
HB 85, introduced by Kaufmann (by request of the Department of Revenue), referred to Taxation.
HB 86, introduced by Kaufmann (by request of the Department of Revenue), referred to Agriculture.
HB 87, introduced by Ward, (by request of the Department of Transportation) referred to Transportation.
HB 88, introduced by Caferro (by request of the Department of Public Health and Human Services), referred to Human Services.
HB 89, introduced by Witt (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Business and Labor.
HB 90, introduced by Kaufmann (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 91, introduced by Harris, referred to Judiciary.
HB 92, introduced by B. Olson, referred to Local Government.
HB 93, introduced by Harris, referred to Transportation.
HB 94, introduced by Sinrud, referred to Judiciary.
HB 95, introduced by Sinrud, referred to Judiciary.
HB 96, introduced by Sinrud, referred to Business and Labor.
HB 97, introduced by Lange, Himmelberger, Roberts, referred to Judiciary.
HB 98, introduced by Lange, Himmelberger, Roberts, referred to Judiciary.
HB 99, introduced by Lange, Himmelberger, Roberts, referred to Judiciary.
HB 100, introduced by Maedje, referred to Judiciary.
HB 101, introduced by Villa (by request of the Department of Transportation), referred to Transportation.
HB 102, introduced by Lenhart (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to State Administration.
HB 103, introduced by Driscoll (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Local Government.
HB 104, introduced by Lenhart (by request of the Teachers’ Retirement Board), referred to State Administration.
HB 105, introduced by Parker, referred to Local Government.
HB 106, introduced by Stahl (by request of the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee), referred to Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications.
HB 107, introduced by Jent (by request of the Department of Administration), referred to State Administration.
HB 108, introduced by Furey (by request of the Department of Labor and Industry), referred to Business and Labor.
HB 109, introduced by Jent (by request of the Department of Administration, the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
HB 110, introduced by Furey (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 111, introduced by Branae (by request of the Office of Public Instruction), referred to Education.
HB 112, introduced by Musgrove (by request of the Legislative Audit Committee), referred to State Administration.
HB 113, introduced by Jent (by request of the Department of Justice), referred to Judiciary.
HB 114, introduced by Witt, referred to State Administration.
HB 115, introduced by McNutt (by request of the Property Tax Exemption Study Committee), referred to Taxation.
HB 116, introduced by Barrett, referred to State Administration.
HB 117, introduced by McGillivray (by request of the Department of Public Health and Human Services), referred to Human Services.
HB 118, introduced by McNutt (by request of the Department of Administration), referred to Business and Labor.

HB 119, introduced by Golie (by request of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

HB 120, introduced by Facey (by request of the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks), referred to Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The following House joint resolution was introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

HJR 2, introduced by Waitschies (by request of the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee), referred to Taxation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rules Committee will meet in Room 350 at 3:00 p.m.

Representative Parker moved that the House adjourn until 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2005. Motion carried.

House adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

MARILYN MILLER  GARY MATTHEWS
Chief Clerk of the House  Speaker of the House