

2010 SURVEY ON INTERIM PROCESSES

From whom the responses were received:

Arizona Chief Clerk of the House

Missouri Secretary of the Senate

Montana Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division

Oregon Legislative Administration Committee Services Manager

Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council Director

Key:

B=Both chambers

S=Senate

H=House

NA=Not applicable

Selection of Interim Topics or Projects

State	By adoption of a bill or resolution	From a list prioritized by input from all legislators	By legislative leader(s)	By the committee	By the committee chair	By a joint nonpartisan commission, council or committee	Other
Alaska							
Arizona			H	H			
Missouri	S		S				
Montana	B	B				B	B
New Mexico							
Oklahoma							
Oregon	B		B	B	B		
Wisconsin	B	B	B			B	

Note:

Montana Senate and House. The process includes all three checked above: a list of resolutions is given to all legislators; it is prioritized by number of votes and approved by the Legislative Council.

Type(s) of Committees Used to Perform Interim Work

State	Standing committees	Special, select or ad hoc committees	Task forces	Public-private committees	Other
Alaska					
Arizona	H	H	H	H	
Missouri	S	S			
Montana		B			B
New Mexico					
Oklahoma					
Oregon	B	B	B	B	
Wisconsin				B	

Note:

Montana Senate and House. We have separate interim committees appointed both from membership of the standing committees and other legislators.

Interim Committees Most Frequently Are:

State	Single house committees	Joint committees	Combination of single house and joint committees	Other
Alaska				
Arizona			H	
Missouri			S	
Montana		B		
New Mexico				
Oklahoma				
Oregon	B			
Wisconsin		B		

Who Acts as the Committee Chair

State	The standing committee chair	A member selected by legislative leader(s)	A member selected by the interim committee	The sponsor of the bill or resolution	Other
Alaska					
Arizona	H		H		
Missouri		S			S
Montana			B		
New Mexico					
Oklahoma					
Oregon		B			
Wisconsin		B			

Note:

Missouri Senate. The chair can be determined by the wording of the resolution or by where the resolution originated.

Who Typically Serve as Members

State	Legislators	Representatives from the executive branch	Representatives from the judicial branch	Representatives from local government	Representatives from the business sector	Citizens	Other
Alaska							
Arizona	H	H	H	H	H	H	
Missouri	S						
Montana	B						B
New Mexico							
Oklahoma							
Oregon	B	B	B	B	B	B	
Wisconsin	B			B	B	B	

Note:

Montana Senate and House. There is one committee that includes public members and a nonvoting representative of the governor's office. All others are legislators only.

How Members Are Selected

State	The standing committee membership remains intact	They are appointed by legislative leader(s)	They are appointed by a Senate or House committee on committees	They are appointed by a joint nonpartisan commission, council or committee	Other
Alaska					
Arizona	H	H			H
Missouri		S			
Montana		H	S		
New Mexico					
Oklahoma					
Oregon	B	B			
Wisconsin				B	

Note:

Arizona House. Some members are appointed by the governor.

Who Staffs the Interim Committees

State	Standing committee staff	Joint nonpartisan research staff	Senate or House/Assembly research staff	Caucus research staff	Research staff hired by the chair	Clerical staff hired by a joint nonpartisan commission, council or committee by	Clerical staff hired by the chair	Other
Alaska								
Arizona			H					H
Missouri		S	S					
Montana		B						B
New Mexico								
Oklahoma								
Oregon		B						
Wisconsin		B						

Note:

Arizona House. Committee secretaries currently on staff also assist.

Montana Senate and House. Staff attorneys who also are standing committee staff assist the researchers with interim committee staffing.

How Interim Committee Meetings Are Scheduled

State	At the call of the chair	At the call of the chair within limits set by legislative leader(s)	At the call of the chair with approval of a joint nonpartisan commission, council or committee	By the legislative leader(s)	By a joint nonpartisan commission, council or committee	Other
Alaska						
Arizona	H			H		
Missouri	S					S
Montana						B
New Mexico						
Oklahoma						
Oregon	B	B				
Wisconsin	B					

Note:

Missouri Senate. Specific wording may be included in the resolution or bill.

Montana Senate and House. The interim committee adopts a tentative schedule at the beginning of the interim. The draft is developed by the research staff and is adopted by the committee, which may change the schedule as the interim progresses.

How Interim Committees Are Funded

State	By special appropriation	From the Senate or House/Assembly budget	From a joint nonpartisan commission, council or committee budget	From a standing committee budget	Other
Alaska					
Arizona		H			
Missouri		S			
Montana					B
New Mexico					
Oklahoma					
Oregon		B			
Wisconsin			B		

Note:

Montana Senate and House. A specific program under the Legislative Services Division (nonpartisan permanent arm) for interim activities that pays for legislators' per diem and salary and committee expenses, not including staff.

Powers of Interim Committees

State	Draft legislation or amendments	Profile legislation	Recommend floor action	Conduct investigations	Conduct public hearings	Conduct special studies	Oversee agencies or programs	Other
Alaska								
Arizona				H	H	H	H	H
Missouri					S			
Montana	B	B			B	B	B	
New Mexico								
Oklahoma								
Oregon	B	B		B		B	B	
Wisconsin	B			B	B	B		

Note:

Arizona House. The committees may recommend—but not draft—legislation.

Interim Committees Must Report on Their Activities

In the following chambers, interim committees are not required to report on their activities.
Oregon Senate and House

In the following chambers, interim committees are required to report on their activities.
Arizona House
Missouri Senate
Montana Senate and House
Wisconsin Senate and Assembly

How Interim Committees Report on Their Activities

State	Written report(s) to the legislature	Written report(s) to a nonpartisan commission, council or committee	Written report(s) to leadership	Oral report(s) to the legislature	Oral report(s) to a nonpartisan commission, council or committee	Oral reports to leadership	Recommendations or draft legislation	Meeting minutes	Other
Alaska									
Arizona	H		H					H	
Missouri	S							S	
Montana	B						B	B	
New Mexico									
Oklahoma									
Oregon									NA
Wisconsin	B	B			B		B	B	

Interim Committee Work Is Monitored

In the following legislatures or chambers, interim committee work is not monitored.
Missouri Senate
Montana Senate and House

In the following legislatures or chambers, interim committee work is monitored.
Arizona House
Oregon Senate and House
Wisconsin Senate and Assembly

Who Monitors Interim Committees Work

State	Legislative leader(s)	Committee chair	Joint nonpartisan commission, council or committee	Other
Alaska				
Arizona	H			
Missouri				NA
Montana				(1)
New Mexico				
Oklahoma				
Oregon	B			
Wisconsin			B	

Note:

Montana Senate and House. The committee and committee chair monitor themselves, but if they need additional funding or other support, they may contact the joint nonpartisan Legislative Council.