

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:55 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:54

Your Full Name:

Sandra Kindt

Email Address:

sandy.kindt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Virtual sessions

Your Comment:

I am in favor for the Joint Rules Committee to hold the legislative sessions virtually, or delay the start until vaccinations are accessible to everyone.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:52

Your Full Name:
Gayleen Strachan

Email Address:
strachangayleen@gmail.com

Subject Line:
In-person hearings

Your Comment:
Please do not hold in person hearings during the pandemic. We all need to do our part to prevent the spread and in-person hearings at this time would be irresponsible and put the Helena community at risk.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:40 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:40

Your Full Name:

john ilgenfritz

Email Address:

jgilgenfritz@msn.com

Subject Line:

liberty & safety

Your Comment:

"Give me Liberty or give Death", probably the most famous Patrick Henry quote. However, the current pandemic situation is surely one that would benefit from some common sense and respect for others. Health experts are warning of a possible super spread in Helena, if there are large gatherings in Helena during the legislative session. With the acknowledgement of rights come also the acceptance of respect and responsibility for the common good. Sometimes the choice does not have to be an "either/or" situation. We have loss family and friends to covid-19. My sister and daughter are nurses, please respect them and follow the guidance of health providers. Would you want 150 plus legislators descending upon your towns and putting your friends, neighbors, family and constituents at risk?

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:35 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:35

Your Full Name:

Sally Maison

Email Address:

Sally.Maison3@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Please hold the Legislative session remotely

Your Comment:

Covid is killing Montanans. The Legislature needs to be a role model for safety. Hence it seems imperative to hold the session virtually.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:33 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:33

Your Full Name:

Tammy Swinney

Email Address:

tammeraswinney@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Upcoming Legislative Session

Your Comment:

Given the severity of the pandemic, it is imperative that our state legislators follow public health guidelines for your own safety, the safety of your fellow legislators and staff, the safety of your family members, and the safety of our community at-large. Therefore, the 2021 Montana legislative session should be conducted remotely. There is an assumption that holding the session remotely will deter public involvement. To the contrary, it will allow more Montanans to actively engage, as less time will be needed to travel (often in inclement weather) to Helena. I will definitely be more engaged in the upcoming session if I can observe my elected officials conducting official business from the safety and comfort of my home and computer screen. Please, do not treat our public health and safety like a political football. The sooner everyone works together as a community and follows public health protocols, the sooner all our lives can return to normal. Respectfully, Tammy Swinney Belgrade, MT

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:23

Your Full Name:

Kelsey Rothing

Email Address:

kelseyrothing@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Meet in Person!

Your Comment:

The legislature has to meet in person for 2021. The public legally is allowed to watch these things and if you meet online, we cannot. We did not send you to Helena to do your job however you feel like. If you are not willing to meet in person, you are not serving the people of Montana. Step down or meet in person. It's that simple. The people of Montana are tired of politicians serving themselves and not the people.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:23 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:22

Your Full Name:
Krystal Steinmetz

Email Address:
krystal.steinmetz@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Legislature Should Follow Public Health Directives & Meet Virtually

Your Comment:
In the interest of protecting the health and safety of all Montanans, I urge the Montana Legislature to hold the 2020 session virtually. Based on some lawmakers' flagrant disregard for public health guidelines, which were on-display when legislators failed to properly wear face masks and maintain social distancing when meeting for in-person caucuses in Helena in November, I don't see how the Legislature can convene in Helena without unnecessarily risking the health and safety of lawmakers, legislative staff, and the Helena community. Follow the request of the Lewis & Clark County Board of Health and please, meet virtually, until it's safe to convene in-person.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:12

Your Full Name:
Jackson Wetherill

Email Address:
406climber@gmail.com

Subject Line:
The concern for Helena's public safety and health

Your Comment:
I am asking the Joint Rules Committee to consider conducting the upcoming session in a remote format due to the recent surge in Covid-19 cases in Lewis and Clark County. It seems incredibly irresponsible for the leaders of our government to take unnecessary risks to themselves, not to mention the added risk it brings to our local Helena community. I am asking you to consider common sense, the CDC health guidelines, and your fellow citizens when considering holding a dangerous, risky, in-person legislative session.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 12:11

Your Full Name:

Jenny Sowell

Email Address:

Sowell_3@msn.com

Subject Line:

meetings

Your Comment:

It is crucial right now to hold meetings virtually and protect everyone from the virus. I am shocked that anyone would suggest otherwise!

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:52

Your Full Name:
Margarita McLarty

Email Address:
mclarty1@outlook.com

Subject Line:
Virtual Legislative meetings

Your Comment:
You folks have a unique opportunity to turn the tide of this pandemic and save lives. Please adjust the upcoming legislative sessions to be held virtually until we all have access to vaccination. If our school children can manage to attend class online, surely our legislators can master zoom technology. You will gain great respect and credibility with your constituents if you take action to prevent more deaths and mandate that our 2021 legislature meet online rather than in our beloved capital.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:45

Your Full Name:

Sheena Wilson

Email Address:

wiljan717@msn.com

Subject Line:

Meeting in person vs remotely

Your Comment:

Please carefully consider the citizens of your host community when you decide where/how to meet in the midst of the expanding pandemic. Gathering in Helena, especially given the apparent reluctance of so many members to consistent mask usage, is a huge risk to those of us who live in Helena. If the kids can do it at home...so can you.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:34 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:34

Your Full Name:

Adam L Potts

Email Address:

adamlpotta@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Legislative Session Format

Your Comment:

Please consider making the '21 legislative session virtual, rather than in-person. The state is seeing our highest rates of coronavirus transmission yet, and Helena itself is a hotspot. A large in-person gathering with people from all over the state would be a prime way to drive our case numbers higher still, and carry the disease into whatever corners it hasn't yet reached. Much of our state's population, especially in its rural counties, is comprised of older citizens, and it would be foolish to unnecessarily expose them to this terrible disease. I like to think us Montanans pride ourselves on our diligence and common sense. Please prove me right and exercise some common sense about how to handle the legislative session amidst this pandemic.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:25

Your Full Name:
Catherine Costakis

Email Address:
costakisce@gmail.com

Subject Line:
COVID rules for the upcoming session

Your Comment:

As a public health professional, I find it very concerning that many legislators are not taking COVID precautions/public health recommendations seriously. This is setting a poor example to the people of Montana and the country. It is not a matter solely of personal responsibility (i.e., each person needs to make their own personal decision as to how they are going to behave). Other people are affected by people's "personal decisions". We don't say it is up to each of us "personally" that we don't smoke indoors or that we don't yell fire in a crowded building. Some decisions affect the health and welfare of others. If we really want to get our economy up and running again, we need to get this virus under control. This is not a partisan statement...it is public health. It is science. If everyone just would play by the rules...simple rules...then we can save lives and get through this together. If our own leaders do not play by these simple rules and lead by example...then there is a much greater chance this winter will be a very deadly one for many Montanans. Is it really that hard to wear a mask, socially distance, wash hands, not gather in groups indoors without masks (i.e., legislative session) to potentially save the lives of our fellow Montanans...our friends, our families, our neighbors? Many of our hard working public health professionals, and their families, are being harassed at their work and at their homes. This is happening across our state. Our frontline healthcare workers are exhausted and traumatized trying to keep Montanans alive. When you don't follow these simple guidelines, you also put these hardworking Montanans at risk. PLEASE do the right thing. Be leaders!

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:25 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:25

Your Full Name:

Patricia Klanke

Email Address:

patriciaklanke@gmail.com

Subject Line:

COVID-19 Protocols

Your Comment:

Dear Members: As a resident of Helena, I am increasingly concerned about the pending arrival of legislators from around the state, who will then be gathering in large numbers in the Capitol building, before heading out to restaurants, grocery stores, and rented accommodations in our community. Members of our community are doing our best to avoid large gatherings and travel. Our high schools were recently closed to in-person instruction because of staffing difficulties caused by increased COVID-19 infection rates. Our health care workers are openly begging people to follow public health recommendations, because facilities and personnel are at their max. I support the amendments proposed by Reps. Farris-Olsen and Abbott and Sens. Flowers and Cohenour to hold a remote session and/or require masks to be worn and physical distancing implemented at all times within the Capitol complex. The upcoming session represents a very real danger to my community and its schools and businesses.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:18

Your Full Name:

Stephanie Potts

Email Address:

sllaporte@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Please vote yes to holding session virtually!

Your Comment:

I am writing today to ask you to please follow the recommendations of public health officials and the request of Lewis and Clark County officials and hold the 2021 legislative session virtually. Coronavirus rates in our community are rising, and this is an easy choice to make to help keep the citizens of Montana safe. In addition, I am worried about the impact that holding an in person session will have on people being able to participate in government this year. Citizen participation during the legislative session is an important process. I know that personally, I would not feel comfortable traveling to Helena to participate in a live session because I have a number of high risk family members. I know that they also would not feel comfortable participating. However, technology exists to help hold meetings virtually. As a member of the Missoula Consolidated planning board, I experienced how virtual technology for public meetings can be successful. I also know that technology has vastly improved since March. I have also participated in a number of conferences and other online discussions during this Past year, and have noticed how holding things virtually actually makes it easier for people to participate. The fact of the matter is, it takes a lot of time money and resources to drive to Helena for the day to participate in government or attend a hearing. Holding the legislative session virtually will allow more of the citizens of Montana to participate in the government and in our legislative session past year, and have noticed how holding things virtually actually makes it easier for people to participate. The fact of the matter is, it takes a lot of time money and resources to drive to Helena for the day to participate in government or attend a hearing. Holding the legislative session virtually will allow more of the citizens of Montana to participate in the government and in our legislative session: this would be a very positive outcome, in addition to keeping everyone safer. I am confident in the legislature's ability to hold an open, participatory, safe legislative session through virtual means. These are unusual and unprecedented times, it is important that our leaders Protect the citizens, and protect our right to participate in our state government. Thank you for considering my comments, and again, please vote to hold the legislative session virtually.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:10

Your Full Name:
Beth Kampschorr

Email Address:
bkampschorr@gmail.com

Subject Line:
please hold the 2021 session virtually

Your Comment:
I'm writing to respectfully request that the Joint Rules Committee decide to either hold the 2021 session of the Montana Legislature virtually in January, or to postpone the session for several months. It would be irresponsible to hold an in-person session when our hospitals are filling, and our health care workers across the state are exhausted. Thank you for considering my comment.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:09 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:09

Your Full Name:
Patricia Rosenleaf

Email Address:
prosenleaf1@gmail.com

Subject Line:
Following a state mandate

Your Comment:
Dear GOP legislators: I would expect that "leaders" in our state would have sense enough not to meet in large groups but would use Zoom or some other virtual platform. Why would you subject yourselves, your loved ones, and innocent people on the street to this deadly virus? It has nothing to do with courage and more to do with blatant stupidity to encourage large meetings with people from all over the state.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:05

Your Full Name:

Amy Zarndt

Email Address:

abzarndt@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Upcoming Legislative Session

Your Comment:

As a resident of Gallatin County I am writing to request that the upcoming Legislative Session be held virtually for the health and safety of those attending as well as every community in the state that those legislators will be returning to. Holding the session virtually will not only help protect the health of all Montanans, it will also set a conscientious and caring model of responsibility for all Montana citizens. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:04 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:03

Your Full Name:

Any Ophus

Email Address:

mythus99@hotmail.com

Subject Line:

2021 Legislative Session

Your Comment:

Please hold session virtually this year! Bringing an influx of people into Helena, many of which have publicly denounced wearing a mask, will only put our community in further danger of pandemic spread. Please, please hold session virtually. Anything else would be a blatant disregard for our city, county, and state's safety, the very safety of the people you are sworn to represent.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:02

Your Full Name:

David McWethy

Email Address:

davemcwethy@gmail.com

Subject Line:

Session Hearings

Your Comment:

In light of covid impacts on the health and safety of all Montanans it is critical that all Montana Legislature and related sessions be held virtually

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:02 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:01

Your Full Name:

Tara Preston

Email Address:

tara.chesley@gmail.com

Subject Line:

2021 Legislative Session and COVID-19

Your Comment:

I am writing to ask that the Joint Rules Committee follow the recommendations of the Lewis and Clark county health officer and health board and hold the 2021 Legislative Session virtually. The State IT staff have invested significant time into making sure this is a possibility. As someone who moved into a home office in March and had to learn to conduct all of my business virtually, I can assure you it is possible and quite productive. Please listen to the experts and keep our communities safe. In particular those in vulnerable populations. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:

—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/

Fox, Susan

From: webmaster@localhost.legmt.gov
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2020 11:01 AM
To: Fox, Susan; Spencer, Nadine; Everts, Todd
Subject: Submission from Joint Rules Committee

Submit Information to the Joint Rules Committee

Date: 7th December 2020 11:00

Your Full Name:
SHANNON ROBERTS

Email Address:
aspen604@msn.com

Subject Line:
Please conduct legislature virtually

Your Comment:
As a wife of a recovering healthcare worker who was infected with COVID-19 by an unmasked co-worker in late October, I BEG you to meet virtually. We are depending on you to lead decisions for our state. Please follow suggested guidelines and meet virtually. Thank you.

Upload Written Testimony:
—

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/other-groups/house-senate-and-joint-rules-committees/jrc-pc-form/