



EXTENDED AGENDA

TUESDAY, June 18

OPENING PLENARY SESSION (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Room 303)

Economics, Demographics, and the 2027-29 State Financial Outlook

- This will be the first public presentation by the Legislative Fiscal Division on the budget outlook for the 2027 biennium, as will be budgeted for in the 2025 Legislature.

Campaign Finance Ethics

- The Commissioner of Political Practices, Chris Gallus, will provide an overview of campaign ethics, mainly focusing on changes enacted in House Bill 412, 2023.

Bill Draft Requests

- The Legal Director will discuss the process to submit bill draft requests for the 2025 session.

Website Preview

- Receive an overview of the new Bill Explorer replacing the existing Bill Lookup application and also see a demo of Bill Draft Requests, Find a Legislator, and the Legislator To Do List. For a deeper dive, please attend one of the “Legislator Portal” workshops today or tomorrow.

LUNCH (12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.)

Multiple local food trucks will be onsite to provide delicious options to enjoy while chatting with fellow legislators in the sun, if it’s shining, or in the Rotunda.

At 12:30 p.m. a tree planting ceremony will be held in memory of former Senator Mark Sweeney. Please grab a lunch and meet on the north lawn by the Meagher Statue.

AFTERNOON POLICY & FISCAL WORKSHOPS

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Property Tax 101 (Room 102) – Learn the basics of the property tax system, including how taxes are set, how revenue is used, and the availability of property tax assistance programs. Discover tools for exploring property tax data.

Behavioral Health & Criminal Justice (Room 137) – Receive an overview of behavioral health issues in Montana, including how those issues coincide with and affect the criminal justice system.

Housing: Land Use Focus (Room 152) – Alex Horowitz from PEW Charitable Trusts will open with an overview of national trends in land use regulation, and then we’ll dive into Montana legislation from the 2023 session that revised land use laws, including the Montana Land Use Planning Act (Senate Bill 382).

Energy & Montana Environmental Policy Act (Room 172) – Montana’s energy future poses significant challenges, including the Colstrip closure and a death of transmission lines, and the state’s unique Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) continues to evolve, affecting people and projects.

Legislator Portal (Room 317) – Take a deeper dive into new website technology coming for the 2025 session. Staff will be available to provide demonstrations and answer questions.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

School Funding 101 (Room 102) – Start with a big picture overview of how school funding works and then spend time working through the main formula for the school district general fund.

Childcare (Room 137) – Jenna Bannon, Associate Director of the Children and Families Program at NCSL, will provide background and policy considerations from other states while fiscal and policy staff discuss Montana programs, including the Best Beginnings Scholarship Program.

Housing: Funding Focus (Room 152) – In 2023, the Legislature appropriated \$225 million in House Bill 819 for various housing and infrastructure funding programs. Learn more about the programs and how the funds are distributed.

Wildfire Policy & Funding (Room 172) – As summer begins, the possibility of wildfire looms large in the minds of Montanans. We’ll review resources and past legislation concerning wildfire management, followed by an overview of funding for wildfire suppression efforts, with a specific focus on the changes made in the 2023 Legislative Session under House Bill 883.

Legislator Portal (Room 317) – Take a deeper dive into new website technology coming for the 2025 session. Staff will be available to provide demonstrations and answer questions.

DINNER (6:30 p.m., Broadwater Hot Springs – 4920 US-12, Helena, MT)

Come enjoy a delicious Tuscan-inspired pasta bar under the big tent (*most dietary restrictions accommodated*). Feel free to grab a drink at the cash bar and soak in the hot springs after dinner (*hot springs pass required to soak*).

WEDNESDAY, June 19

MORNING POLICY & FISCAL WORKSHOPS

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Property Tax 101 (Room 102) – Learn the basics of the property tax system, including how taxes are set, how revenue is used, and the availability of property tax assistance programs. Discover tools for exploring property tax data.

Medicaid Basics (Room 137) – Learn the basics of Medicaid eligibility, benefits, and financing. Other health programs, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicare, will also be discussed.

Pension Basics (Room 152) – Join us for an introduction to Montana's statewide pension systems, including information about plan design, funding models and sources, and information from the most recent pension interim studies.

Local Government Finances (Room 172) – Take a look at new tools developed by the Legislative Fiscal Division to accurately track local government expenditures and revenues and dive into the basics of entitlement share and special districts.

Legislator Portal (Room 317) – Take a deeper dive into new website technology coming for the 2025 session. Staff will be available to provide demonstrations and answer questions.

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Property Tax & School Funding 201 (Room 102) – Delve more into property taxes and school funding and explore tools to understand the nexus. Topics will include local government levy limits, the workings of House Bill 587 and the 95 mills, and school district funds beyond the district general fund. *Recommended attendance at Property Tax 101 and School Funding 101 or a basic understanding of those topics.*

Medicaid Expansion & Enrollment Trends (Room 137) – This workshop will provide details on Montana’s Medicaid expansion program, which started in 2016, as well as cover trends in Medicaid enrollment in Montana.

Issues in Indian Country (Room 152) – Receive an overview of selected issues of concern in Montana’s Indian country, such as Public Law 280, Medicaid expansion, and the Montana Child Welfare Act (MICWA).

Financial Outlook Q&A (Room 172) – If you have questions about how state finances may shape the upcoming legislative session or just want to understand how your policy ideas might fit into the state’s financial outlooks, please join us for a relaxed, open forum workshop.

Legislator Portal (Room 317) – Take a deeper dive into new website technology coming for the 2025 session. Staff will be available to provide demonstrations and answer questions.

LUNCH – STAFF APPRECIATION (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

"I need a Gyro!" Come enjoy favorites of the Mediterranean with a warm pita bar. Hercules not included, but good food sure to satisfy any hunger and any dietary need. Join on the South Lawn of the Capitol, weather permitting, or in the Rotunda.

CLOSING SESSIONS (1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.):

Laying the Foundation for a Successful Session (Room 317):

- Director-level staff will outline planning, goals, and actions that previous legislators have used to garner success. Legislators are encouraged to offer additional insights and add to the ideas presented. All legislators interested in leadership roles are encouraged to attend.

Bill Draft Idea Open House (Rooms 102, 137, 152, & 172):

- Chat with Research & Fiscal Analysts about your bill ideas or general questions. Staff will set up in the first-floor rooms and welcome discussion about potential research topics related to your bill ideas and will also field any follow-up questions or deeper-dive requests after the last two days' workshops. *Session may run until 5:00 p.m. depending on interest.*

Full Legislative Schedule for the Week of June 17-21

Monday June 17	Tuesday June 18	Wednesday June 19	Thursday June 20	Friday June 21
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Interim Comm. & Education Budget Comm.• Economic Affairs Interim Comm.• Environmental Quality Council• Legislative Audit Committee• HB 5 Subcommittee	LEG DAY 1	LEG DAY 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education Interim Committee• Legislative Consumer Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Interim Budget Committees:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sections A, B, C, D, E, F	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative Finance Committee