



Montana State Legislature

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Jane Gillette

House District 64

DURING THE SESSION

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COMMITTEES

Appropriations

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May 6, 2024

The Honorable Christi Jacobsen
Montana Secretary of State
Montana Capitol Building, Rm. 260
P.O. Box 202801
Helena, MT 59620-2801

Re: Request for Poll of Legislators to Convene Special Session

Dear Secretary Jacobsen:

We, the undersigned Members of the Montana Legislature, hereby request that you poll all Members of the Montana Legislature to determine whether a majority favors convening a special session in order to increase transparency in judicial elections. Pursuant to Mont. Code Ann. § 5-3-105(2), we declare the following:

- (a) The conditions warranting the call of a special session consist of an upcoming election in November 2024 to fill two vacant seats on the Montana Supreme Court. Absent reforms, Montana's current "non-partisan" judicial election system will deprive Montana voters of the most important information about the candidates running for these seats: their party affiliation. As a result, Montana voters may unknowingly cast their ballots for judicial candidates who do not share the voters' worldview.
- (b) The purpose of the proposed special session is to consider bills that would allow judicial candidates to have their party affiliations appear on ballots, thereby providing voters with important information they need to make informed choices when casting their ballots.
- (c) We propose that the special session convene at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 24, 2024.

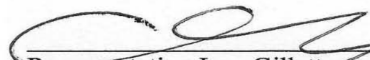
Dated: 5/3/2024


Representative Lee Deming

Dated: May 3, 2024


Senator John Fuller

Dated: 5-3-24


Representative Jane Gillette

Dated: 5/3/2024


Representative Lyn Hellegaard

Dated: 5/4/24


Representative Caleb Hinkle

Dated: 5-3-2024


Senator Greg Hinkle

Dated: 05/03/2024


Representative Braxton Mitchell

Dated: 5-2-24


Senator Brad Molnar

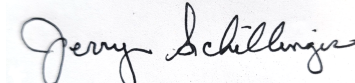
Dated: May 3, 2024


Representative Greg Ohlander

Dated: 5/4/2024


Representative Bob Phalen

Dated: 5-3-2024


Representative Jerry Schillinger

Dated: 05-03-2024


Senator Jeremy Trebas