



# MONTANA STATE LEGISLATURE

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**MONTANA STATE CAPITOL**  
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**SENATOR MARK BLASDEL**  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE  
**REPRESENTATIVE E. WYLIE GALT**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

October 5, 2021

Dear Mr. Everts and Mr. Coles:

Late last week, we were contacted by members of our caucuses regarding the creation of a Special Select Committee to review Montana's election laws and processes. As we review their request, we need clarity about what the legislative rules and Montana law require.

In the past, the Legislature utilized House Rule 30-10(7), Senate Rule 30-10(4), and Joint Rule 30-80 to create and appoint special committees. We are unaware of any other provision in law, regulation, or rule that guides the formation of special committees.

We are hoping you can clarify the process for creating special committees, including whether a special session of the Legislature is needed. Further, we need guidance regarding other mechanisms that might allow a group of legislators to conduct hearings, take testimony, examine public records and draft legislation regarding a specific topic. Lastly, if a special session is the only avenue for pursuing the goals outlined in the legislators' letter, we request an estimate for what the cost to the state would likely be.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We'd request a response to this letter by October 15, 2021. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Mark Blasdel" and the second is "E. Wylie Galt".