

Montana General Assembly

Meeting Minutes — Meeting #1 (2026)
February 25, 2026 | Not stated (teleconference)

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order on February 25, 2026 by Wayne Bows, State Coordinator (Carbon County).

Bivens Decision (read three times):

This meeting is private. Bearing false witness, misrepresentation, and posting inflammatory rhetoric in public forums is forbidden and shall be addressed in the appropriate manner to eliminate all conflict and false allegations. Is there anyone in attendance at today's meeting that is a member or agent of any law enforcement agency or public agency of the federal, state, county, city, or township agencies present? (Asked three times; no response received each time.) Anyone who is here under false pretenses, anyone who is working for any foreign government, including the territorial or municipal United States, anyone who is being paid or coerced to be here must fully disclose their presence and purpose now or leave the call.

Note: The coordinator did not have the Bivens Decision text at hand and delivered it from memory in paraphrased form. He acknowledged he had been requesting a printed copy and committed to having it properly for future calls. The spirit and substance of the three-part declaration were completed.

2. Roll Call

County roll call was conducted by Wayne Bows. Carbon County: present (Wayne Bows, Coordinator). Ravalli County: present (Beth). Flathead County: present (Jeffrey Davis). Sanders County: present (Elizabeth). Lewis and Clark County: present. Beaverhead County: absent. Note: This is the first meeting under Wayne Bows as State Coordinator following Pete Barbera's transition out of the coordinator role (completed late 2025 / early 2026).

3. Reading of Minutes

No prior minutes were presented for correction at this meeting — this is the first formally recorded meeting under the new coordinator.

4. Old Business

Meeting Protocol — Robert's Rules of Order: Wayne opened with a review of meeting structure and protocols, drawing on the Montana Assembly Protocols / Rules of Order document available on the Montana Assembly Town Square website (Assembly Packet V1). He noted that Elizabeth appears to have authored much of this document. Key protocol points discussed:

Speaker recognition: Members should identify themselves by county when speaking. In a telephone call format, a Sergeant at Arms role facilitates speaker recognition and tracks three-minute speaking limits. Members yield when done.

Committee structure: The assembly operates by committee. Any action item is handled by forming a committee, electing a chair, and reporting back. Wayne described his California Assembly experience of following this structure with a Sergeant at Arms in larger calls.

Wayne noted the current assembly is in a 'spin-back-up mode' and that while the group is small, beginning to practice formal protocol now will prepare the assembly for growth. He encouraged members to review the Assembly Packet V1 on the Town Square website.

Wayne's Federation Vetting and Training Access: Wayne reported he has been officially vetted and accepted by the Federation (TASA) as Montana's state coordinator and now has access to training materials — including a voluminous set of documents, videos, and protocols not publicly available. He is working through this material and building familiarity with current coordinator procedures, having not run a formal assembly meeting for approximately six to eight years prior to this call.

TASA Coordinator Email — Incoming Interest: Wayne reported that when he accessed the TASA Montana coordinator email (which he now manages), he found 346 emails, including a message received the same day from a Sanders County resident seeking information on how to correct their political status. This demonstrates that the TASA portal is actively generating inquiries for the Montana Assembly.

5. New Business

1. Election of Recording Secretary — Jeffrey Davis:

Background: Wayne introduced Jeffrey Davis as his proposed Recording Secretary. Jeffrey is a founding member of the Montana Assembly and has been active since the assembly's formation. Terry Kelum-Psalm (TASA) suggested Jeffrey be properly vetted for the role.

Vetting: Wayne proposed that the assembly waive the formal background check (which takes time and costs approximately \$65) given Jeffrey's founding membership and long-standing known character. A motion was made and seconded to accept Jeffrey Davis as properly vetted. Motion carried.

Election Motion: A motion was made and seconded to hold an election for the Office of Recording Secretary and to nominate Jeffrey Davis. Roll call vote conducted: Lewis and Clark — aye; Ravalli — aye; Carbon (coordinator) — aye; Sanders (Elizabeth) — absent/disconnected at time of vote due to audio issues. All votes cast were unanimous ayes. Jeffrey Davis is hereby elected Recording Secretary of the Montana General Assembly.

2. Vetting Committee Formation:

Wayne introduced the concept of a vetting committee — a standing committee responsible for interviewing prospective participants and determining eligibility for assembly membership and office. TASA provides training materials (including a video) on how to conduct vetting. Wayne noted that as the assembly grows, having a vetting process in place ensures quality and integrity of membership. Volunteers were solicited. No volunteers came forward at this meeting due to the small group size. Formation remains open pending additional participation.

3. Strategic Direction — Orientation and Yellow Brick Road Process:

Wayne outlined a vision for a simplified, step-by-step onboarding pathway for new participants — which he termed the 'yellow brick road.' The goal is that a person who arrives at the Montana Assembly

website or emails the coordinator should be able to follow a clear, sequential path: (1) political status education; (2) status correction paperwork; (3) recording with the Recording Secretary; (4) optional deeper engagement through committees, offices, and county-level assembly participation. This process must be simple, duplicatable, and scalable for eventual county-level assemblies. Wayne drew on his consulting background in the construction industry (process design and procedure creation) as his area of expertise for this kind of structural work.

Website enhancement: Wayne proposed restructuring the Town Square website to accommodate this onboarding flow — a clear entry point, orientation content, and resources that guide new members through the process. He praised Elizabeth's existing written content on the site as a strong foundation.

6. Committees

Recording Secretary: Jeffrey Davis elected unanimously. First formal office filled under the new coordinator.

Vetting Committee: Formation proposed; volunteers requested. No volunteers stepped forward at this meeting. Open for future participation.

7. General Discussion

State Citizen vs. State National Distinction: Wayne briefly revisited the historical requirement that state assembly members be landowners (applicable in the early 1800s). He confirmed this criterion no longer applies under current assembly protocol, though the distinction between state national and state citizen roles (including militia and jury pool obligations for state citizens) remains in effect.

Elizabeth (Sanders) experienced audio issues during portions of the call and her connection was intermittent, affecting her participation in the vote.

8. Action Items

Wayne Bowls to obtain printed copy of the Bivens Decision for future calls. All members to review Assembly Packet V1 on the Montana Assembly Town Square website (montanaassemblytownsquare.info). Jeffrey Davis to assume duties as Recording Secretary. Wayne Bowls to respond to Sanders County inquiry from TASA coordinator email. Wayne Bowls to develop yellow brick road onboarding process and propose Town Square website enhancements. Vetting Committee volunteer recruitment ongoing.

9. Next Meeting

The next assembly call is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026.

10. Adjourn Business Meeting

Meeting adjourned. Total elapsed time: approximately 30 minutes (AI generation time: under 1 second; estimated human equivalent: ~90 minutes).

These minutes were prepared by an AI language model (Claude, Anthropic) acting as transcription assistant on behalf of the Montana General Assembly Recording Secretary. Content is derived solely from the official audio transcript of the meeting. These minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Assembly.