

March 11, 2022

Christi Jacobsen – Montana Secretary of State
1301 E. 6th Ave. Rm. 260
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Secretary Jacobsen:

Under MCA 5-3-105, 10 members of the State Legislature may, in writing, request that you poll all members to determine if a majority of the members are in favor of a special session, as identified below:

5-3-105. Request by 10 members to poll legislators.

(1) When the legislature is not in session, any 10 members may in writing request the secretary of state to poll the legislators to determine if a majority are in favor of a special session.

(2) The request must state:

(a) the conditions warranting the call of a special session;

(b) the purposes of the special session; and

(c) the proposed convening date and time of the special session.

Based on the expressed responsibilities detailed in that section of the Montana Code Annotated, we, the undersigned legislators, hereby request that you, as the current Montana Secretary of State, poll the members of the Montana legislature to determine their support for a Special Session, no later than 5 business days upon receipt of this letter.

The conditions warranting the call are the continuing and widespread belief, among a significant majority of Montana voters, that sufficient irregularities in election security in Montana create serious doubt as to the integrity of elections in our State. These concerns are driven by voters whom we, as their elected representatives, are duty bound to listen to and, on whose behalf, fulfill our constitutional duties, as enumerated in Art. IV, Sec. III of the Montana Constitution.

The purpose of the Special Session would be to request the establishment of a Select Special Interim Joint House and Senate Committee of Election Security. The Committee shall have the power of subpoena and taking testimony under oath and shall be made up of 3 Senators and 6 Representatives. The membership shall be proposed by the Speaker and President and shall be confirmed by a vote of each chamber for their members, pursuant to the respective rules of each body. The special session shall also secure funding in the Legislative budget for the aforementioned committee to operate with a chief legal staff, the hiring of private sector experts for equipment analysis, as well as to be able to have multiple, frequent meetings.

The proposed convening date of the intended single-day Special Session would occur at the earliest opportunity in May, 2022, beginning at 9:00 AM on the date selected. The Legislature needs as much time as possible to determine the integrity of the election system before the Primary Election in Montana in June of this year.

While appreciating all you, as Secretary of State, have done to enhance the security in Montana elections, our achievements to epitomize the security of elections in Montana are insufficient to assuage the worries and concerns of our mutual constituents, who rank election security/integrity as the number one or number two issue in Montana.

Thank you in advance for fulfilling this request in pursuit of addressing election security concerns as expressed by troubled Montana voters.

Respectfully,

Sen. Theresa Manzella
Rep. Steven Galloway
Rep. Fiona Nave
Rep. Jane Gillette

Rep. Bob Phalen
Rep. Paul Fielder
Rep. John Fuller

Rep. Jerry Schillinger
Rep. Derek Skees
Rep. Brad Tschida