

January 13, 2025 Week 2, Day 6, of the 69th session of the Montana Legislature

At 8 am each morning I report to the Judiciary hearing room. Kind of a big day in there today, as we took EA (executive action which means we voted) on the bathroom bill. I am posting the video of the action. You need to look at the back and forth that I see daily, the vote was strictly along party lines 12-8 so the bill will now move to the House Floor and all 100 representatives will debate the bill and vote. You would think it would be 58 to 42, we will see.

Tonight we had a huge event on the House Floor, the Governor gave his State of the State speech, huge media presence and huge security presence by the Highway Patrol as that is the agency totally in charge of Capitol security, I guess before my time the Helena Police Department was in charge of Capitol Security but the job was transferred to the Highway Patrol, it is a huge job. I will post part of the speech because the Governor made his position crystal clear in his defense of women and the Governor absolutely excoriated the Montana Supreme Court who were seated about 20' from the podium, I was pleasantly shocked, I'm sure they can't wait to overturn the bathroom bill especially after the Governor publicly scorned them in front of the whole world.



January 14, 2025 Week 2, Day 7, of the 69th session of the Montana Legislature

Today was a full day, though not much happened that would qualify as newsworthy for the KOMET KORNER, so with great trepidation, I'm going to discuss the ongoing turmoil in the Montana Senate, I'll share Senator Bogner's video's for additional context. I don't have any inside information so there is a chance I might misinterpret some aspects but here it goes. Senator Jason Ellsworth served as Senate President during the last legislative session. The House Speaker last Session was Matt Regier, so Matt was my Speaker last session, I call Matt Mr. Speaker, who, in my opinion deserves immense credit for His leadership during a particular challenging period in the House of Representatives. This included a series of difficult events, culminating in a riot from transgender activists that shut the Capitol down for 2 days.

With Mr. Speaker's term ending in the Montana House, Matt ran for a Senate seat. He faced a very well-funded opponent in the Primary and, notably, received no endorsement from the Governor. This lack of gubernatorial support is likely a significant story in itself, though I am not privy to the details. Why would the Governor decline to endorse the former Speaker? He made 58 primary endorsements, never in Montana history has a Governor endorsed primary races. One possibility is that Mr. Speaker's fearless conservatism might have signaled potential opposition to the Governor's budget, this is all speculation on my part but the question deserves to be asked. Now, the freshman Senator Matt Regier ran for the Senate President position against the previous Senate President Jason Ellsworth and won! It's very easy to see how a huge power struggle could develop at the speed of light. It is my understanding that past president Jason Ellsworth and the Governor may have joined forces to influence eight other senators to oppose Mr. Speaker, the new Senate President. Together, they pushed to modify the senate rules to allow them to change the composition of the Senate committees.

The new committee structure will ensure that the Governor's budget items and the proposed Medicare Expansion—costing over 100 million—will easily now pass through the Senate. With the minority party joining forces with these 9 republican Senators they easily have enough votes to win on every issue, as every House bill must pass through the Senate to become law, in this scenario, it's game over, they will win every time, they now own the 69th session of the Montana Legislature.

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January 15, 2025 Week 2, Day 8, of the 69th session of the Montana

I love serving on the Judiciary Committee, every morning at 8, we see most of the DOJ (Department of Justice) bills, we see most of the bills that I call "culture war" bills, bills that could drastically change our culture and have a tremendous change on family's and our youth are run through Judiciary, today we had a string of bills having to do with our State Supreme Court, House Bill 65 was a request to audit the state BAR which is under total control of the Supreme Court and there was some interesting back and forth, enjoy the clip.

Every day at 1:00 pm we meet in the House Chamber for the daily floor session and today Representative Kerri Seekins-Crowe presented HB 121 that will make all public bathrooms accessed by your birth sex, the bill passed by a strict party line vote 58 to 42 and the clip is posted below, you really should watch this, it is what the culture war looks like, this is where it is won or lost.



 Representative Greg Kmetz
THE KOMET KORNER
Weekly Report of the 2025 MT Legislative Session

January 16, 2025 Week 2, Day 9, of the 69th session of the Montana

Every day I try to find some KOMET KORNER worthy news and it was way easy today, If I was a newspaper reporter the headline would read like this: Freshman Legislator Tom Millett already knows how to move vitally important legislation.

Representative Millett brought a very important bill to the Judiciary today. As most of you know it is almost impossible to elect a conservative judge to our Supreme Court, it's all about the money, multiple millions of out of state money pours into Montana to promote liberal, leftwing, activist judges and they absolutely control our court, they have zero trouble finding strong pro family bills unconstitutional and making them invalid. Representative Millett's HB 169 would allow the people of Montana to see if they we're Republican or not, after the huge red wave swept over America November 5th this would be way important, click the link and at least watch 10 minutes & you will see that Representative Millett is going to be a force to be reckoned with!



January 17, 2025 Week 2, Day 10, of the 69th session of the Montana

Very light but interesting Friday, today in Judiciary we had a presentation on statistics dealing with the (DOC) Department of Correction put on by the Fiscal Division of Legislative Services, way interesting but shockingly alarming.

Three groups in the Montana Prison system are seeing exponential growth.

Violent crimes have increased by 60% since 2014.

Sexual crimes have increased by 54% since 2011 and most are not reported.

Huge jump in online grooming of children.

Since 1999 the female prison population has increased by 246%.

80% of all prison sentences are drug related.

Construction costs for 1 inmate average between \$300,000 and \$500,000 per bed.

Growth projections thru 2044, Male 37.6%, Female 51.9%

Current population, male 3,157, female 356.

My hope is things could drastically change starting on January 20th with the inauguration of Donald Trump and we will have strong borders and people who are here illegally will have to find a new place to live.