



Capitol Complex Advisory Council Report

Department of Administration

September 1, 2026

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Background

In 1997, the Montana Legislature enacted House Bill No. 123 (Chapter No. 476, Laws of 1997), an act creating the Capitol Complex Advisory Council (2-17-801, et al., MCA). This legislation was introduced at the request of the Department of Administration to establish a council to oversee the placement of art and memorials on the Capitol Complex and grounds.

The Capitol Complex Advisory Council (CCAC) consists of nine members:

- four legislators, two from each house, appointed every two years on a bipartisan basis;
- two public representatives appointed by the Governor; and
- the director or the director's designee of each of the following agencies:
 - the Montana Historical Society
 - the Montana Arts Council
 - the Department of Administration

A list of the Council's current membership is contained in Appendix A. The statutory duties and responsibilities assigned to the Council include:

- reviewing proposals for long-term displays or the naming of State buildings on the Capitol Complex;
- advising the Legislature on the long-term display of busts, statues, memorials, monuments, or art displays within the Capitol Complex, including the executive residence and the original governor's mansion;
- advising the Department of Administration on interior decoration of the Capitol;
- advising the Department of Administration on grounds maintenance and displays;
- advising the Department of Administration on policies governing maintenance and beautification of the Capitol, executive residence, and original governor's mansion; and
- advising the Department of Administration on establishing and maintaining a long-range master plan for the orderly development of the Capitol Complex.

In addition, the Council must report to the Legislature by September 15 of each year preceding a legislative session on requests that it has reviewed for naming buildings and for long-term placement of items in the Capitol or on the Capitol Complex grounds. The report must include a recommendation on whether reviewed requests meet certain statutory criteria. If a request meets the criteria, the Council must recommend a time frame during which the project should be authorized.

Proposals

Senator Webber, in cooperation with Representative Running Wolf and the State-Tribal Relations Committee, made a proposal to place a bust of Chief Earl Old Person in the Capitol Rotunda. Because the subject of this bust has not been deceased for the ten-year timeframe required by State Statute, a draft bill is being brought to the 70th Legislative Session before any action by this council. No formal action taken.

The Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution made a proposal for installing a Liberty Tree marker on Capitol grounds. The council recommended that the Montana State Society Daughters of the American Revolution create a final plan, including design and funding to submit at the next council meeting. No formal action taken.

Council Meetings in 2025 and 2026

November 20, 2025, Meeting

The following actions took place:

1. Approval of Naming for Montana Heritage Center Spaces – Ginny Sullivan
 - The Montana Historical Society requested the council review and approve the naming of rooms and spaces at the Montana Heritage Center, as presented and approved by the MTHS Board of Trustees.
 - **Motion:** Member Galt moved for approval. Director Kruckenberg seconds. Motion passed.
2. Informational Items
 - o **General Services Division Update** – *Steve Baiamonte & Nikki Simon*
 - o **Capitol Complex Master Plan Progress Report** – *Russ Katherman*
 - o **Presentation on Executive Residence – 2 Carson Street** – *Tom O’Connell & Misty Ann Giles, Chair*
 - o **Organ Donation Memorial Project Update** – *Sarah Sadowski*

August 6, 2026, Meeting

The following actions took place:

1. The Future of 2 Carson Street – *Misty Ann Giles, Chair*
 - Presentation on 2 Carson property and the public survey results.
 - **Motion:** Rep. Rosenzweig moved to authorize the State of Montana to proceed with the demolition of the former Executive Residence located at 2 Carson Street and the subsequent conversion of the property dedicated to green space.

- Sen. Bogner made a substitute motion to delay action on 2 Carson until September 2026.
- Substitute motion passed and disposed of the original main motion.

2. Election of New Chair/Leadership Transition – *Misty Ann Giles, Chair*

- Resignation of current Chair announced. The incoming Director of the Department of Administration, Mark Blasdel was nominated as the new Chair.
- **Motion:** Member Galt moved for approval. Sen. Bogner seconds. Motion passed.

3. Informational Items

- **General Services Division Update** – *Steve Baiamonte & Gannon Campbell*
- **Capitol Complex Master Plan Progress Report** – *Russ Katherman*
- **720 Madison Update** – *Don Harris*

Minutes of all CCAC meetings are available at doa.mt.gov/ccac.

Legislative Action

There was no legislative action directly affecting the CCAC during the biennium.

Summary

Over the course of the biennium, the Council met twice and received a request for the placement of a bust and the placement of a memorial tree marker. No formal actions have been taken on either proposal.

The council approved the naming for Montana Heritage Center spaces, as presented by the Montana Historical Society.

Final determination for the resolution of the property located at 2 Carson Street is ongoing.

Incoming Director of the Department of Administration, Mark Blasdel, was appointed as the new chair for the council to replace outgoing Director Misty Ann Giles.

Appendix A

Capitol Complex Advisory Council Members - Updated August 2026

Legislative Members

Representative Mike Vinton
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