

# Montana Public Education Center MT-PEC Issue Spotlight

## 2015 Legislative Session Mid-Term Voting Record

March 9, 2015



## Our Mid-Term Voting Record

As we reflect on the first half of the 2015 Legislative Session, there is much for which we are thankful, but also several areas of concern in the perspective held by some legislators serving in the 2015 Session. We have prepared a mid term voting record for both the House and Senate to give our members and the public insight regarding how representatives and senators have voted on issues affecting the community ownership and success of our public schools.

Our goal in putting this record out now, rather than after the session is completed, is to provide our members and the public with an opportunity to open a dialogue and discuss these votes with their legislators now – to affirm and support those supporting our public schools and hopefully change the minds of those who are currently voting in a manner that has harmed the interests of the children in our public schools.



## The Bills We Have Chosen to Cover in the Mid-Term Voting Record

On the Senate side, the bills and votes we have chosen to cover consist of:

1. **Senate Bill 213**, Senator Thomas, **Extending School Safety Provisions**, 3rd reading.
2. **House Bill 27**, Representative Hayman, **Inflationary Increases**, 3rd reading.

The votes on the Senate side have all been fairly supportive at this point, although the Senate has not yet considered many of the critical issues affecting public schools. As such, we recommend that our members consider contacting their senators to discuss the bills that have passed the House in the first half of the session that will be considered in the Senate in upcoming weeks. We will be covering Senate floor votes on the House bills that we have covered on the House side as listed below in our final voting record for the 2015 Session.

On the House side, the bills we have chosen to cover consist of:

1. **House Bill 27**, Representative Hayman, **Inflationary Increases on School Funding Formula**, 3rd reading;
2. **House Bill 320**, Representative Glimm, **Revising Gun Free Schools**, 3rd reading, 2/24/2015; Reconsideration of previous action, 2/25/2015; 3rd reading, 2/26/2015.
3. **House Bill 322**, Representative Jones, **Voucher for Children with Disabilities**, 3rd reading.
4. **House Bill 373**, Representative Staffanson, **Increase School Bonding Limits**, 3rd reading.
5. **House Bill 377**, Representative Lamm, **Voiding the Board of Public Education's adoption of Common Core**, 3rd reading.
6. **House Bill 501**, Representative Lamm, **Changing Student Data Provisions in Ways that Could Prevent Necessary Record Keeping and Student Assessments**, 3rd reading.

All of the bills tracked in the House above with the exception of House Bill 27, which we support, are bills that we have each opposed, that in some cases raise serious issues of constitutionality and would take away precious and limited resources from our accountable, high performing public schools to fund private education without any accountability or public oversight.

## The Calculation of Legislators' Ratings:

The percentage attributed to each legislator represents the percentage of "correct" votes of the total votes cast on the bills we have incorporated into the record. Specific standards and criteria are as follows:

1. We default to a 3rd reading vote whenever available as the official vote on any given bill.
2. When a 3rd reading vote has not been taken, we default to the last vote taken. This occurs in situations, for example, where a bill fails on 2nd reading or when a bill is passed on 2nd reading and then re-referred to House Appropriations or Senate Finance and Claims.
3. There are times when we choose to cover a motion on an amendment that would fundamentally change a bill (by improving or harming it, depending on the circumstances).
4. Votes identified as "right" consist of votes cast as suggested by the unanimous testimony and/or lobbying of each of our groups, which in turn are based on resolutions and other position statements taken by each of our membership groups and our collective position in support or opposition. The votes we have identified as "right" also align with the perspective of Montana Voters as documented in the public opinion poll commissioned by the Montana Public Education Center, which was conducted by Zogby Analytics in September 2014.
5. Votes identified as "wrong" consist of votes cast against the unanimous position of our groups.
6. An unexcused absence on a particular vote is categorized as "wrong" as the legislator is either present but not voting in such instances, or has failed to secure an excuse from the Legislator for his or her absence on a particular vote.
7. An excused absence is neither counted for or against a legislator.

# House of Representatives Voting Record

## Honor Roll (Voting Record of 75% or Above):

Representative Bryce Bennett  
Representative Zach Brown  
Representative Rob Cook  
Representative Virginia Court  
Representative Willis Curdy  
Representative Geraldine Custer  
Representative Kimberly Dudik  
Representative Mary Ann Dunwell  
Representative Jenny Eck  
Representative Janet Ellis  
Representative Moffie Funk  
Representative Denise Hayman  
Representative Ellie Boldman Hill  
Representative Chuck Hunter  
Representative Tom Jacobson

Representative Jessica Karjala  
Representative Kathy Kelker  
Representative George Kipp III  
Representative Ed Lieser  
Representative Ryan Lynch  
Representative Margaret ( Margie ) Macdonald  
Representative Kelly McCarthy  
Representative Edie McClafferty  
Representative Nate McConnell  
Representative Robert Mehlhoff  
Representative Pat Noonan  
Representative Andrea Olsen  
Representative Carolyn Pease-Lopez  
Representative Rae Peppers  
Representative Zac Perry

Representative Andrew Person  
Representative Gordon Pierson  
Representative Christopher Pope  
Representative Jean Price  
Representative Daniel Salomon  
Representative Casey Schreiner  
Representative Bridget Smith  
Representative Tom Steenberg  
Representative Kathy Swanson  
Representative Mitch Tropila  
Representative Susan Webber  
Representative Kathleen Williams  
Representative Nancy Wilson  
Representative Tom Woods

## On the Bubble (Voting Record of at Least 50% but Less than 75%):

Representative Christy Clark  
Representative David ( Doc ) Moore

Representative Ray Shaw  
Representative Jeffrey Welborn

Representative Steve Fitzpatrick  
Representative Roy Hollandsworth

## Consistently Voting Contrary to the Best Interests of Students in Montana's Public Schools (Voting Record of Less than 50%):

Representative Clayton Fiscus  
Representative Kelly Flynn  
Representative Kenneth Holmlund  
Representative G. Bruce Meyers  
Representative Dave Hagstrom  
Representative Jerry Bennett  
Representative Seth Berglee  
Representative Tom Berry  
Representative Randy Brodehl  
Representative Mike Cuffe  
Representative Alan Doane  
Representative Ron Ehli  
Representative Jeff Essmann  
Representative Frank Garner  
Representative Edward Greef  
Representative Bill Harris  
Representative Donald Jones

Representative Austin Knudsen  
Representative Debra Lamm  
Representative Mike Lang  
Representative Sarah Laszloffy  
Representative Steve Lavin  
Representative Forrest Mandeville  
Representative Wendy Mckamey  
Representative Mike Miller  
Representative Dale Mortensen  
Representative Mark Noland  
Representative Albert Olszewski  
Representative Ryan Osmundson  
Representative Randall Pinocci  
Representative Lee Randall  
Representative Alan Redfield  
Representative Keith Regier  
Representative Vince Ricci

Representative Tom Richmond  
Representative Kirk Wagoner  
Representative Kerry White  
Representative Nancy Ballance  
Representative Bob Brown  
Representative Tom Burnett  
Representative Carl Glimm  
Representative Greg Hertz  
Representative Stephanie Hess  
Representative Theresa Manzella  
Representative Matthew Monforton  
Representative Nicholas Schwaderer  
Representative Scott Staffanson  
Representative Brad Tschida  
Representative Art Wittich  
Representative Daniel Zolnikov

# Senate Voting Record

**\*Caveat:** There are insufficient votes on the Senate side through the first half of the session to get a clear picture of those supporting Montana's Public Schools. We anticipate having additional votes to include in our calculation by the end of the session, including votes on House Bills covered under the House voting record above.

## Honor Roll (Voting Record of 75% or Above):

Senator Duane Ankney  
Senator Elsie Arntzen  
Senator Debby Barrett  
Senator Mark Blasdel  
Senator John Brenden  
Senator Dee Brown  
Senator Taylor Brown  
Senator Edward Buttrey  
Senator Pat Connell  
Senator Robyn Driscoll  
Senator Tom Facey  
Senator Jennifer Fielder  
Senator Kristin Hansen  
Senator Jedediah Hinkle  
Senator Brian Hoven  
Senator Llew Jones  
Senator Doug Kary

Senator Christine Kaufmann  
Senator Jim Keane  
Senator Bob Keenan  
Senator Sue Malek  
Senator Frederick ( Eric ) Moore  
Senator Mike Phillips  
Senator JP Pomnichowski  
Senator Rick Ripley  
Senator Matthew Rosendale  
Senator Sharon Stewart-Peregoy  
Senator Janna Taylor  
Senator Fred Thomas  
Senator Bruce Tutvedt  
Senator Chas Vincent  
Senator Roger Webb  
Senator Dick Barrett  
Senator Mary Caferro

Senator Jill Cohenour  
Senator Bradley Maxon Hamlett  
Senator Cliff Larsen  
Senator Mary McNally  
Senator Mary Sheehy Moe  
Senator Diane Sands  
Senator Jon Sesso  
Senator Gene Vuckovich  
Senator Lea Whitford  
Senator Jonathan Windy Boy  
Senator Cynthia Wolken

## On the Bubble (Voting Record of at Least 50% but Less than 75%):

Senator David Howard  
Senator Scott Sales

Senator Cary Smith  
Senator Nels Swandal

Senator Gordon Vance



## Summary

We are hopeful that this mid-term voting record provides our members and the public useful information that can be used to inform the necessary discussions between elected legislators and the constituents who elected them to represent their interests in the 2015 Session. It is our hope that this record can be used to affirm and thank supportive legislators for their efforts on behalf of public schools and to help persuade legislators who have been less than supportive to change their perspectives and their votes in the second half of the 2015 Session. We appreciate your assistance in helping us both defend and advocate for the children served in Montana's public schools.

### Disclaimer:

The organizations collaborating on the preparation of this voting record are organized in a variety of ways, with some being 501(c)(3) organizations while others are 501(c)(4) or 501(c)(6) organizations. This voting record is intended to be nonpartisan, with the aim of helping our respective members engage existing legislators of all political persuasions in dialogue regarding their views relating to student achievement. We are hopeful that through such dialogue with sitting legislators who have already been elected, our members may be able to increasingly find common ground with all legislators, based on an interest in serving the interests of public school students, families and communities. The joint publication of this record by the sponsoring groups does not reflect, should not be construed as and is not intended to be used as either an endorsement or a condemnation of any candidate or party or faction within a party or to determine a legislative candidate's fitness to serve in elected office.

We are united by our **shared interests** in  
the **best interests** of students.



### DENISE WILLIAMS

Executive Director  
Montana Association of School Business Officials  
dwilliams@masbo.com  
(406) 442-5599



### ERIC FEAVER

President  
MEA-MFT  
efeaver@mea-mft.org  
(406) 442-4250



### DIANNE BURKE

Executive Director  
Montana Quality Education Association  
dburke@mqec.org  
(406) 449-4594



### DAVE PUYEAR

Executive Director  
Montana Rural Education Association  
dpuyear@mrea-mt.org  
(406) 443-2626



### LANCE MELTON

Executive Director  
Montana School Boards Association  
lmelton@mtsba.org  
(406) 442-2180



### KIRK MILLER

Executive Director  
School Administrators of Montana  
samkm@sammt.org  
(406) 442-2510

Learn more at [mt-pec.org](http://mt-pec.org)

## HOUSE VOTING RECORD

Last Name	First Name	Party	Dist.	HB 27	HB 320 2/24/15	HB 320 2/25/15	HB 320 2/26/15	HB 322	HB 373	HB 377	HB 501	% RIGHT
BALLANCE	NANCY	R	HD 87	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13%
BENNETT	BRYCE	D	HD 91	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
BENNETT	JERRY	R	HD 1	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
BERGLEE	SETH	R	HD 58	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
BERRY	TOM	R	HD 40	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
BRODEHL	RANDY	R	HD 9	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
BROWN	ZACH	D	HD 63	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
BROWN	BOB	R	HD 13	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13%
BURNETT	TOM	R	HD 67	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13%
CLARK	CHRISTY	R	HD 17	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	63%
COOK	ROB	R	HD 18	R	R	R	R	R	R	W	W	75%
COURT	VIRGINIA	D	HD 50	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
CUFFE	MIKE	R	HD 2	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
CURDY	WILLIS	D	HD 98	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
CUSTER	GERALDINE	R	HD 39	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	W	75%
DOANE	ALAN	R	HD 36	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
DUDIK	KIMBERLY	D	HD 94	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
DUNWELL	MARY ANN	D	HD 84	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
ECK	JENNY	D	HD 79	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
EHLI	RON	R	HD 86	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
ELLIS	JANET	D	HD 81	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
ESSMANN	JEFF	R	HD 54	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
FISCUS	CLAYTON	R	HD 43	R	R	W	W	W	R	W	W	38%
FITZPATRICK	STEVE	R	HD 20	R	R	R	R	W	W	W	W	50%
FLYNN	KELLY	R	HD 70	R	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	38%
FUNK	MOFFIE	D	HD 82	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
GARNER	FRANK	R	HD 7	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
GLIMM	CARL	R	HD 6	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	13%
GREEF	EDWARD	R	HD 88	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
HAGSTROM	DAVE	R	HD 52	R	W	W	W	E	R	W	W	29%
HARRIS	BILL	R	HD 29	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
HAYMAN	DENISE	D	HD 66	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
HERTZ	GREG	R	HD 12	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13%
HESS	STEPHANIE	R	HD 28	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13%
HILL	ELLIE BOLDMAN	D	HD 90	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
HOLLANDSWORTH	ROY	R	HD 27	R	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	50%
HOLMLUND	KENNETH	R	HD 38	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	38%
HUNTER	CHUCK	D	HD 83	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
JACOBSON	TOM	D	HD 21	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
JONES	DONALD	R	HD 46	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
KARJALA	JESSICA	D	HD 48	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
KELKER	KATHY	D	HD 47	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
KIPP III	GEORGE	D	HD 15	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
KNUDSEN	AUSTIN	R	HD 34	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
LAMM	DEBRA	R	HD 60	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
LANG	MIKE	R	HD 33	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
LASZLOFFY	SARAH	R	HD 53	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
LAVIN	STEVE	R	HD 8	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
LIESER	ED	D	HD 5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
LYNCH	RYAN	D	HD 76	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MACDONALD	MARGARET	D	HD 51	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MANDEVILLE	FORREST	R	HD 57	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
MANZELLA	THERESA	R	HD 85	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13%
MCCARTHY	KELLY	D	HD 49	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MCCLAFFERTY	EDIE	D	HD 73	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MCCONNELL	NATE	D	HD 89	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MCKAMEY	WENDY	R	HD 23	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
MEHLHOFF	ROBERT	D	HD 22	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
MEYERS	G. BRUCE	R	HD 32	R	W	W	R	W	R	W	W	38%
MILLER	MIKE	R	HD 80	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
MONFORTON	MATTHEW	R	HD 69	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	13%
MOORE	DAVID ( DOC )	R	HD 92	R	R	W	W	W	R	R	R	63%
MORTENSEN	DALE	R	HD 44	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
NOLAND	MARK	R	HD 10	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
NOONAN	PAT	D	HD 74	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
OLSEN	ANDREA	D	HD 100	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
OLSZEWSKI	ALBERT	R	HD 11	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
OSMUNDSON	RYAN	R	HD 30	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
PEASE-LOPEZ	CAROLYN	D	HD 42	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PEPPERS	RAE	D	HD 41	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PERRY	ZAC	D	HD 3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PERSON	ANDREW	D	HD 96	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PIERSON	GORDON	D	HD 78	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PINOCCI	RANDALL	R	HD 19	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
POPE	CHRISTOPHER	D	HD 65	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
PRICE	JEAN	D	HD 24	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
RANDALL	LEE	R	HD 37	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
REDFIELD	ALAN	R	HD 59	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
REGIER	KEITH	R	HD 4	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%

### HOUSE VOTING RECORD - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Last Name	First Name	Party	Dist.	HB 27	HB 320 2/24/15	HB 320 2/25/15	HB 320 2/26/15	HB 322	HB 373	HB 377	HB 501	% RIGHT
RICCI	VINCE	R	HD 55	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
RICHMOND	TOM	R	HD 56	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
SALOMON	DANIEL	R	HD 93	R	R	R	R	W	R	R	W	75%
SCHREINER	CASEY	D	HD 25	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
SCHWADERER	NICHOLAS	R	HD 14	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	13%
SHAW	RAY	R	HD 71	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	63%
SMITH	BRIDGET	D	HD 31	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
STAFFANSON	SCOTT	R	HD 35	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	13%
STEENBERG	TOM	D	HD 99	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
SWANSON	KATHY	D	HD 77	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
TROPILA	MITCH	D	HD 26	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
TSCHIDA	BRAD	R	HD 97	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	13%
WAGONER	KIRK	R	HD 75	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
WEBBER	SUSAN	D	HD 16	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
WELBORN	JEFFREY	R	HD 72	R	R	R	R	W	R	W	W	63%
WHITE	KERRY	R	HD 64	R	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	25%
WILLIAMS	KATHLEEN	D	HD 61	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
WILSON	NANCY	D	HD 95	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	100%
WITTICH	ART	R	HD 68	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	13%
WOODS	TOM	D	HD 62	R	R	R	R	E	R	R	R	100%
ZOLNIKOV	DANIEL	R	HD 45	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	0%

### SENATE VOTING RECORD

Last Name	First Name	Party	District	SB 213	HB 27	# of R	# of W	Total Votes	% RIGHT
ANKNEY	DUANE	R	SD 20	R	R	2	0	2	100%
ARNTZEN	ELSIE	R	SD 26	R	R	2	0	2	100%
BARRETT	DEBBY	R	SD 36	R	R	2	0	2	100%
BARRETT	DICK	D	SD 45	R	R	2	0	2	100%
BLASDEL	MARK	R	SD 4	R	R	2	0	2	100%
BRENDEN	JOHN	R	SD 17	R	R	2	0	2	100%
BROWN	DEE	R	SD 2	R	R	2	0	2	100%
BROWN	TAYLOR	R	SD 28	R	R	2	0	2	100%
BUTTREY	EDWARD	R	SD 11	R	R	2	0	2	100%
CAFERRO	MARY	D	SD 41	R	R	2	0	2	100%
COHENOUR	JILL	D	SD 42	R	R	2	0	2	100%
CONNELL	PAT	R	SD 43	R	R	2	0	2	100%
DRISCOLL	ROBYN	D	SD 25	R	R	2	0	2	100%
FACEY	TOM	D	SD 50	R	R	2	0	2	100%
FIELDER	JENNIFER	R	SD 7	R	R	2	0	2	100%
HAMLETT	BRADLEY MAXON	D	SD 15	R	R	2	0	2	100%
HANSEN	KRISTIN	R	SD 14	R	R	2	0	2	100%
HINKLE	JEDEDIAH	R	SD 32	R	R	2	0	2	100%
HOVEN	BRIAN	R	SD 13	R	R	2	0	2	100%
HOWARD	DAVID	R	SD 29	E	W	1	1	2	50%
JONES	LLEW	R	SD 9	R	R	2	0	2	100%
KARY	DOUG	R	SD 22	R	R	2	0	2	100%
KAUFMANN	CHRISTINE	D	SD 40	R	R	2	0	2	100%
KEANE	JIM	D	SD 38	R	R	2	0	2	100%
KEENAN	BOB	R	SD 5	R	R	2	0	2	100%
LARSEN	CLIFF	D	SD 47	R	R	2	0	2	100%
MALEK	SUE	D	SD 46	R	R	2	0	2	100%
MCNALLY	MARY	D	SD 24	R	R	2	0	2	100%
MOE	MARY SHEEHY	D	SD 12	R	R	2	0	2	100%
MOORE	FREDERICK ( ERIC )	R	SD 19	E	R	2	0	2	100%
PHILLIPS	MIKE	D	SD 31	R	R	2	0	2	100%
POMNICHOWSKI	JP	D	SD 33	R	R	2	0	2	100%
RIPLEY	RICK	R	SD 10	R	R	2	0	2	100%
ROSENDALE	MATTHEW	R	SD 18	R	R	2	0	2	100%
SALES	SCOTT	R	SD 35	R	W	1	1	2	50%
SANDS	DIANE	D	SD 49	R	R	2	0	2	100%
SESSO	JON	D	SD 37	R	R	2	0	2	100%
SMITH	CARY	R	SD 27	R	W	1	1	2	50%
STEWART-PEREGOY	SHARON	D	SD 21	R	R	2	0	2	100%
SWANDAL	NELS	R	SD 30	R	W	1	1	2	50%
TAYLOR	JANNA	R	SD 6	R	R	2	0	2	100%
THOMAS	FRED	R	SD 44	R	R	2	0	2	100%
TUTVEDT	BRUCE	R	SD 3	R	R	2	0	2	100%
VANCE	GORDON	R	SD 34	R	W	1	1	2	50%
VINCENT	CHAS	R	SD 1	R	R	2	0	2	100%
VUCKOVICH	GENE	D	SD 39	R	R	2	0	2	100%
WEBB	ROGER	R	SD 23	R	R	2	0	2	100%
WHITFORD	LEA	D	SD 8	R	E	2	0	2	100%
WINDY BOY	JONATHAN	D	SD 16	R	R	2	0	2	100%
WOLKEN	CYNTHIA	D	SD 48	R	R	2	0	2	100%