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House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *23*

INTRODUCED BY *Propila* *Parlour* *Carney* *Tom Kuntz*
Wm Ryan Beck *McAn* *John Johnson* *Hughes* *R. J. Kelly* *Brady* *From*

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF COMBINING SCHOOL ELECTIONS; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 56TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, section 20-20-105, MCA, establishes the first Tuesday in April of each year as the regular school election day and also provides for special school elections at any time determined necessary by the local school trustees; and

WHEREAS, Title 20, chapter 20, MCA, establishes procedures for conducting school elections that are distinct from those provided in Title 13, MCA, for other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Montana citizens would like to see a decrease in the number of school elections held by school trustees to reconsider bond or levy propositions that were defeated at elections held earlier in the year; and

WHEREAS, a majority of citizens believe that schools should be allowed to consider propositions with fiscal impacts only one time each calendar year; and

WHEREAS, costs could be saved if all school elections were held annually, either at the general election in November or at an established annual primary election in June; and

WHEREAS, school trustees would be more knowledgeable in preparing budgets if trustee elections occurred prior to the enactment of budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

- (1) That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to study:
 - (a) the current dates and the procedures used for school elections within the state;
 - (b) the procedural concerns with limiting or moving school elections, including but not limited to the effects on school budgeting procedures, overlapping precinct and school district boundary concerns, differences between election procedures provided for in Title 13, MCA, and Title 20, MCA, and collective bargaining issues; and

1 (c) the possibility of having school elections conducted by local election administrators and of
2 moving school elections to coincide with state and local elections held on the general election day on the
3 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November or establishing an annual primary date for all elections.

4 (2) That the interim committee conduct the study in consultation with representatives of the
5 Secretary of State, the Office of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, and representatives of
6 affected school organizations.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee report the findings of the study to the 56th
8 Legislature and present options for legislative consideration if the committee determines that options are
9 necessary.

10 -END-

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House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *23*

INTRODUCED BY *Propels Carlouck Carey*

Wm Ryan Beck McLean Johnson

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF COMBINING SCHOOL ELECTIONS; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 56TH LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, section 20-20-105, MCA, establishes the first Tuesday in April of each year as the regular school election day and also provides for special school elections at any time determined necessary by the local school trustees; and

WHEREAS, Title 20, chapter 20, MCA, establishes procedures for conducting school elections that are distinct from those provided in Title 13, MCA, for other jurisdictions; and

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

INTRODUCED BY *Propila Parlowh Carey*

Wm Ryan Beck McLean John Johnson
A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF COMBINING SCHOOL ELECTIONS; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 56TH LEGISLATURE.

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House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. *23*

INTRODUCED BY *Propile Parlovich Carey*

Wm Ryan Beck McLean Jim Johnson

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF COMBINING SCHOOL ELECTIONS; AND REQUIRING A REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 56TH LEGISLATURE.

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2 moving school elections to coincide with state and local elections held on the general election day on the
3 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November or establishing an annual primary date for all elections.

4 (2) That the interim committee conduct the study in consultation with representatives of the
5 Secretary of State, the Office of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, and representatives of
6 affected school organizations.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee report the findings of the study to the 56th
8 Legislature and present options for legislative consideration if the committee determines that options are
9 necessary.

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-END-

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

2 INTRODUCED BY TROPILA, PAVLOVICH, CAREY, TUSS, KRENZLER, RYAN, PECK, MCCANN,
3 J. JOHNSON, HAGENER, KITZENBERG, SQUIRES, MASOLO, ROSE, CLARK, MARSHALL
4

5 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
6 MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF COMBINING SCHOOL ELECTIONS; AND REQUIRING A
7 REPORT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TO THE 56TH LEGISLATURE.
8

9 WHEREAS, section 20-20-105, MCA, establishes the first Tuesday in April of each year as the
10 regular school election day and also provides for special school elections at any time determined necessary
11 by the local school trustees; and

12 WHEREAS, Title 20, chapter 20, MCA, establishes procedures for conducting school elections that
13 are distinct from those provided in Title 13, MCA, for other jurisdictions; and

14 WHEREAS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS HOLD REQUIRED ANNUAL
15 ELECTIONS AT THE SAME TIME TO SHARE AND REDUCE THE COSTS OF ELECTIONS; AND

16 WHEREAS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS HAVE
17 BOUNDARIES, ELECTION DATES, AND ELECTION TIMELINES THAT DO NOT COINCIDE; AND

18 WHEREAS, Montana citizens would like to see a decrease in the number of school elections held
19 by school trustees to reconsider bond or levy propositions that were defeated at elections held earlier in
20 the year; and

21 WHEREAS, a majority of citizens believe that schools should be allowed to consider propositions
22 with fiscal impacts only one time each calendar year; and

23 WHEREAS, costs could be saved if all school elections were held annually, either at the general
24 election in November or at an established annual primary election in June; and

25 WHEREAS, school trustees would be more knowledgeable in preparing budgets if trustee elections
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30 (1) That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to study:

- 1 (a) the current dates and the procedures used for school elections within the state;
- 2 (b) the procedural concerns with limiting or moving school elections, including but not limited to
3 the effects on school budgeting procedures, overlapping precinct and school district boundary concerns,
4 differences between election procedures provided for in Title 13, MCA, and Title 20, MCA, and collective
5 bargaining issues; and
- 6 (c) the possibility of having school elections conducted by local election administrators and of
7 moving school elections to coincide with state and local elections held on the general election day on the
8 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November or establishing an annual primary date for all elections.
- 9 (2) That the interim committee conduct the study in consultation with INTERESTED PARTIES
10 INVOLVED IN OR AFFECTED BY THE ELECTION PROCESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO
11 representatives OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS, COUNTY ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS, CLERK AND
12 RECORDERS, AND RURAL FIRE AND PARK DISTRICTS AND IRRIGATION DISTRICTS; AND
13 REPRESENTATIVES of the Secretary of State, the Office of Public Instruction, AND the Board of Public
14 Education; and representatives of affected school organizations.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the interim committee report the findings of the study to the 56th
16 Legislature and present options for legislative consideration if the committee determines that options are
17 necessary.

18 -END-