

# Government

**7 Jan 2013 MT Xgr Opens JY**

Montana lawmakers pledged to focus on policy rather than personality and partisanship during the 2013 Legislative session.

Lawmakers and top statewide elected officials were sworn in today (yesterday). Republicans control both the House and Senate.

Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol on the opening remarks from the Legislative leadership. (ATC/ME)

(2:16)

**8 Jan 2012 Legal Review changes JY**

Legislators will receive a new form if they're advised by their staff attorneys that their bill draft may be unconstitutional.

Many lawmakers attended a training session today (yesterday) about the law and the process of lawmaking.

As Jackie Yamanaka (of Yellowstone Public Radio) reports, the legislature's chief legal counsel talked about a new form to let lawmakers know when their bills don't conform may be unconstitutional. (ATC/ME)

(2:18)

**9 Jan 2013 Bullock/Essmann - working together JY**

Olive branches have been extended between the Executive and Legislative branches of government in the early days of the session.

As (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports, the governor says while there are early calls to focus on policy rather than personalities or partisanship, there will be disagreements during the session. (ATC/ME)

(3:10)

**•• 9 Jan 2013 CC PROMO/SCRIPT JY**

## **PROMO:**

The 2013 Montana Legislature got underway Monday. This week on Capitol Connections: Governor Steve Bullock and Senate President Jeff Essmann talk about their legislative priorities. Tonight beginning at 6:30.

**GENERIC PROMO:**

You can hear legislators, top statewide elected officials, department directors and others discussing the bills and the action taking place at the 2013 Montana Legislature. Capitol Connections each Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30.

**SHOW: AIRED 9 JAN 2013/6:30 pm**

(Theme music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y. Tonight's guests: Governor Steve Bullock and Senate President Jeff Essmann.

First, some voices of the week.

MIX: (gavel and swearing in/Sesso/Wittich/Bullock)

The voices this week are: Senate Minority Leader Jon Sesso, Senate Majority Leader Art Wittich, and Governor Steve Bullock.

Bullock most recently served as Montana's Attorney General. On Monday, the Democrat was sworn into a new election position. We sat down in his office to talk about being sworn in as Montana's 24<sup>th</sup> Governor.

(TAPE – GOVERNOR BULLOCK)

(MUSIC BED)

(TAPE – PRESIDENT JEFF ESSMANN)

(THEME MUSIC)

You're listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others to discuss the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**10 Jan 2013      Higher fine/vandalism by youth      JY**

Lawmakers are considering a bill to increase the amount of money that can be recovered from a parent when their child is convicted of vandalizing property.

The sponsor of House Bill 42 says the update will bring the law up-to-date. (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

**HOST OUT:** House Judiciary Chairman Krayton Kerns expects the panel will vote on this bill tomorrow morning (Friday).

**10 Jan 2010 Baucus/Joint Session address JY (ATC/ME)**

Senator Max Baucus declared a “war on veteran unemployment” today (yesterday) during an address to the Montana Legislature.

He says the first bill he will introduce in the new Congress will expand efforts to allow veterans to transfer the skills they learned in the military to the civilian job market.

**BAUCUS: “if you are certified to operate as a mechanic in Kabul, you ought to be certified in Billings without having to jump through anymore hoops. These guys are trained so well in the service they should not have to go through it again. So last year I started a pilot program to make sure that when our troops train to do a job in the military they earn their civilian licenses at the same time.” (:24)**

Baucus says the effort is already underway for Emergency Medical Technicians, mechanics, and truck drivers. He says it’s now time to expand that to firefighters, military police, air traffic controllers, and other positions.

He adds his New Year’s resolution is to bring the troops home from Afghanistan.

Baucus also called for 2013 to be the year that the Keystone X-L pipeline is authorized and built.

The Democrat is up for re-election in 2014.

**11 Jan 2013 Redistricting/Reapportionment JY**

The Montana Legislature will now have its say on how legislative districts are drawn in the state.

The chairman of the Districting and Apportionment Committee presented the panel’s plan to a joint session of the Montana Legislature today. (Yellowstone Public Radio’s) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

**23 Jan 2013 Tax breaks/new generation JY**

The Senate Taxation Committee is considering a bill to extend a tax incentive to encourage development of “green” energy to all new power plants, regardless of the type of fuel used.

(Yellowstone Public Radio’s) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(1:33)

**23 Jan 2013      Biz Equipment Tax Cut/Tutvedt      JY (ATC/ME)**

A Republican state senator from Kalispell calls his bill to cut the business equipment tax an incentive for mid-size companies.

Senate Bill 96 seeks to cut in half the business equipment tax on the first ten-million dollars of equipment.

Senator Bruce Tutvedt (tut-vet) is the sponsor of Senate Bill 96.

**TUTVEDT: “So I think this is a jobs bill. This is a way to keep the tax base broad and also lower rates.” (:07)**

He says the bill makes counties whole since the state backfill any lost tax revenue.

The business community, including agricultural groups, spoke in favor of the bill. No one spoke against.

The Senate Taxation Committee did not immediately vote on the bill.

**23 Jan 2013      state employee pay plan      JY**

Public employees, agency officials, and representatives of the private sector spoke in favor of giving state employees a pay raise.

House Bill 13 calls for a 5-percent increase in base pay for the coming two years.

State employees have not received an across-the-board pay increase over the past 5-years.

As (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, state employees talked about how the wage freeze has impacted them and their work. (ATC/ME)

(2:21)

**•• 23 Jan 2013      CC Promo/Script      JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections, three members of the Native American Caucus at the Montana Legislature talk about some of their agenda items. Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30.

**SHOW: Aired 23 January 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y. On tonight's program: three members of the Native American caucus talk about their agenda for the session, but first: some "Voices of the Week."

(TAPE MIX)

The voices this week: Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian speaking to lawmakers about the University System budget.

Representative Bryce Bennett speaking on a campaign disclosure bill.

And Jim Dusenberry of the Montana Tow Truck Association testifying on a bill to change the law requiring motorists to slow down for emergency vehicles on the edge of roads;

(TAPE: NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others to discuss the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann Trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**24 Jan 2013      Governing decisions/park districts      JY**

Lawmakers are being asked to revise a state law that gives local governments the authority to create special park districts.

As (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, debate on the bill focused on the larger issue who should make local decisions: the Legislature, local governments, or the people. (ATC/ME)

(2:49)

**25 Jan 2013      No Insurance\_No License Plates      JY**

A state Senator from Great Falls wants uninsured motorists to surrender the license plates from their vehicles. Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:21)

***HOST OUT: YPR is part of a multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of transportation. For links to this bill or more information about Transportation Nation, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.***

**25 Jan 2013      DUI/Orange License Plates      JY**

A legislator from Missoula wants to require those convicted of a driving under the influence have a bright orange license plates on their vehicle that contain the letters "D-U-I."

As (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports, Representative Champ Edmunds hopes shame will cut down on the number of DUI's in Montana. (ATC/ME)

(2:03)

***HOST OUT: YPR is part of multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of transportation. For more information about transportation nation, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news***

**28 Jan 2013      Daines/Joint H&S address      JY (ATC/ME)**

Congressman Steve Daines says Congress should look to the Montana Legislature as an example of common sense.

He says Washington, D-C is broken. The Bozeman-businessman says among the problems of Congress: miles of regulations, run-away spending, and record deficits.

Daines is most critical of the failure to complete its most basic job – dealing with the budget.

**DAINES: "It's absurd that Congress refuses to fulfill the most basic requirement of their job – I'm not talking about balancing a budget, I'm talking about passing a budget. I've spent 28 years of my life in business and I know that if you don't do your job you don't get paid." (:21)**

He says that's why he supports an act that says Congress must pass a budget or members won't get paid. It passed the House last week.

The comment got a standing ovation from Montana legislators. Daines spoke a joint session of the Montana Legislature today (yesterday).





**29 Jan 2013 Insure MT**

**JY**

Small business owners are calling on legislators to restore funding to a program that helps them provide health insurance to their employees.

Insure Montana helps businesses with 2-to-9-employees. It helps businesses with either a tax credit or a purchasing pool.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, the governor's budget eliminated funding for the program; business leaders are asking lawmakers to put the money back. (ATC/ME)

(3:12)

•• **30 Jan 2013 - LIVE Coverage** – Governor Steve Bullock's State of the State Address

•• 30 Jan 2013 CC PROMO/Script

JY

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections, the chairman of the Joint Select Committee on Pensions – Senator Dave Lewis- talks about legislative efforts to address the shortfall facing the state employee retirement system...and we'll talk about the television and internet feed from the Montana Legislature with Stephen Maly, the special projects manager for HCTV-and TVMT... Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30...and stay with us for live coverage of the State of the State and the Republican response.

**SHOW: AIRED 30 Jan 2013 a t6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y. On tonight's program: Senator Dave Lewis discusses the shortfall facing the state employee pension systems and Stephen Maly talks about the unedited television feed of legislative proceedings.

First, some voices of the week.

(TAPE MIX)

The voices this week: Republican Representative Liz Bangerter speaking on a bill to criminalize offenses involving death of an unborn child. Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton testifying on a bill to allow the state to create special speed zones in front of schools. Finally, state Insurance Commissioner Monica Lindeen talking about Insure Montana.

(TAPE: SENATOR DAVE LEWIS)

(TAPE: FILL MUSIC)

(TAPE: STEPHEN MALY)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others to discuss the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann Trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**31 Jan 2013      GOP response      JY (Followed SOS Pkg)/ME**

Republican Representative Austin Knudsen says the GOP shares the governor's commitment to moving Montana forward.

The Speaker Pro Tem adds there's shared common ground on some ideas.

But there are differences.

One has to do with the Governor's call for a 400-dollar tax rebate to Montanans who have their primary home in the state.

Knudsen says what about those who pay taxes but don't own a home?

**(applause fade) KNUDSEN: "Every single Montanan deserves tax relief. No one should be left out. Working with th Govenror we're optimistic Montanans can finally expect action on meaningful tax relief – permanent and across the board." (:18)**

He says Montanans need tax reform with a simplified tax code.

Governor Bullock also makes a strong call for Medicaid expansion. Knudsen says the GOP is more cautious. He says Washington, D-C doesn't understand fiscal restraint.

**"And that means because Washington, D-C can't put their fiscal house in order it puts our budgets at risk. We can't put Mtns at risk by building a budget that over relies on federal dollars." (:14)**

He says Washington can't be trusted to keep its promises.

Afterwards, House Speaker Mark Blasdell was asked if that means the GOP will outright reject Medicaid expansion. He says the main concern is reforming the current system.

**BLASDELL: "Obviously Medicaid expansion concerns us just for the long-term cost to the taxpayers down the road. We're not closing the door on any discussion at this point in time and we'll continue to have those discussions but I think as a caucus there's a lot of concerns that we're not going to come forward with any kind of agreement, yet." (:20)**

Blasdell says he was generally pleased by what he heard from the Governor in the State of the State address. He says there's a new tone in Helena.

**BLASDELL: “It’s an exciting time to not draw those lines in the sand right now and let’s have some good debate. And let’s really talk about the issues and move MT forward. See what we can focus on together.” (:13)**

Jackie Yamanaka. The Capitol.

**•• 13 Feb 2012      CC PROMO/Script      JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections – the role of “Dark Money” in the barrage of campaign attacks against a state senator from Kalispell. And the sponsor of a school funding bill talks on how his bill would fund schools with oil and gas money. Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30.

**SHOW: Aired 13 Feb 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I’m J.Y. On tonight’s program: Senator Bruce Tutvedt of Kalispell on the dark money attack on his candidacy and Senator Llew Jones of Conrad talks school funding.

First, some voices from the week.

(TAPE MIX)

The voices this week: Senate Education Chairman Jim Peterson joking with the dozens of supporters who spoke in support of Senator Llew Jones’ education funding bill. And Senator Llew Jones talking about what would defeat his bill.

Coming up Jones will discuss his bill, first.

(TAPE: SENATOR BRUCE TUTVEDT)

(TAPE: FILL MUSIC – “Money” by the Vitamin String Quartet. Album: The String Quartet Tribute to Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon. April 29, 2003. 2003 Vitamin Records)

(TAPE: SENATOR LLEW JONES)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others to discuss the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann Trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**14 Feb 2013 Medicare/losing their doctor JY**

About 425 patients who receive their health insurance through Medicaid and Medicare are being dropped by their internal medicine doctor in Helena.

The reason: the new increased federal regulations and requirements and the continued low reimbursement.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports that's led another doctor to say enough is enough.  
(ATC/ME)

(3:43)

HOST OUT: You can hear the entire, unedited interview with Doctor Jay Larson on Capitol Connections, Wednesday evening beginning at 6:30.

**14 Feb 2014 Private school tax credit JY**

The Montana Senate – on a largely party-line vote – gave preliminary approval to a bill that would give an individual and corporate tax credit for giving money to private schools for scholarships. Money could also go for grants to fund new programs at public schools.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(1:48)

**15 Feb 2013    Insure MT/Gov's proposal                    JY**

The Bullock Administration offered a proposal to provide a one-time infusion of cash to help a popular small business health insurance program.

The Schweitzer Administration removed funding for Insure Montana in its budget proposal. Initially, the Bullock Administration did NOT restore that money.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, the governor's budget director today provided lawmakers a proposal to keep the program operating through 2014. (ATC/ME)

(1:55)

**15 Feb 2013    Medicaid Expansion                    JY**

Democrats at the Montana Legislature unveiled their bill today to implement Medicaid Expansion.

It's one of the bills expected to be introduced on this issue. (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:36)

**19 Feb 2013    Income Taxes – Married                    JY**

A legislator from Great Falls says Montana's income tax system has a reputation for being horrible to fill out. Representative Brian Hoven says it's complicated because of how it handles married couples.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:10)

**19 Feb 2013    fuel tax increase/road repair & public transpo    JY**

Montana lawmakers killed a bill that sought to raise the gas tax to fund road repair and maintenance, as well as public transportation. Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:02)

***HOST OUT: YPR is part of a multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of transportation. For links or more information about Transportation Nation, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news)***

**•• 20 Feb 2013      CC Promo/Show**

**JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections we're talking health care. A Helena internist talks about why he is dropping his Medicaid and Medicare patients...and the Director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services talks about Medicaid expansion. Wednesday evening beginning at 6:30.

**SHOW: Aired 20 Feb 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y.

We're going to jump right in and discuss health care – specifically Medicaid and Medicare and the interplay with the federal Affordable Care Act and possible Medicaid Expansion.

Doctor Jay Larson is an internist in Helena. He was asked whether Montana is ready for a potentially large pool of residents who are newly insured.

(TAPE: DR. JAY LARSON)

(MUSIC BUMPER: "MY FIRST BALLET CLASS ALBUM" BY THE FUN FACTORY. 2012 BPM DIGITAL LIST)

(TAPE RICHARD OPPER)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**21 Feb 2013      SB282-Tax Simplification**

**JY**

A state Senator from Kalispell wants to simplify Montana's income tax system by repealing many of the tax credits.

Senator Bruce Tutvedt (tut-vet) says doing that will also allow all of the tax rates to come down.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:23)

**22 Feb 2013 Insure Montana – full funding plan**

**JY**

The Bullock Administration and the State Insurance Commissioner's office have found a solution to fully fund a popular small-business health insurance program for at least the next two years.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports, it's now up to lawmakers to decide whether to accept this proposal. (ATC/ME)

(2:15)

**25 Feb 2013 SJ 19\_Citizens United**

**JY**

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a resolution tells Montana's Congressional delegation the legislature agrees with the voters that corporations are not human beings with constitutional rights.

The action comes following voter approval last fall of Initiative-166. That ballot measure was the result of the U-S Supreme Court's Citizen United ruling that freed corporations to spend unlimited money on elections.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:05)

**•• 27 Feb 2013 CC PROMO/Script**

**JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections: an update on the health insurance program that helps small businesses and their employees ... and the House Minority Leader talks about the first half of the session and looks forward to the second half. Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30.

**SHOW: Aired 27 Feb 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y. On tonight's program: Insure Montana and the House Minority Leader talks about the session as we are moving toward the half-way point.

First, some voice of the week.:

(TAPE: "I loved what Ron said. It reminds me of my father, the great Republican that he is. And what Ron told us that he didn't trust the gov't with his health care, with his tax dollars, with his guns and he said, 'I sure as hell don't trust 'em with my life.' I think that



**speaks volumes to I hope the people around this table. This is not a partisan issue. State sanctioned homicide is not a partisan issue. But wearing my catholic, Democrat hat I will say to take a life is, when a life is lost is not justice, it's revenge." (:40)**

**"Question has been called. I object. We are talking about life and death. This is one of the most important debates we are going to have in this legislative session we have people here who have worked for months, and months, and months. Let us at least deliberate as a body over life and death please. Representative McDonald this question is non-debatable. The question has been called. You made your point. (:24)**

**Motion fails 9-11...Committee you've heard the motion...no...split accordingly. We'll proceed to the next one. Committee I am going to ask you all to check your emotions at the door. We are here to use logic and to discuss the issue. Everybody has an opportunity to speak. Once a point is made there is no sense in belaboring it. We call the question. With that we are going to go to the next bill. (:35)**

Condensed debate from the House Judiciary Committee's executive action on a bill seeking to abolish the death penalty. Among the speakers: Representative Ellie Hill of Missoula. Representative Margie McDonald of Billings, who is also the panel's vice-chair. And finally, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Krayton Kerns of Laurel.

(TAPE: THEME MUSIC)

(TAPE: CHUCK HUNTER)

(TAPE: "strength to survive" by SOJA on the Album: Strength to Survive, ATO Records 2012)

(TAPE: MONICA LINDEEN)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

When the House adjourned this morning (yesterday) morning, lawmakers reached the official half-way point of the scheduled 90-day legislative session. The Senate left the Capitol yesterday (Wednesday).

They are now on their transmittal break.

It marks the deadline for general bills to pass through either the House or Senate. Those that don't meet that threshold are dead for this session.

When lawmakers return late Monday afternoon, the spotlight shifts to taxes and spending.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka talked to legislative leaders and the governor to get their assessment of the work accomplished so far. (ATC/ME)

(4:24)

**6 March 2013      GOP budget/HB2                      JY**

Legislative staff report the Republican-crafted budget proposal exceeds the Democratic governor's budget just shy of 1-percentage point.

The full House Appropriations began work today on the state's main budget bill.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, the close budget gap between the two budgets brought praise from the governor's budget director. (ATC/ME)

(2:25)

**•• 6 March 2013      CC Promo/Script                      JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections: House Appropriations Chairman – Representative Duane Ankney of Colstrip – discusses the state's main spending measure – House Bill 2; And we'll talk to Senator Christine Kaufmann of Helena about her bill to end the oil and gas tax holiday to provide money for communities impacted by the Bakken oil boom. Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30. (:28)

**SHOW: Aired 6 March 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y.

Last Thursday was the deadline for general bills to pass out of a chamber. Any bills that failed died for this Legislative session. The main focus on the second half is on taxes and spending.

And that's the subject of tonight's program: Representative Duane Ankey, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee talks about the state's main budget bill. While Senator Christine Kaufmann discusses her tax bill intended to help communities affected by the Bakken Oil boom.

First, some voice of the week.

(TAPE: BLASDEL AND HUNTER)

The voices we heard this week – House Speaker Mark Blasdel talking about his expectations for the second half of the 2013 Legislative Session. He was followed by House Minority Leader Chuck Hunter in remarks on the floor before Representatives took a brief break.

(TAPE: REP. DUANE ANKNEY)

(TAPE: FILL MUSIC "Moving Right Along" by Alkaline Trio; Muppets: The Green Album (various artists) 2011 Walt Disney Records)

(TAPE: SEN. CHRISTINE KAUFMANN)

(THEME MUSIC)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others discussing the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann Trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**12 March 2013 H Approps pass HB2 JY**

Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee had the sole responsibility to pass the state's main budget bill.

Democrats refused to support House Bill 2 for a variety of reasons. As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports, the most often cited reason was the refusal to reinstate federal money for family planning and cancer screenings for women. (ATC/ME)

(3:07)

**12 March 2013      Study: State pay plan      JY (ATC/ME)**

Representative Steve Gibson says the current state pay plan is arbitrary, confusing, and at times discriminatory.

**GIBSON: “You’ve read in the paper about 60% of our state employees receiving pay raises and 40% not. This is about fairness. This is about transparency. (:13)**

Gibson is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. He says during work on the state’s main state budget, lawmakers had many discussions on pay. For Example, he says one employee in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks received a 39-percent pay raise while others in the agency got nothing.

The Republican from East Helena says agencies large and small gave what are called “broadband pay raises.” He says they may be deserved and appropriate, but they need to be understood.

**GIBSON: “There are so many people – excellent state employees – that work very hard and work for us, the citizens of Montana. And there’s many of them that have not received a pay raise for over 4 years. And I don’t think that’s right.” (:16)**

He says there’s also a problem with base pay for other positions, specifically: attorneys in the Office of Public Defender and Correctional officers at the Men’s Prison in Deer Lodge.

Gibson is retired. He was head of the state’s juvenile corrections system. He’s sponsoring a bill seeking an interim study of the pay plan.

The House State Administration Committee did not immediately vote on House Joint Resolution 17.

**12 March 2013      HB 2/Gov Bullock reax      JY**

Governor Steve Bullock says the budget bill passed out of the House Appropriations Committee last night (Monday night) needs more work.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, Bullock says he wouldn't sign House Bill 2 in its current form. (ATC/ME)

(1:19)

**13 March 2013      Kadas Confirmation/DOR      JY (ATC/ME)**

The Senate Taxation Committee unanimously confirmed former Missoula Mayor Mike Kadas as the new director for the Department of Revenue.

Kadas told the committee his goals are to make sure the tax collection agency is professional, efficient, courteous and fair.

He says a lesson he learned as a legislator was that disagreements will occur, but he says there is no need for the sides to be disagreeable.

**KADAS: “that’s really what’s critical in this is that we have to find ways to disagree, poke holes in each other’s arguments but we’ve also got to remember that this is just one discussion. And that discussion may go on for a couple more steps but then there’s going to be another discussion to about another issue and we’re going to need each other to make that policy better.” (:26)**

Kadas says when there are disagreements with taxpayers, for example. The goal is to reach consent. He says it’s likely a side may not be happy with the outcome, but they understand why a decision was reached.

**KADAS: “I don’t like paying my taxes, I’m saying this as if I’m the average taxpayer. I don’t like paying taxes, but I understand why they are necessary and as long as I’m not getting ripped off in relation to my neighbor Pete who’s got a connection with the Director of the Dep’t of Revenue I feel like I’ll pay ‘em. That’s okay. (:24)**

Kadas received praise from the Montana Association of Counties, the Montana Society for CPA’s and legislators. No one opposed the appointment.

**•• 13 March 2013      CC PROMO/Script      JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections – we’ll get an update on legislative efforts to fix the state pension systems... and a discussion on a bill to revise term limits and efforts to help Eastern Montana communities cope with the boom in natural resource development. Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30.

**SHOW: Aired 13 March 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y. On tonight's program: Senator Dave Lewis gives us an update on the state pension systems and Representative Bill McChesney talks about his term limits bill and about plans to help Eastern Montana Communities cope with the boom in natural resource development.

First some voices of the week:

**(TAPE: OPPER: We need to end up with a budget that allows us to provide essential services to the most needy and most vulnerable people in this state. And it's a compromise, obviously.**

**There was a lot of compromise made in committee and there will be I'm sure from now on. But we need to get it right and its important for the people in this state who need the services of the state that we as an agency have sufficient authority and sufficient budget and sufficient cash to provide those essential services and to do it as efficiently as we possibly can as an agency.**

**I urge you to just make sure that the issues that you're addressing here truly are problems that you're trying to fix otherwise you risk fixing the agency really more in a veterinary sense and you leave us unable to do our job thoroughly (1:04)**

**EHLI: "...spend money that they object to." (:30)**

**McChesney: "And doing away this funding...if they don't have a community health center...pay for it? No...let's not shoot the horse because we don't like the color of its tail." (:34)**

The voices you heard this week all came from discussion on the state's main budget, House Bill 2. First was Department of Public Health and Human Services Director Richard Opper. Then we heard Representatives Ron Ehli and Bill McChesney talking about an amendment seeking to reinstate nearly 5-million dollars in federal family planning money – known as Title X – back into House Bill 2.

(TAPE: SENATOR DAVE LEWIS)

(FILL MUSIC)

(TAPE: REPRESENTATIVE BILL MCCHESENEY)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others discussing the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann Trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**14 March 2013 Pay Plan fails/Blast fails JY**

The sponsor of the state employee pay plan failed in an attempt to blast House Bill 13 from the Appropriations Committee to the House floor for debate.

The motion failed on mostly party-line 41-to-55 vote.

All House Democrats joined three Republicans – Representatives Liz Bangerter, Steve Gibson, and Mike Miller – in voting yes.

This afternoon's action followed a vote in the Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee yesterday evening. The panel rejected the state employee pay plan.

Republican Representative Steve Gibson joined all Democrats on the committee in voting for the plan. But House Bill 13 failed on a mostly party line 9-to-12 vote.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports, even with these votes action, House Bill 13 isn't dead. (ATC)

(4:07)

**15 March 2013 HB 13 Blast Fails JY**

An Anaconda Democrat was unsuccessful in her attempt to blast the state employee pay plan from committee to the House floor for debate.

The blast motion on House Bill 13 failed on a mostly party line 41-to-55 vote.

The action came after the Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee rejected the state pay plan on a mostly party line vote.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ME)

(2:07)

**15 March 2013      DUI – THC & repeat offenders      JY**

The Senate is considering whether to provide for a legal limit for the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana to Montana's DUI laws.

In the meantime, Senators are also considering a revision to current DUI laws that seeks to crack down on the number of repeat offenders.

Both House bills were the subject of hearings today in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(3:11)

***HOST OUT: YPR is part of a multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of Transportation. For more information about Transportation Nation, go to our website, ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.***

**18 March 2013      Tax rate/New electric generation      JY**

A Senate bill to give new electric generation facilities a tax break won approval in the House Taxation Committee.

Some Representatives object, however, because Senate Bill 138 would give even new coal power generation plants the same tax rate as wind generation facilities.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:01)

**•• 20 March 2013      CC\_Show\_PROMO                      JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connection: Representatives are wrapping up their work on the state's main budget bill and soon the bill moves to the Senate. Senate Finance and Claims member Dave Wanzonried offers his thoughts House Bill 2 and the budget process.... And Senator Greg Jergeson was first elected to that chamber in 1975, he talks about Legislative decorum in the age of term limits. Capitol Connections, Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30.

**SHOW:    Aired 20 March 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)



Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y.

On tonight's program: the House of Representatives approved the state's main budget bill. Now the bill will move to the Senate.

This evening, Finance and Claims member – Democratic Senator Dave Wanzenried offers his thoughts on the next steps... And Senator Greg Jergeson talks about the Montana Legislature in this time of term limits.

First some voices of the week – all comments on the budget:

(TAPE: Ankney, Noonan, Bullock)

The voices this week: House Appropriations Chairman Duane Ankney offering some humor during his closing remarks on the House Floor before Representatives voted on the state's main budget proposal – House Bill 2.

Representative Pat Noonan speaking in support of the budget for Public Health and Human Services even though it doesn't contain the federal dollars for family planning and cancer screenings for women.

Finally, Governor Steve Bullock when asked what's his his strategy for the state budget as it moves through the Legislative process.

(TAPE: Sen. Dave Wanzenried, D-Missoula)

(FILL MUSIC: "Pennies from Heaven" by Billie Holiday from The Collection, originally released 1935-'40; 2003 Sony BMG Music Entertainment)

(TAPE: Sen. Greg Jergeson, D-Chinook)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others discussing the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann Trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news.

**21 March 2013      3 regent app't/confirmation      JY**

The Senate Education Committee is considering whether to confirm three appointments to the Montana Board of Regents.

The appointments were made by former Governor Brian Schweitzer, but they need to be confirmed by the Montana Legislature.

Named are: Bozeman city council member Jeffrey Krauss (cr-ow-ss), former Montana congressman Pat Williams, and student regent Joe Thiel (teal).

Jackie Yamanaka filed this report about the candidates and the hearing... that mostly focused on Williams and his recent comments in the New York Times. (ME/ATC)

(4:17)

**•• 27 March 2013      CC\_Promo\_Show      JY**

**PROMO:** This week on Capitol Connections: Medicaid Expansion. This week, the Bullock Administration's Access Health proposal finally had a hearing at the Montana Legislature. House Bill 590's sponsor – Representative Chuck Hunter - and Governor Steve Bullock will talk about what this proposal will mean for Montanans. Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30. (:25)

**SHOW: Aired 27 March 2013 at 6:30 pm**

(Theme Music)

Welcome to Capitol Connections – a weekly public affairs program focusing on the 2013 Montana Legislature. I'm J.Y.

On tonight's program: a focus on the Bullock Administration's Access Health Montana, also known as Medicaid expansion. Representative Chuck Hunter will fill us in on House Bill 590 and then Governor Steve Bullock will weigh in....

First some voices of the week:

(TAPE)

The voices we heard: Representative Alan Redfield of Livingston speaking in favor of a bill to create a select committee to study Medicaid. And Belgrade Resident Craig Gambrel speaking in favor of a bill to expand Medicaid coverage. A hearing on House Bill 590 was held Monday afternoon.

(TAPE: CHUCK HUNTER)

(Fill music: With A Little Help From My Friends, Unplugged. The Casey Abrams Tribute Band, March 15, 2011; 2012 [www.pacificcoastmusic.com](http://www.pacificcoastmusic.com))

(TAPE: GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK)

You've been listening to Capitol Connections, a weekly public affairs program that features legislators, elected officials and others discussing the 2013 Montana Legislature.

Our theme music is by the Alex Naumann Trio.

For more information and links for this program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

Capitol Connections is a production of YPR news

# Environment

**11 Jan 2013    Enhanced Oil Recovery/Senate Energy                    JY**

A Texas-based company is ready to recover oil from the Bell Creek field... using carbon dioxide. Bell Creek is in the southeastern part of the state near the Montana-Wyoming border.

Oil was discovered in Bell Creek in 1967. As Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, legislators were told Enhanced Oil Recovery technology will revive that field. (ATC/ME)

(2:28)

**20 Feb 2013    pollution control equip – taxes                    JY**

Lawmakers are considering two bills that affect how pollution control equipment is taxed in Montana.

Representative Mike Miller says it's not fair to tax companies for equipment that's mandated by state or federal environmental laws. (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:02)

**5 Mar 2013    Eliminate Oil&Gas Tax Holiday    JY**

A Helena lawmaker wants to help communities affected by the Bakken oil boom with their roads, water and sewer systems, and other services like police and fire.

But at least one opponent said life in Sidney isn't bad.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(3:58)

YPR HOST OUT: to see links about rig counts or oil and gas tax production rates, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**19 March 2013**

**Megaloads/MEPA**

**JY**

A state representative from Miles City wants to exempt oversize vehicles from having to undergo a review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

But opponents say these megaloads could pose a threat to public safety, the environment, and cultural resources.

Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(3:27)

HOST OUT: YPR is part of a multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of transportation. You can see a copy of the application for an oversize load permit or find out more information on Transportation Nation at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news)

## Medical and Health/Seniors

**14 Jan. 2013 Medicaid Expansion/report**

**JY**

Montana lawmakers are weighing the pros and cons of expanding Medicaid.

Under the Federal Affordable Care Act, states can expand Medicaid to provide health insurance to those who earn up to 138-percent of the federal poverty level. For a single-person that's just over 15-thousand dollars a year.

As (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports, a joint subcommittee heard presentations today (yesterday) on what an expansion means for Montana. (ATC/ME)

(2:41)

**29 Jan 2013 DUI and Marijuana/THC**

**JY**

The Montana House gave preliminary approval to a bill that would revise the state's DUI law. It would create a new legal limit for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, to be in a person's blood while driving.

Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(1:20)

**27 Feb 2013      Bullock Admin/Access Health MT    JY**

Governor Steve Bullock says it's time to put politics aside and provide health insurance to tens of thousands of Montanans.

The Democrat today (yesterday) says he's joining governors from across the country in supporting Medicaid Expansion.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(1:46)

**7 March 2013      Title X/family planning & HB2      JY**

Democrats challenged the Republican chairman of one of the joint Appropriations subcommittees to defend the decision to cut federal family planning funds from the budget.

Federal Title X (10) funding goes to just over 2-dozen locations across Montana. Those clinics provide contraception, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and other primary health services primarily to low-income women.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol there's controversy because some of the providers also offer abortions. (ATC/ME)

(1:54)

**25 March 2013      Medicaid Expansion                      JY**

Medicaid expansion was one of the top topics of discussion at the Montana Legislature today (yesterday).

Backers of expansion held a rally at the Capitol before the hearing on the Bullock Administration's plan to expand the Medicaid program.

In the meantime, the House also gave preliminary approval to a Republican bill to create a select committee to study Medicaid.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, backers of Medicaid expansion charged those who want to study the issue are just trying to delay and deny health care to Montanans. (ATC/ME)

(2:39)

**26 March 2013      Medicaid Expansion – Tues              JY**

An overflow crowd packed into one of the larger committee hearing rooms late yesterday afternoon at the State Capitol. They were there to speak on the Bullock Administration's proposal to offer health insurance coverage to up to 70-thousand additional Montanans.

House Bill 590 seeks to expand Medicaid coverage.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(4:28)

**28 March 2013 Gov's Access Health/Tabled JY**

As expected, a partisan House Human Services Committee tabled the Governor's Medicaid expansion proposal.

House Bill 590 had a nearly 4-hour hearing Monday, but the committee disposed of the bill late yesterday in under 15 minutes.

House Democrats were then unsuccessful in their attempt to blast the bill from committee and on to the floor for debate.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(3:56)

## Rural and Small Town Issues

**15 Jan 2013 TSEP/RRGL infrastructure grants JY**

Dozens of Montana communities are asking for state money to help them with their failing bridges, water and sewer systems.

As (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports, lawmakers face more requests than dollars to hand out. (ATC/ME)

(2:53)

**13 March 2013 Bonding Bill/H Approps JY**

The Bullock Administration wants to include infrastructure investments for Eastern Montana in a bill that already proposes nearly 100-million dollars in bonds for state buildings.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(3:18)

# Higher Education/Affordability

**22 Jan 2013    MUS/budget presentation    JY**

Higher education officials say a 2-year freeze on tuition is their top priority. They are looking to the Montana Legislature to help them meet that goal.

As (Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, higher education is presenting its programs this week to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education. (ATC/ME)

(2:26)

**30 Jan 2013    Education funding/L Jones SB 175    JY**

A broad coalition of public school groups are united behind a school funding bill that would use natural resource development money to deliver more money to schools and a property tax cut.

Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC)

(1:32)

**31 Jan 2013    Education funding/L Jones SB 175    JY**

A broad coalition of public school groups are united behind a school funding bill that would use oil-and-gas money to deliver more money to schools... and a property tax cut.

Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ME)

(3:41)

**11 Feb 2013    H Flr/School Choice bills    JY**



On largely party line votes, the Republican-controlled House gave preliminary approval to 3-bills that seek to provide incentives to parents who want to send their child to a private school.

(Yellowstone Public Radio's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(1:47)

**8 March 2013            U-system/HB2            JY**

The two community college presidents in Eastern Montana are asking lawmakers to support their request for a one-time injection of cash. The money is to help them meet the needs of industry because of the Bakken oil boom and pending development of the Otter Creek Coal Tracts.

The request came during the House Appropriations Committee hearing on the university system budget.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(1:45)

**11 March 2013    Family Planing/Indian Edu 4 All    JY**

The Republican-controlled House Appropriations Committee rejected an attempt to reinstate federal family planning dollars in the state's main budget bill.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, this was just one of the votes taken during Executive Action today (yesterday) on House Bill 2.

(2:55)

**27 March 2013            Increased K-12 Enrollment            JY**

Nearly 30 public schools across Montana had an unusual increase in enrollment. The school population was updated with the spring count.

Because of the growth, lawmakers are being asked to add an additional one-million dollars to the supplemental budget request for the Office of Public Instruction.

As (YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka reports from the Capitol, the enrollment growth was across the state, not just the Bakken affected counties. (ATC/ME)

(3:05)

**27 Mar 2013    Long Range Building/Bonding Projects    JY**

The House took all of the building projects in the bonding bill and inserted them into another bill that pays for long range building projects.

But Representatives rejected a move to strip money for the new Missoula College building.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(2:16)

## **Wildlife/Outdoors**

**26 Feb 2013**

**Bison/S. Floor**

**JY**

The Montana Senate gave preliminary approval to a pair of bills aimed at the management of wild bison.

One bill defines what is a "wild bison" the second makes the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks liable for any damage to private property from wild bison.

(YPR's) Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Capitol. (ATC/ME)

(3:02)