

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Jason Ellsworth
Senate President
Montana State Senate
Helena, MT 59620

By Hand and Electronic Delivery

Dear President Ellsworth:

In accordance with Montana Code Annotated §§ 5-5-301 and 5-5-302, I submit to you and the Montana Senate the following board appointments for confirmation.

I my letter to you dated January 2, 2023, there was a mistake in the term for Liz Whiting. Please use the information below to amend SR 2.

State Parks and Recreation Board
MCA § 2-25-3406

As required by MCA § 5-5-302, I am submitting to the Senate for confirmation the following persons who were appointed during the recess of the legislature:

- **Liz Whiting**, 2105 23rd St A., Apt 210, Great Falls, MT 59405, who was appointed on March 20, 2023, and whose term expires January 1, 2027. Ms. Whiting fulfills the requirements as a representative of District 3. I support the confirmation of Ms. Whiting.

I have included the appointees' resumes, biographies, or other qualification documentation for your consideration.

I have asked Hannah Slusser, my Boards and Appointments Director, to coordinate with your office and Legislative Services as these appointments move through the confirmation process. Ms. Slusser can be reached at 444-5665 or by email at Hannah.Slusser@mt.gov.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte".

Greg Gianforte
GOVERNOR

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Board and Commission Appointments

2023 Legislative Session

State Parks and Recreation Board

MCA 2-25-3406

Liz Whiting, Great Falls

MCA Contents / TITLE 2 / CHAPTER 15 / Part 34 / 2-15-3406 State parks ...

Montana Code Annotated 2021

TITLE 2. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION
CHAPTER 15. EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICERS AND AGENCIES
Part 34. Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

State Parks And Recreation Board -- Composition

2-15-3406. State parks and recreation board -- composition. (1) There is a state parks and recreation board.

(2) The board consists of five members appointed by the governor, as prescribed in **2-15-124**. The governor shall appoint one member from each of the following districts:

(a) District No. 1, consisting of Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, Granite, and Lewis and Clark Counties;

(b) District No. 2, consisting of Deer Lodge, Silver Bow, Beaverhead, Madison, Jefferson, Broadwater, Gallatin, Park, and Sweet Grass Counties;

(c) District No. 3, consisting of Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Pondera, Teton, Chouteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Fergus, Blaine, Meagher, and Wheatland Counties;

(d) District No. 4, consisting of Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Petroleum, Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, and Wibaux Counties;

(e) District No. 5, consisting of Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Carbon, Yellowstone, Big Horn, Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Carter, Fallon, and Prairie Counties.

(3) Appointments must be made without regard to political affiliation and must be made solely for the wise management of state parks and outdoor recreational resources administered pursuant to Title 23, chapter 1, and Title 23, chapter 2, parts 1, 4, and 9.

(4) A person appointed to the board must be informed or experienced in the conservation and protection of state parks, heritage resources, natural resources, tourism promotion and development, or outdoor recreation.

(5) A vacancy on the board must be filled by the governor in the same manner and from the district in which the vacancy occurs.

(6) The board is designated as a quasi-judicial board for purposes of **2-15-124**, except that the requirement that at least one member be an attorney does not apply.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 235, L. 2013.

Elizabeth (Liz) Whiting

406.202.0067 liz@whitings.org 2105 23rd Street South Apt 210, Great Falls, MT 59405

Professional Summary

Throughout my life experiences, including raising a family, involvement in volunteer work, and my professional occupations, I have developed successful leadership skills to handle high-level responsibilities, operations management, and public relations. I am successful at troubleshooting problems, building solutions, and cultivating positive relationships.

Skills

- Organizational skills
- Business management
- Strategic planning
- Customer relationships
- Detail oriented
- Written and verbal communication

Experience

Director of Provider Outreach - Benefis Health System, Great Falls, MT

November 2020- Current

- Liaison between Critical Access Hospitals and Benefis.
- Improve and create new opportunities for patient access to health care in North Central Montana.
- Educate new and current providers regarding regional concerns and needs.
- Plan and host North Central Montana Healthcare Conference.
- Visit all regional locations annually.

Central Services Division Administrator - Department of Justice State of Montana, Helena, MT

January 2017 – January 2021

- Manage budget, grants, fiscal, and human resources for a \$130+ million-dollar annual budget with 900+ employees.
- Developed a creative business model within the department and its eight divisions. Implemented a system of priority-based budgeting resulting in less dependence on legislative funding and an overall more efficient and effective operation.
- Developed a more centralized and standardized human resource bureau to recruit and retain better employees.
- Oversee the department's strategic planning and annual goal/priority setting of the eight divisions. This includes managing by objectives and evaluating outcomes.
- Collaborated in the creation of the department's efficiency team to implement the Chief of Staff's vision for improving efficiency and customer service.
- Responsible for the development of a department wide Supervisor Boot Camp designed to teach management and leadership skills, provide professional growth, and build interagency relationships.

Director of Government Affairs - Department of Justice State of Montana, Helena, MT

July 2016 – Current

- Monitor all bill drafts and lobby for the department during legislative sessions and the interim. Coordinate and submit department bill draft requests.
- Coordinate and lead a weekly legislative meeting with stakeholders.
- Served on statewide multi-million-dollar procurement committee to replace the state's outdated e-government system.

- Worked extensively with the legislative appropriations committee for state budget solutions. Developed a permanent funding solution for the Montana Law Enforcement Academy and Crime lab.

Tour Train Operator and Guide - Helena Unlimited, Helena, MT

April 2009 – September 2019

- Guided sightseeing tours detailing Helena and Montana history.
- 2014 Helena Chamber of Commerce Hospitality Hero Recipient

Technical Writer - State of Montana, Helena, MT

September 2015 - June 2016

- Updated and edited technical manuals, documents, legal forms, and web pages.
- Created monthly informational publication for interagency and public use.

Management Analyst/Trainer - State of Montana, Helena, MT

June 2015 - September 2015

- Developed training program for e-learning environment.
- Troubleshoot problems and develop successful solutions.

Dental Assistant/Office Assistant - Dr. Robert Jose, Helena, MT

November 2013 - June 2015

- Assisted dentist and hygienist in patient care and record keeping.
- Education Development Chairman, Helena Chapter of the American Academy of Professional Coders.

State Representative - State of Montana, Helena, MT

January 2011 - December 2014

- Chairman of the Local Government Committee, 2013 legislative session.
- Selected to represent the U.S. on international delegations including China and Canada.
- Sponsored House Bill 28 winning the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Top National Award for State Legislative Accomplishment.
- Recipient of several awards from business and medical associations.
- Selected by a national board to attend the prestigious Toll Fellows National Leadership Training in 2012. Selected as the Montana representative for the 2011 Western Legislative Leadership Academy.
- Served on numerous national committees representing healthcare, intergovernmental affairs, and higher education.

Education

- Master of Science in Leadership and Management - Purdue Global University, 2018
- Bachelor of Science in Business Management- Summa Cum Laude - Kaplan University, 2016
- ICD10 Certified Trainer-American Institute of Healthcare Compliance, 2018
- Certified Professional Coder-Apprentice-American Academy of Professional Coders, 2009
- Certificate of Medical Office Technology-Phi Theta Kappa, UM Helena College of Technology, 2009
- Montana State University – Billings, 2006-2008
- Associate of Science-Presidential Scholar, Central Wyoming College, 1994

Other

Commissioner and past Chairman of the Board, Helena Regional Airport Authority, 2016 - 2021

Helena College Foundation Board, 2016-2018

Helena School Board Community Relations Committee, 2013-2016

Helena Chamber Convention and Visitors Bureau member 2009-2011

Volunteer of the Year, Billings YMCA, 2003