

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

TO: Members of the Montana Senate
Members of the House of Representatives
Secretary of State Brad Johnson
Members of the Montana Supreme Court c/o Clerk of the Court Ed Smith

STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PROCLAMATION

CALL TO THE 60TH LEGISLATURE
FOR A SPECIAL SESSION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Montana and § 5-3-101, MCA, the Governor may convene the legislature in special session; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, section 11 of the Constitution of the State of Montana, the Governor may convene the legislature whenever he considers it in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, section 9 of the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, as Governor, I submitted to the 60th Legislature, prior to the commencement of its regular session, a budget for the ensuing biennium setting forth in detail the proposed expenditures and estimated revenue of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, the budget I submitted to the 60th Legislature was balanced and sustainable, invested in Montana's priorities – including education, health care, jobs, clean and green energy, and public safety – provided permanent and one-time-only tax cuts for Montanans, ensured that out-of-state taxpayers paid their taxes, and provided savings to be used in the event of a "rainy day" in the future; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article V, section 11 of the Constitution of the State of Montana, the power to appropriate money for the operation of state government lies with the legislative branch of government; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VIII, section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Montana, the legislature is responsible for enacting a balanced budget; and

WHEREAS, the budget enacted by the 59th Legislature for the operations of state government will expire at the end of this fiscal year, on June 30, 2007; and

WHEREAS, despite many accomplishments of the 60th Legislature, there remains the necessary and constitutional task of enacting a balanced budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the Legislature immediately convene in special session so as to fulfill its constitutional obligation to enact a balanced budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MONTANA, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Montana, do hereby convene the 60th Legislature in special session, in Helena, at the Capitol, at the hour of 8:00 a.m., the 10th day of May, 2007, and hereby limit the special session to consideration of the following subjects:

1. A general appropriation bill for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and for public schools for the biennium ending June 30, 2009; and
2. A bill appropriating money for capital projects and information technology capital projects, including measures necessary to implement the appropriation; and
3. Legislation that provides funding for public elementary and secondary schools, authorizes optional full-time kindergarten, establishes a quality educator loan forgiveness program, and revises the Governor's postsecondary scholarship program; and
4. Tax legislation that provides both permanent and one-time-only tax reductions and rebates for Montanans, improves tax compliance, and expands the business equipment property tax exemption; and
5. Property tax incentives for new investment in the conversion, transport, manufacturing related to, and research and development of renewable energy, new technology energy, and clean coal energy; and
6. Creation of an education trust fund to be funded through revenue raised by revisions to the tax treatment of income and dividends of real estate investment trusts; and
7. Any appropriations necessary for the operation of the special legislative session.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Montana to be affixed. DONE at the City of Helena, the Capitol, this 7th day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seven.


BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor