

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2-2026**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE YOUTH JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO IMPLEMENT
THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT**

I, **GREG GIANFORTE**, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby continue the Youth Justice Advisory Council (Council or “YJC”) within the Department of Justice, Board of Crime Control, pursuant to § 2-15-122, MCA, and as required by Section 223 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) Reauthorization of 2018 (Public Law 93-415), as amended.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council is to:

- Submit to the Governor, the Board of Crime Control, and the Montana Legislature, at least biennially, recommendations regarding state compliance with the federal requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Reauthorization of 2018;
- Participate in the development and review of the state's juvenile justice plan prior to submission of the plan to the Board of Crime Control for final action, and develop and review annual updates of the plan;
- Review and comment on all juvenile justice and delinquency prevention grant applications submitted to the Board of Crime Control; and
- Contact and seek regular input from juveniles currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system and state, local, and private agencies on juvenile justice issues to better coordinate services and efficiently utilize available resources.

COMPOSITION

The Council shall consist of at least 15 members and not more than 33 members appointed by the Governor, consistent with the requirements of the JJDP A Reauthorization of 2018, as amended. The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the Council's members. The Governor may appoint additional non-voting ex-officio members. The Council members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

In accordance with 34 U.S.C. § 11133(a)(3), members will include representatives of the following groups, as determined by the Governor:

- At least one (1) locally elected official representing general purpose local government;
- Representatives of law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, including juvenile and family court judges, prosecutors, counsel for children and youth, and probation workers;
- Representatives of public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment, such as welfare, social services, child and adolescent mental health, education, child and adolescent substance abuse, special education, recreation and youth services agencies;
- Representatives of private nonprofit organizations, including persons with special focus on preserving and strengthening families, parent groups and parent self-help groups, youth development, delinquency prevention and treatment, neglected or dependent children, the quality of juvenile justice, education, and social services for children;
- Volunteers who work with delinquent youth or youth at risk of delinquency;
- Representatives of programs that are alternatives to incarceration, including programs providing organized recreation activities;
- Persons with special experience and competence in addressing problems related to school violence and vandalism, and alternatives to suspension and expulsion;
- Persons, licensed or certified by the State of Montana, with expertise and competence in preventing and addressing mental health and substance abuse needs in delinquent youth and youth at risk of delinquency;
- Representatives of victim or witness advocacy groups, including at least one individual with expertise in addressing the challenges of sexual abuse and exploitation and trauma, particularly the needs of youth who experience disproportionate levels of sexual abuse, exploitation, and trauma before entering the juvenile justice system; and
- A tribal representative or other individual with significant expertise in tribal law enforcement and juvenile justice in tribal communities.

A majority of the members, including the chairperson, shall not be full-time employees of federal, state, or local government. At least one-fifth of members shall be under the age of 28 at the time of appointment, including at least three (3) members who have been or are currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system or, if not feasible and in appropriate circumstances, who is the parent or guardian of someone who has been or is currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL

Council members eligible for compensation under § 2-15-122(5), MCA, shall be compensated \$100 for each day actually and necessarily engaged in performance of Council duties. All Council members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to § 2-15-122(5), MCA.

DURATION

The Council shall exist for a period of two years, consistent with the requirements of the JJDP Act of 2018, and will expire or be renewed on March 1, 2028.

This Order is effective March 1, 2026.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana February 24, 2026.



GREG GIANFORTE, Governor

ATTEST:



CHRISTI JACOBSEN, Secretary of State

