

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

All meetings take place in the Commissioners Conference Room (308)
located in the Ostlund Building @ 2825 3rd Ave N (3rd Floor)
and are open to the public unless otherwise noted

THURSDAY - AUGUST 13, 2026

8:45 Calendar

9:00 COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION

PLEDGE

DEPARTMENTS

1. **IT** - Providing View of the Billings Rims During Yellowstone International Airshow
2. **Elections** - November General Election - List of Candidates
3. **Public Works** - Durham Street Right of Way
4. **County Attorney** -
 - a. CJCC: revision of bylaws
 - b. YCDF needs assessment addendum

COMMISSIONERS

1. Commissioner Board Reports

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS

**Public comment is an opportunity for individuals to address the Board, however, the Board cannot engage in discussion or take action on items not properly noticed on the agenda. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per individual.*

***FY27 Budget Working Session Immediately Following Discussion**

CLOSED: General litigation update, Claims: Altwine, Frickle

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

1.

Meeting Date: 08/13/2026

Title: Yellowstone International Airshow - County Camera Display

Submitted For: Larry Ziler, IT Director

Submitted By: Larry Ziler, IT Director

TOPIC:

IT - Providing View of the Billings Rims During Yellowstone International Airshow

BACKGROUND:

Yellowstone County IT can easily and securely provide live stream access to our security camera on the roof of the Ostlund building and position the camera to view the North Rims in Billings during the airshow. Ben Flanagan has confirmed with the executive committee this would be acceptable during the airshow and would also like a recording of the times during the show.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please provide approval for activating the live stream of the Ostlund Rooftop Camera and approval to provide the Yellowstone International Airshow with recorded copies of the events captured.

Attachments

Camera View



Rooftop Panorama
8/10/2026 9:40:27 AM

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

2.

Meeting Date: 08/13/2026

Title: November General Election

Submitted By: Dayna Causby, Election Administrator

TOPIC:

Elections - November General Election - List of Candidates

BACKGROUND:

List of candidates as they will appear on the General Election ballot

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discussion

Attachments

Letter re MCA 13-1-403(4)



ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

(406) 256-2740 (OFFICE)
(406) 254-7940 (FAX)

elections@yellowstonecountymt.gov
www.YellowstoneCoVotes.com

P.O. Box 35002
Billings, MT 59107-5002

August 10th, 2026

To: Yellowstone County Commissioners

From: Dayna Causby, Election Administrator

Re: November 2026 General Election Candidate List

In Accordance with MCA 13-1-403 (4) this office is notifying the Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners of the following candidates that are eligible to be elected by acclamation in the November 2026 General Election. [MCA 13-1-403 (4) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b) and unless otherwise specifically provided by law, if the number of candidates filing for election is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, the election administrator shall notify the governing body of the local government in writing that the election is not necessary and the governing body may by resolution cancel the election.]

Office/Title	Filed
County Clerk and Recorder/Auditor/Surveyor	Jeff Martin
County Attorney/Public Administrator	Scott Twito
County Superintendent of Schools/Assessor/Treasurer	Hank Peters

The Yellowstone County Board of Commissioners may choose to elect these officials by acclamation with a resolution before the state ballot certification deadline of Thursday August 20th, 2026 (MCA 13-12201(1)).

Previous years ballots have included offices with only 1 candidate due to the write-in line appearing on the ballot for every race. In 2025 HB 207 and administrative rulings by the Montana Secretary of State updated the ballot layout guide to only include a write-in line if a qualified write-in candidate had filed for that office. The above did not have any qualified write-in filings for the offices. The only candidates who filed for each office are as stated.

This office recommends leaving these races on the ballot for the general election for historical references.

Thank you

Dayna Causby
Election Administrator

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

3.

Meeting Date: 08/13/2026

Title: Durham Street Right of Way

Submitted By: Monica Plecker, Public Works Director

TOPIC:

Public Works - Durham Street Right of Way

BACKGROUND:

Durham Street is an unconstructed Right of Way. Marshal Phil on behalf of the landowner has been developing preliminary plans to construct Durham Street. Public Works and its consultant have significant concerns with development of this right of way due to steep slopes and other constraints impacting constructibility and limits outside of the right of way. Public Works would like to discuss these concerns with the intent of providing a letter to the property owner that the County does not see a viable path forward.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss.

Attachments

Sanbell Review Letter



July 30, 2026

Ms. Monica Plecker
Yellowstone County Public Works
P.O. Box 35024
Billings, MT 59107

Reference: Durham Road Plans, Echo Canyon Subdivision – Review Comments

Dear Monica:

On June 12, 2026, Sanbell received a hard-copy plan submittal from Yellowstone County Public Works Director Monica Plecker for the proposed construction of Durham Road within the Echo Canyon Subdivision. The submittal included full-size construction plans, a geotechnical report, and a cover letter requesting consideration of a deviation from the County's standard 5:1 roadside slopes. The plans and cover letter were prepared by Marshall Phil of Blueline Consulting, while the geotechnical report was prepared by Rimrock Engineering.

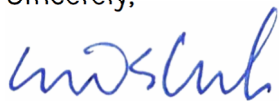
We have completed a detailed review of the submitted materials for conformance with Yellowstone County standards and accepted engineering practices. Based on our review, the submittal is incomplete and lacks sufficient documentation and supporting information to adequately evaluate the proposed improvements or determine their constructability. A more comprehensive plan set will be required before a complete technical review can be completed. In addition to the deficiencies in the submitted documentation, we have substantial concerns regarding the technical adequacy of the proposed design and its ability to satisfy accepted engineering practices and County standards. The following comments identify deficiencies and questions associated with the current submittal and should be considered in conjunction with the attached redline plan comments. Given the number of missing or incomplete elements, Sanbell, via Yellowstone County, reserves the right to provide additional comments as future revisions and supporting documentation are submitted.

1. The proposed roadway requires significant excavation into the existing hillside and rock face. In several locations, the proposed cuts appear to extend approximately 30 feet horizontally and exceed 40 feet vertically at very steep slopes. While the cover letter references proposed cut slopes as steep as 1:1 and 0.5:1, the construction plans do not identify the proposed cut slopes or describe the anticipated excavation methods. Additional documentation should be provided describing the proposed excavation techniques, including whether blasting will be required and the measures that will be implemented to protect adjacent residences, cisterns, drain fields, and other nearby improvements.
2. The submitted geotechnical report specifically states that a slope stability analysis was not performed. Given the magnitude and steepness of the proposed rock cuts, additional geotechnical evaluation is warranted. The geotechnical engineer should provide recommendations regarding the long-term stability of the proposed cut slopes and identify any design or construction measures necessary to ensure their stability.

3. The proposed roadway profile includes longitudinal grades approaching 12 percent over extended lengths. Grades of this magnitude present significant operational concerns during winter conditions and may adversely affect vehicle maneuverability, particularly for heavy vehicles and emergency response equipment. In addition, accepted engineering practice generally requires the use of vertical curves where algebraic grade differences exceed approximately 1 percent to provide an appropriate transition between grades. The proposed plans do not include vertical curves at locations where grade breaks substantially exceed this threshold, with some approaching 5 percent. The absence of appropriate vertical curve transitions may result in vehicles to bottom out.
4. The proposed roadway grades also have the potential to generate concentrated runoff velocities during precipitation events and rapid snowmelt, increasing the risk of erosion within roadside ditches and disturbed areas. The plans should include appropriate erosion and sediment control measures, as well as drainage design features, to demonstrate that runoff can be safely conveyed without causing erosion or damage to the proposed improvements or adjacent properties.
5. The cover letter indicates that a 3:1 fill slope is proposed between Stations 4+00 and 5+25 as a requested deviation from County standards. However, the cross sections indicate that the proposed fill slope ties directly into the existing hillside, effectively extending the overall slope beyond the proposed 3:1 embankment. Because 3:1 slopes are classified as “unrecoverable”, additional information is required to evaluate roadside safety. A clear zone analysis should be provided for the entire project corridor, including supporting documentation demonstrating compliance with accepted roadway design guidance or justification for any proposed deviations.
6. The proposed guardrail layout is not clearly shown on the construction plans. Although the cover letter states that guardrail is proposed between Stations 5+25 and 8+91, the corresponding guardrail is not identified in the plan views. Similarly, the cover letter describes a 2:1 cut slope within the cul-de-sac but does not discuss the need for guardrail, while the cross sections appear to depict guardrail in various segments of this area. The plans should clearly identify the proposed guardrail limits, terminal treatments, and the basis for guardrail installation throughout the project.
7. Please refer to the attached redlined plan set for additional review comments and requested revisions.

Please review the above comments and let me know if you have any questions. I would be happy to discuss these comments in greater detail or participate in a meeting to review them as needed. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Erin S. Claunch, PE, PTOE
Associate Principal | Director of Public Infrastructure Division

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

4. a.

Meeting Date: 08/13/2026

Title: CJCC: revision of bylaws

Submitted For: Melissa Williams, Deputy County Attorney

Submitted By: Melissa Williams, Deputy County Attorney

TOPIC:

CJCC: revision of bylaws

BACKGROUND:

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is requesting the Board's approval of proposed revisions to its bylaws. The amendments are minor, non-substantive refinements intended to clarify existing provisions and improve administrative consistency.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Agenda Item

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

4. b.

Meeting Date: 08/13/2026

Title: YCDF needs assessment addendum

Submitted For: Melissa Williams, Deputy County Attorney

Submitted By: Melissa Williams, Deputy County Attorney

TOPIC:

YCDF needs assessment addendum

BACKGROUND:

Following completion of the original Yellowstone County Detention Facility (YCDF) Master Plan in 2025, A&E Design and HDR have prepared an addendum reflecting the County's evolving facility needs and operational improvements. The addendum presents a revised, lower-cost expansion scenario with an updated space program and site plan, reduced staffing projections, and revised cost estimates.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Agenda Item

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

Meeting Date: 08/13/2026

Title: *Budget Working Session Immediately Following Discussion

Submitted By: Jennifer Jones, Finance Director

TOPIC:

***FY27 Budget Working Session Immediately Following Discussion**

BACKGROUND:

Review proposed changes from preliminary FY27 budget and final FY26 budget adjustments.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Discuss

Attachments

Final FY26

Requested Changes for FY27

Yellowstone County



FINANCE
(406) 256-2754
(406) 254-7929 (FAX)

P.O. Box 35003
Billings, MT 59107-5003

July 30, 2026

Board of Yellowstone County Commissioners:

Please accept this letter as a written request for you to formally approve some end-of-year budget adjustments to keep us in compliance with budget statutes. This request will be presented to you at a public discussion meeting on August 13, 2026, then as a regular item requiring your formal approval at your public agenda meeting on August 18, 2026. This action on your part is authorized under MCA 7-6-4006 (4).

1. Requesting to increase spending authority to allow for full payment of collections to each of the pass-through funds below with unanticipated revenue as the offset:
 - a. Predatory Animal (MT Woolgrowers)- \$336
 - b. Library (City of Billings)- \$8,835
 - c. Planning (City of Billings)- \$9,347
 - d. City/County Health (Riverstone)- \$37,325
 - e. Senior (Allies in Aging)- \$9,144
 - f. Health Ins Levy (HI fund)- \$30,900
 - g. Soil (YCCD)- \$90
2. Requesting reallocation of spending authority within the following funds:
 - a. Road- \$1,000,000 due to savings in other contracted services for ability to transfer to Road CIP fund.
 - b. Bridge- \$400,000 due to savings in other contingency for ability to transfer to Bridge CIP fund.
 - c. Health Insurance- \$1,050,000 from contingency and Renologic claims to medical claims to cover accrued liability estimate and unexpectedly high claims in FY26.
 - d. Sheriff Admin- \$2,000 reallocated from contingency to cover travel expenses.
3. Requesting increase in spending authority for the following funds:
 - a. Weed- \$40,000 increase to chemical budget from reserves for year-end inventory adjustment.
 - b. Blight- \$100 increase in termination pay from reserves.
 - c. GIS- \$29,000 increase in transfer to GF for fund closeout.
 - d. Health Insurance- \$250,000 increase in claims for yearend estimate.

Thank you,


Jennifer Jones
Finance & Budget Director

FINAL FY27 BUDGET

		Line					FUND
Department	Description	Item	Revenue	Personnel	Operating	Capital	TOTAL
Gen - Treasurer	Removed 2 Requested FTE (\$0 effect) & Increased contract services	398		-	31,000		
Gen - Elections	Reduced travel/moving to prior year level	370			(6,500)		
Gen - JC	Increased for partitions that arrived after 6/30/26	210			6,500		
Gen - Misc	Moved growth policy from PILT per BOCC	397			200,000		
Gen - Misc	Increased transfer to CIP due to 2nd floor flood/quicker timeline	829			500,000		
						TOTAL GENERAL	731,000
Bridge	Decreased transfer to CIP due to majority Duck Creek Bridge completion	829			(400,000)		
						TOTAL BRIDGE	(400,000)
Weed	Decreased contingency to keep reserve level adequate	850			(5,000)		
						TOTAL WEED	(5,000)
Liability & Prop Ins.	Decreased estimated litigation budget	741			(100,000)		
						TOTAL LIABILITY & PROPERTY INS.	(100,000)
Emergency/Ins	Courthouse Flood		480,000		380,000	100,000	
						TOTAL EMERGENCY/INSURANCE FUND	-
PS/MH	Moved new programs (New Day/VNN) from PILT	397			200,000		
						TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY/MENTAL HEALTH	200,000
Museums-Maint	Increased contingency	850			50,000		
Museums-Maint	Increased capital projects due to age of buildings and increased costs	920				25,000	
						TOTAL MUSEUM	75,000
Sheriff - Admin	Added travel/training for new deputies	370			5,000		
Sheriff - Patrol	Added reserve deputy stipend	398			40,000		
Sheriff - Patrol	Moved fleet replacement from CIP per BOCC request	940				500,000	
Sheriff - Misc	Increased contingency for unexpected inmate costs	850			250,000		
Sheriff - Misc	Increased CIP transfer for infrastructure needs	820			500,000		
						TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY-SHERIFF	1,295,000
Lockwood Ped	Increased budget for engineering projects requested	398			50,000		
Lockwood Ped	Increase budget for match on construction projects	791			5,000		
						TOTAL LOCKWOOD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	55,000
Extension	Decreased contingency budget due to reserve level	850			(15,000)		
						TOTAL EXTENSION	(15,000)
YSC	Increased variable contract for occasional boarding	398			15,000		
						TOTAL YOUTH SERVICES	15,000
Junk vehicle	Added to CIP transfer to keep at allowed \$200k (DEQ)	829			5,000		
						TOTAL JUNK VEHICLE	5,000
CIP - Road	Added carryover for 48th/Central project	930				500,000	
CIP - Bridge	Added carryover for Duck Creek Bridge project	932				500,000	
						TOTAL CIP	1,000,000
Metra - Facilities	Decreased transfer to CIP to keep reserves at a safe level (revisiting at midyear)	820			(500,000)		
						TOTAL METRA	(500,000)
Health Ins.	Increased BCBS plan fees	331			1,000		
Health Ins.	Increased budget for additional/high claims	351			1,000,000		
Health Ins.	Decreased budget for wellness screenings	356			(5,000)		
Health Ins.	Increased contingency	850			200,000		
						TOTAL HEALTH INSURANCE	1,196,000
Technology	Increased budget for depreciation (noncash)	830			25,000		
						TOTAL TECHNOLOGY	25,000
						GRAND TOTAL	3,577,000

FINAL FY27 BUDGET

PILT Fund - Expenditure Budget

REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET:

		FY27 BUDGET							
Net Cash 7/01/26		756,687							
PENDING REQUESTS									
Trail maintenance reserve - \$20,000 cap			20,000						
County spelling bee			2,000		no letter, but annual support				
NILE - Ag Education & stock show contribution			5,000		no letter, but annual support				
Yellowstone Historic Preservation Annual Match			1,000		no letter, but annual support				
Huntley Project Community Complex			5,000		letter recv'd 5.30.26				
DUI Task Force Symposium			5,000		email recv'd from Darla 6.3.26				
Lockwood Ped safety request			5,000		letter recv'd 5.15.26				
County Information Officer			40,000		4.30.26				
Information supplies			1,500		per Melissa 7.29.26				
State Firefighters Memorial			500		no letter, but annual support				
			85,000						
INTERNAL COUNTY FUNDING									
County parks transfer			100,000						
Salt Cedar Program - to Weed dept			20,000						
UNDESIGNATED CONTINGENCY BUDGET			100,000						
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET			430,000						
ESTIMATED REVENUE JUNE 2027			275,000						
PROJ. CASH BALANCE @ 6/30/27		601,687							

B.O.C.C Thursday Discussion

Meeting Date: 08/13/2026

Title: CLOSED: General litigation update, Claims: Altwine, Frickle

Submitted For: Melissa Williams, Deputy County Attorney

Submitted By: Melissa Williams, Deputy County Attorney

TOPIC:

CLOSED: General litigation update, Claims: Altwine, Frickle

BACKGROUND:

CLOSED

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Agenda Item
