

Missoula County

Media Release

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David Wall Named Interim Missoula County Auditor

After announcing her retirement on May 3, County Auditor, Barbara Berens, made a single recommendation to fill her position – promote Chief Deputy County Auditor, David Wall.

“Dave has been Chief Deputy County Auditor for the past year and a half after transferring to the Auditor’s Office,” Berens said. “He has a thorough knowledge of the core functions of the office, as well as a broad understanding of County operations. Dave’s experience, education, maturity, and commitment to public service make him an ideal fit for the position.”

The Missoula County Commissioners met with Wall on Tuesday, June 13 to discuss his potential interest in the position and to hear his vision for the Auditor’s Office.

“The auditor position is critical to ensuring accountability in county government,” Commissioner David Strohmaier said. “Dave Wall is committed to transparency, fiscal responsibility, and ethics, and his experience as chief deputy auditor will ensure a seamless transition following Barbara Berens’ retirement.”

“I am very honored, and humbled, by the fact that I will represent the citizens of Missoula County, and will work hard to promote transparency and accountability in our county government,” Wall said.



David Wall pictured bottom right with current Missoula County Auditor, Barbara Berens.

Because Berens will be retiring on August 11, before her term expires, an interim Auditor must be appointed by the commissioners. A resolution to appoint Wall to fill the vacancy and to fully carry out the duties of the position will be considered on Thursday, June 22. Should the commission vote to appoint Wall, he will assume the role on August 14. The interim appointee will serve until the end of Berens' elected term, to Dec. 31, 2018.

Wall has worked in the Auditor's Office since August 31, 2015, transferring from the County's Central Services department. He has his bachelor's degree in criminology from Florida State University and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Montana State University-Billings (MSUB).

After graduating from MSUB, Wall was gifted a small check from his father-in-law. This gift continued his active interest in learning and paved the way for his new position.

"I used the money to buy two government budgeting and finance textbooks," Wall said. "That's me in a nutshell."

The statutory authority for the County Auditor is found in Title 7, Chapter 6, Part 24 of the Montana Code Annotated. The office of County Auditor is an elected position with a four-year term. Primary responsibilities include examination and investigation of claims presented to the County for payment and the examination of the books and accounts of other County elected officials and officers.

Activities of County Auditor have evolved to include internal audit, monitoring and procurement functions which further the County's mission of providing cost effective and transparent services to the public. Additional responsibilities include analysis of organizational structures, work operations, work methods and procedures and recommendations to implement improvements suggested by such analyses.

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The Missoula County Auditor operates according to Missoula County Resolution 2001-018, which states that the Auditor shall have the authority to conduct financial or performance audits or special studies of all phases of Missoula County government. The Auditor also provides guidance to county departments on local government procurement practices and develops policies and procedures as needed. More information about the office can be found online: www.missoulacounty.us/government/administration/auditor-s-office.