

Missoula County Media Release

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Missoula County Announces New Elections Administrator, Chief Administrative Officer

Missoula County commissioners this morning announced their selections to fill the roles of elections administrator and chief administrative officer.

Commissioners appointed Interim Elections Administrator Bradley Seaman to serve in the role permanently. Seaman replaces Dayna Causby, who left the position at the end of last year. Seaman will start in the role permanently March 9. The current salary for the position is \$81,120.

Seaman was born and raised in Great Falls and has spent more than a decade working in the political field. After receiving his degree in political science from the University of Montana, Seaman worked with several organizations on a variety of candidate, petition and issue campaigns. He has served the Missoula County Elections Office as an election judge and polling place manager, originally training in 2008. He has also served on the Missoula County Election Advisory Committee.

Missoula County hired Seaman as elections supervisor in 2016, and he has worked on all aspects of elections through two federal election cycles. He also works with the Montana Election and Technology Advisory Council, which collaborates with other counties and the Secretary of State's office to make improvements to the administration of the statewide voter database. He also serves on the state committee working on the transition to a new voter database in 2021.

As elections administrator, Seaman will be charged with planning, organizing, coordinating and managing all federal, state, county and local elections, as well as voter registration processes, in Missoula County.

Commissioners also appointed Chris Lounsbury as the new chief administrative officer. Lounsbury will replace Vickie Zeier, who plans to retire in May after serving Missoula County for 30 years. Commissioners selected her as chief administrative officer in 2014 after she served as the elected clerk and recorder for 21 years. Lounsbury, the county's current chief operating officer, will start his new role June 1. The current CAO salary is 130,728.

Lounsbury was raised in Maine and moved to Missoula in 1993 to attend the University of Montana. After receiving his degree in political science, Lounsbury began working for Missoula County in 1998 as a public safety communications officer (9-1-1 dispatcher) and has since held various positions with the county before moving into his current role, including 9-1-1 assistant manager and director of the Office of Emergency Management.

As COO, Lounsbury provides oversight to a variety of departments including Human Resources, Office of Emergency Management, Relationship Violence Services, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council,

Justice Court administration and the Missoula County Fairgrounds. He has worked extensively with Missoula County's leadership team, legislative team and served as the county's chief labor spokesperson.

As CAO, Lounsbury will provide broad administrative oversight for designated county departments and serve as a resource for all county elected officials and department heads. The CAO works under the general direction of the county commissioners and serves as a liaison between them and other independently elected officials.

For more information and to schedule interviews with Seaman and Lounsbury, call Communications and Projects Director Anne Hughes at 406-258-3160 or email ahughes@missoulacounty.us.

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