

**For Immediate Release
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Bullock and Walsh Fill Key Staff Positions

HELENA -- Governor-elect Steve Bullock and Lieutenant Governor-elect John Walsh today announced the appointment of key staff members for their administration.

Tim Burton will serve as Chief of Staff and Dan Villa will serve as Budget Director. Ali Bovingdon and Kevin O'Brien will be Deputy Chiefs of Staff.

"These folks are on my team because I personally know their commitment to public service and that they will help create even greater opportunities for the next generation," said Bullock. "I couldn't ask for a more talented group of Montanans to help me lead the state."

Chief of Staff Tim Burton

Burton, a Great Falls native, has served as Chief of Staff and Deputy Director of the Montana Department of Justice since 2009. Burton holds an undergraduate degree from Carroll College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Montana. Prior to serving as Bullock's Chief of Staff, Burton served as City Manager of Helena from 2000-2009 and Chief Administrative Officer for Lewis and Clark County between 1994 and 2000.

Burton has also held management positions with the Montana Department of Commerce and the Montana Department of Administration, and he worked in marketing and sales for the Dial Corporation and M&M Mars. He currently serves as Director of Gov.-elect Bullock's transition team.

Deputy Chief of Staff Ali Bovingdon

Bovingdon, a Chinook native, has served as Chief Deputy Attorney General and Administrator of the Montana Department of Justice's Legal Services Division since 2009. Bovingdon has worked as an assistant attorney general since 2000 where her primary areas of practice have included defending the state in constitutional litigation and performing legislative and policy work on behalf of the Department. She is presently a Deputy Director of Gov.-elect Bullock's transition team. Bovingdon earned both her Bachelor and Law degrees from the University of Montana.

Deputy Chief of Staff Kevin O'Brien

O'Brien served as Campaign Manager to Bullock/Walsh for Governor. Prior to that, O'Brien served as the Director of Communications for the Montana Department of Justice and primary spokesman for the Attorney General. O'Brien has also been a communications aide to the Montana Democratic Party and U.S. Sen. Jon Tester. He is

currently a Deputy Director of Gov.-elect Bullock's transition.

Budget Director Dan Villa

Dan Villa was born and raised in Anaconda. Before becoming budget director, Villa served as Education Policy Advisor to the Governor. He was elected three times to the Montana House of Representatives where he sat on the Education, Business and Labor, Agriculture, Rules and Appropriations Committees. Dan was previously elected to the Anaconda School Board and served as chair of the Anaconda Local Development Corporation and the Deer Lodge County Planning Board. He is the former Executive Director of Anaconda Environmental Education Institute, a non-profit charged with educating the public about and encouraging development in Anaconda's Superfund sites. He has a bachelor's degree in Business and Information Technology from Montana Tech. Dan is married to Brandie (Barkell) and has two children, Reese and Dane.