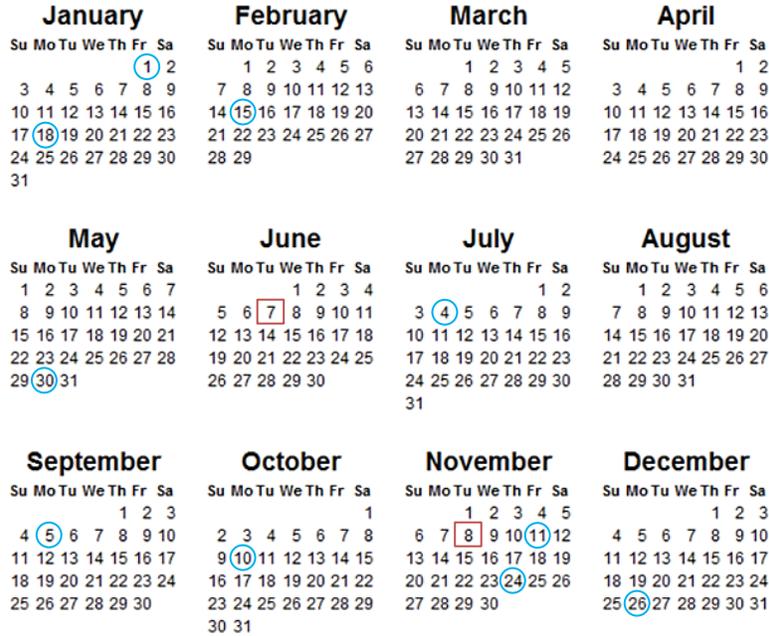




# MONTANA 2016 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Secretary of State Linda McCulloch  
 Elections and Government Services Division  
[sos.mt.gov](http://sos.mt.gov) • [soselections@mt.gov](mailto:soselections@mt.gov)

Primary Election June 7      2016      General Election November 8



Deadline		Statute
January 1 - 31	Period for county election administrators to mail forwardable address confirmation forms to electors on the absentee list	<a href="#">13-13-212</a>
January 14	First day for candidates to file for office	<a href="#">13-10-201</a>
February 26	Deadline for county governing body to change precinct boundaries; must certify changes to election administrator within 3 days, and must deliver legal description and map showing borders of all precincts and districts in which elections are held within the county (election administrators submit copy of map to Secretary of State)	<a href="#">13-3-102</a> <a href="#">13-3-103</a>
March 7	Deadline to submit new political party petitions to county election administrators	<a href="#">13-10-601</a>
March 14	Deadline for candidates to file for office	<a href="#">13-10-201</a>
	Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy	<a href="#">13-10-325</a>
	Deadline for county election administrators to file verified new political party petitions with the Secretary of State	<a href="#">13-10-601</a>
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates must file appropriate campaign paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices in order for their names to appear on the ballot	<a href="#">13-37-201</a>
March 22	Deadline for Commissioner of Political Practices to notify Secretary of State and election administrators of the names of any candidates that have not complied with the provisions of MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 and therefore that the candidates' names may not appear on the official ballot	<a href="#">13-37-126</a> <a href="#">(3)(b)(i)</a>
Before March 24	Election administrators determine whether <u>local nonpartisan</u> primary elections and parties' precinct elections need to be held, then notify governing body	<a href="#">13-14-115</a>

<b>March 24</b>	Deadline for governing body to decide that a local nonpartisan primary must be held, if election administrator determines that the election need not be held	<a href="#">13-14-115</a>
	Date for Secretary of State to certify names and designations of statewide and state district candidates to election administrators	<a href="#">13-10-208</a>
<b>Starting not earlier than April 11</b>	Election administrators must publish or broadcast notice specifying the day regular voter registration will close and the availability of late registration (three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration)	<a href="#">13-2-301</a>
<b>April 22</b>	Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by no later than this date	<a href="#">13-13-205</a>
	County central committees of parties eligible to nominate candidates in the primary election submit to election administrators lists of electors to serve as election judges	<a href="#">13-4-102</a>
<b>May 3</b>	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election	<a href="#">13-10-211</a>
<b>May 8</b>	Date by which legislative candidates must live in appropriate county, if it contains one or more districts, or legislative district, if it contains all or parts of more than one county (for six months next preceding General Election)	<a href="#">Article V Section 4 MT Const</a>
	Deadline for county governing body to designate the polling place for each precinct and to appoint election judges for each precinct	<a href="#">13-3-105(1)</a> <a href="#">13-4-101</a>
<b>May 9</b>	Close of regular voter registration (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	<a href="#">13-2-301</a>
	Date by which primary election absentee ballots must be available for voting	<a href="#">13-13-205</a> <a href="#">13-13-214</a>
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each type of voting system used in an election is performing properly	<a href="#">13-17-212</a>
<b>May 10</b>	Beginning of late registration	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
<b>May 12</b>	Registration forms postmarked by May 9 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	<a href="#">13-2-301(3)</a>
<b>May 13</b>	Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list	<a href="#">13-13-205</a> <a href="#">13-13-214</a>
	Any election judge serving in 2016 elections must attend a training and obtain a certificate of instruction prior to the primary election in even-numbered years	<a href="#">13-4-203</a>
<b>Prior to Primary Election</b>	County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee	<a href="#">13-17-504</a>
	Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline	<a href="#">13-2-115</a>
<b>After May 19</b>	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list	<a href="#">13-2-115</a>
<b>May 28 - June 5</b>	Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing a voting system used by voters and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote	<a href="#">13-17-203</a>
	Election administrators must publish or broadcast locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place	<a href="#">13-3-105(2)</a> <a href="#">13-3-207</a>
<b>May 31</b>	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators	<a href="#">13-10-503</a>

<b>June 3</b>	Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register	<a href="#">13-2-116</a>
	After 5:00 p.m. - Beginning of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>
<b>June 6</b>	Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-13-211(1)</a>
	Noon - Absentee ballots are issued to late registrants up until this time on the day before election day; late registrants who submit a registration form after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
	Noon - election administrators must pull supplemental precinct registers	Administrative Procedure
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots beginning at the time set in the public notice	<a href="#">13-13-241</a>
	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to file Declaration of Intent for office; deadline for county election administrators to file independent and minor party candidate petitions with Secretary of State	<a href="#">13-10-503</a>
<b>JUNE 7</b>	<b>PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION</b>	<a href="#">13-1-107(1)</a>
	Election administrators must randomly test and certify 5% of each type of voting system (a minimum of one per county), to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results	<a href="#">44.3.1713(1)(f)</a> <a href="#">ARM</a>
	8:00 p.m. - End of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
<b>June 7-13</b>	Period during which the election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	<a href="#">13-15-301(2)</a>
<b>June 13</b>	3:00 p.m. - Counting of provisional ballots that are not resolved by the end of election day may not begin prior to this date and time	<a href="#">13-15-107</a>
	3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive electronically submitted ballots and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day	<a href="#">13-21-206</a> <a href="#">13-21-226</a>
<b>June 14 – 16</b>	Period for State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issue and precincts to be audited for post-election audit	<a href="#">13-17-505</a>
<b>June 15-20</b>	Post-election audits conducted by machine-tabulation counties (after notification by State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issue and precincts chosen)	<a href="#">13-17-506</a>
<b>By June 21</b> (at least 1 day after post-election audit, if applicable)	County canvass completed - Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each county-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of county ballot issues	<a href="#">13-15-401</a> <a href="#">13-15-405</a> <a href="#">13-17-506</a>
<b>After county canvass is complete</b>	Certificates of nomination may be issued by county election administrator to successful local candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	<a href="#">13-37-127</a>
<b>As soon as county canvass is complete</b>	Election administrators send official canvass of election results to Secretary of State by certified mail	<a href="#">13-15-501</a>

<b>June 17</b>	Petition signatures due to election administrators for ballot issues; deadline for withdrawal of signatures	<a href="#">13-27-301</a>
<b>Within 5 days of official canvass</b>	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	<a href="#">13-36-102(1)</a>
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	<a href="#">13-16-201</a> <a href="#">13-16-301</a>
<b>Within 10 days of official canvass</b>	Deadline for successful primary write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	<a href="#">13-10-204</a>
<b>July 1</b>	State canvass must be completed – Canvass Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each state-certified office	<a href="#">13-15-502</a> <a href="#">13-15-507</a>
<b>After state canvass is complete</b>	Certificates of nomination may be issued by SOS to successful candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	<a href="#">13-37-127</a>
<b>July 15</b>	Deadline for election administrators to file certified ballot issue petitions in the Secretary of State's office – only signatures on petitions received by this deadline can be tabulated by the Secretary of State	<a href="#">13-27-104</a>
<b>August 15</b>	Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy	<a href="#">13-10-327</a>
<b>August 17</b>	Deadline for presidential independent and presidential minor party candidates to submit petition signatures to election administrators for verification and certification	<a href="#">13-10-504</a>
<b>August 18</b>	Deadline for Commissioner of Political Practices to notify Secretary of State and election administrators of the names of any candidates that have not complied with the provisions of MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 and therefore that the candidates' names may not appear on the official ballot	<a href="#">13-37-126</a> <a href="#">(3)(b)(ii)</a>
<b>August 24</b>	Deadline for election administrators to file certified petition signatures for presidential independent and presidential minor party candidates	<a href="#">13-10-504</a>
	Deadline for political parties to appoint replacement candidates	<a href="#">13-10-327(2)</a>
<b>August 25</b>	Deadline for Secretary of State to certify for the ballot the names of statewide and state district candidates and ballot issues to election administrators; deadline for election administrators to certify for the ballot the names of local candidates and ballot issues	<a href="#">13-12-201(1)</a>
<b>Starting not earlier than September 13</b>	Election administrators must publish or broadcast notice specifying the day regular voter registration will close and the availability of late registration (three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration)	<a href="#">13-2-301</a>
<b>September 23</b>	Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by no later than this date	<a href="#">13-13-205</a>
<b>October 4</b>	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election	<a href="#">13-10-211</a>
<b>October 11</b>	Close of regular voter registration (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	<a href="#">13-2-301</a>
	Date by which general election absentee ballots must be available for voting	<a href="#">13-13-205</a>
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each type of voting system used in an election is performing properly	<a href="#">13-17-212</a>
	Deadline for election administrators to mail a general election voter information pamphlet to voters on the active voter list	<a href="#">13-27-410(4)</a>
<b>Prior to General Election</b>	County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee (if not already appointed to serve for both the primary and general election)	<a href="#">13-17-504</a>
<b>October 12</b>	Beginning of late registration	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>

<b>October 14</b>	Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list	<a href="#">13-13-205</a> <a href="#">13-13-214</a>
	Registration forms postmarked by October 11 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	<a href="#">13-2-301(3)</a>
<b>October 20</b>	Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline	<a href="#">13-2-115</a>
<b>After October 20</b>	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list	<a href="#">13-2-115</a>
<b>October 29 – November 6</b>	Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing a voting system used by voters and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote	<a href="#">13-17-203</a>
	Election administrators must publish or broadcast locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place	<a href="#">13-3-105(2)</a> <a href="#">13-3-207</a>
<b>November 4</b>	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register	<a href="#">13-2-116</a>
	After 5:00 p.m. - Beginning of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>
<b>November 7</b>	Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-13-211(1)</a>
	Noon - Absentee ballots are issued to late registrants up until this time on the day before election day; late registrants who submit a registration form after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
	Noon – election administrators must pull supplemental precinct registers	Administrative Procedure
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots beginning at the time set in the public notice	<a href="#">13-13-241</a>
<b>NOVEMBER 8</b>	<b>FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION</b>	<a href="#">13-1-104(1)</a>
	Election administrators must randomly test and certify 5% of each type of voting system (a minimum of one per county), to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results	<a href="#">44.3.1713(1)(f)</a> <a href="#">ARM</a>
	8:00 p.m. End of period for qualified electors who are prevented from voting at the polls as a result of illness or health emergency, occurring between 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	<a href="#">13-13-211(2)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(2)</a>
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
<b>November 8-14</b>	Period during which the election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	<a href="#">13-15-301(2)</a>
<b>November 14</b>	3:00 p.m. - Counting of provisional ballots that are not resolved by the end of election day may not begin prior to this date and time	<a href="#">13-15-107</a>
	3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive electronically submitted ballots and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day	<a href="#">13-21-206</a> <a href="#">13-21-226</a>
<b>November 15-17</b>	Period for State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issue and precincts to be audited for post-election audit	<a href="#">13-17-505</a>
<b>November 16-21</b>	Post-election audits conducted by machine-tabulation counties (after notification by State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issue & precincts chosen)	<a href="#">13-17-506</a>

<b>By November 22</b> (at least 1 day after post-election audit, if applicable)	County canvass completed - Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each county-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of county ballot issues	<a href="#">13-15-401</a> <a href="#">13-15-405</a>
<b>After county canvass is complete</b>	Certificates of election may be issued by county election administrator to successful local candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	<a href="#">13-37-127</a>
<b>As soon as county canvass is complete</b>	Election administrators send official canvass of election results to Secretary of State by certified mail	<a href="#">13-15-501</a>
<b>Within 5 days of official canvass</b>	Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	<a href="#">13-16-201</a> <a href="#">13-16-301</a>
<b>Within 10 days of official canvass</b>	Deadline for successful general write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	<a href="#">13-10-204</a>
<b>December 5</b>	State canvass must be completed – Canvass Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each state-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of state ballot issues	<a href="#">13-15-502</a> <a href="#">13-15-507</a>
<b>After state canvass is complete</b>	Certificates of election may be issued by SOS to successful candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	<a href="#">13-37-127</a>
<b>After certificates of election are issued</b>	Secretary of State certifies legislative roster	<a href="#">5-2-211</a>



## 2016 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch

Elections and Government Services

[sos.mt.gov](http://sos.mt.gov) • [soselections@mt.gov](mailto:soselections@mt.gov)

### Election Information

#### My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at [sos.mt.gov](http://sos.mt.gov) for the following services on My Voter Page:

- Check your registration status
- Find your polling place, including a map with directions to the polling place
- Check the status of your absentee ballot, if applicable
- See a sample ballot, when available

#### Filing for Office

Information on filing as a candidate for a statewide, state district, or legislative office can be found at <http://sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing>.

#### Late Registration

- An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration by appearing at the county election office or designated location before the close of polls on election day.
- Late registration closes temporarily at noon the day before election day, and reopens at 7 a.m. on election day.
- Absent military and overseas electors are eligible for late registration (and can register and vote electronically for statewide primary and general elections held during each even year via the Secretary of State's Electronic Absentee System). See [http://www.sos.mt.gov/elections/Military\\_Overseas](http://www.sos.mt.gov/elections/Military_Overseas) for more information.

#### Voting by Mail

- An elector may sign up to receive ballots in the mail for all elections for which they are eligible. In order to stay on the list, electors must respond to confirmation mailings sent in January of each even-numbered year.

#### Polling Places

- According to [13-1-106](#), MCA, polls must open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except that polling places having fewer than 400 registered electors must be open from at least noon to 8:00 p.m. (or until all registered electors in any precinct have voted).
- Contact your [county election office](#) for your polling place hours.

#### ID for Voting

- All voters must present ID when voting at the polling place.
- ID can be any current photo ID with the voter's name, or if photo ID is not available, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration, government check or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address.

#### Provisional Ballots

- Electors whose eligibility or identity cannot be determined are allowed to vote a provisional ballot.
- Proof of registration or required identification must be provided to the county election office by 5:00 p.m. the day after the election, or mailed to the county election office by the day after the election.
- Pursuant to [13-15-107](#), MCA, counting of provisional ballots that are not resolved by the end of election day may not begin prior to 3:00 p.m. the sixth day after the election.
- Election officials shall notify each elector who cast a provisional ballot, by the most expedient means possible, whether or not the elector's ballot was counted, and the reason(s) why or why not.

#### Voter Info

Contact your [Election Administrator](#) at your county election office. Contact the Secretary of State at [soselections@mt.gov](mailto:soselections@mt.gov) or at 1-888-884-8683 (VOTE). Mailing address: PO Box 202801, Helena, MT 59620-2801.