



MONTANA 2018 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION

CANDIDATE CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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DEADLINE	<i>*Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on specified day unless otherwise noted</i>	STATUTE
January 11	First day for candidates to file for office	13-10-201
March 5	Deadline to submit new political party qualification petitions to county election administrators	13-10-601
March 12	Deadline for candidates to file for office	13-10-201
	Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy	13-10-325
	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive verified new political party qualification petitions from county election administrators	13-10-601
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates file appropriate paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices	13-37-201
By March 22	Election administrators determine whether local nonpartisan primary elections and parties' precinct elections (if applicable) need to be held; notify governing body	13-10-209 13-14-115 SB 178
April 27	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election	13-10-211 HB 83
May 6	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)	Article V Section 4, MT Const.
May 29	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators	13-10-503
June 4	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to file Declaration of Intent for office; deadline for Secretary of State to receive independent and minor party candidate petitions from county election administrators	13-10-503
June 5	PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION	13-1-107
By June 19	County canvass completed, official results are certified	13-15-401
Within 5 days of county canvass	Deadline for individual to initiate contest of primary election nomination	13-36-102
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election local candidates to petition for a recount, if applicable	13-16-201 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful primary write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance (after county canvass or state canvass, as applicable)	13-10-204
By July 2	State canvass must be completed, official results are certified	13-15-502
Within 5 days of state canvass	Deadline for individual to initiate contest of primary election nomination of federal candidates or state candidates	13-36-102
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election federal or state candidates to petition for a recount, if applicable	13-16-201 13-16-301
August 13	Deadline for candidate to withdraw general election candidacy	13-10-327
October 1	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election	13-10-211 HB 83
November 6	FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104
By November 20	County canvass completed, official results are certified	13-15-401
Within 5 days of county canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election local candidates to petition for a recount, if applicable	13-16-201 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful general write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-10-204
By December 3	State canvass must be completed, official results are certified	13-15-502
Within 5 days of state canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election federal or state candidates to petition for a recount, if applicable	13-16-201 13-16-301

2018 PRIMARY AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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Filing for Office

Pursuant to [13-10-201](#), MCA, in a partisan election, an individual may not file a Declaration for Nomination or a Declaration of Intent for more than one political party. A candidate may not file for more than one public office. (This does not include precinct committeemen and precinct committeewomen candidates.) Individuals cannot file for nonpartisan offices as independent candidates or as political party candidates.

Candidates who file with the Secretary of State (except write-in candidates) can file online at sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing beginning when the candidate filing period opens, or can download filing forms at sos.mt.gov/Elections/Filing.

Filing Fees

Under [13-10-202](#), MCA:

- (1) for offices having an annual salary of \$2,500 or less and candidates for the legislature, \$15;
- (2) for county offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 0.5% of the total annual salary;
- (3) for other offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 1% of the total annual salary;
- (4) for offices in which compensation is paid in fees, \$10;
- (5) for officers of political parties, presidential electors and officers who receive no salary or fees, no filing fee is required.

Term Limits

For information on term limits, visit sos.mt.gov/Elections/Term_Limits.

Write-in Candidates

Pursuant to [13-15-206](#), MCA, a write-in vote may only be counted if the oval, box, or other designated voting area on the ballot is marked.

For a primary election, declared write-in candidates for partisan offices file as party candidates; for a general election write-in candidates do not file with a partisan, nonpartisan or independent designation.

Under [13-10-211](#), MCA, if there are declared candidates for a position, a write-in candidate running for an office must file a Declaration of Intent and pay the filing fee at the time of filing, in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted. However, if an election is held and a write-in candidate is qualified for and seeks the office for which the candidate is written in, and **no candidate has filed for the office** (including any declared write-in candidate), an individual does not have to file a Declaration of Intent for the write-in votes to be counted.

Under [13-10-204](#), MCA, in order to **accept a primary nomination**, a write-in nominee must file a written Declaration of Acceptance; have received at least 5% of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election; comply with [13-37-126](#), MCA; and have paid the filing fee at the time of filing, unless claiming indigency under [13-10-203](#), MCA, or if exempt from filing under [13-10-211\(7\)](#), MCA (in which case the candidate shall pay the filing fee at the time of accepting the primary nomination).

Under [13-15-111](#), MCA, a write-in candidate who receives the most votes in a general election must file a written Declaration of Acceptance; comply with the provisions of [13-37-225](#), MCA; and pay the filing fee if not already required to have paid it at the time of filing, or if claiming indigency comply with [13-10-203](#), MCA.

Campaign Finance - Commissioner of Political Practices

Statement of Candidate Form is filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices within 5 days of filing for office. This form may be found at politicalpractices.mt.gov. Information for filing reports of campaign contributions and expenditures is provided by the Commissioner of Political Practices. Contact the Commissioner's office at 406-444-2942.