



# Montana 2017 Municipal Primary and General Election Calendar\*

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

\*All dates and laws are subject to change by the 2017 Legislature.

Primary Election September 12							2017							General Election November 7																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Deadline		Statute
April 20	First day for candidates to file for office	<a href="#">13-10-201(7)</a>
June 19	<b>5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to file for office</b>	<a href="#">13-10-201</a>
	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy	<a href="#">13-10-325</a>
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates 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>
After close of candidate filing	Period for Commissioner of Political Practices to notify 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(3)</a>
By June 29	Election administrators determine whether nonpartisan primary elections and parties' primary elections need to be held, then immediately notify governing body	<a href="#">13-10-209</a> <a href="#">13-14-115</a>
June 29	Deadline for governing body to decide that a nonpartisan primary must be held, if election administrator determines that the election need not be held	<a href="#">13-14-115</a>
	<b>If conducting a municipal primary election</b>	
July 14	<b>Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan</b> , timetable and instructions from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal primary election(s) by mail ballot	<a href="#">13-19-205</a>

Starting not earlier than July 17	Election administrators must publish notice specifying the day regular voter registration for primary election will close and the availability of late registration (three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration)	<a href="#">13-2-301(1)(b)</a>
August 8 <i>(subject to change by 2017 Legislature)</i>	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election	<a href="#">13-10-211(1)</a>
August 14	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy	<a href="#">13-10-327(2)</a>
	<b>Close of primary regular voter registration</b> (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	<a href="#">13-2-301</a>
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly	<a href="#">13-17-212</a>
August 15	Beginning of late registration	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
August 17	Registration forms postmarked by August 14 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	<a href="#">13-2-301(3)</a>
August 18 <i>(subject to change by 2017 Legislature)</i>	<b>Date by which primary election absentee ballots must be available for voting;</b> in a polling place election, electors on the absentee elector list are sent ballots automatically	<a href="#">13-13-205(1)(a)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(4)</a>
	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>
August 23-28	<b>Period during which mail ballots are sent if conducting election by mail ballot; a single mailing date must be chosen that is 20-15 days before election</b>	<a href="#">13-19-207(1)</a>
September 2 – September 10	Election administrators must publish: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout, a statement of the locations where voting systems used by voters are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote	<a href="#">13-17-203</a>
	Election administrators must publish 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>
September 8	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 8:00 p.m. 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>Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan,</b> timetable and instructions from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal <b>general</b> election(s) by mail ballot	<a href="#">13-19-205</a>
September 11	Noon - Deadline for application to be made for primary election 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>
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule	<a href="#">13-13-241</a> <a href="#">44.3.2204 ARM</a>
Starting not earlier than September 12	Election administrators must publish notice specifying the day regular voter registration for <b>general</b> election 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 12</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION</b>	<a href="#">13-1-107(2)</a>
	Election administrators or designees 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) ARM</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>
September 13-18	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	<a href="#">13-15-107</a> <a href="#">13-15-301(2)</a>
September 18	3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive 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>
	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(6)</a>
By September 26	Canvass completed - Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each office and proclaims adoption or rejection of ballot issues	<a href="#">13-15-401</a> <a href="#">13-15-405</a>
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination	<a href="#">13-36-102(1)</a>
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable	<a href="#">13-16-201</a> <a href="#">13-16-301</a>
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful primary write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance	<a href="#">13-10-204</a>
October 3 <i>(subject to change by 2017 Legislature)</i>	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election	<a href="#">13-10-211(1)</a>
October 10	<b>Close of regular voter registration for general election</b> (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	<a href="#">13-2-301</a>
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly	<a href="#">13-17-212</a>
October 11	Beginning of late registration	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
October 13 <i>(subject to change by 2017 Legislature)</i>	<b>Date by which general election absentee ballots must be available for voting;</b> in a polling place election, electors on the absentee elector list are sent ballots automatically	<a href="#">13-13-205(1)(a)</a> <a href="#">13-13-212(4)</a>
	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>
	Registration forms postmarked by October 10 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	<a href="#">13-2-301(3)</a>
October 18-23	<b>Period during which mail ballots are sent if conducting the election by mail ballot; a single mailing date must be chosen that is 20-15 days before election</b>	<a href="#">13-19-207(1)</a>
October 28 - November 5	Election administrators must publish: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout, a statement of the locations where voting systems to be used by voters are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote	<a href="#">13-17-203</a>
	Election administrators must publish 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>

November 3	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 8:00 p.m. 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>
November 6	Noon - Deadline for application to be made 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>
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule	<a href="#">13-13-241</a> <a href="#">44.3.2204 ARM</a>
<b>November 7</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION</b>	<a href="#">13-1-104(3)</a>
	Election administrators or designees 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 late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	<a href="#">13-2-304</a>
November 8-13	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	<a href="#">13-15-107</a> <a href="#">13-15-301(2)</a>
November 13	3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive 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>
	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(6)</a>
After Election	Period for Commissioner of Political Practices to certify to election administrators the names of all elected municipal candidates who complied with MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 so that certificates of election can be issued	<a href="#">13-37-126</a>
By November 21	Canvass completed - Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each office and proclaims adoption or rejection of ballot issues	<a href="#">13-15-401</a> <a href="#">13-15-405</a>
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable	<a href="#">13-16-201</a> <a href="#">13-16-301</a>
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful general election write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance	<a href="#">13-15-111</a>



# Montana 2017 Municipal Primary and General Election Calendar

## Office of Montana Secretary of State

### Elections and Government Services Division

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

## Election Information

*Subject to change by the 2017 Legislature*

### 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

*\*Some information on My Voter Page is available for statewide primary and general elections only.*

### 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 committee candidates, if applicable).
- Individuals cannot file for nonpartisan offices as independent candidates or as political party candidates.

### 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.

### 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 location and 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 the [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).

*Last updated January 12, 2017*