



Montana 2017 Municipal Primary and General Election Calendar*

Montana Secretary of State

sos.mt.gov • soselections@mt.gov

*Dates and requirements changed by the 2017 Legislature are noted in red.

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	13-10-201(7)
June 19	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to file for office	13-10-201
	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy	13-10-325
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	13-37-201
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	13-37-126(3)
By June 29	Election administrators determine whether nonpartisan primary elections and parties' primary elections need to be held, then immediately notify governing body	13-10-209 13-14-115
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	13-14-115
	If conducting a municipal primary election	
July 14	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan , timetable and instructions from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal primary election(s) by mail ballot	13-19-205

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)	13-2-301(1)(b)
Between August 3 and September 2	Election administrators publish notice of the primary election 3 times (if the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published 2 times)	13-1-108
August 4 <i>(Amended by the 2017 Legislature)</i>	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election	HB 83, Section 12 HB 83, Section 13
August 14	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy	13-10-327(2)
	Close of primary regular voter registration (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	13-2-301
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly	13-17-212
	<i>(Amended by the 2017 Legislature)</i> Date by which primary election absentee ballots must be available for voting; in a polling place election, electors on the absentee elector list, including absent military and overseas electors, are sent ballots automatically on August 18	HB 83, Section 13 13-13-212(4)
August 15	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304
August 17	Registration forms postmarked by August 14 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	13-2-301(3)
August 23-28	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	13-19-207(1)
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	13-17-203
	Election administrators must publish locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place	13-3-105(2) 13-3-207
September 5 <i>(Amended by the 2017 Legislature)</i>	5:00 p.m. 65 days before municipal general election (adjusted for Labor Day). Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for general election	HB 447, Section 1 HB 83, Section 7
	5:00 p.m. Earliest date and time that municipal governing body may cancel a general election for the election of a municipal officer by resolution, after notification by the election administrator pursuant to the provisions of 13-1-403 if the number of candidates filing for election is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled.	HB 447, Section 1 HB 83, Section 7
September 8	Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register	13-2-116
	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	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan, timetable and instructions from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal general election(s) by mail ballot	13-19-205
September 11	Noon - Deadline for application to be made for primary election absentee ballot	13-13-211(1)
	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	13-2-304
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule	13-13-241 44.3.2204 ARM

Starting not earlier than September 12	Election administrators must publish notice specifying the day regular voter registration for general election will close and the availability of late registration (three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration)	13-2-301
September 12	MUNICIPAL PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION	13-1-107(2)
	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	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	13-2-304
September 13-18	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	13-15-107 13-15-301(2)
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	13-21-206
	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	13-15-107(6)
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	13-15-401 13-15-405
Between September 28 and October 28	Election administrators publish notice of the general election 3 times (if the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published 2 times)	13-1-108
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination	13-36-102(1)
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply 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	13-10-204
October 10 <i>(Amended by 2017 Legislature)</i>	Date by which general election absentee ballots must be available for voting; in a polling place election, electors on the absentee elector list, including absent military and overseas electors, are sent ballots automatically on October 13	HB 83, Section 13 13-13-212(4)
October 10	Close of regular voter registration for general election (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	13-2-301
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly	13-17-212
October 11	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304
October 13	Registration forms postmarked by October 10 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	13-2-301(3)
October 18-23	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	13-19-207(1)
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	13-17-203

	Election administrators must publish locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place	13-3-105(2) 13-3-207
November 3	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register	13-2-116
	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	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
November 6	Noon - Deadline for application to be made for absentee ballot	13-13-211(1)
	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	13-2-304
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule	13-13-241 44.3.2204 ARM
November 7	MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104(3)
	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	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	13-2-304
November 8-13	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	13-15-107 13-15-301(2)
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	13-21-206
	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	13-15-107(6)
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	13-37-126
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	13-15-401 13-15-405
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable	13-16-201 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful general election write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance	13-15-111



Montana 2017 Municipal Primary and General Election Calendar

Montana Secretary of State

sos.mt.gov • soselections@mt.gov

Election Information

My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at 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 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 or at 1-888-884-8683 (VOTE).

Last updated October 2, 2017