



Office of Montana Secretary of State

Elections and Voter Services Division

sos.mt.gov • soselections@mt.gov

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

**Special Election Date: Thursday, May 25, 2017**

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**2017 U.S. Representative Special Election Calendar+**

Deadline	Activity	Statute
<b>Wednesday, March 01, 2017</b>	U.S. Representative vacancy occurred; Governor called for federal special election to be held <b>Thursday, May 25, 2017</b>	13-25-201
<b>Monday, March 06, 2017</b>	82 days before federal special election: independent and minor party candidates submit petition signatures to county election offices (1 week before the 75-day deadline to file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy); pursuant to 1-1-307, MCA, the deadline moves from Saturday, March 4 to Monday, March 6	13-10-503 13-25-205(2)
<b>Monday, March 13, 2017</b>	75 days before federal special election: parties submit names of nominees; nominees file Declaration and Oath of Candidacy; SOS must receive from county election officials all independent and minor party signed petitions; SOS certifies candidates for the ballot; pursuant to 1-1-307, MCA, the deadline moves from Saturday, March 11 to Monday, March 13	13-12-201(1)
<b>Between Tuesday, March 28, 2017 and Monday, April 24, 2017</b>	Not earlier than 4 weeks before the close of regular registration for federal special election: election administrators begin publishing notice of close of regular registration and availability of late registration (3 times in the 4 weeks preceding the close)	13-2-301
<b>Monday, April 10, 2017</b>	45 days before federal special election: county election officials send ballots to UOCAVA voters as soon as the ballot is printed and by no later than this date	13-21-224 13-21-105 13-13-205(2)
<b>Friday, April 21, 2017</b>	10 days before ballots are available for federal special election: deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent	13-10-211 13-13-205

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Statute</b>
<b>Starting Tuesday, April 25, 2017</b>	No more than 30 days prior to federal special election: beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each type of voting system used in an election is performing properly	13-17-212
<b>Tuesday, April 25, 2017</b>	30 days before federal special election: close of regular voter registration (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration); absentee ballots are made available	13-2-301(1)
<b>Wednesday, April 26, 2017</b>	1 day after close of regular registration: beginning of late registration	13-2-304
<b>Friday, April 28, 2017</b>	3 days after close of regular registration: registration forms postmarked by close of regular registration and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	13-2-301(3)
<b>Monday, May 01, 2017</b>	25 days before federal special election: date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list; pursuant to 1-1-307, MCA, the deadline moves from Sunday, April 30 to Monday, May 1	13-13-205(1)(a)
<b>Prior to Election</b>	County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county committee for post-election audit of federal special election	13-17-504
<b>Friday, May 05, 2017</b>	8 working days after close of regular registration for federal special election: deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline	13-2-115
<b>After Friday, May 05, 2017</b>	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list for federal special election	13-2-115
<b>Between Monday, May 15, 2017 and Tuesday, May 23, 2017</b>	Between 10 and 2 days before federal special election: 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, instructions on how to vote, and locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place	13-17-203 13-3-105(2) 13-3-207
<b>Friday, May 19, 2017</b>	5:00 p.m. Friday before federal special election: beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register; 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	13-2-116 13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
<b>Wednesday, May 24, 2017</b>	1 day before federal special election day: election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots beginning at the time set in the public notice	13-13-241

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Statute</b>
<b>Noon, Wednesday, May 24, 2017</b>	1 day before federal special election day: deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot; 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; election administrators must pull supplemental precinct registers	13-13-211(1)
<b>Thursday, May 25, 2017</b>	<b>Date of Federal Special Election</b> 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	<b>13-25-203</b>
<b>8 p.m. Thursday, May 25, 2017</b>	8 p.m. on Federal Special Election Day: end of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered); 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	13-2-304 13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
<b>Between Friday, May 26, 2017 and Wednesday, May 31, 2017</b>	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots for federal special election	13-15-301(2)
<b>Wednesday, May 31, 2017</b>	3:00 p.m. on the 6th day after federal special election: counting of provisional ballots that are not resolved by the end of election day may not begin prior to this date and time; deadline for election administrators to receive electronically submitted ballots and Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day	13-15-107(6) 13-21-206 13-21-226
<b>Between Thursday, June 01, 2017 and Friday, June 02, 2017</b>	Between 7 and 8 days after federal special election: period for Board of State Canvassers to randomly choose precincts to be audited for post-election audit	13-17-505
<b>Between Friday, June 02, 2017 and Wednesday, June 07, 2017</b>	At least one day after Board of State Canvassers meets for precinct selection for federal special election: post-election audits conducted by machine-tabulation counties (after notification by State Board of Canvassers of precincts chosen)	13-17-506
<b>Thursday, June 08, 2017</b>	Within 14 days of federal special election: county canvass completed; Board of County Canvassers proclaims the adoption or rejection of local ballot issues (if any)	13-15-301 13-15-405
<b>As soon as county canvass is complete</b>	Election administrators send official canvass of federal special election results to SOS by certified mail	13-15-501
<b>Wednesday, June 21, 2017</b>	Within 27 days of federal special election: state canvass must be completed – State Board of Canvassers declares elected the individual having received the highest number of votes cast for U.S. Representative	13-15-502 13-15-507
<b>After state canvass is complete</b>	Upon receipt of the report of the state canvass, governor sends a certificate of election to the person elected.	13-25-204 13-15-507