



2017 U.S. Representative Special Election Voter FAQs

Montana Secretary of State

Elections and Voter Services

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1. What is the date of the 2017 U.S. Representative Special Election?

*The Governor selected **Thursday, May 25, 2017** as the date of the election. A calendar for the election is available at <http://sosmt.gov/elections>.*

2. What are the requirements for candidates to file for the 2017 U.S. Representative Special Election?

Information on filing for the election is at <http://sosmt.gov/elections/filing>.

3. Who are the candidates for the 2017 U.S. Representative Special Election?

As candidates file, their information will be available at <http://sosmt.gov/elections/filing>.

4. What is different about this election than other elections?

*The election will be run in the same manner as all general elections in Montana. Unlike general elections, the Special Election will not be held in November. Per state statute, the Governor must select a date that is within 85-100 days of the vacancy in office. The Governor has chosen **Thursday, May 25, 2017** as the date of the election.*

5. Who set the date of the special election? Why was it not set for earlier or later?

Per state statute, in the event a congressional seat is vacated, the Governor must immediately set the date for a Special Election. The Special Election must be held within 85-100 days of the date of the vacancy in office.

6. Why is a special election being held rather than holding the election with another election?

Due to the timeframe of the vacancy and state law requirements, the special election cannot be held with another regularly scheduled election.

7. Why will school trustee election and special purpose district trustee elections not be on the 2017 U.S. Representative Special Election ballots?

The date of the vacancy is outside the time period for the school trustee and special purpose district trustee elections.

8. Is the election being held as a polling place election or as mail ballot election?

A special federal election cannot be conducted by all mail ballot unless expressly authorized by the legislature. If [SB 305](#) is passed and approved, it would allow counties to conduct the 2017 U.S. Representative special election by mail.

9. Who is overseeing the special election?

Secretary of State Corey Stapleton is the Chief Elections Officer and will oversee a fair election.

10. Does the whole state vote in the election, or just people in certain counties or in a certain half of the state?

All registered voters in Montana are eligible to vote in the Special Election.

11. Will there be any local ballot issues on the ballot?

While there will be no statewide ballot issues on the ballot, in certain counties there may be local ballot issues on the ballot.

12. How much will the election cost?

It is not known at this time exactly how much the election will cost, but county election officials will be surveyed after the election to determine these costs.

13. Will I vote at the same place as I do in other elections?

Depending on your county, the place at which you vote may be different than for other elections. To confirm your voter registration status, and for information regarding where to vote, click [here](#). Please note that the information will be updated before the election.

14. What should I do to check my registration status, my absentee ballot status, the location of my polling place, and a sample ballot?

You can check all these [here](#). Please note that the information will be updated before the election.

15. Am I still on the list to receive an absentee ballot in the election?

If you were on the list to receive an absentee ballot for the 2016 election season and have not asked to be removed and are still on the voter rolls in Montana, you are still on the list and will receive a ballot automatically. If you have changed your address, please update your voter registration address with your [county election office](#). You can check your absentee and voter registration status [here](#). If you are not on the absentee list and would like to be added to the list, please see an absentee application [here](#).