



Information for Write-In Candidates

Montana Secretary of State

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◆ Filing Deadlines ([13-10-211](#), MCA)

- The [Write-In Candidate Declaration of Intent](#) form must be filed with the [Secretary of State](#) (for statewide, state district, or legislative offices) or [county election office](#) (for local offices), accompanied by the filing fee (unless indigent), as follows:
 - ✓ For **Federal, State-wide, State-District or Legislative races**, the write-in Declaration of Intent must be submitted to the county election administrator office by 5:00 p.m. and no later than 55 days prior to the election:
 - June 2, 2020 Primary: **April 8, 2020**
 - November 3, 2020 General: **September 9, 2020**
 - ✓ For **Local Government races**, the write-in Declaration of Intent must be submitted to the county election administrator office by 5:00 p.m. and no later than 65 days prior to the election:
 - June 3, 2020 Primary: **March 30, 2020**
 - November 2, 2020 General: **August 31, 2020**
- The option to have a write-in vote counted on the **primary** ballot is available for write-in candidates for nonpartisan offices, or for candidates of parties qualified for the primary in Montana (see list of qualified parties at sosmt.gov/Elections/Parties) that also have sufficient races to require that a primary ballot be printed for the party.
- A write-in candidate who files a Declaration of Intent for a general election may not file with a partisan, nonpartisan, or independent designation, pursuant to [13-10-211](#)(6), MCA.
- Contact the Commissioner of Political Practices, <http://politicalpractices.mt.gov>, at (406) 444-2942 for campaign finance information.

◆ Links (*the first link is a PDF filing form for candidates to print, complete, sign in front of a notary, and submit with the filing fee in person or via mail, fax or email to the appropriate filing office*):

[Write-In Candidate Declaration of Intent](#)
[2020 Offices, Qualifications, and Fees](#)
[Information on Use of Pre-Printed Labels](#)
[2020 Election Calendar](#)
[Title 13 Election Laws](#)

◆ Where to file

- Candidates for federal or state offices, including public service commissioner, district court judge, and legislators, file their Declaration of Intent form and filing fee with the [Secretary of State](#).

- Candidates for local offices file their Declaration of Intent form and filing fee with the [county election administrator](#).

◆ Other Information

- Except as provided in [13-10-211](#)(7), MCA, in order for votes to be counted for a write-in candidate, a write-in candidate must file a Declaration of Intent with the Secretary of State or county election administrator and pay any required filing fee, pursuant to [13-10-202](#), MCA.
- A write-in vote may be counted only if the write-in vote identifies an individual by any of the designations included on the Declaration of Intent form filed by the candidate pursuant to law. The oval next to the write-in line must be marked.
- A candidate who files as an [indigent](#) candidate is not required to pay a filing fee, but is required to file petition signatures. See [Filing Information and Petition Signature Requirements for indigent candidate requirements](#).
- For information about the use of pre-printed labels, see <http://sosmt.gov/elections/write-ins>.