



2019 Municipal Primary and General Election Calendar

Montana Secretary of State
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2019

| January | February | March | April |
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| S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 |
| May | June | July | August |
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| September | October | November | December |
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September 10 - Primary Election November 5 - General Election

| Deadline | Activity* | Statute |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| April 18 | First day for candidates to file for office. | 13-10-201(7) |
| June 17 | 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to file for office. | 13-10-201(7) |
| | 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy. | 13-10-325(1)(b) |
| Within 5 days of filing for office | Candidates file appropriate campaign paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices (http://politicalpractices.mt.gov/) for their name 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 that those candidates' names may not appear on the official ballot. | 13-37-126(3) |
| By June 27 | 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(2)(d) |
| June 27 | 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(3) |

*Note: Some activities are only completed if a municipal primary election is held.

| Deadline | Activity | Statute |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| July 12 | 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(1) |
| Starting not earlier than July 15 | Election administrators must publish notice specifying the day regular voter registration for primary election will close and the availability of late registration (<i>three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration</i>). | 13-2-301(1)(b) |
| August 1 – 31 | Election administrators publish notice of the primary election three times. (<i>If the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published two times.</i>) | 13-1-108(1) |
| August 1 | 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election . | 13-10-211(1) 13-13-205 |
| August 12 | 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy. | 13-10-327(2) |
| | Close of primary election regular voter registration (<i>registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration</i>). | 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 before the primary election . | 13-17-212 |
| | 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 16. | 13-13-212(4) 13-13-205(1)(a)(i) 13-13-205(1)(a)(ii) |
| August 13 | Beginning of late registration – Primary Election. | 13-2-304 |
| August 15 | Registration forms postmarked by August 12 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration (primary election). | 13-2-301(3) |
| August 21 – 26 | If conducting election by mail ballot, period during which mail ballots are sent. A single mailing date must be chosen that is 20-15 days before election (primary election). | 13-19-207(1) |
| August 31 – September 8 | 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 (primary election). | 13-17-203(1) |
| | Election administrators must publish locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place (primary election). | 13-3-105(2) 13-3-207 |
| September 3 | 5:00 p.m. Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election . | 13-1-403(2) |
| | 5:00 p.m. Earliest date and time that the governing body may cancel a general election by resolution, after being notified by the election administrator pursuant to the provisions of 13-1-403(4) that the number of candidates filing for election is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled. | 13-1-403(4) |
| September 6 | Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register. | 13-2-116(1) |
| | 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 in the primary election 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 by mail ballot. | 13-19-205 |

| Deadline | Activity | Statute |
|---|---|---|
| September 9 | 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 (primary election). | 13-2-304 |
| September 9 | Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule (primary election). | 13-13-241 44.3.2204 ARM |
| Starting not earlier than September 9 (General Election) | Election administrators must publish notice specifying the day regular voter registration for general election will close and the availability of late registration (<i>three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration</i>). | 13-2-301(1)(b) |
| September 10 | MUNICIPAL PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION | 13-1-107(2) |
| | Election administrators or designees must randomly test and certify 5% of each type of voting system (<i>a minimum of one per county</i>), 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 (<i>or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered</i>). | 13-2-304 |
| September 11 – 16 | Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots (primary election). | 13-15-107(5)(b) 13-15-301(2) |
| September 16 | 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 (primary election). | 13-21-206(1)(c) |
| | 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 (primary election). | 13-15-107(6) |
| By September 24 (Primary Election) | Primary Election 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 |
| September 26 – October 26 | Election administrators publish notice of the general election 3 times. (<i>If the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published 2 times.</i>) | 13-1-108 |
| Within 5 days of official canvass (Primary Election) | 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 (Primary Election) | Deadline for successful primary election write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance. | 13-10-204 |
| October 7 | 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 11. | 13-13-212(4) 13-13-205(1)(a)(i) 13-13-205(1)(a)(ii) |
| October 7 | Close of regular voter registration for general election (<i>registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration</i>). | 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 before the election. | 13-17-212 |
| October 8 | Beginning of late registration – General Election. | 13-2-304 |
| October 10 | Registration forms postmarked by October 7 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration. | 13-2-301(3) |

| Deadline | Activity | Statute |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| October 16 – 21 | If conducting election by mail ballot, period during which mail ballots are sent. A single mailing date must be chosen that is 20-15 days before election. | 13-19-207(1) |
| October 26 – November 3 | 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 |
| October 26 – November 3 | 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 1 | Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register. | 13-2-116(1) |
| | 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 4 | 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 5 | MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION | 13-1-104(3) |
| | Election administrators or designees must randomly test and certify 5% of each type of voting system (<i>a minimum of one per county</i>), 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 (<i>or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered</i>). | 13-2-304 |
| November 6 – 11 | Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots. | 13-15-107(5)(b) 13-15-301(2) |
| November 11 | 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 19 | General Election 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 |



Election Information

My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at sosmt.gov for the following services on My Voter Page*:

- Check your registration and absentee status.
- Find your polling place*, including a map with directions to the polling place. *(The polling place listed is for the statewide primary/general election, check with your County Election Administrator to verify if it is the same for Municipal Elections.)*

***Note: Sample Ballots and Absentee Ballot tracking are not available for municipal elections on the My Voter Page.**

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. It reopens at 7 a.m. on election day.
- Absent military and overseas electors are eligible for late registration.

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).