



Office of Montana Secretary of State Electronic Ballot Request System (EBRS) County Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Electronic Ballot Request System (EBRS)?

A: The EBRS is an online system designed to allow Montana voters with disabilities the option to apply for an absentee ballot, access, and mark their ballot electronically.

Q: Who can use the EBRS?

A: A registered voter who meets the definition of an individual with a disability as defined in State Law:

"Disability" means a temporary or permanent physical impairment such as:

- (a) impaired vision;
- (b) impaired hearing; or
- (c) impaired mobility. Individuals having impaired mobility include those who require use of a wheelchair and those who are ambulatory but are physically impaired because of age, disability, or disease.

Voters must affirm their qualifications and eligibility as a voter with a disability and enter a residential address that can be matched with a Montana ballot type before they can access and mark a ballot.

Q: Can someone who is not registered to vote use the EBRS?

A: A qualified individual who is not yet registered to vote may access a voter registration application on the EBRS, but must print the application and mail or deliver it in person to the county election office. A ballot cannot be accessed from the EBRS until the county election office processes the voter registration application.

Q: How does a voter access the EBRS?

A: A voter can access the EBRS from the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sosmt.gov/elections/Disabilities/index.asp>.

Q: When can a voter request an absentee ballot using the EBRS?

A: Beginning 30 days before election day and ending at noon the day before election day.

Q: Which elections can the EBRS be used to vote in?

A: The EBRS is available only for the federal primary and federal general elections.

Q: How can a voter with a disability vote electronically in other elections?

A: Voters with disabilities may contact their county election administrator to request an electronic ballot for elections other than the federal primary and federal general elections. This ballot is emailed to the voter, but cannot be submitted electronically.

Q: How does a voter know that the county election office received the electronic ballot request?

A: The system automatically generates an email that notifies the voter that a ballot request was received.



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Q: The system is unable to identify a ballot style for a voter's residence. What should the county do?

A: In a few rare cases, the EBRS cannot match a voter's residence to the correct ballot style. Verify that the voter entered their residence information correctly. If you still have problems, contact the Montana Secretary of State's Office at (406) 444-7911, toll free at 888-884-8683, or at soselections@mt.gov.

Q: What if a voter cannot sign ballot materials?

A: Voters with disabilities that cannot provide a signature may use a mark or fingerprint, may have an election judge or friend sign for them, may use a Designated Agent to sign for them, or provide their driver's license number or last 4 of social security number in lieu of a signature.

Q: How can a voter submit a voted ballot?

A: They may either mail, with postage affixed, or deliver their ballot in person.

Q: Can they submit their voted ballot via email or fax to the county election office?

A: No, the law requires that electronic ballots for voters with disabilities be mailed, with postage affixed, or delivered to a polling place or the county election office.

Q: Can a completed electronic ballot be deposited at a polling place on election day?

A: Yes, an electronic ballot may be deposited, along with the transmittal coversheet, secrecy envelope template, and signature envelope template, at any polling place in the county or the county election office.

Q: How does a voter know that their ballot has been received by the county election office?

A: Ballots can be tracked online at [My Voter Page](#) or they may contact the county election office.

Q: Once a voter receives a PIN to access their ballot, how long do they have to access it?

A: The system will be available for ballot access using the PIN provided until 8:00 PM on election day.

Q: Who may I contact with additional questions or concerns about the EBRS?

A: Contact the Secretary of State's Office (406) 444-7911, toll free 888-884-8683, or soselections@mt.gov.

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