



2024 Primary and General Election Candidate Calendar

Montana Secretary of State

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Primary Election: June 4 Candidate Filing Opens: January 11							<h1>2024</h1>							General Election: November 5 Candidate Filing Closes: March 11						
January '24							February '24							March '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
April '24							May '24							June '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						
July '24							August '24							September '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
October '24							November '24							December '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

DEADLINE	ACTIVITY	STATUTE
January 11	Candidate Filing Opens – 8:00 AM	13-10-201 (7)
February 2	Deadline to submit signed political party qualification petitions and affidavits of signature gatherers to county election administrators for a new political party.	13-10-606(3)
March 1	Deadline to submit new political party qualification petitions by county election administrators to the Secretary of State’s office.	13-10-609(2)
March 11	Deadline for Secretary of State to certify that a new political party does or does not qualify for the ballot via party qualification petition.	13-10-610(3)
March 11	Candidate Filing Closes – 5:00 PM	13-10-201 (7)
	Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy.	13-10-325
	Deadline for candidates to be registered to vote in Montana. (*Note: exception exists for under 18-year-olds who will turn 18 before the election.)	HB 306 (2023)
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates file appropriate paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices.	13-37-201
By March 21	Election administrators determine whether <u>local nonpartisan office</u> primary elections need to be held.	13-14-115 (3)
By April 1	Election administrators determine whether parties’ precinct committee representative elections need to be held.	13-38-201
April 1 by 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for local government write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election.	13-10-211, 13-1-403
April 9	Deadline for Federal, State-wide and State District write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election.	13-10-211
May 5	Date by which legislative candidates must live in appropriate county, if it contains one or more districts, or legislative district, if it contains all or parts of more than one county (for six months next preceding General Election).	Article V, Section 4, MT Const.
May 28	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators.	13-10-503
June 3	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to file Declaration of Intent for office; deadline for Secretary of State to receive independent and minor party candidate petitions from county election administrators.	13-10-503
June 4	PRIMARY ELECTION	13-1-107

DEADLINE	ACTIVITY	STATUTE
By June 18	County canvass completed – Canvass Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each county-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of county ballot issues.	13-15-401
After county canvass is complete	County election administrator issues certificates of nomination to successful local nominees after Commissioner of Political Practices provides notification to county election administrators of candidates’ compliance with applicable filing requirements.	13-37-127
Within 5 days of county canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination. (After county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-36-102
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election local candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable. (After county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-16-201 , 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful primary write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance. (After county canvass or state canvass, as applicable)	13-10-204
By July 1	State canvass completed – Canvass Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each state certified office and sends certified copies of the reports and results to the Governor.	13-15-502 , 13-15-507
Within 5 days of state canvass	Deadline for individual to initiate contest of primary election nomination of federal candidates or state candidates.	13-36-102
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election federal or state candidates to petition for a recount, if applicable.	13-16-201 , 13-16-301
August 12	Deadline for candidate to withdraw general election candidacy.	13-10-327
August 21	Deadline for political parties to appoint replacement candidates to fill vacancies.	13-10-327(2)
August 22	Deadline for Secretary of State to certify for the ballot the names and designations of statewide and state district candidates and statewide ballot issues to election administrators; deadline for election administrators to certify for the ballot the names of local candidates and local ballot issues.	13-12-201(1)
September 3	Deadline for local government write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election.	13-1-403 , 13-10-211
September 10	Deadline for Federal, State-wide and State District write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election.	13-10-211
November 5	GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104
By November 19	County canvass completed – Canvass Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each county-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of county ballot issues.	13-15-401

DEADLINE	ACTIVITY	STATUTE
Within 5 days of county canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election local candidates to petition for a recount, if applicable.	13-16-201 , 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful general write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance. (After county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-10-204
By December 2	State canvass completed – Canvass Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each state-certified office and proclaims the adoption or rejection of statewide ballot issues and sends certified copies of the reports and results to the Governor.	13-15-502
Within 5 days of state canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election federal or state candidates to petition for a recount, if applicable.	13-16-201 , 13-16-301
After state canvass is complete	Secretary of State issues certificates of election to successful candidates after the Commissioner of Political Practices provides notification to Secretary of State of candidates' compliance with applicable filing requirements.	13-37-127
After certificates of election are issued	Secretary of State certifies legislative roster.	5-2-211



2024 Primary and General Information for Candidates

Montana Secretary of State

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Filing for Office:

An individual may not file a Declaration of Nomination or a Declaration of Intent for more than one political party in a partisan election ([13-10-201](#), MCA). The restriction on filing for multiple offices does not include precinct committee candidates, if applicable, and certain local offices per [7-1-205](#) MCA. Individuals cannot file for a nonpartisan office as an independent candidate or a political party candidate. The deadline for candidates to file for office is March 11th. A state or local candidate must be a registered voter in Montana by the end of candidate filing except for candidates under 18 and that will turn 18 by the election. ([2-16-102](#), MCA)

Filing Fees:

Under [13-10-202](#), MCA:

- (1) for offices having an annual salary of \$2,500 or less and candidates for the legislature, \$15;
- (2) for county offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 0.5% of the total annual salary;
- (3) for president, an amount equivalent to the filing fee required for a United States senate candidate, \$1740;
- (4) for other offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 1% of the total annual salary;
- (5) for offices in which compensation is paid in fees, \$10;
- (6) for officers of political parties, presidential electors and officers who receive no salary or fees, no filing fee is required.

Term Limits:

For information on term limits, visit [sosmt.gov/Elections/Term Limits](http://sosmt.gov/Elections/Term_Limits).

Write-In Candidates:

All write-in candidates are required to fill out a Declaration of Intent. A write-in candidate running for an office must file a Declaration of Intent and pay the filing fee at the time of filing in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted. For a **primary** election, declared write-in candidates for partisan offices file as party candidates; for a **general** election write-in candidate do not file with a partisan, nonpartisan or independent designation.

Pursuant to [13-15-206](#), MCA, a write-in vote may only be counted if the oval, box, or other designated voting area on the ballot is marked.

Under [13-10-204](#), MCA, in order to **accept a primary nomination**, a write-in nominee must file a written Declaration of Acceptance; have received at least 5% of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election; comply with [13-37-126](#), MCA. Under [13-15-111](#), MCA, a write-in candidate who receives the most votes in a general election must file a written Declaration of Acceptance; comply with the provisions of [13-37-225](#), MCA.

Campaign Finance – Commissioner of Political Practices:

All candidates, except for some school election candidates and candidates for federal office (President/Congress), must file a Statement of Candidate Form with the Commissioner of Political Practices. A candidate must file a State of Candidate Form within five days once one of these events occur: the candidate files for office, appoints a treasurer, receives contributions or spends money for the campaign, or has updates to any of their original Statement of Candidate information. The form can be found at <https://politicalpractices.mt.gov/Home/Forms>. Reference the [Commissioner of Political Practices](#) website for campaign finance information or contact their office at 406-444-2942.

Additional Candidate Resources:

Contact the [county election office](#) directly or Secretary of State at soselections@mt.gov or visit sosmt.gov.