



Information for Write-In Candidates

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

- 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 4, 2024 Primary: **April 9, 2024**
 - November 5, 2024 General: **September 10, 2024**
- For **Local Government races**, ([13-1-403\(1\)\(2\)](#), MCA) 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 4, 2024 Primary: **April 1, 2024**
 - November 5, 2024 General: **September 3, 2024**
- 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*, [Political Parties – Montana Secretary of State – Christi Jacobsen \(sosmt.gov\)](#)) 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.

◆ Where to File

- File with the [Secretary of State](#) for the presidential preference primary, a congressional office, a state or district office to be voted for in more than one county, a member of the legislature, or a judge of the district court.
- File with the [county election administrator](#) a county, municipal, precinct, or district office (other than a member of the legislature or a judge of the district court) to be voted for in only one county.

◆ Other Information

- 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 (see [House Bill 536](#)).
- 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 also 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>.