



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 | | | | |
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| 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 of 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, 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.