



2024 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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Primary Election: June 4
General Election: November 5

2024

Candidate Filing Opens: January 11
Candidate Filing Closes: March 11

January '24

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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February '24

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March '24

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April '24

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May '24

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June '24

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July '24

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August '24

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September '24

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October '24

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November '24

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December '24

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| Deadline | Activity | Statute |
|---|--|--|
| November 5, 2023 | Date by which candidates for legislative positions must be a resident of Montana. | Article V, Part V, Sect. 4 MT Const |
| 2024 | | |
| January 11 | Candidate Filing opens | 13-10-201(7) |
| February 2 | Deadline for a new political party to submit a minor party petition to county election administrators. | 13-10-606 |
| February 26 | Deadline for county governing body to change precinct boundaries. | 13-3-102 13-3-103 |
| March 1 | Deadline for Secretary of State to receive verified new political party qualification petitions from county election administrators. | 13-10-609(2) |
| March 11 | Candidate Filing closes – 5:00pm Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy. Deadline for governing bodies to call for a local government review study commission question to appear on the primary ballot. | 13-10-201 13-10-325 7-3-173 13-1-405(2) |
| Within 5 days of filing for office | Candidates file appropriate campaign paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices. | 13-37-201 |
| March 19 | Deadline for Commissioner of Political Practices to notify Secretary of State and county election administrators of the names of any candidates that have not complied with the provisions of MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 and therefore, the candidates' names may not appear on the official ballot. | 13-37-126 (3)(b)(i) |
| By March 21 | Election administrators determine whether <u>local nonpartisan office</u> primary elections and parties' precinct committee representative elections need to be held, then notify governing body. | 13-14-115 |
| March 21 | Deadline for Secretary of State to certify for the ballot the names and designations of statewide and state district candidates to election administrators; deadline for election administrators to certify for the ballot the names of local candidates and local ballot issues. | 13-10-208 |
| | Deadline for governing body to decide that a local nonpartisan primary office election must be held, if election administrator determines that the election need not be held. | 13-14-115 |
| April 1 by 5:00pm | Deadline for local government write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election. | 13-1-403(1) 13-10-211 |
| No earlier than April 8 | Election administrators must publish or broadcast notice specifying the day regular voter registration will close and the availability of late registration. (Three times in the four weeks preceding the close of regular registration on May 6, 2024.) | 13-2-301(1)(b) |
| 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 |
| April 19 | Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and no later than this date. | 13-13-205(2) 13-21-224 |
| April 22 | County central committees of parties eligible to nominate candidates in the primary election submit to election administrators lists of electors to serve as election judges. | 13-4-102 |



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| May 5 | Date by which legislative candidates must be a resident in the 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 the General Election) | Article V, Part V, Sect. 4 MT Const |
| May 6 | Close of regular voter registration. (Registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration.) | 13-2-301 |
| May 6 | Absentee ballots must be available 30 days prior to election day for absentee voting in person. | 13-13-205 13-13-222 |
| | Beginning of the period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each type of voting system used in an election is performing properly. Reminder: An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to 13-13-241(7)(a) the day before the election. | 13-17-212 |
| May 6 | Deadline for county governing body to designate the polling place for each precinct and to appoint three or more election judges for each precinct, one of whom must be designated chief judge. | 13-3-105(1) 13-4-101 |
| May 7 | Late Registration begins – Primary Election | 13-2-304 |
| May 9 | Registration forms postmarked by May 6 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration. | 13-2-301(3) |
| May 10 | Date ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list. | 13-13-205 13-13-214 |
| | Any election judge serving in 2024 elections must attend a training and obtain a certificate of completion prior to the primary election in even-numbered years. | 13-4-203 |
| Prior to Primary Election | County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee. | 13-17-504 |
| | Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline. | 13-2-115 |
| After May 16 | Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list. | 13-2-115 |
| May 25 – June 2 | Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing a voting system used by voters and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), 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 |
| | Election administrators must publish, or broadcast locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place. | 13-3-105(2) 13-3-207 |
| | Election administrators must publish or broadcast a notice indicating the method that will be used for counting absentee ballots and the place and time that the absentee ballots will be counted on election day. | 13-15-105 13-15-206 13-15-207 |
| May 27 | Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators. | 13-10-503 |
| May 30 | Election administrators in counties with 8,000 or more registered electors or 5,000 or more absentee electors may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots. | 13-13-241(7) |
| May 31 | Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register. | 13-2-116 |
| May 31, after 5:00pm | 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 | 13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2) |



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| | 5:00 p.m. of the Friday before the election and before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot. | |
| June 3 | Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application 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; If the election administrator has received the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of late registration, the elector may vote in the election if the elector obtains the ballot from the location designated by the county election administrator. | 13-2-304 |
| | Starting at noon - election administrators pull supplemental precinct registers. | Administrative Procedure |
| | Election administrators may opt to conduct early preparation of absentee ballots beginning at the time set in the public notice. | 13-13-241 ARM 44.3.2204 |
| | Automatic tabulation using a vote counting machine of absentee ballots may begin. An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to 13-13-241(7)(a) the day before the election. | 13-13-241 13-15-104 13-15-207 13-17-212 |
| | 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 |
| June 4 | 7:00 a.m. – Polls open <i>*Polling places with less than a net of 400 registered voters (Registered minus Absentee) may open after 7:00 a.m. but must open no later than noon.</i> | 13-1-106 |
| | Election administrators must randomly test and certify 10% of each type of voting system (a minimum of one per county), to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results. | ARM 44.3.1713 (1)(f) |
| | 8:00 p.m. - End 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 before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot. | 13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2) |
| | 8:00 p.m. – Polls close | 13-1-106 |
| June 5-10 | Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots. | 13-15-301(2) |
| June 10 after 3:00 pm | 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(8) |
| | 3:00 p.m. – Deadline for election administrators to receive Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) sent by 8:00 p.m. on election day. | 13-21-206 |
| | 3:00 p.m. – Counting of electronically submitted ballots that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day and received by 5:00 p.m. the day after the election. | 13-21-226(2) |
| June 11-13 | Period for State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issue, and precincts to be audited for post-election audit. | 13-17-505 |
| June 12-17 | Post-election audits conducted by counties (after notification by State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issue, and precincts chosen) | 13-17-506 |



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| By June 18 (at least 1 day after post-election audit) | 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 13-15-405 13-17-506 |
| June 21 | Petition signatures due to election administrators for statewide ballot issues; deadline for withdrawal of statewide ballot issue signatures. | 13-27-301 |
| 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 |
| When county canvass is complete | Election administrators send official canvass of election results to Secretary of State by certified mail. | 13-15-501 |
| Within 5 days of official canvass | Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination after county or state canvass, as applicable. | 13-36-102(1) |
| | Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply for a recount, after county or state canvass, as applicable. | 13-16-201 13-16-211 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 or state canvass, as applicable. | 13-10-204 |
| By July 1 – Within 27 days after the election | 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 |
| After state canvass is complete | Secretary of State issues certificates of nomination to successful nominees after the Commissioner of Political Practices provides notification to Secretary of State of candidates’ compliance with applicable filing requirements. | 13-37-127 |
| July 19 by 5:00pm | Deadline for election administrators to file certified ballot issue petitions in the Secretary of State's office. Only signatures on petitions received by this deadline can be tabulated by the Secretary of State. | 13-27-104 |
| August 12 | Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy. | 13-10-327(2) |
| August 15 | Deadline for Commissioner of Political Practices to notify Secretary of State and election administrators of the names of any candidates that have not complied with the provisions of MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 and therefore, the candidates' names may not appear on the official ballot. | 13-37-126 (3)(b)(ii) |
| 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(1)(2) 13-10-211 |
| No earlier than September 9 | Election administrators must publish or broadcast notice specifying the day regular voter registration will close and the availability of late registration. (Three times in the four weeks preceding the close of regular registration) | 13-2-301 |
| 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 |



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| September 20 | Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by not later than this date. | 13-13-205 13-21-224 |
| October 7 | Close of regular voter registration. (Registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration.) | 13-2-301 |
| | Date by which absentee ballots must be available for voting in person. | 13-13-205 13-13-222 |
| | Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each type of voting system used in an election is performing properly. Reminder: An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to 13-13-241(7)(a) the day before the election. | 13-17-212 |
| | Deadline for election administrators to mail the general election voter information pamphlet to voters on the active voter list. | 13-27-410(4) |
| Prior to General Election | County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee if not already appointed to serve for both the primary and general election. | 13-17-504 |
| October 8 | Late Registration begins – 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) |
| | Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list. | 13-13-205 13-13-214 |
| October 18 | Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline. | 13-2-115 |
| After October 18 | The Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list. | 13-2-115 |
| October 26 – November 3 | Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing a voting system used by voters and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), 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 |
| | Election administrators must publish, or broadcast locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place. | 13-3-105(2) 13-3-207 |
| | Election administrators must publish or broadcast a notice indicating the method that will be used for counting absentee ballots and the place and time that the absentee ballots will be counted on election day. | 13-15-105 13-15-206 13-15-207 |
| October 31 | Election administrators in counties with 8,000 or more registered elector or 5,000 or more absentee elector may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots. | 13-13-241(7) |
| November 1 | Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register. | 13-2-116 |
| November 1 after 5:00pm | 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 before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot. | 13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2) |
| November 4 | Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot. | 13-13-211(1) |



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| November 4 | Noon - Absentee ballots are issued to late registrants up until this time on the day before election day; If the election administrator has received the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of late registration may vote in the election if the elector obtains the ballot from the location designated by the county election administrator. | 13-2-304 |
| | Starting at noon – election administrators pull supplemental precinct registers. | Administrative Procedure |
| | Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots beginning at the time set in the public notice. | 13-13-241 ARM 44.3.2204 |
| | Automatic tabulation using a vote counting machine of absentee ballots may begin. An election administrator shall test all central count vote tabulation machines to be used if automatic tabulation begins pursuant to 13-13-241(7)(a) the day before the election. | 13-13-241 13-15-104 13-15-207 13-17-212 |
| November 5 | GENERAL ELECTION | 13-1-104(2) |
| November 5 | 7:00 a.m. - Polls open *Polling places with less than a net of 400 registered voters (Registered minus Absentee) may open after 7:00 a.m. but must open no later than noon. | 13-1-106 |
| | Election administrators must randomly test and certify 10% of each type of voting system, a minimum of one per county, to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results. | ARM 44.3.1713 (1)(f) |
| | 8:00 p.m. End 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 before the close of polls on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot. | 13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2) |
| | 8:00 p.m. - Polls close | 13-1-106 |
| November 6-12 | Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots. (Note: Veterans Day is November 11 which pushes the deadline to November 12th per 1-1-307 MCA) | 13-15-301(2) |
| November 12 after 3:00 pm | 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 |
| | 3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) sent by 8:00 p.m. on election day. | 13-21-206 |
| | 3:00 p.m. – Counting of electronically submitted ballots that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day and received by 5:00 p.m. the day after the election. | 13-21-226 |
| November 12-14 | Period for State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issue, and precincts to be audited for post-election audit. | 13-17-505 |
| November 13-18 | Post-election audits conducted by counties after notification by State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issue, and precincts chosen. | 13-17-506 |
| By November 19 (at least 1 day after post-election audit, if applicable) | 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 13-15-405 13-17-506 |
| After county canvass is complete | County election administrator issues certificates of election to successful local candidates after Commissioner of Political Practices provides notification to county election administrators of candidates' compliance with applicable filing requirements. | 13-37-127 |



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| As soon as county canvass is complete | Election administrators send official canvass of election results to Secretary of State by certified mail. | 13-15-501 |
| Within 5 days of official canvass | Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidates to apply for a recount after county or state canvass, as applicable. | 13-16-201 13-16-211 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 13-15-507 |
| 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 |



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Voter Information

My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's [Elections and Voter Services](#) page or the [My Voter Page](#) to:

- Check your voter registration, absentee status, sample ballot, and ballot status.
- Find your polling place*, including a map with directions to the polling place.
*The polling place listed is for statewide Primary/General elections. Contact your County Election Administrator to verify polling locations for Municipal or School elections.

Filing for Office

- Per [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

- Pursuant to a September 30th, 2022, District Court Order, registrations before the close of polls on Election Day will be processed. Before an elector is permitted to receive a ballot or vote, the elector shall present to an election judge a current photo identification showing the elector's name. If the elector does not present photo identification, including but not limited to a valid driver's license, a school district or postsecondary education photo identification, or a tribal photo identification, the elector shall present a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration issued pursuant to 13-2-207, government check, or other government document that shows the elector's name and current address.
- Absent military and overseas voters are eligible for late registration electronically. Visit sosmt.gov for more information.

Polling Places

- Per [13-1-106](#), MCA, polls must open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except polling places with fewer than 400 net registered voters (*Registered minus Absentee*). They must open at least from noon to 8:00 p.m. (or until all registered voters in any precinct have voted).
- Contact your [county election office](#) for polling location and hours.

Accepted forms of identification (ID) at the polling place

- Pursuant to a September 30th, 2022 District Court Order, an elector is required at the polling place to present a current photo identification showing the elector's name OR a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration, government check, or other government document that shows the elector's name and current address.
 - More detailed information can be found at sosmt.gov.

Provisional Ballots

- Voters 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.
- Per [13-15-107](#), MCA, counting 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. Since Veterans Day falls on the sixth day after the 2024 General election, the deadline is moved to November 12th.
- 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.

Additional Voter Resources

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