2021 MUNICIPAL PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

sosmt.gov • soselections@mt.gov

2021

January '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December '21

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Deadline	Activity	Statute
2021		
	Note: Some activities are only completed if a municipal primary election is held	
April 22	**Candidate filing opens – 8:00am**	13-10-201(7)
June 21	**Candidate filing closes – 5:00pm DEADLINE**	13-10-201(7)
	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw **primary election** candidacy.	13-10-325(1)(b)
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates must file required campaign paperwork with the Commissioner of Political Practices (http://politicalpractices.mt.gov/) to appear on the ballot.	13-37-201
After close of candidate filing	The commissioner shall, by a written statement, notify the Secretary of State and the election administrator conducting an election when a candidate or a candidate's treasurer has not complied with MCA, 2-2-106 or the provisions of this chapter and that the candidate's name may not appear on the official ballot.	13-37-126(3)
By July 1	Election administrators determine whether nonpartisan primary elections and parties' primary elections need to be held, then immediately notify governing body.	13-10-209 13-14-115(2)(d)
July 1	Deadline for governing body to decide that a nonpartisan primary must be held, if election administrator determines that the election need not be held.	13-14-115(3)
July 12	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the **primary election**.	13-1-403(2) 1-1-307
July 16	**Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan**, **timetable and instructions** from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal **primary election(s)** by mail ballot.	13-19-205(1)
Starting not earlier than July 18	Election administrators must publish notice specifying the day regular voter registration for **primary election** will close and the availability of late registration (*three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration*).	13-2-301(1)(b)
August 5 – Sept 4	Election administrators publish notice of the **primary election** three times. (*If the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published two times.*)	13-1-108(1)
August 9	**5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy.**	13-10-327(2)
August 16	**Close of primary election regular registration** (*registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration*).	13-2-301 1-1-307
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly before the **primary election**.	13-17-212
	Date primary election absentee ballots must be available for voting; in a polling place election, electors on the absentee elector list, including absent military and overseas electors, are sent ballots automatically on August 20.	13-13-212 13-13-205(1)(a)(i), (ii)
August 17	**Late Registration begins – Primary Election.**	13-2-304
August 19	Registration forms postmarked by August 16 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration (primary election).	13-2-301(3)
August 25 – 30	**If conducting election by mail ballot, absentee ballots are sent during this period.** A single mailing date **must** be chosen that is 20-15 days before election (primary election).	13-19-207(1)
September 4 – September 12	Election administrators must publish: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout, a statement of the locations where voting systems used by voters are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote (primary election).	13-17-203(1)
	Election administrators must publish locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place (primary election).	13-3-105(2) 13-3-207

August 30	5:00 p.m. Deadline for **write-in candidates** to file a Declaration of Intent for the **general election**.	13-1-403(2) 1-1-307
	5:00 p.m. Earliest date and time that the governing body may cancel a **general election** by resolution, after being notified by the election administrator pursuant to the provisions of 13-1-403(4) that the number of candidates filing for election is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled.	13-1-403(4)
September 3	**Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan, timetable and instructions** from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal **general election** by mail ballot.	13-19-205
Starting not earlier than September 6 (**General Election**)	Election administrators must publish notices specifying the day regular voter registration for **general election** will close, (Oct 4), and the availability of late registration (*three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration*).	13-2-301(1)(b)
September 9	Election administrators may at their option, if the county qualifies, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule (primary election).	13-13-241(7), (8) 44.3.2204 ARM
September 10	Beginning of period for printing **primary election** precinct register.	13-2-116(1)
	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 8:00 p.m. on election day, to request to vote in the **primary election** by special absentee ballot.	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
September 13	**Noon –** End of late registration (*or when all individuals in line at 12:00 p.m. have registered –* HB 176).	13-2-304
	Noon - Deadline for application to be made for **primary election** absentee ballot.	13-13-211(1)
	Noon - Absentee ballots are issued to late registrants up until this time on the day before election day.	13-2-304
September 14	**MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION**	13-1-107(2)
	Election administrators or designees must randomly test and certify 5% 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.	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM
September 15-20	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots (primary election).	13-15-107(5)(b) 13-15-301(2)
September 20	3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day (primary election).	13-21-206(1)(c)
	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 (primary election).	13-15-107(6)
By September 28 (**Primary Election**)	**Primary Election** Canvass completed - Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each office and proclaims adoption or rejection of ballot issues.	13-15-401 13-15-405
September 23 - October 23	Election administrators publish notice of the **general election** 3 times. (*If the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published 2 times.*)	13-1-108
Within 5 days of official canvass (**Primary Election**)	Deadline for candidates to initiate contest of **primary election** nomination.	13-36-102(1)
Within 10 days of official canvass (**Primary Election**)	Deadline for unsuccessful **primary election** candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable.	13-16-201 13-16-301
	Deadline for successful **primary election** write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance.	13-10-204

October 4	**Date by which general election absentee ballots must be available for voting;** in a polling place election, electors on the absentee elector list, including absent military and overseas electors, are sent ballots automatically on October 8.	13-13-212 13-13-205(1)(a)(i), (ii)
October 4	**Close of regular voter registration for general election** (*registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration*).	13-2-301
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly before the election.	13-17-212
October 5	**Late Registration begins – General Election.**	13-2-304
October 7	Registration forms postmarked by October 4 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration.	13-2-301(3)
October 13-18	**If conducting election by mail ballot, absentee ballots are sent during this period.** A single mailing date **must** be chosen that is 20-15 days before election.	13-19-207(1)
October 23-31	Election administrators must publish: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout, 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
October 23 – 31	Election administrators must publish locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place.	13-3-105(2) 13-3-207
October 28	Election administrators in counties that qualify, may opt to conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule.	13-13-241(7), (8) 44.3.2204 ARM
October 29	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register.	13-2-116(1)
	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 8:00 p.m. on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot.	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
November 1	**Noon – Deadline for application to be made 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.	13-2-304
	Noon – End of late registration (*or when all individuals in line at 12:00 p.m. have registered –* HB 176).	13-2-304
November 2	**MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION**	13-1-104(3)
	Election administrators or designees must randomly test and certify 5% 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.	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM
November 3-8	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	13-15-107(5)(b) 13-15-301(2)
November 8	3:00 p.m. - Deadline for election administrators to receive Federal Write-In Absentee Ballots (FWABs) that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8:00 p.m. on election day.	13-21-206
	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(6)
After Election	The commissioner must, by written statement, notify the public official responsible for issuing a certificate of nomination or election that a candidate or the candidate's treasurer has complied with the provisions of this chapter as described in subsection (1) and that a certificate of nomination or election may be issued.	13-37-127

By November 16	**General Election** Canvass completed - Board declares elected the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each office and proclaims adoption or rejection of ballot issues.	13-15-401 13-15-405
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for unsuccessful general election candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable.	13-16-201 13-16-301
Within 10 days of official canvass	Deadline for successful general election write-in candidates to file a written Declaration of Acceptance.	13-15-111

Voter Information

My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at sosmt.gov or the My Voter Page:
- Check your voter registration and absentee status.
- Find your polling place*, including a map with directions to the polling place.
  The polling place listed is for statewide primary/general election, contact your County Election Administrator to verify polling locations for Municipal Elections.

Filing for Office
- Pursuant to 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
- An elector may register or change their voter registration information after the close of regular registration by appearing at the county election office or designated location by 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to Election Day.
- Late registration closes at noon the day before election day. (HB 176)
- Absent military and overseas electors are eligible for late registration, go to sosmt.gov for detailed information.

Polling Places
- According to 13-1-106, MCA, polls must open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except polling places with fewer than 400 registered voters. They must open at least 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
- Montana Driver's License or any form of photo ID with the voter's name, including but not limited to:
  - State issued ID, federal-issued ID, tribal ID, student ID, and military ID.
  - If an elector does not have a photo ID, they may provide a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, or any government-issued document with 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.
- Pursuant to 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.
- 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 the county election office directly or Secretary of State at soselections@mt.gov or visit sosmt.gov.