



FAQs

Q. What is the VIP?

A. The Secretary of State's (SOS) office is required by law to produce a pamphlet that contains all proposed ballot issues/initiatives that will appear on the ballot for the Federal General Election in November every even year.

Q. What is a proposed ballot issue/initiative?

A. A ballot issue/initiative is a proposed law or constitutional change in the state of Montana. They can be proposed by the State Legislative Session or submitted by citizens. If a proposed ballot issue/initiative is submitted by citizens, there is an extensive review that takes place to ensure the proposal is legally sufficient, and there must be a minimum number of petition signatures gathered from registered voters to qualify for the ballot.

Q. What information is included in the VIP?

A. All proposed ballot issues/initiatives by Legislative Session or citizens that meet the signature requirements as mentioned above to qualify for ballot. The SOS also includes helpful voter information.

Q. Who receives the VIP?

A. SOS sends a pamphlet to each household for registered voters with the same last name.

Q. Can I find candidate information in the VIP so I can decide who I want to vote for?

A. No, the SOS office does not provide any candidate information in the VIP. The only information contained by law in the VIP is proposed ballot issues/initiatives that change Montana law by a majority vote.

Q. If the VIP does not contain candidate information, where can I find information, so I know who I want to vote for?

A. The SOS Elections and Voters Services Division is non-partisan and neutral on all candidate and proposed ballot issues/initiatives. We do not provide candidate information, other than basic contact information for candidates who have filed to run for office and will appear on the ballot. The same applies for the proposed ballot issues/initiatives - however, Montana law states our office must provide a VIP to each household with the proposed law changes and arguments for and against the proposed ballot issues/initiatives. Most candidates send flyers in



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the mail or have a campaign website and voters are encouraged to research that information on their own.

Q. When will the VIP arrive at my house? Will I be able to research the proposed ballot issues/initiatives before I vote?

A. Montana state law requires all VIPs are mailed on or before **October 5th, 2020**. Montana law also states absentee ballots are mailed to voters on **October 9th, 2020**.

Q. I did not get a VIP; can you send me one?

A. Yes, contact the SOS office or your county election office and someone will mail you a VIP.

Q. Will there be a VIP at the polling place when I go to vote on Election day?

A. Yes, Montana law requires at least 10 copies be available at each precinct.

Q. I have difficulty reading small print, can I get a large print VIP?

A. Yes, the SOS will have a large print VIP available on our website on or before October 5th, 2020.

Q. I am blind, is there a Braille version of the VIP?

A. Yes, the SOS office has copies of Braille VIPs available upon request.

Q. My elderly parents have difficulty reading, is there an audio version or a book on tape?

A. Yes, the SOS office will post an audio version of the VIP for those who prefer to listen audibly. The audio version can be found on our website on or before October 5th, 2020 at: sosmt.gov

Q. When will the electronic version of the VIP be available on the SOS website?

A. The SOS will post the electronic version and all accessible formats of the VIP, on or before October 5th, 2020 on the website at: sosmt.gov

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