

CANDIDATE FILING INFORMATION

2022



FLATHEAD COUNTY ELECTION DEPARTMENT

❖ **First Day to File: January 13, 2022**

- State Candidates – Secretary of State Office
- Local Candidates – Flathead County Election Office

❖ **Last Day to File: March 14th, 2022 – 5:00 PM**

- Local Government Candidate Write-In Deadline (Primary): Apr 4, 2022
- Local Government Candidate Write-In Deadline (General): September 5, 2022

❖ **PRIMARY ELECTION: JUNE 7, 2022**

❖ **GENERAL ELECTION: NOVEMBER 8, 2022**

FILING FORMS:

Web: <https://flathead.mt.gov/election/downloads.php>

Flathead County Election Office – *(will be moving April 1, 2022-STAY TUNED!)*

40 11th St West #230

Kalispell, MT 59901

Ph: (406) 758-5535 F: (406) 758-5877 Email: elections@flathead.mt.gov

MISSION STATEMENT

Protect and promote accurate and impartial free and open elections while encouraging active participation by all citizens of Flathead County.

CANDIDATE FILING INFORMATION

In a partisan election, an elector may not file a declaration for more than one party. A candidate may not file for more than one public office. This does not include precinct committeemen and committeewomen candidates.

CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICE

Contact the Secretary of State Office in order to determine eligibility and/or file for Federal and State offices.

OFFICES & FILING FEES FOR THE 2022 BALLOT TO BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE

1-888-884-8683 ~ <http://sos.mt.gov>

Anyone who wishes to run in the primary election as a member of a qualified political party must file with the Secretary of State's Office anytime between 8 a.m. on January 13 and 5 p.m. on March 14, 2022. Filing forms are available from the Secretary of State's website.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR COUNTY OFFICE

[7-4-2201](#) MCA. A person is not eligible for a county office who at the time of election is not:

- (1) of the voting age required by the Montana constitution;
- (2) a citizen of Montana; and
- (3) (a) an elector of the county in which the duties of the office are to be exercised; or
(b) in the case of an office consolidated between two or more counties, an elector in one of the counties in which the duties of the office are to be exercised.

FILING FEES

[13-10-202](#) MCA: Filing fees are as follows:

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 other offices having an annual salary of more than \$2,500, 1% of the total annual salary;
4. For offices in which compensation is paid in fees, \$10
5. For officers of political parties, presidential electors, and officers who receive no salary or fees, no filing fee is required.

HOW TO FILE

For a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot, the candidate must file a **DECLARATION OF NOMINATION** and a Statement of Candidate Form (**C-1-A**). The **C-1-A** form must be filed within 5 days of filing for office.

All these forms are available:

- * At the Flathead County Election Department – 40 11th St West #230 (South Campus Building)
- * By downloading a copy from the Flathead County Election Department website at <https://flathead.mt.gov/downloads/forms>
- * All Campaign reporting forms are available at and are required to be submitted to <http://politicalpractices.mt.gov/forms>

If you are a candidate and are mailing your filing papers, may we suggest that:

- ✓ You make sure that your signature on the Declaration of Nomination is notarized.
- ✓ You enclose the appropriate filing fee
- ✓ You make 2 copies of the Declaration of Nomination
- ✓ You file your C1A with the Commissioner of Political Practices within 5 days.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

[13-10-204](#) MCA Write-in nominations: (1) An individual nominated by having the individual's name written in and counted as provided in [13-15-206](#)(5) or otherwise placed on the primary ballot and desiring to accept the nomination may not have the individual's name appear on the general election ballot unless the individual:

(a) received at least 5% of the total votes cast for the successful candidate for the same office at the last general election;

(b) files with the secretary of state or election administrator, no later than 10 days after the official canvass, a written declaration indicating acceptance of the nomination; and

(c) complies with the provisions of [13-37-126](#).

(2) A write-in candidate who was exempt from filing a declaration of intent under [13-10-211](#) shall, at the time of filing the declaration of acceptance, pay the filing fee specified in [13-10-202](#) or, if indigent, file the appropriate documents described in [13-10-203](#).

WITHDRAWAL FROM NOMINATION

(1) (a) A candidate for nomination or a candidate for election to an office may withdraw from the election by sending a statement of withdrawal to the officer with whom the candidate's declaration, petition, or acceptance of nomination was filed. The statement must contain all information necessary to identify the candidate and the office sought. Unless filed electronically with the secretary of state, the statement of withdrawal from nomination must be acknowledged by an officer empowered to acknowledge signatures or by the officer of the office at which the filing is made.

(b) A candidate may not withdraw after the candidate filing deadline established in **13-10-201**(7).

(2) Filing fees paid by the candidate may not be refunded.

FILING FEES FOR COUNTY OFFICES 2022
13-10-202

FILING OPENS JANUARY 13, 2022 ~~~ CLOSSES MARCH 14, 2022

PRECINCT COMMITTEE PEOPLE DO NOT PAY FILING FEES

COUNTY COMMISSIONER – (6-year term) SALARY: \$79,406.00 District #2, Western part of County, residency within the county and district for 2 years immediately preceding the election. Voted on countywide. **Filing Fee: \$397.03**

7-4-2104. Commissioners to be elected by district.

(1) At each general election, the member or members of the board of county commissioners to be elected must be selected from the residents and electors of the district or districts in which the vacancy occurs, but the election of the member or members of the board must be submitted to the entire electorate of the county unless otherwise provided for under:

- (a) a plan of government provided for in a county adopting an optional or alternative form of government; or
- (b) a court order.

(2) A person may not be elected as a member of a board of county commissioners unless the person has resided in the county and the district for at least 2 years immediately preceding the general election.

CLERK & RECORDER/SURVEYOR/AUDITOR – (4-year term) SALARY: \$79,406.00 **Filing Fee: \$397.03**

7-4-2611. Role and duties of county clerk and election administrator. (1) The county clerk of a county is also clerk of the county commissioners and ex officio recorder. A duty imposed by law upon the officer, whether as county clerk, clerk of the county commissioners, or recorder, must be performed by the county clerk, and any official act performed or certified by the county clerk is as valid and effectual as if performed and certified by the clerk of the county commissioners or the recorder.

(2) The county clerk shall:

(a) take charge of and safely keep or dispose of according to law all books, papers, maps, and records that may be filed or deposited in the county clerk's office;

(b) record all the proceedings of the board;

(c) make full entries of all its resolutions and decisions on all questions concerning the raising of money for and the allowance of accounts against the county;

(d) record the vote of each member on a question upon which there is a division or at the request of any member present;

(e) sign all orders made and warrants issued by order of the board for the payment of money and certify the orders and warrants to the county treasurer;

(f) record the reports of the county treasurer of the receipts and disbursements of the county;

(g) preserve and file all accounts acted upon by the board;

(h) preserve and file all petitions and applications for franchises and record the action of the board on the petitions and applications;

(i) record all orders levying taxes;

(j) designate upon each account allowed by the board the amount allowed and deliver to any person who may demand it a certified copy of any record or any account on file in the county clerk's office;

(k) when a new township is organized or the boundaries of a township are altered, immediately make out and transmit to the secretary of state a certified statement of the names and boundaries of the township organized or altered;

(l) keep other records and books and perform other duties that are prescribed by law or by rule or order of the board.

(3) An election administrator shall file, code, and cross-index all reports and statements filed as prescribed by the commissioner of political practices.

(4) An election administrator shall make statements and other information filed under the provisions of Title 13, chapters 35, 36, and 37, available for public inspection and copying during the office hours determined by the governing body by resolution after a public hearing and make copying facilities available free of charge or at a charge not to exceed actual cost.

SHERIFF/CORONER (4-year term) SALARY: \$102,561.00

Filing Fee: \$512.81

Qualifications for election or appointment to office of sheriff.

7-32-2133. (1) In addition to meeting the qualifications for county office provided in **7-4-2201**, a person is not eligible for the position of sheriff at the time of election or appointment unless the individual:

(a) is a high school graduate or has been issued a high school equivalency diploma by the superintendent of public instruction or by an appropriate issuing agency of another state or of the federal government.

(b) is at least 18 years of age.

(c) is a United States citizen.

(d) possesses or is eligible to possess a valid Montana driver's license;

(e) has not been convicted of a crime for which the person could have been imprisoned in a federal or state penitentiary; and

(f) is eligible to receive and disseminate criminal justice information through the criminal justice information network as defined in **44-2-301**.

(2) An elected or appointed sheriff who fails to obtain access to the criminal justice information network as required in subsection (1)(f) forfeits office for failure to satisfactorily meet the qualifications required of a sheriff.

COUNTY ATTORNEY (4-year term) SALARY: \$123,210.00

Filing Fee: \$616.05

7-4-2701. Qualifications for county attorney in certain counties.

(1) A person is not eligible for the position of full-time county attorney in counties that have a population in excess of 30,000 unless the person is a citizen of the United States and has resided in the state 2 years immediately before taking office and has been admitted to the practice of law for at least 5 years before the date of election or appointment.

(2) A person is not eligible for the position of full-time county attorney in counties that have a population of less than 30,000 unless the person is a citizen of the United States and has resided in the state 2 years immediately before taking office and has been admitted to the practice of law for at least 3 years before the date of election or appointment.

(3) A person is not eligible for the position of part-time county attorney in counties that have a population of less than 30,000 unless the person is a citizen of the United States and resides in the state and has been admitted to the practice of law before taking office.

20-3-201. Election and qualifications -- part-time office allowed.

(1) A county superintendent must be elected in each county of the state unless a county manager form of government has been organized in the county. The county superintendent must be elected at the general election preceding the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent.

(2) Upon verification by the county clerk and recorder, a person is qualified to file for and assume the office of county superintendent who:

(a) is a qualified elector;

(b) holds a valid, current class 1 professional certificate, class 2 standard certificate, or class 3 administrative and supervisory certificate issued by the superintendent of public instruction; and

(c) has at least 3 years of successful teaching experience.

(3) (a) When the office of county superintendent of schools is consolidated with another county office within the county, the officeholder must have the qualifications listed in subsection (2) or shall, with the approval of the governing body, contract for the full performance of the duties required of a county superintendent in **20-3-207** and **20-3-210** with:

(i) another county superintendent, with the approval of the governing body of that county;

(ii) a former county superintendent; or

(iii) a person who:

(A) is a qualified elector;

(B) holds a valid administrative certificate as provided in **20-4-106(1)(c)**;

(C) takes the oath of office in **20-1-202**;

(D) is bonded in the manner provided for county officers in Title 2, chapter 9, part 7; and

(E) attends instructional training in the duties of a county superintendent as offered by the superintendent of public instruction.

(b) Whenever a governing body contracts with a person for performance of the duties required of a county superintendent under the provisions of subsection (3)(a)(iii), the contract must be for at least the duration of 1 school fiscal year.

(c) The superintendent of public instruction shall prescribe a contract form to be used.

COUNTY TREASURER/ ASSESSOR/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR (4 year term) SALARY \$79,406.00

7-6-2111. Duties of county treasurer. The county treasurer shall:

(1) receive all money belonging to the county and all other money directed to be paid to the treasurer by law, safely keep the money, apply and pay the money out, and account for the money as required by law;

(2) keep an account of the receipt and expenditures of the money in books provided for the purpose, in which must be entered:

(a) the amount and the time when, from whom, and on what account all money was received;

(b) the amount and time when, to whom, and on what account all disbursements were made;

(3) keep books so that the amounts received and paid out on account of separate funds or specific appropriations are exhibited in separate and distinct accounts, with the whole receipts and expenditures shown in one general or cash account;

(4) disburse the county money only on county warrants issued by the county clerk, based on orders of the board of county commissioners, or as otherwise provided by law.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE #1 (4-year term) SALARY \$91,353.00

Filing Fee: \$456.77

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE #2 (4-year term) SALARY \$91,353.00

Filing Fee: \$456.77

PRECINCT COMMITTEE MEN & WOMEN

NO FEE



COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES

STATE OF MONTANA

JEFF MANGAN
COMMISSIONER
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942
FAX (406) 444-1643
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

1209 EIGHTH AVENUE
P.O. BOX 202401
HELENA, MT 59620-2401

Info on Montana 2022 Candidate Filing and COPP Filings

Filing for Office:

You File for Office with the Secretary of State (Statewide, State District), or Election Administrator (County), or District Clerk (School Trustees)

- Election calendars available on the MT SOS website here <https://sosmt.gov/elections/calendars/>
- Filing for Office occurs – School Trustee 12/09/2021 to 3/24/2022
- Filing for Office occurs – Statewide, State District, County 1/13/2022 to 3/14/2022

Filing with the COPP is separate and required by Montana law:

When you become a candidate*

**an individual who has filed a declaration or petition for nomination, acceptance of nomination - OR - an individual who has solicited or received and retained contributions, made expenditures ... see definition 13-1-101, MCA.*

If you are soliciting or accepting contributions, spending money, or have filed with the SOS/EA/DT, you need to:

- Within 5 days, file form C1/C1A, the Statement of Candidate, with the COPP. File electronically, using the Campaign Electronic Reporting System (CERS). CERS can be accessed via the COPP's website, politicalpractices.mt.gov, by clicking the 'Access CERS' icon (all candidates are required to file electronically);
- County & School Board* candidates - Select reporting status. Select 'B' box if total activity will not exceed \$500 or 'C' box if activity will exceed \$500. (*Trustee candidates in First Class Districts)
- All Statewide and State District candidates and 'C' box candidates will need to file form C-5, campaign finance reports, when due. Form C-5 is filed electronically, following the appropriate reporting calendar that cover specific reporting periods. Reporting for the 2022 Calendar year begins March 20, 2022.
- 2022 reporting calendars for all candidates are available on the COPP website

Note - All Statewide and State District candidates **file D1 Business Disclosure** Statement with COPP within 5 days of Filing for Office. Note, this form must be printed, signed and returned to the CPP by mail or scanned and email.

As always, direct campaign finance & practices questions to the COPP at cpphelp@mt.gov or call 406.444.3919

Direct election related filing questions to the SOS <https://sosmt.gov/elections/>, Election Administrator <https://votinginmontana.com> (or at your local election office), and School District Clerk (<https://opi.mt.gov/.../Finance.../School-Finance/Elections>)



2022 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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Primary Election: June 7 Candidate Filing Opens: January 13							2022							General Election: November 8 Candidate Filing Closes: March 14						
January '22							February '22							March '22						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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30	31																			
April '22							May '22							June '22						
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July '22							August '22							September '22						
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31																				
October '22							November '22							December '22						
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30	31																			



2022 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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Deadline	Activity	Statute
November 8, 2021	Date by which candidates for legislative positions must be a resident of Montana.	Article V Section 4 MT Const
2022		
*New – First week of January	Begin NVRA/NCOA process for annual maintenance of registration lists in order to complete by the 1 st & 2 nd notice 90 day deadlines. <i>2021 Legislature – SB170</i>	13-2-220
January 1 – 31	Period for county election administrators to mail forwardable address confirmation forms to electors on the absentee list who are listed in the national change of address system of the U.S. Postal Service as having changed the elector’s address.	13-13-212
January 13	Candidate Filing opens	13-10-201 (7)
February 25	Deadline for county governing body to change precinct boundaries; must certify changes to election administrator within 3 days, and deliver legal description and map showing borders of all precincts and districts in which elections are held within the county. (election administrators submit copy of map to Secretary of State)	13-3-102 13-3-103
March 7	Deadline to submit new political party qualification petitions to county election administrators.	13-10-601 (c)
March 14	Candidate Filing closes – 5:00pm Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy.	13-10-201 13-10-325
	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive verified new political party qualification petitions from county election administrators.	13-10-601 (d)
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates file appropriate campaign paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices.	13-37-201
March 22	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 24	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 24	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 4 by 5:00pm	Deadline for local government write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election. <i>2017 Legislature – HB83</i>	13-1-403(1) 13-10-211
No earlier than April 11	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 9, 2022)	13-2-301 (b)
April 12	Deadline for Federal, State-wide, and State District write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election. <i>2017 Legislature – HB83</i>	13-10-211



2022 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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April 22	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 25	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
May 8	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 Section 4 MT Const
May 9	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 9	Absentee ballots must be available 30 days prior to election day for absentee 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. <i>2021 Legislature – SB351</i>	13-17-212
May 9	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 10	Late Registration begins – Primary Election	13-2-304
May 12	Registration forms postmarked by May 9 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration.	13-2-301(3)
May 13	Date ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list.	13-13-205 13-13-214
Prior to Primary Election	Any election judge serving in 2022 elections must attend a training and obtain a certificate of completion prior to the primary election in even-numbered years.	13-4-203
	County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee.	13-17-504
May 19	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 19	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list.	13-2-115
May 28 – June 5	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
May 28-June 5	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 31	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators.	13-10-503



2022 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

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June 2	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. <i>2019 Legislature – SB162</i>	13-13-241(7)
June 3	Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register.	13-2-116
June 3, 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)
June 6	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 may vote in the election if the elector obtains the ballot from the location designated by the county election administrator.	13-2-304
	Noon – End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 12:00 p.m. have registered) <i>2021 Legislature – HB176</i>	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. <i>2019 Legislature – SB162, 2021 Legislature – SB351</i>	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
	Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline.	13-2-115
JUNE 7	PRIMARY ELECTION	13-1-107(1)
JUNE 7	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



2022 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

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June 7-13	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	13-15-301(5b)
June 13 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
June 14-16	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 15-20	Post-election audits conducted by machine-tabulation counties (after notification by State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issue, and precincts chosen)	13-17-506
June 17	Petition signatures due to election administrators for statewide ballot issues; deadline for withdrawal of statewide ballot issue signatures.	13-27-301 13-27-104
By June 21 (at least 1 day after post-election audit, if applicable)	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
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
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 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, if applicable. (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 5 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 15 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 15	Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy.	13-10-327(2)



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August 18	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 24	Deadline for political parties to appoint replacement candidates to fill vacancies.	13-10-327(2)
August 25	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) 13-12-201(1)
September 6	Deadline for local government write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election. <i>2017 Legislature – HB83</i>	13-1-403(1) 13-10-211
No earlier than September 12	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 13	Deadline for Federal, State-wide, and State District write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election. <i>2017 Legislature – HB83</i>	13-10-211
September 23	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 11	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. <i>2021 Legislature – SB351</i>	13-17-212
Prior to General Election	Deadline for election administrators to mail the general election voter information pamphlet to voters on the active voter list.	13-27-410(4)
	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 12	Late Registration begins – General Election	13-2-304
October 14	Registration forms postmarked by October 11 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 17	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 17	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list.	13-2-115



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October 29 – November 6	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
October 29 – November 6	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
November 3	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. <i>2019 Legislature – SB162</i>	13-13-241(7)
November 4	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register.	13-2-116
November 4 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 7	Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot.	13-13-211(1)
November 7 12:00pm	Noon – End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 12:00 p.m. have registered) 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. <i>2021 Legislature – HB176</i>	13-2-304
November 7	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. <i>2019 Legislature – SB162, 2021 Legislature – SB351</i>	13-13-241 13-15-104 13-15-207 13-17-212
NOVEMBER 8	GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104(2)
NOVEMBER 8	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



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November 8-14	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	13-15-301(2)
November 14 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 15-17	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 16-21	Post-election audits conducted by machine-tabulation counties. (after notification by State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issue, and precincts chosen)	13-17-506
By November 22 (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
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, if applicable. (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 5	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 webpage at sosmt.gov or the [My Voter Page](#):

- Check 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

- 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

- Late registration closes at **noon** the day before election day. ([HB 176](#) – 2021 Legislature)
- An elector may register or change their voter registration information after the close of regular registration up to **noon** on the day prior to election. 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. ([HB 176](#) – 2021 Legislature)
- Absent military and overseas voters are eligible for late registration electronically, go to 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

- Montana driver's license, Montana state ID card issued pursuant to 61-12-501, military ID card, tribal photo ID card, United States passport, or Montana concealed carry permit.
Or an elector may present
- Current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows the elector's name and current address; AND any photo ID that shows the elector's name, including but not limited to a school district or postsecondary education photo identification. ([SB 169](#) – 2021 Legislature)
- 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.
- 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.