



Montana 2013 Municipal Primary and General Election Calendar

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Other local jurisdictions may be required to hold an election in the odd year, including but not limited to local sewer districts.

Deadline		Statute
January 1 - 31	Period for county election administrators to mail forwardable address confirmation cards to electors on the annual absentee list	13-13-212(4)
April 29	First day for candidates to file for office	13-10-201(6)
June 27	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to file for office	13-10-201
	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy	13-10-325
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates must file appropriate paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices in order for their names to appear on the ballot	13-37-201
June 27 – July 5	Period for election administrators to certify to Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all municipal candidates who have complied with MCA Title 13, Chapter 37	13-37-126(1) 13-37-225
After June 27	Election administrators determine whether nonpartisan primary election and parties' primary elections need to be held; then notify governing body	13-10-209 13-14-115
July 5	Deadline for Commissioner of Political Practices to notify election administrators that candidates have not complied with the provisions of MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 and that the candidates' names should not appear on the official ballot	13-37-126(3)
July 7	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
July 12	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan , timetable and instructions from county election administrators conducting municipal primary election(s) by mail ballot	13-19-205
Starting not earlier than July 15	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 close of registration)	13-2-301(1)(b)
August 9	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election, except in mail ballot elections (<i>see also August 15</i>)	13-10-211(1)
August 12	Close of primary regular voter registration (registration cards 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 type of voting system used in an election is performing properly	13-17-212
	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy	13-10-325
August 13	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304
August 15	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates in mail ballot elections to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election (<i>see also August 9</i>)	13-10-211(3)
	Registration cards postmarked by August 12 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	13-2-301
August 21	Date by which primary election absentee ballots must be available for voting; electors on the annual absentee elector list are sent ballots automatically	13-13-205(1)(b) 13-13-212(4)
	Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by no later than this date	13-13-205

August 31 – September 8	Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems 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
September 2	Deadline for independent and minor party petitions for partisan offices to be submitted to election administrators	13-10-503; HB 120
September 6	Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register	13-2-116
	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 noon on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan , timetable and instructions from county election administrators planning conducting municipal general election(s) by mail ballot	13-19-205
Starting not 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 close of registration)	13-2-301
September 9	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; late registrants who submit a registration card after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot	13-2-304
	Election Administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule	13-13-241
	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to file for partisan offices	13-10-503; HB 120
September 10	MUNICIPAL PRIMARY NOMINATING 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
	Noon - 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 noon on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	13-2-304
September 10 – 16	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	13-15-107 13-15-301(2)
September 16	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)
	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

By September 24	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
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination	13-36-102(1)
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply for a recount, if 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	13-10-204
October 4	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election, except in mail ballot elections (<i>see also October 10</i>)	13-10-211(1)
October 7	Close of regular voter registration (registration cards 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 type of voting system used in an election is performing properly	13-17-212
October 8	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304
October 10	5:00 p.m. - Deadline for write-in candidates in mail ballot elections to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election (<i>see also October 4</i>)	13-10-211(3)
	Registration cards postmarked by October 7 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	13-2-301
October 16	Date by which general election absentee ballots must be available for voting; electors on the annual absentee elector list are sent ballots automatically	13-13-205 13-13-212(4)
	Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by no later than this date	13-13-205
October 26 - November 3	Election administrators must publish or broadcast: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout (in newspaper only), a statement of the locations where voting systems 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
November 1	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register	13-2-116
	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 noon on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
November 4	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; late registrants who submit a registration card after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot	13-2-304
	Election Administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee and mail ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule	13-13-241

November 5	MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104(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
	Noon - 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 noon on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	13-2-304
November 5 – 12	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	13-15-107 13-15-301(2)
Starting November 6	Period for election administrators to certify to the Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all elected municipal candidates who have complied with MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 by properly filing all required statements/reports with their county election administrators	13-37-127(1)
	Period for Commissioner of Political Practices to certify to election administrators the names of all elected municipal candidates who complied with MCA Title 13, Chapter 37 so certificates of election can be issued	13-37-127
November 12	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) that were sent by absent military and overseas electors by 8 p.m. on election day	13-21-206
By November 19	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



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Election Information

My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at sos.mt.gov for the following services on My Voter Page:

- Check your registration status
- Find your polling place, including a map with directions to the polling place
- Check the status of your absentee ballot, if applicable
- See a sample ballot, when available

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.) Individuals cannot file for nonpartisan offices as independent candidates or as political party candidates.

Late Registration

An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration specified in [13-2-301](#), MCA, and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of polls on election day.

A late registrant may vote in an election only if the elector obtains the ballot in person from the election administrator and returns it to the location designated by the election administrator, either in person or by mail, subject to applicable deadlines.

Pursuant to [13-2-304](#), MCA, election administrators close late registration at noon on the day before election day and reopen late registration on election day. Any elector wishing to register after noon on the day before the election may do so by submitting a voter registration application at the election office the day before election day or on election day during polling hours, and appearing at the election office on election day in order to vote.

Absent military and overseas electors are eligible for late registration, although they are not required to appear at the county election office in order to late register.

Opening and Closing of Polling Places

According to [13-1-106](#), MCA, polls must open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., except that polling places having fewer than 400 registered electors must be open from at least noon to 8 p.m. (or until all registered electors in any precinct have voted). Contact your county election office for your polling place hours.

ID for Voting

All voters must present ID when voting at the polling place. ID can be a current photo ID with the voter's name, or if photo ID is not available, a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration, government check or other government document that shows the voter's name and current address.

Provisional Ballots

Pursuant to [13-15-107](#), MCA, counting of 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. 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. Election officials or election workers 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.

Voter Info

Contact your [Election Administrator](#) at your county election office. Contact the Secretary of State at soselections@mt.gov or at 1-888-884-8683 (VOTE). Mailing address: PO Box 202801, Helena, MT 59620-2801.

