

Composite Summary Chart of Election Dates and Deadlines

Prepared by Sheri Scurr, Montana Legislative Services, for the SJR 14 Subcommittee on Combining Elections - **Updated: 9/18/13**

Even Years*									
<i>School funding elections are not included in this chart</i>									
	Action or Event Description	Title 13 MCA Section	Federal Primary	State and State Federal Primary	County Primary	Multi-County District Elections	Municipal Primary	Regular School Election	Title 13 or Title 20 MCA Section
1	Mail address confirmation cards to biennial absentee voter list	13-13-212(3)(b)	January	January	January	January	No municipality currently has a form of govt under Title 7 requiring an annual election, so all municipal elections are in the odd-year. This could change if a municipality chose to adopt a form of government requiring annual elections. (See sections 13-1-107(3) and 13-1-104(4), MCA)	January	13-13-212(3)(b)
2	School trustees call for a trustee election	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		at least 40 days prior	20-20-201(1), 20-9-421
3	School trustee election resolution filed with election administrator	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		35 days prior	20-20-201(2)
4	Candidate filing opens	13-10-201	145 days prior	145 days prior	145 days prior	145 days prior		135 days prior	13-10-201(6)(a)
5	Last day county governing body may change precinct boundaries	13-3-102(1)	100 days prior	100 days prior	100 days prior	100 days prior		n/a	n/a
6	County governing body to certify precinct boundary changes to election administrators	13-3-102(2)	within 3 days of change to boundaries	within 3 days of change to boundaries	within 3 days of change to boundaries	within 3 days of change to boundaries		n/a	n/a
7	County governing body to deliver to election administrator a legal description and map showing boards of all precincts and districts (then delivered to Sec. of State)	13-3-103	within 10 days of change to boundaries	within 10 days of change to boundaries	within 10 days of change to boundaries	within 10 days of change to boundaries		n/a	n/a
8	Deadline for independent, minor party, indigent, and new political party petitions to be submitted to election administrators	13-10-503	1 week prior to close of filing for other candidates	1 week prior to close of filing for other candidates	1 week prior to close of filing for other candidates	1 week prior to close of filing for other candidates		n/a	n/a
9	Candidate filing closes, deadline for verified independent, minor, indigent, and new party petitions	13-10-201	85 days prior	85 days prior	85 days prior	85 days prior		40 days prior	20-20-305(2)

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10	Last day for candidate to withdraw	13-10-325	85 days prior	85 days prior	85 days prior	85 days prior		38 days prior	20-3-305(3)(b)
11	Certification of ballots	13-10-208	85 to 75 days prior	85 to 75 days prior	85 to 75 days prior	85 to 75 days prior		25 days prior	20-20-401
12	Election administrators determine whether nonpartisan primary and political party primary needs to be held and notify governing body	13-10-209, 13-14-115	Before the deadline in 13-14-115	Before the deadline in 13-14-115	Before the deadline in 13-14-115	Before the deadline in 13-14-115		n/a	n/a
13	Political subdivision governing body may pass resolution to require partisan primary be held	13-14-115	n/a	n/a	within 10 days after close of candidate filing	within 10 days after close of candidate filing		n/a	n/a
14	Governing body may request or election administrator may decide to hold a mail ballot election (but 13-19-104 precludes regular federal, state, or county, and special federal or state mail ballot elections)	13-19-104, 13-19-202, 13-13-203	n/a	n/a	n/a	70 days prior		70 days prior (but election may be called 40 days prior)	13-19-104, 13-19-202, 13-13-203
15	If mail ballot election, election administrator must submit a mail ballot election plan to the Sec of State	13-19-205	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 days prior		60 days prior (but election may be called 40 days prior)	13-19-102(3), 13-19-205
16	Last day governing body may object to mail ballot election, cancel election	13-19-204	n/a	n/a	n/a	55 days prior		55 days prior (but election may be called 40 days prior)	13-19-102(3), 13-19-204
17	Begin public notice about close of regular registration	13-2-301	30 days prior to close of registration	30 days prior to close of registration	30 days prior to close of registration	30 days prior to close of registration		n/a	n/a
18	Absentee ballots must be mailed to military and overseas electors (applies only to federal elections and elections held in conjunction with a federal election)	13-13-205	As soon as ballots are printed but no later than 45 days prior	As soon as ballots are printed but no later than 45 days prior	As soon as ballots are printed but no later than 45 days prior	As soon as ballots are printed but no later than 45 days prior		Optional for school districts to comply with T. 13, Ch. 21	13-21-105

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19	Deadline for write-in candidates to file, unless mail ballot election	13-10-211	10 days prior to when absentee ballots must be ready	10 days prior to when absentee ballots must be ready	10 days prior to when absentee ballots must be ready	10 days prior to when absentee ballots must be ready		26 days prior	13-10-211(3)
20	Certification of voter registration lists	13-2-115	5 days after close of regular registration	5 days after close of regular registration	5 days after close of regular registration	5 days after close of regular registration		not specified	20-20-312
21	Deadline to designate polling place for each precinct	13-3-105(1)	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior		When trustees pass resolution calling for the election (not later than 40 days prior)	20-20-203
22	Deadline to appoint election judges	13-4-101	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior		When trustees pass resolution calling for the election (not later than 40 days prior)	20-20-203
23	Close of regular registration	13-2-301	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior		30 days prior	20-20-311
24	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304	after close of regular registration	after close of regular registration	after close of regular registration	after close of regular registration		no late registration, unless the election is conducted by county election administrator AND is held in conjunction with another election	13-2-304(3)
25	Begin public certification of voting systems	13-17-212	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior		30 days prior	13-17-101, 13-17-212
26	Deadline for write-in candidates to file in mail ballot election	13-10-211(3)	n/a	n/a	n/a	26 days prior		26 days prior	13-10-211(3)
27	Public notice about school election	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		30 to 20 days prior	20-20-204

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28	If school trustees elected by acclamation - election canceled	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		26 days prior	20-3-313
29	Deadline to determine mills/amount of levy in school levy election	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		25 days prior	15-10-425, 20-9-353
30	Printed absentee ballots to be available for voters who are NOT absent military or overseas voters	13-13-205	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior	30 days prior		20 days prior	20-20-401, 20-9-426
31	If mail ballot election, mail ballots to be mailed	13-19-207	n/a	n/a	n/a	25th to 15th day prior		25th to 15th day prior	13-19-207
32	Publish or broadcast info. on voting systems, ballot layout, locations where voting systems are exhibited, instructions on how to use voting systems	13-17-203	10 to 2 days prior	10 to 2 days prior	10 to 2 days prior	10 to 2 days prior		10 to 2 days prior	13-17-203
33	Publish or broadcast precinct polling place locations and accessibility	13-3-105, 13-3-207	10 to 2 days prior	10 to 2 days prior	10 to 2 days prior	10 to 2 days prior		10 to 2 days prior	13-3-105, 13-3-207
34	Printing of precinct registers (except mail ballot elections)	13-2-116	No sooner than Friday before the election	No sooner than Friday before the election	No sooner than Friday before the election	No sooner than Friday before the election		No sooner than Friday before the election	13-2-116
35	Deadline for absentee ballot requests	13-13-211	Noon on day before election	Noon on day before election	Noon on day before election	Noon on day before election		Noon on day before election	13-13-211
36	Close of late registration (not including temporary closure from noon to 5 p.m. on day before election)	13-2-304	close of polls	close of polls	close of polls	close of polls		no late registration, unless the election is conducted by county election administrator AND is held in conjunction with another election	13-2-304(3)

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37	Deadline to request absentee ballot if there is a health emergency	13-13-211	8 p.m. on election day	8 p.m. on election day	8 p.m. on election day	8 p.m. on election day		8 p.m. on election day	13-13-211
38	Election Day (absentee ballots must be received by 8 p.m. on election day under 13-15-201)	13-1-107(1)	June (1st Tues after 1st Mon)	June (1st Tues after 1st Mon)	June (1st Tues after 1st Mon)	Special districts have separate governing statutes, but statutes typically state the election must be on "the same day as a regular or primary election"	If a municipality is required (because of the form of government adopted) to hold an annual election, date is 2nd Tues in Sept	May (1st Tues after 1st Mon), except trustees may set different day if legislature meets and school funding could be impacted	20-3-304, 20-20-105(1), except as provided in (4)
39	Votes counted	13-15-207	Prior to close of polls or immediately after close of polls	Prior to close of polls or immediately after close of polls	Prior to close of polls or immediately after close of polls	Prior to close of polls or immediately after close of polls		Prior to close of polls or immediately after close of polls	13-15-207
40	Verification of provisional ballots	13-15-107	By 5 p.m. day after election	By 5 p.m. day after election	By 5 p.m. day after election	By 5 p.m. day after election		By 5 p.m. day after election	13-15-107
41	Counting of federal write-in absentee ballots	13-21-206	Counted if received by 3 p.m. on Monday following the election	Counted if received by 3 p.m. on Monday following the election	Counted if received by 3 p.m. on Monday following the election	Counted if received by 3 p.m. on Monday following the election		Optional for school districts to comply with T. 13, Ch. 21	13-21-105
42	Random testing and certification of 5% of each type of voting system to validate accuracy	13-17-503	After unofficial results are ready, but before official canvass	After unofficial results are ready, but before official canvass	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a

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43	Period for State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issues and precincts to be audited for post-election audit	13-17-505	7 to 9 days after election	7 to 9 days after election	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a
44	County canvass and certification of election must be completed	13-15-401, 13-15-405	within 14 days after election	within 14 days after election	within 14 days after election	within 14 days after election		First regular meeting after receipt of tally sheets	20-20-415
45	Publish results	n/a	not required, but canvass and report of results are public documents	not required, but canvass and report of results are public documents	not required, but canvass and report of results are public documents	not required, but canvass and report of results are public documents		Immediately after canvass	20-20-416
46	Deadline for signatures to election administrators for ballot issue certification for general election	13-27-301; 7-5-134(7)	n/a	4 weeks prior to deadline for submitting final petition to the Sec. of State (13-27-301)	within 90 days of date when petition form was approved (7-5-134(7))	within 90 days of date when petition form was approved (7-5-134(7))		n/a	n/a
47	Deadline for candidates to initiate contest or apply for recount	13-16-201	within 5 days of official canvass	within 5 days of official canvass	within 5 days of official canvass	within 5 days of official canvass		within 5 days of official canvass	13-16-201
48	State canvass and certification must be completed	13-15-502	within 27 days after election	within 27 days after election	within 27 days after election	within 27 days after election		n/a	n/a
49	School request for county to conduct school election	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		By June 1st year before	20-20-417

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NOTES:

* Section 13-1-107, MCA, provides that the even-year primaries are for elections governed by section 13-1-104(1), MCA, which are to nominate candidates for federal officers, state or multicounty district officers, legislators, district judges, and county officers when the terms of office will expire before the next scheduled election for the offices or when one of the offices must be filled for an unexpired term as provided by law.

Legend:

BLUE letters mean there seems to be a conflict in practical application of these provisions

RED letters mean school election deadline is different than primary election deadline

Pink shading means difference between even-year and odd-year elections

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