



2020 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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Primary Election: June 2

2020

General Election: November 3

January	February	March	April
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	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	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	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	June	July	August
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September	October	November	December
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Deadline	Activity	Statute
November 3, 2019	Date by which candidates for legislative positions must be a resident of Montana.	Article V Section 4 MT Const
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 9	First day for candidates to file for office	13-10-201 (7)
February 24	Deadline for county governing body to change precinct boundaries; must certify changes to election administrator within 3 days, and must 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 2	Deadline to submit new political party qualification petitions to county election administrators.	13-10-601 (c)
March 9	Deadline for candidates to file for office Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy.	13-10-201 13-10-325

Deadline	Activity	Statute
March 9	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 17	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 that the candidates' names may not appear on the official ballot.	13-37-126 (3)(b)(i)
By March 19	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 19	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
March 19	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
March 30	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
April 3 – no later than 5 pm	Counties that choose to opt for a mail ballot election for the primary, must submit a written plan to the Secretary of State by 5:00 pm on April 3, 2020.	Executive Order 3/25/20
Starting not earlier than April 6	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 regular registration) Changed to April 27th.	13-2-301 Executive Order 3/25/20
April 8	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
April 17	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 13-13-224
April 20	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
Starting not earlier than April 27	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 regular registration)	13-2-301 Executive Order 3/25/20
May 3	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 4	Close of regular voter registration. (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration) Changed to May 26th.	13-2-301 Executive Order 3/25/20
	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.	13-17-212

Deadline	Activity	Statute
May 4	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. (This may depends on the method of the election – Executive Order 3/25/20)	13-3-105(1) 13-4-101 Executive Order 3/25/20
May 5	Beginning of late registration Changed to May 27 th	13-2-304 Executive Order 3/25/20
May 7	Registration forms postmarked by May 4 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration. Changed to May 26 th	13-2-301(3) Executive Order 3/25/20
May 8	Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list. (If conducting a mail ballot election, ballots must be mailed).	13-13-205 13-13-214 Executive Order 3/25/20
Prior to Primary Election	Any election judge serving in 2020 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 14	Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline. Changed to June 1 st	13-2-115 Executive Order 3/25/20
After May 14	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list. Changed to after June 1 st	13-2-115 Executive Order 3/25/20
May 23 – May 31	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
	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 26	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators.	13-10-503
May 26	Close of regular voter registration. (registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	Executive Order 3/25/20 1-1-307
May 27	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304 Executive Order 3/25/20
May 28	NEW 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. 2019 Legislature - SB162	13-13-241(8)
May 29	Registration forms postmarked by May 26 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration.	13-2-301(3) Executive Order 3/25/20
May 29	Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register.	13-2-116

Deadline	Activity	Statute
May 29	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 1	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; late registrants who submit a registration form after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot.	13-2-304
	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
	NEW Automatic tabulation using a vote counting machine of absentee ballots may begin. <i>2019 Legislature - SB162</i>	13-13-241 13-15-104 13-15-207
	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
June 1	Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline.	13-2-115 Executive Order 3/25/20
After June 1	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list.	13-2-115 Executive Order 3/25/20
JUNE 2	PRIMARY ELECTION	13-1-107(1)
	7:00 a.m – Polls open* (If County is holding a polling place election) <i>*Polling place with less than 400 registered voters may open after 7:00 a.m. but must open no later than noon.</i>	13-1-106 Executive Order 3/25/20
	Election administrators 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.	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. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	13-2-304
	8:00 p.m. – Polls close	13-1-106
June 2-8	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	13-15-301(5b)
June 8	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

Deadline	Activity	Statute
June 8	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 9-11	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 10-15	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 June 16 (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
June 19	Petition signatures due to election administrators for statewide ballot issues; deadline for withdrawal of statewide ballot issue signatures.	13-27-301 13-27-104
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 June 29	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 17	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 10	Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy.	13-10-327(2)
August 13	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 that the candidates' names may not appear on the official ballot.	13-37-126 (3)(b)(ii)
August 19	Deadline for political parties to appoint replacement candidates to fill vacancies.	13-10-327(2)
August 20	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)
August 31	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

Deadline	Activity	Statute
Starting not earlier than September 7	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 regular registration)	13-2-301
September 9	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 18	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 13-13-224
October 5	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.	13-17-212
	Deadline for election administrators to mail the general election voter information pamphlet to voters on the active voter list.	13-27-410(4)
Prior to General Election	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 6	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304
October 8	Registration forms postmarked by October 5 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration.	13-2-301(3)
October 9	Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list.	13-13-205 13-13-214
October 16	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 16	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list.	13-2-115
October 24 – November 1	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
	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
October 29	NEW 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(8)
October 30	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 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 2	Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot.	13-13-211(1)

Deadline	Activity	Statute
November 2	Noon - Absentee ballots are issued to late registrants up until this time on the day before election day; late registrants who submit a registration form after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot.	13-2-304
	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
	NEW Automatic tabulation using a vote counting machine of absentee ballots may begin. <i>2019 Legislature - SB162</i>	13-13-241 13-15-104 13-15-207
NOVEMBER 3	GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104(2)
	7:00 a.m - Polls open* <i>*Polling place with less than 400 registered voters 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 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	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. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered).	13-2-304
	8:00 p.m. - Polls close	13-1-106
November 3-9	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	13-15-301(2)
November 9	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
November 9	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 10-12	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 11-16	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 17 (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

Deadline	Activity	Statute
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 November 30	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



2020 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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Election Information

My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at sosmt.gov/elections 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

Information on filing as a candidate for a statewide, state district, or legislative office can be found at <http://sosmt.gov/Elections/Filing>.

Late Registration

- An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration by appearing at the county election office or designated location before the close of polls on election day.
- Late registration closes temporarily at noon the day before election day, and reopens at 7 a.m. on election day.
- Absent military and overseas electors are eligible for late registration (and can register and vote electronically in statewide primary and general elections held during each even year via the Secretary of State's Electronic Absentee System). See http://sosmt.gov/elections/Military_Overseas for more information.

Voting by Absentee

- An elector may sign up to receive absentee ballots in the mail for all elections for which they are eligible. If the elector files a change of address with the U.S. postal service, the elector must complete, sign, and return a confirmation notice mailed to the elector by the county election office.

Polling Places

- According to [13-1-106](#), MCA, polls must open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except that polling places having fewer than 400 registered electors must be open from at least noon to 8:00 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 electors must present ID when voting at the polling place.
- ID can be any 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 elector's name and current address.

Provisional Ballots

- Electors 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 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.
- 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.

Voter Info

Contact your [Election Administrator](#) at your county election office. Contact the Secretary of State at soselections@mt.gov or at 406-444-9608. Mailing address: PO Box 202801, Helena, MT 59620-2801.