

2023 MUNICIPAL PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Montana Secretary of State

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2023

April '23

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

May '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

June '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

July '23

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30	31		

September '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30	31				

November '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December '23

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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31						

Deadline	Activity	Statute
2023		
	<i>Note: Some activities are only completed if a municipal primary election is held</i>	
April 20	Candidate filing opens – 8:00am	13-10-201(7)
June 19	Candidate filing closes – 5:00pm DEADLINE 5:00 p.m. – Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy.	13-10-201(7) 13-10-325(1)(b)
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates must file required campaign paperwork with the Commissioner of Political Practices (http://politicalpractices.mt.gov/) to appear on the ballot.	13-37-201
After close of candidate filing	The Commissioner of Political Practices shall notify the election administrator conducting an election when a candidate or a candidate's treasurer has not complied with MCA, 2-2-106 or the provisions of this chapter and that the candidate's name may not appear on the official ballot.	13-37-126(3)
By June 29	Election administrators determine whether nonpartisan primary elections and parties' primary elections need to be held, then immediately notify governing body.	13-10-209 13-14-115(2)(d)
	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(3)
July 10	5:00 p.m. – Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election .	13-1-403(2) 1-1-307
July 14	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan, timetable and instructions from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal primary election(s) by mail ballot.	13-19-205(1)
Starting not earlier than July 17	Election administrators must publish notice specifying the day regular voter registration for primary election will close and the availability of late registration (<i>three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration</i>).	13-2-301(1)(b)
August 3 – September 2	Election administrators publish notice of the primary election three times. (<i>If the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published two times.</i>)	13-1-108(1)
August 14	5:00 p.m. – Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy.	13-10-327(2)
	Close of primary election regular registration (<i>registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration</i>).	13-2-301 1-1-307
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly before the primary election .	13-17-212
	Date primary election absentee ballots must be available for in-person voting if the election is conducted as a polling place election .	13-13-205
August 15	Late Registration begins – Primary Election.	13-2-304
August 17	Registration forms postmarked by August 14 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration (primary election).	13-2-301(3)
August 23 – 28	If conducting election by mail ballot, absentee ballots are sent during this period. A single mailing date must be chosen that is 20-15 days before election (primary election).	13-19-207(1)
September 2 – 10	Election administrators must publish: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout, a statement of the locations where voting systems used by voters are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote (primary election).	13-17-203(1)
	Election administrators must publish locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place (primary election).	13-3-105(2) 13-3-207

September 5	5:00 p.m. Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election .	13-1-403(2) 1-1-307
September 7	Election administrators may at their option, if the county qualifies, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule (primary election).	13-13-241(7), (8) 44.3.2204 ARM
September 8	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive mail ballot plan, timetable and instructions from county election administrators planning to conduct municipal general election by mail ballot.	13-19-205
September 8	Beginning of period for printing primary election precinct register.	13-2-116(1)
	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 8:00 p.m. on election day, to request to vote in the primary election by special absentee ballot.	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
September 11	Noon - Deadline for application to be made for primary election 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 (primary election).	13-2-304 *Modified by court ruling to have late registration end at 8:00 pm on election day.
September 12	MUNICIPAL PRIMARY ELECTION	13-1-107(2)
	Election administrators or designees must randomly test and certify 10% of each type of voting system (<i>a minimum of one per county</i>), to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results.	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (<i>or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered</i>).	13-2-304 *Modified by court ruling to have late registration end at 8:00 pm on election day.
Starting not earlier than September 12 (General Election)	Election administrators must publish notices specifying the day regular voter registration for general election will close, Oct 10, and the availability of late registration (<i>three times in the four weeks preceding close of registration</i>).	13-2-301(1)(b) 1-1-307
September 13 – 18	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots (primary election).	13-15-107(7)(b) 13-15-301(2)
September 18	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 (primary election).	13-21-206(1)(c)
	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 (primary election).	13-15-107(8)
By September 26 (Primary Election)	Primary Election 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
September 28 – October 28	Election administrators publish notice of the general election 3 times. (<i>If the newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice may be published 2 times.</i>)	13-1-108
Within 5 days of official canvass certification (Primary Election)	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 (Primary Election)	Deadline for successful primary election write-in nominees to file a written Declaration of Acceptance.	13-10-204
October 10	Date general election absentee ballots must be available for in-person voting if the election is conducted as a polling place election .	13-13-205 1-1-307
	Close of regular voter registration for general election (<i>registration forms postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration</i>).	13-2-301
	Beginning of period during which election administrators publicly test and certify that each voting machine used in an election is performing properly before the election.	13-17-212
October 11	Late Registration begins – General Election.	13-2-304
October 13	Registration forms postmarked by October 10 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration.	13-2-301(3)
October 18 – 23	If conducting election by mail ballot, absentee ballots are sent during this period. A single mailing date must be chosen that is 20-15 days before election.	13-19-207(1)
October 28 – November 5	Election administrators must publish: a diagram showing the voting system and a sample of the ballot layout, 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 locations of the precinct polling places, including accessibility designations for each polling place.	13-3-105(2) 13-3-207
November 2	Election administrators in counties that qualify, may opt to conduct early preparation of absentee ballots as provided in statute and administrative rule.	13-13-241(7), (8) 44.3.2204 ARM
November 3	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register.	13-2-116(1)
	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 8:00 p.m. on election day, to request to vote by special absentee ballot.	13-13-211(2) 13-13-212(2)
November 6	Noon - Deadline for application to be made for general election 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 (general election).	13-2-304 *Modified by court ruling to have late registration end at 8:00 pm on election day.
November 7	MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104(3)
	Election administrators or designees must randomly test and certify 10% of each type of voting system (<i>a minimum of one per county</i>), to validate the accuracy of voted paper ballots with the voting system results.	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (<i>or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered</i>).	13-2-304 *Modified by court ruling to have late registration end at 8:00 pm on election day.
November 8 – 13	Period during which election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots.	13-15-107(7)(b) 13-15-301(2)
November 13	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
	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(8)

After Election	The commissioner must, by written statement, notify the public official responsible for issuing a certificate of nomination or election that a candidate or the candidate's treasurer has complied with the provisions of this chapter as described in subsection (1) and that a certificate of nomination or election may be issued.	13-37-127
November 21	General Election 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

Voter Information

My Voter Page

Visit the Secretary of State's webpage at sosmt.gov or the [My Voter Page](#):

- Check your 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

- A candidate may not file for more than one public office except as outlined in [7-1-205](#), MCA.
- Individuals cannot file for nonpartisan offices as independent candidates or as political party candidates.

Late Registration

- An elector may register or change their voter registration information after the close of regular registration by appearing at the county election office or designated location by 8:00 pm on Election Day.
- Absent military and overseas electors are eligible for late registration, go to sosmt.gov for detailed information.

Polling Places

- According to [13-1-106](#), MCA, polls must open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., except polling places with fewer than 400 registered polling place voters. They must open from at least 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

- All voters 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 voter's name and **current** address. More detailed information can be found at <https://sosmt.gov/voter-id/voter-in-person-id-options/>.

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.
- Pursuant to [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 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.