

Composite Summary Chart of Election Dates and Deadlines

Prepared by Sheri Scurr, Montana Legislative Services, for the SJR 14 Subcommittee on Combining Elections, September 17, 2013

Odd 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***	Single-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)	No election	No election	n/a	n/a	n/a	January	13-13-212(3)(b)
2	School trustees call for a trustee election	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	35 days prior	20-20-201(2)
4	Candidate filing opens	13-10-201			135 days prior	135 days prior	135 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	n/a	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	n/a	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	n/a	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	n/a	n/a
9	Candidate filing closes, deadline for verified independent, minor, indigent, and new party petitions	13-10-201			75 days prior	75 days prior	85 days prior	40 days prior	20-20-305(2)

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	Action or Event Description	Title 13 MCA Section	Federal Primary	State and State Federal Primary	County Primary***	Single-County District Elections	Municipal Primary	Regular School Election	Title 13 or Title 20 MCA Section
10	Last day for candidate to withdraw	13-10-325			75 days prior	75 days prior	85 days prior	38 days prior	20-3-305
11	Certification of ballots	13-10-208			75 to 70 days prior	75 to 70 days prior	75 to 70 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	n/a	n/a
13	Political subdivision governing body may pass resolution to require partisan primary be held	13-14-115			within 10 days after close of candidate filing	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	13-19-104, 13-19-202, 13-13-203			n/a	70 days prior	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	60 days prior	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	55 days prior	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	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	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	40 days prior (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	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	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	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	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	no late registration	n/a
25	Begin public certification of voting systems	13-17-212			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	26 days prior	26 days prior	26 days prior	13-10-211(3)
27	Public notice about school election	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	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	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			20 days prior	20 days prior	20 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	25th to 15th day prior	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	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	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	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	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	no late registration	n/a

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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	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(2)			September (2nd Tues after 2nd 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"	September (2nd Tues after 2nd Mon)	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	Immediately after close of polls until done	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	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	Federal write-in ballot is 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			n/a	n/a	After unofficial results are ready, but before official canvass	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			n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a
44	County canvass of votes completed	13-15-401			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	Immediately after canvass	20-20-416
46	Deadline for signatures to election administrators for ballot issue certification for general election	7-5-134(7)			within 90 days of date when petition form was approved	within 90 days of date when petition form was approved	within 90 days of date when petition form was approved	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	13-16-201
48	State canvass must be completed	13-15-502			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	By June 1st year before	20-20-417

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NOTES:

** Section 13-1-107, MCA, provides that odd-year primaries are for elections held under 13-1-104(2), which are to nominate municipal officers, officers of single-county districts not required to hold annual elections, and any other officers specified by law for election in odd-numbered years when the term of office will expire before the next scheduled election.

*** Sec. of State's Office notes there are no county primary elections they know of in odd years, even though sections 13-1-107(2) and 13-1-104(2), MCA, seem to imply there could be.

Legend:

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

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

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

COMPILED BY: Sheri Scurr, Montana Legislative Services Division, (406) 444-3596, sscurr@mt.gov