

The Path to Voter Registration

House State Administration
House Bill 48 – Allow Electronic
Application for Voter Registration

Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch

The Path to Voter Registration

- The thoughtful and insightful questions that came out of the committee hearing on House Bill 48 may need additional clarification.
- Following is a summary comparison of the process to apply to register to vote, both via the current paper system and via the proposed electronic system.
- Through House Bill 48, we believe we are not only making applying to register to vote more efficient, but more secure.
 - ONLY those citizens who have gone through the rigorous process of obtaining a Montana driver's license/ID are able to submit an electronic application.
 - An electronic application leaves an electronic footprint that can be traced to an IP address
- Applicants can apply up to the current cut-off for voter registration for those wishing to appear at the polls to vote, or who wish to vote by mail (30 days before election day).

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Paper Application

MONTANA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Please complete an election in person, or request, if you, if you are a resident of the state, you are eligible to register to vote in the next primary election. FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION (FEC) FORM 7-07 (REV. 10-2010) PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE. PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY OTHER EDITIONS.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

1. Check all that apply: New Registration Name Change Address Change Signature Update Other

2. Are you a citizen of the United States?
 Will you be at least 18 years of age on or before the next election? Yes No
 Do you live in Montana as of the date of the next election? Yes No
 If you checked "No" in response to any of these questions, do not complete this form.

3. Last Name: First Name: Middle Name: Social Security Number:

4. Date of Birth: City: County: State: Zip Code: Contact Phone Number: Email Address:

5. Select one of the following and provide the required information:
 I have a Montana Driver's License or Montana ID and that number is _____
 I do not have a Montana Driver's License or MT ID card. The last 4 digits of my SSN are _____
 I do not have a Montana Driver's License or MT ID card or a Social Security Number. I have attached a copy of a photo ID that shows my name, or acceptable ID that shows the same and current address (someone else with the same address or government document).
 (If numbers provided above are not applicable and you are not acceptable for public inspection)

6. Montana Residence Address: City: County: State: Zip Code:
 (If numbers provided above are not applicable and you are not acceptable for public inspection)

7. Mailing Address (required if differs from residence address): City: State: Zip Code:

8. If applicable, check one of the following:
 Military, Candidate or overseas military spouse or dependent U.S. Citizen Overseas
PREVIOUS REGISTRATION INFORMATION - will be used to provide candidate information to home jurisdiction whenever it is available and you are eligible to vote in that jurisdiction.
 Previous City, County and State: Residence Address of Previous Registration: Previous Registration Name:

RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT BY MAIL
 Yes, I request an absentee ballot to be mailed to me for an election in which I am eligible to vote as long as I receive the ballot based on the application I am completing here or earlier to complete the request on a previous ballot. I will complete, sign, and return my ballot to the appropriate election official by the return deadline. I understand that I must be at least 18 years of age and meet all other eligibility requirements to vote in that election.
 If your mailing address differs during certain times of the year please add the seasonal mailing address information in this space, or contact your county election official. Seasonal mailing address for the period of _____ to _____.

APPLICANT'S AFFIRMATION:
 I affirm under penalty of perjury that the information on this application is true, that I am a citizen of the United States, that I will be at least 18 years of age on or before the next election, that I have been a resident of the state of Montana for at least 30 days prior to the date of election, and that I am not serving a term of imprisonment in a penal institution nor have been found to be incompetent by a court. I understand that if I have given false information on this application, I may be subject to either imprisonment or both under federal and/or state law.

Electronic Application



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Paper Application

- Applicant must provide state driver's license number, state ID number or if they have neither, last 4 of SSN.
 - If applicant has never been issued a state or SSN, they may register using alternate forms of ID (provision of Help America Vote Act)
- Applicants who do not have a MT driver's license or ID number are still able to register through the existing paper system.

Electronic Application

- Applicant must have a current state driver's license or state ID number.
 - When receiving state driver's license or state ID applicant had to provide to DMV officials
 - Proof of identity (2 documents) AND
 - Proof of MT residency (document that includes the applicant's name and MT residence address as it appears on DL application)

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Paper Application

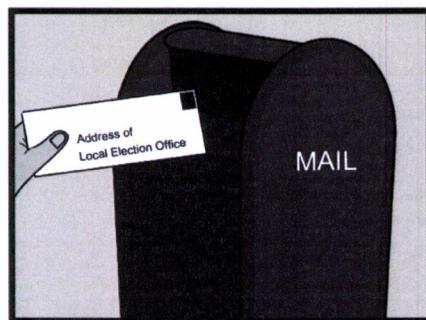
- Applicant hand enters personal information
- Applicant signs application
- Applicant mails, drops off, or gives to registration drive

Electronic Application

- Applicant enters personal information online
- Applicant cannot submit the application unless all required fields are completed
- Applicant's signature is pulled over from DMV after the system confirms DMV has the record

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Paper Application



Electronic Application



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Paper Application at County Election Office

- If the paper application is not complete, not signed, or the information entered is illegible.
 - County tries to contact applicant
 - Applicant is not legally registered until issues are resolved
 - Creates confusion and is time consuming on election day if these applicants show up thinking they are registered

Electronic Application at County Election Office

- County would not receive the application if it was incomplete.
 - Electronic application cannot be submitted if all required information is not entered

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Paper Process – County Election Office

- After manual verification of the applicant's ID information, county staff manually enters all data.
 - Data entry errors do happen, and those cause extra work and confusion on election day
- System automatically checks for duplicates in the system

Electronic Process – County Election Office

- Data from electronic application is brought into statewide system – no data entry necessary.
- System automatically checks for duplicates in the system.



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Paper Process Summary

- Will still be available.
- Has its risks, like most paper systems:
 - Can rely on application getting into the mail
 - Can rely on registration drives to return the application
 - Can result in incomplete information and data entry errors that may not get resolved until the applicant appears to vote

Electronic Process Summary

- Is optional to those citizens with current driver's license/state ID number
- Has less risks than a paper system
 - Relies on the applicant submitting the form, but does not rely on mail/registration drives
 - Provides an electronic footprint