

2014 Election Calendar:
Comparison of Primary and General Election Calendar
with Changes Proposed Under LC 143

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
January 1 - 31	Period for county election administrators to mail forwardable address confirmation cards to electors on the absentee list	13-13-212	No change.
January 9	First day for candidates to file for office	13-10-201	Change. First day of filing in odd-years will change from 135 days before election to be the same as for even-year elections, 145 days before.
February 23	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	No change.
March 3	Deadline to submit new political party petitions to county election administrators	13-10-601	No change. Remains 85 days before the primary election in any year.
March 10	Deadline for candidates to file for office	13-10-201	Change. Last day of filing in odd-years will change from 75 days before election to be the same as even-year elections, 85 days before the election.
	Deadline for candidates to withdraw primary election candidacy	13-10-325	Change. Last day to withdraw in odd years will be the same as for even years, 85 days before the election.
	Deadline for county election administrators to file verified new political party petitions with the Secretary of State	13-10-601	No change.
	Deadline for governing bodies to call for local government review	7-3-173	No change. Revisions in 7-3-173 and 7-3-174 are clarification, cleanup, and coordination.
Within 5 days of filing for office	Candidates must file appropriate paperwork with Commissioner of Political Practices in order for their names to appear on the ballot	13-37-201	No change.

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
March 10-18	Period for election administrators to certify to Commissioner of Political Practices the names of all <u>county</u> candidates who complied with MCA Title 13, Chapter 37	13-37-126(1) 13-37-225	Work in progress. No actual Ostatutory language requires election administrators to certify names to the COPP, only for COPP to notify election administrators when a candidate has failed to file a required report. Statute confusing with respect to school district and special purpose district candidates. See 13-37-206, 13-37-216, 13-37-217. Certain contribution limits apply, but no reporting applies because they are exempt from remainder of part 2, including 13-37-225.
March 10-20	Period for Secretary of State to certify names and designations of statewide and state district candidates to election administrators	13-10-208(1)	Change. Standardized language to 10 days after candidate filing period. But, section needs more work. See note above, also need to clarify if section applies only to primary elections.
After March 10	Election administrators determine whether <u>local nonpartisan</u> primary elections and parties' precinct elections need to be held, then notify governing body	13-14-115	No change.
March 18	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)	Work in progress. See notes above.
March 20	Deadline for governing body to decide that a local nonpartisan primary must be held, if election administrator determines that the election need not be held	13-14-115	No change.
Starting not earlier than April 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 registration)	13-2-301	No change.
April 18	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	No change.
	Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by no later than this date	13-13-205	No change.
April 25	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the primary election	13-10-211	No change.
May 4	Date by which legislative candidates must live in 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 General Election)	Article V Section 4 MT Const	No change.

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
	Deadline for county governing body to designate the polling place for each precinct and to appoint election judges for each precinct	13-3-105(1) 13-4-101	No change.
May 5	Close of regular voter registration (registration cards postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	13-2-301	No change.
	Date by which primary election absentee ballots must be available for voting	13-13-205	Change from 30 to 25 days before election.
	Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list	13-13-205 13-13-212 13-13-214	Change from 30 to 25 days before election. See 13-13-205 deadline for when absentee ballots are to be available and 13-13-214 for when absentee ballots are to be mailed.
	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	No change.
Prior to Primary Election	Any election judge serving in 2014 elections must attend a training and obtain a certificate of instruction prior to the primary election in even-numbered years	13-4-203	No change.
	County governing body appoints at least 3 individuals to serve on the county post-election audit committee	13-17-504	No change.
May 6	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304	Change. Removes exemption for school elections conducted school clerks and provides language about how late registration must be accomplished in the school elections run by school clerks.
May 8	Registration cards postmarked by May 5 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	13-2-301(3)	No change.
May 15	Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline	13-2-115	No change.
After May 15	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list	13-2-115	No change.
May 24 - June 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 are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote	13-17-203	No change.
	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	No change.
May 27	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to submit signed petitions to county election administrators	13-10-503	No change.
May 30	Beginning of period for printing of primary election precinct register	13-2-116	No change.
	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)	No change.

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
June 2	Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot	13-13-211(1)	No change.
	Noon - Absentee ballots are issued to late registrants up until this time on the day before election day; late registrants who submit a registration card after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot	13-2-304	No change.
	Noon - election administrators must pull supplemental precinct registers	Administrative Procedure	No change.
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots	13-13-241 44.3.2204 ARM	No change.
	Deadline for independent and minor party candidates to file Declaration of Intent for office; deadline for county election administrators to file independent and minor party candidate petitions with Secretary of State	13-10-503	No change.
JUNE 3	PRIMARY NOMINATING ELECTION	13-1-107(1)	No change.
	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	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM	No change.
	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)	No change.
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	13-2-304	Change. Removes exemption for school elections conducted by school clerks and provides language about how late registration must be accomplished in the school elections run by school clerks.
June 3 – 9	Period during which the election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	13-15-301(2)	No change.
June 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	No change.
	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	No change.
June 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	No change.
June 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	No change.

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
By June 17 (at least 1 day after post-election audit, if applicable)	County canvass completed - 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	No change.
After county canvass is complete	Certificates of nomination may be issued to successful local candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	13-37-127	No change.
June 20	Petition signatures due to election administrators for ballot issues; deadline for withdrawal of signatures	13-27-301	No change.
Within 5 days of official canvass	Deadline for candidates to initiate contest of primary election nomination (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-36-102(1)	No change.
	Deadline for unsuccessful primary election candidates to apply for a recount, if applicable (after county or state canvass, as applicable)	13-16-201 13-16-301	No change.
	Election administrators send official canvass results to Secretary of State by certified mail	13-15-501	No change.
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	No change.
June 30	State canvass must be completed – Canvass Board declares nominated the individuals having received the highest number of votes cast for each state-certified office	13-15-502 13-15-507	No change.
After state canvass is complete	Certificates of nomination may be issued to successful candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	13-37-127	No change.
July 2	Deadline for local government review results to be delivered to the Secretary of State (within 15 days of the date that the results become official)	7-3-174	No change.
July 18	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	No change.
August 11	Deadline for candidates to withdraw general election candidacy	13-10-325	Change. Coordinated with candidate filing deadline changes. In odd-numbered years the change is from 75 days to 85 days before the election to match the deadline in even-numbered years.
August 21	Deadline for Secretary of State to certify for the ballot the names of statewide and state district candidates and ballot issues to election administrators; deadline for election administrators to certify for the ballot the names of local candidates and ballot issues	13-12-201	Work in progress. See notes in blue above.
	Last day for local government review commission candidates to file declaration of nomination by 5:00 p.m. (assuming vote is in favor of study commission). Filing fee is not required, all candidates are nonpartisan and there is no primary election.	7-3-176	No change.

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
Starting not earlier than September 8	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 registration)	13-2-301	No change.
September 19	Election administrators must send ballots to absent military and overseas electors as soon as the ballot is printed and by no later than this date	13-13-205	No change.
September 26	Deadline for write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election	13-10-211	No change.
October 6	Close of regular voter registration (registration cards postmarked by this date and received within 3 days are accepted for regular registration)	13-2-301	No change.
	Date by which general election absentee ballots must be available for voting	13-13-205	Change from 30 to 25 days before election. See 13-13-205 deadline for when absentee ballots are to be available and 13-13-214 for when absentee ballots are to be mailed.
	Date by which ballots are mailed to electors on the absentee list	13-13-205 13-13-212 13-13-214	Change from 30 to 25 days before election. See 13-13-205 deadline for when absentee ballots are to be available and 13-13-214 for when absentee ballots are to be mailed.
	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	No change.
	Deadline for election administrators to mail a general election voter information pamphlet to voters on the active voter list	13-27-410(4)	No change.
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	No change.
October 7	Beginning of late registration	13-2-304	Change. Removes exemption for school elections conducted by school clerks and provides language about how late registration must be accomplished in the school elections run by school clerks.
October 9	Registration cards postmarked by October 6 and received by this date are accepted for regular registration	13-2-301(3)	No change.
October 17	Deadline for election administrators to enter into statewide voter registration system all voter registration applications received by regular registration deadline	13-2-115	No change.
After October 17	Secretary of State certifies the official statewide voter registration list	13-2-115	No change.
October 25 – November 2	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 are on public exhibition, and instructions on how to vote	13-17-203	No change.
	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	No change.

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
October 31	Beginning of period for printing of general election precinct register	13-2-116	No change.
	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)	No change.
November 3	Noon - Deadline for election administrator to receive application for absentee ballot	13-13-211(1)	No change.
	Noon - Absentee ballots are issued to late registrants up until this time on the day before election day; late registrants who submit a registration card after noon must return to the election office on election day to receive an absentee ballot	13-2-304	No change.
	Noon – election administrators must pull supplemental precinct registers	Administrative Procedure	No change.
	Election administrators may, at their option, conduct early preparation of absentee ballots	13-13-241 44.3.2204 ARM	No change.
NOVEMBER 4	FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION	13-1-104(1)	No change.
	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	44.3.1713(1)(f) ARM	No change.
	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)	No change.
	8:00 p.m. - End of late registration (or when all individuals in line at 8:00 p.m. have registered)	13-2-304	Change. Removes exemption for school elections conducted by school clerks and provides language about how late registration must be accomplished in the school elections run by school clerks.
November 4-10	Period during which the election administrators may open a package containing a precinct register to resolve provisional ballots	13-15-301(2)	No change.
November 10	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	No change.
	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	No change.
November 12-13	Period for State Board of Canvassers to randomly choose races, ballot issue and precincts to be audited for post-election audit	13-17-505	No change.
November 13-17	Post-election audits conducted by machine-tabulation counties (after notification by State Board of Canvassers of races, ballot issue & precincts chosen)	13-17-506	No change.

Deadline		Statute	Under LC 143
By November 18 (at least 1 day after post-election audit, if applicable)	County canvass completed - 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	No change.
After county canvass is complete	Certificates of election may be issued to successful local candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	13-37-127	No change.
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 13-16-301	No change.
	Election administrators send official canvass results to Secretary of State by certified mail	13-15-501	No change.
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	No change.
December 1	State canvass must be 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 state ballot issues	13-15-502 13-15-507	No change.
December 3	Deadline for local government review results to be delivered to the Secretary of State (within 15 days of the official canvass)	7-3-174	No change.
After state canvass is complete	Certificates of election may be issued to successful candidates as soon as the notification of compliance is received from the Commissioner of Political Practices	13-37-127	No change.
After certificates of election are issued	Secretary of State certifies legislative roster	5-2-211	No change.