



## MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE



**DATE:** November 6, 2023

**TO:** Jerry Howe, Executive Director  
Legislative Services Division

**FROM:** Angela Nunn, Chief Deputy  
Montana Secretary of State

**Subject:** Report of the Youth Voting Act

In accordance with 13-22-108 and 5-11-210, MCA, enclosed is a report titled Report to the Montana State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee on the Youth Voting Act.

The Youth Voting Act establishes a nonpartisan youth voting program. The intent of the program is to provide Montana youth with practical voting experience to encourage future participation in the democratic process.

# Montana Secretary of State



## Report to the Montana State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee on the Youth Voting Act

**Report Period: 2022**

**November 6, 2023**

## **Montana Youth Vote Act**

The Youth Voting Act, a nonpartisan youth voting program, was enacted in 1991 by the Legislature and is outlined in Title 13, Chapter 22 of the Montana Code Annotated. The objectives of the program are to provide Montana youth with practical voting experience to increase future participation in the democratic process and to encourage the participation of more parents in elections.

## **Youth Voting Program Coordination**

In 2022, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Office of Public Instruction, conducted outreach to County Election Administrators and School Administrators/Superintendents throughout Montana to share information about the Youth Voting Program and request assistance in encouraging Montana students to participate.

Students not registered with the public school system were also able to participate. The Secretary of State's Office contacted homeschool associations and private schools to encourage participation.

The announcement was also provided to Montana media outlets via press release and shared on social media.

## **Participation and results**

During the 2022 mid-term general election cycle, approximately 1,200 Montana students participated in the Youth Vote Program. Students in grades 7-12 received the full ballot of federal and statewide offices, as well as statewide ballot initiatives. Students in grades K-6 participated in the Congressional candidate election, while also voting on a variety of age-appropriate questions.

The Youth Vote results were shared on the Secretary of State's civics website [civics.sosmt.gov](https://civics.sosmt.gov). Results were also provided to program partners, including Montana School Administrators/Superintendents, and to media outlets across the state.

The next Youth Vote election will be the 2024 General Election. Youth voting will start in October 2024 and will close November 1<sup>st</sup>.