



# Montana

- **Chief election official:** Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen, elected in 2020 for a four-year term
- **Who runs elections locally:** County Election Administrator
- **Number of jurisdictions:** 56
- **State website:** [www.sosmt.gov/elections/](http://www.sosmt.gov/elections/)

ELECTION POLICY	STATUS	NATIONAL COMPARISON
<b>VOTER REGISTRATION</b>		
Online voter registration	Not provided	42 states and D.C. have online voter registration
Automatic/automated voter registration	Not provided	24 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration
Type of state voter registration database	Top-down	36 states and D.C. use top-down; seven states use bottom-up; seven states use a hybrid system
Pre-registration	18 by the election	22 states and D.C. permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds
Election Day/same-day registration	Not permitted	22 states and D.C. have same-day registration
Registration deadline	12 p.m. on the day before Election Day	National average is 20 days before Election Day
<b>VOTING</b>		
Voter ID for in-person voting	ID required	36 states require ID to vote in person
Early in-person voting	Begins 30 days before Election Day	47 states and D.C. allow early in-person voting; national average is 26 days
Vote centers	Not used	30 states and D.C. allow vote centers
No-excuse absentee voting	Permitted	28 states permit no-excuse absentee voting
Mails ballots to all registered voters (aka "mostly mail elections")	Ballots are not mailed to all registered voters	Eight states and D.C. mail ballots to all registered voters
Deadline for absentee/mail ballot return	Must be received by close of polls on Election Day	31 states require ballots returned by Election Day*
Laws governing who can return a voted ballot	Caregiver, family or household member or acquaintance	32 states have laws governing ballot collection
Ballot drop boxes	Permitted	Six states prohibit; 23 states permit; other states are silent
Ballot cure process	Ballot cure process offered statewide	30 states and D.C. have a ballot cure process
When absentee/mail ballot processing begins	3 business days before the election**	34 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day
Electronic ballot return	UOCAVA voters	33 states and D.C. allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states and D.C. allow for voters with disabilities
<b>OTHER</b>		
Pre-election audits (logic and accuracy testing)	Uses pre-election audits	47 states and D.C. have pre-election audits
Post-election tabulation audits	Uses post-election audits	48 states and D.C. require post-election audits
State primary type	Open	Primaries range from fully open to fully closed

\*Other states accept ballots postmarked by Election Day.

\*\*Counties that have fewer than 8,000 registered voters or fewer than 3,000 absentee voters may not begin ballot processing until 1 business day before Election Day.

**Note:** Neither NCSL nor the U.S. Election Assistance Commission advocate for or against any election policies.

**For more information, contact NCSL at [elections-info@ncsl.org](mailto:elections-info@ncsl.org) or 303-364-7700. For information on federal grants see [www.eac.gov/grants](http://www.eac.gov/grants).**



Use this QR code to access links to NCSL's elections pages with details.



Use this QR code to access links to the EAC's election resources.

