



# Montana

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

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	42 states and D.C. have automatic voter registration
Pre-registration	18 by the election	19 states permit pre-registration for 16- and 17-year-olds
Election Day/same-day registration	Permitted	22 states and D.C. have same-day registration
Registration deadline	Election Day	National average is 20 days before Election Day
<b>VOTING</b>		
Voter ID	ID required	35 states require ID
Early in-person voting	Begins 30 days before Election Day	47 states allow; national average is 26 days
Vote centers	Not used	29 states allow vote centers
No-excuse absentee voting	Permitted	27 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	30 states require ballots returned by Election Day*
Ballot collection laws	Caregiver, family or household member or acquaintance	31 states have ballot collection laws
Ballot drop boxes	Permitted	Four states prohibit; 23 states permit; other states are silent
Ballot cure process	Ballot cure process offered statewide	25 states have a ballot cure process
When absentee/mail ballot processing begins	3 business days before the election	32 states and D.C. begin processing before Election Day
Electronic ballot return	UOCAVA voters	33 states allow for military and overseas voters; 13 states allow for voters with disabilities
<b>OTHER</b>		
Prohibits private funding of elections	Not specified	24 states prohibit; 26 states are silent
Pre-election audits (logic and accuracy testing)	Uses pre-election audit	47 states have pre-election audits
Post-election tabulation audits	Post-election audit used	46 states require post-election audits
State primary type	Open	Primaries range from fully open to fully closed
Member of Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)	No	25 states and D.C. are members of ERIC
Use jury lists for list maintenance	Not specified	Seven states use jury lists; other states are silent

\*Other states accept ballots postmarked by 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.



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