

Montana

Registration Deadline

Forms must be received in person or postmarked 30 days before an election.¹ As of July 1, 2006, Montana will also provide a late registration option: an applicant who has resided in the appropriate county for at least 30 days may register at any point up through (and including) Election Day, but the applicant's information must be verified by the close of the polls, and the applicant must vote at the county election administrator's office on Election Day.²

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Database Implementation Status

Montana is currently constructing a top-down voter registration system, in which county officials have direct access to a single centralized state database. Montana has engaged MAXIMUS, Inc., and Saber Consulting, to assist in the construction and implementation of the database.³

Entering Voter Registration Information

Who inputs voter registration information? County election administrators generally review and enter information from voter registration forms in their jurisdictions into the statewide system.

What happens to voter registration forms submitted at state registration agencies? Forms received by any voter registration agency will be forwarded to the appropriate county for review and processing.⁴

How are most forms submitted? Montana reported that in 2004, 23% of forms were submitted by mail, 19% were submitted in person to election officials, 21% were submitted at the DMV, 21% were submitted at another voter registration agency, and 17% were submitted by other means.⁵

Voter Registration Form

The relevant portions of the voter registration form are included at the end of this section.

Processing of Forms Without Identifying Numbers

How will the state treat an application with an affirmative indication that the applicant has no valid identifying number? Not applicable. The voter registration application form directs an applicant with no valid identifying number to provide a current and valid photo ID, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.⁶

How will the state treat an application without an identifying number and without an affirmative indication that the applicant has no such number? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be provisionally registered. If the number is uncorrected (see below), she must show identification before voting or at the polls.⁷

How will the state treat an application listing an identifying number that is either incomplete or illegible? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be provisionally registered. If the number is uncorrected (see below), she must show identification before voting or at the polls.⁸

Matching Against Motor Vehicle and Social Security Records

What fields from the voter registration form will the state seek to match to motor vehicle or Social Security records? Identifying number, first name, and date of birth.

How precise is the match standard? Montana will use a “substantial match” standard to match information on forms with a driver’s license number. County election administrators will see a list of possible matches, along with the associated percentage of “information” that the records share, calculated based on the number of fields that match character-by-character for each record; only one field must match exactly for such a list of records to be returned. The election administrators will then have the discretion to select matches that appear to reflect the same individual. Montana will use the standard AAMVA criteria for matching information on forms with SSN digits: exact match of the SSN-4, first name, last name, month of birth, and year of birth.

How much human intervention is involved in determining whether information is matched? For matching information on forms with a driver’s license number, county election administrators have a substantial amount of discretion to determine whether a voter registration record matches a list of possible matches returned by the system. The process for matching information on forms with SSN digits is fully automated.

Description of matching process: For matching information on forms with a driver’s license number, when a county election administrator submits the entered information, the system will search for potential matches in the DMV database. The system will return a list of potential matches, ranked by the associated percentage of “information” that the records share, calculated based on the number of fields that match character-by-character for each record. The county election administrator then will have the discretion to determine whether a match exists among these possible matches. Information on forms listing SSN digits will be automatically checked against the SSA database through the standard AAMVA process: the DMV will automatically submit the appropriate fields to the SSA and return a code indicating whether the record was successfully matched or not.

Note: Montana will also send each prospective registrant a confirmation notice; if the notice is returned as undeliverable, the application will be rejected.⁹

What are the consequences if the state cannot find a match? If the applicant is otherwise eligible, she will be provisionally registered. If uncorrected (see below), the applicant must show identification before voting or at the polls.

Notice and Opportunity to Resolve Errors

Does the applicant have the opportunity to correct a missing or incomplete identifying number, without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may correct missing or incomplete information at any point up to ten days after the voter registration deadline.¹⁰

Does the applicant have the opportunity to resolve a failed match, without submitting a new form? Yes. The applicant may supply information to resolve a failed match at any point up to ten days after the voter registration deadline.¹¹

If information on an otherwise timely application is corrected after the voter registration deadline, is the correction timely? Yes. The applicant may correct information at any point up to ten days after the voter registration deadline.¹²

Description of notice and correction process: An applicant whose identifying number is missing, incomplete, illegible, or unverified will be notified “by the most expedient method available,”¹³ and may correct the error at any point up to ten days after the voter registration deadline. If the identifying number is not supplied or cannot be verified, the applicant will be provisionally registered, and must provide sufficient identification before voting or at the polls.

Identification Requirements at the Polls

Who must provide identification at the polls? Every voter must provide identification at the polls.¹⁴

What forms of identification are accepted?

Current photo ID, or a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, voter registration confirmation notice, government check, other government document showing the voter’s name and address, or an identifying number that can be verified through a call to the county election administrator.¹⁵

Forms of ID:

Every voter:	current photo ID voter registration confirmation notice current utility bill w/ name, address bank statement w/ name, address paycheck w/ name, address government check w/ name, address other gov’t document w/ name, address verifiable identifying number
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What are the consequences of failing to show identification? The voter may cast a provisional ballot.¹⁶ The ballot will be counted if a provisionally or fully registered voter presents identification to the county election administrator in person or by fax, mail, or email, by the day after the election, and if the signature on the provisional ballot affirmation matches the signature on the registration card.¹⁷

Statutes and Regulations

MONT. CODE ANN. §§ 13-2-107 *et seq.* generally concern registration. MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-2-107 directs the Secretary of State to establish and maintain a single statewide voter registration database. MONT. ADMIN. R. 44.3.2002 *et seq.* comprise the applicable regulations.

End Notes

¹ MONT. CODE ANN. §§ 13-2-301(1)(a), (3).

² *Id.* § 13-2-304(1).

³ electionline.org, *Assorted Rolls: Statewide Voter Registration Databases Under HAVA*, June 2005, available at <http://www.electionline.org/Portals/1/EB11.FINAL1.pdf>, at 20.

⁴ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-2-221(3).

⁵ Election Assistance Commission, *The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004*, June 30, 2005, tbl. 2, available at http://www.eac.gov/NVR_Spreadsheets/NVRA_table_2.html. Due to rounding, the percentages listed may exceed 100%.

⁶ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-2-110(5); MONT. ADMIN. R. 44.3.2011(1).

⁷ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-2-110(6)(b); MONT. ADMIN. R. 44.3.2005(3), 44.3.2011(1).

⁸ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-2-110(6)(b).

⁹ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-2-207(1); MONT. ADMIN. R. 44.3.2013(1).

¹⁰ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-2-301(4).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ MONT. ADMIN. R. 44.3.2013(2).

¹⁴ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-13-114(1)(a).

¹⁵ *Id.* § 13-13-114(1)(a); MONT. ADMIN. R. 44.3.2102(6), (8).

¹⁶ MONT. CODE ANN. § 13-13-114(2).

¹⁷ *Id.* § 13-15-107(1)-(2); MONT. ADMIN. R. 44.3.2114(4)-(5), (8).

For office use only ↓

Polling Place	Date	Pct	Ward	School	House	Senate				Reg. #
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TO REGISTER: All items, except where noted, must be completed to register to vote.

Under federal and/or state law, all electors must present ID when voting.

- 1. Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes No*
- 2. Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes No*

***Note:** If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.

3. MONTANA DRIVER'S LICENSE # _____
(If you do not have a Montana driver's license number, list the **LAST FOUR DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY #** _____
Under federal law you are required to provide one of the above, unless you do not have either. If you have neither, provide or enclose a copy of ID*.)

*If you have neither number, provide (in person) or enclose (by mail) a copy of one of the following: any photo ID with your name; OR a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document that shows your name and current address.

4. Email Address (optional) _____

5. **NAME** _____
(Please print) Last First Middle

6. **COUNTY** _____

7. **ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE***

*Precinct is determined by address where you live.

(Street, City, Zip OR Sec., Twp. & Range)

8. **MAILING ADDRESS** (If different than #7)

9. **TELEPHONE NUMBER**

10. **DATE OF BIRTH** ____/____/____
Month Day Year

11. **PRINT FORMER NAME** (if changed)

12. **PLACE LAST REGISTERED**
CITY COUNTY STATE

13. VOTER DECLARATION (Read and sign below)
I swear/affirm that: **a)** I am a U.S. citizen; **b)** I will be at least 18 years old on or before the next election; **c)** I will have lived in this county for at least 30 days before the next election; **d)** I am neither in a penal institution for a felony conviction nor found of unsound mind by a court; **e)** If I do not now meet these qualifications, I will by the next election; and **f)** I have provided true information, to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have given false information, I may be subject to a fine or imprisonment or both under Federal or State laws.

14. **SIGNATURE** _____ **DATE** _____