2024 SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT ELECTION CALENDAR

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Montana Secretary of State

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Deadline	Activity	Statute					
	2023						
December 14, 2023 145 days before election	Candidate Filing Opens for Special Purpose District Elections (excluding conservation districts; see 13-1-502(4)(b)).	<u>13-1-502(1)</u>					
2024							
February 12, 2024	Candidate Filing Closes at 5pm.	<u>13-1-502(1)</u>					
85 days before election	Deadline for a candidate to withdraw.	<u>13-1-502(2)</u>					
	Last day for Governing Body to pass an order or resolution calling for the election. The order or resolution shall specify whether the governing body is requesting that the election be conducted by mail.	<u>13-1-504(4) and</u> (5)					
	Deadline for candidates to be registered to vote in Montana. (*Note: exception exist for under 18-year-olds who will turn 18 before the election.)	<u>HB 306</u> (2023)					
February 22, 2024 75 days before election	Ballot certification deadline.	<u>13-12-201</u>					
March 4, 2024	Write-in candidates must file a declaration of intent by 5pm .	<u>13-1-502(3)</u>					
65 days before election	After 5pm, Election Administrator shall cancel election and immediately notify the governing body in writing of the cancellation, <i>if the number of candidates is equal to, or less than, the number of</i> <i>positions to be filled</i> . The governing body may require the election to be held by passing a resolution. (<i>Since there is no deadline specified in law for</i> <i>such a governing body resolution, SOS recommends working closely with the</i> <i>governing body to determine in advance of March 8 whether the governing body</i> <i>plans to pass such a resolution.</i>)	<u>13-1-502(4)(a)</u>					
March 8, 2024 60 days before election	Deadline for Secretary of State to receive written plans for May 7 mail ballot elections.	<u>13-19-205(1)</u>					
March 11 – April 7 Starting not earlier than four weeks before close of voter registration	Publish notice of close of regular registration and availability of late registration at least three times in the four weeks preceding the close of regular voter registration.	<u>13-2-301(1)(b)</u>					
March 28 – April 27 Between 10 and 40 days before election	Publish notice of election three times (if newspaper of general circulation is weekly, notice must be published two times).	<u>13-1-108(1) and</u> (2)					
April 8, 2024 30 days before election	Regular Voter Registration Closes.	<u>13-2-301(1)(a)</u>					
April 9, 2024	Late registration opens.	<u>13-2-304(1)</u>					
April 11, 2024 Within 3 days of the close of regular voter registration	Voter registration applications postmarked by April 8 and received by April 11 are accepted for regular voter registration.	<u>13-2-301(3)</u>					
April 17, 2024 20 days before the election	Absentee ballots must be available for voting; in a polling place election, electors on the absentee elector list, including absent military and overseas electors, are sent ballots automatically on April 17.	<u>13-1-503(1)</u>					
No sooner than April 17; no later than April 22	If election is conducted by mail ballot, ballots must be mailed on a single date during this range.	<u>13-1-503(2)</u>					
May 7, 2024	Election Day	<u>13-1-504(1)</u>					