



Mail Ballot Written Plan, Timetable and Instructions

MUST BE RECEIVED BY SECRETARY OF STATE NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY. COMPLETE, SAVE AND EMAIL THIS FORM TO SOSELECTIONS@MT.GOV. THIS DOCUMENT MAY BE AMENDED UNTIL THE 35TH DAY BEFORE THE ELECTION. ELECTION CAN BE CANCELLED AT ANY TIME PERMITTED BY LAW. A SEPARATE PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH TYPE OF ELECTION.

Written Plan	Response
1 Legal Name of Jurisdiction	Columbus Municipal Election Ward #3
2 Name of County or Counties Involved	Stillwater
3 Estimated # of Electors (including Active, Inactive, and Provisional in jurisdiction; Inactive voters are only provided ballots by request but should be included in estimate)	456
4 Type of Election (e.g., trustee/director/governing body, levy, bond, creation, etc.)	Trustee/Director/Governing Body
5 Postage to return ballot paid by: elector or election office (& if insufficient, who pays)	Elector; elector pays cost of returned ballot
6 Describe procedures you will use to ensure security and transport of ballots	Ballots will be deposited in locked ballot box and secured in locked area. Any transportation of ballots will be conducted by at least two officials.
7 Ballots will be printed based on: precinct, ward, or district	Ward
8 For school elections, specify signature verification procedures:	Click here to choose from list
Timetable	Date
1 Date applicable documents sent to the governing body <i>No date set by law, but should be no later than 60 days before election. Documents include: 1) written plan; 2) statement of decision to conduct election by mail; 3) list of reasons for decision; and 4) statement regarding right of governing body to object under 13-19-204.</i>	September 4, 2025
2 Actual date of submission of plan, timetable, and instructions to Secretary of State <i>(Must be received by Secretary of State at least 60 days before election.)</i>	August 19, 2025
3 Last day for governing body to opt out of mail ballot (no later than 55 days before election – if the election is on a Tuesday, the last day to opt out is a Wednesday)	September 10, 2025
4 Secretary of State approves, disapproves or recommends changes to plan	Within 5 days of SOS receipt of plan
5 County election administrator publishes notices at least 3 times in the 4 weeks before the close of regular registration specifying close of voter registration and availability of late registration <i>(For all non-school and school elections, to be published by the county election administrator at least 3 times in the 4 weeks preceding the close of registration, once per week. School clerks running school elections will need to coordinate with the county election administrator to have the county election administrator publish the notices of close of registration. 13-2-301)</i>	September 11, 2025 September 18, 2025 September 25, 2025
6 Publish notice of election <i>(All non-school elections: 13-1-108, MCA; school elections: 20-20-204, MCA. For school elections, notice must be published at least once between 40 and 10 days before the election in a newspaper (if there is one in the district) and in 3 public places in the district, and for 10 days prior to the election, on the district's website, if the district has an active website)</i>	October 9, 2025 October 16, 2025 If applicable, click on or enter a 3rd date.
7 Close of regular voter registration <i>(30 days before election; move to 29 days before election when 30th day falls on a Sunday)</i>	October 6, 2025
8 Beginning of late voter registration (applicable to all elections) <i>(Late registration opens for all elections the day after the close of regular registration)</i>	October 7, 2025
9 Specific date on which ballots will be mailed <i>(No sooner than 20 days or later than 15 days before election)</i>	October 17, 2025
10 Election Day	November 4, 2025

Additional Information (to access the sections of law below, visit <http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/index.html>):

List here any special requirements from applicable laws: Water/Sewer (7-13-2212; 7-13-2325), Fire (7-33-2106), Museum (7-11-1011(5)), Cemetery (7-11-1011(5)), Drainage (85-8-305), Irrigation (85-7-1710); certain Special Districts (7-11-1011(5); defined in 7-11-1002(3)(b)).

Affirmation:

By entering my name on the line below, I affirm that I will conduct the election according to the written plan and timetable for conducting the election. I understand that any undeliverable ballots must be filed securely, retained and available for electors to vote and that I must attempt to contact electors whose ballots are undeliverable. If such electors cannot be contacted otherwise, electors in odd-year elections will be mailed a notice and the guidelines in [13-19-313](#), MCA and ARM [44.3.2710](#) will be followed. (For school trustee elections: If a school trustee election is cancelled for any reason, I understand I must follow the deadlines and process in [20-3-313](#) MCA.)

Heidi L. Stadel

Name(s) of Election Administrator(s) Conducting Election

Complete the above plan and timetable and the instructions below, and save and email this form to SOSELECTIONS@MT.GOV.

Updated August 13, 2025