

Election Connection Vol. 6

The election process has already begun state-wide. The absentee process (mail ballot) has been actively growing through the years and has been conducted successfully. This involves verifying information and checking signatures against registration records to ensure an accurate count and above all protecting the secrecy of the ballot.

This Election, ballots will be made available October 2nd, mailed October 9th. Ballots will be mailed only to **ACTIVE** registered voters.

What this means to you, the active registered voter:

- 1. You should verify your information to ensure you are active and your address and signature are current to receive your ballot.**

Ballots are mailed to only active voters, ballots are not forwardable and signatures are verified during the acceptance process. Contact Prairie County Election Office at 635-5575, 217 W Park, Terry.

- 2. You may do an in-person request for your ballot starting October 2nd (A valid form of ID must be presented to receive your ballot).**

If this request does not occur before October 9th by 12:00pm, Prairie County will mail the ballots.

- 3. You will receive a return affirmation envelope (postage paid) that has your name and a bar code unique to you, instructions, a ballot, and a yellow secrecy envelope.**
- 4. You must fill out the ballot, enclose the ballot in the yellow secrecy envelope which you secure in the return affirmation envelope with your signature in the designated area.**

You may do this in the privacy of your home or at the secure designated areas within the courthouse at 217 W Park, Terry Montana during normal business hours and extended hours on Election Day. (Expressvote will also be available)

- 5. Return your ballot in the postage paid envelope by mail or drop off in-person to the Election Administrators Office in the Courthouse or in Fallon with the Election Officials at the Coffee Shop during the designated drop-off times.**

Prairie County Courthouse: Friday, October 2nd through Monday, November 2nd from 8am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Tuesday, November 3rd from 7am-8pm.

Fallon Coffee Shop: Tuesday, October 10th and October 27th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Friday, October 23rd and October 30th from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Monday, November 2nd from 7:00am-11:00am.

- 6. You may follow your ballot from the time it was mailed to the time it is received and accepted through My Voter Page located on the Secretary of State's website**

<https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo>) or click on the link located on our website www.prairiecounty.org/election.

Upon receiving the return envelope in the Election Administrators office, the verification process begins with trained elected officials. The barcode is scanned which will populate your information and signature to compare with the affirmation envelope. This is verified for acceptance.

As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns. The phone number is 406-635-5575 or you may email at either CR@prairiecounty.org or melanie@prairiecounty.org.

Submitted by: Election Administrator- Shari Robertson and Deputy- Melanie Sheffler