

ELECTION CONNECTION 2026

We are happy to say that we have close to 30 judges that will be attending training on March 31, 2026. We have a great variety of judges: those with many years of experience, those with a few years and then those who are new to our election team. We appreciate their dedication and want to stress how crucial each and every one of their roles play in the election process and representing a “Day for Democracy.”

Our second edition, we would like to go over the absentee process since we will begin that process soon. Ballots were officially certified and ordered on 3/24/2026 and will be delivered during the election office mid-April because UOCAVA ballots will be mailed on April 17, 2026. UOCAVA for those who do not know are absent military and/or overseas electors. The absentee ballots become available on May 4, 2026, for early in person voting. This is 30 days prior to election day. On Friday May 8, 2026, the absentee ballots will be mailed to active registered voters. For the 2026 Primary election, 3 ballots will be given: Democrat, Libertarian, and Republican. Make sure you only **VOTE ONE!!!**

Since this will be the first election in Prairie County since the 2025 legislative session, we want to make you aware of some changes to the election laws in relation to absentee voters. HB719 revised voting laws and their relation to elector’s date of birth. Voter applicants are now required to provide their date of birth when registering to vote (13-2-110). Absentee voters are now required to provide their date of birth on the signature envelope. Voters will see on the envelope where to place this information before returning their absentee ballot to the election office (13-13-201). The election administrator then needs to verify birthdates as well as the signature before counting the elector’s absentee ballot (13-13-213). With close to 70% of Prairie County being absentee voters, this is important information to be aware of in making each and every one of your votes count.

This is a great time to verify and check your status, ensuring you are an ACTIVE registered voter. Make sure you have the correct mailing and physical address on file. It is important to have accurate and updated information on file. Verifying whether you are an absentee voter or a poll elector is also important. Absentee voters can only vote provisionally at the polling place. Completed absentee ballots placed within the signature envelope can be dropped off at any of the polling locations. If you need to update your information or you are not registered, please do so soon. On May 5, 2026, voters will have to appear in person at the county courthouse to obtain a ballot and vote in the primary election. If you are unsure of your status, you check by calling the Elections Office at 406-635-5575 or by visiting <https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/>. Voter registration forms can be found at the Elections office, on our website under the election link at www.prairiecounty.org, or through the Secretary of States website at <https://sosmt.gov/elections>. Once completed, mail to PO Box 125, Terry, MT 59349; or bring to the courthouse at 217 W. Park in Terry.

We will continue to keep you updated on all the election news. As always, if you have any questions or subjects that you would like me to cover for elections, please do not hesitate to contact (406) 635-5575 or visit us at Prairie County Courthouse. Our business hours are 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may also contact us by email at clerksoffice@prairiecounty.org.

Shari Robertson
Election Administrator