

ELECTION CONNECTION 2026

It is hard to believe but the Primary Election is drawing near June 2, 2026, and will be here before we know it, so we want to make sure everything is being done to make each vote count.

Because the close of voter registration is at 5pm on May 4, 2026, this would be a great time to verify your voter information for accuracy, ensuring your chance to vote in the Primary election. Are you an ACTIVE registered voter? Is your correct mailing and physical address on file for you?! Are you registered as an absentee voter or a poll voter? Do you have a current signature on file? Having updated information on record is essential. As pointed out in the last election connection article, new statute requires voters to provide **birthdate** when registering to vote (13-2-110) and, **birth year** on the affirmation (signature) envelope when returning an absentee ballot (13-13-201).

A person can verify their information and status by calling the Elections Office at 406-635-5575 or by visiting <https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/>. If any information needs updated, or a new registration is needed, please do so soon. This can be done by filling out a “new” voter registration form which can be found at the Elections office, on the election link on website at www.prairiecounty.org, or through the Secretary of States website at <https://sosmt.gov/elections>. Once filled out, this can be mailed to the election office at PO Box 125, Terry, MT 59349; or brought into the courthouse at 217 W. Park in Terry.

Election training must be completed prior to the primary election in any even numbered year (13-4-203) so in case you are interested it is not too late to join Prairie Counties team. Please contact our office and we will set up training before April 30, 2026. We are thankful to report we have close to 30 judges that have attended and obtained their certificate of completion. They will be representing Prairie County for a “Day for Democracy” by working at the polls, at the election office, on the counting board(s), or on the audit board. This training certification is good for a two-year term, expiring in May of 2028.

Other things to remember:

All IDs must be CURRENT, VALID, and READABLE.

A photo ID is required for In-person voting and must be one of the following:

Montana driver’s License, Military ID, Tribal Photo ID, State ID Card, Montana University, Montana Concealed Carry Permit, or a US passport. For voters that do not have one of these ID options, the alternate options include the following: Other photo IDs in combination with a utility bill, government document, bank statement, and/or a paycheck with the voter’s name and current address. Examples of this would be Costco membership and a vehicle registration.

Absentee ballots are mailed to ACTIVE voters only. Absentee Ballots are NOT forwardable, and ALL signatures and birth year will be verified during the acceptance process. Absentee voters **cannot** vote at the polls unless it is provisionally. Absentee voters can however bring their ballots to any of the polling locations for delivery to the counting center.

In Prairie County, the polls do not open until 12pm (13-1-106). However, voters that need to vote earlier can come to the Prairie County Courthouse for early In-person voting starting at 7am on election day. Noon on primary election day, June 2, 2026, is the deadline to register or change voter information and vote in the election (13-2-304)(3).

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As always, please feel free to contact our office with any questions or concerns; or stop in. We are always more than happy to visit and explain any part of the election process. The phone number is 406-635-5575 or you may email clerksoffice@prairiery.org.

Shari Robertson, Election Administrator