



Voting

What is Voting?



Voting allows us to be heard and make choices. Voting helps us make big decisions. This includes choosing our elected officials and passing laws.



Why is Voting Important?

Voting gives us a say about laws and matters that impact our lives. Voting lets us have a say in who runs our government. Voting is our voice and our right!

What Do You Vote On?



You typically vote on who will become elected officials who lead parts of the government. For example, a state representative, a city council member, a member of Congress, a State Governor, a Mayor, and the President of the United States.



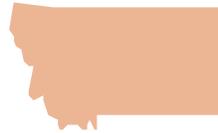
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How Do I Choose Who to Vote For?



You vote for the candidates' ideas you like best and the decisions you think they will make if they win. You can find information about a candidate by watching TV, reading a newspaper, and looking them up on websites.

Am I Able to Vote?



You must be a U.S. citizen. You must live in Montana for at least 30 days. You must be 18 years or older on Election Day. You need to sign up to vote, which is called registering to vote.

Can I Vote If I Have a Guardian?



You can vote unless your guardianship order states that you cannot vote.

Can I Vote If I Have Been to Prison?



You can vote if you were convicted of a crime, but you are no longer serving your sentence in a jail or prison.



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What Do I Need to Register to Vote?

You need your name and birth date. A driver's license number, the last 4 digits of your Social Security number, or another form of identification. A house address and mailing address.

How Do I Register to Vote?

You can print out a voter registration form from the Secretary of State's website, fill it out, and mail it to your local county election office. You can also fill out a voter registration form in-person at your local county election office. You can call Disability Rights Montana for help at 1-800-245-4743.

When Can I Vote?

You can vote during an election. The General Election Day is November 3, 2020. There are also options to vote before Election Day. You can call Disability Rights Montana for more information.



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What are the Best Ways to Vote During Covid-19?

Vote Online: You can vote online using the Electronic Ballot Request System. Apply for an online ballot at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycjbmntc>

Vote by Mail: You can apply to get an absentee ballot mailed to you, so that you can vote by mail. Get the application to have your absentee ballot mailed to you here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybevyyoe>

Vote Early In-Person: If you want to vote in-person, vote weeks before November 3, 2020, so that there are less people waiting in line. Call your local election office to find out where to vote.

You can call Disability Rights Montana for help at 1-800-245-4743.



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What Do I Need to Vote In-Person?

You can vote in-person at a polling place, which is where you go to vote on Election Day. You will need a current photo ID, bank statement, paycheck, or other government document with your name and current address.

What If I Need Help to Vote?

You can choose an agent to help you with the voting process. You can also get help from an Election Judge, which is someone who works at the polling place where you can vote. Polling places also have voting machines to help people with disabilities vote. You can call Disability Rights Montana for more information at 1-800-245-4743.



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What If I Cannot Enter My Polling Place?



You may ask the Election Judge, the person working at your polling place, to bring you a ballot to your car to vote. A ballot is a list of who and what you can vote for. This is called curbside voting.

Can I Vote from Home?



Yes! There are two options to vote from home. First, you can apply for an electronic ballot that can be filled out on a computer, printed, and returned by mail to your local county election office. Second, you can fill out an application for an absentee ballot form and mail it to your local county election office. You will then receive an absentee voting packet in the mail. You can call Disability Rights Montana for more information at 1-800-245-4743.



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Important Words to Know:

Registering to Vote-To get on the list of people who can vote within your state.

Vote-A way to make decisions about laws and elected officials.

Elected Official-A person chosen by voting at an election to lead a part of the government.

Candidate-Someone who is running for office.

Run for Office-When someone wants to be an elected official, they need to run for office. They share their ideas on issues and ask people to vote for them.

Election-An organized way to choose our elected officials by voting.

Polling Place-Is the place where you go to vote in-person.



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Important Words to Know:

Ballot-A list of who and what you vote for during an election.

Absentee Voting-You do not have to go to your polling place to vote. You can vote by mail.

Early Voting-When polling places open before election day.

Election Judge-The person working at your polling place.

Election Offices-These offices help manage where polling place locations are and help put on the elections.

Guardian-Someone who makes decisions for a person with a disability. A judge will decide if someone needs to have a guardian.

Electronic Ballot Request System-This allows you to vote online.