



10 WAYS MONTANA PROTECTS YOUR VOTE

There is lots of misinformation flying around about our elections. Each state decides how to run elections in their own state; problems that you hear about another state's elections don't apply here. Montana laws and elections officials ensure voters' mail-in ballots, whether all-mail ballot or absentee, are protected and correctly counted. In 2018, over 2/3 of Montana voters used mail-in ballots. Here are just ten of the ways Montana protects the vote before, during and after every election.

1 Identification is required to register to vote in Montana and **ONLY CITIZENS** may register to vote. Your signature is required to register, so you can't register on-line, which protects voter registrations from hacking.

2 Voting and vote counting machines are tested prior to each election to make sure they are accurate and functioning properly.

3 Mail-in election ballots are sent **ONLY** to active registered voters, and absentee ballots go only to those who have requested them.

4 Only paper ballots are used in Montana. This prevents computer hacking of our vote count and allows for easy recounts and auditing.

5 Signature matches are required to accept all mail-in and absentee ballots. Your signature on the return envelope is matched to your signature on your voter registration form. If there is problem with your signature, the elections office may call you.

6 Identification is required for you to vote at a polling place. The elections judges will not give you a regular ballot if your ID doesn't match your information on the voter registration role. You may use a provisional ballot but must bring in verifying ID the next day to have your vote count.

7 You can't vote twice. If you were sent a mail-in or absentee ballot, returned it and it has been accepted, the elections office will have a record. You will not be given a second ballot.

8 Every Montana election worker takes an oath to protect the integrity of the election. Election workers work in teams to ensure ballots are never handled, opened or counted by only one person to prevent vote tampering.

9 The elections office locks up the voted ballots it receives through the mail or in ballot drop boxes, and counts them along with regular ballots at the time allowed for Election Day.

10 County and State Canvassing Boards audit the vote. They recount specific races in precincts that are randomly chosen to verify that vote tallies are accurate. Only after the Canvas Boards complete their audit does the Secretary of State certify the election results, which could be November 30 or later.