



Student Voting Guide for Montana

2016 Registration Deadlines and Election Dates

Voter Registration Deadline: 30 days before the election

Registration Deadline: October 11

You may also register in person on or before Election Day at your county clerk's office.

Election Day: November 8

Voter registration forms, polling place locations, and more information can be found at sos.mt.gov/Elections/

Register at School or Home?

Students have a choice about where to register to vote.

School address:

- Students attending college in Montana may register at their school address. You must plan to return after temporary absences, like summer break, but do not have to plan to reside at that address permanently.

Permanent address:

- Students may choose to register or remain registered at a permanent address in Montana or outside the state. In this case, students may need to vote by absentee ballot.

You may only be registered and vote in one location.

For other states' registration information visit: www.campusvoteproject.org/studentguides

What Type of ID Do I Need to Register?

Montana's voter registration form asks for your Montana driver's license or ID number, or the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

If you do not have one of those IDs, you must include a copy of a photo ID, or another ID that shows your name and current address (ex. paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement, or government document). Make sure to have this when completing your registration form.

What Type of ID Do I Need to Vote?

Voters must present a current photo ID (including a driver's license, a student photo ID, or a tribal photo ID). When casting a ballot.

If you do not have a valid current photo ID, you must present a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration, government check or other government document that shows your name and current address.

Where Do I Vote?

Make a plan. Look up your polling location and hours at: app.mt.gov/voterinfo/

*The Higher Education Act requires most colleges and universities to make a good faith effort to distribute voter registration forms to every student.
Make sure yours does.*

www.campusvoteproject.org

A Project of the Fair Elections Legal Network

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How Can I Vote?

Absentee Voting

- Any registered voter may vote absentee by filling out the application and mailing it or dropping it off at their county election office.
- Applications must be received by the county election office by noon on the day before the election.
- Registered voters may also elect to become a permanent absentee voter by joining the absentee list.
- Absentee ballots are available up to 30 days before Election Day, and absentee ballots must be received at the election office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

On Election Day

- The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.
- In polling places with fewer than 400 voters, the polls must be open from at least noon to 8 p.m.

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, students have the right to register and vote in their college towns if they meet the same requirements as everyone else. Misinformation, such as claims that registering to vote at school may jeopardize eligibility for financial aid or insurance, are sometimes used to discourage students from voting locally.

Common Questions

Will voting in Montana affect my federal financial aid?

Where you register to vote will not affect federal financial aid such as Pell Grants and Perkins or Stafford loans or your dependency status regarding FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Will I lose my scholarship if I register to vote in Montana?

Generally, no. If you receive scholarship money from a state, county, town, or a private entity (i.e., an entity other than the federal government) you should confirm that residency in a particular place is not a requirement of the scholarship and/or that voter registration in Montana will not affect your eligibility.

Will registering to vote in Montana affect my driver's license or car registration?

If you intend to drive in Montana for more than 60 days, you must get a Montana driver license within that period of time. For more information, contact the Motor Vehicle Division of the Montana Department of Justice. As a full-time student in Montana you may use your student ID to vote as long as it's current and valid.

Will registering to vote in Montana prevent my parents from claiming me as a dependent on their taxes?

No. Students are often told that registering to vote in a different state from their parents will make them lose their dependency status. This is not true. Where you register to vote will have no effect on your parent's tax status.

Does being an out-of-state student for tuition purposes affect my right to vote in my college community?

No. You may choose to vote in your college community or back home regardless of your tuition status.

This Guide was prepared by FELN staff who are not licensed to practice law in Montana and FELN intends that the information contained herein is used only as a general guide. This document should not be used as a substitute for consultation with a licensed Montana legal professional.

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