

School Elections

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Review of HB 84 Changes

- Candidate filing deadline and requirements for nomination petitions (145 days before)
- Earlier passage for election resolutions (70 days)
- Transmission of election resolution to county election administrator (within 3 days of passage)
- Deadlines for candidate withdrawal and write-in candidates (5:00 pm the day before ballot certification)**
- Earlier deadline for ballot certification (now 30 days)

Review of HB 84 Changes

- A separate mail ballot plan for each “election”
- Changes in ballot requirements for bonds (no longer required to have separate ballots)
- Responsibility for community college elections shifts to the county election administrator
- Late registration and notice of close of regular registration**
- Election notice changes
- Resolution required to request counties conduct school district elections

Other Election Law Changes

- Changes to how candidate names appear on the ballot (no additional information allowed)
- Poll watchers must not be on the ballot at that polling location
- Electronic ballots (disabled voters)
- Campaign finance requirements (directly to the MCPP)

Potential Clean-Up Topics

- Copies of the Election Resolution and Notice of Election by Acclamation given to the OPI.
- Counties responsible for the Notice of Close of Regular Registration
- Moving the write-in candidate and the withdrawal of candidate deadlines to an earlier date

State Administration and Veterans' Affairs (SAVA) Committee –
Next meeting August 23rd

Relationships With County Election Administrators

- Improvements?
- Still working?
- Issues?

Problems With Last Election

- Election judges (county v. district trained)
- Election administrators in districts without a clerk
- Signatures on the Declaration of Intent
- Clarification on close of regular registration dates
- Registration with the clerk v. county
- When a candidate must register to vote

Problems With Last Election

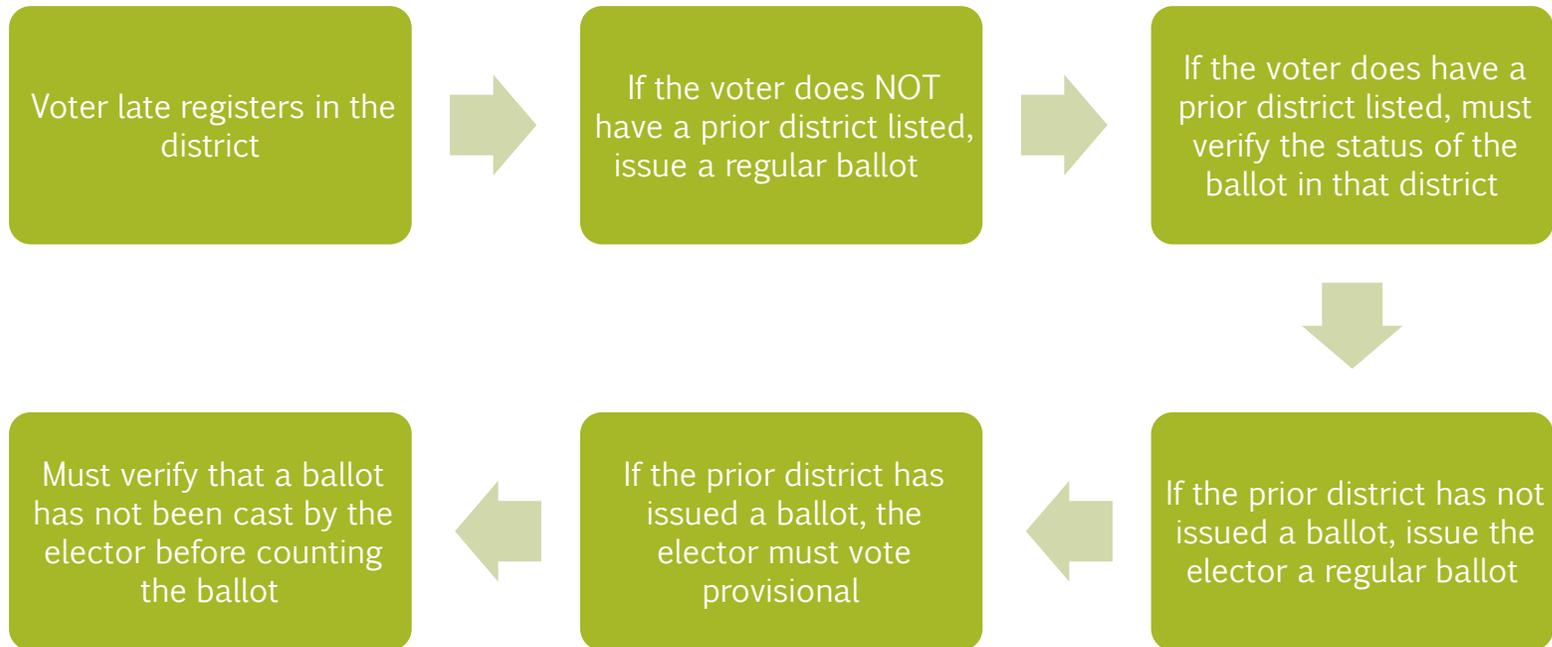
- Rotation of names on the ballot
- Amending an original election resolution
- Election errors (ballots, notices, etc)
- Placement of ballot boxes (mail/absentee ballots)
- Counting ballots

Provisional Ballots

- Name not in the register
- The register indicates that the voter is provisionally registered
- The elector claims registration with the Motor Vehicle Division or other government agency, which cannot be confirmed
- The elector claims their ballot was lost, spoiled, not received or destroyed
- The signature envelope was not signed or not verified
- The elector's right to vote was challenged
- The elector (or the elector's agent) refuses to sign or fails to sign the register
- The voter is a late registrant who was previously registered in another district and their status in that district cannot be confirmed

Provisional Ballots – Late Registrants

Process for Late Registrants:



Counting Provisional Ballots

- Resolve as many as possible prior to the close of polls on election day
- If not resolved, must wait until after 3pm on the 6th day after the election to count ballots (requires reconvening the election judges to count the remaining ballot)
- May submit in person, by facsimile, or by email until 5 pm the day after election day or postmarked by the day after election day and received by 3:00 pm on the sixth day after the election

District Classification

- First Class District: Population 6,500 or more
- Second Class District: Population 1,000 or more, less than 6,500
- Third Class District: Population less than 1,000

Trustee candidates in first class districts with a county population of 15,000 or more must report campaign finance activities to the MT Commissioner of Political Practices

District Classification

- County reports data to the OPI in the fall
- Report published on the OPI Election Resources webpage

http://opi.mt.gov/Finance&Grants/SchoolFinance/Index.html?gpm=1_6

MT Votes System

- Working with the Secretary of State's office to:
 - Clearly and accurately define school district boundaries
 - Improve reports
 - Allow access for school districts (at least read only access)

Questions?????

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