

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Election of Trustees

Elections conducted by the District are nonpartisan and are governed by general election laws of the state of Montana. The ballot at such elections may include candidates for trustee positions, various public policy propositions, and advisor questions.

Board elections shall be held on the first Tuesday of May of each year. A person is legally qualified to become a Trustee who is a qualified voter of the District. A declaration of intent to be a candidate shall be submitted to the Clerk of the District at least forty (40) days before the regular school election day at which he/she is to be candidate. If there are different terms to be filled, the term for which each candidate is filed shall also be indicated.

Any person seeking to become a write-in candidate in a mail ballot election or for a trustee position in a school board election shall file a declaration of intent no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before the ballot certification deadline in MCA § 20-20-401. If the number of candidates filing for vacant positions or filing a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate is equal to or less than the number of positions to be elected, the trustees may cancel the election and shall give notice no later than thirty (30) days before the election that a trustee election will not take place. If a trustee election is not held, the trustees shall declare the candidates elected by acclamation and shall issue a “certificate of election” to each candidate.

A candidate intending to withdraw from the election shall send a statement of withdrawal to the clerk of the district containing all information necessary to identify the candidate and the office for which the candidate filed. The statement of withdrawal must be acknowledged by the clerk of the district. A candidate may not withdraw after 5:00 p.m. the day before the ballot certification deadline in MCA § 20-20-401.

Except in the event of an unforeseen emergency occurring on the date scheduled for the election, a proposition requesting additional funding pursuant to §20-9-353, MCA, may be submitted to electors only once each calendar year, on the regular school election day.

In years when the Legislature meets in regular session or in a special session that affects school funding, the trustees may order the election on a date other than the regular school election day in order for the electors to consider a proposition requesting additional funding under §20-9-353, MCA.

Legal Reference:	§ 13-1-101	Definitions
§ 13-10-211, MCA		Declaration of intent for write-in candidates
§ 15-10-425, MCA		Mill levy election (<i>Revised by House Bill 543</i>)
§ 20-3-304, MCA		Annual election
§ 20-3-305, MCA		Candidate qualification, nomination and withdrawal
§ 20-3-313, MCA		Election by acclamation – notice
§ 20-3-322, MCA		Meetings and quorum
§ 20-3-324(4), MCA		Powers and duties
§ 20-3-344, MCA		Nomination of candidates by petition in first-class elementary district
§ 20-9-353, MCA		Additional financing for general fund – election for authorization to impose
§ 20-9-426, MCA		Preparation and form of ballots for bond election (<i>Revised by House Bill 543</i>)
§ 20-20-105, MCA		Regular school election day and special school elections – limitation – exception
§ 20-20-204, MCA		Election Notice
§ 20-20-301, MCA		Qualifications of elector
Senate Bill 15		Revises election laws related to accessibility for disabled electors

Policy History:

Adopted on: September 10, 1996

Revisions adopted on: December 9, 1997

Adopted w/minor revision: November 14, 2006

Revised at PN&P on: August 31, 2011 and posted for public comment.

Approved on: October 11, 2011

First Reading for revision on: March 22, 2105 and posted for public comment.

Approved at Second Reading on: May 10, 2016

Approved by Board at First Reading on October 8, 2019 and posted for public comment.

Revision approved on November 12, 2019

Approved by Board at First Reading on August 8, 2023 and posted for public comment.

Approved on: September 26, 2023