

VOTER RESPONSIBILITY

Q: Where can I go online to review my voter registration information?

A: The status of your registration on the Secretary of State's (SOS) [My Voter Page](#) is always available. Check your registration status well before an election. Pay particular attention to your absentee voter status so you know if you should expect a ballot in the mail or will need to vote in person for certain elections.

If you notice any irregularities, be sure to contact your local election official. Also, if you move or get a new post office box, you need to update your voter registration with your local elections office.

Q: I like to vote in person. How do I find out where to vote?

A: You can check your polling place location online at the SOS [My Voter Page](#). Your voter registration confirmation card also lists the location of your polling place. If you've misplaced your card, call your local election administrator to find out where to vote. Additionally, the SOS offers instructions and tips on voting at the polling place. If you're unable to drive to the polls yourself, contact your county election office for voting options, including voting by absentee ballot, or getting a ride from a community service organization that may be providing transportation in your community.

Q: What can I do to make sure my ballot is counted, and if I vote absentee, how do I make sure it isn't lost in the mail?

A: **Make sure you are registered to vote** regardless of if you vote in person or absentee. Pay attention to deadlines and make sure you fill out your ballot correctly.

1. Check your registration status.

Visit the SOS [My Voter Page](#) and check your registration status. Also be sure the correct address is listed because this will determine your precinct polling place for in-person voters, and it's where your absentee ballot will be mailed if you're an absentee voter. **If you notice any irregularities**, be sure to contact your local election official.

→ **IMPORTANT:** If you move or get a new post office box, you need to update your voter registration with your local elections office. If you aren't registered, go to your local elections office and get registered!

2. Pay attention to deadlines for registration and for ballot returns.

If you aren't registered, pay attention to deadlines for voter registration and ballot returns, which are provided on the SOS [voter information page](#). It's also beneficial to review the [2022 Primary and General Election Calendar](#), pay attention to notices in your local newspaper, check your county's social media page if they have one, and if all else fails, call your local elections office.

3. Make sure you fill out your ballot correctly.

Don't fill in multiple ovals for candidates in the same race. This is called an "overvote" because you voted for too many people in the same race, and it will not count. In addition, do not put any pen marks in ovals you do not intend to mark or it might be considered an overvote, and you now know what that means! Just be careful with pen marks.

Specifically for Absentee Voters

If you HAVE NOT received your absentee ballot...

To ensure your ballot didn't get lost in the mail or that your address is correct or that you are indeed registered to vote absentee, go to the SOS [My Voter Page](#), where you can check the status of an absentee ballot in a federal election. The website will provide you with personalized information as to the date your absentee ballot was mailed to you and to what address it was sent.

- Updates to the system occur daily.
- The system is for all voters, so in-person voters can check their registration status and see their assigned precinct.

If you HAVE received your absentee ballot...

1. Mark the ballot as instructed.
2. Put the ballot in the secrecy envelope and put the secrecy envelope in the affirmation envelope. Make sure it has YOUR name on it and not your spouse's or house-mate's name if they too vote absentee.
3. After you've verified your name on your affirmation envelope, sign it carefully on the designated line. Your careful signature is important because your signature will be compared with the signature on file from your voter registration form/absentee voter application to ensure you completed your own ballot.
4. Lastly, seal it up and return it either via mail or by dropping it off at your county's election office or a polling place within your county. You can check the status of your ballot on the SOS [My Voter Page](#).
 - Updates to the system occur daily, but the status of your ballot will not change until it is entered into the system, the timing of which may depend on mail delivery and volume of ballots being processed in the election office.
 - The system is for all voters, so in-person voters can also check their ballot status and see their assigned precinct.

Q: There is so much information on the Internet and social media. I want to ensure I'm receiving reliable information, so who do I go to if I have questions or concerns?

A: Don't rely on social media. Start with your local elections office in your county. You can check their website, and if you are unable to find the answers you need, give them a call! Elections staff are always happy to answer your questions.

Additionally, the SOS [elections website](#) is a valuable resource that offers information regarding all aspects of voting, including registration, ballot status, absentee voting, ballot issues, and candidate contact information.

Get your hands on and read the SOS Voter Information Pamphlet containing information on ballot issues and initiatives. This is sent to all registered voters. The SOS provides names and contact information for candidates, but it is up to you as an elector to research the candidates' positions to determine who gets your vote. Contact the candidate who is seeking your vote (they're running for office, so they visit with their potential and/or existing constituents regularly). You can also check out their websites for clarification on their positions.

Q: What if I witness suspicious activity or what I think may be a violation of election laws?

A: If at a polling place seek out an election judge or an election official and report what you saw. You can also report an alleged violation to your local County Attorney and/or the [Montana Commissioner of Political Practices](#), who share jurisdiction over Montana election and voter fraud laws.