

Elections Questions & Answers - COVID-19

Updated 3/24/2020

How are elections being handled during the outbreak?

The deadline for certifying the ballot for the May election is Friday, April 3rd – and all voted levy (general fund, building reserve, technology, etc.) amounts must be certified by this date.

- If you have not yet finalized your levy amount(s) and are concerned about how to conduct this meeting, please contact MTSBA.
- If you have electors who are asking questions about the election, there have been no changes made to the conduct or timeline at this time.
- Anyone who is concerned about being present for a poll election is encouraged to register as an absentee (there is an option when registering absentee to register as permanent or only for the next election).

Please continue to direct election questions to Nicole Thuotte, Financial Specialist, at nthuotte@mt.gov or at 406-444-4524.

Can elections be canceled?

Under the emergency school closure ordered by the Governor 20-20-108, MCA grants the county superintendent of schools or the superintendent of public instruction the authority to cancel a regular school election. Those elections may then be rescheduled as soon as convenient after the declaration of a state of emergency or disaster is terminated. There are special notice requirements that pertain to a rescheduled election under this provision.

The OPI is not recommending a change in election date at this time, but it may be an option in the future. Any county superintendent considering this option should contact their county election administrator for guidance. If county superintendents wish to pursue this option OPI will work closely with the Secretary of State's office to see if it's possible to coordinate one future election date which would allow for one election calendar, rather than many individual ones, reducing voter confusion and making deadlines consistent.

Current trustees and the continuation of district business would not be affected by a change in election date. Trustees whose terms are expiring in May can, under current law, continue as trustees either until a successor has been elected or appointed (20-3-307, MCA). If a county superintendent makes the decision to postpone the regular school election, please contact [Nicole Thuotte](mailto:Nicole.Thuotte), Financial Specialist, 406-444-4524.

Under the current election calendar, the deadline for certifying the ballot for the May election is Friday, April 3rd – and all voted levy (general fund, building reserve, technology, etc.) amounts must be certified by this date. If you have not yet finalized your levy amount(s) and are concerned about how to conduct this meeting, please contact MTSBA. If you have electors who are asking questions about the election, there have been no changes made to the conduct or timeline at this time. Anyone who is concerned about being present for a poll election is encouraged to register as an

absentee (there is an option when registering absentee to register as permanent or only for the next election). The OPI will send out updates as we get closer to the May election date and as decisions are made regarding the conduct of the election.

Please continue to direct election questions to [Nicole Thuotte](#), Financial Specialist, 406-444-4524.