

## 2008 Elections Rules and Regulations

### CLOSE OF REGULAR REGISTRATION:

Regular voter registration closes 30 days before an election 13-2-301 Montana Code Annotated. June 3, 2008 Primary Election the close of regular registration is May 5, 2008. The purpose of registration: to ensure that the individual's name is on the Official Register for all eligible elections and the individual is allowed to vote a regular ballot, and that ballot will be counted on election night. If you have moved or have changed your name and need to have those changes reflected on your voter registration please complete a new voter registration card prior to May 5, 2008. Contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office 406-778-7106 or go on the County's website [falloncounty.net](http://falloncounty.net) for a new voter registration card.

### LATE REGISTRATION:

Late registration does not apply to School elections. If an individual is not registered by the close of regular registration that person may still register to vote up to noon the day before the election and also all day on Election Day. That individual must appear at the Clerk and Recorder's Office to register and they may also cast a provisional ballot, depending on the circumstances. We would like to stress **to ensure that your vote is counted; register by the close of regular registration that date is May 5, 2008, for the June 3, 2008 Primary Election.**

Contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office 406-778-7106.

### PROVISIONAL BALLOT:

The definition of provisional ballot: a ballot cast by an individual whose identity and eligibility to vote has not been verified as provided by law. A provisional ballot is not counted until it has been verified and resolved.

Resolving a provisional ballot: The Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office must verify identity or eligibility to vote; the individual has until 5pm the day after the election to provide valid identification. If identity or eligibility is verified the provisional ballot will be counted. However, if the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office cannot verify the identity or eligibility, the provisional ballot will be rejected and will not be counted. If the ballot is not to be counted the individual will be notified their ballot was not counted and the reason(s) why not counted.

Since the provisional ballot may not be verified until the day after an election, that ballot will not be counted until the Monday following the election. All regular ballots will be counted on election night. A provisional ballot may compromise the privacy of the individual's vote. For example one provisional ballot is voted in a small precinct; all the results for that precinct are tabulated election night and when the provisional ballot is counted on the following Monday the totals will change by one. Therefore it could be determined how that individual who voted a provisional ballot, voted.

**To ensure the privacy of your ballot avoid voting provisionally; register early and bring identification to the polling place on Election Day. Close of regular registration is May 5, 2008 for the June 3, 2008 Primary Election.** Contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office with questions 406-778-7106.

### **VOTER IDENTIFICATION AT THE POLLS:**

Before receiving a ballot at the polls all electors are required to present to an election judge a current photo identification showing the elector's name. If the elector does not present photo identification, including but not limited to a valid driver's license, a school district or postsecondary education photo identification, or a tribal photo identification, the elector shall present a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration, government check or other government document that shows the elector's name and current address.

If the elector does not have one of the items listed above, they may complete a polling place identification form and provide their driver's license number, the election judge will contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office to verify the driver's license number, if the number can be verified the elector will be allowed to vote a regular ballot; if the driver's license number can not be verified the elector will be required to vote a provisional ballot. **To ensure your vote is counted bring sufficient identification to the polls and vote a regular ballot.** Contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office with questions 406-778-7106.

### **ABSENTEE BALLOT:**

An absentee ballot may be requested by any registered elector for any reason. An application may be made during a period beginning 75 days before the day of election and ending at noon on the day before the election. Contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office for an application for absentee ballot or one may be printed from the County's website at [falloncounty.net](http://falloncounty.net).

Permanent absentee; an elector may apply at anytime to be placed on the permanent absentee list. The elector will indicate if he or she wants a ballot for every election or only federal elections. Address confirmation notices will be sent to each elector on the permanent absentee list in January and July of each year. The January mailing covers all elections for February 1st through July 30th, and the July mailing covers all elections from August 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>. If the address confirmation notice is not returned the elector will be removed from the permanent absentee list. If the confirmation notice is returned, that elector will automatically receive an absentee ballot in the mail as soon as the ballots are ready. Please contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office for questions or more information 406-778-7106.

### **AutoMARK – Ballot marking system:**

HAVA – Help America Vote Act required each polling place to allow voters with disabilities to mark a ballot privately and independently if they so choose. The AutoMARK is the ballot-marking system that the Secretary of State's office has chosen to assist Montana's voters with disabilities to mark a ballot independently.

The AutoMARK can be used with a computer voice that will read the ballot, and a key pad with raised, shaped buttons, also these buttons are marked with Braille. In addition the screen can be shut off if the voter would prefer to ensure the privacy of their ballot. The AutoMARK can also be used as a touch screen, with or without the computer voice. The AutoMARK is not a voting

device; it is a ballot marking system only. There are no ballot totals accumulated or stored in the AutoMARK.

You do not have to be disabled to use the AutoMARK; any voter may use the AutoMARK. If you would like more information or would like to have a demonstration or try the AutoMARK yourself, come to the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office we are located at 10 W Fallon Avenue, 406-778-7106.

**INACTIVE ELECTOR:**

An inactive elector is an individual that did not vote in the last Federal General Election in November 2006. Each odd year the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office sends out a confirmation notification to each person that did not vote in the prior election, if the individual returns the confirmation notification that person is considered to be an active elector, no further action is required. If the confirmation notification is not returned another confirmation notification will be mailed, if it is not returned that individual will become an inactive elector.

An inactive elector may re-activate their voting status to an active elector at any time by completing a new voter registration card or by appearing at an election and providing sufficient identification and voting. Contact the Clerk and Recorder/Election Administrator's office with questions at 406-778-7106.