

# ELECTION CONNECTION

Prairie County Voters:

As the General Election approaches, we would like to make you aware of the local races that are open, important deadlines that are coming up, and a note on the absentee voter registrations you have been receiving in the mail.

The candidates and positions that will appear on the ballots are:

- County Attorney UNEXPIRED TERM – Daniel Z. Rice (R)
- County Commissioner District 1 – Judi Cramer (D), Christine W. Keltner (R)
- Clerk of District Court/Clerk and Recorder – Shari Robertson (R)

\*NOTE: *You can file as a write-in candidate until 5:00 PM on August 31, 2020*

Important Events and/or Deadlines:

- ❖ **August 31, 2020:** Deadline for local government write-in candidates to file a Declaration of Intent for the general election.
- ❖ **October 2, 2020:** Per the *Governor's Directive implementing Executive Orders*, counties that “opt-in” for a mail ballot 2020 General Election **MUST** have ballots available at the Election Administrator's office or other designated location on this date until the end of the election.
- ❖ **October 9, 2020:** **ALL** absentee ballots must be mailed per the *Governor's Directive implementing Executive Orders* that states absentee ballots must be mailed **25 days** before the election.
- ❖ **October 26, 2020:** Close of regular voter registration as directed by the *Governor's Directive implementing Executive Orders* that (10 days before the election, which falls on a Saturday. Pursuant to [1-1-307, MCA](#), the close of regular voter registration moves to the following Monday, **October 26, 2020**.
- ❖ **October 27, 2020:** Start of Late registration and must be conducted in person at the county election office or a designated satellite location

To view the election calendar, please go to the county's election website at <http://www.prairiecounty.org/election> and click on 2020 Federal Election calendar **OR** view directly on the State of Montana's website at <https://sosmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020-Election-Calendar.pdf> \*NOTE: *Deadlines may be slightly different for counties opting-in to a mail ballot election versus counties opting for a poll election.*

Many of you have reported receiving absentee ballot applications in the mail. These forms aren't coming from Prairie County or the State of Montana. They are coming from “The Patriots Foundation” based in Iowa. These forms are not a scam; however, you do not have to fill them out. You only need to fill the form out if you want to receive an absentee ballot for the general election in November and/or any future elections or if you need to update any information to your voter registration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk & Recorder's office at 217 W Park Street. Our business hours are 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may also contact us by email at [Melanie@prairiecounty.org](mailto:Melanie@prairiecounty.org), [CR@prairiecounty.org](mailto:CR@prairiecounty.org) or by telephone at 406-635-5575.

Shari Robertson  
Election Administrator