
Election Connection Vol 3

One of the questions that our office has been receiving quite frequently is: How does Prairie County protect my ballot and ensure fraud is mitigated?

Prairie County and the State of Montana have several measures in place to ensure that YOU THE VOTER are the only one who can vote your ballot! You can also play a big role in protecting your ballot.

First: Note the date that we mail ballots!

If you have not received your ballot within a week after we have mailed the ballots, please let our office know so that we can void your ballot and reissue you another ballot. For this election, we will be mailing ballots on October 9. Therefore, if you have not received your ballot by October 16, you would need to notify our office. We will then verify your address with you and if the information does not match, a new voter registration card will need to be filled out.

Second: There are NO indicators on the ballot to indicate political preference!

There are no markings or codes on your ballot or address label that indicate what party you are affiliated with. As a matter of fact, when you register to vote, you do not even have to declare so we have no way of knowing how you vote!

Third: You can NOT be registered in two or more Montana counties!

A social security number and/or a Montana driver's license is required to register to vote. These numbers are then compared against a file with the DPHHS and/or the MVD to make sure that they are valid. Until your identification is proven, you will only be provisionally registered. This screening also makes sure that you are not currently registered in another county.

Fourth: Every ballot & signature is verified!

Every ballot must be returned in a secrecy envelope (yellow) that is inside of an affirmation envelope (white, blue & red) WHICH MUST BE SIGNED! Every ballot is scanned to verify that the voter is still registered in Prairie County, is active, and has not previously returned a ballot for this election. Once those steps are completed the signature is verified to ensure that you the voter are the one that signed. If for any reason we question the signature, WE WILL CALL YOU! If the signature is substantially different from what we have on file, a new registration card will be required.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office at 406-635-5575, via email at Melanie@PrairieCounty.org or CR@PrairieCounty.org, or visit us in person at 217 W. Park Str., Terry, MT 59349.

Melanie Sheffler
Deputy Elections Administration