

**YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

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House Bill Number 334

Introduced By: Ashley Glover and Catherine Miller  
Authored By: Ashley Glover and Catherine Miller

Delegation: Great Falls

Legislative Action:

House Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

House: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to Committee: House Business & Taxation Committee

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1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT MANDATING ALL ELECTIONS BE  
2 CONDUCTED BY MAIL; AND AMENDING SECTION 13-19-104, MCA; AND  
3 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

5 WHEREAS, the Secretary of State's office in Oregon, where all voting is by  
6 mail, indicates that such an election "raises voter participation, decreases costs by thirty  
7 percent and increases the overall integrity of the election process;" and

8 WHEREAS, implementation in other states has resulted in increased participation  
9 among voters; and

10 WHEREAS, mail balloting allows for a more accurate picture of eligible voters,  
11 by keeping voting lists up-to-date; and

12 WHEREAS, vote by mail has also been used in Alaska, California, Colorado,  
13 Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York,  
14 North Dakota, Utah, and Washington; and

15 WHEREAS, vote by mail makes voting more accessible for groups including but  
16 limited to the elderly, working people, and those without transportation.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

19 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Section 13-19-104, MCA is amended to read:

20 “13-19-104. **Mail ballot elections ~~not~~ mandatory -- when authorized -- when**  
21 **prohibited when county election administrator conducts.** (1) Conducting elections by  
22 mail ballot is the only ~~one~~ option available to local officials, and this chapter ~~does not~~  
23 mandates that the procedure be used.

24 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) ~~any~~ all elections ~~may~~ shall be conducted by mail  
25 ballot.

26 (3) The following elections may ~~not~~ be ~~conducted by mail ballot~~ excluded from  
27 mandatory vote by mail:

28 ~~(a) a regularly scheduled federal, state, or county election;~~

29 ~~(a) unless authorized by the legislature a special federal or state election; or~~

30 ~~(b) a regularly scheduled or special election when another election in the political~~  
31 ~~subdivision is taking place at the polls on the same day a local school election.~~

32 (4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), if more than one mail ballot election is  
33 being conducted in the political subdivision on the same day, the county election  
34 administrator shall conduct elections.

35 (b) The requirement that a county election administrator shall conduct more than one  
36 mail ballot election on the same day does not apply to a mail ballot school bond election  
37 conducted by the trustees of any two or more school districts that have unified pursuant  
38 to 20-6-312 or that have created a joint board of trustees pursuant to 20-3-361.”

39 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. This bill will become effective  
40 upon passage.

41 **-end-**