



HB 130: Vote-By-Mail **Places of Deposit & Official Drop Boxes**



County Election Administrators may increase the number of Drop Sites and Staffed Places of Deposit beyond the minimum requirements listed below.

Vote-by-Mail Drop Box Sites ***General Requirements***

- All required official Drop Boxes will be available beginning the first day ballots are mailed (25 days before an election), and must be available through Election Day.
- Days and hours of official Drop Box locations that are in businesses or public buildings shall be set by the Election Administrator and must be within the regular hours of the business.
- On Election Day, all official Drop Box locations must be open 8 hours or more, and must remain available until 8:00 p.m.
- All official Drop Box locations and times must be publicly noticed at least 30 days before an election, and included in the Vote-By-Mail plan for public comment.
- Official Drop Box locations and times may be changed from the initial plan up to 35 days before any election. The changes must be updated with the Office of the Montana Secretary of State and re-advertised, if the initial notice has already been published.

Drop Box Location Requirements

In addition to the county election office, each county must have at least one additional official Drop Box for every 15,000 active registered electors, inclusive of the locations listed in #1 and #2 below:

1. Each town or city with 400 or more active registered electors must have at least one official Drop Box, and;
2. Each county must have at least one 24/7 secure official Drop Box for every 30,000 active registered electors.
 - The 24/7 secure Drop Box can be included in the minimum number of secure drop sites.

In addition to the requirements listed above:

- Each reservation must have at least one additional official Drop Box, and;
- Each college or university (public or private), college of technology, community college, and tribal college must each have at least one additional official Drop Box available on campus – one for every 10,000 enrolled students at that educational institution.

Staffed Places of Deposit:

- All counties must have at least one Staffed Place of Deposit on Election Day.
 - For counties with 6,000 or more active registered voters, there must be a minimum of three Staffed Places of Deposit.
 - For counties with between 3,000 and 5,999 active registered voters, there must be a minimum of two Staffed Places of Deposit.
 - For counties with less than 3,000 active registered voters, there must be a minimum of one Staffed Place of Deposit.
- One of the required locations for a Staffed Place of Deposit may be the county election office.
- Counties may choose to make Staffed Places of Deposit available before Election Day.

