

TRANSPARENT ELECTION INITIATIVE



The Montana Plan - CI ____

Process (*Possible Timeline*)

Submit text and ballot statement to Montana Secretary of State (SOS) (*August 2025*)

Secretary of State provides Legislative Services Division (LSD) draft for review (*August 2025*)

LSD reviews for clarity, consistency, conformity with bill drafting manual (*August-September 2025*)

Considers LSD recommendations and respond (*September 2025*)

After responding to LSD, submit final text to SOS without any substantive changes (unless recommended by LSD) (*September 2025*)

Secretary of State refers the Initiative to the Montana Attorney General (AG) and Budget Director (*September-October 2025*)

Budget Director Review (*September-October 2025*)

AG Legal Sufficiency Review (*October-November 2025*)

AG provides Legal Sufficiency opinion to SOS. (*November-December 2025*)

SOS issues the Proponent an official sample petition form, which is to be used for signature gathering (*Winter 2026*)

Signature gathering (*Winter / Spring 2026*)

collect valid signatures equal to 10% of the votes cast for governor in the most recent general election (approx. 60,000) include at least 10% of the voters in each of 40 different legislative house districts

After County verifies signatures and forwards to SOS, the SOS certifies to the Governor that the petition qualifies for the ballot (*Spring 2026*)