



MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

LINDA McCULLOCH

January 10, 2013

Ravalli County Commissioners
215 South 4th Street Suite C
Hamilton MT 59840

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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Dear Honorable Board of County Commissioners:

As the Chief Election Official for the State of Montana, this office is responsible for establishing a single official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration system that meets requirements set by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2003. Such a system was established in 2005-2006. The system, called "MT Votes" is in use in all 56 Montana counties, and over the years has become a dynamic and comprehensive system for registering voters, tracking voting history, processing required mailings, processing petitions, issuing and tracking absentee ballots, etc. The system is continually improving through the work of the Montana Election and Technology Advisory Committee (METAC), comprised of 8 county election administrators from across the state, east and west, large and small.

The Federal government funded the establishment of the system, and through some careful fiscal planning the last 4 years, we have been able to stretch remaining Federal funds through the end of the current fiscal year, ending June 30, 2013.

It has been the intent, since the inception of the statewide system, to require counties to pay the annual maintenance costs of MT Votes when the Federal monies were depleted. This intent was discussed with counties over the years by both my administration and previous administrations.

Currently, my intent is to request funding from the State Legislature for ongoing support and maintenance of MT Votes. The funding request has been submitted, and is currently in House Bill 2, the Governor's budget bill for the 2014-15 biennium.

I am asking for each County's Board of Commissioners' support in this endeavor. As the governing body responsible for county fiscal management, I think that you will agree with me that the cost of maintaining this important system should be a cost of state government and funding that our legislative body should support. The State should be in a position to fund this system, especially with the large surplus currently being carried. With your help, I am hoping for success in the 2013 legislative session with this funding request.

Enclosed with this letter is some information about MT Votes. Included is an estimate of costs to counties if the system is not funded by the Legislature.

My door is always open, and I welcome discussions with county commissioners about protecting our joint investment in the system, and in keeping MT Votes viable.

I hope that 2013 brings good things to each Montana County, and I appreciate your consideration of my request for support for legislative approval of funding for the statewide voter registration system.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Linda McCulloch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "M".

Linda McCulloch

Montana Secretary of State

Cc: Montana Association of Counties
Montana Clerks and Recorders/Election Administrators



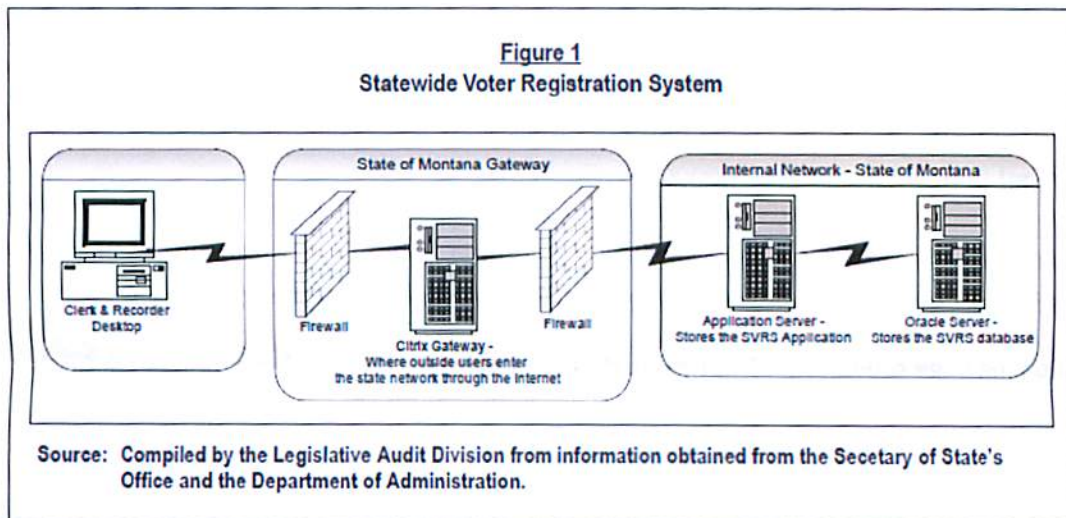
Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch Elections and Government Services Division

Montana's Statewide Voter Registration System

In order to comply with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the Secretary of State's (SOS) office implemented the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) in August of 2005. The Montana SVRS is a voter registration database where all voter records for the state of Montana are held.

Another function of the SVRS is to serve as an interface for county election officials to enter, update, and delete voter information, as well as identifying potential ineligible voter records to be removed from the active voter list. The SVRS has controls in place to identify the records of voters who are deceased, incarcerated felons, and underage, as well as voters who have duplicate records.

The SVRS is a centralized application system used by all counties to access all Montana voter records. When an individual registers to vote at a county election administrator's office, their information is entered and stored in the SVRS. The following figure illustrates SVRS functionality.



System Access

To access the SVRS, an individual is required to have an authorized user account with a unique state issued ID and password. These accounts are created by SOS office administrators and at the county level. It is the election administrator's responsibility to limit the level of access an individual has by assigning different privileges based on job responsibilities.

System Functions

The SVRS currently has functionality that includes the following:

- Register voters, maintain voter records, cancel voters
 - Includes an interface for deceased voters (DPHHS) and for felon voters (DOC)
 - Prevents duplicate voters
- Issue absentee ballots, track absentee ballots, receipt absentee ballots
- Track provisional ballots
- Process and track ballot issue and candidate petitions
- Process annual absentee mailings
- Process National Voter Registration Act mailings

System Costs

The SVRS implementation, and the support, maintenance, hosting and equipment replacement costs has been funded from Federal monies states received from the Help America Vote Act Program. The Federal funding was discontinued by Congress.

Estimated system costs for fiscal year 2014 are as follows:

**SVRS Annual Cost Estimate (FY14)	
Vendor Maint & Support*	350000
ITSD Hosting, Licensing	175933
AAMVA*	36000
Help Desk*	66836
Change Control*	20000
Equipment Refresh*	40000
Total	688769

**Fixed Costs*

****Costs are estimated using information available and are subject to change**

The following page provides a DRAFT estimate of annual costs to counties if the system funding is not approved by the Legislature.

For more information:

Montana Secretary of State
Elections and Government Services
406-444-5376
soselections@mt.gov



Montana Secretary of State Linda McCulloch
Elections and Government Services Division

Montana's Statewide Voter Registration System – DRAFT
Estimate of System Costs per County (Costs are prorated based on the number of registered voters and the fixed and non-fixed SVRS annual costs)

County Name	November 2012 Registered Voters	SVRS Cost Allocation Estimate	County Name	November 2012 Registered Voters	SVRS Cost Allocation Estimate
Petroleum	387	\$9,438.78	Rosebud	5114	\$11,117.65
Treasure	582	\$9,438.78	Madison	5671	\$11,117.65
Golden Valley	607	\$9,438.78	Deer Lodge	5772	\$11,117.65
Wibaux	733	\$9,438.78	Stillwater	5926	\$11,117.65
Prairie	882	\$9,438.78	Dawson	5943	\$11,117.65
Garfield	914	\$9,438.78	Roosevelt	6207	\$11,117.65
Carter	996	\$9,438.78	Richland	6376	\$11,117.65
McCone	1238	\$9,438.78	Beaverhead	6697	\$11,117.65
Liberty	1246	\$9,438.78	Carbon	7175	\$11,117.65
Daniels	1308	\$9,438.78	Custer	7296	\$11,117.65
Powder River	1312	\$9,438.78	Glacier	7616	\$11,117.65
Wheatland	1317	\$9,438.78	Fergus	7854	\$11,117.65
Meagher	1441	\$9,438.78	Jefferson	8121	\$11,117.65
Judith Basin	1499	\$9,438.78	Sanders	8337	\$11,117.65
Fallon	1864	\$9,438.78	Big Horn	8426	\$11,117.65
Granite	2172	\$10,025.18	Hill	9805	\$11,117.65
Sheridan	2501	\$10,025.18	Park	11819	\$11,117.65
Sweet Grass	2729	\$10,025.18	Lincoln	12490	\$11,117.65
Toole	2764	\$10,025.18	Lake	18671	\$15,373.72
Phillips	2792	\$10,025.18	Silver Bow	23608	\$15,373.72
Mineral	3021	\$10,025.18	Ravalli	29952	\$15,373.72
Musselshell	3101	\$10,025.18	Lewis & Clark	45789	\$24,017.36
Powell	3640	\$10,025.18	Cascade	53376	\$24,017.36
Pondera	3642	\$10,025.18	Flathead	61122	\$24,017.36
Chouteau	3856	\$10,025.18	Gallatin	69943	\$24,017.36
Broadwater	3976	\$10,025.18	Missoula	83419	\$32,263.28
Teton	3994	\$10,025.18	Yellowstone	95576	\$32,263.28
Blaine	4059	\$10,025.18	Total	681464	\$688,769.00
Valley	4790	\$10,025.18			