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Ballot Collection Tips for Montanans who Deliver Ballots

The “Ballot Interference Prevention Act” (BIPA) in Effect and Enforced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Helena, Mont. – Montana voters are or will be receiving mailed ballots for school and special district elections and will need to comply with new legal requirements for in-person ballot delivery. The Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) and Montana Association of Clerk and Records and Election Administrators (MACR) want to remind Montanans that the “Ballot Interference Prevention Act” (BIPA), which passed in the November 2018 election, is in full effect and that legal requirements for in-person delivered ballots have changed.

Under BIPA, election administrators are required to have all ballot collectors register their contact information and each voter’s address for every ballot they deliver on behalf of a voter.

The below tips will help Montanans who wish to drop off ballots for family, friends, acquaintances, or caregivers remain in compliance with Montana law:

- BIPA does not apply for ballots returned by mail.
- If you will be collecting and dropping off ballots for other voters, print off the [BIPA registry form](#) before you collect ballots. You will need to record the address for each voter whose ballot you are delivering. Save time by completing the form before delivering ballots.
- You can collect and deliver a **maximum** of six ballots per election.
- Remember, you only need to fill out a BIPA registry form if you are dropping off other voter’s ballots. You do not need to fill out a BIPA registry form to drop off your own ballot.
- Do you know others who help their family and friends deliver ballots? If so, help spread the word about BIPA requirements! The COPP has put together [this BIPA guide](#) which includes registry forms, compliance information, and contact information.
- If you have questions, contact your [local election office](#) or the [Secretary of State’s office](#). Compliance questions should be directed to the COPP.

The COPP, in conjunction with county attorneys, is charged to investigate and enforce BIPA. Authorized persons can drop off a maximum of six ballots per election. Any ballots delivered in excess of six ballots may be assessed a \$500 penalty per ballot.

The COPP is grateful for the efforts of election administrators who are managing BIPA registry forms and helping Montanans understand legal requirements to deliver ballots. The mission of the Commissioner of Political Practices is to promote confidence, transparency, and accountability in Montana’s democratic processes.