



AN ACT REVISING PREPARATION PROCEDURES FOR PRIMARY ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 13-10-311, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 13-10-311, MCA, is amended to read:

**"13-10-311. Election judges' duties when preparing for count.** (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, election judges at the primary election shall prepare for a count of votes in the manner prescribed in 13-15-201.

(2) In preparing for a count, the election judges shall:

(a) ~~separate the ballots for each political party and count each party's ballots separately;~~

(b)(a) reconcile the total number of party ballots and the separate total number of other ballots used at the election with the number of electors voting. Any discrepancies in the reconciliations must be handled as provided in 13-15-201.

(c)(b) list each party's candidates separately in the tally books; and

(d)(c) bundle the voted ballots for each party separately for return to the election administrator. The unvoted ballots must be bundled in accordance with rules established pursuant to 13-12-202.

(3) In counties where ballots are solely counted by hand, election judges shall separate the ballots for each political party and count each party's ballots separately."

**Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
SB 498, originated in the Senate.

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Secretary of the Senate

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

SENATE BILL NO. 498

INTRODUCED BY W. MCKAMEY, M. NIKOLAKAKOS, C. COCHRAN, E. TILLEMAN, G. HUNTER, J.  
KASSMIER, G. LAMMERS, S. FITZPATRICK, L. BREWSTER, N. DURAM, J. DARLING, V. MOORE

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