



Abbreviated Calendar of Dates for the 2026 General Primary Election 2026 General Election

2026 General Primary Election

The following dates are for the 2026 General Primary Election to be held on March 17, 2026.

The dates included in this abbreviated calendar are not comprehensive of all dates surrounding the election, and do not include all relevant details. For additional detail and statutory references for any of the dates in this calendar, please consult the 2026 Election and Campaign Finance Calendar.

August 5, 2025

Petition Circulation Begins for the General Primary Election

First day to circulate petitions for established party candidates seeking nomination in the 2024 General Primary Election.

October 27, 2025

First Day to File Nomination Papers for the General Primary Election

First day to file nomination papers for established party candidates for the 2026 General Primary Election.

November 3, 2025

Last Day to File Nomination Papers for the General Primary Election

Last day to file nomination papers for established party candidates for the 2026 General Primary Election.

November 10, 2025

Last Day to File Objections to Nomination Papers for General Primary Election

Last day for filing objections to the nomination papers of established party candidates who filed during the October 27 – November 3, 2025, filing period.

December 15, 2025

Last Day to File Petitions for Public Questions for the General Primary Election

Last day to file petitions with the local election official for the submission of questions of public policy. Exceptions to this date apply for various binding questions or backdoor referenda. Please refer to the authorizing statute for the question to confirm the deadline.

December 17, 2025

First Day to Submit Vote by Mail Applications for the General Primary Election

First day to apply for a vote by mail ballot for the 2026 General Primary Election. Please note that election authorities will not begin mailing ballots until Thursday, February 5, 2026.

December 22, 2025

Last Day to File Objections to Petitions for Public Questions for the General Primary Election

Last day to file objections to petitions for the submission of questions of public policy with the local election official.

December 29, 2025

Last Day for Resolutions for Public Questions for the General Primary Election

Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow a binding or advisory question to be placed on the ballot at the 2026 General Primary Election.

January 8, 2026

Ballot Certification Deadline – SBE

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify candidates to the election authority to be included on the 2026 General Primary Election ballot.

Public Question Certification for the General Primary Election

Last day for the circuit court clerk or the local election official to certify any binding public question or advisory referendum to the election authority having jurisdiction over the political subdivision.

January 14, 2026

Ballot Certification Deadline – County Clerk

Last day for the county clerk to certify to the board of election commissioners the names of candidates to be voted for in its jurisdiction.

January 15, 2026

Write-In Candidate Filing Deadline for the General Primary Election

Last day an individual may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate with the proper election authority or authorities.

January 30, 2026

Vote by Mail Ballots – UOCAVA

Last business day for the election authority to mail ballots to persons in the United States Service, their spouse, and/or their dependents of voting age, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States, and nonresident civilians.

February 5, 2026

Early Voting Begins for the General Primary Election

First day for early voting at the office of the election authority and at any additional locations that may have been designated by the election authority.

Voting by Mail Begins for the General Primary Election

First day for the election authority to mail an official ballot to a voter who has applied for a vote by mail ballot.

February 17, 2026

Close of Voter Registration

Last day for regular registration or transfer of registration within the office of the election authority.

February 18, 2026

Grace Period Registration and Voting Begins for the General Primary Election

First day of grace period registration and voting at the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority.

March 1, 2026

Close of Online Voter Registration for the General Election

Last day for voters to register to vote through the [State Board of Elections' website](#).

March 12, 2026

Last Day to Mail Vote by Mail Ballots for the General Primary Election

Last day for the election authority to receive, by mail, an application for a vote by mail ballot and mail that ballot to the voter. (Note: 1. An earlier deadline is applicable to UOCAVA voters; 2. In-person applications are still accepted until March 16, 2026)

March 16, 2026

Last Day for Early Voting for the General Primary Election

Last day for early voting for the 2026 General Primary Election.

March 17, 2026

General Primary Election

Date of the 2026 General Primary Election.

2026 General Election

The following dates are for the 2026 General Election to be held on November 3, 2026.

The dates included in this abbreviated calendar are not comprehensive of all dates surrounding the election, and do not include all relevant details. For additional detail and statutory references for any of the dates in this calendar, please consult the 2026 Election and Campaign Finance Calendar.

February 25, 2026

Petition Circulation Begins for the General Election

First day to circulate petitions for independent candidates and new political party candidates seeking election in the 2026 General Election.

May 18, 2026

First Day to File Nomination Papers for the General Election

First day to file nomination papers for independent and new party candidates for the 2026 General Election.

May 26, 2026

Last Day to File Nomination Papers for the General Election

Last day to file nomination papers for independent and new party candidates for the 2026 General Election.

June 2, 2026

Last Day to File Objections to Nomination Papers for the General Election

Last day for filing objections to the nomination papers of independent and new party candidates who filed during the May 18–26, 2026, filing period.

August 3, 2026

Last Day to File Petitions for Public Questions for the General Election

Last day to file petitions with the local election official for the submission of questions of public policy. Exceptions to this date apply for various binding questions or backdoor referenda. Please refer to the authorizing statute for the question to confirm the deadline.

August 5, 2026

First Day to Submit Vote by Mail Applications for the General Election

First day to apply for a vote by mail ballot for the 2026 General Election. Please note that election authorities will not begin mailing ballots until Thursday, September 26, 2026.

August 10, 2026

Last Day to File Objections to Petitions for Public Questions for the General Election

Last day to file objections to petitions for the submission of questions of public policy with the local election official.

August 17, 2026

Last Day for Resolutions for Public Questions for the General Election

Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow a binding or advisory question to be placed on the ballot at the 2026 General Election.

August 21, 2026

Ballot Certification Deadline – SBE

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify candidates and public questions to the election authority to be included on the 2026 General Election ballot.

DATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION ARE CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

August 27, 2026

Ballot Certification Deadline – County Clerk

Last day for the county clerk to certify to the board of election commissioners the names of candidates to be voted for in its jurisdiction.

Public Question Certification for the General Election

Last day for the circuit court clerk or the local election official to certify any binding public question or advisory referenda to the election authority having jurisdiction over the political subdivision.

September 3, 2026

Write-In Candidate Filing Deadline for the General Election

Last day an individual may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate with the proper election authority or authorities.

September 18, 2026

Vote by Mail Ballots – UOCAVA

Last business day for the election authority to mail ballots to persons in the United States Service, their spouse, and/or their dependents of voting age, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States, and nonresident civilians.

September 24, 2026

Early Voting Begins for the General Election

First day for early voting at the office of the election authority and at any additional locations that may have been designated by the election authority.

Voting by Mail Begins for the General Election

First day for the election authority to mail an official ballot to a voter who has applied for a vote by mail ballot.

October 6, 2026

Close of Voter Registration

Last day for regular registration or transfer of registration within the office of the election authority.

October 7, 2026

Grace Period Registration and Voting Begins for the General Election

First day of grace period registration and voting at the office of the election authority or at a location designated for this purpose by the election authority.

October 18, 2026

Close of Online Voter Registration for the General Election

Last day for voters to register to vote through the [State Board of Elections' website](#).

October 29, 2026

Last Day to Mail Vote by Mail Ballots for the General Election

Last day for the election authority to receive, by mail, an application for a vote by mail ballot and mail that ballot to the voter. (Note: 1. An earlier deadline is applicable to UOCAVA voters; 2. In-person applications are still accepted until November 2, 2026)

November 2, 2026

Last Day for Early Voting for the General Election

Last day for early voting for the 2026 General Election.

November 3, 2026

General Election

Date of the 2026 General Election.