

Candidate's Guide to the Primary Election

June 2, 2026

Prepared by the Office of the Iowa Secretary of State

(515) 281-0145
sos@sos.iowa.gov
sos.iowa.gov/voters/candidates

For more information, please contact your county auditor or the Iowa Secretary of State's office.

Important Note: The information provided in this guide has been compiled in the Iowa Secretary of State's Office to assist candidates and the public in meeting the requirements of Iowa's election laws. If any errors in compilation or computation have occurred, or if there have been amendments to the *Iowa Code* or *Iowa Administrative Code*, the provisions of the *Iowa Code*, *Iowa Administrative Code*, and the session laws shall prevail.

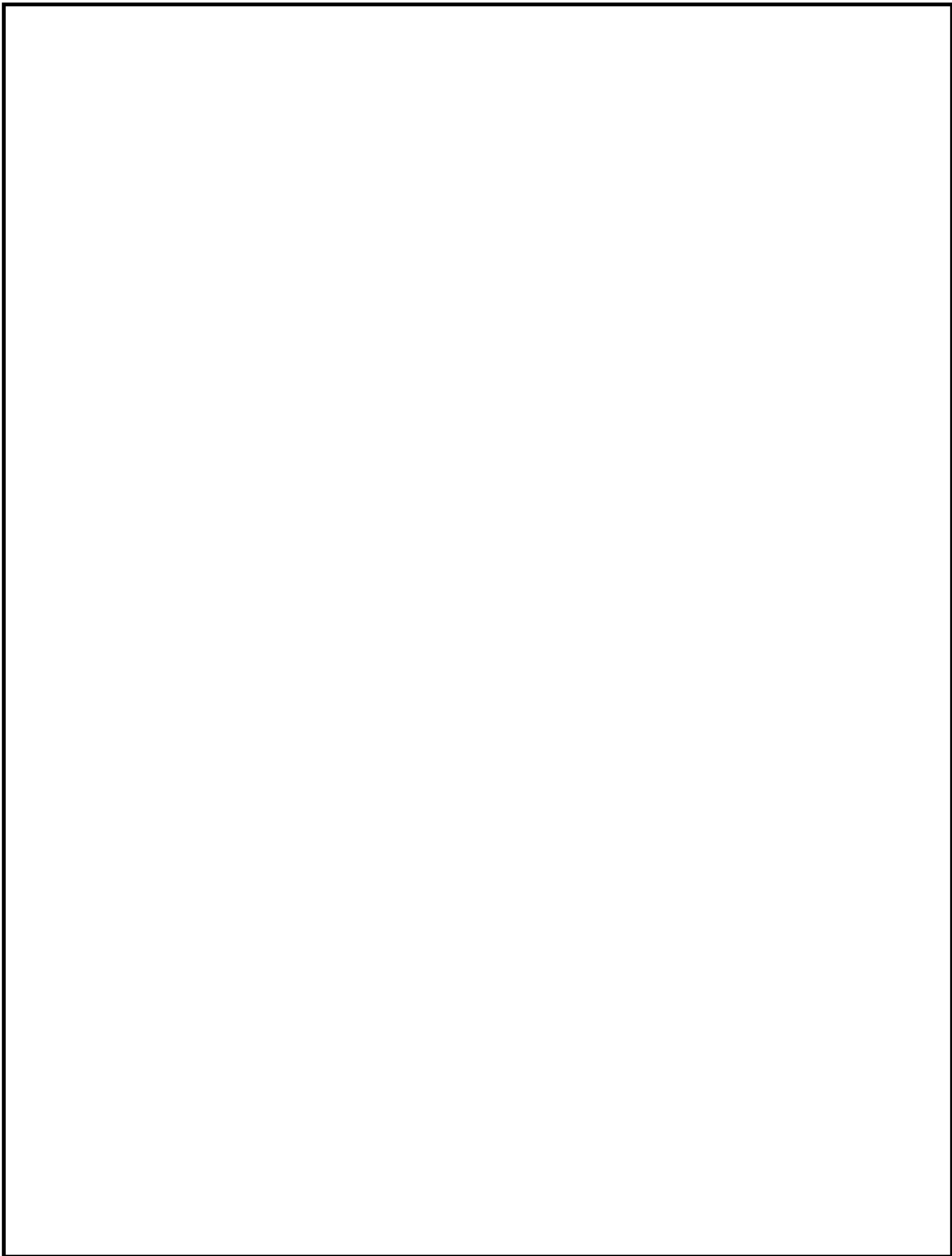


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Overview

What is the Primary Election?

The primary election is held for members of the political parties to nominate candidates for the general election. Currently, there are two political parties in Iowa: the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Winners of the primary election will have their names automatically placed on the general election ballot.

[§39.3, 43.1, 43.3]

Candidates who have no party affiliation or who are affiliated with a non-party political organization (NPPO) cannot appear on a primary election ballot. These candidates must file during the general election filing period to have their names placed on the general election ballot.

Nomination Papers

Each candidate must file an affidavit of candidacy and nomination petitions with the county auditor for county offices or with the Secretary of State's Office for federal and state offices. The affidavit of candidacy and nomination petitions must be filed together or they will be rejected.

Copies of nomination papers are available at the county auditor's office or on the Secretary of State's website: sos.iowa.gov/elections/primary-election

[§43.11, 43.14, 43.18, 43.19]

Filing Period

Nomination papers must be filed during the filing period. They cannot be filed before or after the following dates:

Federal and State Offices:

First day: Monday, February 23, 2026

Last day: Friday, March 13, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

County Offices:

First day: Monday, March 2, 2026

Last day: Friday, March 20, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

There are no filing fees in Iowa.

[§43.11]

Primary Candidate Qualifications

Overview

Candidates must be eligible electors of the jurisdiction and district (if any) at the time of the election. An eligible elector meets all of the requirements to register to vote but does not have to be registered to vote. An eligible elector must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Iowa
- At least 18 years old

An eligible elector may not:

- Be a convicted felon (unless voting rights have been restored by the president or governor, including through an executive order)
- Be currently judged incompetent to vote by a court
- Claim the right to vote in any other place

[§39.3(6), 39.26]

Federal and State Offices

| Federal Office | U.S. Citizenship | Residence | Age | Term | Signatures Needed |
|--|---|---|--|---------|---|
| U.S. Senator [U.S. Constitution, Art. 1, Sec. 3] | At least 9 years when sworn in | Iowa resident at time of the general election | 30 when sworn in | 6 years | 3,500, including at least 100 signatures from at least 19 counties. [§43.20, 45.1] |
| U.S. Representative [U.S. Constitution, Art. 1, Sec. 2] | At least 7 years when sworn in | Iowa resident at time of the general election | 25 when sworn in | 2 years | 1,726, including at least 47 signatures from ½ of the counties in the Congressional district. [§43.20, 45.1] |
| State Executive Office | U.S. Citizenship | Residence | Age | Term | Signatures Needed |
| Governor & Lieutenant Governor [Iowa Constitution, Art. IV, Sec.6] | 2 years at the general election | Iowa resident for 2 years at time of the general election | 30 at the time of the general election | 4 years | 3,500, including at least 100 signatures from at least 19 counties. [§43.20, 45.1] |
| Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, Secretary of Agriculture, Attorney General | Citizen at the time of the election [§39.26] | Iowa resident at the time of the election [§39.26] | 18 at the time of the election [§39.26] | 4 years | 2,500, including at least 77 signatures from at least 18 counties. [§43.20, 45.1] |
| Iowa General Assembly | U.S. Citizenship | Residence | Age | Term | Signatures Needed |
| State Senator [Iowa Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 5] | Citizen when sworn in [§39.26] | 1 year in Iowa, 60 days in the district at the time of the general election | 25 when sworn in | 4 years | 100 from state senate district [§43.20(1)(c)] |
| State Representative [Iowa Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 3-4] | Citizen when sworn in [§39.26] | 1 year in Iowa, 60 days in the district at the time of the general election | 21 when sworn in | 2 years | 50 from state representative district [§43.20(1)(c)] |

*The Iowa Secretary of State's Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The office will be open until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the filing period.

County Offices

| County Offices | U.S. Citizenship | Residence | Age | Term | Signatures Needed | Papers Filed In: |
|---|---|--|--|---------|---|-------------------------|
| County Supervisor | Citizen at the time of the election [§39.26] | Iowa resident at time of election. Registered voter of the county/supervisor district when sworn in. [§39.26, 331.201(2)] | 18 at the time of the election [§39.26] | 4 years | <p>Plan 1 and 2 Counties: Signatures must be eligible electors of the county</p> <p>Counties with population less than 15,001, at least 50</p> <p>Counties with population more than 15,000 and less than 50,000, at least 75</p> <p>Counties with population more than 49,999 at least 100</p> <p>Plan 3 Counties: Signatures must be eligible electors of the supervisor district</p> <p>Supervisor District with population less than 15,001, at least 21</p> <p>Supervisor District with population less than 50,001, at least 50</p> <p>Supervisor District with population more than 50,000, at least 100</p> <p>[§45.1, HF2466 (2022)]</p> | County Auditor's Office |
| County Attorney Must be admitted to the practice of law in the courts of Iowa when sworn in. [§331.751(2)] | Citizen at the time of the election [§39.26] | Iowa resident at time of election. Registered voter of the county when sworn in. [§39.26, 331.751(2)] | 18 at the time of the election [§39.26] | 4 years | <p>Counties with population less than 15,001, at least 50</p> <p>Counties with population more than 15,000 and less than 50,000, at least 75</p> <p>Counties with population more than 49,999 at least 100</p> <p>Signatures must be eligible electors of the county [§45.1(5)]</p> | County Auditor's Office |
| County Treasurer County Recorder | Citizen at the time of the election [§39.26] | Iowa resident at time of election. Resident of the county when sworn in. [§39.26-27] | 18 at the time of the election [§39.26] | 4 years | <p>Counties with population less than 15,001, at least 50</p> <p>Counties with population more than 15,000 and less than 50,000, at least 75</p> <p>Counties with population more than 49,999 at least 100</p> <p>Signatures must be eligible electors of the county [§45.1(5)]</p> | County Auditor's Office |

Contact County Auditor for official population numbers.

Supervisor Plan 1 and Plan 2 Counties

Petition signers may live anywhere in the county.

[§43.20(1)(d)]

Supervisor Plan 3 Counties

Petition signers must live in the supervisor district.

[§43.15(3)]

Preparing Nomination Papers

Affidavit of Candidacy

Each candidate must complete and file an affidavit of candidacy.

The affidavit of candidacy form is available on the Secretary of State's website:

<http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/affidavit.pdf>.

The affidavit should include the following information:

- Candidate's Name

The candidate's name must be printed exactly as the candidate wishes the name to appear on the ballot. No parentheses, quotation marks, or titles (e.g. Dr., Mrs., etc.) may be included. Please provide the phonetic spelling of the candidate's name. This is helpful for producing audio ballots for voters who are visually impaired. Be as clear as possible. Example: Eisenhower = "EYES-in-how-er."

- Office Sought and District (if any)

The name of the office and the congressional, state senate or house, or supervisor district or other district (if any) that the candidate is running for must be included.

- Vacancy Information

Is the candidate running to fill a vacancy due to the death, resignation, removal, or temporary appointment of an office holder?

The "yes" box must be checked if the candidate is running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. This happens when an incumbent office holder resigned, died, or was removed from office before the end of the term and another officer was not elected *or* another officer was appointed (not elected) to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

Contact the county auditor or Secretary of State with questions about whether you are running to fill a vacancy.

- Type and Date of Election

The 2026 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 2.

- Candidate Affiliation

Either Democratic or Republican must be marked.

- Candidate's Home Address

Candidates must provide their house number, street name, city, and county of residence. Mailing address, phone, and email are optional but do assist the filing office and the public in contacting the candidate.

- Candidate's Affirmation, Signature, and Notarization

The affidavit must be notarized. A notarial officer must be present when the candidate signs the affidavit and will complete the verification on the bottom of the affidavit. Once an affidavit is notarized, the affidavit cannot be altered.

Affidavits missing the information listed below must be rejected:

- Candidate's name
- Office sought and district (if any)
- Candidate's party affiliation
- Candidate's signature
- Signature of notary public

[§43.14(4), 43.14(5), 43.18]

Nomination Petitions

Candidates must collect signatures on nomination petitions and file the petitions at the same time the affidavit of candidacy is filed. A nomination petition form is available on the Secretary of State's website: <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/nompetsprim.pdf>.

Candidate Information

Before anyone signs the petition, the required information in the candidate header of every petition page must be completed.

Best Practice: Complete the candidate header on one petition page and make copies of that page so all petition page candidate headings are identical.

The information listed below must appear on each petition candidate header for all offices. Signatures cannot be counted on petition pages missing the following information:

- **Candidate's Name**

The candidate's name should be printed exactly as the candidate wishes the name to appear on the ballot. No parentheses, quotation marks, or titles (e.g. Dr., Mrs., etc.) may be included.

- **Office Sought**

- **Candidate's County of Residence**

The candidate's county of residence must be indicated for all offices except for state senator and state representative.

If a state senator or state representative candidate, petition candidate header must include a statement that the candidate will be a resident of the legislative district at least 60 days before the general election.

- **Office District (if any)**

The candidate must provide the district number (if any). Signatures on petition pages that do not provide the applicable district number (when required) cannot be counted.

- **Election Date**

The 2026 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, June 2.

- **Candidate Affiliation**

Either Democratic or Republican must be marked.

- **Signers' Affirmation of Residence**

The following statement must appear on each petition page:

“We, the undersigned eligible electors of the appropriate county, supervisor or legislative district in the state of Iowa, hereby make the nomination outlined above. If the candidate named above accepts the nomination, we believe the candidate is or will be a resident of the appropriate county, supervisor or legislative district within the time frame as required by law (60 days prior to the general election for state senate and state house candidates).”

[§43.14]

The following information must appear on each petition candidate header for U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, and statewide candidates:

- Signers’ County of Residence

This is required on petitions for U.S. Senate, U.S. Representative, and statewide candidates. Each petition page should include signatures from only one county for these offices.

[§43.15(3)]

The following information also should appear on each petition candidate header for all offices:

- Vacancy Information

Is the candidate running to fill a vacancy due to the death, resignation, removal, or temporary appointment of an office holder?

The “yes” box must be checked if the candidate is running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. This happens when an incumbent office holder resigned, died, or was removed from office before the end of the term and another officer was not elected *or* another officer was appointed (not elected) to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. Contact the county auditor or Secretary of State with questions about whether you are running to fill a vacancy.

Signature Requirements

See the candidate qualifications chart on pages 2-3. Signatures gathered for the 2026 Primary Election must come from within the boundaries of the district (if applicable).

Collecting Signatures

Eligible electors of the appropriate county or district (if applicable) may sign nomination petitions. An eligible elector meets all of the requirements to register to vote but does not have to be registered to vote. An eligible elector must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A resident of Iowa
- At least 18 years old

An eligible elector may not:

- Be a convicted felon (unless voting rights have been restored by the president or governor)
- Be currently judged incompetent to vote by a court
- Claim the right to vote in any other place

[§39.3(6)]

Candidates may sign their own petitions assuming they are eligible electors of the county or district.

Candidates may begin collecting signatures at any time. However, the signers still must be eligible electors when the papers are filed in order for the signatures to count.

All signers must include the following information:

- A signature (the signature may be printed)
- The address of their residence

This must include a house number, street name, and city. Providing only a post office box is not sufficient. A signer who is homeless should describe where the signer lives or write “homeless”.

[§43.14(2), 43.15(1)]

There is no limit on the number of nomination petitions one elector may sign for different candidates.

Important Note: Petition signers often use “ditto” marks when appropriate (e.g. when the name of a city or the date of signing the petition is the same as the previous signer). The use of ditto marks does not invalidate a signature.

Filing Checklist

☐ **Review affidavit and nomination petition headers.**

Nothing can be added to a notarized affidavit or a petition header if there are signatures on the page. Nomination papers can be returned by the filing officer only if they have been rejected.

[§43.14(3), 43.16]

☐ **Count the signatures.**

Best Practice: File more than the required number of signatures since it is possible for signatures to be challenged. If there are signatures on a petition that should not be included, simply draw a line through the names. Those signatures will not be counted.

☐ **Organize nomination petitions by county (federal and statewide candidates only).**

This will help speed the review process by the Secretary of State's Office.

☐ **Make a copy of nominations papers for your own records.**

☐ **Bind nomination papers together.**

Nomination papers may be rejected without examination if not bound together.

Best Practice: Use staples or a three-ring binder.

☐ **File both the affidavit and nomination petitions at the same time.**

[§43.14, 43.19]

☐ **File as early as possible.**

Nomination papers will be inspected for completeness before they are accepted for filing. If papers are filed early, candidates may have time to correct any errors in rejected papers and resubmit them.

Nomination papers may be filed in person or by mail. When filing by mail, postmark dates are irrelevant. The filing officer must receive the papers by 5:00 p.m. on the filing deadline. If candidates would like to be contacted when their nomination papers have been received, they should indicate that when they mail their papers and include a daytime phone number at which they can be reached.

Important Note: It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure the nomination papers are received by the filing officer before the deadline.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I run for more than one office?

No. If a candidate files nomination papers for more than one office appearing on the same ballot, the candidate must file an affidavit on or before the last day to file candidate nomination papers declaring the one office for which the candidate wishes to run. If the affidavit is not filed, the candidate's name cannot appear on the ballot for any of the offices for which the person filed nomination papers.

Exception: This prohibition against seeking more than one office does not apply to:

- County Agricultural Extension Council Members
- Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners

[§39.11, 49.41]

Can I hold more than one office?

Statewide elected officials, state senators, and state representatives cannot hold more than one elective office at the same time.

All other elected officials cannot hold more than one elective office at the same level of government at the same time. For example, a person could serve on the school board and county board of supervisors, but a person could not serve on the county board of supervisors and as county auditor.

Exception: This prohibition against holding more than one office does not apply to:

- County Agricultural Extension Council Members
- Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners

[§39.11]

What is the Hatch Act?

The Hatch Act restricts the political activities of people principally employed by state or local government executive agencies in connection with a program financed in whole or in part by federal loans or grants. For more information, contact:

U.S. Office of Special Counsel – Hatch Act Unit
1730 M. Street, N.W. Suite 218
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505
1-800-854-2824 or 202-254-3650
hatchact@osc.gov
www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm

Who do I contact for questions about nomination papers, filing procedures, and lists of registered voters?

The Elections Division of the Secretary of State's Office is available to assist with questions about the filing process and to provide lists of registered voters.

- Phone: 1-888-SOS-VOTE or 515-281-0145
- Email: sos@sos.iowa.gov
- Mail: Lucas Building, 1st Floor
321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

The Secretary of State's website also provides useful information for candidates on these topics: sos.iowa.gov/voters/candidates

Where can I find information about campaign disclosure and ethics requirements?

For information about candidates' ethics and campaign filing responsibilities and deadlines, please contact the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board at 515-281-4028 or <https://ethics.iowa.gov/>.

Federal Candidates: For information about financial disclosure requirements, please contact the Federal Election Commission at www.fec.gov or 1-800-424-9530.

How do I contact the state's political parties?

Iowa Democratic Party
5661 Fleur Drive
Des Moines, IA 50321
515-244-7292
<http://iowademocrats.org>

Iowa Republican Party
621 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-282-8105
<http://iowagop.org>

2026 Primary Election Calendar

| Date | Event | Code Cite |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| Mon, Feb 23 | State and Federal Candidate Filing Begins First day for Democratic and Republican candidates for state and federal offices to file nomination papers with the Secretary of State. | §43.11(2) |
| Mon, Mar 2 | County Candidate Filing Begins First day for Democratic and Republican candidates for county offices to file nomination papers with the auditor. | §43.11(1) |
| Thur, Mar 5 | Vacancy Deadline – U.S. Senate and Statewide Offices U.S. Senate and statewide offices (except Governor and Lt. Governor) must appear on the primary election ballot if a vacancy in the office occurs on or before this date. | §43.6(1) |
| Fri, Mar 13 | Filing Deadline – State and Federal Last day for Democratic and Republican candidates to file nomination papers with the Secretary of State. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. | §43.11(2) |
| Wed, Mar 18 | Withdrawal Deadline – State and Federal Last day for candidates who filed with the Secretary of State to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the SOS. | §43.16(2)(a) |
| Fri, Mar 20 | Objection Deadline – State and Federal Last day to file written objections to nomination petitions with the Secretary of State. | §43.24(1)(b)(1) |
| | Vacancy Deadline – County County offices must appear on the primary election ballot if a vacancy in the office occurs on or before this date. | §43.6(2) |
| | Filing Deadline – County Last day for Democratic and Republican candidates for county offices to file with the auditor. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. | §43.11(1) |
| Tues, Mar 24 | Substitution Deadline – State and Federal Last day political parties may designate to the Secretary of State a substitute candidate for another who withdrew or died by the State/Federal Withdrawal Deadline. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. | §43.23(1) |
| Wed, Mar 25 | Withdrawal Deadline – County Last day for candidates who filed nomination papers with the auditor to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the auditor. | §43.16(2)(b) |
| Fri, Mar 27 | Objection Deadline – County Last day to file written objections to nomination petitions with the auditor. – Exception for objections to nominees filing as substitute candidates. | §43.24(1)(b)(2) |
| Mon, Mar 30 | Substitution Deadline – County Last day political parties may designate to the auditor a substitute candidate for another who withdrew or died by the County Withdrawal Deadline. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. | §43.23(2) |
| Tue, Mar 31 | Objection Deadline for Substitute Candidates – County Last day to file written objections to nomination petitions for substitute candidates filed under §43.23 with the auditor. | §43.24(1)(b)(2) |
| Thu, Apr 16 | Satellite Absentee Voting Station Petitions Deadline A petition requesting a satellite absentee voting station must be filed with the county auditor no later than 5:00 p.m. | §53.11(2)(a) |

| Date | Event | Code Cite |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Wed, May 13 | Absentee Ballots Ready First day absentee ballots may be voted in the county auditor's office. | §53.10 |
| | Worry-Free Postmark Date Mailed voter registration forms which are postmarked on or before today are considered on time to be pre-registered for the primary election even if they are received after the pre-registration deadline. | §48A.9(3) |
| Mon, May 18 | Voter Pre-Registration Deadline The deadline to pre-register to vote for the primary election is 5:00 p.m. | §48A.9(1) |
| | Exception: Mailed registration forms postmarked on or before the worry-free postmark date are considered on time even if they are received after 5:00 p.m. today. | |
| | Absentee Ballot by Mail Request Deadline Last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. | §53.2(1)(b) |
| Mon, May 25 | Memorial Day Holiday – State Offices Closed | §1C.1 |
| Sat, May 30 | Auditors' Offices Open The auditor's office must be open for at least 8 hours for absentee voting and other election business. | §47.2(5) |
| Mon, Jun 1 | Absentee Ballot In-Person Deadline Last day to request and vote an absentee ballot in person at the county auditor's office. | §53.2(1)(a) |
| | Last Day for Voters to Fix Incomplete Affidavits Voters have until the time polls close at 8:00 p.m. to fix incomplete affidavit envelopes at the county auditor's office. | §53.18(2) |
| Tue, Jun 2 | Primary Election Day Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots may be delivered to the county auditor's office until 8:00 p.m. | §43.7, 49.73, 53.17(1)(a) |
| | Number of Provisional Ballots Posted Number of provisional ballots cast in each precinct must be posted by the county auditor no later than 9:00 a.m. | §50.20 |
| Thu, Jun 4 | Special Precinct Board Convened The county auditor may reconvene the special precinct board no earlier than noon to consider provisional, UOCAVA and Safe at Home absentee ballots postmarked on the day before the election or earlier. | §50.21, 50.22 |
| Mon, Jun 8 | Absentee Ballot Deadline – Noon UOCAVA and Safe at Home absentee ballots confirmed to be sent on the day before the election or earlier by postmark or postal service barcode and received by noon today are considered to be on time to be counted. | §53.17(2)(b) |
| Mon, Jun 8/ Tue, Jun 9 | County Canvass of Votes May occur either Monday or Tuesday. | §43.49 |
| Thu, Jun 11/ Fri, Jun 12 | Recount Request Deadline Written requests for a recount must be filed in the county auditor's office by 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the county canvass of votes. | §43.56(1), 50.48(1)(a) |
| Mon, June 29 | State Canvass of Votes Must Be Complete | §43.63, 50.38 |
| | Election Contests Deadline Deadlines for contesting the results of the primary election vary by office. See the county auditor or Secretary of State for specific contest deadlines. | |

2026 General Election Calendar

| Date | Event | Code Cite |
|--------------|---|---|
| Mon, July 27 | State and Federal Candidate Filing Begins First day for non-party political organization (NPPO) candidates and candidates nominated by petition to file nomination papers for state and federal offices with the Secretary of State. | |
| Mon, Aug 3 | County Candidate Filing Begins. First day for NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition to file nomination papers for county and township offices with the county auditor. | |
| Fri, Aug 14 | Primary Nominee Withdrawal Deadline State and Federal Offices Last day for state and federal candidates to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of State. | §43.76(1) |
| | Last Day for Vacancies – State and Federal If a midterm vacancy in a state or federal office occurs on or before today, the office must be on the ballot to fill vacancy at the general election. Political party nominations must be made by convention | §43.6(1), 43.77(4), 43.78(1) |
| Wed, Aug 19 | Filing Deadline – State and Federal Party Ballot Vacancies Last day to file convention certificates to fill a party ballot vacancy for state and federal office. | §43.78(2) |
| Fri, Aug 21 | Primary Nominee Withdrawal Deadline – County Offices Last day for county candidates to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the county auditor. | §43.76(2) |
| | Last Day for Vacancies – County If a midterm vacancy in a county office occurs on or before today, the office must be on the ballot to fill the vacancy at the general election. Political party nominations must be made by convention. | §43.77(5)(b), 43.78(1), 69.14A(1)(b)(2) |
| Sat, Aug 22 | State and Federal Candidate Filing Deadline Last day to file nomination papers with the Secretary of State. This includes NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. | |
| Wed, Aug 26 | County Candidate Filing Deadline Last day to file nomination papers with county auditor. This includes NPPO candidates, candidates nominated by petition, and Democratic and Republican parties' nominations to fill ballot vacancies. Deadline is 5 p.m. | §43.78(3) |

| Date | Event | Code Cite |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| Thu, Aug 27 | State and Federal Candidate Withdrawal Deadline. Last day for NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition who filed with the Secretary of State to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of State. | |
| | State and Federal Candidate Objection Deadline. Last day to file written objections to nomination papers with the Secretary of State. Deadline is 5 p.m. | |
| | State and Federal Candidate Substitution Deadline. Last day for NPPOs to replace candidates who withdrew, died, or were found ineligible for state and federal offices. | |
| | Draw Names for Non-Partisan Office Ballot Order County auditor draws the names of candidates for non-partisan offices to determine the order in which the names of those candidates will appear on the ballot. | §49.31(2)(c) |
| Mon, Aug 31 | County Candidate Withdrawal Deadline. Last day for NPPO candidates and candidates nominated by petition who filed with the county auditor to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the county auditor. | |
| | County Candidate Objection Deadline. Last day to file written objections to nomination papers with the county auditor. Deadline is 5 p.m. | |
| | County Candidate Substitution Deadline. Last day for NPPOs to replace candidates who withdrew, died, or were found ineligible for county offices. | §4.1(34), 47.4 |
| Mon, Sept 7 | Labor Day Holiday – State Offices Closed | §1C.1 |
| Thu, Sept 17 | Satellite Absentee Voting Station Petitions Deadline A petition requesting a satellite absentee voting station must be filed with the county auditor no later than 5:00 p.m. | §53.11(2)(a) |
| Wed, Oct 14 | Absentee Ballots Ready First day absentee ballots may be voted in the county auditor’s office. | §53.10 |
| Mon, Oct 19 | Worry-Free Postmark Date Mailed voter registration forms which are postmarked on or before today are considered on time to be pre-registered for the general election even if they are received after pre-registration deadline. | §48A.9(3) |
| | Voter Pre-Registration Deadline The deadline to pre-register to vote for the general election is 5:00 p.m. | §48A.9(1) |
| | Exception: Mailed registration forms postmarked on or before the worry-free postmark date, are considered on time even if they are received after 5:00 p.m. today. | |
| | Absentee Ballot by Mail Request Deadline Last day to request an absentee ballot be mailed. Deadline is 5:00 p.m. | §53.2(1)(b) |
| Sat, Oct 31 | County Auditors’ Offices Open The county auditor’s office must be open for at least 8 hours for absentee voting and other election business. | §47.2(5), 53.18(2) |

| Date | Event | Code Cite |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Mon, Nov 2 | Absentee Ballot In-Person Deadline Last day to request and vote an absentee ballot in person at the county auditor's office. | §53.2(1)(a) |
| Tue, Nov 3 | Last Day for Voters to Fix Incomplete Affidavits Voters have until the time polls close at 8:00 p.m. to fix incomplete affidavit envelopes at the county auditor's office. | §53.18(2) |
| | General Election Day Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots may be delivered to the county auditor until 8:00 p.m. | §39.1, 49.73, 53.17(1)(a) |
| Thu, Nov 5 | Number of Provisional Ballots Posted Number of provisional ballots cast in each precinct must be posted by the county auditor no later than 9:00 a.m. | §50.20 |
| | Special Precinct Board Convened The county auditor may reconvene the special precinct board no earlier than noon to consider provisional, UOCAVA and Safe at Home absentee ballots postmarked on the day before the election or earlier. | §50.21, 50.22 |
| Mon, Nov 9 | Absentee Ballot Deadline – Noon UOCAVA and Safe at Home absentee ballots confirmed to be sent on the day before the election or earlier by postmark or postal service barcode and received by noon today are considered to be on time to be counted. | §53.17(2) |
| Mon, Nov 9 / Tue, Nov 10 | County Canvass of Votes May occur Monday or Tuesday. | §4.1(34), 50.24(1) |
| Thu, Nov 11 | Veteran's Day Holiday – State Offices Closed If the auditor's office is closed on Veteran's Day, applicable deadlines move to the next business day. | §1C.1 |
| Thu, Nov 12 / Fri, Nov 13 | Recount Request Deadline Written requests for a recount must be filed in the county auditor's office by 5:00 p.m. on the third day after the county canvass of votes. | §50.48(1)(a) |
| Mon, Nov 30 | State Canvass of Votes Must Be Complete | §50.38 |
| | Election Contests Deadline Deadlines for contesting the results of the general election vary by office. See the county auditor or Secretary of State for specific contest deadlines. | |