

2016 General Election Calendar

Date	Event	Code Cite
Monday, August 1	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.	§44.4(1), 45.4
Monday, August 8	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.	§44.4(1), 45.4
Thursday, August 11	Primary Nominee Withdrawal Deadline for State and Federal Offices. Last day for state and federal candidates who were nominated at the primary election 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 August 11, 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)
Friday, August 19 – 5 p.m.	State and Federal Candidate Filing Deadline. Last day to file nomination papers with the Secretary of State. 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(2), 44.4(1), 45.4
	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.	§44.9(1), 45.4
	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.	§44.4(2)(a)(1)
Friday, August 26	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.	§44.11
	Primary Nominee Withdrawal Deadline for County Offices. Last day for county candidates who were nominated at the primary election 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 August 26, the office must be on the ballot to fill 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)
Wednesday, August 31 – 5 p.m.	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), 44.4(1), 45.4

Date	Event	Code Cite
Thursday, September 1	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)
Monday, September 5	Labor Day Holiday – State Offices Closed.	§1C.1
Tuesday, September 6 – 5 p.m.	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.	§44.9(2), 45.4
	County Candidate Objection Deadline. Last day to file written objections to nomination papers with the county auditor. Deadline is 5 p.m.	§44.4(2)(a)(2)
	County Candidate Substitution Deadline. Last day for NPPOs to replace candidates who withdrew, died, or were found ineligible for county offices.	§44.11
	<i>Deadlines moved to Tuesday due to Labor Day holiday.</i>	§4.1(34), 47.4
Thursday, September 22 – 5 p.m.	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 p.m.	§53.11(2)(a)
Thursday, September 29	Absentee Ballots Ready. First day absentee ballots may be voted in the county auditor’s office.	§53.10
Monday, October 24	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 October 29.	§48A.9(3)
Saturday, October 29 – 5 p.m.	Voter Pre-Registration Deadline. The deadline to pre-register to vote for the general election is 5 p.m. Exceptions: Mailed registration forms postmarked on or before Monday, October 24, are considered on time even if they are received after 5 p.m. today.	§48A.9(1)
Friday, November 4 – 5 p.m.	Absentee Ballot by Mail Request Deadline. Last day to request an absentee ballot by mail. Deadline is 5 p.m.	§53.2(1)(b)
Saturday, November 5 – 5 p.m.	County Auditors’ Offices Open. The county auditor’s office must be open for at least 8 hours until at least 5 p.m. for absentee voting and other election business.	§47.2(5), 53.18(2)

Date	Event	Code Cite
Monday, November 7	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 5 p.m. to fix incomplete affidavit envelopes at the county auditor's office.	§53.18(2)
Tuesday, November 8	General Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. Absentee ballots may be delivered to the county auditor until 9 p.m.	§39.1, 49.73, 53.17(1)(a)
Thursday, November 10	Number of Provisional Ballots Posted. Number of provisional ballots cast in each precinct must be posted by the county auditor no later than 9 a.m.	§50.20
	Special Precinct Board Convened. The county auditor may reconvene the special precinct board no earlier than noon to consider provisional ballots and absentee ballots that were postmarked Monday, November 7, or earlier.	§50.21, 50.22
Thursday, November 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, 47.4
Monday, November 14 - Noon	Absentee Ballot Deadline. Absentee ballots that were postmarked Monday, November 7, or earlier and received by noon Monday, November 14, are considered to be on time to be counted.	§53.17(2)
Monday, November 14/ Tuesday, November 15/	County Canvass of Votes. <i>May occur Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday if the county auditor's office is closed on Tuesday due to the Veteran's Day holiday.</i>	§4.1(34), 50.24(1)
Thursday, November 17/ Friday, November 18/	Recount Request Deadline. Written requests for a recount must be filed in the county auditor's office by 5 p.m. on the third day after the county canvass of votes.	§50.48(1)(a)
Monday, December 5	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.	