

May 2, 2026 Election Law Calendar

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The uniform election date in May of an even-numbered year is a date on which many local political subdivisions, such as cities, school districts, and water districts, have their regular general elections for members of their governing bodies or special elections to fill vacancies. Therefore, this calendar is required to meet the needs of many diverse governmental bodies.

Section 2.025 of the Texas Election Code requires the Secretary of State to set the runoff date for all runoff elections resulting from an election held on a uniform election date. Pursuant to Section 2.025, the Secretary of State has designated Saturday, June 13, 2026 as the election date for all runoff elections resulting from elections held by local political subdivisions on the May 2, 2026 Uniform Election Date.

If there are questions about the applicability of something in this calendar to your specific election, do not hesitate to call the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

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Calendar of Events

December

Monday, December 15, 2025 (30th day before Wednesday, January 14, 2026, first day to file an application for a place on the ballot)

For additional resources for candidates, please see our [Candidate's Guide for Local Political Subdivisions](#).

Cities, Schools, and Other Political Subdivisions: Post [Notice of Deadline to File an Application for Place on the Ballot \(PDF\)](#) in a building in which the authority maintains an office. The notice must be posted not later than the 30th day before the first day to file. (Sec. 141.040; Sec. 49.113, Water Code). This notice must be posted in addition to the posting requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy under Section 2051.201, Government Code. ([See Note 3](#)).

Water Districts: The notice must be posted at the district's administrative office or at the public place established by the district under Section 49.063 of the Water Code. (Sec. 49.113, Water Code).

NOTE - The authority with whom an application for a place on the ballot is filed is required to designate an e-mail address in the notice required by Section 141.040 of the Code for the purpose of filing an application for a place on the ballot.

NOTE - The delivery, submission, or filing of an application with an employee of the filing authority at the authority's usual place for conducting official business constitutes filing with the authority. (Sec. 1.007).

January

Thursday, January 1, 2026

First day for voters to submit an ABBM, an Annual ABBM, or a Federal Postcard Application (FPCA). The Annual ABBM and FPCA allows the voter to receive ballots for all elections in which they are eligible to vote held in 2026. Voters who will be 65 or older on election day or voters with a disability are eligible to submit an annual application. The application is considered submitted at the time of receipt. (Secs. 84.001(e), 84.007, 86.0015).

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 (30th day before Friday, February 13, 2026, regular filing deadline for a place on the ballot)

First day to file an application for a place on the ballot or a declaration of write-in candidacy. (Secs. 143.007, 144.005, Election Code; Secs. 11.055, 130.082(g), Educ. Code). See [Candidacy Filing Outline](#) for more details. The following forms are available on the Secretary of State's website:

- [Application for Place on City/School/Other Political Subdivision Ballot \(PDF\)](#)
- If your home rule city or special law district allows for a petition, the following petition may be used: [Petition for a Place on the Ballot for a Local Political Subdivision \(PDF\)](#)
- [Declaration of Write-In Candidacy for City, School, or other Political Subdivisions \(PDF\)](#)

NOTE - NEW LAW: HB 3629 (2025, R.S.), effective immediately, prohibits people who are required to register as sex offenders under the Code of Criminal Procedure from serving as trustees for an independent school district. Applicants who want to run for school trustee, whether as a candidate on the ballot or a write-in, must therefore indicate that they are eligible under this provision when filling out the candidate application. This change will be reflected in updated candidate-application forms. Applicants who use an older version of an application that does not contain this affirmation should be rejected and directed to use an updated form.

NOTE: We are often asked how filing can begin if you have not yet ordered the general election. You do **not** need to order your **general** (regularly occurring) election in order for the filing period to begin.

NOTE - The delivery, submission, or filing of an application with an employee of the filing authority at the authority's usual place for conducting official business constitutes filing with the authority. (Sec. 1.007).

NOTE - Cities, Schools, and Other Political Subdivisions: There are political subdivisions that do not have office hours on all days of the business week (Monday through Friday) or do not have an office that is open for eight hours each day of the business week. The Elections Division recommends that political subdivisions take steps to have someone available for a few hours most days during the candidate filing period to accept filings, and that political subdivisions post a schedule on their websites and on the bulletin boards where notices of meetings are posted of the days and times when someone will be available to accept filings.

The Elections Division also strongly recommends having someone available at the place of business on the filing deadline, especially from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, if you are otherwise closed. This guideline is based on the office-hour rule under Section 31.122 of the Election Code. Although a political subdivision may accept applications by mail, fax, or email without a person present at the office, the political subdivision will not be able to determine which applications were timely filed by 5:00 PM.

NOTE - Candidate applications, other than those that must be accompanied by a filing fee, may be filed via email. The application must be a scanned copy of the candidate application and must be sent to the filing authority's designated email address for accepting applications. (Secs. 143.004, 144.003).

Monday, January 19, 2026 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Friday, January 30, 2026 (last weekday before February)

Recommended date that county election officials and local political subdivisions meet to discuss conducting elections at the same polling locations pursuant to Section 42.002, as well as any applicable joint election issues needed to be agreed upon. **NOTE: This is not a deadline; just a recommendation.**

February

Monday, February 2, 2026 (89th day before election day, extended from 90th day, Sunday, February 1, 2026, Sec. 1.006)

Last day for eligible political subdivisions to submit [Notice of Exemption Under Section 61.013 \(PDF\)](#) or an [Application of Undue Burden Status \(PDF\)](#) to the Secretary of State for exemption from the accessible voting system requirement. (Sec. 61.013). For additional information, consult the most current advisory on this topic, [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2025-06](#).

NOTE - NEW LAW: HB 2253 (2025, R.S.), effective immediately, allows the authority that ordered a bond measure to cancel the election on the measure by the 74th day before election day if the governor issues a disaster declaration by the 90th day before the date of the election on the measure. To do so, the authority must hold an open meeting on the question of cancelling the election and must post notice of the cancellation at each early voting location and each election day polling place.

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 (81st day before election day; 3rd day before filing deadline)

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: If a candidate dies on or before this date, his or her name is not placed on the ballot, if the filing deadline is Friday, February 13, 2026. (Sec. 145.094(a)(1)).

NOTE: Section 145.098 states if a candidate dies on or before the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot, the authority responsible for preparing the ballots MAY choose to omit the candidate. If the authority does choose to omit the candidate, the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot is extended to the fifth day after the filing deadline, Wednesday, February 18, 2026. This extended deadline only applies to the regular filing deadline. It **DOES NOT** apply to the write-in deadline.

Friday, February 13, 2026 (78th day before election day)

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: 5:00 PM - Last day for a candidate in a political subdivision (other than a county) to file an application for a place on the ballot for general election for officers for most political subdivisions, except as otherwise provided by the Texas Election Code. (Secs. 143.007(c), 144.005(d); Sec. 11.055, Education Code; Chapter 286, Health & Safety Code). See [Candidacy Filing outline](#) for more details.

NOTE - The delivery, submission, or filing of an application with an employee of the filing authority at the authority's usual place for conducting official business constitutes filing with the authority. (Sec. 1.007).

NOTE - A home-rule city's charter may **NOT** provide an alternate candidate filing deadline. (Secs. 143.005(a), 143.007).

NOTE - City Offices with Four-Year Terms: If no candidate has filed for a city office with a four-year term, the filing deadline is extended to 5:00 PM on Friday, March 6, 2026. (Sec. 143.008).

NOTE - An application submitted by mail is considered to be filed at the time of its receipt by the appropriate filing authority. (Secs. 143.007(b), 144.005(b)).

NOTE - When reviewing candidate applications, please make sure that the candidate has used the most current version of the form.

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties (General Election): Deadline for political subdivisions to order a general election to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, unless otherwise provided by the Election Code. (Sec. 3.005). One of the following forms may be used:

- [Order of Election for Municipalities \(PDF\)](#)
- [Order of Election for Other Political Subdivisions \(Including Schools\) \(PDF\)](#)

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties (Special Election): Deadline to order a special election on a measure to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026. One of the following forms may be used:

- [Order of Special Election for Municipalities \(PDF\)](#)
- [Order of Special Election for Other Political Subdivisions \(PDF\)](#)

The order must include:

1. The date of the election;
2. The location of the main early voting polling place **including the street address, room number, and building name. The order must designate which location is the main early voting polling place;**
3. The offices or measures to be voted on;
4. **(Recommended)** Branch early voting polling places ([see Notice of Elections](#) above);
5. The dates and hours for early voting (recommended for counties, but required for all other entities);
6. The dates and hours of any Saturday and Sunday early voting (if applicable, it is recommended that this information be included in the order for counties, but it must be included for all other entities); and
7. The early voting clerk's official mailing address or street address at which the clerk may receive delivery by common or contract carrier, if different, phone number, e-mail address, and the Internet website, if the early voting clerk has an Internet website.

In addition to the information included above, an order for a debt obligation (bond) election **must** include (Sec. 3.009):

1. the proposition language that will appear on the ballot;
2. the purpose for which the debt obligations are to be authorized;
3. the principal amount of the debt obligations to be authorized;
4. that taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the debt obligations may be imposed;
5. a statement of the estimated tax rate if the debt obligations are authorized or of the maximum interest rate of the debt obligations or any series of the debt obligations, based on the market conditions at the time of the election order;
6. the maximum maturity date of the debt obligations to be authorized or that the debt obligations may be issued to mature over a specified number of years not to exceed the maximum number of years authorized by law;
7. the aggregate amount of the outstanding principal of the political subdivision's debt obligations as of the date the election is ordered;
8. the aggregate amount of the outstanding interest on debt obligations of the political subdivision as of the date the election is ordered, which may be based on the political subdivision's expectations relative to variable rate debt obligations; and
9. the ad valorem debt service tax rate for the political subdivision at the time the election is ordered, expressed as an amount per \$100 valuation of taxable property.

Recommended date to order the lists of registered voters from the county voter registrar. The list should include both the voters' residences and mailing addresses in order to conduct early voting by mail. (Sec. 18.006). The political subdivision should confirm that the most recent maps or boundary changes have been provided to the voter registrar.

Recommended date to confirm telephone number for the county voter registrar's office on election day.

Recommended date to order election supplies, other than ballots. (Subchapter A, Chapter 51).

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: **Recommended** date to appoint **presiding and alternate judges**. Currently, the Election Code does not establish a deadline for appointing election officials; there is only a notification deadline. For further information concerning procedures for appointing judges and their alternates, see Sections 32.005, 32.008, and 32.011. General eligibility requirements are found in Subchapter C, Chapter 32.

In addition to appointing a judge and alternate judge for each election precinct pursuant to Sections 32.001 and 32.005, the governing body must allow the judge to appoint no less than two clerks; however, the alternate judge must serve as one of the clerks as a matter of law. (Secs. 32.032, 32.033). The presiding judge then appoints an additional clerk(s), but not more than the maximum set by the governing body. (Sec. 32.033).

Presiding judges and their alternates must be given a [Notice of Appointment \(PDF\)](#) **not later than the 20th day after the appointment is made**. (Sec. 32.009). If the appointment is for a single election, the notice may be combined with the [Writ of Election \(PDF\)](#), which is required to be delivered to each presiding judge **not later than the 15th day before the election, Friday, April 17, 2026**. (Secs. 4.007, 32.009(e)). If the notices are combined, both must be delivered by the date required by the earlier notice.

Water Districts: A water district is not required to provide a Notice of Appointment to a presiding judge, as required under Section 32.009, but must provide a [Writ of Election \(PDF\)](#). (Sec. 4.007; Sec. 49.110, Water Code).

Recommended date to appoint the **central counting station personnel** (manager, tabulation supervisor and assistants to the tabulation supervisor), if applicable. (Secs. 127.002, 127.003, 127.004, 127.005). There is no statutory notice requirement for members of the central counting station, but good practice suggests that written notice be given to them.

Recommended date to appoint the **presiding judge and alternate presiding judge of the early voting ballot board** or to designate the election workers of one election precinct to serve as the early voting ballot board. (Secs. 87.001, 87.002, 87.004). There is no statutory notice requirement for members of the early voting ballot board, but good practice suggests that written notice be given to them.

Monday, February 16, 2026 (Presidents' Day)

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 (74th day before election day)

5:00 PM - Deadline for write-in candidates to file [Declarations of Write-In Candidacy \(PDF\)](#) for regular officers for city, school district, library district, junior college district, hospital district, common school districts, Chapter 36 and 49 Water Code districts, and other political subdivision elections, unless otherwise provided by law. (Secs. 144.006(b), 146.054(b), 146.055, Election Code; Secs. 11.056, 11.304, 130.0825, Education Code; Sec. 326.0431, Local Government Code; Sec. 285.131, Health and Safety Code; and Secs. 36.059, 49.101, 63.0945, Water Code). [See Candidacy Filing outline for more details.](#)

NOTE: An application submitted by mail is considered to be filed at the time of its receipt by the appropriate filing authority. (Secs. 143.007(b), 144.005(b)).

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (73rd day before election day; 5th day after regular filing deadline)

If a candidate dies on or before the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot, the authority responsible for preparing the ballots MAY choose to omit the candidate's name. If the authority does choose to omit the candidate's name, the deadline for filing an application for a place on the ballot is extended to the fifth day after the filing deadline, February 18, 2026. This extended deadline only applies to the regular filing deadline. It **DOES NOT** apply to the write-in deadline. (Sec. 145.098).

Thursday, February 19, 2026 (72nd day before election day)

First day to post [Notice of Drawing for Place on Ballot \(PDF\)](#) if drawing is to be conducted on Monday, February 23, 2026. This notice must be posted 72 hours before the day of the drawing. (Sec. 52.094(c)).

The authority conducting the ballot position drawing shall provide notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to candidates by this date if the drawing is to be conducted on Monday, February 23, 2026, as recommended. (Sec. 52.094(d)). If a candidate in a special election files on this date, they should be given a copy of the notice of ballot drawing at the time they file.

The authority conducting the drawing shall provide notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to each candidate. The authority may provide written notice at the time the candidate files an application with the appropriate authority.

If notice was not provided at the time the candidate filed an application, the notice may be provided by:

1. written notice that is mailed to the address stated on the candidate's application not later than the fourth day before the date of the drawing; or
2. telephone, if a telephone number is provided on the candidate's application; or
3. by e-mail, if an e-mail address was provided on the candidate's application. (Sec. 52.094).

Friday, February 20, 2026 (71st day before election day)

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: 5:00 PM – Last day for a candidate to withdraw, by submission of a notarized [Certificate of Withdrawal \(PDF\)](#) or a notarized letter. **If a candidate withdraws or is declared ineligible by this date, his or her name is omitted from the ballot.** (Secs. 145.092(f), 145.094(a)(4), 145.096(a)(4)). For special circumstances regarding withdrawal of a candidate before ballots are prepared, please contact the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State.

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: 5:00 PM – Last day to **withdraw** as a **write-in** candidate in the general election ordered by a political subdivision other than a county. (Secs. 144.006(c), 146.0301, 146.054(c)). (Candidates may use the [Certificate of Withdrawal \(PDF\)](#)).

NOTE - Section 145.098(a) allows a candidate to withdraw from an election after the statutory deadline for withdrawal if the candidate files a valid withdrawal request, except for its untimeliness, ballots for the election have not been prepared, and if using a voting system, public notice of the Logic and Accuracy Test has not been published.

Recommended first day that a general or special election must be cancelled **if** all filing deadlines have passed, each candidate for an office listed on the ballot is unopposed

(except as discussed below), and write-in votes may be counted only for names appearing on a list of write-in candidates. (Sec. 2.052). The [Certification of Unopposed Candidates for Other Political Subdivisions \(PDF\)](#) may be used to certify candidates as unopposed. Also, see our [Sample Order of Cancellation \(PDF\)](#).

A special election of a political subdivision is considered to be a separate election with a separate ballot from a general election for officers of the same political subdivision held at the same time as the special election. Therefore, the fact that there may be a proposition on the ballot will not prevent a cancellation of an election for candidates who are unopposed. (Sec. 2.051(a)). If any members of the political subdivision's governing body are elected from territorial units, such as single member districts, an election **shall** be cancelled in a particular territorial unit if each candidate for an office that is to appear on the ballot in that territorial unit is unopposed **and no opposed at-large race is to appear on the ballot**. An unopposed at-large race **shall** be cancelled in an election regardless of whether an opposed race is to appear on the ballot in a particular territorial unit. (Sec. 2.051(b)).

NOTE – Under Section 2.053 of the Texas Election Code, this cancellation process is mandatory rather than discretionary.

This recommended cancellation deadline presumes a filing deadline of Friday, February 13, 2026 and a write-in deadline of Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Special elections may have different deadlines, and may be cancelled separately. For additional information, consult the outline on [Cancellation of Election for Local Political Subdivisions \(Not County\)](#).

NOTE: Political Subdivision Holding a Special Election to Fill a Vacancy: If you are having a special election to fill a vacancy for an unexpired (partial) term, you must not cancel the special election until after all deadlines to file for a special vacancy election have passed. Reminder: The cancellation procedures allow general and special elections to be considered separate elections for cancellation purposes. If the elections are separated, note there are procedures related to listing unopposed candidates in the same relative order on the ballot.

For more information on Cancellation of Elections, see Sec. 2.053, Election Code and the Secretary of State's outline on [Cancellation of Election for Local Political Subdivisions \(Not County\)](#).

Saturday, February 21, 2026 (70th day before election day)

Last day to order a special election to fill a vacancy (if authorized to fill vacancies by special election) and have the filing deadline be the 62nd day before election day. (Secs. 201.054(a)(1), 201.052). Please note that the Election Code requires the election to be ordered as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs. (Sec. 201.051). One of the following forms may be used:

- [Order of Special Election for Municipalities \(PDF\)](#)
- [Order of Special Election for Other Political Subdivisions \(PDF\)](#)

NOTE - Section 201.054 provides that if the special election to fill a vacancy is ordered (1) on or before the 70th day before election day, the candidate application must be filed by 5:00 PM on the 62nd day before election day, OR (2) after the 70th day but on or before the 46th day before election day, the candidate application must be filed by 5:00 PM on the 40th day before election day. This is the first of the two possible ordering times. We do **not** interpret the 70th day order date here as "moving" to the next business day because the date falls on a Saturday, as this is not the last day to order a special election to fill a vacancy for this uniform election date. If a candidate in a special election files on this date, they should be given a copy of the notice of ballot drawing at the time they file.

NOTE - A candidate must provide an indication on their candidate application that the candidate has either not been finally convicted of a felony, or if so convicted, has been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities. A person who has been convicted of a felony will need to include with the application proof that the person has been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities. The application form must include a statement informing candidates of the requirement to submit this information. Further, the official application form will need to include a statement informing candidates that knowingly providing false information on their application related to their final felony conviction status is a Class B misdemeanor. (Secs. 141.031, 141.039).

NOTE - School Districts: In addition to the general felony rule at Election Code Sec. 141.001 (finally convicted), a candidate for school board must not have been convicted (finally convicted or otherwise) of specific crimes under the Education Code in time to serve. ([Sec. 11.066](#), Education Code).

Monday, February 23, 2026 (68th day before election day)

Recommended date to conduct ballot position drawing. (Sec. 52.094). You should also certify today to the county election officer the offices, propositions (in all necessary languages), and candidates' names (including the order) as they are to appear on the ballot, **if you are contracting** to have the county conduct your election or if you are conducting a joint election with the county. See [entry](#) for Thursday, February 19, 2026 regarding ballot drawing.

NOTE - After the ballot drawing has occurred, the Elections Division recommends that you proof and test your ballot programming as soon as possible and **prior to the deadline to mail a ballot** if the political subdivision will be using automatic tabulating equipment to count the mail ballots or if your mail ballots are printed from the same database used to program your precinct scanners and/or DREs (See [Note 14](#).) **The Elections Division also recommends that you provide candidates with copies of ballot proofs so that candidates may verify the correctness of their names, positions sought, and order of names on the ballot.**

March

Monday, March 2, 2026 (Texas Independence Day)

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 (60th day before election day, extended from 62nd and 61st days, Sunday, March 1, 2026 and Monday, March 2, 2026, Sec. 1.006)

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: 5:00 PM – Last day to file an [application for a place on the ballot in a special election](#) to fill a vacancy, if the special election is ordered on or before the 70th day before election day, Saturday, February 21, 2026. (Secs. 1.006, 201.054(a)(1)). (For more details about Section 201.054 and the two possible special election deadlines, see [entry](#) for Saturday, February 21, 2026).

NOTE - The authority conducting the ballot position drawing shall provide notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to candidates by this date if the drawing is to be conducted on Monday, February 23, as recommended. (Sec. 52.094(d)). If a candidate in a special election files on this date, they should be given a copy of the notice of ballot drawing at the time they file.

The authority conducting the drawing shall provide notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to each candidate. The authority may provide written notice at the time the candidate files an application with the appropriate authority.

If notice was not provided at the time the candidate filed an application, the notice may be provided by:

1. written notice that is mailed to the address stated on the candidate's application not later than the fourth day before the date of the drawing; or
2. telephone, if a telephone number is provided on the candidate's application or
3. by e-mail, if an e-mail address was provided on the candidate's application. (Sec. 52.094).

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: 5:00 PM – Deadline for write-in candidates to file [Declarations of Write-In Candidacy \(PDF\)](#) for officers for city, school district, library district, junior college district, hospital district, and common school districts in a special election to fill a vacancy if the special election is ordered on or before the 70th day before election day, Saturday, February 21, 2026. (Sec. 201.054(a)(1), 201.054(g)).

NOTE - A declaration of write-in candidacy for a special election must be filed not later than the regular filing deadline to apply for a place on the ballot. The deadline to file an application for a place on the ballot in a special election to fill a vacancy, if the special election is ordered on or before the 70th day before election day, Saturday, February 21, 2026, is Tuesday, March 3, 2026. (This deadline is extended from the 62nd and 61st days, Sunday, March 1, 2026 and Monday, March 2, 2026, under Sec. 1.006).

NOTE - When reviewing candidate applications, please make sure that the candidate has used the most current version of the form.

NOTE - School Districts: In addition to the general felony rule at Election Code Sec. 141.001 (finally convicted), a candidate for school board must not have been convicted (finally convicted or otherwise) of specific crimes under the Education Code in time to serve. ([Sec. 11.066](#), Education Code).

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: Last day for the governing body of a political subdivision to deliver notice of the election to the county clerk/elections administrator and voter registrar of each county in which the political subdivision is wholly or partly located. (Sec. 4.008).

NOTE FOR COUNTIES - Section 4.003 requires that counties post on the county website the notice and list of polling locations of any political subdivision that delivers their notice to the county under Section 4.008. This is regardless of whether the county is contracting with the entity. See [Note 9](#) for more information on the requirements related to the Notice of Election.

NOTE - Section 4.004 requires the notice of election to include the Internet website of the authority conducting the election.

NOTE - Section 83.010 requires an election order and the election notice to state the early voting clerk's official mailing address or street address at which the clerk may receive delivery by common or contract carrier, if different, phone number, e-mail address, and the Internet website, if the early voting clerk has an Internet website. (Sec. 83.010).

Recommended date for county clerk/county elections administrator to deliver an initial list of voters who have submitted annual applications for ballot by mail under Section 86.0015 and scans or photocopies of those applications to the early voting clerk of any political subdivision located within the county that is holding an election on May 2, 2026. The list should only include voters that reside in the political subdivision holding the election. The list should only be created and sent to those political subdivisions that have provided notice of the election to the county clerk/elections administrator. See also, the note below and the [entry](#) at Monday, April 20, 2026, for more information about delivery of a final list of voters. See [entry](#) at Thursday, April 23, 2026 for more information on the delivery of copies/images of the applications.

NOTE: Section 86.0015 requires the county clerk/elections administrator to provide a list of voters that have submitted an annual application for ballot by mail to all political subdivisions in their county holding an election. The law only applies to elections for which the county clerk/elections administrator is not the early voting clerk via a contract for election services or joint election agreement. The Election Division *strongly recommends* that the county and political subdivisions **discuss the frequency and method for which these lists should be transmitted** to ensure that ballots are sent out in a timely manner. Finally, the county clerk/elections administrator **must deliver either photocopies or scanned images of the applications (under Section 87.126) to the early voting clerk** of the political subdivision before the ballots by mail are delivered to the early voting ballot board for qualifying and counting under Section 87.041.

Thursday, March 5, 2026 (58th day before election day, 20th day after February 13, 2026)

Last day to notify election judges of their appointment if they were appointed, as recommended, by Friday, February 13, 2026. (Sec. 32.009(b)). Presiding judges and their alternates must be [notified \(PDF\)](#) of their appointment in writing, not later than the 20th day after the date the appointment is made. If the appointment is for a single election, the notice may be combined with the [Writ of Election \(PDF\)](#), which is required to be delivered to each presiding judge not later than the 15th day before the election, Friday, April 17, 2026. (Secs. 4.007, 32.009(e)). If the notices are combined, both must be delivered by the date required by the earlier notice.

Friday, March 6, 2026 (57th day before election day)

Political Subdivisions: 5:00 PM – Last day for a candidate to file [Certificate of Withdrawal \(PDF\)](#) in a special election, in which the filing deadline is the 62nd day before election day. **If a candidate withdraws or is declared ineligible by this date, his or her name is omitted from the ballot.** (Secs. 145.092(b), (e) and 145.094(a)(3)).

For special circumstances regarding withdrawal of a candidate before ballots are prepared, please contact the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State.

City Offices with Four-Year Terms: 5:00 PM – Extended filing deadline in cities with four-year terms of office, when no candidate files for a particular office by the regular filing deadline of Friday, February 13, 2026. (Sec. 143.008). (See [entry](#) for Friday, February 13, 2026).

Sunday, March 8, 2026 (Daylight Saving Time)

Friday, March 13, 2026 (50th day before election day)

Deadline to challenge the filing of an application for a place on the ballot as to form, content, and procedure. (Sec. 141.034)

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025, R.S.) - Last day to post notice for public L&A test and tabulation testing. The tests must be conducted on the 48th day before election day, which is Sunday, March 15, 2026. Notice of the public tests must be posted on the entity's website at least 48 hours before the test begins. (Secs. 127.093, 127.096, 129.001, 129.022, 129.023). See Note 14 above.

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025, R.S.) - Entities are no longer required to publish notice of the L&A and tabulation tests in newspapers. Notice must be posted on the entity's website.

Friday, March 13, 2026 - Thursday, June 11, 2026 (50th day before election day – 40th day after election day)

Mandatory Office Hours: Each county clerk, city secretary, or secretary of a governing body (or the person performing duties of a secretary) must keep the office open for election duties for at least 3 hours each day, during regular office hours, on regular business days. (Sec. 31.122).

NOTE – NEW LAW: HB 640 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, amended Section 31.122 to require counties, cities, or other political subdivisions to keep their election offices open for election duties on regular business days when the county, city, or political subdivision is regularly open for business. A "regular business day" means a day on which the political subdivision's main business office is regularly open for business. (Sec. 31.122(b)).

NOTE: Counties: This office hour rule applies to special elections ordered by the county.

NOTE: Special Elections: In the case of a special election, the office hour rule is triggered starting the third day after the special election is ordered. (Sec. 31.122).

NOTE: If a school district's **spring break** falls during the mandatory office hour period under Section 31.122 of the Election Code, a school district is not required to have someone present for three hours during the days the school district's main business office is not regularly open for business. However, we strongly recommend posting notice with contact information for open records requests. You should also have one of your elections personnel check at least once a day in the event a voter sent an ABBM to the school district address, fax, or e-mail.

NOTE: Section 31.096 of the Code addresses nontransferable functions under an election services contract. **Specifically, an election services contract may not change the political subdivision's requirement to maintain office hours under Section 31.122.** See [Note 20](#).

Sunday, March 15, 2026 (48th day before election day)

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025, R.S.) clarifies the requirements for the Public L&A test and tabulation testing by requiring them to be conducted at the same time and by distinguishing the testing procedures for precinct scanners from the testing procedures for central accumulators. The bill also harmonizes the notice requirements for both tests and requires the testing to be performed by the 48th day before election day.

The initial public testing of your electronic voting equipment must be completed no later than the 48th day before election day. However, if the test cannot be conducted by the 48th day deadline, then the general custodian shall conduct the test as soon as practicable after that date and must notify the Secretary of State's Office within 24 hours of the determination that the deadline cannot be met. See [Note 14](#).

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 (46th day before election day)

Political Subdivisions: Last day to order a special election to fill a vacancy (if authorized to fill vacancies by special election). If the election was ordered after the 70th day before election day, the filing deadline will be the 40th day before election day. (Secs. 201.052, 201.054(a)(2)). The Election Code requires the election to be ordered as soon as practicable after the vacancy occurs. (Sec. 201.051). The following forms may be used:

- [Order of Special Election for Municipalities \(PDF\)](#)
- [Order of Special Election for Other Political Subdivisions \(PDF\)](#)

NOTE - Section 201.054 provides that if the special election to fill a vacancy is ordered (1) on or before the 70th day before election day, the candidate application must be filed by 5:00 PM on the 62nd day before election day, OR (2) after the 70th day but on or before the 46th day before election day, the candidate application must be filed by 5:00 PM on the 40th day before election day. This is the second of the two possible ordering times. If a candidate in a special election files on this date, they should be given a copy of the notice of ballot drawing at the time they file.

For more information about the write-in declaration deadline, see Monday, March 23, 2026 [note entry](#). For more details about Section 201.054 and the two possible special election deadlines, see Saturday, February 21, 2026 [note entry](#).

NOTE - When reviewing candidate applications, please make sure that the candidate has used the most current version of the form.

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 (45th day before election day)

Deadline to mail ballots to military or overseas voters who already submitted their ballot requests via a federal postcard application (FPCA) or via a standard application for ballot by mail (ABBM) and indicated that they are outside the United States. Ballots must be mailed by this date or the seventh day after the clerk receives the application. If the early voting clerk cannot meet this 45th-day deadline, the clerk must notify the Secretary of State within 24 hours. (Sec. 86.004(b)).

NOTE - An FPCA may be submitted by in-person delivery by the voter in accordance with Section 84.008 of the Code or by common or contract carrier. Further, an application is considered submitted in the following calendar year if: 1) the applicant is eligible to vote in an election occurring in January or February of the next calendar year; and 2) the application is submitted in the last 60 days of a calendar year but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election. (Sec. 101.052).

NOTE - A member of the Texas National Guard or the National Guard of another state or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty under an order of the President of the United States or activated on state orders, or the spouse or dependent of a member, may submit an FPCA. (Sec. 101.001). For a full list of eligible FPCA voters, see [Note 16](#).

Reminder Regarding FPCAs and Overseas ABBMs: If the early voting clerk receives an FPCA (from a military or non-military voter) or an ABBM from an overseas voter after the 45th day deadline, then the ballot **must** be mailed (or emailed, if requested) within seven days after the early voting clerk **receives** the FPCA or ABBM. (Secs. 86.004(b), 101.104).

Reminder: In regards to mail ballots for other voters (not military voters using an FPCA or overseas voters using an FPCA or ABBM), the early voting clerk **must** mail a ballot not later than the 7th day after the later of: (1) the date the early voting clerk has accepted a voter's application for a ballot by mail or (2) the date the ballots become available for mailing. However, if the 7th day falls earlier than the 37th day before election day, the voter's mail ballot must be mailed no later than the 30th day before election day. (Sec. 86.004(a)). This means that for every

application that is accepted by the early voting clerk before the 37th day before election day, the balloting materials must be mailed by the 30th day before election day. Any application that comes in after the 37th day before election day will follow the 7-day timeline in Sec. 86.004.

NOTE - Information on the early voting roster for both early voting in person and early voting by mail must be made available for public inspection and on the county's website if the county clerk or elections administrator is serving as the early voting clerk. (Sec. 87.121). See [Note 21](#).

Monday, March 23, 2026 (40th day before election day)

Political Subdivisions: 5:00 PM – Last day to file for a place on the ballot in a special election to fill a vacancy, if the special election is ordered after the 70th day before election day, but on or before the 46th day before election day, Tuesday, March 17, 2026. (Sec. 201.054(a)(2)). (For more details about Section 201.054 and the two possible special election deadlines, see Saturday, February 21, 2026 and Tuesday, March 17, 2026 [note entries](#).)

Political Subdivisions: 5:00 PM – Deadline for write-in candidates to file [Declarations of Write-In Candidacy \(PDF\)](#) for officers for city, school district, library district, junior college district, hospital district, and common school districts in a special election to fill a vacancy if the special election is ordered after the 70th day before election day, but on or before the 46th day before election day, Tuesday, March 17, 2026. (Sec. 201.054(a)(1), 201.054(g)).

NOTE - Section 201.054(g) provides that a declaration of write-in candidacy for a special election must be filed not later than the filing deadline.

NOTE - When reviewing candidate applications, please make sure that the candidate has used the most current version of the form.

NOTE - Sections 141.031 and 141.039 of the Code provide the application requirements related to a candidate's final felony conviction status and what must be included on the candidate application form. Specifically, candidates will need to provide an indication on their candidate application that the candidate has either not been finally convicted of a felony, or, if so convicted, has been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities. A person who has been convicted of a felony will need to include with the application proof that the person has been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities. The application form must include a statement informing candidates of the requirement to submit this information. Further, the official application form will need to include a statement informing candidates that knowingly providing false information on their application related to their final felony conviction status is a Class B misdemeanor. (Secs. 141.031, 141.039). For more information, see [Candidate's Guide for Local Political Subdivisions](#).

NOTE - **School Districts:** In addition to the general felony rule at Election Code Sec. 141.001 (finally convicted), a candidate for school board trustee must not have been convicted (finally convicted or otherwise) of specific crimes under the Education Code in time to serve. (Sec. 11.066, Education Code).

NOTE – The authority conducting the drawing shall provide notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing to each candidate. The authority may provide written notice at the time the candidate files an application with the appropriate authority.

If notice was not provided at the time the candidate filed an application, the notice may be provided by:

1. written notice that is mailed to the address stated on the candidate's application not later than the fourth day before the date of the drawing; or
2. telephone, if a telephone number is provided on the candidate's application or
3. by e-mail, if an e-mail address was provided on the candidate's application. (Sec. 52.094). ([Notice of Drawing for Place on Ballot \(PDF\)](#)).

Saturday, March 28, 2026 (35th day before election day)

Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: 5:00 PM – Last day for a candidate to file a [Certificate of Withdrawal \(PDF\)](#) in a special election in which the filing deadline is the 40th day before election day. **If a candidate withdraws or is declared ineligible by this date, his or her name is omitted from the ballot.** This deadline does not extend to the next business day under Section 1.006. (Secs. 145.092(a), 145.094(a)(2)).

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 (Cesar Chavez Day)

April

Thursday, April 2, 2026 (30th day before election day)

Last day to register to vote or make a change of address effective for the May 2, 2026 election. (Secs. 13.143, 15.025).

NOTE - A voter who submits a change of address after this date may still be eligible to return to his or her previous precinct to vote under "fail-safe" voting, if he or she still resides in the **same** county and the same local political subdivision, if applicable, conducting the election. (Secs. 15.025, 63.0011). See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2025-16](#).

NOTE - A Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) also serves as an application for **permanent** registration under Texas law **unless the voter marked "my intent to return is uncertain" using the FPCA form (PDF)**. The early voting clerk should make a copy (for mailing ballots, keeping records, etc.), then should forward the original to the county voter registrar, as soon as practicable. (Sec. 101.055; 1 T.A.C. § 81.40(a), (c)(2)).

Deadline for early voting clerk to mail a ballot by mail to a voter if the voter's Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) was accepted by the early voting clerk on or before Thursday, March 26, 2026. (Sec. 86.004(a)).

NOTE: In regards to mail ballots for other voters (not military voters using an FPCA or overseas voters using an FPCA or ABBM), the early voting clerk **must** mail a ballot not later than the 7th day after the later of: (1) the date the early voting clerk has accepted a voter's application for a ballot by mail or (2) the date the ballots become available for mailing. However, if the 7th day falls earlier than the 37th day before election day, the voter's mail ballot must be mailed no later than the 30th day before election day. (Sec. 86.004(a)). This means that for every application that is accepted by the early voting clerk before the 37th day before election day, the balloting materials must be mailed by the 30th day before election day. Any application that comes in after the 37th day before election day will follow the 7-day timeline in Sec. 86.004.

First day of period during which notices of election must be published in a newspaper of general circulation **if method of giving notice is not specified by a law outside the Texas Election Code**, and this method of giving notice is selected. The notice for elections ordered by the governor, by a county authority, or by an authority of a city or school district must be given by publication in a newspaper in addition to any other method specified by a law outside the Election Code. (Sec. 4.003(a)(1), (c), (d)). This notice may be combined with the other notices you are required to publish. The election notice shall be posted on the political subdivision's website. See [Note on Notice of Elections](#).

NOTE - Section 4.004 requires the notice of election to include the Internet website of the authority conducting the election. (Sec. 4.004(a)).

NOTE - Section 83.010 of the Code requires an election order and the election notice to state the early voting clerk's official mailing address or street address at which the clerk may receive delivery by common or contract carrier, if different, phone number, e-mail address, and the Internet website, if the early voting clerk has an Internet website. (Sec. 83.010).

Recommended date for early voting clerk to issue order calling for appointment of signature verification committee if one has been appointed. (Sec. 87.027). This form may be used to issue order: [Order Calling for Signature Verification Committee \(PDF\)](#). If the signature verification committee will start meeting on Sunday, April 12, 2026, the early voting clerk must post a copy of the order calling for appointment of the signature verification committee on or before this date, in order to give notice of the meeting. The order must remain posted continuously for at least 10 days before the first day the committee meets. (Secs. 87.027, 1.006).

Cities, Schools, and Other Political Subdivisions: It is **strongly recommended** that the [Notice of Voting Order Priority \(PDF\)](#) for voters with mobility issues also be posted on the subdivision's website, if one is maintained by the political subdivision. (Secs. 63.0015, 85.007(d)). For more information on this requirement, see [Note 15](#).

Counties: The **recommended** time to include this notice on a county website is when the notice of election is also posted on the website. This notice is required to go on the county's website. (Secs. 63.0015, 85.007(d)).

NOTE - Notice of Previous Polling Place: If a different polling place is being used than at the previous election held by the same authority, [Notice of Change to Polling Place \(PDF\)](#) must be posted at the entrance of the previous polling place informing voters of the current polling place location, if possible. (Sec. 43.062).

Friday, April 3, 2026 (29th day before election day) (Good Friday)

Under Section 31.122(b), if your office is not regularly open for business on Good Friday, your office does not need to hold office hours on Good Friday. For more information on the office hour rule if your office is regularly open for business on Good Friday, see the [entry](#) for Friday, March 13, 2026 - Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Recommended last day for early voting clerk to coordinate with the voter registrar receipt of supplemental and registration correction lists, if applicable, or coordinate receipt of revised original list from the voter registrar for early voting by personal appearance. (Secs. 18.001, 18.002, 18.003, 18.004).

NOTE - Per Sections 18.002 and 18.003 of the Code, supplemental and corrected voter registration lists must be provided as needed to ensure all eligible voters appear on the official list of registered voters. (Secs. 18.002, 18.003).

Sunday, April 5, 2026 (Easter Day)

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 (25th day before election day)

Recommended last date for the governing body of political subdivision, as appropriate to appoint a signature verification committee (if one was ordered by the early voting clerk on Thursday, April 2, 2026). See [entry](#) under Thursday, April 2, 2026. (Secs. 51.002, 87.027). The members must be appointed not later than the fifth day after the order was issued by the early voting clerk. The appointing authority must post a notice of the appointment of committee members continuously until the last day the signature verification committee meets. This form may be used for the notice: [Notice of Appointment of Signature Verification Committee \(PDF\)](#). See also [Handbook for Signature Verification Committee](#).

Counties: For timeframes for appointment of various election workers for counties, see [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2025-05](#).

Saturday, April 11, 2026 (21st day before election day)

Last day to post notice of election on bulletin board used for posting notices of meetings of governing body. (Sec. 4.003(b)). A [Record of Posting Notice of Election \(PDF\)](#) should be completed at the time of posting. (Secs. 1.006, 4.005). See [Note on Notice of Elections](#).

Last day to post notice of election in each election precinct, if the method of giving notice is **not** specified by a law outside the Election Code and notice is given by this method in lieu of publication. (Secs. 1.006, 4.003(a)(2)). Cities and school districts **must** publish their notice in the newspaper. A [Record of Posting Notice of Election \(PDF\)](#) should be completed at the time of posting. (Secs. 1.006, 4.005).

All Political Subdivisions: The election notice shall be posted on the political subdivision's website, if the political subdivision maintains a website. The order and notice should include all days and hours for early voting by personal appearance including voting on **ANY** Saturday or Sunday. (Secs. 85.006, 85.007).

Note for Counties - Section 4.003 requires that counties post on the county website the notice and list of polling locations of any political subdivision that delivers their notice to the county under Section 4.008. This is regardless of whether the county is contracting with the entity and regardless of whether the entity is conducting their own election or contracting with the county.

For Bond Elections: First day a political subdivision must post on their Internet website prominently and together with the notice of the election, a copy of the sample ballot, and the contents of the proposition, if the political subdivision maintains an Internet website. (Sec. 4.003(f)).

The **recommended** time to include the notice of accepting voters with certain disabilities on a county website is when the notice of election is also posted on the website. (Secs. 63.0015, 85.007(d)). See [Note 15](#) regarding notice on accepting voters with certain disabilities.

Counties, Cities, and School Districts: Last day for a county that holds an election or provides election services for an election to post certain information regarding the upcoming election(s) on the county's website per Section 4.009. A city or independent school district that holds an election and maintains an Internet website must also post this same election information on their website even if the county is also posting this data. See [Note 3](#) for more information.

Sunday, April 12, 2026 (20th day before election day)

First day that the signature verification committee may begin operating, if one is created. (Sec. 87.027). For more information on corrective action, see [Note 17](#) and [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2023-13](#).

NOTE - Section 127.1232 provides that in counties with a population of 100,000 or more, the general custodian of election records shall implement a video surveillance system that retains a record of all areas containing voted ballots: (1) from the time the voted ballots are delivered to the central counting station until the canvass of the precinct election returns; and (2) from the time the voted ballots are delivered to the signature verification committee or early voting ballot board until the canvass of precinct election returns. Video from the surveillance system shall be made available to the public by live stream. The recorded video is considered an election record and shall be retained by the general custodian until the end of the calendar year in which an election is held or until an election contest filed in the county has been resolved, whichever is later. (Sec. 127.1232). See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2022-10](#).

Signature Verification Committee (if appointed) Actions for a Defective Carrier Envelope: Section 87.0271 of the Code provides that not later than the second day after the signature verification committee discovers a defect(s) in a carrier envelope as described by Section 87.0271(a) of the Code and before the committee decides whether to accept or reject a timely delivered ballot under Section 87.027, the committee must send the voter a notice of the defect and a corrective action form developed under Section 87.0271(c-1) by mail or by common or contract carrier.

The signature verification committee must include with the notice delivered to the voter: (1) a brief explanation of each defect in the noncomplying ballot; and (2) notice that the voter may either cancel the voter's application to vote by mail in the manner described by Section 84.032, correct the defect in the voter's ballot by submitting a corrective action form by mail or by common or contract carrier, make the correction using the Secretary of State's online Ballot by Mail Tracker, if possible, or come to the early voting clerk's office in person not later than the sixth day after election day to correct the defect(s). See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2023-13](#).

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025, R.S.) - Last day to post notice of L&A test for electronic pollbooks if test will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Notice of the L&A Test must be posted on the entity's website at least 48 hours before the test begins. (Sec. 129.0231). See [Note 14](#) above.

NOTE - NEW LAW: HB 3526 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, creates new reporting requirements for local entities that order an election to authorize a local government to issue bonds. These reports must be sent to the [Texas Bond Review Board](#). Not later than the 20th day before election day for an election to authorize a local government to issue bonds, the local government shall send the Bond Review Board a report that includes:

1. the date of the election;
2. the proposition number for each bond proposition;
3. the total estimated cost of the issuance of each proposed bond;
4. the estimated minimum dollar amount required to be annually expended for debt service;
5. a description of the purpose of each bond proposition; and
6. any other information the board determines necessary.

For more information on this requirement, please contact the [Texas Bond Review Board](#).

Monday, April 13, 2026 (19th day before election day, extended from 20th day, Sunday, April 12, 2026, Sec. 101.052(i)(2))

Deadline for a person who is not permanently registered to vote to submit a postmarked FPCA, in order to receive a ballot for any non-federal election held on May 2, 2026. A person who is **not** permanently registered to vote and submits a postmarked FPCA after this date (20th day) and before the deadline to submit an application for ballot by mail is not entitled to receive a ballot for any non-federal election. See Friday, April 17, 2026 [entry](#) for timeliness of an FPCA received without a postmark. (Secs. 101.052(e), 101.052(i)(2)).

NOTE - An FPCA may be submitted by in-person delivery by the voter in accordance with Section 84.008 of the Code or by common or contract carrier. Further, an application is considered submitted in the following calendar year if: 1) the applicant is eligible to vote in an election occurring in January or February of the next calendar year; and 2) the application is submitted in the last 60 days of a calendar year but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election. (Sec. 101.052). For a full list of eligible FPCA voters, see [Note 16](#).

Monday, April 13, 2026 – Tuesday, April 21, 2026 (19th day before election day – 11th day before election day)

A person submitting an [FPCA \(PDF\)](#) during this period who is **not** registered to vote is not entitled to receive a ballot for any non-federal election held on Saturday, May 2, 2026. This means that a person submitting an FPCA during this period is entitled to receive a federal ballot only, if not already a permanent registered voter. (Secs. 101.052(f), 114.002, 114.004). In a local election (where there is no federal office on the ballot), this means there is **no ballot to send the voter**.

The early voting clerk is required to maintain a copy of this application since it may be used for other elections and forward the original to the voter registrar. Also see [entry](#) below under Friday, April 17, 2026 (FPCA without a postmark). (Secs. 84.007, 101.052(e), (f)).

NOTE - Be sure to check the list of registered voters for permanent registration status. Also, state law authorizes an FPCA to also serve as an application for **permanent registration**; therefore, the person might be permanently registered based on a prior FPCA. Even if the FPCA arrives too late for a particular election, the early voting clerk will still need to forward the original FPCA to the county voter registrar, after making a copy for your early voting clerk's use (mailing ballots, etc.) and records unless the voter marked "my intent to return is uncertain" using the [FPCA form](#), in which case it will not serve as a permanent registration. (Sec. 101.055; 1 T.A.C. § 81.40).

NOTE - Overseas (non-military) voters marking the FPCA "**my intent to return is uncertain**" ([current form \(PDF\)](#)) receive a federal ballot **only** regardless of the date filed. (Chapter 114). In a local (non-federal) election, this means there is **no ballot to send the voter**.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 (18th day before election day)

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, requires the general custodian of election records to perform logic and accuracy testing for electronic pollbook systems for each election. The test must be conducted at least 48 hours before voting begins in an election. (Sec. 129.0231). (See Note 14 above). See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2019-23](#). For more information on hash validation procedures, see [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2022-30](#).

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 (17th day before election day)

Last day to publish notice of L&A test for voting systems or precinct scanners if test will be held on Friday, April 17, 2026, and testing was not already completed by March 17, 2026. Notice of the public L&A Test must be published at least 48 hours before the test begins. (Secs. 129.001, 129.023). See [Note 14](#) above.

NOTE - If logic and accuracy testing is being conducted for an election in which a county election board has been established under Section 51.002 of the Texas Election Code, the general custodian of election records shall notify each member of the board of the test at least 48 hours before the date of the test. If the county election board chooses to witness the test, each member shall sign the statement required for logic and accuracy testing. (Sec. 129.023(b-2)).

Last day to post [notice \(PDF\)](#) of places, days, and hours for voting at branch early voting polling place if voting is to begin at that location on the first day of early voting in person. The schedule may be amended after the beginning of early voting by personal appearance to include notice of additional branch locations, but any amendment must be made and posted not later than the fifth day before voting begins at the additional temporary branch. (Secs. 85.062, 85.067(c), (d)).

NOTE: Section 85.062 provides that the location of temporary branch polling places in an election in which countywide polling places are used must be determined with the same methodology that is used for the location of countywide polling places.

Friday, April 17, 2026 (15th day before election day)

Deadline to receive an FPCA **without** a postmark. If an FPCA is received by this date **without** a postmark to prove mailing date, the early voting clerk will accept the FPCA and mail the applicant a full ballot even if the applicant is **not** a permanently registered voter but meets the requirements under Title 2 of the Election Code (unless the voter marks the [FPCA form \(PDF\)](#) "my intent to return is uncertain," in which case the voter receives a federal-only ballot). (Sec. 101.052(i)(1)). See Note under [entry](#) for Monday, April 13, 2026.

Last day to conduct public L&A test of a voting system or precinct scanner. We highly **recommend** that this test is done on an earlier date to allow time for corrections to programming, if necessary. (See [Note 14](#) above). Per Section 129.023, the L&A test shall be conducted not later than 48 hours before voting begins on such voting systems, assuming that the voting system will first be used for early voting in person.

NOTE - The general custodian of election records is required to demonstrate, using a representative sample of voting system equipment, that the source code of the equipment has not been altered. (Sec. 129.023(c-1)). See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2019-23](#) and [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2022-30](#) for more information on hash validation and voting system procedures.

Last day to notify election judges of duty to hold election ([Writ of Election \(PDF\)](#)). Notice must be given by the 15th day before the election or the 7th day after the day the election is ordered, whichever is later. The Writ of Election must be given to each presiding judge and include:

1. The judge's duty to hold the election;
2. The type and date of election;
3. The polling place location at which the judge will serve;
4. The polling place hours; and
5. The maximum number of clerks the judge may appoint. (Sec. 4.007).

Monday, April 20, 2026 (12th day before election day)

First day to vote early in person. (Sec. 85.001(e)).

NOTE - Voting by limited ballot must be done during the early voting period at the main early voting polling place (or by mail). (Sec. 112.002(a)).

NOTE - Political Subdivisions: Early voting in person must be conducted at least nine (9) hours each weekday that is not a legal state holiday unless the political subdivision has fewer than 1,000 registered voters, in which case early voting in person must be conducted at least four (4) hours per day. (Sec. 85.005(b)). This rule only applies to the main early voting location.

NOTE - Cities are **not** required to choose two weekdays for the main early voting polling place location to be open for at least 12 hours during the regular early voting period. (Sec. 85.005).

NOTE – All Political Subdivisions: Despite the change in state law that allows an entity to be closed on non-business days during the mandatory office hours period, you are **required to be open** during the entire early voting period, except on legal state and national holidays.

NOTE - Joint Elections: If entities are conducting early voting by personal appearance jointly, we *recommend* a unified schedule covering all requirements; i.e., no entity's requirements should be neglected or subtracted as a result of a joint agreement. *See Note 7* regarding joint elections generally.

NOTE - Section 61.002 provides that immediately before the opening of the polls during early voting, the presiding judge or alternate judge shall confirm that the public counters on each voting machine are set to zero and shall print the tape that shows that there are zero votes for each candidate or measure on the ballot.

NOTE - A voter who becomes sick or disabled on or after Monday, April 20, 2026 may submit an application for a late ballot if the sickness or physical condition prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place without the likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring his or her health. (Sec. 102.001). *See Application for Emergency Early Voting Ballot Due to Sickness or Physical Disability (PDF)*. An application may be submitted after the last day of the period for early voting by personal appearance and before 5:00 PM on election day. (Sec. 102.003).

Last day to receive an *FPCA(PDF)* from a registered voter. If the voter is **not** registered in the county (and/or marked intent to return "not certain"), **the voter is still eligible for a ballot containing federal offices only**. In a local (non-federal) election, this means there is **no ballot** to send the voter. (Secs. 101.052(b), (f), 114.004(c)).

Last day for early voting clerk to receive applications for a ballot to be voted by mail. (Sec. 84.007(c)). All applications to vote by mail must be received by the early voting clerk before the close of regular business or 12 noon, **whichever is later**. Applications to vote by mail must be submitted by mail, common or contract carrier, fax (if a fax machine is available in the office of the early voting clerk), or by electronic submission of a scanned application with an original signature. The early voting clerk's designated email address must be posted on the Secretary of State's website.

If an ABBM is faxed or emailed or if an FPCA is faxed, then the applicant must submit the ORIGINAL application BY MAIL to the early voting clerk so that the early voting clerk **receives the original no later than the 4th business day after receiving the emailed or faxed ABBM or faxed FPCA**. If the early voting clerk does not receive the original ABBM or FPCA by that deadline, then the emailed or faxed ABBM or faxed FPCA will be considered incomplete, and the early voting clerk may NOT send the applicant a ballot.

The requirement to mail the original application does not apply to an **emailed FPCA**. For additional information on this law, please see *Note 16* above.

An applicant for a ballot to be voted by mail (ABBM or FPCA) may submit their application by delivering it in person to the early voting clerk if the application is submitted not later than the close of regular business in the clerk's office on Monday, April 20, 2026. (Sec. 84.008).

NOTE - An FPCA may be submitted by in-person delivery by the voter in accordance with Section 84.008 of the Code or by common or contract carrier. Further, an application is considered submitted in the following calendar year if: 1) the applicant is eligible to vote in an election occurring in January or February of the next calendar year; and 2) the application is submitted in the last 60 days of a calendar year but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election. (Sec. 101.052). For a full list of eligible FPCA voters, *see Note 16*.

NOTE - Section 84.008 of the Code provides that an applicant for a ballot to be voted by mail may submit the application by delivering it in person to the early voting clerk if the application is submitted not later than the deadline provided by Section 84.007(c) of the Code. This means that voters may personally deliver their ABBM or FPCA to the early voting clerk not later than the close of regular business in the early voting clerk's office or 12 noon, whichever is later, on the 11th day before election day (unless that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal state or national holiday, in which case the last day is the first preceding regular business day).

NOTE - Section 86.008 of the Code requires that if the early voting clerk determines that it would not be possible for the applicant to correct certain defects in a mail ballot application and return an application form by mail before the deadline, the clerk may notify the applicant by telephone or e-mail of the defect, and inform the applicant that the applicant may come to the early voting clerk's office before the deadline and correct the defect in person. The clerk shall notify the applicant of a defect discovered and provide the information required to permit the applicant to correct the defect using the Secretary of State's online Ballot by Mail Tracker, if possible. *See Note 17*.

Note for Counties: Last day for county clerk/elections administrator to deliver final list of voters that have submitted an annual application for ballot by mail to political subdivisions located within the county holding an election on May 2, 2026, for which the county clerk/elections administrator is not the early voting clerk via a joint election agreement or contract for election services. (Sec. 86.0015(c)).

Notice of weekend voting (PDF) must be posted beginning no later than Wednesday, April 22, 2026, and continuing through Friday, April 24, 2026. (Secs. 85.006(d), 85.007(c)).

NOTE - All Political Subdivisions, Except Counties: Voting on any Saturday or Sunday must be included in the order and notice of election. City secretaries no longer have the authority to order Saturday or Sunday early voting three business days before the day that voting will be conducted. Local political subdivisions must have early voting on Saturday or Sunday, if a written request (PDF) is received from at least 15 registered voters of the political subdivision prior to the election being ordered. (Secs. 85.006, 85.007).

NEW LAW NOTE: HB 1522 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, modifies notice requirements for meetings conducted under the open-meetings law by changing the notice posting requirement from a minimum of 72 hours to at least three business days before the date of the scheduled meeting. This includes ordering or cancelling elections as well as canvassing returns. (Sec. 551.043, Government Code).

Note for Counties: Last day for county clerk/elections administrator to deliver final list of voters that have submitted an annual application for ballot by mail to political subdivisions located within the county holding an election on May 2, 2026, for which the county clerk/elections administrator is not the early voting clerk via a joint election agreement or contract for election services. (Sec. 86.0015(c)).

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 (11th day before election day) (San Jacinto Day)

EARLY VOTING NOTE: Because Tuesday, April 21, 2026 is San Jacinto Day, which is a legal holiday, early voting **will not** be conducted on this date. (Secs. 1.006, 85.005).

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 (10th day before election day)

Last day of period during which notice of election must be published if method of giving notice is **not** specified by a law outside the Election Code and **publication** is the selected method of giving notice. (Sec. 4.003(a)(1)). The notice of election ordered by a county authority or by an authority of a city or school district must be given by publication in a newspaper, in addition to any other method specified. (Sec. 4.003(c), (d)).

NOTE - The election notice shall be posted on the political subdivision's website, if the political subdivision maintains a website. (Secs. 4.003, 4.008, 85.007).

Last day to mail a copy of the notice of election to each registered voter of the territory that is covered by the election and is in the jurisdiction of the authority responsible for giving notice **if method of giving notice is not specified by a law outside the Election Code** and this method of giving notice is selected. (Sec. 4.003(a)(3)).

All Political Subdivisions Other Than Counties: Voting on **ANY** Saturday or Sunday must be included in the order and notice of election. The order and notice must include the dates and hours of Saturday or Sunday voting. (Secs. 85.006, 85.007). City secretaries no longer have the authority to order Saturday or Sunday early voting three business days before the day that voting will be conducted. The political subdivision must have early voting on Saturday or Sunday, *if a written request is received from at least 15 registered voters of the political subdivision prior to the election being ordered.* (Sec. 85.006(d)). [Request for Additional Early Voting on Saturday or Sunday for County or City Elections \(PDF\)](#), [Request for Additional Early Voting on Saturday or Sunday for Other Political Subdivision Elections \(PDF\)](#). The election notice must be posted on the political subdivision's website, if the political subdivision maintains a website. (Sec. 85.007).

[Notice of weekend voting \(PDF\)](#) must be posted beginning no later than Thursday, April 23, 2026, and continuing through Saturday, April 25, 2026. (Secs. 85.006(d), 85.007(c)).

Thursday, April 23, 2026 (9th day before election day)

NOTE - Section 87.0222 of the Code provides that not later than the ninth day before election day, the jacket envelopes containing early voting ballots voted by mail **MUST** be delivered to the early voting ballot board. **This requirement applies regardless of the county's population size.**

Any jacket envelopes of early voting ballots voted by mail returned after delivery of the ballots to the early voting ballot board may be delivered to the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board between the end of the ninth day before election day and the closing of the polls on election day, or as soon after closing as practicable, at the time or times specified by the presiding judge.

The early voting clerk shall post notice of each delivery of balloting materials that is to be made before the time for opening the polls on election day. The notice must be posted at the main early voting polling place continuously for at least 24 hours immediately preceding the delivery.

NOTE - The early voting ballot board has to meet by this deadline, regardless of whether carrier envelopes have been received by this date.

NOTE - The EVBB can meet as soon as the county has received voted ballots by mail from voters and those materials are delivered to the ballot board. The ballot board does not have to wait until this ninth-day deadline to meet.

Please note that the mail ballots may not be counted until (i) the polls open on election day, or (ii) in an election conducted by an authority of a county with a population of 100,000 or more or entities that are having joint elections with such a county or who are conducting their election with such a county through a contract for election services, the end of the period for early voting in person. (Secs. 87.0222, 87.0241).

NOTE - Results may not be released until the polls close on election day.

Early Voting Ballot Board Actions for a Defective Carrier Envelope: Section 87.0411 of the Code provides that not later than the second day after the early voting ballot board discovers a defect(s) in a carrier envelope as described by Section 87.0411(a) of the Code and before the board decides whether to accept or reject a timely delivered ballot under Section 87.041, the board must send the voter a notice of the defect and a corrective action form developed under Section 87.0411(c-1) by mail or by common or contract carrier.

The early voting ballot board must include with the notice delivered to the voter: (1) a brief explanation of each defect on the noncomplying carrier; and (2) notice that the voter may either cancel the voter's application to vote by mail in the manner described by Section 84.032, correct the defect on the voter's carrier by submitting a corrective action form by mail or by common or contract carrier, make the correction using the Secretary of State's online Ballot by Mail Tracker, if possible, or come to the early voting clerk's office in person not later than the sixth day after election day to correct the defect(s).

NOTE - For more information on corrective action, see [Note 17](#) and [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2023-13](#).

NOTE - If a county with a population of 100,000 or more is conducting an election through a contract for election services for a political subdivision in May, the county's ballot board timeframes apply to the election. (Secs. 87.0222, 87.0241).

NOTE - The county clerk/elections administrator must ensure that photocopies or scanned images of annual applications for ballot by mail have been delivered to the early voting clerk of every political subdivision holding an election before the ballots by mail are delivered to the early voting ballot board.

Monday, April 27, 2026 (5th day before election day, day before last day of early voting, 4th business day after the deadline to apply for a ballot by mail)

A voter is eligible to vote a late ballot if they will be out of the county of residence on election day due to a death in the immediate family (related within 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity) that occurs on or after this day. The voter may submit the [Application for Emergency Early Ballot Due to Death in Family \(PDF\)](#) starting Wednesday, April 29, 2026 (the day after early voting in person ends). (Secs. 103.001, 103.003(b)). An application may be submitted after the last day of the period for early voting by personal appearance and before the close of business on the day before election day. (Sec. 103.003).

Deadline for the early voting clerk to receive, by mail, the original of an ABBM that was faxed or emailed or an FPCA that was faxed on the deadline to apply for a ballot by mail, Monday, April 20, 2026.

A voter who faxed or emailed their ABBM or faxed their FPCA must mail the original to the early voting clerk so that the early voting clerk **receives the original no later than the 4th business day after receiving the emailed or faxed ABBM or faxed FPCA**. For more information, see the [entry](#) under Monday, April 20, 2026 and [Note 16](#).

Last day to publish notice of public test of automatic tabulating equipment, if test will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, and testing was not already completed. The public notice of the test of automatic tabulating equipment must be published at least 48 hours before the test begins. (Sec. 127.096). See [Note 14](#).

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 (4th day before election day)

Last day to vote early by personal appearance. (Sec. 85.001(e)).

Deadline to submit a [Request for Election Inspectors \(PDF\)](#) for election day, Saturday, May 2, 2026 to the Secretary of State. (Sec. 34.001).

Early voting clerk must post [Notice of Delivery of Early Voting Balloting Materials \(PDF\)](#) to the early voting ballot board if materials are to be delivered to the board on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Notice must be posted continuously for 24 hours preceding each delivery to the board. (Secs. 87.0221, 87.0222, 87.023, 87.024, 87.0241).

The Notice of Delivery of Early Voting Balloting Materials serves as notice of the convening of the early voting ballot board. Your entity should also post notice every time the early voting ballot board reconvenes.

Counties that have a Population of 100,000 or More or Local Political Subdivisions Conducting a Joint Election or Contracting with Such a County:

After the polls close at the end of early voting by personal appearance, counties with a population of 100,000 or more (or local subdivisions conducting a joint election with such a county or conducting an election through a contract for election services with such a county) may convene their early voting ballot board and begin **counting ballots; however, the results**

may not be announced until after the polls close. (Secs. 87.0222, 87.0241).

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2217 (2025, R.S.) - In an election using centrally counted optical scan ballots, the presiding judge of the central counting station shall prepare a report regarding the total number of ballots scanned by each optical scanner from each data storage device. The presiding judge of the central counting station shall prepare one report for the total number of ballots from each specific data-storage device. The presiding judge of the central counting station must prepare the report for the data-storage device before the information from the storage device is read into a central accumulator. The report prepared before the opening of polling locations on election day may not contain information on the number of votes cast for any candidate or for or against any proposition. (Sec. 127.1302).

NOTE - If a county with a population of 100,000 or more (or a local subdivision conducting a joint election with such a county or conducting an election through a contract for election services with such a county) is convening their early voting ballot board early to begin **counting** ballots, the test of the tabulation equipment will need to be completed at least 48 hours before the equipment is used to count ballots. (Secs. 87.0222, 87.0241, 127.096).

Counties that have a Population of Less than 100,000 or Local Political Subdivisions Conducting a Joint Election or Contracting with Such a County:

Counties may begin convening their early voting ballot board as the county has received voted ballots by mail from voters and those materials are delivered to the ballot board, **but cannot begin counting the ballots until the polls open on election day**. The early voting clerk shall continuously post notice for 24 hours preceding each delivery of voting materials that is to be made before the time for opening the polls on election day. (Secs. 87.0221, 87.023, 87.024, 87.0241). See [Notice of Delivery of Early Voting Balloting Materials](#).

NOTE - The county elections officer must ensure that photocopies or electronic recordings of annual applications for ballot by mail have been delivered to the early voting clerk of every political subdivision holding an election before the ballots by mail are delivered to the early voting ballot board.

NOTE - Early Voting Ballot Board Actions for a Defective Carrier Envelope: Section 87.0411 of the Code provides that not later than the second day after the early voting ballot board discovers a defect(s) in a carrier envelope as described by Section 87.0411(a) of the Code and before the board decides whether to accept or reject a timely delivered ballot under Section 87.041, the board must send the voter a notice of the defect and a corrective action form developed under Section 87.0411(c-1) by mail or by common or contract carrier.

The early voting ballot board must include with the notice delivered to the voter: (1) a brief explanation of each defect on the noncomplying carrier; and (2) notice that the voter may either cancel the voter's application to vote by mail in the manner described by Section 84.032, correct the defect on the voter's carrier by submitting a corrective action form by mail or by common or contract carrier, make the correction using the Secretary of State's online Ballot by Mail Tracker, if possible, or come to the early voting clerk's office in person not later than the sixth day after election day to correct the defect(s).

For more information on corrective action, see [Note 17](#) and [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2023-13](#).

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 (3rd day before election day; day after early voting in person ends)

First day to submit an [Application for Emergency Early Ballot Due to Death in Family \(PDF\)](#) to vote a late ballot because of a death in the immediate family that occurred on or after April 27, 2026, and will require absence from the county on election day. (Secs. 103.001, 103.003(b)).

Last day to conduct public test of automatic tabulation equipment. Per Section 127.093, the test shall be conducted at least 48 hours before the automatic tabulating equipment is used to count ballots voted in an election and was not previously tested. We highly **recommend** that this test is done on an earlier date to allow time for corrections to programming, if necessary. (See [Note 14](#) above).

May

Friday, May 1, 2026 (the day before election day)

Last day to submit an [Application for Emergency Early Ballot Due to Death in Family \(PDF\)](#). The application must be submitted by the close of business on this day. (Sec. 103.003(b)).

Last day for early voting clerk to mark the precinct list of registered voters with a notation beside each name of voter who voted early, and deliver list to election judges. The early voting clerk must also deliver the precinct early voting list. (Sec. 87.122). This may be delivered electronically if your county is using an e-pollbook.

Delivery of Provisional Ballots and Forms: If the voter registrar wants to take possession of the provisional ballots and forms on election night, the voter registrar must inform the custodian of the election records and post a [Verification of Provisional Ballots and Serial Numbers \(PDF\)](#) no later than Friday, May 1, 2026, 24 hours before election day. (1 T.A.C. § 81.174(d)(3)). However, under this type of delivery, the county voter registrar **must** go to the office of the custodian of election records and pick up the provisional ballots and forms.

NOTE: The general custodian of election records (or the early voting clerk, if applicable) must also post a [Notice of Delivery of Provisional Ballots \(PDF\)](#) at least 24 hours before delivery will occur. (1 T.A.C. § 81.174(b)(1)).

NOTE FOR MAY 1, 2027 ELECTION: Chapter 2051 of the Government Code requires any political subdivision with the authority to impose a tax that maintained a publicly available Internet website at any time on or after January 1, 2019, to post on that website the requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy of each elected office of the political subdivision continuously for one year before the election day for that office. See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2019-19](#).

Saturday, May 2, 2026 (Election Day)

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM	<p>Polls open. (Sec. 41.031).</p> <p>Voter registrar's office is open. (Sec. 12.004(c)).</p> <p>Early voting clerk's office is open for early voting activities. (Sec. 83.011). A voter may deliver a marked ballot by mail to the early voting clerk's office while the polls are open on election day. The voter must provide an acceptable form of identification under Section 63.0101 upon delivery. The identification procedure is the same as that used for personal appearance voting. (Secs. 63.0101, 86.006).</p>
5:00 PM	<p>Deadline for receiving Application for Emergency Early Voting Ballot Due to Sickness or Physical Disability (PDF) for late ballots to be voted by persons who became sick or disabled on or after Monday, April 20, 2026. (Sec. 102.003(b)).</p>
7:00 PM	<p>Regular deadline for receiving early voting ballots by mail. BUT see entry for Monday, May 4, 2026 on "late domestic ballots," entry for Thursday, May 7, 2026, and entry for Friday, May 8, 2026 on other "late" ballots.</p>

This is also the deadline for receiving **late ballots cast by voters who became sick or disabled** on or after Monday, April 20, 2026. (Secs. 86.007(a), 102.006(c)).

NOTE - Section 61.002 provides that immediately before the opening of the polls on election day, the presiding judge or alternate judge shall confirm that the public counters on each voting machine are set to zero and shall print the tape that shows that there are zero votes for each candidate or measure on the ballot. Immediately after the closing of the polls on election day, the presiding judge or alternate judge shall print the tape to show the number of votes cast for each candidate or measure. Each election judge and alternate judge shall sign the printed tapes. (Sec. 61.002).

NOTE - The presiding judge of the central counting station must provide and attest to a [written reconciliation \(PDF\)](#) of votes and voters at the close of tabulation for election day and again after the central counting station meets for the last time to process late-arriving ballots by mail and provisional ballots. (Sec. 127.131). [Preliminary Election Reconciliation \(PDF\) – Unofficial Totals form \(Election Day\)](#). [Election Reconciliation Form \(PDF\) – Official Results \(Canvass Form\)](#). [See Note on Reconciliation](#).

NOTE - Receipt of Mail Ballots: All early voting ballots sent by mail from inside the United States that are received by 7:00 PM on election day, May 2, 2026, **must be counted on election night**. If the carrier envelope does not bear a cancellation mark or a receipt mark, the ballot must arrive before the time the polls are required to close **on election day**. (Sec. 86.007(a)(1)). If the early voting clerk cannot determine whether a ballot arrived before that deadline, the ballot is considered to have arrived at the time the place at which the carrier envelopes are deposited was last inspected for removal of returned ballots. (Sec. 86.007(b)). The early voting clerk **must** check the mailbox for early voting mail ballots at least once after the time for regular mail delivery. (Sec. 86.007(b)).

NOTE - An early voting mail ballot that is not received by 7:00 pm on election day may not be counted unless the ballot may be counted late, which applies to late domestic ballots (Sec. 86.007(a)(2)), ballots mailed from outside the United States (Sec. 86.007(d)), and ballots from members of the armed forces and merchant marine of the United States, Texas National Guard or the National Guard of another state or members of the Reserves, as well as their spouses and dependents (Sec. 101.057). See [entry](#) for Monday, May 4, 2026 on “late domestic ballots,” [entry](#) for Thursday, May 7, 2026, and [entry](#) for Friday, May 8, 2026 on other “late” ballots.

NOTE - Delivery of Early Voting by Personal Appearance and Mail Ballots: The early voting clerk delivers the voted ballots, the key to the double-locked ballot box, etc., to the early voting ballot board at the time or times specified by the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board, during the hours the polls are open or as soon after the polls close as practicable. (Secs. 87.021, 87.022). The custodian of the key to the second lock of the double-locked early voting ballot box delivers his or her key to the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board on request of the presiding judge. (Secs. 85.032(d), 87.025).

The custodian is the sheriff for county elections; the chief of police or city marshal for city elections; and the constable of the justice precinct in which the political subdivision's main office is located (or the sheriff, if there is no constable), for other political subdivision elections. (Sec. 66.060). If ballots are to be delivered before election day, the early voting clerk must post [notice \(PDF\)](#) at least 24 hours before each delivery at the main early voting polling place. [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2022-10](#).

Note on Delivery of Early Voting Ballots to Early Voting Ballot Board Before Election Day - Any jacket envelopes of early voting ballots voted by mail returned after delivery of the ballots to the early voting ballot board may be delivered to the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board between the end of the ninth day before election day and the closing of the polls on election day, or as soon after closing as practicable, at the time or times specified by the presiding judge.

Mail ballots may be qualified and processed (signatures verified, carrier envelopes opened, and the secrecy envelope containing the ballot placed in a secure location), but they may not be counted until election day. (Secs. 87.0221, 87.0222, 87.023, 87.024, 87.0241). If ballots are to be delivered before election day, the early voting clerk must post [notice \(PDF\)](#) at least 24 hours before each delivery at the main early voting polling place.

Exception: Entities that are having joint elections with counties with a population of 100,000 or more or who are conducting an election through a contract for election services with such a county, may begin counting ballots no earlier than the end of the period for early voting by personal appearance; the results may not be released until the polls close on election day. (Secs. 87.0221, 87.0222, 87.023, 87.024, 87.0241(b), 87.042). If ballots are to be delivered before election day, the early voting clerk must post [notice \(PDF\)](#) at least 24 hours before each delivery at the main early voting polling place. (Secs. 87.0221, 87.0222, 87.023, 87.024, 87.0241(b), 87.042).

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2217 (2025, R.S.) - In an election using centrally counted optical scan ballots, the presiding judge of the central counting station shall prepare a report regarding the total number of ballots scanned by each optical scanner from each data storage device. The presiding judge of the central counting station shall prepare one report for the total number of ballots from each specific data-storage device. The presiding judge of the central counting station must prepare the report for the data-storage device before the information from the storage device is read into a central accumulator. The report prepared before the opening of polling locations on election day may not contain information on the number of votes cast for any candidate or for or against any proposition. (Sec. 127.1302).

NOTE - Section 127.1232 provides that in counties with a population of 100,000 or more, the general custodian of election records shall implement a video surveillance system that retains a record of all areas containing voted ballots: (1) from the time the voted ballots are delivered to the central counting station until the canvass of the precinct election returns; and (2) from the time the voted ballots are delivered to the signature verification committee or early voting ballot board until the canvass of precinct election returns. Video from the surveillance system shall be made available to the public by live stream. The recorded video is considered an election record and shall be retained by the general custodian until the end of the calendar year in which an election is held or until an election contest filed in the county has been resolved, whichever is later. (Sec. 127.1232). [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2022-10](#).

NOTE - Manual Examination of Ballots Before Processing on Automatic Counting Equipment: The central counting station manager shall direct the manual examination of all electronic voting system ballots to ascertain whether the ballots can be processed in the usual manner or if the ballots need to be duplicated to clearly reflect the voter's intent. (Sec. 127.125).

NOTE - Testing of Tabulating Equipment: The second test of automatic tabulating equipment used for counting ballots at a central counting station must be conducted immediately before the counting of ballots with equipment begins. The third test must be conducted immediately after the counting is completed. (Secs. 127.093, 127.097, 127.098).

Transfer of Provisional Ballots to Voter Registrar Election Night: The county voter registrar may take possession of the ballot box(es) or transfer case(s) containing the provisional ballots (or provisional ballot affidavits when DRE systems are used) on election night (instead of on the next business day) by informing the custodian of election records and posting a notice of such election night transfer no later than 24 hours before election day. Under this type of delivery, the voter registrar must go to the office of the custodian and pick up the ballot box(es) or transfer case(s) and associated forms. (Sec. 65.052; 1 T.A.C. §§ 81.172 – 81.174 & 81.176). [See Verification of Provisional Ballots and Serial Numbers \(PDF\)](#).

After the polling place is officially closed and the last person has voted, the presiding judge may from time to time make an unofficial announcement of the total number of votes counted for each candidate and/or for or against each proposition in the order that they appear on the ballot. (Sec. 65.015(a)). The announcement shall be made at the entrance to the polling place. (Sec. 65.015(c)).

NOTE - The authority conducting the election may require or prohibit such announcements. (Sec. 65.015(b)). Unofficial election results must be released by the central counting station as soon as they are available after the polls close, but the presiding judge of the central counting station, in cooperation with the county election officer, may choose to withhold the release of vote totals until the last voter has voted. (Sec. 127.1311).

NOTE - Precinct election returns are delivered to the appropriate authorities after completion. (Secs. 66.053(a), 127.065, 127.066, 127.067).

Last day to post notice of governing authority's meeting to canvass returns of election if canvass is to take place on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 (3rd day after election). (Sec. 67.003(b)). This notice must be posted at least three business days before the day of the meeting. (Secs. 551.002, 551.041, 551.043, Texas Government Code).

NEW LAW NOTE: HB 1522 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, modifies notice requirements for meetings conducted under the open-meetings law by changing the notice posting requirement from a minimum of 72 hours to at least three business days before the date of the scheduled meeting. (Sec. 551.043, Government Code).

NOTE - Section 67.003 provides that, except as provided by Section 67.003(c), each local canvassing authority shall convene to conduct the local canvass at the time set by the canvassing authority's presiding officer not later than the 11th day after election day and not earlier than the later of:

1. the **third day after election day**;
2. the date on which the early voting ballot board has verified and counted all provisional ballots, if a provisional ballot has been cast in the election; or
3. the date on which all timely received ballots cast from addresses outside of the United States are counted, if a ballot to be voted by mail in the election was provided to a person outside of the United States; or
4. the date on which all ballots received in defective carriers are timely corrected, if any ballots in defective carriers have been received.

Counties, Cities, and School Districts: Section 65.016 of the Code provides the election results information that must be posted on county, city, and school district websites. A county that provides election services for an election for a public entity must post certain information regarding election results on their website after the election. A city or independent school district that holds an election and maintains an Internet website must also post certain information on their website related to election results, even if the county is also posting. All entities must post the required information **as soon as practicable after the election**. For more information, see [Note 3](#).

Counties with a Population of 250,000 or more: Per Section 127.009 of the Election Code, counties with a population of 250,000 or more must forward a copy of the audit logs from the central counting station to the Secretary of State no later than the fifth day after voting is completed. The information may be forwarded to the Secretary of State by [email](#), use of a thumb drive, or by mail.

NOTE - NEW LAW: HB 521 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, makes several changes to curbside voting and assistance procedures. All curbside voters must fill out a form attesting that they are physically unable to enter the polling place. The form can be filled out either on an electronic pollbook or on a separate paper form. (Sec. 61.003).

When curbside voters are given transportation by another person, the election officer must ask the person providing transportation whether the person has assisted seven or more curbside voters during the entire voting period (meaning early voting and election day combined). If the driver indicates that they have assisted seven or more curbside voters, then he or she must complete and sign a form that contains the person's name and address and indicates whether the person is assisting the voter with voting as well. These forms must be delivered to our office as soon as practicable. (Sec. 64.009).

Monday, May 4, 2026 (1st business day after election day)

5:00 PM - Deadline to receive late domestic ballots mailed **within** the United States from **non-military voters and from any military voters** who submitted an **Application for Ballot by Mail** ("ABBM") (not a Federal Postcard Application – "FPCA"), if the carrier envelope was placed for delivery by mail or common or contract carrier **AND** bears a cancellation mark of a postal service or a receipt mark of a common or contract carrier or a courier indicating a time not later than **7:00 PM** at the location of the election on election day, May 2, 2026. (Secs. 86.007, 101.057, 101.001). A late domestic ballot cannot be counted if it does not bear a cancellation mark or a receipt mark.

NOTE - Because of the deadline to receive "late domestic ballots," it is imperative that you check your mail at 5:00 PM.

NOTE - Section 86.007 provides that a marked ballot voted by mail that a voter received due to submitting an ABBM may arrive at the address on the carrier envelope not later than 5:00 PM on the day **after** election day, if the carrier envelope was placed for delivery by mail or common or contract carrier from **within** the United States **and** bears a cancellation mark of a postal service or a receipt mark of a common or contract carrier or a courier **not later than 7:00 PM** at the location of the election on election day.

NOTE - This deadline does **not** apply to ballots sent by non-military voters who are overseas but who applied for a ballot using an ABBM or FPCA; these voters have until the 5th day after election day to return their ballots (or the next business day if the 5th day falls on a weekend or legal state or federal holiday). This deadline also does **not** apply to ballots mailed (domestically or from overseas) by certain members of the military who applied for a ballot using an FPCA, as well as members of the Texas National Guard or the National Guard of another state, or members of the Reserves, as well as their **spouses and dependents**; those voters have until the 6th day after election day to return their ballots. See the [entry for Thursday, May 7, 2026](#), and the [entry for Friday, May 8, 2026](#).

Unless the county voter registrar has already taken possession of the provisional ballots prior to this date, the general custodian of election records must deliver the ballot box(es) or transfer case(s) containing the provisional ballots (or provisional ballot affidavits when DRE systems are used), along with the Summary of Provisional Ballots and the List of Provisional Voters for each precinct to the voter registrar by this day. The general custodian of election records makes this delivery to the voter registrar during the voter registrar office's regular business hours. (Secs. 65.052, 65.053; 1 T.A.C. §§ 81.172 – 81.174 & 81.176).

NOTE - Political Subdivisions Located in More than One County: A political subdivision will have to make delivery of the provisional ballots and forms to the county voter registrar in each county in which the political subdivision is located. (1 T.A.C. §§ 81.172 – 81.174).

NOTE - If the county voter registrar wants to take possession of the provisional ballots and forms on election night (Saturday, May 2, 2026), the county voter registrar must inform the custodian of the election records and post a notice of the transfer no later than 24 hours before election day. However, under this type of delivery, the county voter registrar **must** go to the office of the custodian of election records and pick up the provisional ballots and forms. Also, note that the county voter registrar may take possession of provisional ballots prior to election night if ballots are kept separate and may be provided without unlawful entry into ballot box. (1 T.A.C. §§ 81.172 – 81.174).

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 (3rd day after election day)

NEW LAW NOTE: SB 827 (2025, R.S.) renamed the Partial Manual Count to the Post-Election Hand Count Audit, and modifies the procedures for conducting the count. The bill requires the hand count audit of early voting locations and election day locations to be conducted by polling location rather than by precinct. However, it still requires ballots by mail to be counted by precinct. (Sec. 127.201(a)).

This is the last day to **begin** manual recount of ballots in three early voting polling locations, three election day polling locations, and three precincts which received ballots by mail, or one percent of the early voting polling locations, one percent of the election day polling locations, and one percent of all precincts which received a ballot by mail, whichever is greater. (Sec. 127.201(a), (g)). The count must be completed not later than the 21st day after election day. Results of the manual count must be delivered to Secretary of State not later than the 3rd day after the manual count is completed. (Sec. 127.201(e)). No Post-Election Hand Count Audit needs to be done of ballots cast on DRE voting machines, but the Post-Election Hand Count Audit must be completed for mail ballots. (Sec. 127.201(g)). For information on how to begin the Post-Election Hand Count Audit, please see [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2025-21](#).

The first possible day to conduct official local canvass of returns by governing authority of the political subdivision. However, the canvass may not be conducted until the ballot board has verified and counted **all** provisional ballots, if a provisional ballot has been cast in the election, **AND counted all timely received mailed domestic ballots cast from addresses within the United States, and all timely received mailed ballots cast from addresses outside the United States and defective carrier envelopes that were corrected by voters.** (Secs. 67.003, 86.007). Notice of canvass must be posted at least three business days before the day the canvass is conducted.

RUNOFF NOTE - A candidate in a runoff election may not withdraw from the election after 5 p.m. of the third day after the date of the final canvass for the main election. (Sec. 145.092).

RUNOFF NOTE - The runoff election can be ordered as soon as the canvass is completed. Therefore, May 5, 2026 is the first date a runoff election can be ordered. Our office **recommends** that a political subdivision order their runoff election as soon as the election has been canvassed.

RUNOFF NOTE - Please see our June 13, 2026 Runoff Election Calendar Advisory for all additional runoff calendar dates.

NOTE - Section 1.012 of the Code provides that on the first day after the final canvass of an election is completed, the general custodian of election records shall make images of voted ballots and cast vote records available for public inspection. See [Note 22](#).

NOTE - If a recount petition has been filed and a winning candidate's race is involved in the recount, the certificate of election cannot be issued for that race until the recount has been completed. (Secs. 67.016, 212.0331).

Cities, Schools, and Other Political Subdivisions: First day that newly-elected local officers may qualify and assume the duties of their offices. Please note that the canvass must have been completed **before** an officer can assume office. (Sec. 67.016). If a political subdivision was able to **cancel** its election, this is the first day its elected officials can be issued a certificate of election and take the oath of office. (Secs. 2.053(e), 67.003, 67.016). For information on who can administer an oath, please see Chapter 602 of the Government Code.

NOTE: This does not apply to officers of a Type A general law city, who cannot qualify until the 6th day after election day. See [entry](#) on Friday, May 8, 2026.

Thursday, May 7, 2026 (5th day after election day)

Last day to receive ballots from **non-military and any military voters** casting ballots from **outside of the United States**, who submitted an **ABBM** (not an FPCA) **AND** who placed their ballots in delivery by 7:00 PM on election day, Saturday, May 2, 2026, as evidenced by a postal service cancellation mark or a receipt mark of a common or contract carrier or a courier. (Secs. 86.007, 101.057, 101.001). A late overseas ballot sent by a voter who applied for a ballot using an ABBM (not a military FPCA) **cannot be counted** if it does **not** bear a cancellation mark or a receipt mark. (Sec. 86.007(c), (e), (f)). For military voters casting ballots who submitted an FPCA, please see [entry](#) for Friday, May 8, 2026.

NOTE: Section 86.007 provides that a marked ballot voted by mail from **outside** of the United States by a voter who received the ballot due to submitting an ABBM is considered timely if it is received at the address on the carrier envelope not later than **the fifth day** after the date of the election. Further, the delivery is considered timely if the carrier envelope or, if applicable, the envelope containing the carrier envelope is properly addressed with postage or handling charges prepaid **and** bears a cancellation mark of a recognized postal service or a receipt mark of a common or contract carrier or a courier indicating a time **by 7:00 PM** on election day.

Last day to receive ballots from **non-military voters** casting ballots from **overseas**, who submitted an **FPCA**, **AND** who placed their ballots in delivery by 7:00 PM on election day, Saturday, May 2, 2026. (Sec. 86.007(d), (e)).

Friday, May 8, 2026 (6th day after election day)

NOTE - Last day a voter may come to the early voting clerk's office in person to correct certain defects on their carrier envelope. (Secs. 87.0271, 87.0411). See [Note 17](#) and [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2023-13](#).

Deadline for ID related provisional voter to: (1) present acceptable photo identification to county voter registrar; or (2) if the voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain acceptable photo identification, follow the Reasonable Impediment Declaration procedure at the county voter registrar; or (3) execute an affidavit relative to "natural disaster" or "religious objection" in presence of county voter registrar, if applicable; or (4) qualify for the disability exemption, if applicable, with the county voter registrar. (Secs. 65.054, 65.0541).

Deadline for voter registrar to complete the review of provisional ballots. (1 T.A.C. § 81.175(a)(1)).

Last day to receive carrier envelopes mailed domestically (within the United States) OR overseas from voters who submitted a **FPCA AND** who are **members of the armed forces of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the armed forces, members of the merchant marines of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the merchant marine**, members of the Texas National Guard, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the Texas National Guard, a member of the National Guard of another state, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the National Guard of another state, or members of the Reserves, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the Reserves. (Secs. 101.057, 101.001).

NOTE - Section 101.057 provides that carrier envelopes mailed domestically or overseas from certain **military voters** (members of the armed forces of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the armed forces, members of the merchant marines of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the merchant marine, members of the Texas National Guard, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the Texas National Guard, a member of the National Guard of another state, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the National Guard of another state, or members of the Reserves, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the Reserves) who submitted a **Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)** may arrive on or before the 6th day after election day. (Secs. 86.007, 101.057, 101.001).

NOTE - The carrier envelope or, if applicable, the envelope containing the carrier envelope sent by the military members listed above who applied to vote by mail using the FPCA does **NOT** need to bear a cancellation or receipt mark in order to be counted.

First day that newly elected officers of Type A general law city may qualify and assume duties of office (per Sec. 22.006, Local Government Code), but see **NOTE**, below.

NOTE - If a Type-A municipal officer-elect fails to qualify for office within 30 days after the date of the officer's election, the office is considered vacant. (Sec. 22.007, Local Government Code). See Monday, June 1, 2026 [entry](#).

Council members may take office anytime following the canvass. Section 22.006 of the Texas Local Government Code states that a newly-elected municipal officer of a Type A city may exercise the duties of office beginning the fifth day after the date of the election, excluding Sundays. However, **no newly elected official may qualify for office before the official canvass of the election has been conducted** (or would have been conducted, in the event of a cancelled election). Section 22.036 of the Texas Local Government Code further requires that the newly-elected governing body of the municipality "meet at the usual meeting place and shall be installed."

NOTE - If a recount petition has been filed and a winning candidate's race is involved in the recount, the certificate of election cannot be issued for that race until the recount has been completed. (Secs. 67.016, 212.0331).

Monday, May 11, 2026 (9th day after election day)

Deadline for custodian of election records or presiding judge of the early voting ballot board to retrieve provisional ballots from county voter registrar. (Sec. 65.051(a)).

Last day for **early voting ballot board** to convene to qualify and count:

1. any late **domestic** ballots (from non-military and from any military voters who submitted an ABBM)) that bear a cancellation mark or receipt mark indicating they were placed for delivery by mail or common or contract carrier not later than 7:00 PM on election day, May 2, 2026, and were received not later than 5:00 PM on the first business day after election day, Monday, May 4, 2026. (Secs. 86.007(a) & (d-1), 87.125(a)).
2. any late ballots that were submitted from outside the United States by voters who applied for the ballot using an ABBM or by non-military voters who applied for the ballot using an FPCA, and which were received by the 5th day after election day, Thursday, May 7, 2026. (Secs. 86.007(d), 87.125(a)).
3. any ballots received by the 6th day after election day, Friday, May 8, 2026, from voters who are members of the armed forces of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the armed forces, members of the merchant marines of the United States, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the merchant marine, members of the Texas National Guard, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the Texas National Guard, a member of the National Guard of another state, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the National Guard of another state, or members of the Reserves, or the spouse or a dependent of a member of the Reserves, and who applied for a ballot using an FPCA. (Secs. 101.057, 87.125(a)).

4. any provisional ballots that have been reviewed by the voter registrar. (Sec. 65.051(a)).

5. ballots contained in defective carrier envelopes corrected by voters. (Sec. 86.011(d)).

NOTE - Ballots that do not qualify under 1-3 above should be treated as ballots not timely returned and should not be delivered to the ballot board.

NOTE - If the early voting ballot board needs to meet after this date, it will require a court order to do so.

The time the board reconvenes is set by the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board. (Secs. 86.007(d), 87.125).

NOTE - Section 65.0581 provides that provisional voting records do not become public information until after the provisional ballots and other voting records have been delivered back to the custodian of election records. (Sec. 65.0581).

NOTE - The presiding judge of the central counting station shall provide and attest to a [written reconciliation \(PDF\)](#) of votes and voters at the close of tabulation for election day and again after the central counting station meets for the last time to process late-arriving ballots by mail and provisional ballots. (Sec. 127.131). [See Note 18 on Reconciliation.](#)

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 (10th day after election day)

The presiding judge of the EVBB shall mail a [Notice of Rejected Ballot \(PDF\)](#) to voters whose mail ballots were rejected no later than the 10th day after election day or as soon as practicable, depending on when the EVBB last convenes. (Sec. 87.0431).

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 (11th day after election day)

Last day for official canvass of returns by the governing body of the political subdivision. (Sec. 67.003).

NOTE - Section 1.012 of the Code provides that on the first day after the final canvass of an election is completed, the general custodian of election records shall make images of voted ballots and cast vote records available for public inspection. See [Note 22](#).

NOTE: If a recount petition has been filed and a winning candidate's race is involved in the recount, the certificate of election cannot be issued for that race until the recount has been completed. (Secs. 67.016, 212.0331).

Friday, May 15, 2026 (13th day after election day)

Last day for the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board to mail [Notice of Outcome to Provisional Voter \(PDF\)](#) to provisional voters if the local canvass was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, the first day of the canvass period. Such notices must be delivered to provisional voters by the presiding judge no later than the 10th day after the local canvass (Sec. 65.059; 1 T.A.C. § 81.176(e)).

Sunday, May 17, 2026 (15th day after election day)

Election records from the May 2, 2026 election must be available in an electronic format no later than this day, for a fee of not more than \$50.00. (Sec. 1.012(e)).

Friday, May 22, 2026 (20th day after election day)

NOTE - NEW LAW: HB 3526 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, creates new reporting requirements for local entities that order an election to authorize a local government to issue bonds. These reports must be sent to the [Texas Bond Review Board](#). Not later than the 20th day before election day for an election to authorize a local government to issue bonds, the local government shall send the Bond Review Board a report that includes:

1. the date of the election;
2. the proposition number for each bond proposition;
3. the total estimated cost of the issuance of each proposed bond;
4. the estimated minimum dollar amount required to be annually expended for debt service;
5. a description of the purpose of each bond proposition; and
6. any other information the board determines necessary.

For more information on this requirement, please contact the [Texas Bond Review Board](#).

Monday, May 25, 2026 (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 (24th day after election day; extended from 21st day, Saturday, May 23, 2026, Sec. 1.006)

Last day for the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board to mail [Notice of Outcome to Provisional Voter \(PDF\)](#) to provisional voters, if the canvass was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Such notices must be delivered to provisional voters by the presiding judge no later than the 10th day after the local canvass. (The deadline falls on Saturday, May 23, 2026, and is extended to Tuesday, May 26, 2026 under Section 1.006.) (Sec. 65.059; 1 T.A.C. § 81.176(e)).

Last day to complete the Post-Election Hand Count Audit, which is the first business day after the 21st day after the election. (Secs. 1.006, 127.201(a)).

NEW LAW NOTE SB 827 (2025, R.S.): Last day to complete the post-election hand count audit. (Sec. 127.201(a)). Senate Bill 827 renamed the Partial Manual Count to the Post-Election Hand Count Audit, and modifies the procedures for conducting the count. The bill requires the hand count audit of early voting locations and election day locations to be conducted by polling location rather than by precinct. However, it still requires ballots by mail to be counted by precinct.

The hand count must be conducted in at least one percent of election day polling locations and early voting locations, or in three locations, whichever is greater. For ballots by mail, the count will be performed for at least one percent of the precincts in which a ballot by mail was cast, or in three precincts, whichever is greater.

Not later than the third day after the date the count is completed, the general custodian of election records shall deliver a written report of the results of the count to the Secretary of State and post the results of the count on the county's website in the same location that the county provides information on election returns and election results.

For information on how to complete the Post-Election Hand Count Audit, please see [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2025-21](#).

June

Monday, June 1, 2026 (30th day after election day)

NOTE – NEW LAW: SB 2217 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, requires the general custodian of election records for an entity that uses an electronic pollbook system for an election to produce certain reports from the pollbook system no later than the 30th day after election day. Those reports must include a combination form report and a report listing all the voters who were accepted to vote in the election, including the voter's polling place and precinct. (Secs. 31.014, 63.0011, 65.057, 66.006, 125.0635, 127.1302, 127.133).

The custodian must prepare a report within 30 days after election day that describes all the information required to be included on a combination form that combines any form used in connection with the acceptance of voters at polling places with each other and to produce a copy of the list of all voters who were accepted to vote, including a reference to the voter's county election precinct and polling location where the voter was accepted to vote.

Post-Election Reconciliation: Not later than the 30th day after election day, the general custodian of election records shall prepare a reconciliation of the total number of votes cast and the total number of voters accepted to vote by personal appearance at each polling place in the custodian's county during the early voting period and on election day respectively. The general custodian of election records shall post the results of this reconciliation on the county's website in the same location that the county provides information on election results. (Sec. 66.005).

NOTE - NEW LAW: HB 521 (2025, R.S.), effective September 1, 2025, provides that not later than the 30th day after election day, county election officers must forward to the Secretary of State's Office (1) the name and address of the person assisting the voter; (2) the relationship to the voter of the person assisting the voter; and (3) whether the person assisting the voter received or accepted any form of compensation or other benefit from a candidate, campaign, or political committee of any individual who assisted a total of seven or more voters during the early voting period and on election day combined.

If a Type A municipal officer-elect fails to qualify for office within 30 days after the date of the officer's election, the office is considered vacant. (Sec. 22.007, Local Government Code).

Thursday, June 11, 2026 (40th day after May 2, 2026 election day)

Last day of the period for mandatory office hours. See [entry](#) for Friday, March 13, 2026. (Sec. 31.122).

July

Thursday, July 2, 2026 (61st day after May 2, 2026 election day)

NOTE - Section 1.012 of the Code provides that on the 61st day after election day, the general custodian of election records shall make the original voted ballots available for public inspection.

First day that ballot box(es) from the **May 2, 2026 election** may be unlocked and its voted ballots may be transferred to another secure container for the remainder of the preservation period. (Sec. 66.058(b)).

NOTE - Our office recommends that the county elections office work closely with its county attorney and its public information division in ensuring that records have been properly redacted before being made publicly available. Please direct any questions about the procedures for responding to a public information request, including the timeframes for such responses, to the Office of the Attorney General via its Open Government Hotline, (877) OPEN TEX (673-6839). See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2024-05](#) and [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2024-20](#).

NOTE - For guidance on retention of electronic voting system media, please see [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2019-23](#).

2027-2028

Friday, January 1, 2027 (1st day after the end of the calendar year in which the election was held)

First day that surveillance video of areas containing voted ballots from the May 2, 2026 election and June 13, 2026 runoff election may be destroyed IF there is no unresolved election contest.

NOTE - In counties with a population of 100,000 or more, the general custodian of election records shall implement a live-stream video surveillance system that retains a record of all areas containing voted ballots from the time the voted ballots are delivered to the central counting station, the signature verification committee, or early voting ballot board until the canvass of precinct election returns. (Sec. 127.1232). For more information, see [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2022-10](#).

Friday, March 3, 2028 (day after 22 months after May 2, 2026 election day)

Contents of ballot box(es) may be destroyed **IF** no contest or criminal investigation has arisen (Secs. 1.013, 66.058), and **IF** no open records request has been filed ([Tex. Att'y Gen. ORD-505 \(1988\)](#)).

All election records must be preserved for 22 months from election day, even when there is no federal office on the ballot. (Sec. 66.058).

Notable Exceptions:

Permanent Records: Election results must be permanently maintained in the election register. (Sec. 67.006).

Electronic Voting Systems: See advisories on our website for preservation procedures for electronic voting systems. (See [Tex. Sec'y of State Election Advisory No. 2019-23](#).)

Wednesday, May 3, 2028 (day after Two Years after May 2, 2026 election day)

NOTE: Retention of Voter Registration List: County voter registrar must maintain **copy** of each voter list prepared for each countywide election for 2 years (24 months) after election day. (Sec. 18.011).

NOTE: Retention of Candidate Applications: Candidate applications must be retained by the governing body for **two** years after date of election. (Sec. 141.036).