

2026 OHIO ELECTIONS CALENDAR



2025		Reference
Dec. 11	Last day for certain local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before February 4, 2026 petition filing deadline for May 5, 2026 Primary/Special election)	R.C. 4301.33, 4305.14
2026		
Jan. 01	Applications for absentee ballots for all 2026 elections may be accepted (first day of the year)	R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02
Jan. 05	Last day for local option petitioners contesting community facility to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (30 days before February 4 petition filing deadline for May 5 Primary/Special Election)	R.C. 4301.334
Jan. 20	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports (10 days before filing deadline)	R.C. 3517.11
Jan. 26*	Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of the May 5 Primary/Special Election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3511.16
Jan. 30	Annual election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. detailing contributions and expenditures through December 31, 2025.	R.C. 3517.10
Feb. 04	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of the General Assembly must be filed with Secretary of State (90 days before primary/special election)	OH Const. XVI, §1
	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Local questions and issues for May 5 Primary/Special Election, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 17*	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (78 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 20	Protests against partisan candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 23*	Write-in candidates for May 5 Primary/Special Election must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.041
Feb. 24	Form of official ballots for May 5 Primary/Special Election must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (70 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Board of elections of most populous county in a multicounty subdivision must certify names of all candidates to other boards of elections (70 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.05
Feb. 27	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.041
Mar. 06	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of precinct election officials (within 60 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3501.27
Mar. 20	UOCAVA absentee ballots for May 5 Primary/Special Election must be ready (46 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3511.04
	Boards of elections must update and publish notices of May 5 Primary/Special Election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 46 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3511.16
Mar. 24	Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before primary/special election)	R.C. 3503.12
Apr. 06*	Deadline for voter registration for May 5 Primary/Special Election (30 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3503.19
	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists (30 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3503.24
Apr. 07	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for May 5 Primary/Special Election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.01
	Early in-person absentee voting begins (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.051
Apr. 13	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file preprimary campaign finance reports (10 days before filing deadline)	R.C. 3517.11
Apr. 15	Committees advocating or opposing issues on May 5 Primary/Special Election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3505.21
Apr. 21	Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists (14 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3503.23
Apr. 23	Preprimary election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before primary election) detailing contributions and expenditures through April 15, 2026 (20 days before primary election)	R.C. 3517.10
Apr. 24	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates, and recognized issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3505.21
Apr. 25	Boards of elections must give public notice of May 5 Primary/Special Election (10 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3501.03
	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on May 5 Primary Election ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.30
Apr. 27*	Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of the August 4 Special Election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before special election)	R.C. 3511.16
Apr. 28	Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for May 5 Primary/Special Election must be received by boards of elections by close of business (7 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02
Apr. 30	Certification to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on May 5 primary ballot in only one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.30
May 04	Nominating petitions of independent candidates for offices for which a primary election may be held must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.257
	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before primary/special election)	R.C. 3505.21
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's office (no later than the day before the primary/special election)	R.C. 3501.29
May 05	Primary/Special Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	R.C. 3501.01, .32
	If voter, or voter's minor child, is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	R.C. 3509.08
	Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
May 06	Local questions and issues for the August 4 Special Election must be certified or filed with the boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before the special election)	R.C. 3501.01, .02
May 09	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. mail must be postmarked no later than May 4 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (4 days after primary/special election)	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
	UOCAVA absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (4 days after primary/special election)	R.C. 3511.11
May 10	Boards of elections may begin Official Canvass of May 5 Primary/Special Election ballots (5 days after primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.22
May 20	Boards of elections must begin Official Canvass of May 5 Primary/Special Election ballots no later than this date (15 days after primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.22
May 26	Boards of elections must complete canvass of May 5 Primary/Special Election ballots no later than this date (21 days after primary/special election)	R.C. 3513.22
June 02	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file post-primary campaign finance reports (10 days before filing deadline)	R.C. 3517.11
June 05	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of precinct election officials (within 60 days before special election)	R.C. 3501.27
June 11	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listing to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before August 5 deadline for filing petitions for November 3 General Election)	R.C. 4301.33, 4305.14
June 12	Post-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after primary election) detailing contributions and expenditures through June 5, 2026 (the 7th day before the report is filed)	R.C. 3517.10
June 15	Boards of elections of most populous county of a district located in more than one county must transmit petitions of independent candidates to other boards of elections	R.C. 3513.262
June 19*	UOCAVA absentee ballots for August 4 Special Election must be ready (46 days before special election)	R.C. 3511.04
	Boards of elections must update and publish notices of August 4 Special Election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 46 days before special election)	R.C. 3511.16
June 23	Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before special election)	R.C. 3503.12
July 01	Constitutional amendments or statutes proposed by initiative petitions to be submitted directly to the voters must be filed with Secretary of State (125 days before general election)	OH Const. II, §§1a-1b
July 06*	Deadline for voter registration for August 4 Special Election (30 days before special election)	R.C. 3503.19
	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (30 days before special election)	R.C. 3503.24
	Last day for local opinion petitioners seeking to sell at a community facility to send street listing to Division of Liquor Control (30 days before August 4, 2026, deadline to file petitions for November 3 General Election)	R.C. 4301.334
	Election Administration Plans for the November 3 General Election must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Office (120 days before general election)	R.C. 3501.11(BB)
July 07	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for August 4 Special Election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.01
	Early in-person absentee voting begins (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.051
July 15	Committees advocating or opposing issues on August 4 Special Election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before special election)	R.C. 3505.21
	Boards of elections must certify independent candidate petitions by this date	R.C. 3513.262
July 21	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file semiannual campaign finance reports (10 days before filing deadline)	R.C. 3517.11
	Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists for special election (14 days before special election)	R.C. 3503.23
July 24	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates, and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before special election)	R.C. 3505.21
July 24**	Boards of elections must give public notice of August 4 Special Election (at least 10 days before special election)	R.C. 3501.03
July 27*	Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of November 3 General Election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before the general election)	R.C. 3511.16
July 28	Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for August 4 Special Election must be received by noon (7 days before special election)	R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02
July 30	Protests against independent candidates nominated by petition must be filed by 4 p.m.	R.C. 3513.262
July 31	Semiannual election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (detailing contributions and expenditures through June 30, 2026)	R.C. 3517.10

“UOCAVA” is an acronym for Uniformed & Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to refer to those voters who are uniformed and/or overseas. “Non-UOCAVA” refers to voters who are not uniformed or overseas voters.

*Note: In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the Secretary of State and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended, pursuant to R.C. 1.14, to the next succeeding day when the appropriate office is open for regular business hours. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline. However, the UOCAVA deadline does not adjust due to a holiday.

**Note: The statutory deadline is moved to an earlier date due to legal notice requirements.

2026 OHIO ELECTIONS CALENDAR



Aug. 03	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before special election)	R.C. 3505.21
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's office (no later than the day before the special election)	R.C. 3501.29
Aug. 04	Special Election may be held. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	R.C. 3501.01, .32
	If voter, or voter's minor child is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	R.C. 3509.08
	Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
Aug. 05	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly must be filed with Secretary of State (90 days before general election)	OH Const. XVI, §1
	Nominating petitions of candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election)	R.C. 1907.13, 3513.259, .263
	Local questions and issues for November 3 General Election, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election)	R.C. 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 08	Absentee ballots for August 4 Special Election returned by U.S. mail must be postmarked no later than August 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (4 days after special election)	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
	UOCAVA absentee ballots for August 4 Special Election must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (4 days after special election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 09	Boards of elections may begin Official Canvass of August 4 Special Election ballots (5 days after special election)	R.C. 3505.32
Aug. 10*	Political party or independent candidate nominating committees must certify name of person to fill vacancy on November 3 General Election ballot caused by withdrawal or disqualification of candidate by 4 p.m. (86 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
Aug. 17	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races (78 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.263
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before general election)	
Aug. 19	Boards of elections must begin Official Canvass of August 4 Special Election ballots no later than this date (15 days after special election)	R.C. 3505.32
Aug. 21	Protests against candidates for nonpartisan office must be filed by this date (74 days before the general election)	R.C. 3513.263
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before the general election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 24*	Write-in candidates must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.041
Aug. 25	Form of official ballots for November 3 General Election must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (70 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.01
	Board of elections of the most populous county of a multicounty district must certify names of all candidates to other boards of elections (70 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.01
	Boards of elections must complete canvass of August 4 Special Election ballots no later than this date (21 days after special election)	R.C. 3505.32
Aug. 28	Protests against write-in candidates for general election must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.041
Sep. 04	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of precinct election officials (within 60 days before general election)	R.C. 3501.27
Sep. 18	UOCAVA absentee ballots for November 3 General Election must be ready (46 days before general election)	R.C. 3511.04
	Boards of elections must update and publish notices of November 3 General Election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 46 days before general election)	R.C. 3511.16
Sep. 22	Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before general election)	R.C. 3503.12
Oct. 05*	Deadline for voter registration for November 3 General Election (30 days before general election)	R.C. 3503.19
	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (30 days before general election)	R.C. 3503.24
Oct. 06*	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for November 3 General Election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.01
	Early in-person absentee voting begins (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.051
Oct. 09**	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file pre-general campaign finance reports. (on or before the 10th day before the pre-general campaign finance report deadline.)	R.C. 3517.11
Oct. 14	Committees advocating or opposing issues on November 3 General Election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.21
Oct. 20	Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists for general election (14 days before general election)	R.C. 3503.23
Oct. 22	Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before general election) detailing contributions and expenditure through October 14, 2026 (20 days before general election)	R.C. 3517.10
Oct. 23	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.21
Oct. 24	Boards of elections must give public notice of November 3 General Election (10 days before general election)	R.C. 3501.03
	Certificate to fill vacancy on November 3 General Election ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in more than one county (10 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
Oct. 27	Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for November 3 General Election must be received by the board of elections noon (7 days before general election)	R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02
Oct. 29	Certificate to fill vacancy on November 3 General Election ballot caused by death of independent or nonpartisan candidate prior to October 24 (10 days before general election) must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
	Certificate to fill vacancy on November 3 general election ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in only one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
Nov. 02	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before general election)	R.C. 3505.21
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's office (no later than day before general election)	R.C. 3501.29
Nov. 03	General Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	R.C. 3501.01, .32
	If voter, or voter's minor child, is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	R.C. 3509.08
	Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
Nov. 07	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. mail must be postmarked no later than November 2 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (4 days after general election)	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
	UOCAVA absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (4 days after general election)	R.C. 3511.11
Nov. 08	Boards of elections may begin Official Canvass of November 3 General Election ballots (5 days after general election)	R.C. 3505.32
Nov. 18	Boards of elections must begin Official Canvass of November 3 General Election ballots no later than this date (15 days after general election)	R.C. 3505.32
Nov. 24	Boards of elections must complete canvass of November 3 General Election ballots no later than this date (21 days after general election)	R.C. 3505.32
Dec. 01	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file post-general election campaign finance reports (10 days before filing deadline)	R.C. 3517.11
Dec. 10	Last day for certain local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before February 3 petition filing deadline for May 4, 2027 Primary Election)	R.C. 4301.33, 4305.14
Dec. 11	Post general election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after general election) detailing contributions and expenditures through December 4, 2026 (7 days before the report is filed)	R.C. 3517.10
2027		
Jan. 01	Applications for absentee ballots for all elections held in 2027 may be accepted (first day of the year)	R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02
Jan. 04	Last day for local option petitioners contesting community facility to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (30 days before February 3 petition filing deadline for May 4 primary election)	R.C. 4301.334
Jan. 19	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports (10 days before filing deadline)	R.C. 3517.11
Jan. 29	Annual election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. detailing contributions and expenditures through December 31, 2026	R.C. 3517.10
Feb. 03	Date for filing petitions for May 4, 2027 Primary Election (90 days before primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of the General Assembly must be filed with Secretary of State (90 days before primary election)	OH Const. XVI, §1
	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Local questions and issues for primary election, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before primary election)	R.C. 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 15	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (78 days before primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before primary election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 22*	Write-in candidates for May 4 primary must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before primary election)	R.C. 3513.041
Recounts and Election Contests		
	Application for a recount must be filed not later than 5 days after official results are declared	R.C. 3515.02
	A petition contesting an election must be filed in the appropriate court within 15 days after the official results are declared or, if a recount of the election is conducted, within 10 days after the official results of a recount are declared	R.C. 3515.09

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