

Auditor's Election Calendar

2026

Primary Election Day:

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Text in blue = Secretary of State's Office Text in green = Political Parties Text in black = County Auditor

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
-15 From Caucus	Sunday, January 18, 2026	Political Parties: First Caucus Location Publication Political parties must publish a list of caucus locations and an attendance invitation at least two times. First publication must occur not more than 15 days and not less than 7 days before caucus date.	§43.92
-7 From Caucus	Monday, January 26, 2026	Caucus Locations Filed With County Auditors Caucus locations and the number of delegates to be chosen in each precinct must be filed with the auditor at least seven days before the date of the caucuses. The auditor determines the number of delegates to be chosen from each precinct if the party chairs do not file them on time.	§43.4, 43.90
		Political Parties: Second Caucus Location Publication Second publication must occur not more than 7 days before and not later than the date of the caucus.	§43.92
	Monday, February 2, 2026	Caucus Day Democratic and Republican parties' precinct caucuses.	§43.4
14 From Caucus	Monday, February 16, 2026	Voter Registration Forms Delivery Deadline All voter registration forms completed at the caucuses must be delivered to the auditor within 14 days after the caucuses.	§43.4
-99	Monday, February 23, 2026	State and Federal Candidate Filing Begins First day for Democratic and Republican candidates for state and federal offices of State for the primary and general elections.	§43.11(2), 44.4(1), 45.4
-92	Monday, March 2, 2026	County Candidate Filing Begins First day for Democratic and Republican candidates for county offices to file nomination papers with the auditor for the primary and general elections. Exception: Ag Extension, Soil and Water, and Hospital Trustees (see general election calendar)	§43.11(1), 44.4(1), 45.4
-90	Wednesday, March 4, 2026	Review of Polling Place Accessibility Deadline to determine if polling places must be re-inspected.	IAC 721—21.50(3)
-89	Thursday, March 5, 2026	Vacancy Deadline – U.S. Senate and Statewide Offices U.S. Senate and statewide offices (except Governor and Lt. Governor) must appear on the primary election ballot if a vacancy in the office occurs on or before this date.	§43.6(1)
-81	Friday, March 13, 2026	Filing Deadline – State and Federal Last day for Democratic and Republican candidates for state and federal offices to file nomination papers with the Secretary of State. Deadline is 5 p.m.	§43.11(2), 44.4(1), 45.4

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
-76	Wednesday, March 18, 2026	Withdrawal Deadline – State and Federal Last day for candidates who filed with the Secretary of State to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the SOS.	§43.16(2)(a)
-74	Friday, March 20, 2026	Objection Deadline – State and Federal Last day to file written objections to nomination petitions with the Secretary of State.	§43.24(1)(b)(1)
		Filing Deadline – County Last day for Democratic and Republican candidates for county offices to file with the auditor. Deadline is 5 p.m.	§43.11(1)
		Vacancy Deadline – County Partisan county offices must appear on the primary election ballot if a vacancy in the office occurs on or before this date.	§43.6(2)
		Auditor’s office must be open until 5 p.m.	§47.2(6)
-71	Monday, March 23, 2026	Substitution Deadline – State and Federal Last day political parties may designate to the Secretary of State a substitute candidate for another who withdrew or died by the State/Federal Withdrawal Deadline. Deadline is 5 p.m.	§43.23(1)
-70	Tuesday, March 24, 2026	First Day to Submit Absentee Requests Absentee requests received prior to 70 days before election day shall be returned to the requestor.	§53.2(1)(a)
-69	Wednesday, March 25, 2026	Certification Deadline – State and Federal Last day for the Secretary of State to certify candidates' names to the auditor.	§43.22
		Withdrawal Deadline – County Last day for candidates who filed nomination papers with the auditor to withdraw. Notice of withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the auditor.	§43.16(2)(b)
-67	Friday, March 27, 2026	Objection Deadline – County Last day to file written objections to nomination petitions with the auditor. - Exception for objections to nominees filing as substitute candidates.	§43.24(1)(b)(2)

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
		Caucus Registrations Processed The last day to process voter registration forms completed at precinct caucuses is 45 days after the forms are delivered by the political party chair. This deadline will vary depending on which day the forms were received.	§48A.26(1)(b)
-64	Monday, March 30, 2026	Substitution Deadline – County Last day political parties may designate to the auditor a substitute candidate for another who withdrew or died by the County Withdrawal Deadline. Deadline is 5 p.m. Auditor’s office must be open until 5 p.m. if a substitution possibility exists.	§43.23(2)
-63	Tuesday, March 31, 2026	Objection Deadline for Substitute Candidates – County Last day to file written objections to nomination petitions of a substitute candidates filed under §43.23 with the auditor.	§43.24(1)(b)(2)
60 From Caucus	Friday, April 3, 2026	Caucus Report Deadline Democratic and Republican central committees must certify to the auditor the names of delegates to the county convention, the names of people elected as party committee members and the names and addresses of caucus participants within 60 days after the precinct caucuses.	§43.4(4), 43.91
-47	Thursday, April 16, 2026	Satellite Voting Petitions Deadline A petition requesting a satellite absentee voting station must be filed no later than 5 p.m. on the 47th day before the election. At least seven days before the first day of a satellite, the auditor must notify the political parties’ chairpersons of the date, time, and location of a satellite so the parties may appoint observers. Auditor’s office must be open until 5 p.m.	§53.11(2)(a), 53.11(5)
-45	Saturday, April 18, 2026	UOCAVA absentee ballots must be ready to mail 45 days before the election. Regular absentee ballots must be mailed as soon as they are ready, but not sooner than 20 days before the election.	§53.8(1), 53.39(2), 53.40(2)
		Health Care Facility Delivery Within 10 days after ballots are printed, the auditor may send teams to deliver ballots to residents and patients of health care facilities. After this 10 day window, ballots cannot be delivered to health care facilities again until the 14th day before the election.	§53.8(3), 53.22(2)(a)(1)

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
-30	Sunday, May 3, 2026 Moves to Monday, May 4, 2026	Election Board Panel Names Due Last day for the chairpersons of county Democratic and Republican parties to designate the names of precinct election officials for the two-year election board to the auditor. Last day for city councils and school boards to designate the names of precinct election officials willing to serve without pay for the two-year election board to the auditor. <i>This deadline falls on Sunday and is therefore moved to the next business day, Monday.</i>	§49.15(2)(a)
-28	Tuesday, May 5, 2026	No Special Elections Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)
-25	Friday, May 8, 2026	Notice of precinct consolidations due Notice of temporary precinct consolidations and/or divisions must be reported to the Secretary of State's Office at least 25 days before the election.	§49.11(4)
-21	Tuesday, May 12, 2026	No Special Elections Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)
-20	Wednesday, May 13, 2026	Absentee Ballots Ready First day absentee ballots may be voted in the auditor's office. Auditors must review all affidavits upon receipt. First day to hold a satellite voting station.	§53.10, 53.18(2)
		Publications Begin First day to publish notice of changes in polling places. This includes temporary changes and any polling places that have been changed since the last primary election.	§49.23
		First day the auditor may publish notice of the primary election. The notice of election must include an accessibility notice.	§49.53, IAC 721—21.50(10)
		Last Day for Auditor to Finalize Election Board Panel Last day for auditor to finalize election board panels for elections for the next two years.	§49.15(1)

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
-15	Monday, May 18, 2026	Worry-Free Postmark Date Mailed voter registration forms which are postmarked on or before today are considered on time to be pre-registered for the primary election even if they are received after pre-registration deadline.	§48A.9(3)
		Last Day to Appoint Precinct Election Officials Appointed by the auditor.	§49.13(1)
		Voter Pre-Registration Deadline The deadline to pre-register to vote for the primary election is 5 p.m. This applies to registration in person (including registration at driver's license stations or agencies) or by mail. Voters may register online until 11:59 p.m.	§48A.9(1)
		Exceptions: Mailed registration forms postmarked on or before the worry-free postmark date are considered on time even if they are received after 5 p.m. today.	§48A.9(3)
		After today, a person may register to vote at the auditor's office or at a satellite absentee voting station and vote an absentee ballot. The process is the same as for registering to vote on election day.	§48A.7A(3)
		Deadline to request an absentee ballot to be mailed is 5 p.m.	§53.2(1)(b)
		Voters admitted to hospitals or nursing homes after 5 p.m. today may call to request delivery of an absentee ballot. Deadline for a telephone request is 4 p.m. on election day.	§53.22(3), 53.22(6)
		Auditor's office must be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.	§48A.9(2)
-14	Tuesday, May 19, 2026	No Special Elections Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)
		Health Care Facility Delivery Teams may resume delivery of absentee ballots to residents and patients of health care facilities.	§53.22(2)(a)(1)
-8	Monday, May 25, 2026	Memorial Day Holiday – State Offices Closed	§1C.1
-7	Tuesday, May 26, 2026	No Special Elections Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
-4	Friday, May 29, 2026	Publication Deadline Last day to publish notice of election and polling place changes. The notice of election must include an accessibility notice.	§49.23, 49.53, IAC 721—21.50(10)
		Last Day to Submit Written Challenges to Absentee Voters A person qualified to vote in the election may submit a written challenge to the qualifications of an absentee voter until 5 p.m. in the auditor's office. Observers witnessing the processing of absentee ballots may submit challenges on the day before the election and until the polls close on election day.	§53.31(1)
		Absentee Affidavits Last day for auditor to review absentee affidavits received by 5 p.m. Auditor's office must be open until 5 p.m.	§53.18(2)
-3	Saturday, May 30, 2026	Auditors' Offices Open The auditor's office must be open for at least 8 hours for absentee voting and other election business.	§47.2(5)
-1	Monday, June 1, 2026	Equipment Testing Deadline Last day to test voting equipment. Keep testing results in election files. Testing must be completed by 7 p.m.	§52.35
		PEO Training Deadline Last day for training precinct election officials.	§49.124(1)
		Auditor May Convene ASVP Board The board may review affidavits and decide which ballots to accept for counting. If secrecy envelopes were enclosed with all absentee ballots, the auditor may direct the board to open affidavit envelopes and remove the secrecy envelopes. The board may also begin counting of absentee ballots.	§53.23(3)(b)(1)
		Notify the county political party chairpersons of the time the ASVP board will be convened.	§53.23(3)(b)(1)
		Absentee Ballot In-Person Deadline Last day to request and vote an absentee ballot in person at the auditor's office.	§53.2(1)(a)

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
0	Tuesday, June 2, 2026	Primary Election Day Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.	§43.7, 49.73
		Last Day for Voters to Fix Incomplete Affidavits Voters have until 8 p.m. to fix incomplete affidavit envelopes.	§53.18(2)
		Absentee Ballot Receipt Deadline for Priamry Election All absentee ballots -- except UOCAVA and Safe at Home -- must be received by 8:00 p.m. to be considered on time to be counted.	§53.17(3)
		Electronically Submitted Absentee Ballot Requests Must be Matched with Originals If an electronic or faxed request was submitted, original absentee ballot requests must be received by the time the polls close on election day. If the original does not arrive on time or was postmarked after the Deadline to Request Absentee Ballots, the ballot cannot be counted. Notify the voter that the ballot was rejected. This requirement does not apply to UOCAVA voters.	IAC 721—21.2(2)
2	Thursday, June 4, 2026	Post Number of Provisional Ballots Number of provisional ballots cast in each precinct must be posted no later than 9 a.m. on the second day after the election.	§50.20
		ASVP Board May Reconvene ASVP board may reconvene no earlier than noon on Thursday to consider provisional ballots, UOCAVA and Safe at Home Absentee absentee ballots that were postmarked on the day before the election or earlier.	§50.21, 50.22
6	Monday, June 8, 2026	Absentee Ballot and Provisional Deadline UOCAVA and Safe at Home Absentee ballots confirmed to be sent on the day before the election or ealier by postmark or postal service barcode and received by 12:00 noon today are considered to be on time to be counted. Provisional Ballots may be cured until 12:00 noon today.	§9E.6(2)(b), 53.44(2), IAC 721-21.3(7)

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
7	Tuesday, June 9, 2026	ASVP Board Reconvenes ASVP board reconvenes if necessary to consider UOCAVA and Safe at Home absentee ballots postmarked on the day before the election or earlier, and received by noon on the Absentee Ballot Deadline and/or consider any evidence submitted for provisional ballots prior to canvass, and formally reject any provisional or absentee ballots deemed ineligible to be counted.	§50.22
		County Canvass of Votes Must be held on Tuesday	§43.49 (HF954)
		Board of Supervisors must publish offices and names of candidates nominated and offices for which no one was nominated.	§43.62
		Abstracts and Election Canvass Summary by Political Party Mail signed originals to the Secretary of State by thirteen days after election day. Must be signed by a majority of the board.	§43.60, 50.30, 50.30A
		Notify Political Parties Certify to the county political party chairs the list of party candidates for county offices who were nominated and for which office they were nominated as well as a list of offices for which no party candidate was nominated. The names of candidates who received votes for offices in which no nomination was made and the candidate vote totals must be included.	§43.55
		Notify Write-In Nominees Auditor must notify people nominated by write-in votes for county offices that they must file an affidavit of candidacy within seven days of the canvass by 5 p.m. if they wish to have their name on the general election ballot.	§43.54, 43.66, 43.67
7	Tuesday, June 9, 2026	No Special Elections Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)
8	Wednesday, June 10, 2026	Recount Request Deadline Written requests for a recount must be filed with the auditor by 5 p.m. on the day following the county canvass of votes. Auditor's office must be open until 5 p.m.	§43.56, 50.48(1)(a)
13	Monday, June 15, 2026	County Abstracts of Votes and Canvass Summaries Due Deadline to forward original abstracts of votes and canvass summaries to the Secretary of State. Must be signed by a majority of the board.	§43.60, 50.30, 50.30A

Days From Election	Date	Event	Code Cite
14	Tuesday, June 16, 2026 (7th day after the Canvass)	Write-In Nominees Filing Deadline – County Offices Final day for people nominated by write-in votes for county offices to file an affidavit of candidacy if they wish to have their names on the general election ballot. Auditor’s office must be open until 5 p.m. if a candidate who received enough write-in votes to be nominated has not yet filed an affidavit.	§43.54, 43.66, 43.67
14	Tuesday, June 16, 2026	No Special Election Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)
21	Tuesday, June 23, 2026	No Special Election Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)
		EDR Acknowledgement Deadline Last day to mail acknowledgements to voters who registered and voted after the primary election pre-registration deadline.	§48A.26A(1)
27	Monday, June 29, 2026	State Canvass of Votes Must be Complete	§43.63, 50.38
		Secretary of State must notify write-in nominees for state and federal offices that they must file an affidavit of candidacy with the SOS by 5 p.m. seven days after the state canvass, in order to have their names on the general election ballot.	§43.66, 43.67
28	Tuesday, June 30, 2026	No Special Election Today This includes special elections to fill vacancies.	§39.2(1)(a)
31	Friday, July 3, 2026	Independence Day Observed – State Offices Closed	§1C.1
60	Saturday, August 1, 2026	Deadline to Update Voter History Last day to add voter election participation information in Civix.	§48A.38(2)