

State of Vermont Office of the Secretary of State

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2025 ELECTIONS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024

• December 24 (Tuesday, 70 days before town meeting)

If a charter adoption, amendment, or repeal will be voted on at town meeting, this is the first day to warn the first public hearing *IF* the hearing is exactly 30 days before town meeting. Because the hearing must be held at least 30 days before the vote, and because the window to warn is 30-40 days before the hearing, the window to warn would be earlier if the hearing is being held over 30 days before town meeting.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2641(a), 2645(a)(3) & (6)

JANUARY 2025

• January 3 (Friday, 60 days before town meeting)

BCA – Last day in towns using Australian ballots for the BCA to vote to use a vote tabulator for town meeting, if one is not currently used.

17 V.S.A. § 2491(a)

Clerks – Last day to warn the first public hearing if a charter adoption, amendment or repeal will be voted on at town meeting, *IF* the hearing is exactly 30 days before town meeting.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2641(a), 2645(a)(3) & (6)

• January 4 (Saturday, within 60 days after the election)

Clerks – Enter voter participation from the general election. Be sure to resolve all outstanding absentee ballot requests prior to entering participation.

17 V.S.A. § 2593

January 16 (Thursday, 47 days before town meeting)

Clerks & Voters – Last day for voters to file a petition with the town clerk to have an article appear on the ballot. Petition must contain signatures from at least 5% of registered voters in the municipality.

17 V.S.A. § 2642(a)(3)(A)



• January 17 (Friday)

Clerks – If a submitted petition does not conform to statute, the clerk must notify the petitioner, in writing and within 24 hours of its submission, why the petition does not conform. Petitioners must return supplementary petitions within 48 hours of being notified by the clerk.

17 V.S.A. § 2642(a)(3)(A)

• January 20 (Monday, not less than 43 days before the election)

Clerks – Drop box installation must be complete if the BCA has voted to do so.

17 V.S.A. § 2543a

• January 23 (Thursday, 40 days before the election)

Clerks – First day a clerk may post warnings for town meeting. The warning shall also be posted on the municipality's website if it is regularly updated.

17 V.S.A. § 2641(a)

Clerks – Official copy of proposed charter amendments must be filed in town clerk's office by this date if vote is to be taken on town meeting day (10 days before first public hearing) *IF* the hearing is exactly 30 days before town meeting.

17 V.S.A. § 2645(a)(2)

BCA – Last day to designate polling places for town meeting day (40 days prior to the election).

17 V.S.A. § 2501(a)

BCA – Last day for board of civil authority to, if necessary, divide the checklist according to geographic boundaries. The BCA is required to divide the checklist "if the questions and candidates to be voted upon are not identical for all voters in the town, so that different ballots will be used depending on where a voter lives".

17 V.S.A. § 2501(a)

Legislative Body – Last day to warn the public informational hearing on any public questions to be voted by Australian ballot at town meeting. The hearing must be warned at least 10 days in advance of the hearing.

17 V.S.A. § 2680(h)

• January 27 (6th Monday before the election)

Candidates – In Australian ballot towns, petitions and consent of candidate forms for town offices must be filed with the municipal clerk no later than 5:00 p.m.

17 V.S.A. § 2681



Clerks – Last day that a candidate seeking office can register to vote, in order to have their name printed on the ballot. The candidate should register before submitting their petition.

17 V.S.A. § 2681(a)(B)

January 29 (Wednesday after the filing deadline)

Candidates – In Australian ballot towns, a candidate may withdraw by notifying the municipal clerk in writing no later than 5:00 p.m.

17 V.S.A. § 2681(d)

FEBRUARY 2025

• February 2 (Sunday, 30 days before the election)

Clerks – Last day that the warning and notice for town meeting may be posted. The warning shall also be posted on the municipality's website, if it is regularly updated.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2521(a), 2641(a)

Clerks – Checklist must be posted in two or more public places in the town in addition to being posted at the town clerk's office in towns with populations over 5,000. In towns with a population of less than 5,000, the checklist must only be posted in one place in addition to the clerk's office.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2141, 2521(a)

Clerks – Notice to voters of defective ballots commences. Upon receipt, clerks must open the outer mailing envelope and determine whether an early ballot is defective within 3 business days or on the next day the office is open for business, whichever is later. If a ballot is deemed defective, the voter must be notified no later than the next business day.

17 V.S.A. § 2546(a)

Clerks – Early voter ballot processing may commence if board of civil authority voted to allow early deposit of ballots into tabulator or ballot box. If conducting early voter ballot processing at a time other than normal business hours, notice of the date(s), time(s), and location of the ballot processing must be posted in or near the clerk's office and at two other public places at least three days in advance.

17 V.S.A. § 2546a(b)

Clerks – Last day to hold first public hearing on charter amendments if article is to be voted at town meeting. First public hearing shall be at least 30 days before the meeting.

17 V.S.A. § 2645(a)(3)



Clerks – Last day to submit a list of polling places to the Secretary of State.

17 V.S.A. § 2502(c)(1)

Candidates – Local candidates who have spent or raised \$500 or more must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign Finance Information System</u>.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2968(a), 2103(13)

Legislative Body – In Australian ballot towns, first day to hold a public informational hearing on any public questions to be voted by Australian ballot at town meeting. The hearing must be held within 30 days before town meeting and must be warned at least 10 days in advance of the hearing.

17 V.S.A. § 2680(h)

Political Parties and Political Action Committees (**PACs**) – Parties and PACs that have raised or spent over \$1,000 for a local election must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign</u> Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. § 2964(b)(1)

Public Question Spending – Any formal or informal committee of two or more individuals (including a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity) which makes expenditures of \$1,000 or more during the local election cycle to advocate a position on a public question must file a campaign finance report using the Campaign Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2970(a), 2103(13)

• February 12 (Wednesday)

Clerks – In Australian ballot towns, ballots for local officers and local public questions shall be prepared by the town clerk and available not later than 20 days before the election.

17 V.S.A. § 2681a(a)

Clerks & BCA – In Australian ballot towns, ill or physically disabled voters who have requested absentee ballots may be delivered ballots as soon as ballots are ready. Members of the BCA, or the town clerk if designated by the BCA, may appoint BCA members of opposite parties to deliver the ballots.

17 V.S.A. § 2538

Clerks – Last day to mail ballots to all voters if legislative body has voted to do so. Ballot mailing should commence as soon as ballots are ready.

17 V.S.A. § 2680(g)



• February 21 (Friday)

Clerks – In Australian ballot towns, last day (10 days prior to the day preceding the election) to post warning for public informational hearing on public question to be voted by Australian ballot at a town meeting. The warning must be posted in at least two public places within the municipality and in the town clerk's office. The legislative body is responsible for the administration of the informational hearing and the preparation of minutes.

17 V.S.A. § 2680(g)

• February 22 (Saturday, 10 days before town meeting)

Clerks – Last day to post sample ballots (for the municipal election) in the same places as the warning, notice, and checklist.

17 V.S.A. § 2522(a)

Clerks & Auditors – Must distribute town meeting warning in annual town report (at least 10 days prior to town meeting) or other written form by this date to all postal patrons in the municipality to avoid publishing warning in newspaper (if publishing in the newspaper that must happen at least 5 days before town meeting – February 27).

24 V.S.A. § 1682, 17 V.S.A. § 2641(b)

Clerks – Vote tabulators must be tested using official ballots that are clearly marked "test ballots" (at least 10 days before the election).

17 V.S.A. § 2493(b)

Candidates – Local candidates who have spent or raised \$500 or more must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign Finance Information System</u>.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2968(a), 2103(13)

Political Parties and Political Action Committees (PACs) – Parties and PACs that have raised or spent over \$1,000 for a local election must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign Finance Information System</u>.

17 V.S.A. § 2964(b)(1)

Public Question Spending – Any formal or informal committee of two or more individuals (including a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity) which makes expenditures of \$1,000 or more during the local election cycle to advocate a position on a public question must file a campaign finance report using the Campaign Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2970(a), 2103(13)



• February 27 (Thursday)

Clerks (**Australian Ballot towns**) – Must make a reasonable effort to notify voters of defective ballots, but no longer required to mail notice to voters (starting 5 business days prior to the election). Must record defective status in VEMS within 24 hours.

17 V.S.A. § 2546(b)

Clerks – Town meeting warning must be published in newspaper by this date if warning has not been published in the Town Report or otherwise distributed (at least five days before the meeting).

17 V.S.A. § 2641(b)

Clerks & BCA – Last day for town clerk to forward to the board of civil authority a list of voters added to the checklist (at least five days before town meeting).

17 V.S.A. § 2144b(d)

• February 28 (Friday, 4 days before town meeting)

Candidates – Local candidates who have spent or raised \$500 or more must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign Finance Information System</u>.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2968(a), 2103(13)

• Political Parties and Political Action Committees (PACs) – Parties and PACs that have raised or spent over \$1,000 for a local election must file a campaign finance report using the Campaign Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. § 2964(b)(1)

• **Public Question Spending** – Any formal or informal committee of two or more individuals (including a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity) which makes expenditures of \$1,000 or more during the local election cycle to advocate a position on a public question must file a campaign finance report using the Campaign Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2968(a), 2103(13)



MARCH 2025

• March 1 (Saturday, 3 days before town meeting)

Clerks – Last day to designate pairs of JPs to deliver ballots to ill or physically disabled voters (at least 3 days prior to the election).

17 V.S.A. § 2538(a)(2)

• March 3 (Monday)

Clerks & Voters – Voters, family members, authorized persons or health care providers may request early or absentee ballots until 5:00 p.m. or the closing of the town clerk's office on this day. 17 V.S.A. § 2531(a). If the clerk does not have office hours on the day before the election, then absentee requests may be filed until the closing of the clerk's office on the last day the office has hours prior to the election.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2531(a), 2532(a).

Clerks – Make a list of all early or absentee voters available upon request at their office.

17 V.S.A. § 2534

BCA – Board of civil authority must appoint a presiding officer if the town clerk or other regular presiding officer is unable to preside at the Australian ballot portion of town meeting or if more than one polling place is used.

17 V.S.A. § 2452

BCA – At any time prior to the day of the election, the board of civil authority must appoint a sufficient number of voters to serve as assistant election officers for town meeting.

17 V.S.A. § 2454

Clerks – The presiding officer of each polling place must also post a copy of the warning and notice, sample ballots and the current checklist in a conspicuous place in each polling place before the polls open on election day.

17 V.S.A. § 2523(a)

Clerks – The presiding officer shall make sure that signs informing voters of procedures for depositing ballots are placed on or near the ballot boxes before the polls open on Election Day.

17 V.S.A. § 2523(b)

Clerks & Legislative Body – Last day for legislative body to hold public informational hearing on any public question to be voted by Australian ballot at town meeting.

17 V.S.A. § 2680(g)



• March 4 (Tuesday)

TOWN MEETING DAY

Voters – A meeting of the legal voters of each town shall be held annually on the first Tuesday in March unless the town charter changes the date or the voters have voted to begin on one of the three days preceding the Tuesday.

17 V.S.A. 2640(a), (b)

Clerks – A list of all early or absentee voters available upon request in each polling place as soon as it opens.

17 V.S.A. § 2534

Clerks – In towns using Australian ballot and depositing early voter absentee ballots in vote tabulators: when the vote tabulator is turned on at the polling place, the Town Clerk shall verify that the number of ballots on the vote tabulator matches the number that the Town Clerk verified on the preceding day.

17 V.S.A. § 2546a

Voters – Last day to register to vote to participate in town meeting in your town if qualified.

Clerks – In Australian ballot towns, all early voter absentee ballots returned in the following manner before the polls close on election day must be counted: by any means to the clerk's office before the close of business on the day preceding the election; by being dropped in a secure ballot drop box before the close of business on day before election; by mail to the clerk's office before the close of the polls on the day of the election; and by hand delivery to the presiding officer at the voter's polling place before 7 p.m.

• March 9 (Sunday)

Candidates – Last day for a candidate in a tied race to withdraw (within 5 days of the election). The other candidate shall be declared the winner by the clerk and there shall not be a run-off election.

17 V.S.A. § 2682b

• March 11 (Tuesday)

Clerks – Last day to warn a run-off election if there was a tie vote for any Australian ballot race at town meeting (within seven days after election). The election must be held not less than 15 days nor more than 22 days after the warning is posted.

17 V.S.A. § 2682b



• March 14 (Friday)

Candidates & Clerks – Last day for a losing candidate for local office in a municipality using the Australian ballot system of voting to request a recount (within 10 days after the election).

17 V.S.A. § 2683(a)

Voters – Deadline for a voter to file a request for a recount with the town clerk of any public question voted by Australian ballot (within 10 days after the election).

17 V.S.A. § 2688

Clerks – Last day for town clerk to certify to the Secretary of State each proposal of a charter or charter amendment showing the facts as to its origin and the procedure followed.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2663, 2645(b)

• March 18 (Tuesday, 14 days after town meeting)

Candidates – Local candidates who have spent or raised \$500 or more must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign Finance Information System</u>. Candidates must file a final report within 40 days of the election (the report due two weeks after the election may be the candidate's final report but the report must be so marked by the candidate).

17 V.S.A. § 2968(a), (b)

Political Parties and Political Action Committees (PACs) – Parties and PACs that have raised or spent over \$1,000 for a local election must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign</u> Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. § 2964(b)(1)

Public Question Spending – Any formal or informal committee of two or more individuals (including a corporation, labor organization, public interest group, or other entity) which makes expenditures of \$1,000 or more during the local election cycle to advocate a position on a public question must file a campaign finance report using the Campaign Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. § 2970(a)

• March 19 (Wednesday, 15 days after the election)

Voters – Last day that a legal voter may contest the (town meeting) election. Complaint must be filed with the county superior court.

17 V.S.A. § 2603(c)

• March 20 (Wednesday)

Clerks – First day a run-off election may be held (15 days after the warning of the run-off election).

17 V.S.A. § 2682b



APRIL 2025

• April 2 (Wednesday)

Clerks – Last day a run-off election may be held (22 days after warning; warning within seven days after election).

17 V.S.A. § 2682b

April 3 (Thursday)

Voters – Last day for voters to file petitions with town clerk for reconsideration or rescission of articles voted on at town meeting (within 30 days of the meeting).

17 V.S.A. § 2661(b)

• April 13 (Sunday)

Candidates – Local candidates who have spent or raised \$500 or more must file a final report liquidating all funds within 40 days of the election using the <u>Campaign Finance Information</u> System.

17 V.S.A. § 2968(b)

MAY 2025

May 3 (Saturday)

Clerks – Last day to enter participation for 2025 Town Meeting (within 60 days of the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2593

JUNE 2025

• June 2 (Monday, 90 days after town meeting)

Clerks – In towns using Australian ballot, town clerk may open and destroy town meeting ballots and tally sheets, except as otherwise provided by law.

If a town's annual meeting is held on another date, adjust the 90-day period accordingly.

17 V.S.A. § 2590(d)

Clerks – Last day to hold a reconsideration or rescission vote of a question voted at town meeting.

17 V.S.A. § 2661(b) (within 60 days of petition)



JULY 2025

• July 1 (Tuesday)

Statewide, county, and General Assembly candidates – Candidates who have surplus funds from previous campaigns or any candidate that has raised or spent \$500 must file a campaign finance report using the <u>Campaign Finance Information System</u>.

17 V.S.A. § 2964 (a)(1) & (2)

PACs and Political Parties – PACs and Parties that have previously registered or new PACs that have raised and spent over \$1,000 or more, must file a campaign finance report using the Campaign Finance Information System.

17 V.S.A. § 2964 (a)(1)(A)

AUGUST 2025

• August 27 (Wednesday)

Political Parties – First day for the chair of a state committee of a political party to mail or electronically notify the date and purpose of party reorganization caucuses to each town clerk and to each town chair of the party. Town caucuses must take place between September 10 and September 30 and notice must be sent at least 14 days prior.

17 V.S.A. § 2302(b)

SEPTEMBER 2025

• September 5 (Friday)

Town political party chairs – First day to post notice of the date, purpose, time, and place of the town caucus. Notice must be posted at least 5 days before the day of the caucus in the town clerk's office and at least one other place in town. If the town has a population of over 3,000, the town chair must also post the notice in a newspaper or in a nonpartisan electronic news media website that specializes in the news of the state or the community. Please see the <u>Guide to</u> Political Party Organization and Duties for more information.

17 V.S.A. § 2303

• September 15 (Monday)

BCA & Clerks – By September 15 of each odd-numbered year the board of civil authority shall review the most recent checklist name by name and consider, for each person whose name appears on the checklist, whether that person is still qualified to vote.

17 V.S.A. § 2150(c)



• September 16 (Tuesday)

Political Parties – Last day for the chair of a state committee of a political party to mail a notice of the date and purpose of the caucuses to each town clerk and to each town chair of the party (14 days prior to first meeting).

17 V.S.A. § 2302

• September 20 (Saturday)

Clerks – Clerks must send a letter by this date certifying compliance with 17 V.S.A. 2150 (odd-numbered year review of the checklist) to the Secretary of State by September 20.

17 V.S.A. § 2150(d)(7)

• September 30 (Tuesday)

Political Parties – Last day for members of a political party to meet in caucus in their respective towns.

17 V.S.A. § 2302

Town Political Party Chairs – Within 72 hours after the caucus, the chair and secretary of the town committee shall submit to the state chair and county committees a copy of the notice calling the meeting and a certified list of the names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and emails of the officers and members of the town committee and of the delegates to the county committee.

17 V.S.A. § 2307

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2025

• October 15 (Wednesday) – November 14 (Friday)

County Political Party Organization –

The state political party chair shall set a date not more than 45 days after the date of the town caucuses (October 25 – November 14).

The chair of the county committee must notify each member at least 10 days prior to the meeting (October 15 – November 4).

Within 72 hours of the first meeting of the county committee, its chair and secretary shall submit to the chair of the State committee a copy of the notice calling the meeting and a certified list of the names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and e-mails of the officers of the county committee and of the members elected by the county committee to the State committee.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2309, 2311



State Political Party Organization – The state party chair shall call for a state committee meeting not less than 15 nor more than 30 days after the date of the county party meetings.

The state chair must notify each member in writing at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

Within 10 days after the first meeting of the State committee of a party, the chair and secretary shall file in the office of the Secretary of State a certificate stating that the party has completed its organization for the ensuing two years and has substantially complied with the provisions of this chapter.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2312, 2313

DECEMBER 2025

• December 23 (Tuesday)

Clerks – First day to warn the first public hearing if charter adoption, amendment or repeal is to be voted at town meeting (70 days before town meeting).

17 V.S.A. 2641(a), 2645(a)(3) & (6)

