

# 2026 Elections Calendar

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## 2026 ELECTIONS CALENDAR

When many Vermonters hear the word “elections,” they think the first Tuesday in March, the second Tuesday in August, and the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Election officials, on the other hand, think about a series of one, two, and four-year cycles with calendars chock full of relevant dates. Clerks, candidates, parties, and citizens all have a role to play. All have responsibilities that are tied to date ranges and deadlines.

The following calendar is an effort to capture some of the most notable dates and date ranges. One goal of the calendar is to help players understand what is happening in the election world outside of their area. A second goal is to provide a high-level reminder of each player’s responsibilities.

The calendar is not exhaustive. It is also not the easiest format for understanding the breadth of a particular role. Other resources, such as the 2026 Campaign Finance Guide, Guide to Political Party Organization, and Election Procedures (forthcoming) are likely easier narratives to follow.

If you would like clarification on an entry, please [contact the Elections Division](#).

**Seán Sheehan**

Director of Elections & Campaign Finance

## AUGUST 2025

- **August 27 (Wednesday)**

**Political Parties** – Last day for the State chair to mail or electronically mail notice of the date and purpose of town caucuses, if caucus date is on the first possible day (must send notice at least 14 days before the date of the caucuses, which shall be a date between September 10 and September 30 inclusive).

[17 V.S.A. § 2302, Guide to Political Party Organization](#)

## SEPTEMBER 2025

- **September 5 (Friday)**

**Town political party chairs** – Last day to post notice of the date, purpose, time, and place of the town caucus IF the State chair chose the first possible date (September 10) for caucus date. 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. Chair should ask clerk for voter checklist to use in caucus to ensure attendees are town voters.

[17 V.S.A. § 2303, Guide to Political Party Organization](#)

- **September 13 (Saturday, 72 hours after town caucus)**

**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 e-mails of the officers and members of the town committee and of the delegates to the county committee. If the State chair selected the first possible caucus date (September 10), then September 13 would be the deadline to submit.

[17 V.S.A. § 2307, Guide to Political Party Organization](#)

- **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, 14 days prior to meeting)**

**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 meeting).

[17 V.S.A. § 2302, Guide to Political Party Organization](#)

- **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\(d\)\(7\)](#)

## DECEMBER 2025

- **December 23 (Tuesday, 70 days before town meeting)**

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

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2641\(a\), 2645\(a\)\(3\) & \(6\)](#)

## JANUARY 2026

- **January 1 (Thursday)**

**State Parties** – Last day to have required number of town/county committees organized. Failure to meet this deadline prevents certification of a State Party in 2026 election cycle. For major parties, the required number is at least 30 towns in this State and county committees organized in at least seven counties. For minor parties, it is at least 10 towns in this State.

[17 V.S.A. § 2313\(a\)](#)

- **January 2 (Friday, 60 days before town meeting)**

**BCA** – Last day in towns using Australian ballot 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 charter adoption, amendment or repeal is to be voted at town meeting.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2641\(a\), 2645\(a\)\(3\) and \(6\)](#)

- **January 15 (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 16 (Friday)**

**Clerks** – If petitions turned in do not conform to statute, clerks must notify the petitioners in writing within 24 hours 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 17 (Saturday, beginning 45 days before election day)**

**Clerks** – Notice to voters of defective ballots starts (45 days before an election). 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\(a\)](#)

- **January 22 (Thursday, 40 days before town meeting)**

**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 (40 days prior to town meeting).

[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).

[17 V.S.A. § 2645\(a\)\(2\)](#)

**Clerks** – Last day to post warning for a public informational hearing on any public question or budget issue voted on by Australian ballot, if the informational hearing is held at the earliest possible date (the hearing is to be held within the 30 days preceding town meeting). Remember, this deadline will change depending on when the hearing is held. The warning must be posted at least 10 days in advance of the hearing, in at least two public places within the municipality and in the town clerk's office.

[17 V.S.A. § 2680\(h\)](#)

- **January 22, continued**

**BCA** – Last day to designate polling places for town meeting day (40 days before town meeting).

[17 V.S.A. § 2501\(a\)](#)

**BCA** – Last day for the 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” (40 days prior to town meeting).

[17 V.S.A. § 2501\(a\)](#)

- **January 26 (Monday, 6th Monday before the election)**

**Candidates** – In Australian ballot towns, petition 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\(a\)\(3\)](#)

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2681\(a\)\(B\)](#)

- **January 28 (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\(d\)](#)

**Clerks** – Deadline (5 p.m.) for candidates for town office to file supplementary petitions if initial petition was found not to conform.

[17 V.S.A. § 2681\(e\)](#)

## FEBRUARY 2026

- **February 1 (Sunday, 30 days before the election)**

**Clerks** – This is the last day that the warning and notice for the 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 population 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** – Early voter ballot processing may commence if the 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 (at least 30 days prior to town meeting).

[17 V.S.A. § 2502\(c\)\(1\)](#)

**Clerks & Auditors** – If the town voted at a duly warned annual or special meeting to simply provide notice of the availability of the report instead of mailing or otherwise distributing the report, such notice shall be provided to the voters of the town at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

[24 V.S.A. § 1682](#)

**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\(g\)](#)

- **February 1, continued**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in Town Meeting Day elections.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964, 2968, 2970](#)

- **February 11 (Wednesday, 20 days before the election)**

**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. This includes mailing UOCAVA and regular absentee ballots.

[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 20 (Friday, 10 days prior to the day before town meeting)**

**Clerks** – Last day to post warning for a public informational hearing on any public question or budget issue voted on by Australian ballot, if the informational hearing is held at the latest possible date (the hearing is to be held within the 30 days preceding town meeting). Remember, this deadline will change depending on when the hearing is held. The warning must be posted at least 10 days in advance of the hearing, in at least two public places within the municipality and in the town clerk's office.

[17 V.S.A. § 2680\(h\)](#)

- **February 21 (Saturday, 10 days before town meeting)**

**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). If the town has voted to instead only receive notice of the report's availability, that notice must be provided to voters at least 30 days before annual meeting.

[24 V.S.A. § 1682, 17 V.S.A. § 2641\(b\)](#)



- **February 21, continued**

**Clerks** – Last day to post sample ballots (for the municipal election) in the same places as the warning, notice, and checklist (not less than 10 days prior to town meeting).

[17 V.S.A. § 2522\(a\)](#)

**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, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in Town Meeting Day elections.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964, 2968, 2970](#)

- **February 24 (Tuesday, starting 5 business days before the election)**

**Clerks (Australian ballot towns)** – You must make a reasonable effort to notify voters of defective ballots but are no longer required to mail notice to voters. You must record defective status in VEMS within 24 hours.

[17 V.S.A. § 2546\(b\)](#)

- **February 26 (Thursday, at least 5 days before the meeting)**

**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.

[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 27 (Friday, 4 days before the election)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in Town Meeting Day elections.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964, 2968, 2970](#)

- **February 28 (Saturday, at least 3 days before the election)**

**Clerks** – Last day to designate pairs of justices of the peace to deliver ballots to ill or physically disabled voters.

[17 V.S.A. § 2538\(a\)\(2\)](#)

## MARCH 2026

- **March 2 (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. 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, budget question, or issue to be voted by Australian ballot at town meeting.

[17 V.S.A. § 2680\(g\)](#)

- **March 3 (Tuesday)**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**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](#)

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2121](#)

**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.

[17 V.S.A. § 2543](#)

- **March 8 (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 10 (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 13 (Friday, within 10 days after the election)**

**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.

[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.

[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 15 (Sunday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in Town Meeting Day elections.

[17 V.S.A. § 2964](#)

- **March 17 (Tuesday, 14 days after the election)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in Town Meeting Day elections.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964, 2968, 2970](#)

- **March 18 (Wednesday, within 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 21 (Thursday, 15 days after the warning of the run-off election)**

**Clerks** – First day a run-off election may be held.

[17 V.S.A. § 2682b](#)

## APRIL 2026

- **April 1 (Wednesday, 22 days after the warning)**

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2682b](#)

- **April 2 (Thursday, within 30 days of the meeting)**

**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 12 (Sunday, within 40 days after town meeting)**

**Candidates** – Campaign Finance disclosure final reports due for those participating in Town Meeting Day elections.

[17 V.S.A. § 2968\(b\)](#)

- **April 27 (Monday)**

**Major party candidates for August primary** – First day to file petitions and consent forms for candidates who wish to be on the ballot for a major party primary. Candidates for non-federal statewide office and the general assembly must also file their Financial Disclosure form with the officer with whom the consent of candidate form is filed. Statewide candidates must also file their most recent IRS 1040 form.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2356, 2414\(a\) & \(c\)](#)

**Independent candidates for November General Election** – First day petitions and consent forms can be filed for the November General Election. Candidates for non-federal statewide office and general assembly must also file their Financial Disclosure form with the officer with whom the consent of candidate form is filed. Non-federal statewide candidates must also file their most recent IRS 1040 form.

[17 V.S.A. § 2402\(d\), 2414\(a\), \(c\)](#)

**Minor party candidates for November General Election** – First day to file party nomination and consent of candidate forms (no sooner than the fourth Monday in April). Candidates for non-federal statewide office and general assembly must also file their Financial Disclosure form with the officer with whom the consent of candidate form is filed. Statewide candidates must also file their most recent IRS 1040 form.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2386\(c\)\(1\), 2414\(a\) & \(c\)](#)

- **April 27, continued**

**Independent Justice of the Peace** – First day for candidates to file petitions and consent of candidate form with the town clerk.

[17 V.S.A. § 2402\(d\)\(B\)](#)

## MAY 2026

- **May 2 (Saturday, within 60 days of the election)**

**Clerks** – Last day to enter participation for Town Meeting.

[17 V.S.A. § 2593](#)

- **May 28 (Thursday)**

**Major party candidates for August primary** – Last day primary petitions and consent form for candidates who wish to be on the ballot for a major party primary. Must be filed by 5:00 p.m. Candidates for non-federal statewide office and general assembly must also file the Ethics Disclosure form with the officer with whom the consent of candidate form is filed. Statewide candidates must also file their most recent IRS 1040 form.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2356, 2414\(a\) & \(c\)](#)

- **May 31 (Sunday)**

**Clerks** – Last day for town and county clerks to notify the Secretary of State of the names of all candidates, offices for which they have filed, and whether the petition conforms to statutory requirements (correct number of signatures) (within three days after the last day for filing petitions). All clerks will data enter candidates into VEMS.

[17 V.S.A. § 2359](#)

## JUNE 2026

- **June 1 (Monday)**

**Clerks** – In towns using Australian ballot, town clerk may open and destroy town meeting ballots and tally sheets, except as otherwise provided by law (90 days after town meeting).

[17 V.S.A. § 2590\(d\)](#)

**Clerks** – Last day for clerks to return non-conforming petitions (within two business days of receipt of petition) to candidates with written statement why it cannot be accepted and requesting supplemental petitions by June 7.

[17 V.S.A. § 2358\(a\) & \(b\)](#)

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2661\(b\)](#)

- **June 7 (Sunday)**

**Clerks & Candidates** – By 5:00 p.m., supplementary petitions originally rejected by the town or county clerks must be filed with the appropriate filing officer to qualify for the primary (not later than 10 days after the date for filing petitions). The petitions will again be subject to review in the same manner as the original submission.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2358\(a\) & \(b\), 2103\(13\)](#)

- **June 9 (Tuesday)**

**Clerks** – Last day for officials who have received supplementary petitions from candidates to notify the Secretary of State with the status of such petition (not later than two days after the last day for filing supplementary petitions). If the petition is accepted, enter the candidate into VEMS.

[17 V.S.A. § 2359](#)

- **June 26 (Friday)**

**Clerks** – Will receive warning and notice for the statewide primary election from the Elections Division by this date (at least 5 days prior to when they must be posted).

[17 V.S.A. § 2521](#)

**Clerks** – Clerks will receive August primary ballots (not later than 45 days before the election). Clerks should store the ballots, except those used for sample ballots and early or absentee ballots, in a secure location until the date of the election.

[17 V.S.A. § 2479](#)

**Clerks** – Notice to voters of defective ballots starts (45 days prior to an election). 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\(a\)](#)

- **June 27 (Saturday, not later than 45 days before the election)**

**Clerks** – Clerks will receive primary ballots (not later than 45 days before the election). Clerks should store the ballots, except those used for sample ballots and early or absentee ballots, in a secure location until the date of the election. All absentee ballot requests received from military & overseas voters must be sent on this date or on the date that the request is received.

[17 V.S.A. § 2479](#)

**Clerks & BCA** – Voters who requested in-home delivery of ballots may have the ballots delivered as soon as ballots are ready. BCA members, 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](#)



## JULY 2026

- **July 1 (Wednesday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)

- **July 12 (Sunday, 30 days before election)**

**Clerks** – Last day to post warning for the statewide primary (No later than 30 days prior). The warning and notice need to be posted in at least two public places and in or near the town clerk's office.

[17 V.S.A. § 2521\(a\)](#)

**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 population 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** – 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\(b\)](#)

**July 20 (Monday, 3rd Monday in July before the primary)**

**Political Parties** – Last day for parties to meet in caucus to nominate Justice of the Peace candidates for the primary election.

[17 V.S.A. § 2413\(a\)\(1\)](#)

**Candidates** – Last day for Independent Justices of the Peace to register and submit petitions of nomination.

[17 V.S.A. § 2402\(d\)\(1\)\(B\)](#)

- **July 22 (Wednesday, 20 days before the election)**

**Clerks** – Last day to post sample ballots in the same places as the warning, notice, and checklist (not less than 20 days prior to the primary election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2522\(a\)](#)

- **July 27 (Monday, 4th Monday in July before the primary)**

**Political Parties** – Last day for parties to file the statement of nomination for Justice of the Peace candidates nominated by party caucus (on or before July 20). The statement of nomination must be filed by 5:00 p.m.

[17 V.S.A. § 2413\(e\), 2385](#)

## AUGUST 2026

- **August 1 (Saturday, 10 days before the election)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2493\(b\)](#)

- **August 4 (Tuesday, starting 5 business days before the election)**

**Clerks** – Must make a reasonable effort to notify voters of defective ballots, but clerk is 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\(b\)](#)

- **August 6 (Thursday before election, 5 p.m.)**

**Independent candidates for statewide office and General Assembly** - Last day to turn in petition and consent forms to appear on the ballot in the November general election. Forms are due at the Secretary of State's office before 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the primary election.

Candidates for non-federal statewide office and General Assembly must also file the Ethics Disclosure form with the same officer receiving the consent of candidate form.

Non-federal statewide candidates must also file their most recent IRS 1040 form (redactions possible).

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2402\(d\)\(1\)\(B\), 2414\(a\) & \(c\)](#)

**Minor party candidates for November general election** – Last day to file party nomination and consent of candidate forms. Nominations and consent forms are due at the Secretary of State's office before 5:00 p.m. between April 28th and August 6th.

Candidates for non-federal statewide office and General Assembly must also file the Ethics Disclosure form with the same officer receiving the consent of candidate form.

Statewide candidates must also file their most recent IRS 1040 form.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2386\(c\)\(1\), 2414\(a\) & \(c\)](#)

**Write-In Candidates** – Last day for write-in candidates for the General Assembly, state office, or any federal office in the primary election to file a form affirming they want to have their votes listed in the election results next to their name. The votes of those who do not submit such an affirmation will be included in the aggregate total for "Other Write-Ins". Must be filed by 5:00 p.m. the Thursday prior to the primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2370, 2472\(b\)\(5\)\(A\), 2587\(e\)\(3\)](#)

- **August 8 (Saturday, 3 days before the election)**

**BCA** – Last day for the board of civil authority to designate pairs of justices of the peace, assuring political balance, to deliver early or absentee ballots to ill and physically disabled voters (at least three days prior to the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2538\(a\)](#)

- **August 10 (Monday, day before the election)**

**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. 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\(a\) & \(a\)\(2\)](#)

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2534](#)

**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.

[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.

[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.

[17 V.S.A. § 2523\(b\)](#)

- **August 11 (Tuesday)**

**STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**

A primary election shall be held on the second Tuesday in August in each even numbered year for the nomination of candidates of major political parties for all offices to be voted for at the succeeding general election, except candidates for president and vice president of the United States, their electors, and justices of the peace.

[17 V.S.A. § 2351](#)

**Clerks** – All polling places may open no earlier than 5:00 a.m. and no later than 10:00 a.m. and must close at 7:00 p.m.

[17 V.S.A. § 2561](#)

- **August 11, continued**

**Clerks** – Must make 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** – Must enter unofficial election night results into VEMS on the night of the election. This only requires entry of vote totals for the candidates named on the ballot and does not require reporting of individual write-in vote totals. Please contact the Elections Division on the night of the election if you are unable to enter your results in VEMS. Your Official Return of Votes must then be entered into VEMS no later than 48 hours following the election.

[17 V.S.A. § 2588\(c\)\(1\)](#)

- **August 12 (Wednesday)**

**Clerks & BCAs** – Representative district canvassing committees for single town districts meet at 10:00 a.m. to tally returns.

[17 V.S.A. § 2368](#)

- **August 13 (Thursday, 48 hours after the election)**

**Clerks** – Official return of votes must be filed by today (48 Hours after the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2588\(6\)\(C\)](#)

- **August 14 (Friday, 3 days after the election)**

**BENNINGTON BATTLE DAY (Observed) - Election Office Open**

**Clerks (Representative district)** – Representative district canvassing committees in multi-town districts, and canvassing committees for state senator and county offices meet at 10:00 a.m. to tally returns (three days after the primary election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2368](#)

- **August 18 (Tuesday, 7 days after the election)**

**Secretary of State** – Canvassing committees for statewide and congressional offices meet at 10:00 a.m. to tally returns (one week after the primary).

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2368](#)

**Candidates** – Last day for a candidate to file a petition for a recount in Superior Court (within 7 calendar days after the election).

[2602\(b\)\(1\)](#)

- **August 21 (Friday, 10 days after the election)**

**Candidates** – Last day for validly nominated candidates to withdraw their names from the ballot by filing a written notice with the town clerk in the case of a justice of the peace, or with the Secretary of State in the case of all other offices by 5:00 p.m. (10 days following the primary).

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2412\(a\)\(1\)](#)

**Political parties** – Last day for political party committee to nominate a candidate in the case of a tie vote in the primary. Notice of meeting must be provided 5 days prior to the meeting.

[17 V.S.A. § 2369\(b\)\(1\)](#)

- **August 26 (Wednesday, 15 days after the election)**

**Voters** – Last day that a legal voter may contest the results of the primary election (within 15 days after the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2603\(c\)](#)

## SEPTEMBER 2026

- **September 1 (Tuesday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)

- **September 18 (Friday, at least 5 days before warning posted)**

**Clerks** – Will receive warning and notice for the statewide general election from the Elections Division by this date (at least 5 days prior to when they must be posted).

[17 V.S.A. § 2521](#)

- **September 19 (Saturday, not later than 45 days before the election)**

**Clerks** – Town clerks must receive general election ballots (not later than 45 days before the election). Clerks should store the ballots, except those used for sample ballots and early or absentee ballots, in a secure location until the date of the election. All absentee ballot requests received from military & overseas voters must be sent on this date or on the date that the request is received.

[17 V.S.A. § 2479](#)

- **September 19, continued**

**Clerks** – Notice to voters of defective ballots commences (45 days prior to an election). 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 & BCA** – Absentee ballots for ill or physically disabled voters may be delivered 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 perform home-delivery of ballots.

[17 V.S.A. § 2538](#)

- **September 21 (Monday, 43 days before the election)**

**Clerks & Voters** – The Elections Division automatically mails ballots for the general election to all qualified voters, as required by law. The mailing starts no later than this day (at least 43 days before the general election), and must be completed by October 1st.

[17 V.S.A. § 2537a](#)

- **September 24 (Thursday, 40 days before the election)**

**Clerks** – Last day for clerks to request additional ballots for the general election, due to unusual growth of the checklist (40 days prior to the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2478\(d\)](#)

**BCA** – Last day for the board of civil authority to divide the checklist for the general election (at least 40 days prior to the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2501\(a\)](#)

## OCTOBER 2026

- **October 1 (Thursday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)

- **October 4 (Sunday, 30 days before the election)**

**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 post the warning and notice for the general election (30 days before the election). The checklist must also 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 a population of 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). In towns that divide their checklist, that portion of the checklist that applies to the district should be posted.

[17 V.S.A. § 2141, 2521\(a\)](#)

- **October 10 (Saturday, 60 days after the primary election)**

**Clerks** – Must enter voter participation from the statewide primary by this date (within 60 days after an election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2593](#)

- **October 14 (Wednesday, 20 days before the election)**

**Clerks** – Last day (20 days prior to the election) for clerks to post sample ballots for the general election in at least two public places in town and in or near the clerk's office.

[17 V.S.A. § 2522\(a\)](#)

- **October 15 (Thursday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election, including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)



- **October 24 (Saturday, at least 10 days before the election)**

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2493\(b\)](#)

- **October 27 (Tuesday, starting 5 business days before the election)**

**Clerks** – 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\(b\)](#)

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)

- **October 29 (Thursday)**

**Write-In Candidates** – Last day for write-in candidates for the General Assembly, state office, or any federal office in the general election to file a form affirming they want to have their votes listed in the election results next to their name. The votes of those who do not submit such an affirmation will be included in the aggregate total for "Other Write-Ins". Must be filed by 5:00 p.m. the Thursday prior to the election.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2370, 2472\(b\)\(5\)\(A\), 2587\(e\)\(3\)](#)

- **October 30 (Friday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election, including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)

- **October 31 (Saturday, at least 3 days before the election)**

**BCA** – Last day for the board of civil authority to designate pairs of justices of the peace, assuring political balance, to deliver early or absentee ballots to ill and physically disabled voters.

[17 V.S.A. § 2538\(a\)](#)

## NOVEMBER 2026

- **November 2 (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. 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\(a\), \(a\)\(2\)](#)

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

[17 V.S.A. § 2534](#)

**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.

[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.

[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.

[17 V.S.A. § 2523\(b\)](#)

- **November 3 (Tuesday)**

### **GENERAL ELECTION DAY**

General election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, in even numbered years.

[17 V.S.A. § 2103\(15\)](#)

**Clerks** – All polling places may open no earlier than 5 a.m. and no later than 10 a.m. and must close at 7:00 p.m.

[17 V.S.A. § 2561](#)

- **November 3, continued**

**Clerks** – Must make 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** – Must enter unofficial election night results into VEMS on the night of the election. This only requires entry of vote totals for the candidates named on the ballot and does not require reporting of individual write-in vote totals. Please contact the Elections Division on the night of the election if you are unable to enter your results in VEMS. Your Official Return of Votes must then be entered into VEMS no later than 48 hours following the election.

[17 V.S.A. § 2588\(c\)\(1\)](#)

- **November 5 (Thursday, 48 hours after the election)**

**Clerks** – Official return of votes must be filed by today (48 hours after the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2588\(6\)\(C\)](#)

- **November 10 (Tuesday, 7 days after the election)**

**Election Officials & Clerks** – At 10:00 a.m. all canvassing committees (statewide, county, senatorial, and representative) must meet to tally returns. The committee shall prepare certificates of election and send or deliver these to the candidates elected, except the statewide committee shall prepare the certificates but not sign them. Each canvassing committee shall also file a canvassing report of its findings with the Secretary of State.

[17 V.S.A. § 2592\(g\), \(h\), \(m\)](#)

**Candidates** – Last day for a candidate to file a petition for a recount in Superior Court (within 7 calendar days of the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2602\(b\)\(1\)](#)

- **November 17 (Tuesday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure reports due for those participating in the general election including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. § 2964](#)

- **November 18 (Wednesday, 15 days after the election)**

**Voters** – Last day a legal voter may contest the results of the general election, except for the election of members of the General Assembly (within 15 days after the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2603\(c\)](#)

- **November 23 (Monday, 20 days after the election)**

**Candidates** – Last day for a candidate for State Representative or 25 voters; or a candidate for State Senate or 100 voters, to challenge the election of a candidate to the General Assembly (within 20 days of the election).

[17 V.S.A. § 2605 & 2606](#)

## DECEMBER 2026

- **December 15 (Tuesday)**

**Candidates, Committees, and Parties** – Campaign Finance disclosure final reports due for those participating in the general election including the August primary.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2964](#)

- **December 22 (Tuesday, 70 days before 2027 town meeting)**

**Clerks** – First day to warn the first public hearing if charter adoption, amendment or repeal is to be voted at town.

[17 V.S.A. §§ 2641\(a\), 2645\(a\)\(3\) and \(6\)](#)

END OF 2026