THE 2026 PRIMARY

What to know about the August 11 primary

Vermont's statewide primary is Tuesday, August 11, 2026, and every registered Vermont voter can take part. The primary decides each party's nominees for the offices on the November ballot. Vermont runs an open primary, which works differently from what many voters expect: you receive the ballots of all three major parties but vote only one, returning all three (including the two left blank) to the town clerk. Voting by mail is available but requires a request, since ballots are not mailed automatically like they are in the General Election. In-person voting runs until 7:00 p.m., and same-day registration means an eligible resident can register and vote on August 11 itself. Everything you need to get ready is at vote.vermont.gov.

Will you be 18 by November 3?

You do not have to be 18 on primary day to vote in it. Any resident who will be 18 by November 3, 2026, the date of the General Election, can vote in this August's primary. If that is you, confirm your registration ahead of August at vote.vermont.gov so you are ready for both elections.

Primary overview

Vermont's State Primary, Tuesday, August 11, 2026, decides each party's nominees for the offices on the November ballot. It is open to all registered voters, and no advance party registration is required; you receive all three major-party ballots, vote one, and return all three. Details at vote.vermont.gov.

Voter guide / sample ballot

You do not have to wait until Election Day to see what you will be deciding. Go to vote.vermont.gov to view a sample ballot and the Vermont Voter Guide. The guide contains candidate photos, statements, links to social media, and contact information so that you can do research and make an informed decision.

Primary Turnout:

More than 7 in 10 Vermont voters cast a ballot in the 2024 general election, but fewer than 1 in 6 voted in the primary that decided which candidates were on it. Statewide, that was about 77,000 primary voters compared to 372,000 in November. The primary determines each party's nominees, so a primary vote often matters as much as one cast in the general.

This year's primary is Tuesday, August 11. Polls are open until 7:00 p.m., same-day registration is available, and everything you need is at vote.vermont.gov.

The primary is August 11

Election Day for the primary is Tuesday, August 11, 2026. Polls are open until 7:00 p.m., and same-day registration means you can still register and vote that day. Check your polling location first, since it may have moved since the last election: vote.vermont.gov.

Am I ready to vote?

A few quick checks before August 11 make Election Day go smoothly. Three questions: do you need to register or update your address, do you know where your polling place is, and do you want to review a sample ballot? Settle all three in a few minutes at vote.vermont.gov.

Voting Early / Absentee:

Voting early / absentee in the primary takes one extra step. General Election ballots are mailed automatically; primary ballots are not, so request one at vote.vermont.gov. Request early, since the ballot has to reach you and travel back to the town clerk in time to count. You will receive all three major-party ballots, vote only one, and return all three (including the two left blank) with a signed certificate envelope. You can mail it, drop it at the town clerk during office hours, or use your town's secure drop box, and track it at vote.vermont.gov.

Returning your early / absentee ballot:

A mail ballot that arrives after 7pm on Election Day will not count. If you are returning by mail, send your absentee ballot well ahead of August 11 to leave time for delivery. The most reliable options are to hand it to the town clerk during office hours or use your town's secure drop box, and you can confirm it arrived at vote.vermont.gov.