

Key Dates for the 2026 Election Cycle

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - State and County Primary Election

Primary elections may be held for **state judicial offices and applicable county offices**, subject to the call by political parties.

Deadline to Call Primary Monday, August 25, 2025

Deadline to Rescind Call for Primary Friday, November 21, 2025

First Day to Pick Up Petitions Monday, December 22, 2025

Qualifying Deadline* Thursday, February 19, 2026, 12:00 Noon

* This qualifying deadline applies to primary candidates, candidates nominated by caucus, and independent candidates for the offices on the May primary ballot.

Withdrawal Deadline Thursday, February 26, 2026, 12:00 Noon

Voter Registration Deadline Monday, April 6, 2026

Early Voting Period Wednesday, April 15 – Thursday, April 30, 2026

Absentee Ballot Request Deadline Saturday, April 25, 2026

Thursday, August 6, 2026 - Primary and General Election

Primary elections will be held for Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Tennessee Senate (odd-numbered districts), Tennessee House, and Republican and Democratic State Executive Committees. General elections will be held for vacant state judicial offices and applicable county offices.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions Friday, January 9, 2026

Qualifying Deadline* Tuesday, March 10, 2026,12:00 Noon

* This qualifying deadline applies to primary and independent candidates for the offices on the August primary ballot.

Withdrawal Deadline Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 12:00 Noon

Voter Registration Deadline Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Early Voting Friday, July 17 – Saturday, August 1, 2026

Absentee Ballot Request Deadline Monday, July 27, 2026

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - State and Federal General Election

All candidates (including independents) for **Governor**, **U.S. Senate**, **U.S. House**, **Tennessee Senate** (odd-numbered districts), and **Tennessee House** must follow the qualifying dates for the August election. For **municipal elections** held with the November election, the qualifying dates below apply.

First Day to Pick Up Petitions Monday, June 22, 2026

Qualifying Deadline Thursday, August 20, 2026, 12:00 Noon Withdrawal Deadline Thursday, August 27, 2026, 12:00 Noon

Voter Registration Deadline Monday, October 5, 2026

Early Voting Wednesday, October 14 – Thursday, October 29, 2026

Absentee Ballot Request Deadline Saturday, October 24, 2026