

Important 2026 Election Dates

Saturday, May 2, 2026 – Uniform Election Date (Limited)	
First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Thursday, January 1, 2026* <i>*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2026 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.</i>
Last Day for Candidates Planning to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot to Register to Vote or Update Voter Registration	Tuesday, January 13, 2026
First Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only) ¹	Wednesday, January 14, 2026
Last Day to Order General Election or Special Election on a Measure	Friday, February 13, 2026
Last Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only) ²	Friday, February 13, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only)	Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Last Day to Register to Vote	Thursday, April 2, 2026
First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Monday, April 20, 2026
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Monday, April 20, 2026 (deadline falls on San Jacinto Day, moves to preceding business day)
Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Saturday, May 2, 2026 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Monday, May 4, 2026 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴

¹ For the few entities who do not have a first day to file: For the May 2, 2026 election, Wednesday, January 14, 2026 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. See Section 141.040(a)(2) of the Election Code.

Local political subdivisions include: cities, school districts, water districts, hospital districts, and any other local government entity that conducts elections. Many of these elections are conducted on the May uniform election date.

² Filing deadlines: generally, the filing deadline is the 78th day prior to Election Day. The Election Code may provide a different special election filing deadline. See Section 201.054 of the Texas Election Code (the “Code”). Write-in deadlines for general and special elections vary. See the long calendar for this election date for details. The write-in deadline for most local (city, school, other) **special elections** is now the same day as the filing deadline for application for a place on the ballot. Section 201.054.

³ If no candidate for a **four-year term** has filed an application for a place on the ballot for a **city office**, the filing deadline for that office is extended to 5 p.m. of the 57th day before the election. For the May 2, 2026 election, this is Friday, March 6, 2026. See Section 143.008 of the Election Code.

⁴ Different deadlines apply to the last day to receive ballots sent by the following: 1) non-military and military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and submitted a regular state Application for Ballot by Mail (“ABBM”), 2) non-military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and who submitted a Federal Postcard Application (“FPCA”), and (3) military voters and members of the Texas National Guard, who mailed ballots domestically or from overseas and who submitted an FPCA. See Secs. 86.007, 101.001 and 101.057 of the Election Code.

Please contact the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) for additional information.