

2026 General Election Timeline

June

June 2 by 4:00 p.m.

Nomination Petition Filing Deadline for Independent Candidates for General Election

(before 4:00 p.m. of the day of the primary election)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-9

June 2

School & Fire District to Submit Notice to County Clerks of Available Offices for Upcoming General Election

(on or before primary election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7; N.J.S.A. 40A:14-71

June 5 by 4:00 p.m.

Deadline for Amendments to Defective Petitions for Independent General Election Candidates

(3 days after filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-13

June 6 by 4:00 p.m.

Filing Deadline for Objections to Nomination Petitions for Independent General Election Candidates

(no later than 4 days after filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-10

June 11

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenge for Independent General Election Candidates

(9 days after the last day for filing nomination petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-11

June 15

Deadline for Filing in Superior Court to Protect Independent General Election Candidate's Rights

(On or before the 12th day after the last day for the filing of petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-12; N.J.S.A. 19:11-1

July

July 1

Submission of Evening Registration Plan by County Commissioners of Registration to the Secretary of State

(on or before July 1st)

N.J.S.A. 19:31-2

***In counties where there is a Superintendent of Elections, that office serves as the Commissioner of Registration; in all other counties it is the County Board of Election.*

2026 General Election Timeline

July 6

Publication of Notice of Fire District Nomination Petition Filing Deadline by the Board of Fire Commissioners

(21 days prior to the nomination petition filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-72(c)

July 27

Nomination Petition Filing Deadline for School & Fire District Election Candidates for General Election

(last Monday in July)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7, N.J.S.A.40A:14-71(b)

July 27

Deadline for Secretary of State to Submit to the County Clerks the Statement of All Duly Nominated Candidates for General Election

(not later than 99 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-22

July 30

Deadline for Amendments to Defective Petitions for Fire District Election Candidates

(3 days after filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-13

July 31

Filing Deadline for Objections to Nomination Petitions for School & Fire District Election Candidates

(no later than 4 days after filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-10

August

August 3

Deadline for Submission of School Board Bracketing Request Letter to County Clerk

(At least 7 days before the drawing for ballot positions)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-8(d)

August 3

Deadline for Submission of Proposed Amendments to the State Constitution to be Voted Upon at the General Election

(not less than 3 months prior to submission to the voters)

NJ Constitution, Article IX, par. 3

2026 General Election Timeline

August 5

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenge for Fire District Election Candidates for General Election

(9 days after the last day for filing nomination petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-11

August 6

Deadline for Amendments to Defective Petitions for School Election Candidates

(10 days after the last day for filing nomination petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7

August 6

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenge for School Election Candidates for General Election

(10 days after the last day for filing nomination petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7

August 7

Deadline for Submission of Non-binding County and Municipal Public Questions to the County Clerks for Printing on the General Election Ballot

(88 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:37-1

August 8

Deadline for Filing in Superior Court to Protect School & Fire District Election Candidate's Rights

(12 days after petition filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7

August 10 at 3 p.m.

Drawing of Ballot Position for General Election Candidates by the County Clerks

(85 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:14-12

August 14

Deadline for Independent Candidates to Decline Nomination for General Election

(81 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-16

August 14

Deadline for Withdrawal of School Board & Fire District Candidates

(81 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7

2026 General Election Timeline

August 20 by 4:00 p.m.

Nomination Petition Filing Deadline for New Nomination Petition to fill a Vacancy for Independent Candidates and School Election & Fire District Candidates for the General Election

(before 4:00 p.m. on or before 75th day prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-19

August 20

Nomination Petition Filing Deadline for Municipal Non-Partisan Candidates to be voted for at the General Election

(on or before 75th day prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 40:45-8

August 21

Deadline for Submission to the County Clerk of Municipal Non-binding Public Questions Adopted by the Municipal Governing Body Upon the filing of a Qualified Petition by the Local Electorate

(74 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:37-1.1

August 21 by 10:00 am

Deadline to Submit Public Question for November School Board Elections to the County Clerk by the School Board Secretary

(on or before 10:00 a.m. on the 74th day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-4

August 24

Deadline for Amendment to Defective Petitions for Municipal Non-Partisan Candidates to be voted at the General Election

(not later than 72 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 40:45-9; N.J.S.A. 19:11-1

August 24

Filing Deadline for Objections to Nominating Petitions for Municipal Non-Partisan Candidates

(no later than 4 days after filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-10

August 25

Last Day Vacancy Can Occur for Primary Election Nominees for the General Election

(70 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-20

August 25

Deadline for Submission of Public Questions (Other Than Proposed Amendments to the NJ Constitution) Submitted to the People of the Entire State

(not less than 70 days following final action of the Governor or the Legislature)

NJ Constitution, Article II, Sec. 1, P. 2

2026 General Election Timeline

August 27

Deadline for Filling Primary Nominee Vacancy for General Election

(68 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-20

August 29

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenge to Municipal Non-Partisan Candidates to be Voted at the General Election

(9 days after the last day for filing nomination petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-11

August 31*

Deadline for Preparation of Official General Election Ballot for Printing

(64 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:14-1

** County Commissioner of Registration is to provide notice to the two County Chairpersons of the date to inspect voting machines after they have been prepared for the upcoming election. This date will vary from county to county. N.J.S.A. 19:48-6*

September

September 8

Publication of Notice of Mail-In Ballot Availability for General Election by County Clerks

(prior to the 55th day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-6

September 13 - October 12

Publication of Notice of General Election by County Boards of Election

(within 30 days before the close of registration election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

September 19

Commencement of Mailing of Mail-In Ballots for General Election

(45 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-5, N.J.S.A. 19:63-9

October

October 11 – October 17

Publication of Notice of General Election by County Boards of Election

(once during the calendar week preceding the week in which the early voting period for the general election begins)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

2026 General Election Timeline

October 13

Voter Registration Deadline for General Election

(21 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:31-6

October 13 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mandated Evening Voter Registration Available for General Election in Offices of County Commissioners of Registration

(optional for Municipal Clerks)

(21 days before election from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

N.J.S.A. 19:31-2

October 13

Deadline for Filing of Challenger Appointments for General Election

(Third Tuesday preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:7-3

October 21

Mailing of Sample Ballots for General Election

(on or before 12 noon on Wednesday preceding the start of the early voting period for the general election)

N.J.S.A. 19:14-25

October 24 - November 1

Early Voting Period

(Start on the 10th calendar day before a general election and end on the second calendar day before that general election)

N.J.S.A. 19:15A-1

October 27

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for General Election by County Boards of Election

(7 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

October 27

Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for General Election

(not less than 7 days prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-3

October 29

Last Day for Testing of Electronic Scanning Equipment for Tabulation of Paper Ballots for General Election

(A county board of elections may begin opening the inner envelopes for each mail-in ballot and canvassing each mail-in ballot from the inner envelope no earlier than five days prior to the day of the election-November 3) (notice to be given 48 hours prior to the start of testing)

N.J.S.A. 19:53A-8; 19:63-22 (b)

2026 General Election Timeline

October 30

Deadline for Application to Receive General Election Mail-In Ballots by Electronic Means for Qualified Overseas Civilian and Military Voters

(4th day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:59-4

November

November 2 by 3:00 p.m.

Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for General Election

(up to 3:00 p.m. on the day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-3

November 2

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for General Election by County Boards of Election

(1 day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

November 3 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

General Election

(Tuesday after first Monday in November from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

N.J.S.A. 19:2-3; N.J.S.A. 19:15-2

November 3

Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the General Election

November 3 by 8:00 p.m.

Deadline for in Person Submission of General Election Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election and to Authorized Drop Boxes

(by 8:00 p.m. on the day of election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-16; N.J.S.A. 19:63-16.1

November 5

Deadline for Receipt by County Boards of Elections of Mail-In Ballots by Delivery of the United States Postal Service That DO NOT Bear a Postmark of Delivery.

(no later than 48 hours (2 days) after the time of the closing of the polls for the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-22a

November 9

Deadline for Receipt by County Boards of Timely Mailed Postmarked Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election

(no later than 144 hours (6 days) after the time of the closing of the polls for the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-22a

2026 General Election Timeline

November 14

Deadline for Receipt of Cure Form to County Boards of Election

(within 11 days after the general election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-17

November 18 at 12:00 p.m.

Meeting of County Board of Canvassers for General Election

(within 15 days after the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:19-1; N.J.S.A. 19:19-4; N.J.S.A. 19:19-6

November 18

Deadline for Preparation of Emergency and Provisional Ballot Reports by Each County Board of Election for the General Election

(On the day of the certification of the results of the general election)

N.J.S.A. 19:53B-21; N.J.S.A. 19:53C-21

November 21

Deadline for Recount Applications for General Election

(within 3 days after the certification of the results of the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:28-1

November 23

Deadline for County Clerk to Transmit Official General Election Results to the Secretary of State

(5 days after the meeting of the board)

N.J.S.A. 19:20-6

December

December 3

Deadline for Meeting of Board of State Canvassers to Certify General Election Results

(on or before the 30th day after election)

N.J.S.A. 19:21-1

December 5

Deadline for Filing of Election Contest Petitions for General Election

(not later than 32 days after election)

N.J.S.A. 19:29-3

December 8

Municipal Non-Partisan Run-Off Election

(Tuesday next after the first Monday in December)

N.J.S.A. 40:45-19

2026 General Election Timeline

December 15

Deadline for County Boards of Election to Submit Early Voting Plan to the Secretary of State

(December 15 of each year; changes can be made no later than February 1 of each year)

N.J.S.A. 19:15A-1