

2026 May Municipal Non-Partisan Election Timeline

February

February 26 – 4 p.m.

Nomination Petition Filing Deadline for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(On or before 75th day prior to election)

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

March

March 2

Deadline for Amendments to Defective Petitions for Municipal Non-Partisan Candidates

(no later than 72 days before election)

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

March 2 – 4 p.m.

Filing Deadline for Objections to Nomination Petitions for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(no later than 4 days after filing deadline)

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

March 7

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenges for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

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

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

March 8 - March 12*

Publication of Candidates' Names for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections by Municipal Clerk

(within 10 days after filing deadline)

N.J.S.A. 40:45-13

March 17

Publication of Notice of Mail-In Ballot Availability for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections by Municipal Clerks

(prior to the 55th day before election)

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

March 22 - April 20

Publication of Notice of Municipal Non-Partisan Election by Municipal Clerks

(within 30 days before the close of registration for election)

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

**Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:45-13 within 10 days after the expiration of the time for filing certificates, statements and petitions for candidates, and the drawing for position, the municipal clerk shall cause the names of the candidates as they are to appear upon the ballots to be published in proper form once in each of the two newspapers having circulation in the municipality and published in this State.*

*** Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:45-12 there is no specific deadline in the statute for ballot draw, but the clerk must give at least a two day notice by certified mail to the candidates. N.J.S.A. 40:45-13 also provides that within 10 days after the petition deadline and the ballot draw, the municipal clerk is to publish once in each of two newspapers having circulation in the municipality and the state, the names of the candidates as they are to appear on the ballot.*

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March 28

Commencement of Mailing of Mail-In Ballots for Municipal Non-Partisan Election

(45 days before election)

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

April

April 21

Voter Registration Deadline for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(21 days before election)

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

April 21

Evening Voter Registration Available for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections in Offices of County Commissioners of Registration

(optional for municipal clerks) (21 days before election)

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

April 21

Deadline for Filing of Challenger Appointments for Municipal Non-Partisan Election

(third Tuesday preceding election)

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

April 26 – May 2

Publication of Notice of Municipal Non-Partisan Elections by Municipal Clerks

(once during the calendar week prior to the week in which Early Voting could occur, if municipality is conducting early voting.

If a municipality is not conducting early voting, the notice must be published in the calendar week prior to the election day,

May 3 – May 9.)

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

May

May 5

Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(not less than 7 days prior to election)

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

May 5

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections by County Boards of Election

(7 days before election)

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

May 6

Mailing of Sample Ballots for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(on or before 12 noon on Wednesday preceding the start of the early voting period for the municipal non-partisan election)

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

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May 7

Last Day for Testing of Electronic Scanning Equipment for Tabulation of Paper Ballots for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

*(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-May 12)
(notice to be given 48 hours prior to the start of testing)*

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

May 8

Deadline for Application to Receive Municipal Non-Partisan 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

May 8 – May 10

Early Voting Period

(start on the 4th calendar day before the regular municipal election and end on the second calendar day before that regular municipal election)

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

May 11 – by 3:00 p.m.

Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for Municipal Non-Partisan Election

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

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

May 11

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections by County Boards of Election

(1 day before election)

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

May 12

Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(second Tuesday in May)

N.J.S.A. 40:45-7, N.J.S.A. 40:45-16

May 12

Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the Municipal Non-Partisan Election

May 12

Deadline for in Person Submission of Municipal Non-Partisan Election Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election or to Authorized Ballot Drop Boxes

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

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

May 14

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. 19:63-22

2026 May Municipal Non-Partisan Election Timeline

May 18

Deadline for Receipt 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. 19:63-22

May 20

Deadline for Receipt of Cure Form to County Boards of Election

(no later than 48 hours (2 days) prior to the final certification of the results of the election)

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

May 22

Canvass by Municipal Clerks of Votes Cast in Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(to comply with N.J.S.A. 19:63-22; N.J.S.A. 40:45-16)

May 25

Deadline for Recount Applications for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

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

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

May 27

Deadline for Preparation of Emergency and Provisional Ballot Reports by Each County Board of Election for the Municipal Non-Partisan Election

(within 15 days after election or 3 days after the certification of the results of the election)

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

June

June 9

Municipal Non-Partisan Run-Off Election

(4th Tuesday next following municipal election, unless in any year that Tuesday shall be the date upon which a primary election shall be held, in which case the run-off election shall be held on the 5th Tuesday next following the municipal election)

N.J.S.A. 40:45-1

June 13

Deadline for Filing of Election Contest Petitions for Municipal Non-Partisan Elections

(not later than 32 days after election)

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