



South Dakota Primary and General Election Calendar 2018

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Disclaimer: This election calendar is only a general guide and may not be all-inclusive of all election dates and deadlines in the state.

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2018 South Dakota Election Calendar

November 6, 2017	Deadline for filing petitions to place initiated measures and initiated constitutional amendments on the ballot. (Constitution, Art. XXIII, Sec. 1 , SDCL 2-1-1.1 , 2-1-1.2) (One year prior to the General Election)
January 1, 2018	Earliest day for June primary or independent candidates to circulate nominating petitions, and to file nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-6-4 , 12-6-4.1 , SDCL 12-7-1 , 12-7-1.1)
January 26	Last day for statewide candidate committees, statewide ballot question committees, statewide political parties and statewide political action committees to file a year-end report of receipts and expenditures for the period of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. (SDCL 12-27-22)
Weeks of March 5-10 & 12-17	Publish the notice of offices to be filled and the deadline for filing nominating petitions - (ARSD 5:02:04:17 , SDCL 12-12-1) See NOTE 1 on page 8.
March 27	<p>Last day to file primary election nominating petitions. Registered mail postmarked by the deadline accepted. (SDCL 12-6-4)</p> <p>Last day nominees for party precinct committeeman and committeewoman may file statement of candidacy with the county auditor. (ARSD 05:02:08:45, SDCL 12-5-4)</p> <p>Last day for sheriff candidates who filed a primary nominating petition to file a certificate of qualification with the County Auditor. (SDCL 23-3-43.1)</p> <p>Last day for water development district candidates to file petitions. (SDCL 46A-3B-4)</p> <p>Last day for Heartland Consumer Power District candidates to file petitions (SDCL 49-36-1.3)</p>
March 27	Last day for new political parties forming that intend to have a candidate for US Senate, US House, Governor or Legislature, in the Primary Election , to file new party formation petitions with the Secretary of State by 5 pm (CT). (SDCL 12-5-1)
March 29	Last day for candidates to file for withdrawal from the primary election - (ARSD 5:02:07:05 , SDCL 12-6-8.1) (Two days after filing deadline) (Registered mail post marked by the deadline accepted) Cities and Schools certify candidate names and ballot language if combining with County for the Primary Election. (SDCL 13-7-10.3 , 9-13-37)
April 2	Drawing for candidate position on the ballot for the primary election will be held in the office of the Secretary of State at a time TBD. (SDCL 12-16-8) (Counties draw their own candidate order for their county candidates; use this date or set their own date.)
April 11	<p>Last day for candidate to file "Candidate Statement of Financial Interest" if nominating petition was filed on March 27. This statement must be filed within fifteen days after filing nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-25-28, 12-25-30)</p> <p>Last day for candidate to file "Statement of Organization" if nominating petition was filed on March 27 and if the candidate committee has not already filed a statement of organization. This statement must be filed within fifteen days after filing nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-27-3)</p>

April 18	Deadline for primary election ballots to be printed and in the auditor's possession. (SDCL 12-16-1)
April 20	Absentee voting begins on this day. (SDCL 12-19-1.2) **Within 48 hours of receiving application, ballot must be sent out (SDCL 12-19-3)**
April 23	Deadline for county central committees to submit names to the county auditor to be used as election board workers. (SDCL 12-15-1)
April 24	Last day for independent candidates to file nominating petitions with the Secretary of State or county auditor for all offices. Registered mail postmarked by the deadline accepted. (SDCL 12-7-1) (Last Tuesday in April)
Week of April 30 - May 5 & Week of May 7-11	Publish notice of voter registration deadline for two consecutive weeks. - (ARSD 5:02:04:04 , SDCL 12-4-5.2) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 8.
May 4	Last day for auditor to submit names of persons to be employed at an electronic voting system counting center to the county chairmen of each party to assure bipartisan representation. (SDCL 12-17B-11) (At least 30 days prior to the election) See NOTE 3 on page 8.
May 14	Deadline for Attorney General to deliver an attorney general statement (title, explanation, recitation) for each proposed amendment to the Constitution proposed by the Legislature, each initiated measure and any referred measure from an odd year. (SDCL 12-13-9) (Before the third Tuesday in May)
May 16	Deadline for the county auditor to appoint precinct superintendents and deputies for each election precinct. (SDCL 12-15-1 , 12-15-2 , 12-15-3) (Not less than 20 days before the election)
Weeks of May 21-26 & May 28 - June 1	Publish the notice of election for two consecutive weeks. (ARSD 5:02:04:16 , SDCL 12-12-1).
May 16 - June 4	Candidates and political committees must file supplemental campaign finance statements if they receive an aggregate contribution of \$500 or more within the 20 days prior to the election. The report must be filed within 48 hours of receipt of the contribution. (SDCL 12-27-28) See NOTE 3 on page 8.
May 21	Deadline for voter registration for the primary election. (SDCL 12-4-5) (15 days preceding the election)
May 21	Pre-Primary Campaign Finance Report deadline for all statewide office holders, statewide candidates, legislative candidates whose name appear on the ballot, statewide political parties, statewide political action committees, statewide ballot questions committees, county candidates in counties with population greater than ten thousand to file pre-primary campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State. (SDCL 12-27-22) (15 days prior to the Primary) (County candidates file with the County Auditor)

May 26	First day for test of automatic tabulating equipment in counties using electronic voting systems. Notice of testing must be published at least 48 hours prior to the test - (ARSD 5:02:09:01.01 , SDCL 12-17B-5) See NOTE 2 on page 8
May 28 - June 2	Week for publication of facsimile ballot. (SDCL 12-16-16 , 12-16-16.1 and 12-16-16.2). Instructions to voters regarding voting rights to be published with the facsimile ballot for primary elections – ARSD 5:02:05:02.01 .
June 4	No applications for absentee voting (without authorized messenger) may be honored by a county auditor after 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the election. (SDCL 12-19-2.1)
June 5	<p><u>PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</u></p> <p>Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. legal time. (SDCL 12-2-1, 12-2-3)</p> <p>Ballots and election supplies must be delivered to the superintendent of each election precinct prior to the opening of the polls. (SDCL 12-16-18)</p> <p>No <u>applications</u> for absentee ballots, using an authorized messenger, may be honored by the county auditor after 3:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots have to be returned to the county auditor in time for them to be delivered to the correct polling location by the time the polls close. (SDCL 12-19-2.1) (Voter must be confined due to sickness or disability to use authorized messenger.)</p> <p>Independent sheriff’s candidate has to file certification of qualification with the County Auditor. (SDCL 23-3-43.1) (First Tuesday after the first Monday in June)</p>
Run-Off Election Information (proceed to pages 7-8)	<p><u>Run-Off Election Procedures (SDCL 12-6-51.1)</u></p> <p>If a Run-Off Election is required to be held, the Secretary of State’s Office will provide more guidance in addition to the deadlines and publications listed on pages 7 & 8. Note: there may be additional publications and deadlines required that are not included on pages 7 and 8.</p>
June 11	<p>Last day for county canvass of returns. (SDCL 12-20-36) (Within six calendar days after the close of any election)</p> <p>Certified copies of the official county canvass must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately following the official canvass. (SDCL 12-20-38.1) (May be sent electronically and followed up with original in the mail.)</p>
June 12	Last day for convening the state board of canvassers. (SDCL 12-20-47) (Within seven days after the day of election) (SOS will notify auditors when the state canvas is completed)
June 14	Last day for filing recount petition by a county candidate assuming county canvass was completed on June 11 - (ARSD 5:02:19:05 , SDCL 12-21-10) NOTE: This action must be initiated within three days following completion of the official county canvass. See note 3 on page 8.
June 15	Last day for filing recount petition by legislative and statewide candidates assuming state canvass was completed on June 12 (ARSD 5:02:19:05). County auditor shall notify the Secretary of State of a legislative recount. (SDCL 12-21-10 , 12-21-11 , 12-21-11.1 , 12-21-12) NOTE: This action must be initiated within three days following completion of the official state canvass. See note 3 on page 8. (See recount manual for additional information)

June 21	Last day for a county candidate to initiate action to contest, assuming county canvass was completed on June 11 and no recount is in progress. (SDCL 12-22-5) NOTE: Above actions must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official county canvass.
June 22	Last day for filing petition for recount on a statewide ballot question - ARSD 5:02:19:07 . (SDCL 12-21-14) NOTE: Above actions must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official state canvass. See NOTE 3 on page 8.
July 1	Last day for conservation district petitions to be filed with the Secretary of State if the district covers multiple counties. Filed with the County Auditor if district covers one county. (SDCL 38-8-39)
July 1	Last day for a new political party forming, that does not intend to have a candidate for US Senate, US House, Governor, or Legislature, in the Primary election, to file petitions with the Secretary of State by 5 pm (CT). (House Bill 1037)
July 10	Deadline for Attorney General to deliver an attorney general statement (title, explanation, recitation) for each proposed amendment to the Constitution proposed by the Legislature, each initiated measure and any referred measure from an even year. (SDCL 12-13-9) (Before the 2 nd Tuesday in July)
July 15	Deadline for County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the primary election in Total Vote. (SDCL 12-4-37)
August 7	Last day for candidates to withdraw nominations from general election - ARSD 5:02:07:05 . (SDCL 12-6-55) (Not later than the first Tuesday in August at 5:00 p.m. before the ensuing election) (No registered mail option)
August 7	Deadline for, an incumbent justice of the Supreme Court to request the secretary of state to place the justice's name on the Supreme Court justice retention ballot. (ARSD 5:02:06:03:02) (first Tuesday in August)
August 14	Last day for party central committees to fill vacancies created by candidates who withdrew their nominations - (ARSD 5:02:07:06 , SDCL 12-8-6) (filed not later than the second Tuesday in August at five p.m. or mailed by registered mail by that date and time prior to the election) Last day for local jurisdictions to submit language or candidate names to the county auditor to be on the general election ballot. (SDCL 9-20-11.2) Last day for any candidate for sheriff that was appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to SDCL 12-6-56 , to file a certificate of qualification. (SDCL 23-3-43.1) (shall file with the county auditor a certification of qualification by the second Tuesday in August)
August 14	Drawing for party order, and if applicable candidate order, on the ballot for the general election will be held in the office of the Secretary of State at a time TBD. (SDCL 12-16-3.1 , 12-16-8 , SDCL 12-16-5) Deadline for Secretary of State to certify copies of all ballot questions to the county auditors. (SDCL 12-13-1) (At least twelve weeks prior to the general election)

August 14	Last day for political party to hold state convention. Nominations by a state convention shall be made by a majority vote of the votes cast and shall be certified to the secretary of state by the officers of the convention, within three days of the close of the convention. No certification may be received by the secretary of state later than the second Tuesday in August . (SDCL 12-5-22)
August 21	Last day for Secretary of State to certify to the county auditors the names of all candidates for state and district office to be placed on the general election ballot. (SDCL 12-8-8) (Not later than the third Tuesday in August at five p.m. before the general election)
September 19	Deadline for general election ballots to be printed and in the auditor's possession. (SDCL 12-16-1 , 12-16-17) (The sample ballots and official ballots shall be printed and in the possession of the county auditor not later than forty-eight days prior to a primary or general election)
September 21	Absentee voting begins. (SDCL 12-19-1.2) (Absentee voting shall begin neither earlier nor later than forty-six days prior to the election including any voter identified as being covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) **Within 48 hours of receiving application, ballot must be sent out (SDCL 12-19-3)**
September 24	Deadline for county central committees to submit names to the county auditor to be used as election board workers. (SDCL 12-15-1) (At least forty-five days prior to an election) See NOTE 3 on page 8.
On or before October 1	Deadline for the county auditor to send by electronic transmission or mail to each official newspaper of the county a copy of all statewide measures and questions certified by the Secretary of State. (SDCL 12-13-2) (On or before the first day of October)
Week of Oct. 1-6 & Week of Oct 8-12	Publish notice of voter registration deadline for two consecutive weeks. (ARSD 5:02:04:04 , SDCL 12-4-5.2) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 8.
October 5	Last day for auditor to submit names of persons to be employed at an electronic voting system counting center to the county chairmen of each party to assure bipartisan representation. (SDCL 12-17B-11) (At least 30 days prior to the election) See NOTE 3 on page 8.
October 9-23	Time in which all official county newspapers must publish at least once the full text, statement, title, explanation and the recitation of effect of each submitted ballot question. (SDCL 12-13-3) See NOTE 2 on page 8.
October 17	Deadline for the county auditor to appoint superintendents and precinct deputies for each election precinct. (SDCL 12-15-1 , 12-15-2 , 12-15-3)
October 22	Voter registration deadline for the general election. (SDCL 12-4-5)
Oct. 22 - 27 & Oct. 29-Nov. 2	Publish the notice of the general election for two consecutive weeks. (ARSD 5:02:04:05 , SDCL 12-12-1) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 8.

October 17 - November 6	Candidates and committees must file supplemental reports with the Secretary of State if they receive an aggregate contribution of \$500 or more within 20 days immediately preceding the election. The report must be filed within 48 hours of receipt of the contribution. (SDCL 12-27-28) See NOTE 3 on page 8.
October 22	Pre-General Campaign Finance Report deadline for all statewide candidates, legislative candidates, statewide political action committees, statewide political parties, county political parties, ballot question committees and county candidates in counties with population greater than ten thousand to file the pre-general campaign finance reports of receipts and expenditures with the Secretary of State. (SDCL 12-27-22) (15 days prior to the General Election) (County candidates file with the County Auditor)
October 27	First day for test of electronic voting system tabulating equipment. Notice of the time and place of the test must be published in the official newspaper at least 48 hours prior to testing - (ARSD 5:02:09:01.01 SDCL 12-17B-5) (Not more than ten days prior to an election)(This is the only test that requires a published notice) See NOTE 2 on page 8.
October 29- November 3	Week for publication of facsimile ballots. (SDCL 12-16-16, 12-16-16.1 and 12-16-16.2). Instructions to voters regarding voting rights to be published with the facsimile ballot for general elections – ARSD 5:02:05:02.01 .
November 4	Daylight Savings - As part of your election readiness preparations, we would like to remind you that on Sunday, November 4, clocks “fall back.” Auditors, make sure to set the clocks in AutoMarks and tabulators to the correct time prior to election day.
November 5	No applications for absentee voting without authorized messenger may be honored by a county auditor after 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the election. (SDCL 12-19-2.1)
November 6	<u>GENERAL ELECTION DAY</u> (SDCL 12-2-2, 12-2-3) Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. legal time. Ballots and election supplies must be delivered to the superintendent of each election precinct prior to the opening of the polls. (SDCL 12-16-18) No <u>applications</u> for absentee ballots, using an authorized messenger, may be honored by the county auditor after 3:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots have to be returned to the county auditor in time for them to be delivered to the correct polling location by the time the polls close. (SDCL 12-19-2.1) (Voter must be confined due to sickness or disability to use authorized messenger.)
November 12	Last day for the county canvass of election returns. (SDCL 12-20-36) (Within six calendar days after the close of any county election) Certified copies of the official county canvass must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately following the official canvass. (SDCL 12-20-38.1) (May be sent electronically and followed up with original in the mail.)
November 13	Last day for convening the state board of canvassers. (SDCL 12-20-47). (Within seven days after the day of election)(SOS will notify auditors when state canvass is complete)

November 15	Last day for filing a recount petition by county candidates, assuming the county canvass was completed on November 12 - (ARSD 5:02:19:05 , SDCL 12-21-10) NOTE: This action must be initiated within three days following completion of the official county canvass. See NOTE 3 on page 8.
November 16	Deadline for petition for recount in precinct by voters of the precinct. (ARSD 5:02:19:06 , SDCL 12-21-8). (Within 10 days after the election) Last day for filing recount petition by legislative or statewide candidates, assuming state canvass was completed on November 13. (ARSD 5:02:19:05) County auditor shall notify the Secretary of State of a legislative recount. (SDCL 12-21-10 , 12-21-11 , 12-21-11.1 , 12-21-12) See NOTE 3 on page 8.
November 22	Last day for a county candidate to initiate action to contest, assuming county canvass was completed on November 12 and no recount is in progress. (SDCL 12-22-5) NOTE: This action must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official county canvass.
November 23	Last day for filing petition for recount on a statewide ballot question. (ARSD 5:02:19:07 , SDCL 12-21-14) NOTE: This action must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official state canvass.
November 23	Last day for initiating a contest by a legislative or statewide candidate, or by citizens on behalf of a ballot question, assuming the state canvass was completed on November 13 and no recount is in progress. (SDCL 12-22-5) NOTE: This action must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official state canvass.
December 15	Deadline for County Auditor to transmit voter ELECTION HISTORY from the general election in Total Vote. (SDCL 12-4-37) (The county auditor shall transmit updated information by December fifteenth after each general election.)
<u>Run-Off Election Procedures (SDCL 12-6-51.1)</u>	
June 11	Drawing for candidate position on the ballot for the run-off election will be held in the office of the Secretary of State a time TBD. (SDCL 12-16-8)
June 13	Last day for Secretary of State to certify run-off candidates to county auditors if no candidate for nomination for United States Senator, United States Representative or Governor received thirty-five percent of the votes cast in the party primary election. (SDCL 12-6-51.3) (Within 24 hours after completion of canvass)
June 16-17	Days for Secretary of State to publish notice of run-off election and facsimile ballot in state newspapers that publish on Saturday and Sunday. (SDCL 12-12-1)
June 27	Deadline for Run-Off Election ballots to be printed and in the auditor's possession. (SDCL 12-16-1 , 12-16-17)
June 29	Absentee voting begins for Run-Off Election. (SDCL 12-19-1.2) **Within 48 hours of receiving application, ballot must be sent out (SDCL 12-19-3)**
Week of July 9-14 & Week of July 16-20	Weeks for notice of voter registration deadline for Run-Off Election. (ARSD 5:02:04:04 , SDCL 12-4-5.2) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 8.
July 30	Deadline for voter registration for the Run-Off Election. (SDCL 12-4-5)

Week of July 30 - August 4 & Week of August 6-10	Weeks in which the county auditor must publish the notice of the Run-Off Election. (ARSD 5:02:04:18 , SDCL 12-12-1) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 8.
August 13	No applications for absentee voting may be honored by a county auditor after 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the election. (SDCL 12-19-2.1)
August 14	<p><u>RUN-OFF ELECTION DAY</u></p> <p>Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. legal time. (SDCL 12-2-2, 12-2-3)</p> <p>Ballots and election supplies must be delivered to the superintendent of each election precinct prior to the opening of the polls. (SDCL 12-16-18)</p> <p>No <u>applications</u> for absentee ballots, using an authorized messenger, may be honored by the county auditor after 3:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots have to be returned to the county auditor in time for them to be delivered to the correct polling location by the time the polls close. (SDCL 12-19-2.1) (Voter must be confined due to sickness or disability to use authorized messenger.)</p>
August 20	<p>Last day for county canvass of returns for run-off election. (SDCL 12-20-36)</p> <p>Certified copies of the official county canvass for a run-off election must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately following the official canvass. (SDCL 12-20-38.1) (May be sent electronically and followed up with original in the mail.)</p>
August 21	Last day for convening of state board of canvassers for run-off election. (SDCL 12-20-47) (Within seven days after the day of election)(SOS will notify auditors when state canvass is complete)
September 28	Deadline for County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the general election in Total Vote. <u>This date is not set in state law</u> but using SDCL 12-4-37 as a guideline.

NOTE 1: At least five days shall intervene between publications which are to be done during consecutive weeks. ([SDCL 17-2-17](#))

NOTE 2: Official notices may not be published on Sunday. ([SDCL 1-5-2](#))

NOTE 3: When a deadline falls on a holiday, Saturday or Sunday, an act may be performed on the next business day. If the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays shall be excluded in the computation. ([SDCL 12-1-17](#))

NOTE 4: Be sure to include cost of publication in each notice. ([SDCL 17-2-28](#))

For more information on campaign finance, visit our [Campaign Finance Page](#).

**OFFICIAL SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE HOLIDAYS – 2018 ([SDCL 1-5-1](#))**

January 1	New Year's Day
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 19	Presidents' Day
May 28	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 3	Labor Day
October 8	Native Americans' Day
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 22	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas Day