## 2026 City & School Election Calendars

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2026 City & School	June 2, 2026	November 3, 2026
Combined Election Calendar	Primary Election	General Election
Deadline for the governing body to establish an election	Cities: January 14th	Cities: January 14th
date (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10).	Schools: First regular meeting in January	Schools: First regular meeting in January
Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL 9-13-6; 13-7-5).	Between December 15th	Between May 15th
Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	& December 30th	& May 30th
Earliest date for a candidate to sign the declaration of candidacy, begin petition circulation, and file a petition (SDCL 9-13-9; 13-7-6).	February 2nd	July 3rd
Deadline for a candidate to file nominating petitions or to withdraw their name from the ballot (SDCL 9-13-7; 9-13-37; 13-7-6).	March 24th	August 25th
Deadline for candidate names and ballot language to be certified to the county auditor (SDCL 9-13-37; 13-7-10.3).	March 26th	August 27th
Deadline for candidates in first-class municipalities and school districts with >2,000 students to file a Candidate Financial Interest Statement (SDCL 12-25-30).	April 8th	September 9th
Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the candidate filing their nominating petition.		
First day of absentee voting (SDCL 12-19-1.2).		
Note: Yellow sample ballots must be made available to voters when absentee voting begins.	April 17th	September 18th
Publish notices for the voter registration deadline (SDCL 12-4-5.2).	Between April 26th	Between September 27th
Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	& May 8th	& October 9th
Publish notices of election (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8).	Between May 10th	Between October 11th
Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	& May 23rd	& October 24th
Deadline for voter registration (SDCL 12-4-5).	May 18th	October 19th
Publish facsimile ballot (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8).	Between	Between
Note: Must be published between Monday and Saturday	May 25th &	October 26th &
during the week prior to the election.	α May 30th	October 31st
ELECTION DAY! (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10)	June 2nd	November 3rd
	Cities: June 9th	Cities: November 10th
Deadline for official canvass (SDCL 9-13-24; 13-7-18).	Schools: Next regular meeting after election	Schools: Next regular meeting after election

2026 City & School	June 2, 2026	November 3, 2026
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ELECTION DAY! (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10)	June 2nd	November 3rd
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	Schools: Next regular meeting after election	Schools: Next regular meeting after election

## **City Election Notes**

<u>Oaths of Office:</u> There is nothing that outlines the form/wording of an oath of office. Please work with your city's attorney to write the oath. Also, there is nothing that clearly guides you as to when your officials must take the oath. Work with your attorney regarding this. Reference SDCL 9-14-5 for the process of qualifying for office.

**Notices:** Please keep holidays in mind when planning notices, as newspaper publication schedules may be affected. Always make sure to get confirmation from your local newspaper that they have received the required notice, that they plan to publish the notice, and—after the planned date of publication—that they actually published the notice.

<u>Missed Election Notices:</u> We encourage any city that misses a publication to get it published and post the notice around their jurisdiction. The notice would still be considered late, and the election could still be challenged. Contact your city's attorney if you miss a notice.

<u>Petitions:</u> To check the registration status of the candidate and petition signers (this is required by law), per ARSD 5:02:08:00 and 5:02:08:00.01, go to: <a href="http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx">http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx</a>. If you forgot your username and password, or never had one, contact the Secretary of State's office (<a href="mailto:Elections@state.sd.us">Elections@state.sd.us</a> or 605-773-3537) and one will be provided to you.

<u>First Class Municipalities:</u> Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Box Elder, Brandon, Brookings, Harrisburg, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Tea, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton.

**Home Rule Municipalities:** Aberdeen, Beresford, Brookings, Elk Point, Faith, Ft. Pierre, Pierre, Sioux Falls, Springfield and Watertown.

Contact the Secretary of State's office with any questions at <u>Elections@state.sd.us</u> or 605-773-3537. Additional election information can be found at: <a href="https://sdsos.gov">https://sdsos.gov</a>.

## **School Election Notes**

**Election Results:** Certified election results must be published in the school board's minutes within sixty days for the canvass of the election (SDCL 13-7-30 and 13-7-31).

**Oaths of Office:** There is nothing that outlines the form/wording of an oath of office. Please work with your school district's attorney to write the oath. Also, there is nothing that clearly guides you as to when your officials must take the oath. Work with your attorney regarding this. Reference SDCL 13-8-4 for the process of qualifying for office.

**Notices:** Please keep holidays in mind when planning notices, as newspaper publication schedules may be affected. Always make sure to get confirmation from your local newspaper that they have received the required notice, that they plan to publish the notice, and—after the planned date of publication—that they actually published the notice.

<u>Missed Election Notices:</u> We encourage any school that misses a publication to get it published and post the notice around their jurisdiction. The notice would still be considered late, and the election could still be challenged. Contact your school district's attorney if you miss a notice.

<u>Petitions:</u> To check the registration status of the candidate and petition signers (this is required by law), per ARSD 5:02:08:00 and 5:02:08:00.01, go to: <a href="http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx">http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx</a>. If you forgot your username and password, or never had one, contact the Secretary of State's office (<a href="mailto:Elections@state.sd.us">Elections@state.sd.us</a> or 605-773-3537) and one will be provided to you.

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## **General Notes**

Counties, cities, and schools that are looking to combine their elections in 2026 will need to produce a written agreement detailing how expenses and responsibilities will be split, as well as how other issues will be handled.

Please consider the following (this is *not* an exhaustive list):

- 1. How will costs be split?
- 2. Will all jurisdictions print in the same paper, and who will be responsible for the publications?
- 3. Who will be responsible for recruiting election workers?
- 4. Who will be responsible for providing election materials?
- 5. Where will voting take place?
- 6. How will absentee voting be handled?
- 7. What will happen if all jurisdictions agree to combine, but one does not need to have an election after petitions are filed?

Negotiations will need to begin early since cities and schools may have to publish vacancy notices in December, even before the election date is officially established.

OFFICIAL SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HOLIDAYS – 2026 (SDCL <u>1-5-1</u> )		
January 1	New Year's Day	
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
February 16	Presidents' Day	
May 25	Memorial Day	
June 19	Juneteenth	
July 4	Independence Day	
September 7	Labor Day	
October 12	Native Americans' Day	
November 11	Veterans' Day	
November 26	Thanksgiving Day	
December 25	Christmas Day	