

The seal of the State of South Dakota is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a landscape with a river, a bridge, and a plow. Above the illustration is a banner with the text "UNDER GOD THE PEOPLE RULE". The outer ring of the seal contains the words "STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA" at the top and "1889" at the bottom, separated by stars.

# **2026 City & School Election Calendars**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monae L. Johnson".

*Monae L. Johnson*

***South Dakota Secretary of State***

Division of Elections  
State Capitol, 500 E. Capitol Avenue, Suite 204  
Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 773-3537  
[www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov)

*Last Updated: December 3, 2025*

2026 City & School Combined Election Calendar	June 2, 2026 -- Primary Election --	November 3, 2026 -- General Election --
<p>Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-6</a>; <a href="#">13-7-5</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:06</a>; <a href="#">5:02:04:14</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b></p>	<p>December 15th Through December 30th</p>	<p>-- --</p>
<p>Deadline for the governing body to establish an election date (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-1</a>; <a href="#">13-7-10</a>).</p>	<p>Cities: January 14th Schools: First Regular Meeting in January</p>	<p>Cities: January 14th Schools: First Regular Meeting in January</p>
<p>Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-6</a>; <a href="#">13-7-5</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:06</a>; <a href="#">5:02:04:14</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b></p>	<p>-- --</p>	<p>May 15th Through May 30th</p>
<p>Earliest date for a candidate to sign the declaration of candidacy, begin petition circulation, and file a petition (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-9</a>; <a href="#">13-7-6</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:08:11</a>; <a href="#">5:02:08:13</a>).</p>	<p>February 2nd</p>	<p>July 3rd</p>
<p>Deadline for a candidate to file nominating petitions or to withdraw their name from the ballot (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-7</a>; <a href="#">9-13-37</a>; <a href="#">13-7-6</a>). Registered mail is an acceptable option, if postmarked by the deadline date and time.</p> <p><b>Note: If only one candidate files, you do not need to have an election. Remember to issue certificates of election!</b></p>	<p>(Tuesday) March 24th @ 5:00 PM</p>	<p>(Tuesday) August 25th @ 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Draw for candidate ballot order (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-21</a>; <a href="#">13-7-13</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: A candidate or a candidate's representative may be present for this process.</b></p>	<p>Between March 24th &amp; March 26th</p>	<p>Between August 25th &amp; August 27th</p>
<p>Deadline for candidate names and ballot language to be certified to the county auditor (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-37</a>; <a href="#">13-7-10.3</a>).</p>	<p>(Thursday) March 26th @ 5:00 PM</p>	<p>(Thursday) August 27th @ 5:00 PM</p>
<p>Deadline for candidates in first-class municipalities and school districts with &gt;2,000 students to file a Candidate Financial Interest Statement (SDCL <a href="#">12-25-30</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the candidate filing their nominating petition.</b></p>	<p>April 8th</p>	<p>September 9th</p>
<p>Work with your County Auditor(s) to recruit election workers and appoint election boards (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-16.1</a>; <a href="#">13-7-12</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:05:11.01</a>).</p>	<p>Prior to Election Day</p>	<p>Prior to Election Day</p>
<p>First day of absentee voting (SDCL <a href="#">12-19-1.2</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Yellow sample ballots must be made available to voters when absentee voting begins.</b></p>	<p>April 17th</p>	<p>September 18th</p>
<p>Publish notices for the voter registration deadline (SDCL <a href="#">12-4-5.2</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:04</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b></p>	<p>Weeks of April 26th &amp; May 3rd</p>	<p>Weeks of September 27th &amp; October 4th</p>

2026 City & School Combined Election Calendar	June 2, 2026 -- Primary Election --	November 3, 2026 -- General Election --
<b>Publish notices of election (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-13</a>; <a href="#">13-7-8</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:08</a>; <a href="#">5:02:04:15</a>).</b> <b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b>	Weeks of May 17th & May 24th	Weeks of October 18th & October 25th
<b>Deadline for voter registration (SDCL <a href="#">12-4-5</a>).</b>	May 18th	October 19th
<b>Publish facsimile ballot (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-13</a>; <a href="#">13-7-8</a>).</b> <b>Note: Must be published between Monday and Saturday during the week prior to the election.</b>	Week of May 24th	Week of October 25th
<b>IF USING OPTICAL SCAN BALLOTS:</b> <b>Conduct a test of the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used for the election (SDCL <a href="#">12-17B-5</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:09:01.01</a>; <a href="#">5:02:09:01.02</a>).</b> <b>Note: Notice of the test must be published at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the test.</b>	Between May 23rd & June 1st	Between October 24th & November 2nd
<b>Deadline for a voter to vote absentee in-person (SDCL <a href="#">12-19-2.1</a>).</b> <b>Note: Deadline is at 5:00 PM or the end of regular office hours, whichever is later.</b>	(Monday) June 1st	(Monday) November 2nd
<b>Deadline for a voter who is confined due to sickness or disability to request an absentee ballot via authorized messenger (SDCL <a href="#">12-19-2.1</a>).</b> <b>Note: The ballot must be returned prior to 7:00 PM in order for it to be counted.</b>	(Tuesday) June 2nd @ 3:00 PM	(Tuesday) November 3rd @ 3:00 PM
<b>ELECTION DAY!</b> <b>Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-1</a>; <a href="#">13-7-10</a>).</b> <b>Note: The person in charge of the election must be available from 7:00 AM until ballots have been counted and all election materials have been returned.</b>	<b>(Tuesday) June 2nd 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>(Tuesday) November 3rd 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM</b>
<b>Deadline for official canvass (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-24</a>; <a href="#">13-7-18</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:17:11</a>; <a href="#">5:02:17:12</a>).</b>	Cities: June 9th Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election	Cities: November 10th Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election
<b>Issue Certificates of Election (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-28</a>; <a href="#">13-7-18</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:15:08</a>; <a href="#">5:02:15:09</a>; <a href="#">5:02:15:10</a>; <a href="#">5:02:15:11</a>).</b>	Cities: Within Two Days of Canvass Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election	Cities: Within Two Days of Canvass Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election
<b>Deadline for officials in first-class municipalities and school districts with &gt;2,000 students to file an Elected Official Financial Interest Statement (SDCL <a href="#">3-1A-4</a>).</b> <b>Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the official taking the oath of office.</b>	Within 15 Days of Oath of Office	Within 15 Days of Oath of Office

2026 City & School Uncombined Election Calendar	June 2, 2026 -- Primary Election --	November 3, 2026 -- General Election --
<p>Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-6</a>; <a href="#">13-7-5</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:06</a>; <a href="#">5:02:04:14</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b></p>	December 15th Through December 30th	-- --
<p>Deadline for the governing body to establish an election date (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-1</a>; <a href="#">13-7-10</a>).</p>	<p>Cities: January 14th</p> <p>Schools: First Regular Meeting in January</p>	<p>Cities: January 14th</p> <p>Schools: First Regular Meeting in January</p>
<p>Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-6</a>; <a href="#">13-7-5</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:06</a>; <a href="#">5:02:04:14</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b></p>	-- --	May 15th Through May 30th
<p>Earliest date for a candidate to sign the declaration of candidacy, begin petition circulation, and file a petition (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-9</a>; <a href="#">13-7-6</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:08:11</a>; <a href="#">5:02:08:13</a>).</p>	February 2nd	July 3rd
<p>Deadline for a candidate to file nominating petitions or to withdraw their name from the ballot (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-7</a>; <a href="#">9-13-37</a>; <a href="#">13-7-6</a>). Registered mail is an acceptable option, if postmarked by the deadline date and time.</p> <p><b>Note: If only one candidate files, you do not need to have an election. Remember to issue certificates of election!</b></p>	(Tuesday) March 24th @ 5:00 PM	(Tuesday) August 25th @ 5:00 PM
<p>Draw for candidate ballot order (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-21</a>; <a href="#">13-7-13</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: A candidate or a candidate's representative may be present for this process.</b></p>	Draw After Petition Filing Deadline	Draw After Petition Filing Deadline
<p>Deadline for candidates in first-class municipalities and school districts with &gt;2,000 students to file a Candidate Financial Interest Statement (SDCL <a href="#">12-25-30</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the candidate filing their nominating petition.</b></p>	April 8th	September 9th
<p>Have your governing body appoint election boards (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-16.1</a>; <a href="#">13-7-12</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:05:11.01</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Your County Auditor(s) might be able to help find election workers; you may use high school seniors (18+), members of civic organizations, etc.</b></p>	Prior to Election Day	Prior to Election Day
<p>Publish notices for the voter registration deadline (SDCL <a href="#">12-4-5.2</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:04</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b></p>	Weeks of April 26th & May 3rd	Weeks of September 27th & October 4th
<p>Publish notices of election (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-13</a>; <a href="#">13-7-8</a>; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:04:08</a>; <a href="#">5:02:04:15</a>).</p> <p><b>Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.</b></p>	Weeks of May 17th & May 24th	Weeks of October 18th & October 25th

2026 City & School Uncombined Election Calendar	June 2, 2026 -- Primary Election --	November 3, 2026 -- General Election --
First day of absentee voting (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-21</a> ; <a href="#">13-7-13</a> ). <b>Note: Yellow sample ballots must be made available to voters when absentee voting begins.</b>	May 18th	October 19th
Deadline for voter registration (SDCL <a href="#">12-4-5</a> ).	May 18th	October 19th
Publish facsimile ballot (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-13</a> ; <a href="#">13-7-8</a> ). <b>Note: Must be published between Monday and Saturday during the week prior to the election.</b>	Week of May 24th	Week of October 25th
<b>IF USING OPTICAL SCAN BALLOTS:</b> Conduct a test of the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used for the election (SDCL <a href="#">12-17B-5</a> ; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:09:01.01</a> ; <a href="#">5:02:09:01.02</a> ). <b>Note: Notice of the test must be published at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the test.</b>	Between May 23rd & June 1st	Between October 24th & November 2nd
Deadline for a voter to vote absentee in-person (SDCL <a href="#">12-19-2.1</a> ). <b>Note: Deadline is at 5:00 PM or the end of regular office hours, whichever is later.</b>	(Monday) June 1st	(Monday) November 2nd
Deadline for a voter who is confined due to sickness or disability to request an absentee ballot via authorized messenger (SDCL <a href="#">12-19-2.1</a> ). <b>Note: The ballot must be returned prior to 7:00 PM in order for it to be counted.</b>	(Tuesday) June 2nd @ 3:00 PM	(Tuesday) November 3rd @ 3:00 PM
<b>ELECTION DAY!</b> Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-1</a> ; <a href="#">13-7-10</a> ). <b>Note: The person in charge of the election must be available from 7:00 AM until ballots have been counted and all election materials have been returned.</b>	<b>(Tuesday) June 2nd 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>(Tuesday) November 3rd 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM</b>
Deadline for official canvass (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-24</a> ; <a href="#">13-7-18</a> ; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:17:11</a> ; <a href="#">5:02:17:12</a> ).	Cities: June 9th Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election	Cities: November 10th Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election
Issue Certificates of Election (SDCL <a href="#">9-13-28</a> ; <a href="#">13-7-18</a> ; ARSD <a href="#">5:02:15:08</a> ; <a href="#">5:02:15:09</a> ; <a href="#">5:02:15:10</a> ; <a href="#">5:02:15:11</a> ).	Cities: Within Two Days of Canvass Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election	Cities: Within Two Days of Canvass Schools: Next Regular Meeting After Election
Deadline for officials in first-class municipalities and school districts with >2,000 students to file an Elected Official Financial Interest Statement (SDCL <a href="#">3-1A-4</a> ). <b>Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the official taking the oath of office.</b>	Within 15 Days of Oath of Office	Within 15 Days of Oath of Office

## **City Election Notes**

**Oaths of Office:** 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. Refer to 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.

**Missed Election Notices:** 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.

**Petitions:** 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: <http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx>. If you forgot your username and password, or never had one, contact the Secretary of State's office ([Elections@state.sd.us](mailto:Elections@state.sd.us) or 605-773-3537) and one will be provided to you.

**First Class Municipalities:** 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.

**Runoff Elections:** For cities that have runoff elections, a runoff must be held on June 23rd or November 24th (SDCL [9-13-26.1](#)). We encourage any city with a runoff ordinance to work with their city's attorney when conducting a runoff election.

Contact the Secretary of State's office with any questions at [Elections@state.sd.us](mailto:Elections@state.sd.us) or 605-773-3537. Additional election information can be found at: <https://sdsos.gov>.

## **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.

**Missed Election Notices:** 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.

**Petitions:** 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: <http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx>. If you forgot your username and password, or never had one, contact the Secretary of State's office ([Elections@state.sd.us](mailto:Elections@state.sd.us) or 605-773-3537) and one will be provided to you.

Contact the Secretary of State's office with any questions at [Elections@state.sd.us](mailto:Elections@state.sd.us) or 605-773-3537. Additional election information can be found at: <https://sdsos.gov>.

### **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.

<b>OFFICIAL SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HOLIDAYS – 2026 (SDCL <a href="#">1-5-1</a>)</b>	
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