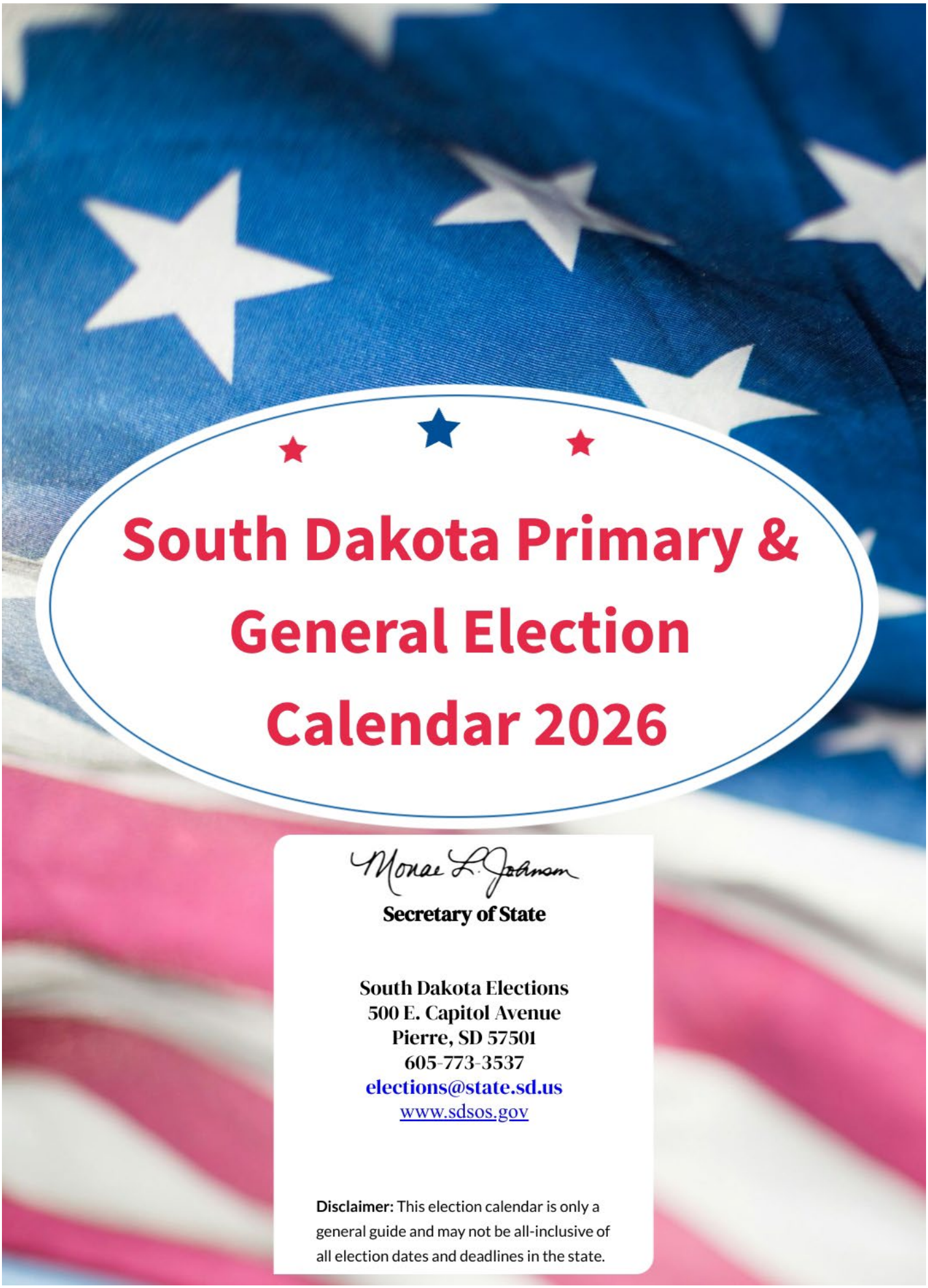


South Dakota Primary & General Election Calendar 2026

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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.

Last Updated: November 13, 2026

2026 South Dakota Election Calendar

Prior to First Notice of Election	Review precinct boundaries and polling places. No precinct boundary or polling place may be changed after the publication of the first notice of election is published pursuant to SDCL 12-12-1 (SDCL 12-14-15).
January 1, 2026	First day of nominating petition circulation for Primary Election candidates and Independent candidates (SDCL 12-6-4.1, 12-6-8).
January 1	New Year's Day
Beginning of January	Municipalities and school districts may reach out to ask to combine their annual election with the Primary Election (SDCL 9-13-37, 13-7-10.3).
January 15 through January 30	Publish the notices of offices to be filled by nomination or by declaration and the deadline for filing in all official newspapers in the appropriate district at least once each week for two consecutive weeks between January 15th and 30th in an even-numbered year (SDCL 12-12-1, ARSD 5:02:04:17). See NOTE 1 on Page 13.
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 30	Last day for a statewide candidate or candidate campaign committee, statewide political action committee, statewide political party, or statewide ballot question committee to file a year-end report of receipts and expenditures for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 (SDCL 12-27-21.1, 12-27-22).
February 3	Deadline for sponsors to submit petitions for initiated measures and initiated constitutional amendments (SDCL 2-1-1.1, 2-1-1.2). ***Note: A federal district court ruled in *Dakotans for Health v. Johnson* that this deadline is unenforceable. Pursuant to the ruling, the deadline for sponsors to submit petitions is May 5, 2026. This ruling is on APPEAL.**
February 16	Presidents' Day
March 4	Deadline for an individual's voter registration to be challenged on the grounds of registration/voting in another state or residency, pursuant to SDCL 12-4-59. The challenge must be filed with the County Auditor not later than the ninetieth day before the Primary Election (SDCL 12-4-59).
March 8	**Daylight Savings Time –** As part of regular election readiness preparations, please remember that clocks will "spring forward" by an hour on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Times on ExpressVote machines, tabulating machines, and clocks in polling places should be updated prior to Election Day.
March 10	The Secretary of State must certify copies of all ballot questions to County Auditors at least twelve weeks prior to the Primary Election (SDCL 12-13-1).
March 26	Deadline for municipalities and school districts to certify candidate names and ballot language when combining with a county for the Primary Election (SDCL 9-13-37, 13-7-10.3).
March 31	Last day for Primary Election nominating petitions to be filed or postmarked by registered mail (SDCL 12-6-4). Last day for party precinct committeeman and committeewoman nominees to file a statement of candidacy with their County Auditor (SDCL 12-5-4, ARSD 05:02:08:45). Last day for water development district candidates and Heartland Consumer Power district candidates to file nominating petitions with the Secretary of State (SDCL 46A-3B-4, 49-36-1.3).

March 31	Last day for a new political party that intends to participate in the Primary Election to file a new party formation petition with the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. central time (SDCL 12-5-1). Last day for Primary Election candidates from a new political party to file nominating petitions (SDCL 12-5-1.4).
April 2	Last day for a candidate's request to have their name withdrawn from the Primary Election ballot to be filed or postmarked by registered mail (SDCL 12-6-8.1, ARSD 5:02:07:05).
April 6 (Tentative)	Drawing for candidate positions on the Primary Election ballot will be held in the Secretary of State's office at a time TBD (SDCL 12-16-8). County Auditors will do separate drawings either on this date or another for their candidate positions on the Primary Election ballot (SDCL 12-16-8).
April 15	Last day for candidates to file a "Candidate Statement of Financial Interest" if their nominating petitions were filed on March 31, 2026. This statement must be filed within fifteen days of a candidate filing their nominating petitions (SDCL 12-25-28, 12-25-30).
April 15	Last day for candidates to file a "Statement of Organization" if their nominating petitions were filed on March 31, 2026 and their candidate committee has not already filed one. This statement must be filed within fifteen days of a candidate filing their nominating petitions (SDCL 12-27-3).
April 15	Deadline for Primary Election ballots to be printed and in a County Auditor's possession (SDCL 12-16-1).
April 17	**Absentee Voting** Absentee voting for the Primary Election begins on this date (SDCL 12-19-1.2). Ballots must be sent out within forty-eight hours of an application being received (SDCL 12-19-3).
April 20	Deadline for county central committees to submit names to the County Auditor to be used as election board workers (at least forty-five days prior to the election). If the County Auditor does not receive the list at least forty-five days prior to an election, the County Auditor must make the appointments (SDCL 12-15-1). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.
Weeks of April 26 & May 3	Publish a notice for the Voter Registration Deadline in all official newspapers in the county at least once each week for two consecutive weeks, with the final notice being published not less than ten nor more than fifteen days prior to the Voter Registration Deadline. This notice must also be published online by the County Auditor (SDCL 12-4-5.2, ARSD 5:02:04:04). See NOTE 1 and NOTE 2 on Page 13.
April 28	Last day for nominating petitions to be filed or postmarked by registered mail on behalf of an Independent candidate for any non-judicial office (SDCL 12-7-1).
May 1	Deadline for the County Auditor to send a copy of all statewide ballot measures and questions certified by the Secretary of State to each official newspaper in the County by electronic transmission or mail (SDCL 12-13-2). *Note: This deadline mirrors that which is established for the General Election because there is no statutory deadline for the Primary Election.
May 4	Deadline for an individual's voter registration to be challenged on the grounds of a felony conviction, mental incompetence, or death, pursuant to SDCL 12-4-58. The challenge must be filed with the County Auditor not later than the thirtieth day before the Primary Election (SDCL 12-4-58). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.

May 4	A list containing the names of each person who will be receiving, processing, and tabulating ballots must be sent by the County Auditor to the county chair of each political party at least thirty days prior to the election to ensure bipartisan representation (SDCL 12-17B-11). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.
Between May 5 & May 19	Each official newspaper in the county must publish the full text, statement, title, explanation, and the recitation of effect of each submitted ballot measure and question at least once (SDCL 12-13-3). See NOTE 2 on Page 13. *Note: This timeline mirrors that which is established for the General Election because there is no statutory deadline for the Primary Election.
May 13	Precinct superintendents and precinct deputies must be appointed by the County Auditor for each election precinct at least twenty days prior to the election (SDCL 12-15-1, 12-15-2, 12-15-3).
May 13 through June 1	Candidates and political committees must file supplemental campaign finance statements if they receive a contribution of $500 or more within the twenty days immediately prior to the election. The report must be filed within forty-eight hours of a candidate or political committee receiving the contribution (SDCL 12-27-28). *Note: If the contribution was received on or after Election Day, a supplemental statement is not required. Additionally, a supplemental statement may be filed online.
May 18	**Voter Registration Deadline** A person must register to vote by 5:00 p.m. local time on this date (fifteen days prior to the election) to vote in the Primary Election (SDCL 12-4-5).
May 18	All statewide officeholders, statewide candidates, statewide political parties, statewide political action committees, and statewide ballot question committees must file a pre-primary campaign finance report at least fifteen days prior to the Primary Election (SDCL 12-27-21.1, 12-27-22, 12-27-39). All candidates running for a legislative or county office (only in a county with a population greater than 10,000) with a recognized political party must file a pre-primary campaign finance report at least fifteen days prior to the Primary Election (SDCL 12-27-21.1, 12-27-22, 12-27-39). All statewide officeholders and candidates, legislative candidates, statewide political parties, statewide political action committees, and statewide ballot question committees should file their pre-primary campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State. All county candidates should file their pre-primary campaign finance reports with the County Auditor (SDCL 12-27-42).
Weeks of May 17 & May 24	Publish a notice for the Primary Election in all official newspapers in the county at least once each week for two consecutive weeks, with the final notice being published not less than four nor more than ten days prior to the Primary Election (SDCL 12-12-1, ARSD 5:02:04:16). See NOTE 1, NOTE 2, and NOTE 3 on Page 13.
Week of May 17 or May 24	Publish a copy of the facsimile ballot in all official newspapers in the county at least once within the two calendar weeks prior to the Primary Election (SDCL 12-16-16, 12-16-16.1, 12-16-16.2, ARSD 05:02:05:02.01).
May 19	The Attorney General must deliver a statement (title, explanation, and recitation) for each ballot measure and question proposed by the Legislature and any referred law from an odd-numbered year before the third Tuesday in May (SDCL 12-13-9).

May 22	If ballots will be processed by an automatic tabulating machine prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day, notification of the processing must be provided to the county chair of each political party at least ten days before the election (SDCL 12-19-43). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.
May 25	Memorial Day
May 25 through June 1	Automatic tabulating equipment must be tested by the County Auditor during this period. The County Auditor must publish a notice of testing at least forty-eight hours prior to the test (SDCL 12-17B-5, ARSD 5:02:09:01.01). See NOTE 2 on Page 13.
June 1	Last day for a voter to request an absentee ballot. A voter must request an absentee ballot before 5:00 p.m. local time on this date (SDCL 12-19-2.1). No public official may mail an absentee ballot to a voter after the Monday prior to Election Day (SDCL 12-19-5).
June 2	**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY** Polls are open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** local time (SDCL 12-2-1, 12-2-3). 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). An absentee ballot may be requested by a voter confined due to sickness or disability through an authorized messenger until 3:00 p.m. local time on Election Day (SDCL 12-19-2.1). All absentee ballots requested in this manner must 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 12-19-9). An absentee ballot that is delivered to a polling place, absentee counting board, or the office of the person in charge of the election after the polls have closed in the County may not be counted or opened (SDCL 12-29-12). An automatic tabulating machine that will be used on Election Day must be tested in the manner prescribed by SDCL 12-17B-5 immediately prior to the start of the official count of the ballots (SDCL 12-17B-12).
Runoff Election Information (Pages 11-12)	**Runoff Election** If a Runoff Election is necessary pursuant to SDCL 12-6-51.1, the Secretary of State will provide more guidance in addition to the deadlines and publications listed on Pages 11-12. *Note: There may be additional publications and deadlines required that are not included on Pages 11-12.
June 8	The County Auditor (and any other person in charge of the election) must make an official canvass of the votes within six calendar days of the election, with the governing board serving as the canvassing board (SDCL 12-20-36). Certified copies of the official county canvass must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately after the canvass has been made. These copies may be sent electronically as long as the required seal is visible and an original copy is also sent in the mail (SDCL 12-20-38.1).

June 8	**Post-Election Audit** The County Auditor must select the precincts and contests for the post-election audit at random without the use of a computer during the meeting of the county canvassing board (SDCL 12-17B-20). *Note: See the Post-Election Audit Guide for more information.
June 9	The State Board of Canvassers must meet to open and examine the returns from each county within seven days of the election (SDCL 12-20-47). *Note: The Secretary of State will notify County Auditors when the state canvass has been completed.
June 10 through June 24	**Post-Election Audit** The County Auditor must conduct a post-election audit within fifteen days of the state canvass (SDCL 12-17B-18). The County Auditor must appoint a county auditing board of sufficient size to promptly complete the post-election audit (SDCL 12-17B-18). The post-election audit should be conducted according to the procedures listed in SDCL 12-17B-18 through 12-17B-25, inclusive. *Note: See the Post-Election Audit Guide for more information.
June 11	Last day for a recount petition to be filed with the County Auditor by a county candidate, assuming that the county canvass was conducted on June 8 (SDCL 12-21-10, ARSD 5:02:19:05). County candidates seeking a recount must file a recount petition with the County Auditor within three days of the official county canvass (SDCL 12-21-10, ARSD 5:02:19:05). See NOTE 3 on Page 13. *Note: See the Recount Manual for more information.
June 12	Last day for a recount petition to be filed with the Secretary of State or the County Auditor by legislative and statewide candidates, assuming that the state canvass was conducted on June 9 (SDCL 12-21-10, 12-21-11, 12-21-12, ARSD 5:02:19:05). Legislative and statewide candidates must file a recount petition with the Secretary of State or the County Auditor within three days of the official state canvass (SDCL 12-21-10, 12-21-11, 12-21-12, ARSD 5:02:19:05). See NOTE 3 on Page 13. County Auditors must notify the Secretary of State of any legislative recounts (SDCL 12-21-11.1). *Note: See the Recount Manual for more information.
June 19	Juneteenth

June 22	Last day for a recount petition to be filed with the Secretary of State for a statewide ballot question, assuming that the state canvass was conducted on June 9 (SDCL 12-21-14, ARSD 5:02:19:07). A recount petition for a statewide ballot question must be filed with the Secretary of State within ten days of the state canvass (SDCL 12-21-14, ARSD 5:02:19:07). See NOTE 3 on Page 13. *Note: See the Recount Manual for more information.
July 1	Last day for nominating petitions to be filed or postmarked by registered mail on behalf of a conservation district candidate (SDCL 38-8-39). Nominating petitions for conservation district candidates must be filed with the Secretary of State if the district covers multiple counties or filed with the County Auditor if the district is contained within one county (SDCL 38-8-39).
July 1	Last day for a new political party that did not participate in the Primary Election to file a new party formation petition with the Secretary of State by 5:00 p.m. central time (SDCL 12-5-1.5).
July 4	Independence Day
July 14	The Attorney General must deliver a statement (title, explanation, and recitation) for each ballot measure and question proposed by the Legislature and any referred law from an even-numbered year before the second Tuesday in July (SDCL 12-13-9).
July 15	Deadline for the County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the Primary Election into TotalVote/SDVotes (SDCL 12-4-37).
August 4	Last day for a candidate to file a request to withdraw their name from the General Election ballot (SDCL 12-6-55, ARSD 5:02:07:05). Withdrawal requests must be filed with the officer who accepted the candidate's nominating petitions by 5:00 p.m. local time, and there is no registered mail option (SDCL 12-6-55).
August 4	An incumbent justice of the Supreme Court must request that the Secretary of State place their name on the ballot for a retention election by the first Tuesday in August (SDCL 16-1-2.2, ARSD 5:02:06:03:02).
August 5	Deadline for an individual's voter registration to be challenged on the grounds of registration/voting in another state or residency, pursuant to SDCL 12-4-59. The challenge must be filed with the County Auditor not later than the ninetieth day before the General Election (SDCL 12-4-59).
August 11	Vacancies created by candidates who withdrew their nominations must be filled by a party central committee by the second Tuesday in August. Certificates of nomination must be filed or postmarked by registered mail by 5:00 p.m. on this date (SDCL 12-8-6, ARSD 5:02:07:06). Candidates for Governor must certify their candidate for Lieutenant Governor to the Secretary of State by the second Tuesday in August (SDCL 12-5-21.1, 12-7-1.2). Last day for a political party to hold a state convention to nominate candidates. The chair of the political party must notify the Secretary of State that a convention will be held at least fifteen days prior to the chosen date, which would be July 27 if the convention is held on August 11 (SDCL 12-5-17, 12-5-22).

	Nominations made by a state convention must be made by a majority of the votes cast and certified to the Secretary of State by the officers of the convention within three days of its close. The Secretary of State may not accept any certificates of nomination after the second Tuesday in August (SDCL 12-5-22). The Secretary of State must certify copies of all ballot questions to County Auditors at least twelve weeks prior to the General Election (SDCL 12-13-1).
August 17 (Tentative)	Drawing for party order and candidate order, if applicable, on the General Election ballot will be held in the Secretary of State's office at a time TBD (SDCL 12-16-3.1, 12-16-5, 12-16-8). County Auditors will do separate drawings either on this date or another for their candidate positions on the General Election ballot. County Auditors do not draw for party order (SDCL 12-16-8).
August 18	The Secretary of State must certify the names of all candidates that will be placed on the General Election ballot to County Auditors by 5:00 p.m. central time on the third Tuesday in August (SDCL 12-8-8).
August 21	Deadline for municipalities and school districts to certify candidate names and ballot language when combining with a county for the General Election (SDCL 9-13-37, 13-7-10.3).
September 7	Labor Day
September 16	Deadline for General Election ballots to be printed and in a County Auditor's possession (SDCL 12-16-1, 12-16-17).
September 18	**Absentee Voting** Absentee voting for the General Election begins on this date (SDCL 12-19-1.2). Ballots must be sent out within forty-eight hours of an application being received (SDCL 12-19-3).
September 21	Deadline for county central committees to submit names to the County Auditor to be used as election board workers (at least forty-five days prior to the election). If the County Auditor does not receive the list at least forty-five days prior to an election, the County Auditor must make the appointments (SDCL 12-15-1). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.
Weeks of September 27 & October 4	Publish a notice for the Voter Registration Deadline in all official newspapers in the county at least once each week for two consecutive weeks, with the final notice being published not less than ten nor more than fifteen days prior to the Voter Registration Deadline. This notice must also be published online by the County Auditor (SDCL 12-4-5.2, ARSD 5:02:04:04). See NOTE 1 and NOTE 2 on Page 13.
October 1	Deadline for the County Auditor to send a copy of all statewide ballot measures and questions certified by the Secretary of State to each official newspaper in the County by electronic transmission or mail (SDCL 12-13-2).
October 5	Deadline for an individual's voter registration to be challenged on the grounds of a felony conviction, mental incompetence, or death, pursuant to SDCL 12-4-58. The challenge must be filed with the County Auditor not later than the thirtieth day before the General Election (SDCL 12-4-58). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.
October 5	A list containing the names of each person who will be receiving, processing, and tabulating ballots must be sent by the County Auditor to the county chair of each political party at least thirty days prior to the election to ensure bipartisan representation (SDCL 12-17B-11). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.

Between October 6 & October 20	Each official newspaper in the county must publish the full text, statement, title, explanation, and the recitation of effect of each submitted ballot measure and question at least once (SDCL 12-13-3). See NOTE 2 on Page 13.
October 12	Native Americans' Day
October 14	Precinct superintendents and precinct deputies must be appointed by the County Auditor for each election precinct at least twenty days prior to the election (SDCL 12-15-1, 12-15-2, 12-15-3).
October 14 through November 2	Candidates and political committees must file supplemental campaign finance statements if they receive a contribution of $500 or more within the twenty days immediately prior to the election. The report must be filed within forty-eight hours of a candidate or political committee receiving the contribution (SDCL 12-27-28). *Note: If the contribution was received on or after Election Day, a supplemental statement is not required. Additionally, a supplemental statement may be filed online.
October 19	**Voter Registration Deadline** A person must register to vote by 5:00 p.m. local time on this date (fifteen days prior to the election) to vote in the General Election (SDCL 12-4-5).
Weeks of October 18 & October 25	Publish a notice for the General Election in all official newspapers in the county at least once each week for two consecutive weeks, with the final notice being published not less than four nor more than ten days prior to the General Election (SDCL 12-12-1, ARSD 5:02:04:05). See NOTE 1, NOTE 2, and NOTE 3 on Page 13.
October 19	All statewide officeholders, statewide candidates, statewide political parties, statewide political action committees, and statewide ballot question committees must file a pre-general campaign finance report at least fifteen days prior to the General Election (SDCL 12-27-21.1, 12-27-22, 12-27-39). All candidates running for a legislative or county office (only in a county with a population greater than 10,000) must file a pre-general campaign finance report at least fifteen days prior to the General Election (SDCL 12-27-21.1, 12-27-22, 12-27-39). All statewide officeholders and candidates, legislative candidates, statewide political parties, statewide political action committees, and statewide ballot question committees should file their pre-general campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State. All county candidates should file their pre-general campaign finance reports with the County Auditor (SDCL 12-27-42).
Week of October 18 or October 25	Publish a copy of the facsimile ballot in all official newspapers in the county at least once within the two calendar weeks prior to the General Election (SDCL 12-16-16, 12-16-16.1, 12-16-16.2, ARSD 05:02:05:02.01).
October 23	If ballots will be processed by an automatic tabulating machine prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day, notification of the processing must be provided to the county chair of each political party at least ten days before the election (SDCL 12-19-43). See NOTE 3 on Page 13.
October 26 through November 2	Automatic tabulating equipment must be tested by the County Auditor during this period. The County Auditor must publish a notice of testing at least forty-eight hours prior to the test (SDCL 12-17B-5, ARSD 5:02:09:01.01). See NOTE 2 on Page 13.
November 1	**Daylight Savings Time –** As part of regular election readiness preparations, please remember that clocks will "fall back" by an hour on Sunday, November 1, 2026. Times on

	ExpressVote machines, tabulating machines, and clocks in polling places should be updated prior to Election Day.
November 2	Last day for a voter to request an absentee ballot. A voter must request an absentee ballot before 5:00 p.m. local time on this date (SDCL 12-19-2.1). No public official may mail an absentee ballot to a voter after the Monday prior to Election Day (SDCL 12-19-5).
November 3	**GENERAL ELECTION DAY** Polls are open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** local time (SDCL 12-2-1, 12-2-3). 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). An absentee ballot may be requested by a voter confined due to sickness or disability through an authorized messenger until 3:00 p.m. local time on Election Day (SDCL 12-19-2.1). All absentee ballots requested in this manner must 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 12-19-9). An absentee ballot that is delivered to a polling place, absentee counting board, or the office of the person in charge of the election after the polls have closed in the County may not be counted or opened (SDCL 12-29-12). An automatic tabulating machine that will be used on Election Day must be tested in the manner prescribed by SDCL 12-17B-5 immediately prior to the start of the official count of the ballots (SDCL 12-17B-12).
November 9	The County Auditor (and any other person in charge of the election) must make an official canvass of the votes within six calendar days of the election, with the governing board serving as the canvassing board (SDCL 12-20-36). Certified copies of the official county canvass must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately after the canvass has been made. These copies may be sent electronically as long as the required seal is visible and an original copy is also sent in the mail (SDCL 12-20-38.1).
November 9	**Post-Election Audit** The County Auditor must select the precincts and contests for the post-election audit at random without the use of a computer during the meeting of the county canvassing board (SDCL 12-17B-20). *Note: See the Post-Election Audit Guide for more information.
November 10	The State Board of Canvassers must meet to open and examine the returns from each county within seven days of the election (SDCL 12-20-47). *Note: The Secretary of State will notify County Auditors when the state canvass has been completed.
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 11 through November 25	**Post-Election Audit** The County Auditor must conduct a post-election audit within fifteen days of the state canvass (SDCL 12-17B-18).

	The County Auditor must appoint a county auditing board of sufficient size to promptly complete the post-election audit (SDCL 12-17B-18). The post-election audit should be conducted according to the procedures listed in SDCL 12-17B-18 through 12-17B-25, inclusive. *Note: See the Post-Election Audit Guide for more information.
November 12	Last day for a recount petition to be filed with the County Auditor by a county candidate, assuming that the county canvass was conducted on November 9 (SDCL 12-21-10, ARSD 5:02:19:05). County candidates seeking a recount must file a recount petition with the County Auditor within three days of the official county canvass (SDCL 12-21-10, ARSD 5:02:19:05). See NOTE 3 on Page 13. *Note: See the Recount Manual for more information.
November 16 ~~13~~	Legislative and statewide candidates must file a recount petition with the Secretary of State or the County Auditor within three days of the official state canvass (SDCL 12-21-10, 12-21-11, 12-21-12, ARSD 5:02:19:05). See NOTE 3 on Page 13. County Auditors must notify the Secretary of State of any legislative recounts (SDCL 12-21-11.1). *Note: See the Recount Manual for more information.
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
December 15	Deadline for the County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the General Election into TotalVote/SDVotes (SDCL 12-4-37).
December 25	Christmas Day
January 29, 2027	All candidates, political parties, campaign committees, political action committees, and ballot question committees that participated in the preceding year's General Election must file a year-end campaign finance report by the last Friday in January (SDCL 12-27-21.1, 12-27-22, 12-27-39). All statewide candidates, legislative candidates, statewide political parties, statewide political action committees, and statewide ballot question committees should file their year-end campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State. All county candidates should file their year-end campaign finance reports with the County Auditor (SDCL 12-27-42).

Runoff Election Procedures	
Date TBD	Drawing for candidate positions on the Runoff Election ballot will be held in the Secretary of State's office at a time TBD (SDCL 12-16-8).
June 10	Deadline for Runoff Election ballots to be printed and in a County Auditor's possession (SDCL 12-16-1, 12-16-17).
June 12	**Absentee Voting** Absentee voting for the Runoff Election begins on this date (SDCL 12-19-1.2). Ballots must be sent out within forty-eight hours of an application being received (SDCL 12-19-3).
June 13 or June 14	The Secretary of State must publish notice of a Runoff Election and a facsimile ballot in state newspapers that publish on Saturday and Sunday on the eleventh or twelfth day after the Primary Election (SDCL 12-12-1).
July 13	**Voter Registration Deadline** A person must register to vote by 5:00 p.m. local time on this date (fifteen days prior to the election) to vote in the Runoff Election (SDCL 12-4-5).
July 27	Last day for a voter to request an absentee ballot. A voter must request an absentee ballot before 5:00 p.m. local time on this date (SDCL 12-19-2.1). No public official may mail an absentee ballot to a voter after the Monday prior to Election Day (SDCL 12-19-5).
July 28	**RUNOFF ELECTION DAY** Polls are open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** local time (SDCL 12-2-1, 12-2-3). 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). An absentee ballot may be requested by a voter confined due to sickness or disability through an authorized messenger until 3:00 p.m. local time on Election Day (SDCL 12-19-2.1). All absentee ballots requested in this manner must 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 12-19-9). An absentee ballot that is delivered to a polling place, absentee counting board, or the office of the person in charge of the election after the polls have closed in the County may not be counted or opened (SDCL 12-29-12). An automatic tabulating machine that will be used on Election Day must be tested in the manner prescribed by SDCL 12-17B-5 immediately prior to the start of the official count of the ballots (SDCL 12-17B-12).
August 3	The County Auditor (and any other person in charge of the election) must make an official canvass of the votes within six calendar days of the election, with the governing board serving as the canvassing board (SDCL 12-20-36). Certified copies of the official county canvass must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately after the canvass has been made. These copies may be sent electronically as long as the required seal is visible and an original copy is also sent in the mail (SDCL 12-20-38.1).

August 4	The State Board of Canvassers must meet to open and examine the returns from each county within seven days of the election (SDCL 12-20-47). *Note: The Secretary of State will notify County Auditors when the state canvass has been completed.
September 15	Deadline for the County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the Runoff Election into TotalVote/SDVotes (SDCL 12-4-37). *Note: This timeline mirrors that which is established for the Primary Election and General Election because there is no statutory deadline for the Runoff Election.

**** IMPORTANT NOTES ****

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).

Please visit our website for more information on campaign finance.

OFFICIAL SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HOLIDAYS – 2026 (SDCL 1-5-1)	
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