2027
City & School
Election Calendars

South Dakota Secretary of State

Division of Elections
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Updated November 18, 2026

2027 City & School Election Calendar	June 8, 2027 June Election	November 2, 2027 November Election
Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL 9-13-6; 13-7-5; ARSD 5:02:04:06; 5:02:04:14). **Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.**	Cities: December 15–30, 2026 Schools: December 15–30, 2026	Cities: May 15–30, 2027 Schools: May 15–30, 2027
Deadline for the governing body to establish an election date (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10).	Cities: By January 14 Schools: By first regular meeting after January 1	Cities: By January 14 Schools: By first regular meeting after January 1
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; ARSD 5:02:08:11; 5:02:08:13).	Cities: February 8 Schools: January 1	Cities: July 2 Schools: June 1
Deadline for a candidate to file nominating petitions or to withdraw their name from the ballot (SDCL 9-13-7; 9-13-7.1; 13-7-6; 13-7-7). **Note: If only one candidate files, you do not need to have an election and do NOT need to publish notices. Remember to issue certificates of election! If you are having an election let your county auditor know.**	File: March 16 by 5 PM local Withdraw: March 18 Before 5 PM local	File: August 17 Before 5 PM local Withdraw: August 19 Before 5 PM local
Draw for candidate ballot order (SDCL 9-13-21; 13-7-13). **Note: A candidate or a candidate's representative may be present for this process.**	Plan after March 18 cutoff	Plan after August 19 cutoff
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). **Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the candidate filing their nominating petition.**	Within 15 days of filing March 31 if filed March 16	Within 15 days of filing September 1 if filed August 17
Recruit election workers and appoint election boards (SDCL 9-13-16.1; 13-7-12; ARSD 5:02:05:11.01).	Prior to Election Day	Prior to Election Day
Publish notices for the voter registration deadline (SDCL 12-4-5.2; ARSD 5:02:04:04). **Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks online and in official newspaper.**	Weeks of May 2 and 9	Weeks of Sept. 26 and Oct. 3
First day of absentee voting (SDCL 9-13-21; SDCL 13-7-13). **Note: Yellow sample ballots must be made available to voters when absentee voting begins (15 days prior to election day).**	Available by Monday, May 24	Available by Monday, October 18

2027 City & School Election Calendar	June 8, 2027 June Election	November 2, 2027 November Election
Publish notices of election (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8; ARSD 5:02:04:08; 5:02:04:15). **Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.**	Weeks of May 23 and 30	Weeks of Oct. 17 and 24
Deadline for voter registration (SDCL 12-4-5).	Monday, May 24 By 5:00 PM local	Monday, October 18 By 5:00 PM local
Publish facsimile ballot (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8). **Note: Must be published between Monday and Saturday during the week prior to the election.**	May 31–June 5 *May 31 is Memorial Day	October 25–30
IF USING OPTICAL SCAN BALLOTS: **Conduct a test of the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used for the election (SDCL 12-17B-5; ARSD 5:02:09:01.01; 5:02:09:01.02).** **Note: Notice of the test must be published at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the test.**	May 29–June 7	October 23–November 1
Deadline for a voter to vote absentee in-person (SDCL 12-19-2.1). **Note: Deadline is at 5:00 PM or the end of regular office hours, whichever is later.**	Monday, June 7	Monday, November 1
Deadline for a voter who is confined due to sickness or disability to request an absentee ballot via authorized messenger (SDCL 12-19-2.1; 12-19-9). **Note: The ballot must be returned prior to 7:00 PM on election day in order for it to be counted.**	Tuesday, June 8 Before 3:00 PM local	Tuesday, November 2 Before 3:00 PM local
ELECTION DAY! **Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10).** **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.**	Tuesday, June 8 7:00 AM–7:00 PM local	Tuesday, November 2 7:00 AM–7:00 PM local
Deadline for official canvass (SDCL 9-13-24; 13-7-18; ARSD 5:02:17:11; 5:02:17:12).	Cities: By June 15 Schools: At next board meeting	Cities: By November 9 Schools: At next board meeting
Issue Certificates of Election (SDCL 9-13-28; 13-7-18; ARSD 5:02:15:08; 5:02:15:09; 5:02:15:10; 5:02:15:11).	Cities: Notify within two days of declared result Schools: Issue after canvass	Cities: Notify within two days of declared result Schools: Issue after canvass
Deadline for officials in first-class municipalities and school districts with >2,000 students to file an Elected Official Financial Interest Statement (SDCL 3-1A-4; 12-25-30). **Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of assuming the office.**	Within 15 days of assuming office	Within 15 days of assuming 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 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, Vermillion, and Watertown.

Runoff Elections: For cities that have runoff elections, hold it 3 weeks after the election, which would be June 29th or November 23rd (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 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 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 or 605-773-3537. Additional election information can be found at: https://sdsos.gov.

General Notes

Cities and schools that are looking to combine their elections in 2027 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 – 2027 (SDCL 1-5-1)	
January 1	New Year's Day
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 15	Presidents' Day
May 31	Memorial Day
June 18 (observed)	Juneteenth
July 5 (observed)	Independence Day
September 6	Labor Day
October 11	Native Americans' Day
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 25	Thanksgiving Day
December 24 (observed)	Christmas Day

Publication planning for the June election also crosses the December 25, 2026 holiday.