SOUTH CAROLINA
ELECTION COMMISSION

2026 Election Calendar (scVOTES)

This calendar is intended to be a reference to significant dates in the election year. Efforts were made to ensure calendar complies with applicable law. If in any case the calendar conflicts with state or federal law, applicable laws control. For complete information regarding dates and deadlines, be sure to consult applicable law. Calendar is subject to change.

Date	Event	Statutes
January 10	First day persons who will turn 18-years-old on or before November 3, 2026, may register to vote.	7-5-180
March 16 12:00 noon	Filing opens for candidates seeking political party nominations for: • Governor • Secretary of State • State Treasurer • Attorney General • Comptroller General • State Superintendent of Education • Commissioner of Agriculture • U.S. Senate • U.S. House of Representatives • State House of Representatives • Multi-county district offices • Solicitor (Circuits 3, 5, 6, 12, 13 , 15) • Various countywide and less than countywide offices Candidates file Statement of Intention of Candidacy/Party Pledge (SICPP) and any filing fees with appropriate election office.	7-11-15 7-11-210 7-11-220 S.C. Constitution, Article IV
March 30 12:00 noon	Deadline for sheriff and coroner candidates to file affidavit with the county party executive committee.	17-5-130 23-11-110
March 30 12:00 noon	Candidate filing closes.	7-11-15
March 31	Deadline for political parties to hold county conventions.	7-9-70
April 1 12:00 noon	Deadline for SEC and county boards to provide SICPP forms, filing fee receipts and filing fee checks to the appropriate state or county party executive committee.	7-11-15
April 6 12:00 noon	Deadline for political parties holding primaries to certify candidates to appropriate election office (SEC or county board).	7-13-40
April 9 12:00 noon	Deadline for county parties to file sheriff and coroner affidavits with county boards.	17-5-130 23-11-110
April 10 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for candidates to withdraw and have name removed from the Primary ballot.	
April 25	Deadline to mail Primary absentee ballots to military and overseas citizens.	7-15-650 7-15-680
April 25	Deadline for political parties to submit list of prospective poll managers for Primaries to county boards.	7-13-72
May 5	Latest possible date for parties to publicly announce date of state convention (must be publicly announced at least 10 days prior to state convention).	7-9-100

Date	Event	Statutes
May 8 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in person for Primaries (unless county board holds weekend hours).	7-5-150
May 10 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote online or by fax or email for Primaries.	7-5-155 7-5-185
May 11	Deadline to register to vote by mail for Primaries (must be postmarked by this date).	7-5-155
May 15	Deadline for political parties to hold state conventions.	7-9-100
May 26	Early voting for Primaries begins at county voter registration offices and other early voting centers. • Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) • Closed Saturday and Sunday	7-13-25
May 29 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for voters to apply for an absentee ballot for Primaries.	7-15-330
June 5 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote early in person for Primaries.	7-13-25
June 7 7:00 a.m.	Earliest possible time county boards can begin opening absentee mailing envelopes and removing secrecy envelopes.	7-15-420
June 9	**Statewide Primaries.** Polls open 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	7-13-40 7-13-60
June 9 7:00 a.m.	Earliest possible time county boards can begin opening absentee secrecy envelopes and processing ballots.	7-15-420
June 9 7:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to receive absentee ballots (military and overseas voters' ballots accepted through 5:00 p.m., June 10).	7-15-420 7-15-700
June 9 After 7:00 p.m.	County boards begin reporting election results locally and through scVOTES.gov.	7-13-1110 7-13-1160
June 10 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to conduct hand-count audit and provide results to SEC.	7-3-20(C)(2)
June 11 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to: • Hold provisional ballot hearing. • Complete canvass of votes. • Certify results. • Order any necessary runoffs and recounts for county-level offices	7-17-510 7-17-610 7-17-280
June 12 3:00 p.m.	State Board of Canvassers meets to: • Complete canvassing of votes. • Certify results. • Order any necessary runoffs and recounts for state-level offices.	7-17-510 7-17-610 7-17-280
June 12 After SEC cert.	County boards may begin transmitting absentee ballots for Runoffs.	7-15-370
June 15 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protest of Primary with appropriate county or state party executive committee.	7-17-520 7-17-560
June 17	Early voting for Runoffs begins at county voter registration offices and other early voting centers. • Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Wednesday – Thursday)	7-13-25
June 18	Protest hearings for Primaries held by appropriate county or state party	7-17-530

Date	Event	Statutes
	executive committee.	7-17-570
June 18 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote early in person for Primary Runoffs	7-13-25
June 19 3:00 p.m.	Deadline for notice of appeal to the state party executive committee from decisions by county party executive committee.	7-17-540
June 20 12:00 noon	Deadline for state party executive committee to hear appeals.	7-17-550
June 21 7:00 a.m.	Earliest possible time county boards can begin opening absentee mailing envelopes and removing secrecy envelopes for Primary Runoffs.	7-15-420
June 23	**Primary Runoffs.** Polls open 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	7-13-40
June 23 7:00 a.m.	Earliest possible time county boards can begin opening absentee envelopes and processing ballots.	7-15-420
June 23 7:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to receive absentee ballots (military and overseas voters' ballots accepted through 5:00 p.m., June 24).	7-15-420 7-15-700
June 23 After 7:00 p.m.	County boards begin reporting election results locally and through scVOTES.gov.	7-13-1110 7-13-1160
June 24 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to conduct hand-count audit and provide results to SEC.	7-3-20(C)(2)
June 25 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to: • Hold provisional ballot hearing. • Complete canvass of votes. • Certify results. • Order any necessary runoffs and recounts for county-level offices.	7-17-510 7-17-610 7-17-280
June 26 3:00 p.m.	State Board of Canvassers meets to: • Complete canvassing of votes. • Certify results. • Order any necessary runoffs and recounts for state-level offices.	7-17-510 7-17-610 7-17-280
June 26	Deadline for Sheriff candidates to make fingerprints available to SLED for search of local, state, and federal files for any criminal record.	23-11-110
June 29 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protest of Runoff with appropriate county or state party executive committee.	7-17-520 7-17-560
July 2	Protest hearings for Runoffs held by appropriate county or state party executive committee.	7-17-530 7-17-570
July 3 3:00 p.m.	Deadline for notice of appeal to the state party executive committee from decisions by county party executive committee.	7-17-540
July 4 12:00 noon	Deadline for state party executive committee to hear appeals.	7-17-550
July 6	Date on which number of signatures required for candidate petitions is determined.	7-11-70
July 15 12:00 noon	Deadline to submit petition to appropriate election official for name to be placed on General Election ballot.	7-13-351
August 17 12:00 noon	a) Deadline to check petitions and certify petition candidates. b) Deadline to certify referendum questions to county boards to be placed on General Election ballot. c) Deadline for political parties to certify candidates to appropriate county board or SEC. d) Deadline for nonpartisan candidates to file and be certified for	7-13-350 7-13-351 7-13-352 7-13-355

Date	Event	Statutes
	General Election ballot (actual filing deadlines for some non-partisan offices could differ according to local legislation).	
September 4 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for candidates to withdraw and have name removed from the General Election ballot.	
September 19	Deadline to mail General Election absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act).	7-15-650 7-15-680
October 2 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in person for General Election (unless county board holds weekend hours).	7-5-150
October 4 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote online or by fax or email for General Election.	7-5-155 7-5-185
October 5	Deadline to register to vote by mail for General Election (must be postmarked by this date).	7-5-155
October 19	Early voting for General Election begins at county voter registration offices and other early voting centers. • Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Monday – Saturday) • Closed Sunday, October 25	7-13-25
October 23 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to apply for absentee ballot for General Election.	7-15-330
October 31 6:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote early in person for General Election.	7-13-25
November 1 7:00 a.m.	Earliest possible time county boards can begin opening absentee mailing envelopes and removing secrecy envelopes.	7-15-420
November 3	**General Election Day.** Polls open 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	7-13-10 7-13-60
November 3 7:00 a.m.	Earliest possible time county boards can begin opening absentee secrecy envelopes and processing ballots.	7-15-420
November 3 7:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to receive absentee ballots (military and overseas voters' ballots accepted through 5:00 p.m., November 5).	7-15-420 7-15-700
November 3 After 7:00 p.m.	County boards begin reporting election results locally and through scVOTES.gov.	7-13-1110 7-13-1160
November 4 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to conduct hand-count audit and provide results to SEC.	7-3-20(C)(2)
November 6 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to: • Hold provisional ballot hearing. • Complete canvass of votes. • Certify results. • Order any necessary recounts for county-level offices.	7-17-10 7-17-280
November 10	State Board of Canvassers meets to: • Canvass votes. • Certify results. • Order any necessary recounts for state-level offices. Deadline for filing protests of county-level offices with county boards.	7-17-220 7-17-280
November 11 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protests of county-level offices with county boards.	7-17-30
November 16	Protest hearings held by county boards for countywide or less than	7-17-50

Date	Event	Statutes
	countywide elections.	
November 17 12:00 noon	Deadline to file protests of federal, state or multi-county offices with the State Board of Canvassers.	7-17-260
November 23 12:00 noon	a) Deadline to file appeal of county board decision to State Board of Canvassers. b) Deadline for county board to submit transcript of protest hearing to the State Board of Canvassers.	7-17-60 7-17-50
December 7 12:00 noon	Latest possible date for State Board to hear appeals. Appeals must be heard not later than noon, 14 days following filing of appeal.	7-17-70
December 12	Latest possible date for State Board to hear a protest of a federal, state or multi-county offices. Protests must be heard not earlier than the fifth nor later than he 25th day following filing of protest.	7-17-270