



GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION – MARCH 17, 2026 FILING AND CIRCULATION DATES

Abbreviated Dates: Established Party Candidates

1st day to Circulate Petitions: Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Filing Period: October 27 – November 3, 2025

Note: Independent and New Party Candidates begin circulation March 24, 2026 and file June 15th – 22nd for the 2026 General Election.

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

First day to circulate nomination papers **(must include original sheets signed by voters and circulators)** for established party candidates who file between October 27 – November 3, 2025.

Monday, October 27, 2025

First day for candidates of established political parties to file **original** nomination papers **(must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators)** in the office of the county clerk for county offices and precinct committeeperson.

Monday, November 3, 2025

Last day by **5:00 p.m.** for candidates of established political parties to file **original** nomination papers **(must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators)** in the office of the county clerk for county offices and precinct committeeperson.

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Last day for written notice of the time and place for conducting lottery which shall be given when two or more petitions are received simultaneously for the same office and party as of the opening hour of the filing period, October 27th and/or within the last hour of the filing period, November 3rd. (There must be seven days written notice given. If the lottery is to be held on the last statutory date, November 12th, the last date to give notice is November 5th)

Monday, November 10, 2025

Last day for filing objections to the nomination papers of all candidates who filed during the October 27 – November 3, 2025 filing period. Objections are filed in the office where the nomination papers were originally filed.

Last day for an individual who has filed, during the October 27 – November 3, 2025 filing period, for two or more **incompatible offices** to withdraw from all but one of the offices.

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Last day lottery shall be conducted by the election authority when two or more petitions are received simultaneously for the same office and party, as of the opening hour or within the last hour of the filing period.

Monday, December 15, 2025

Last day for filing petitions **(must contain original sheets signed by voters and circulators)** for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy (local). [EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda held under the provisions of Article IX of the Liquor Control Act, and Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code].

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**GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION – March 17, 2026
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(continued)**

Monday, December 22, 2025

Last day to file objections to petitions for the submission of questions of public policy (local). Objections are filed with the same office that has the original petitions. [EXCEPTION: proposition to create a political subdivision, referenda held under the provisions of Article IX of the Liquor Control Act, and Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code].

Monday, December 29, 2025

Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow **binding** public questions to appear on the ballot.

Last day for County, Municipal, School, Township and Park Boards to place **advisory** referenda on the ballot by resolution.

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Last day for SBE to certify the names of candidates for the General Primary to the county clerks.

Last day for the circuit clerk and the local election official to certify any **binding** public question or **advisory** referenda to the election authority having jurisdiction over the political subdivision.

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Last day for the county clerk to certify the names of candidates to be voted for in their jurisdiction and issue such certification.

Last day for candidates of established political parties to file withdrawal of nomination papers in the office of the county clerk.

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Last day a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate with the proper election authority. **Write-ins shall be counted only for persons who have filed the Declaration of Intent. Write-in declarations are NOT filed with the State Board of Elections.**