



GENERAL ELECTION – November 3, 2026 IMPORTANT FILING AND CIRCULATION DATES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

First day to circulate nomination papers for independent and new political party candidates who file May 18 – May 26, 2026.

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Last day the election authority shall conduct a lottery to determine the order in which the major political parties will appear on the General Election ballot.

Monday, May 18 - Tuesday, May 26, 2026 (*Election Office is closed May 25th for Memorial Day*)

Petition filing period for candidates of new political parties, independent candidates and candidates for nonpartisan offices (if applicable).

Monday, June 1, 2026

Last day for appointment by established party managing committee (other than legislative and representative) and for appointee to file the following documents when no candidate was nominated at the General Primary Election. The following must be filed together: (1) notice of appointment by appropriate committee, (2) nominating petitions, (3) statement of candidacy and (4) statement of economic interest receipt.

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Last day to file objections to the nomination papers of all candidates who filed during the May 18 – May 26, 2026 filing period. Objections are filed with whichever office the nomination papers were originally filed.

Last day for an individual who has filed for 2 or more **incompatible offices** to withdraw from all but one of the offices.

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Last day lottery shall be conducted by the election authority when two or more petitions are received simultaneously for the same office, as of the opening hour of the filing period (May 18th – 8:00 AM) or within the last hour of the filing period (May 26th – 4PM to 5PM).

Monday, June 8, 2026

Last day to file objections to the nomination papers of all candidates who filled vacancies when no candidate was nominated at the General Primary Election.

Monday, August 3, 2026

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].

Monday, August 10, 2026

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).



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(continued)

Monday, August 17, 2026

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, Library and Park Boards to adopt a resolution to allow **advisory** referenda to appear on the ballot.

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Last day for established and new political parties to fill vacancies in nomination (*occurring on or after the primary and prior to certification – does not apply to vacancies created due to failure to nominate at the Primary*) for federal, legislative and representative offices with the **State Board of Elections**.

Friday, August 21, 2026

Last day for State Board of Elections to certify the names of candidates, questions to amend the Constitution of IL and any statewide questions of public policy for the General Election ballot to the county clerks.

Last day for candidates that filed with the State Board of Elections to file withdrawal of nomination papers.

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Last day to file resolutions for filling a vacancy in nomination for **county offices** by an established or new political party managing committee when a vacancy occurred on or after the primary election and before certification. ***This does not apply to vacancies which occur due to a failure to nominate at the primary.***

Thursday, August 27, 2026

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

Last day for county clerk to certify the general election ballot and issue a copy to the State Board of Elections.

Last day for candidates that filed with the election authority to file withdrawal of nomination papers in the office of the county clerk.

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Last day to file objections with the county clerk to resolutions for filling a vacancy in nomination by an established or new party managing committee when a vacancy occurred on or after the primary and before certification. ***This does not apply to vacancies which occur due to a failure to nominate at the primary.***

Thursday, September 3, 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 a Declaration of Intent. Write-in declarations are NOT filed with the State Board of Elections.**