

2020 OHIO ELECTIONS CALENDAR

| 2019 | | Reference |
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| Dec. 08 | Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before the presidential primary election) | R.C. 3511.16 |
| Dec. 18 | Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of the General Assembly must be filed with Secretary of State (90 days before presidential primary election) Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before presidential primary election) Declarations of candidacy for presidential delegates and alternates to a party's national nominating committee must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before presidential primary election) Local questions and issues for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before presidential primary election) Applications for absentee ballots for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election may be accepted (90 days before presidential primary election) | OH Const. XVI, §1 R.C. 3513.05 R.C. 3513.121 R.C. 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14 R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02 |
| Dec. 30 | Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (78 days before presidential primary election) Boards of election must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.05 R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14 |
| 2020 | | Reference |
| Jan. 01 | Applications for absentee ballots for all 2020 elections may be accepted (first day of the year; presidential primary election applications for absentee ballots accepted starting Dec. 18, 2019) | R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02 |
| Jan. 03 | Protests against partisan candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before presidential primary election) Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.05 R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14 |
| Jan. 06* | Write-in candidates for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before presidential primary election) Nov. 5, 2019 general election ballots may be discarded, except for federal office, unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after general election) | R.C. 3513.041 R.C. 3505.31, 52 USC 20701 |
| Jan. 07 | Form of official ballots for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (70 days before presidential primary election) Boards of elections of most populous county in a multi-county district must certify the names of all candidates to other boards of elections (70 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.05 |
| Jan. 10 | Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.041 |
| Jan. 17 | Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of precinct election officials (within 60 days before presidential primary election) Election Administration Plans for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election must be submitted to Secretary of State's Office (60 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3501.27 |
| Jan. 21 | Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports (10 days before annual campaign finance report deadline) | R.C. 3517.11 |
| Jan. 31 | Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of Jan. detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 31, 2019) UOCAVA absentee ballots for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election must be ready (46 days before presidential primary election) Boards of elections must update and publish notices of the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 46 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3517.10 R.C. 3501.27 R.C. 3511.16 |
| Feb. 04 | Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3503.12 |
| Feb. 06 | Presidential candidates may withdraw from the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election by 4 p.m. (40 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.30 |
| Feb. 18* | Deadline for voter registration for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election (30 days before presidential primary election) Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (30 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3503.19 R.C. 3503.24 |
| Feb. 19* | Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration) | R.C. 3509.01 |
| Feb. 24 | Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file pre-primary campaign finance reports (10 days before pre-primary campaign finance report deadline) | R.C. 3517.11 |
| Feb. 26 | Committees advocating or opposing issues on the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3505.21 |
| Mar. 03 | Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists (14 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3503.23 |
| Mar. 05 | Pre-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before primary election) detailing contributions and expenditures through Feb. 26, 2020 (20 days before primary election) | R.C. 3517.10 |
| Mar. 06 | Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and recognized issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3505.21 |
| Mar. 07 | Boards of elections must give public notice of the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election (10 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3501.03 |
| Mar. 09* | Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on the March 17, 2020 presidential primary ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.30 |
| Mar. 12 | Certification to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on the March 17, 2020 presidential primary ballot in only one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.30 |
| Mar. 14 | Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election must be received by boards of elections by noon (3 days before presidential primary election) | R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02 |
| Mar. 16 | Nominating petitions of independent candidates, other than joint candidates for president and vice president, for offices for which a primary election may be held must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before presidential primary election) Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before presidential primary election) Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's Office (no later than the day before the presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.257 R.C. 3505.21 R.C. 3501.29 |
| Mar. 17 | Primary Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If voter, or voter's minor child is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m. Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls | R.C. 3501.01, .32 R.C. 3509.08 R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11 |
| Mar. 27 | Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than March 16 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after presidential primary election) UOCAVA absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3509.05 R.C. 3511.11 |
| Mar. 28 | Boards of elections may begin official canvass of the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election ballots (11 days after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.22 |
| Apr. 01 | Boards of elections must begin official canvass of the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election ballots no later than this date (15 days after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.22 |
| Apr. 07 | Boards of elections must complete canvass of the March 17, 2020 presidential primary election ballots no later than this date (21 days after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.22 |
| Apr. 14 | Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file post-primary campaign finance reports (10 days before post-primary campaign finance report deadline) | R.C. 3517.11 |
| Apr. 24 | Post-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after primary election) detailing contributions and expenditures through April 17, 2020 (the 7th day before the report is filed) | R.C. 3517.10 |
| Apr. 26 | Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of the Aug. 4, 2020 special election by this date, and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before special election) | R.C. 3511.16 |
| May. 01 | Board of elections of most populous county of a multi-county district must transmit petitions of independent candidates to other boards of elections (no later than the end of the 6th week after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.262 |
| May. 06 | Local questions and issues for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before special election). | R.C. 3501.01, .02 |
| May. 17 | March 17, 2020 presidential primary election ballots may be discarded, except for federal office unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3505.31, 52 USC 20701 |
| May. 29 | Boards of elections must certify independent candidate petitions by this date (no later than the end of the 10th week after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.262 |
| Jun. 11 | Last day for local option petitioners to send street listing to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before Aug. 5 deadline for filing petitions for the Nov. 3, 2020, general election) | R.C. 4301.33, 4305.14 |
| Jun. 12 | Protests against independent candidates nominated by petition must be filed by 4 p.m. (end of the 12th week after presidential primary election) | R.C. 3513.262 |
| Jun. 19 | UOCAVA absentee ballots for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election must be ready (46 days before special election) Boards of elections must update and publish notices of the Aug. 4, 2020 special election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 46 days before special election) | R.C. 3511.04 R.C. 3511.16 |
| Jun. 23 | Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before special election) | R.C. 3503.12 |
| Jun. 30 | Deadline for prospective minor political parties to file party formation petitions with the Secretary of State (126 days before general election) | R.C. 3517.012 |
| Jul. 01 | Constitutional amendments or statutes proposed by initiative petitions to be submitted directly to the voters must be filed with Secretary of State (125 days before general election) | OH Const. II, §§1a-1b |
| Jul. 06* | Deadline for voter registration for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election (30 days before special election) Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (30 days before special election) Election Administration Plans for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election must be submitted to Secretary of State's Office (120 days before general election) | R.C. 3503.19 R.C. 3503.24 |
| Jul. 07 | Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration) | R.C. 3509.01 |
| Jul. 15 | Committees advocating or opposing issues on the Aug. 4, 2020 special election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before special election) | R.C. 3505.21 |
| Jul. 16 | Nominating petitions of minor political party candidates (for minor party that submitted party formation petition) must be filed (110 days before general election) | R.C. 3517.012 |
| Jul. 21 | Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists for special election (14 days before special election) Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file semiannual campaign finance reports (10 days before semiannual campaign finance report deadline) | R.C. 3503.23 R.C. 3517.11 |
| Jul. 24 | Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before special election) | R.C. 3505.21 |
| Jul. 25 | Boards of elections must give public notice of the Aug. 4, 2020 special election (10 days before special election) | R.C. 3501.03 |
| Jul. 26 | Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of the Nov. 3, 2020, general election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before the general election) | R.C. 3511.16 |

*Note: In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the Secretary of State and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended, pursuant to R.C. 1.14, to the next succeeding day when the appropriate office is open for regular business hours. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline.

2020 OHIO ELECTIONS CALENDAR

| 2020 | Reference | |
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| Jul. 31 | Boards of elections must notify the appropriate minor political party of the validity and sufficiency of any nominating petitions filed by that minor political party's candidates (for minor party that submitted party formation petition) (95 days before general election) Semiannual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of Jul. detailing contributions and expenditures through Jun. 30, 2020) | R.C. 3517.012 R.C. 3517.10 |
| Aug. 01 | Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election must be received by noon (3 days before special election) | R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02 |
| Aug. 03 | Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before special election) Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's Office (no later than the day before the special election) | R.C. 3505.21 R.C. 3501.29 |
| Aug. 04 | Special Election may be held. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If voter, or voter's minor child is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m. Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls | R.C. 3501.01, .32 R.C. 3509.08 R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11 |
| Aug. 05 | Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly must be filed with Secretary of State (90 days before general election) Deadline for minor political parties to certify candidates (and list of electors) for the office of president and vice president to Secretary of State (90 days before general election) Nominating petitions of independent joint candidates for president and vice president must be filed with the Secretary of State by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election) Nominating petitions of candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election) Local questions and issues for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election) | OH Const. XVI, §1 R.C. 3505.10 R.C. 3513.257 R.C. 1907.13, 3513.259, 263 R.C. 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14 R.C. 3513.31 |
| Aug. 10* | Political party or independent candidate nominating committees must certify name of person to fill vacancy on the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballot caused by withdrawal or disqualification of candidate by 4 p.m. (86 days before general election) | R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11 |
| Aug. 14 | Absentee ballots for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than Aug. 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after special election) UOCAVA absentee ballots for the Aug. 4, 2020 special election must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after special election) | R.C. 3511.11 |
| Aug. 15 | Boards of elections may begin official canvass of the Aug. 4, 2020 special election ballots (11 days after special election) | R.C. 3505.32 |
| Aug. 17 | Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races (78 days before general election) Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of nominating petition papers of independent joint candidates for president and vice president (78 days before general election) Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before general election) | R.C. 3513.263 R.C. 3513.263 R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14 |
| Aug. 19 | Boards of elections must begin official canvass of the Aug. 4, 2020 special election ballots no later than this date (15 days after special election) | R.C. 3505.32 |
| Aug. 20 | Deadline for minor political parties (that submitted party formation petition) to certify slate of candidates to Secretary of State (75 days before general election) | R.C. 3517.012 |
| Aug. 21 | Protests against candidates for nonpartisan office must be filed by this date (74 days before general election) Protests against independent joint candidates for president and vice president must be filed by this date (74 days before general election) Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before general election) | R.C. 3513.263 R.C. 3513.263 R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14 |
| Aug. 24* | Write-in candidates must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before general election) | R.C. 3513.041 |
| Aug. 25 | Board of elections of most populous county of a multi-county district must certify names of all candidates to other boards of elections (70 days before general election) Boards of elections must complete canvass of Aug. 4 special election ballots no later than this date (21 days after special election) | R.C. 3505.01 R.C. 3505.32 |
| Aug. 28 | Protests against write-in candidates for general election must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before general election) | R.C. 3513.041 |
| Sep. 04 | Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of precinct election officials (within 60 days before general election) Major political parties must certify the names of their joint candidates for president and vice president to the Secretary of State by this date (60 days before general election) | R.C. 3501.27 Section 735.11 of H.B. 166 (133rd G.A.) |
| Sep. 14 | Form of official ballots for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (50 days before general election) | Section 735.11 of H.B. 166 (133rd G.A.) |
| Sep. 18 | UOCAVA absentee ballots for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election must be ready (46 days before general election) Boards of elections must update and publish notices of the Nov. 3, 2020 general election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 46 days before general election) | R.C. 3511.04 R.C. 3511.16 |
| Sep. 22 | Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before general election) | R.C. 3503.12 |
| Oct. 04 | Aug. 4 special election ballots may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after special election) | R.C. 3505.31 |
| Oct. 05* | Deadline for voter registration for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election (30 days before general election) Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (30 days before general election) | R.C. 3503.19 R.C. 3503.24 |
| Oct. 06 | Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration) | R.C. 3509.01 |
| Oct. 12 | Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file pre-general campaign finance reports (10 days before pre-general campaign finance report deadline) | R.C. 3517.11 |
| Oct. 14 | Committees advocating or opposing issues on the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before general election) | R.C. 3505.21 |
| Oct. 20 | Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists for general election (14 days before general election) | R.C. 3503.23 |
| Oct. 22 | Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before general election) detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through Oct. 14, 2020 (20 days before general election) | R.C. 3517.10 |
| Oct. 23 | Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before general election) | R.C. 3505.21 |
| Oct. 24 | Boards of elections must give public notice of the Nov. 3, 2020 general election (10 days before general election) | R.C. 3501.03 |
| Oct. 26* | Certificate to fill vacancy on the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in more than one county (10 days before general election) | R.C. 3513.31 |
| Oct. 29 | Certificate to fill vacancy on the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballot caused by death of independent or nonpartisan candidate prior to Oct. 24 (10 days before general election) must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before general election) Certificate to fill vacancy on the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in only one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before general election) | R.C. 3513.31 R.C. 3513.31 |
| Oct. 31 | Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for the Nov. 3, 2020 general election must be received by boards of elections by noon (3 days before general election) | R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02 |
| Nov. 02 | Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before general election) Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's Office (no later than day before general election) | R.C. 3505.21 R.C. 3501.29 |
| Nov. 03 | General Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If voter, or voter's minor child is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m. Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls | R.C. 3501.01, .32 R.C. 3509.08 R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11 |
| Nov. 13 | Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than Nov. 2 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election) UOCAVA absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election) | R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11 R.C. 3511.11 |
| Nov. 14 | Boards of elections may begin official canvass of the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballots (11 days after general election) | R.C. 3505.32 |
| Nov. 18 | Boards of elections must begin official canvass of the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballots no later than this date (15 days after general election) | R.C. 3505.32 |
| Nov. 24 | Boards of elections must complete canvass of the Nov. 3, 2020 general election ballots no later than this date (21 days after general election) | R.C. 3505.32 |
| Dec. 01 | Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file post-general campaign finance reports (10 days before post-general campaign finance report deadline) | R.C. 3517.11 |
| Dec. 10 | Last day for certain local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before Feb. 3, 2021 petition filing deadline for May 4, 2021 primary election) | R.C. 4301.33, 4305.14 |
| Dec. 11 | Post-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after general election) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 4, 2020 (the 7th day before the report is filed) | R.C. 3517.10 |
| 2021 | Reference | |
| Jan. 01 | Applications for absentee ballots for all elections held in 2021 may be accepted (first day of the year) | R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02 |
| Jan. 03 | November 3, 2020 general election ballots, except for federal office may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after general election) | R.C. 3505.31 52 USC 20701 |
| Jan. 04 | Last day for local option petitioners contesting community facility to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (30 days before Feb. 3 petition filing deadline for May 4 primary election) | R.C. 4301.334 |
| Jan. 24 | Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of the May 4 primary/special election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before primary/special election) | R.C. 3511.16 |
| Recounts and Election Contests | | |
| | Application for a recount must be filed not later than 5 days after official results are declared | R.C. 3515.02 |
| | A petition contesting an election must be filed in the appropriate court within 15 days after the official results are declared or, if a recount of the election is conducted, within 10 days after the official results of a recount are declared | R.C. 3515.09 |

*Note: In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the Secretary of State and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended, pursuant to R.C. 1.14, to the next succeeding day when the appropriate office is open for regular business hours. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline.