



Commissioners
Marisel A. Hernandez, *Chair*
June A. Brown, *Secretary/Commissioner*
William J. Kresse, *Commissioner*

2026 ELECTION CALENDAR

ADOPTED: July 8, 2025

REVISED: July 22, 2025

**PLEASE NOTE:
THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REVISED.
PLEASE PERIODICALLY CONSULT THE BOARD'S WEBSITE
FOR THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION.**

CHANGES IN REVISION TO THE 2026 ELECTION CALENDAR:

Revised July 22, 2025

- Added established party candidate signature requirement data as supplied by the office of the Cook County Clerk for countywide offices, county commissioner (all applicable districts), County Board of Review (1st and 2nd Districts), and offices of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (“MWRD”);
- In response to revisions to the Illinois State Board of Elections’ 2026 Candidate’s Guide, revised the maximum signature limit for independent candidates seeking the office of Representative in Congress for the 4th Congressional District, and revised the minimum signature requirements for independent and new-party candidates seeking the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the 36th Representative District; and
- Other minor typographical corrections.

PREFACE

The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners is pleased to provide this 2026 Election Calendar to inform interested citizens of important dates and nominating petition signature requirements that pertain to the nomination and election of candidates for offices, as well as placing questions of public policy upon the ballot, by voters in the City of Chicago at the March 17, 2026, Primary Election and the November 3, 2026, General Election.

This publication is intended as a guide and not as a legal document. The information contained in this publication is drawn from provisions of federal and state law, current as of July 1, 2025. This publication also incorporates information provided by the Illinois State Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk's office, but the contents of this publication are not identical in all respects with similar calendars produced by those agencies. You are encouraged, therefore, to consult the calendars and guides published by the Illinois State Board of Elections and the Cook County Clerk's office to determine whether there might be a difference concerning an important date or piece of information.

The Illinois State Board of Elections also publishes a "2026 Candidate's Guide" that contains information on filing dates, general requirements for filing and specific requirements for individual offices. The Illinois State Board of Elections also makes available "suggested" sample petition forms for the various types of elective offices throughout the State of Illinois. The Candidate's Guide and sample petition forms are available at the State Board of Elections' office at 69 West Washington Street, Suite LL08, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312-814-6440) or on the State Board's website at www.elections.il.gov.

TO THE EXTENT THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS PUBLICATION CONFLICTS WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL OR STATE LAW, THOSE LAWS PREVAIL OVER THE CONTENT OF THIS PUBLICATION. YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE CONCERNING YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS A VOTER AND/OR AS A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC OR POLITICAL OFFICE, AND YOU MAY NOT RELY SOLELY ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS PUBLICATION. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ATTORNEY AND NEED ASSISTANCE IN FINDING ONE, THE CHICAGO BAR ASSOCIATION HAS A LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE THAT IS AVAILABLE AT (312) 554-2001 (HEARING IMPAIRED: (312) 554-5055) AND ON THE CBA WEBSITE ([CLICK HERE](#)).

OFFICES TO BE FILLED IN THE 2026 ELECTIONS

March 17, 2026 – General Primary Election

To Be Nominated:

United States Senator
Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Secretary of State
State Comptroller
State Treasurer
Representatives in Congress
State Senators
Representatives in the General Assembly
Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Clerk of Cook County
Treasurer of Cook County
Sheriff of Cook County
Assessor of Cook County
County Commissioners of Cook County
Commissioners of the Board of Review of Cook County
Supreme, Appellate, Circuit and Sub-circuit Judges (to fill vacancies if required)

To Be Elected:

State Central Committeepersons *

Democratic Party (two committeepersons of different genders per Congressional District)

**Republican Party State Central Committee members are elected at party conventions*

November 3, 2026 - General Election

To Be Elected:

United States Senator
Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Secretary of State
Comptroller
Treasurer
Representatives in Congress
State Senators
Representatives in the General Assembly
Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Clerk of Cook County
Treasurer of Cook County
Sheriff of Cook County
Assessor of Cook County
County Commissioners of Cook County
Commissioners of the Board of Review of Cook County
Supreme, Appellate, Circuit and Sub-circuit Court Judges (to fill vacancies if required)
President of the Chicago Board of Education
Members of the Chicago Board of Education

To Be Retained:

Judges of the Illinois Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts (as needed)

Petitions to be filed with the State Board of Elections:

Nominating petitions for candidates for offices listed below to be filed in the office of the State Board of Elections.

United States Senator

Representatives in Congress

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Attorney General

Secretary of State

Comptroller

Treasurer

State Senators

Representatives in the General Assembly

Judicial Officers

State Central Committeepersons (Democratic Party only)

Petitions to be filed with the Clerk of Cook County:

Nominating petitions for candidates for offices listed below are to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Cook County.

County Clerk of Cook County

Treasurer of Cook County

Sheriff of Cook County

Assessor of Cook County

Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

President of the Board of County Commissioners of Cook County

County Commissioners of Cook County

Commissioners of the Board of Review of Cook County

Petitions to be filed with the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago:

President and Members of the Chicago Board of Education (**nonpartisan candidates ONLY**) (105 ILCS 5/34-4 and 5/34-4.1)

Established Political Party Candidates:

First day to circulate nominating petition sheets:

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

First day to file nomination papers:

Monday, October 27, 2025

Last day to file nomination papers:

Monday, November 3, 2025

Independent, New Political Party, and Nonpartisan (Chicago Board of Education) Candidates:

First day to circulate nominating petition sheets:

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

First day to file nomination papers:

Monday, May 18, 2026

Last day to file nomination papers:

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS

FEDERAL, STATE, LEGISLATIVE OFFICES and STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEPERSONS¹

United States Senator

Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Political Party**
5,000 – 10,000	5,000 – 10,000	25,000	25,000

* At least 5,000 but not more than 10,000 of the qualified primary electors of the candidate's party, (10 ILCS 5/7-10(a))

** 1% of number of voters who voted at next preceding Statewide general election or 25,000 qualified voters, whichever is less (10 ILCS 5/10-2, 5/10-3)

Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer

Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Political Party**
5,000 – 10,000	5,000 – 10,000	25,000	25,000

* At least 5,000 but not more than 10,000 of the qualified primary electors of the candidate's party, (10 ILCS 5/7-10(a))

** 1% of number of voters who voted at next preceding Statewide general election or 25,000 qualified voters, whichever is less (10 ILCS 5/10-2, 5/10-3)

Representatives in U. S. Congress (for districts wholly or partially within the city of Chicago)

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Party***
1	1,071	546	16,652 – 26,641	16,652
2	979	471	15,065 – 24,103	15,065
3	875	445	13,664 – 21,861	13,664
4	697	371	10,816 – 17,304	18,816
5	1,271	577	19,176 – 30,680	19,176
6	984	852	18,959 – 30,333	18,959
7	1,164	232	14,161 – 22,656	14,161
8	865	707	15,721 – 25,152	15,721
9	1,173	540	17,852 – 28,562	17,852

* 0.5% of qualified primary electors of party in district, determined by taking total votes cast in applicable district for candidate of political party who received highest number of votes statewide at last general election for Presidential electors (10 ILCS 5/7-10(b))

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of number of voters who voted at next preceding election in such district at which officer was elected to serve the district (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

¹ Source: Illinois State Board of Elections.

State Senators (for districts wholly or partially within the city of Chicago)

District	Term of Office	Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Party***
1	-	-	-	-	-
2	4-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	2,335 – 3,735	2,335
3	2-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	2,370 – 3,790	2,370
4	-	-	-	-	-
5	4-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	2,686 – 4,296	2,686
6	2-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	4,228 – 6,764	4,228
7	-	-	-	-	-
8	4-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	2,953 – 4,723	2,953
9	2-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	4,134 – 6,613	4,134
10	-	-	-	-	-
11	4-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	2,294 – 3,669	2,294
12	2-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	1,416 – 2,264	1,416
13	-	-	-	-	-
14	4-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	3,266 – 5,225	3,266
15	2-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	3,205 – 5,128	3,205
16	-	-	-	-	-
17	4-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	3,054 – 4,885	3,054
18	2-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	3,904 – 6,245	3,904
20	4-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	2,690 – 4,302	2,690
28	-	-	-	-	-
39	2-year	1,000 – 3,000	1,000 – 3,000	2,956 – 4,728	2,956

* At least 1,000 but not more than 3,000 of qualified primary electors of party in district (10 ILCS 5/8-8)

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of number of persons who voted at next preceding election in district at which voters voted as a unit to elect officers to serve district (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of the number of voters who voted at the next preceding election in the district at which it voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

Representatives in the General Assembly (for districts wholly or partially in the city of Chicago)

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Party***
1	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,243 – 1,987	1,243
2	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,669 – 2,669	1,669
3	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,853 – 2,964	1,853
4	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,712 – 2,738	1,712
5	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,014 – 3,221	2,014
6	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,441 – 2,304	1,441
8	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,079 – 3,325	2,079
9	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,910 – 3,055	1,910
10	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,118 – 3,388	2,118
11	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,946 – 4,712	2,946
12	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,781 – 4,448	2,781
13	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,799 – 4,478	2,799
14	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,250 – 3,598	2,250
15	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,432 – 3,890	2,432
16	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,000 – 3,199	2,000
18	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,696 – 4,312	2,696
19	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,349 – 3,758	2,349
20	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,430 – 3,887	2,430
21	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,844 – 2,949	1,844

22	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,777 – 2,842	1,777
23	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	857 – 1,370	857
24	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,423 – 2,275	1,423
25	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,885 – 3,014	1,885
26	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,035 – 3,255	2,035
27	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,502 – 4,002	2,502
28	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,086 – 3,337	2,086
29	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,434 – 3,894	2,434
31	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,995 – 3,190	1,995
32	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,513 – 2,419	1,513
33	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,062 – 3,298	2,062
34	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,273 – 3,636	2,273
35	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,839 – 4,541	2,839
36	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,457 – 3,982	2,457
39	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,963 – 3,139	1,963
40	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,042 – 3,265	2,042
55	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,284 – 3,653	2,284
77	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	1,629 – 2,605	1,629
78	500 – 1,500	500 – 1,500	2,689 – 4,301	2,689

* At least 500 but no more than 1,500 of the qualified primary electors of party in district (10 ILCS 5/8-8)

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of number of voters who voted at next preceding election in district at which voters voted as a unit to elect officers to serve district (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of the number of voters who voted at the next preceding election in the district in which the district voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

SUPREME, APPELLATE, CIRCUIT & SUBCIRCUIT COURT JUDGES²

Supreme and Appellate Court Judge (Elected from First Judicial District – Cook County, if a vacancy occurs)

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Party***
1	4,262	1,380	25,000 – 168,664	25,000

* Equal to 0.4% of number of votes cast in district for candidate of same party for Governor at last general election at which a Governor was elected (November 2018), but in no event less than 500 signatures, reduced by one-third pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1b(b), (10 ILCS 5/7-10(h)); (10 ILCS 2A-1.1b(b))

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of number of voters who voted at next preceding election in such district at which officer was elected to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

² Source: Illinois State Board of Elections.

Cook County Circuit and Subcircuit Court Judge (circuit and subcircuit judicial seats will be elected only when a vacancy occurs)

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Party***
Cook Circuit	3,542	1,301	25,000 – 168,664	25,000
1 st Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	3,647 – 5,834	3,647
2 nd Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	3,647 – 5,834	3,647
3 rd Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	3,929 – 6,285	3,929
4 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	5,642 – 9,026	5,642
5 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	4,432 – 7,090	4,432
6 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	3,647 – 5,834	3,647
7 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	4,019 – 6,429	4,019
8 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	6,108 – 9,772	6,108
9 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	3,647 – 5,834	3,647
10 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	6,187 – 9,898	6,187
11 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	6,157 – 9,850	6,157
12 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	6,446 – 10,344	6,466
13 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	5,313 – 8,499	5,313
14 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	4,150 – 6,639	4,150
15 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	6,290 – 10,063	6,290
16 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	2,873 – 4,596	2,873
17 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	4,862 – 7,778	4,862
18 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	5,461 – 8,736	5,461
19 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	5,847 – 9,354	5,847
20 th Subcircuit	1,000	1,000	6,986 – 11,177	6,986

* Equal to 0.25% of the number of votes cast for the judicial candidate of same party who received highest number of votes at the last general election at which a judicial officer from same circuit was regularly scheduled to be elected, but in no event fewer than 1,000 signatures in circuits and subcircuits located in the First Judicial District or 500 signatures in every other Judicial District. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(h))

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of number of voters who voted at next preceding election in such district at which officer was elected to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

**** Pursuant to the Judicial Circuits Districting Act of 2022, the number of judicial subcircuits in Cook County increased from 15 to 20 on December 2, 2024.

State Central Committeepersons

District	Democratic*	Republican
All	100	N/A (Republican Party State Central Committeepersons elected at Party Convention)

* At least 100 of the primary electors of the party in the congressional district. (10 ILCS 5/7-10(f))

COOK COUNTY OFFICERS & METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT³

*President of the Board of County Commissioners of Cook County,
County Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Assessor*

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Libertarian*	Independent**	New Party***
Cook	7,858	2,919	622	TBD	TBD

* At least 0.5% of qualified electors of the party who cast votes at last preceding general election in Cook County (determined by taking total vote cast for the candidate for that political party who received highest number of votes in Cook County at last general election in Cook County). (10 ILCS 5/7-10(d)(1); 5/7-10)

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000). (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of number of voters who voted at next preceding election in such district at which officer was elected to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000). (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

County Commissioners of Cook County

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Libertarian*	Independent**	New Party***
1	496	75	54	TBD	TBD
2	400	81	34	TBD	TBD
3	533	97	41	TBD	TBD
4	477	87	42	TBD	TBD
5	469	89	53	TBD	TBD
7	234	83	17	TBD	TBD
8	388	114	26	TBD	TBD
9	504	357	51	TBD	TBD
10	627	171	42	TBD	TBD
11	408	244	40	TBD	TBD
12	586	161	41	TBD	TBD
13	500	167	33	TBD	TBD
15	409	264	40	TBD	TBD
16	360	170	28	TBD	TBD
17	494	382	97	TBD	TBD

* Must contain number of signatures equal to at least 0.5% of qualified electors of party in the County Board district (determined by taking the total vote cast for candidate of that party who received highest number of votes in the County Board district at last regular election at which an officer was regularly scheduled to be elected from that district (November 2022)). (10 ILCS 5/7-10(d)(2); 5/7-10)

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of total number of persons who voted at next preceding regular election in the County Board district in which such district voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve the district (November 2022). (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of total number of voters who voted at next preceding regular election in the County Board district in which such district voted as a unit for the election of officers to serve the district (November 2022). (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

³ Source: Cook County Clerk. The signature requirements marked “TBD” will be updated after the Cook County Clerk’s Office publishes the applicable information.

Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Independent**	New Party***
MWRD	7,702	2,858	TBD	TBD

* At least 0.5% of primary electors of party in district (10 ILCS 5/7-10(g))

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of number of voters who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which officer was elected to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

Members of the Board of Review of Cook County

District	Democratic*	Republican*	Libertarian*	Independent**	New Party***
1	4,941	2,919	622	TBD	TBD
2	5,392	2,919	622	TBD	TBD
3	-	-	-	-	-

* Must contain at least the number of signatures equal to 0.5% of total number of registered voters in Board of Review district in last general election in which a Commissioner was regularly scheduled to be elected from that Board of Review district, but in no event greater than requisite number for a candidate who seeks countywide office in Cook County (10 ILCS 5/7-10(d)(3))

** Not less than 5% nor more than 8% (or 50 more than the minimum, whichever is greater) of the number of persons who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which voted as a unit to elect officers to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-3)

*** Not less than 5% of number of voters who voted at next preceding regular election in such district at which officer was elected to serve the district (whenever the minimum exceeds the minimum for office to be filled by voters of State at large, minimum shall be 25,000) (10 ILCS 5/10-2)

CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION

District	Length of term of office ⁴	Chicago Board of Education (2026 Election) ⁵
President (citywide)	4 years	2,500
1A	2 years	500 – 1,500
1B	4 years	500 – 1,500
2A	4 years	500 – 1,500
2B	2 years	500 – 1,500
3A	2 years	500 – 1,500
3B	4 years	500 – 1,500
4A	2 years	500 – 1,500
4B	4 years	500 – 1,500
5A	4 years	500 – 1,500
5B	2 years	500 – 1,500
6A	2 years	500 – 1,500
6B	4 years	500 – 1,500
7A	2 years	500 – 1,500
7B	4 years	500 – 1,500
8A	4 years	500 – 1,500
8B	2 years	500 – 1,500
9A	2 years	500 – 1,500
9B	4 years	500 – 1,500
10A	4 years	500 – 1,500
10B	2 years	500 – 1,500

* Pursuant to the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/34-3, *et seq.* P.A. 103-0584, eff. 3/18/2024), members of the Chicago Board of Education shall be elected in nonpartisan elections in conjunction with the general elections held in November of even-numbered years. Beginning with the 2026 general election, 20 members of the Chicago Board of Education shall be elected from 20 school board subdistricts, with the President of the Board being elected citywide, to serve terms of office beginning on January 15, 2027. (105 ILCS 5/34-3(b-10) and (b-15), P.A. 103-0584, eff. 3/18/2024.)

The Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago has published maps of the 20 school board subdistricts on its website.⁶ The Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) provides a template nominating petition form for these Chicago school board offices. (See page 70 of the ISBE 2026 Candidate's Guide, which is available on the ISBE website.⁷ The petition forms are ISBE form No. P-7C for Member, and form No P-7D for President, of the Chicago Board of Education.

To be eligible for election to the Chicago Board of Education, candidates must be a U.S. citizen, a registered voter as provided in the Illinois Election Code, and a resident of the applicable school board subdistrict for at least one year immediately preceding the election (or a resident of the city for candidates seeking the office of president).

⁴ 105 ILCS 5/34-3(b-15): "If a member [of the Chicago Board of Education] is elected at the 2026 general election to fill the expired term of an appointed member, then the elected member shall serve a 2-year term that begins January 15, 2027. If a member is elected at the 2026 general election to fill the expired term of an elected member, then the member shall serve a 4-year term that begins January 15, 2027."

⁵ Petitions for the office of President of the Chicago Board of Education must be signed by no fewer than 2,500 voters residing within the City of Chicago, and petitions for the office of Member of the Board of Education shall be signed by at least 500 but no more than 1,500 voters residing within the candidate's subdistrict. 105 ILCS 5/34-4, P.A. 103-0584, *eff.* 3/18/2024.

⁶ <https://www.chicagoelections.gov/districts-maps/legislative-maps>

⁷ <https://www.elections.il.gov/Main/Publications.aspx>

Candidates must also be in compliance with the provisions of Section 10-9 of the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-9) and must not be a child sex offender as defined in Section 11-9.3 of the Illinois Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/11-9.3). Board members shall not hold any other public office under the federal, state or any local government other than those offices expressly exempt from this rule as set forth in 105 ILCS 5/34-4. Members of the Board of Education shall serve without receiving any salary or compensation, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while in the performance of their duties upon submission of proper receipts or vouchers.⁸

The petition circulation period is February 24, 2026, through May 26, 2026. Nomination papers must be filed with the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago from May 18 – 26, 2026.⁹ The Board of Elections is required by statute to reject (to not receive nor file) any nomination papers that do not include a statement of candidacy form, the required number of voter signatures, the notarized signature of the petition circulator(s), and a receipt from the Cook County Clerk's office showing that the candidate filed a statement of economic interests on or before the last day to file the nomination papers.¹⁰

You are strongly encouraged to obtain competent legal advice and representation if you intend to be a candidate for elected office.

⁸ 105 ILCS 5/34-4.

⁹ 105 ILCS 5/34-4 and 5/34.4.1. *See, also*, 10 ILCS 5/7-1(b): “This Article 7 [of the Election Code, which governs established-party primary elections] shall not apply to the nomination of candidates for school elections.”

¹⁰ 105 ILCS 5/34-4.1.

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

Established Political Party Nominations

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

First day to circulate nominating petitions for candidates of established political parties who are required to file their petitions during the period of October 27, 2025, through November 3, 2025 (no petition sheet shall be circulated more than 90 days preceding last day for filing such petition). (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 5/8-8)

Monday, October 27, 2025

First day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers for U.S. Senate (when applicable), U.S. Representative, State, Legislative and Judicial offices in the principal office of the State Board of Elections (not more than 141 days prior to the primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(1), 5/8-9)

First day for candidates of established political parties for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, for Cook County offices and for Ward Committeeperson in the City of Chicago to file original nomination papers in the office of the Clerk of Cook County (not more than 141 days prior to the primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(2))

Monday, November 3, 2025

Last day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers for U.S. Senate (when applicable), U.S. Representative, State, Legislative and Judicial offices in the principal office of the State Board of Elections (not less than 134 days prior to the primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(1), 5/7-12(4), 5/8-9)

Last day for candidates of established political parties for Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and for Cook County offices to file original nomination papers in the office of the Clerk of Cook County (not less than 134 days prior to the primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(2))

Last day for candidates filing nomination papers from October 27 through November 3, 2025, to file a Statement of Economic Interests with the proper office as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act (Exception: candidates for federal offices (e.g., Representative in Congress) and political party offices (e.g., State Central Committeeperson) are not required to file economic interest statements). The receipt must be filed on or before this date with the election authority with whom the original nomination papers were filed. (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 10 ILCS 5/7-12(8), 5/8-8)

NOTE: If multiple sets of nomination papers are filed for a candidate to the same office, the State Board of Elections or the election authority with whom nomination papers were filed will, within 2 business days, notify the candidate of his or her multiple petition filings. The candidate must within 3 business days after receipt of the notice notify the State Board of Elections or the appropriate election authority if he or she wishes to cancel one set of petitions. If the candidate fails to notify the State Board of Elections or the appropriate election authority, then only the first set of petitions filed will be deemed valid and all subsequent petitions will be void. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(11), 5/8-9(4), 5/10-6.2)

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Last day for State Board of Elections and the County Clerk to give written notice of the time and place for conducting a lottery to break ties and determine the order of filing and ballot position where two or more petitions are filed simultaneously for the same office as of the opening hour of the filing period on October 27, 2025, or within the last hour of the filing deadline on November 3, 2025 (at least 7 days

written notice). Notice shall be given to the chair of each political party and to each organization of citizens with the election jurisdiction entitled to have pollwatchers present at the last preceding election. Notice must be also posted at the entrance to each office of the State Board of Elections and County Clerk. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 5/8-9)

Monday, November 10, 2025

Last day to file objections to nomination papers of candidates filing nomination papers from October 27 through November 3, 2025 (within 5 business days of last day for filing petitions). Objections to petitions filed with the State Board of Elections are filed in the principal or permanent branch office of the State Board of Elections. Objections to petitions filed with the Clerk of Cook County are filed in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. (10 ILCS 5/7-12.1, 5/7-13, 5/8-9.1, 5/10-8)

Last day for a candidate for whom nomination papers have been filed for 2 or more offices which are incompatible to withdraw as a candidate for all but one of such offices. Withdrawals are filed in the same office where nomination papers were filed. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9), 5/8-9)

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Last day for State Board of Elections and the County Clerk to conduct a lottery to break ties and determine the order of filing and ballot position where two or more petitions are filed simultaneously for the same office as of the opening hour of the filing period on October 27, 2025, or within the last hour of filing deadline on November 3, 2025 (within 9 days of the last day for filing petitions). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 5/8-9)

Monday, November 17, 2025

First day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers for all judicial vacancies occurring within the 3-week period (October 19 through November 3, 2025) preceding the 134th day before the primary (November 3, 2025) (not more than 120 days prior to date of primary). File in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(1))

Monday, November 24, 2025

Last day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers for all judicial vacancies occurring within the 3-week period (October 19 through November 3, 2025) preceding the 134th day before the primary (November 3, 2025) (not less than 113 days prior to date of primary). File in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(1)).

Last day for candidates filing nomination papers during the special judicial filing period from November 17 through November 24, 2025, to file a Statement of Economic Interests with the Secretary of State as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. The receipt must be filed on or before this date with the State Board of Elections. (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 10 ILCS 5/7-12(8)).

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Last day for State Board of Elections to give written notice of the time and place for conducting a lottery to break ties and determine the order of filing and ballot position where two or more petitions are filed simultaneously for the same office as of the opening hour of the special judicial filing period on November 17, 2025, or within the last hour of filing deadline on November 24, 2025. (At least 7 days' written notice). Notice shall be given to the chair of each established political party and to each organization of citizens within the election jurisdiction entitled to have pollwatchers present at the last preceding election. Notice must also be posted at the entrance to each office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6))

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Last day for a candidate for whom nomination papers have been filed for 2 or more offices which are incompatible during the special judicial filing period from October 19 through November 3, 2025, to withdraw as a candidate for all but one of such offices (within 5 business days following last day for petition filing). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9)).

Last day to file objections to nomination papers of judicial candidates who filed nomination papers during the special judicial filing period from November 17 through November 24, 2025 (within 5 business days following last day for petition filing). File in the principal or permanent branch office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12.1, 5/10-8)

Last day for State Board of Elections to conduct a lottery to break ties and determine the order of filing and ballot position where two or more petitions are filed simultaneously for the same office as of the opening hour of the special judicial filing period on November 17, 2025, or within the last hour of filing deadline on November 24, 2025, (within 9 days of last day for filing petitions). (10 ILCS 5/7-12(6), 5/10-6.2)

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify to the county clerk of each county the names of all candidates whose nomination papers or certificates of nomination have been filed with the Board, directing the county clerk to place upon the official ballot the names of such candidates in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification (not less than 68 days before the date of the primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-14, 5/8-10)

Last day for candidates of established political parties who filed nomination papers with the State Board of Elections to withdraw as candidates (not later than the date of certification of candidates for the ballot). File in the principal or permanent branch office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9), 5/7-14, 5/8-9(3))

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Last day for the Cook County Clerk to certify to the Board of Election Commissioners the names of the candidates for the General Primary Election (not less than 62 days before the date of the primary). (10 ILCS 5/7-14, 5/8-10)

Last day for candidates of established political parties who filed nomination papers with the County Clerk to withdraw as candidates (not later than the date of certification candidates for the ballot). File in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. (10 ILCS 5/7-12(9), 5/7-14)

Write-In Candidates**Thursday, January 15, 2026**

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate (not later than 61 days prior to the primary) (Exception: If an objection to the person's nomination papers or petitions for the office is sustained after this date, the person may file a Declaration of Intent not later than 7 days before the election (March 10, 2026). File in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners *and* in the office of every other election authority having jurisdiction over the district in which the person seeks to be a write-in candidate. Write-in votes will be counted only for qualified persons who have filed a Declaration of Intent. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b))

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate if an objection to the person's nomination papers or petitions for the office was sustained after the 61st day before the primary. File in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners *and* in the office of every other election authority having jurisdiction over the district in which the person seeks to be

a write-in candidate. Write-in votes will be counted only for persons who have filed a Declaration of Intent. (10 ILCS 5/7-59(b))

Referenda

Thursday, October 16, 2025

First day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected rather than appointed may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory (152 days prior to the election). (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

Monday, November 17, 2025

Last day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected rather than appointed may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory (at least 122 days before the election – date falls on Saturday, November 15, 2025, and is moved to the first business day following the day otherwise fixed as the first or last day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

Last day to file original petition to create a political subdivision with the appropriate officer or board (at least 122 days before the election – date falls on a Saturday and moved to the first business day following the day otherwise fixed as the first or last day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/28-2(b))

Monday, November 24, 2025

Last day to file objections to petition to create a political subdivision with the appropriate officer or board or clerk of the circuit court, as the case may be (within 5 business days after last day for filing petitions). (10 ILCS 5/28-4, 5/10-8)

Monday, December 15, 2025

Last day for filing original petitions for the submission of a question of public policy under Article 28 of the Election Code (not less than 92 days prior to the election) (except for proposition to create a political subdivision, petitions for submission of a question under Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code, referenda held pursuant to Article IX of the Liquor Control Act, and except as otherwise provided by statute). For propositions to appear on ballot only within the City of Chicago or a part thereof, file in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/28-2(a))

Tuesday, December 22, 2025

Last day to file objections to petitions for submission of a question of public policy under Article 28 of the Election Code (within 5 business days after last day for filing petitions) (except for objections to petitions to create a political subdivision, petitions for submission of a question under Section 18-120 of the Property Tax Code, petitions for proposed Constitutional amendments and petitions for statewide advisory questions). For propositions to appear on ballot only within the City of Chicago or a part thereof, file in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/10-8, 5/28-4)

Monday, December 29, 2025

Last day for governing boards of political subdivisions to adopt an ordinance or resolution initiating the placement of public questions on the ballot pursuant to law (not less than 79 days before the election – actual date is Sunday, December 28, 2025 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/28-2(c); 55 ILCS 5/5-1005.5; 60 ILCS 1/80-80; 65 ILCS 5/3.1-40-60; 70 ILCS 1205/8-30)

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Last day for the Circuit Court Clerk and City Clerk to certify any question of public policy to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners (not less than 68 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

Last day for the Cook County Clerk to certify to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners any referenda to be submitted to the voters in the City of Chicago (not less than 68 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

Friday, January 16, 2026

First day for the Board of Elections to publish notice of any question of public policy to be voted upon within the jurisdiction (not more than 60 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

Monday, March 9, 2026

Last day for the Board to publish a notice of any question of public policy to be voted upon within the jurisdiction (not less than 10 days before the election – actual date is Saturday, March 7, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). A copy of the notice shall be posted at the principal office of the Board of Election Commissioners and the City Clerk of the City of Chicago shall post a copy at the principal office of the City of Chicago. (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

***Registration, Grace Period Registration,
Civic Organizations, Miscellaneous Notices, Pollwatcher Credentials***

Monday, November 17, 2025

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to notify every principal and vice-principal of each high school, elementary school and vocational school situated in the city of Chicago of their eligibility to serve as deputy registrars and offer training courses for service as deputy registrars (at least 4 months prior to the election). (10 ILCS 5/6-50.2(a)2)

Thursday, November 30, 2025

Chairs of the County Central Committees of established political parties to submit list of additional deputy registrar applicants to the Board of Election Commissioners by November 30th. (A Chair of a County Central Committee shall submit a list of applicants to the board by November 30 of each year. The Board may require a Chair of a County Central Committee to furnish a supplemental list of applicants. (10 ILCS 5/6-50.2)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to complete any systematic program to remove ineligible voters from the registration rolls prior to the March 17, 2025, General Primary Election (at least 90 days before the election). (42 U.S.C. §1973gg-6(c)(2)(A)) / (52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A))

Saturday, January 24, 2026

The first Saturday the office of the Board of Election Commissioners is open from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon for voter registration (last four Saturdays immediately preceding the end of registration before the election). The Board office will be open for voter registration from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on each Saturday through the close of registration. (10 ILCS 5/6-50)

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Last day for civic organizations and proposition proponents and opponents to register their names and addresses and the names and addresses of their principal officers to be eligible for pollwatcher credentials for the General Primary Election (at least 40 days before the election). File in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/7-34)

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, through Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Completed registrations and supporting materials accepted by deputy registrars and in library

branch offices during this period (between the 35th and 28th days preceding the election) must be returned to office of the Board of Election Commissioners within 48 hours after receipt thereof. (10 ILCS 5/6-35.03, 5/6-50.2)

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Last day to register to vote or to transfer registration to a new address before the General Primary Election (no new registrations during the 27 days preceding the election), with the exception of “grace period” registration and voting. (10 ILCS 5/6-29, 5/6-50, 5/6-51, 5/6-53, 5/6-35.03, 5/6-50.2, 5/6-100)

- in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners
- through deputy registrars and registrars in library branch offices
- by mail, or
- in qualifying State agencies and in Secretary of State Driver’s license examination stations.

NOTE: State agency and motor vehicle offices will continue to accept registrations after the statutory close of registration; however, only those registration applications completed before the close of registration will be accepted and processed by the Board for the primary election. If an application for registration is accepted at a Secretary of State facility or at a qualified State agency within the 5 days before the last day for voter registration, the application must be transmitted to the Board within 5 days of the date of acceptance. (42 USC §1973gg-5(d)(2)) / (52 U.S.C. §20506, *et seq.*)

NOTE: A mail registration application will be accepted and processed for the primary election if postmarked on or before the day that voter registration is closed. If no postmark exists or if the postmark is illegible, the application will be considered timely filed and will be processed only if received by the Board of Election Commissioner no later than 5 calendar days after the close of registration. (10 ILCS 5/1A-16(b))

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

“Grace period” registration and voting begins (from the close of registration for an election until and including the day of the election). (10 ILCS 5/6-100). During the grace period, individuals may (i) register to vote or submit a change of a registered voter’s address and (ii) vote* in person

- in the Board’s office
- at voter registration locations designated by the Board
- at any polling place established for early voting (only beginning the 15th day before the election through the day before election day),
- at precinct polling places on election day, or
- at a Vote Center on election day.
- * The Board may allow grace period voting by mail if ballots are not prepared and available at the Board’s office.

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Last day for an employee to give his or her employer written notice that the employee will be absent from place of employment on Election Day because of an appointment as a judge of election (at least 20 days written notice). An employer may not penalize an employee for that absence other than a deduction in salary for the time the employee is absent from his or her place of employment. Does not apply to employers with fewer than 25 employees. (10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, 5/14-4.5)

Friday, February 27, 2026

Last day for the Board to submit voter registration information to the State Board of Elections (within 10 days of close of registration). ((10 ILCS 5/6-35)

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Last day to register to vote by on-line voter registration (no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 16th day

prior to an election). (10 ILCS 5/1A-16.5(l))

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Last day to publish Notice of Primary stating the time and place of holding the Primary, the hours during which polls will be open, the offices to be listed on the ballot, and the political parties entitled to participate (not less than 15 days before the election) – actual date is Monday, March 2, 2026, which the Election Code deems to be a “State holiday” (Casimir Pulaski’s Birthday; 10 ILCS 5/1-6(b)) – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/7-15)

Last day to publish an announcement of the color of the primary ballots of the respective parties (not less than 15 days before the election – actual date is March 2, 2026, which the Election Code deems to be a “State holiday” (Casimir Pulaski’s Birthday; 10 ILCS 5/1-6(b)) – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). Such notice shall be published for at least 1 week in at least 2 newspapers of general circulation published in the county. Such announcement shall also be posted in a conspicuous place in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/7-18)

Deadline for having pollwatcher credentials available for distribution (at least 2 weeks prior to the election). (10 ILCS 5/7-34)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Last day for the Board to publish in 2 or more newspapers published in and having general circulation in the county a true and legible copy of the specimen ballot containing the names of offices and candidates and statements of measures to be voted on, as near as may be, in the form in which they will appear on the official ballot on election day (at least 5 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/24B-18, 5/24C-18)

Last day for the Board to conduct a public test of automatic tabulating equipment (optical scan voting devices, touch screen voting devices, vote tallying software and equipment) (not less than 5 days before the election). The Board must give public notice and notify the State Board of Elections of date, time and location of test at least 48 hours prior to such test. (10 ILCS 5/24A-9, 5/24B-9, 5/24C-9)

Monday, March 16, 2026

Last day for “grace period” registration and voting at any permanent polling place location established for Early Voting (until the day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/6-100)

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Last day for “grace period” registration and voting at precinct polling places, universal vote centers, in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners, or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the Board (“same-day registration”). (10 ILCS 5/6-100)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Registration re-opens in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners and in the library branch offices. (10 ILCS 5/6-29, 5/6-50)

Voting by Mail and Voting by People with Disabilities

Monday, December 8, 2025

Last day State Board of Elections shall certify to the Board a list of facilities licensed or certified under the Nursing Home Care Reform Act of 1979 (not less than 100 days before the election – actual date is Sunday, December 7, 2025 – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). The list shall indicate bed capacity and the chief administrator of each such facility. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

First day for a registered voter within the confines of the United States to make application by mail or in person for a mail ballot for the Primary Election (not more than 90 days prior to the election). (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

Friday, January 16, 2026

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to provide public notice, calculated to reach the elderly and handicapped voter, of the registration and voting aids under the Federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act and of the availability of assistance in marking the ballot, and procedures for voting by mail ballot and procedures for early voting (at least 60 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/7-15)

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to transmit a validly requested mail ballot to persons in the United States Service (members of the Armed Forces while on active duty, members of the Merchant Marine, and United States government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) or their spouse and dependents, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and nonresident civilians from whom the Board has received a request for ballot at least 45 days before the election (at least 45 days prior to the election). (42 U.S.C. §1973ff-1(a)(8) / (52 U.S.C. § 20302(a)(8)(A)); 10 ILCS 5/7-16, 5/16-5.01)

Thursday, February 5, 2026

First day for the Board to mail an official ballot to a registered voter within the confines of the United States who has made application to vote by mail (no earlier than 40 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19-4)

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to arrange with nursing home administrators a mutually convenient time period on the Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday immediately preceding the primary election to conduct voting on the premises of such facilities and to post in a prominent place in the offices of the Board a notice of the agreed day and time period for conducting such voting at each facility (not less than 30 days before the election – actual date is Sunday, February 15, 2026, and Monday, February 16, 2026, is a State Holiday (Washington’s Birthday) – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Last day for an unregistered citizen temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States to make simultaneous application for absentee registration and ballot (not less than 30 days before the election – actual date is Sunday, February 15, 2026, and Monday, February 16, 2026, is a State Holiday (Washington’s Birthday) – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/1-3.5, 5/20-2.1, 5/20-3)

NOTE: Registration is not required to vote a ballot containing federal offices only. Persons making application for registration and/or mail ballots after 30 days but not less than 10 days prior to Election Day will be sent a ballot containing federal offices only.

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

First day a qualified voter admitted to a hospital, nursing home or rehabilitation center not more than 14 days before the Primary Election may make application for personal delivery of a mail ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-13)

Monday, March 9, 2026

Last day for non-resident civilians, otherwise qualified to vote, to make application to the Board of Election Commissioners for a mail ballot containing federal offices only (not less than 10 days before the election – actual date is Saturday, March 7, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). Such application may be made only on the official postcard. No registration is required. May apply via fax machine or electronic transmission. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.2)

Last day members of the United States Service (i.e., members of the Armed Forces while on active duty or members of the U.S. Merchant Marines, and their spouses and dependents of voting age residing with or accompanying them, as well as United States government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) who expect to be absent from their county of residence on election day may apply for an official ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over their residence (not less than 10 days before the election). No registration is required to vote. Application should be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the election authority. Members of the Armed Forces on active duty and their spouses and dependents may apply via fax machine or electronic transmission. (10 ILCS 5/20-2, 5/20-2.3, 5/20-3)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Last day any registered voter who is within the confines of the United States may apply by mail for a mail ballot for the General Primary Election (not less than 5 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

Last day for any physically incapacitated voter who is a resident of a federally operated veterans' home, hospital or resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act or the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act, the ID/DD Community Care Act, or the MC/DD Act to apply to vote at such facility (not less than 5 days before the election). Such voting shall be conducted on the Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday immediately preceding election day. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Last day by noon (on the Thursday before the election) for the Board of Election Commissioners to post the names and addresses of nursing home facilities from which no applications for ballot have been received and in which no supervised voting will be conducted. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Friday, March 13, 2026**Saturday, March 14, 2026****Sunday, March 15, 2026****Monday, March 16, 2026**

Dates that may be scheduled by the Board of Election Commissioners for voting on the premises of (i) a federally-operated veterans' home, hospital or facility (Jesse Brown VA Medical Center), or (ii) a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Reform Act, the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act, the ID/DD Community Care Act, or the MC/DD Act for the sole benefit of the residents of such facility who have made prior application not later than 5 days before the election. Such voting shall be conducted during any continuous period sufficient to allow all applicants to cast their ballots between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on any one of these days. (10 ILCS 5/19-4, 5/19-12.2)

Monday, March 16, 2026

Last day any registered voter may apply in person at the office of the Board of Election Commissioners for an official ballot for the Primary Election (not less than 1 day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

Last day for any temporarily or permanently physically disabled voter to request of the election authority that two judges of election of opposite political party affiliation deliver a ballot to the voter at the point where the voter is unable to continue forward motion toward the polling place (but in no case beyond 50 feet of the entrance to the building) because of structural features of the building in which the

polling place is located (not later than the close of business at the Board's office on the day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/7-47.1)

Early Voting, Primary Election Day and Post-Election Activities

Monday, January 26, 2026

Last day the Board shall post a copy of the schedule with the locations, dates and hours of early voting and precincts served in the office of the Board and at locations to be used as polling places for early voting. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25(b)). The schedule must be posted continuously for a period beginning not later than the 10th day before the first day of the period for early voting and ending on the last day of that period (no less than 50 days before the election). Copies of the schedule shall be made available to the public without charge and posted on the Board's website.

Last day for the Board to provide to the State Board of Elections a list of all early voting sites and hours each site will be open. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25(f))

Thursday, January 29, 2026, through Wednesday, February 4, 2026

The Board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation during this period (during the week before the period for early voting) a schedule of the dates and times that early voting will be conducted and the location of each permanent and temporary polling place for early voting and the precincts served by each location. The Board shall publish a similar schedule at least once a week during the early voting period. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25(a))

Thursday, February 5, 2026

First day early voting may begin in the offices of the Board* (40th day preceding Election Day). (10 ILCS 5/19A-15(a)) *Voters should first confirm that ballots and voting machines are available.

Monday, March 2, 2026

First day for early voting at permanent polling place locations and at temporary polling place locations designated by the Board as early voting sites (15th day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

Monday, March 16, 2026

Last day for early voting (day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026, GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Precinct Polling Places and Universal Vote Centers

open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(b), 5/7-5, 5/11-8)

The Board shall, prior to the opening of the polls, deliver to judges of election in each precinct a list of registered voters in that precinct to whom mail ballots have been issued, or who have voted during early voting or grace period voting. (10 ILCS 5/6-100, 5/19-4, 5/19A-5(c))

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Last day for the Board to post on its website the number of ballots that remain uncounted, including ballots cast on election day, early voting ballots, provisional ballots, vote by mail ballots received but not counted and vote by mail ballots sent to voters but not yet returned to the Board (not later than 48 hours after closing polling locations on election day). Information shall be updated each day and

reported to the State Board of Elections until the period for counting provisional and vote by mail ballots has ended. (10 ILCS 5/1-9.2)

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Last day for a person who cast a provisional ballot to submit to the Board additional information to support or verify his or her registration status (within 7 calendar days). Such information must be *received* by the Board on or before this date. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(d))

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Last day for the Board to complete the validation and counting of provisional ballots (within 14 days of the election). (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

Last day for the Board to process and count valid vote by mail ballots mailed and postmarked by election day (or, if postmark is absent, date of intelligent mail barcode tracking system or certification on envelope is on or before election day) but received after the close of the polls and by this date (before the close of period for counting provisional ballots). (10 ILCS 5/19-8(c))

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to canvass and proclaim the results of the election (within 7 days from completion of the validation and counting of provisional ballots) and to transmit a tabulated statement of the returns to the County Clerk and to the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-56, 5/18A-15(a), 5/22-1, 5/22-8, 5/22-9)

Last day for Board of Election Commissioners to transmit to the State Board of Elections the following information: (1) number, by precinct, of absentee ballots requested, provided and counted; (2) number of rejected absentee ballots; (3) number of voters seeking review of rejected ballots; and (4) number of absentee ballots counted following review (on or before 21st day after the election). (10 ILCS 5/1-3.5, 5/19-20, 5/20-20)

Friday, April 17, 2026

Last day for the State Board of Elections to canvass the votes for federal, statewide, legislative and judicial offices (within 31 days of the election or sooner if all returns are received). (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Last day for each election authority to conduct a lottery to determine the order in which the major political parties will appear on the General Election ballot (within 30 days following the canvass and proclamation of the results of the primary).* The election authority shall send seven (7) days written notice to the county chair of each established political party, and to organizations with pollwatchers, of the time and place for conducting such lottery, and shall post a copy of such notice at the entrance to the office. (10 ILCS 5/7-60)

*NOTE: A board of election commissioners may elect to place established political party candidates on the General Election ballot in the same order determined by the county clerk of the county in which the city under the jurisdiction of such board is located. (*Id.*)

Monday, May 18, 2026

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to provide each established political party county chair a coded list of registered voters in each precinct indicating the political party primary each voter requested (within 60 days after the primary - actual date is Saturday, May 16, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/6-66)

Vacancy in Nomination where No Candidate Nominated at Primary**Monday, June 1, 2026**

Last day for the legislative or representative committee of an established political party to nominate a candidate to fill a vacancy in nomination when no candidate was nominated for the office of State Senator or Representative in the General Assembly at the General Primary Election (within 75 days after the primary – actual date is Sunday, May 31, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). A person designated by the appropriate committee of a political party to fill vacancy in nomination when no candidate was nominated at the General Primary Election shall file together, on or before this date, his or her nominating petitions, statement of candidacy, notice of appointment by the appropriate committee, and receipt of filing for his or her statement of economic interests. Such nominating petitions shall contain the number of signatures required for an established party candidate for that office. The circulation period for those petitions begins on the day the appropriate committee designates that person. (10 ILCS 5/7-61, 5/8-17)

Monday, June 8, 2026

Last day to file objections to nominating petitions filed by persons designated by the appropriate committee of a political party to fill vacancies in nomination when no candidate was nominated at the General Primary Election (within 5 business days of the last day for filing of nomination papers). (10 ILCS 5/7-61, 5/10-8)

GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Independent Candidates, New Political Party Candidates and Nonpartisan (Chicago Board of Education) Candidates

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

First day to circulate nominating petitions for independent and nonpartisan candidates and candidates of new political parties for Federal, State, Legislative, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and County offices, and for the offices of President and Member of the Chicago Board of Education (no more than 90 days preceding last day for filing petition, or 252 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/10-4 and 5/10-6; 105 ILCS 5/34-4.1)¹¹

Monday, May 18, 2026

First day for independent and new political party candidates for Federal, State, and Legislative offices to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections (not more than 169 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

First day for independent and new political party candidates for the office of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and for County offices to file original nomination papers in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

First day for nonpartisan candidates for the offices of President and Member of the Chicago Board of Education to file original nomination papers in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago. (105 ILCS 5/34-4.1 and 10 ILCS 5/10-6)¹²

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

Last day for independent and new political party candidates for Federal, State and Legislative offices to file original nomination papers in the principal office of the State Board of Elections (not less than 162 days before the election – actual date is Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

Last day for independent and new political party candidates for the office of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and for County offices to file original nomination papers in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. (10 ILCS 5/10-6)

Last day for nonpartisan candidates for the offices of President and Member of the Chicago Board of Education to file original nomination papers in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago. (105 ILCS 5/34-4.1 and 10 ILCS 5/10-6)¹³

Last day for candidates filing nomination papers from May 18 through May 26, 2026, to file a Statement of Economic Interests with the proper office as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. (Exception: candidates for federal offices (e.g., Representative in Congress) are not required to file economic interests statements.) The receipt must be filed on or before this date with the election authority with which the original nomination papers were filed. (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 10 ILCS 5/10-5; 105 ILCS 5/34-4.1)

¹¹ See, also, 10 ILCS 5/7-1(b): “Article 7 [of the Election Code] shall not apply to the nomination of candidates for school elections.”

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

Thursday, May 28, 2026

Last day for the State Board of Elections or the election authority with whom petitions are filed to give written notice of the time and place for conducting a lottery to break ties and determine ballot position when two or more petitions are filed simultaneously for the same office as of the opening hour of the filing period on May 18, 2026, or within the last hour of filing deadline on May 26, 2026 (at least 7 days written notice). (10 ILCS 5/10-6.2)

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Last day for a candidate for whom nomination papers have been filed for 2 or more incompatible offices to withdraw as a candidate for all but one of such offices (within 5 business days after last day for filing petitions). (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

Last day to file objections to new political party, nonpartisan and independent candidate nomination papers (within 5 business days after last day for filing petitions). Objections to petitions filed with the State Board of Elections are filed in either the principal or permanent branch office of the State Board of Elections. Objections to petitions filed with the Clerk of Cook County are filed in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. Objections to petitions filed with the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago are filed in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago. (10 ILCS 5/10-8)

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Last day for the State Board of Elections or the election authority with whom petitions are filed to conduct a lottery to break ties and determine ballot position when two or more petitions are filed simultaneously for the same office as of the opening hour of the filing period on May 18, 2026, or within the last hour of the filing deadline on May 26, 2026 (within 9 days of the last day for filing petitions). (10 ILCS 5/10-6.2)

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Last day for new political parties to fill vacancies in nomination occurring prior to date of certification for Federal, State and Legislative offices (must be filled prior to date of certification). File in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/10-11)

NOTE: Any vacancy in nomination occurring after certification but prior to 15 days before the election must be filled within 8 days after the event creating the vacancy. Vacancies in nomination occurring 15 days or less before the election shall not be filled. (10 ILCS 5/10-11)

Friday, August 21, 2026

State Board of Elections certifies to the county clerk of each county the names of all independent candidates and new political party candidates for whom nomination papers have been filed with the Board, directing the county clerk to place upon the official ballot the names of such candidates in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification (not less than 74 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/10-14)

Last day for an independent or a new political party candidate to file a withdrawal as a candidate for Federal, State and Legislative offices (not later than the date for certification of candidates for the ballot). If such a request for withdrawal is received after the date for certification of the candidates for the ballot, then votes cast for the withdrawn candidate are invalid and shall not be reported by the Board. File in the principal or permanent branch office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Last day for new political parties to fill vacancies in nomination occurring prior to date of certification for the office of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater

Chicago or for County offices (must be filled prior to date of certification). File in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. (10 ILCS 5/10-11)

NOTE: Any vacancy in nomination occurring after certification but prior to 15 days before the election must be filled within 8 days after the event creating the vacancy. Vacancies in nomination occurring 15 days or less before the election shall not be filled. (10 ILCS 5/10-11)

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Last day for the Cook County Clerk to certify to the Board of Election Commissioners the names of all independent and new political party candidates for whom nomination papers have been filed with the Clerk, together with the names of candidates certified by the State Board of Elections, directing the Board to place upon the official ballot the names of such candidates in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification (not later than 68 days before date of General Election). (10 ILCS 5/10-14)

Last day for an independent candidate or a new political party candidate to file a withdrawal as a candidate for the office of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago or for County offices (not later than the date of certification of candidates for the ballot). File in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. If such request for withdrawal is received after the date for certification of the candidates for the ballot, then votes cast for the withdrawn candidate are invalid and shall not be reported. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

Last day for a nonpartisan candidate to file a withdrawal as a candidate for the offices of President or Member of the Chicago Board of Education (not later than the date of certification of candidates for the ballot). File in the office of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. If such request for withdrawal is received after the date for certification of the candidates for the ballot, then votes cast for the withdrawn candidate are invalid and shall not be reported. (10 ILCS 5/10-7)

Last day to file objections to a resolution filed with the State Board of Elections to fill a vacancy in nomination by a new political party for vacancies occurring prior to certification (within 5 business days after last day for filing). File with the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/10-11, 5/10-8)

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Last day to file objections to a resolution filed with the Cook County Clerk to fill a vacancy in nomination by a new political party for vacancies occurring prior to certification (within 5 business days after filing of petitions). File with the Cook County Clerk. (10 ILCS 5/10-11, 5/10-8)

Established Political Parties

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Last day for established political parties to fill vacancies in nomination occurring on or after the Primary Election and prior to the date for certification for Federal, State and Legislative offices (must be filled prior to date of certification). File in the principal office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/7-61)

NOTE: Any vacancy in nomination occurring after certification of the candidates to the ballot but prior to 15 days before the election must be filled within 8 days after the event creating the vacancy. Vacancies on nomination occurring 15 days or less before the election shall not be filled. (10 ILCS 5/7-61) This date and these provisions DO NOT apply to vacancies in nomination created due to failure to nominate a candidate at the General Primary.

Friday, August 21, 2026

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify to the county clerk of each county the names of all established political party candidates whose nomination papers or certificates of nomination have been filed with the Board, directing the county clerk to place upon the official ballot the names of such

candidates in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification (not less than 74 days before date of General Election). (10 ILCS 5/7-60)

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Last day for the Cook County Clerk to certify the names of established political party candidates and declare that the names of such candidates for the respective offices shall be placed upon the official ballot for the General Election in the same manner and in the same order as shown upon the certification (not less than 68 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/7-60)

Last day for established political parties to fill vacancies in nomination occurring on or after the General Primary Election and prior to certification for the office of Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago or for County offices. File in the office of the Clerk of Cook County. (10 ILCS 5/7-61)

NOTE: Any vacancy in nomination occurring after certification but prior to 15 days before the election must be filled within 8 days after the event creating the vacancy. Vacancies in nomination occurring 15 days or less before the election shall not be filled. (10 ILCS 5/7-61)

Last day to file objections to a resolution filed with the State Board of Elections to fill a vacancy in nomination by established political parties for vacancies occurring on or after the Primary and before certification. File with the State Board of Elections (within 5 business days after filing). (10 ILCS 5/7-61, 5/10-8)

Thursday, September 3, 2026

Last day to file objections to a resolution filed with the Cook County Clerk to fill a vacancy in nomination by established political parties for vacancies occurring on or after the Primary and before certification. File with the Cook County Clerk (within 5 business days after filing). (10 ILCS 5/7-61, 5/10-8)

Judicial Candidates***Sunday, May 3, 2026**

Last day for any Supreme, Appellate or Circuit Judge whose term expires in December 2026 to file a Declaration of Judicial Candidacy to be retained in office (not less than six months before the General Election preceding expiration of term of office). File in the office of the Secretary of State. (Illinois Constitution, Article VI, Section 12(d); 10 ILCS 5/7A-1)

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Last day for the Secretary of State to certify to the State Board of Elections the names of all judges seeking retention in office (not less than 63 days before the General Election). (Ill. Const., Art. VI, Sec. 12; 10 ILCS 5/7A-1)

*NOTE: Judicial candidates should refer to the dates and events for candidates of established political parties and new political parties for more information.

Write-In Candidates**Thursday, September 3, 2026**

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate (not less than 61 days prior to the election) (Exception: If an objection to the person's nomination papers or petitions for the office is sustained after this date, the person may file a Declaration of Intent not later than seven days before the election). File in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners and in the office of every other election authority having jurisdiction over the district in which the person seeks to be a write-in candidate. Write-in votes will be counted only for qualified

persons who have filed a Declaration of Intent. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1, 5/18-9.1)

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Last day (by 5:00 p.m.) a person may file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate if an objection to the person's nomination papers or petitions for the office is sustained after the 61st day before the election (not later than seven days prior to the election). File in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners and in the office of every other election authority having jurisdiction over the district in which the person seeks to be a write-in candidate. Write-in votes will be counted only for qualified persons who have filed a Declaration of Intent. (10 ILCS 5/17-16.1, 5/18-9.1)

Referenda (including Local Option Referenda)

Saturday, March 22, 2026

First day it is permissible to circulate and sign a petition for the submission of a local option proposition under the Liquor Control Act of 1934 if the petition is to be filed on the last day last day of the filing period (July 22, 2026 (at least 104 days before the election)). None of the signatures on such petition may be signed more than four months before the filing of the petition. (235 ILCS 5/9-4)

Monday, May 4, 2026

Last day to file petitions with the Secretary of State to amend Article IV of the State Constitution (at least 6 months before the General Election – actual date is Sunday, May 3, 2026 – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/28-9)

Last day to file a statewide petition for advisory public policy question with the State Board of Elections (at least 6 months before the General Election). (10 ILCS 5/28-9)

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Last day for the Secretary of State to deliver a petition to amend the Constitution to the State Board of Elections (as soon as is practicable, but no later than the close of next business day). (10 ILCS 5/28-9)

Thursday, June 4, 2026

First day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected rather than appointed may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory (no more than 152 days prior to election). (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Last day to file objections to petitions to amend Article IV of the Illinois Constitution and petitions for statewide advisory questions in the office of the State Board of Elections. (10 ILCS 5/10-8)

*NOTE: Under Section 10-8 of the Election Code, the deadline to file objections to petitions to amend Article IV of the Illinois Constitution and statewide advisory questions is 35 business days after the last day for filing such petitions, which is June 24, 2026. However, Section 28-4 of the Election Code provides that such objections may be filed within 42 business days after the petition is filed, which is **July 6, 2026**, if the petition is filed on the last day to file such petitions. The State Board of Elections has previously stated its intention to apply the more generous of the two calculations to determine the timeliness of the objections. (10 ILCS 5/28-4)

Monday, July 6, 2026

Last day notice of intention to file a petition to create a political subdivision whose officers are to be elected rather than appointed may be published in a newspaper within the proposed political subdivision, or if none, in a newspaper of general circulation within the proposed territory (at least 122

days prior to election – the actual date is Saturday, July 4, 2026 – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/28-2(g))

Last day to file original petition to create a political subdivision with the appropriate officer or board (at least 122 days prior to election – the actual date is Saturday, July 6, 2026 – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

Monday, July 13, 2026

Last day to file objections to a petition to create a political subdivision (within 5 business days after last day for filing of petitions). (10 ILCS 5/28-4, 5/10-8)

Tuesday, July 22, 2026

Last day to file original petitions for the submission at the General Election of a local option referendum to prohibit the sale of alcohol under the Liquor Control Act of 1934 (at least 104 days before election). File in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Chicago. No signature shall be revoked except by a revocation filed within 20 days from the filing of the petition with the City Clerk. (235 ILCS 5/9-2, 5/9-4, 5/9-10)

NOTE: None of the signatures on the petition may be signed more than four months before the filing of the petition. (235 ILCS 5/9-4)

Monday, August 3, 2026

Last day for filing original petitions for the submission of a question of public policy under Article 28 of the Election Code (not less than 92 days prior to election) (except for proposition to create a political subdivision and referenda submitted under the Liquor Control Act of 1934). (10 ILCS 5/28-2)

Monday, August 10, 2026

Last day to file objections to petitions for submission of a question of public policy under Article 28 of the Election Code (within 5 business days after last day for filing of petitions) (except for objections to petitions to create a political subdivision, to petitions for proposed Constitutional amendments, to petitions for statewide advisory questions and to petitions submitted under the Liquor Control Act of 1934). File in the office of the election authority where the original petition for submission of the public policy question was filed. (10 ILCS 5/10-8, 5/28-4)

Monday, August 17, 2026

Last day for governing boards of political subdivisions to adopt an ordinance or resolution initiating the placement of public questions on the ballot pursuant to law (not less than 79 days before election – actual date is Sunday, August 16, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/28-2(c); 55 ILCS 5/5-1005.5; 60 ILCS 1/80-80; 65 ILCS 5/3.1-40-60; 70 ILCS 1205/8-30)

Friday, August 21, 2026

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify questions to amend the Constitution of Illinois and any statewide questions of public policy to the county clerks (not less than 74 days before election). (5 ILCS 20/2a; 10 ILCS 5/28-5)

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Last day to file a verified petition contesting the validity of a local option petition filed under the Liquor Control Act of 1934 (within any time up to 72 days immediately prior to election). File in the Circuit Court of Cook County. (235 ILCS 5/9-4)

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Last day for the City Clerk and the circuit court clerk to certify any question of public policy to

the Board of Election Commissioners (not less than 68 days before election). (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

Last day for the Cook County Clerk to certify to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners any referenda to be submitted to the voters in the City of Chicago. (10 ILCS 5/28-5)

Friday, September 4, 2026

First day for the Board of Election Commissioners to publish notice of any question of public policy to be voted upon at the General Election (not more than 60 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

Monday, October 26, 2024

Last day for the election authority to publish a notice of any question of public policy to be voted upon within the jurisdiction (not less than 10 days before election – actual date is Saturday, October 24, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). A copy of the notice shall be posted at the principal office of the Board of Election Commissioners and the City Clerk of the City of Chicago shall post a copy at the principal office of the City of Chicago. (10 ILCS 5/12-5)

Voting by Mail and Voting by Persons with Disabilities**Monday, July 27, 2026**

Last day for the State Board of Elections to certify a list of federally operated veterans' homes and hospitals and facilities licensed or certified under the Nursing Home Care Reform Act of 1979, the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act, the ID/DD Community Care Act, or the MC/DD Act (not less than 100 days before election – actual date is Sunday, July 26, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). The list shall indicate bed capacity and the chief administrator of each such facility. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

First day for a registered voter within the confines of the United States to make application by mail, electronically on the Board's web site, or in person for a mail ballot for the General Election (not more than 90 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

Wednesday, August 5, 2026, through Monday, September 21, 2026

The Board shall notify all qualified voters within this time period of the option to apply for permanent vote by mail status. (Not more than 90 days nor less than 45 days before a General Election – actual last day is Saturday, September 19, 2026 – moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/19-2.5, 5/19-3(b))

Friday, September 4, 2026

Last day the Board shall provide public notice, calculated to reach the elderly and handicapped voter, of the registration and voting aids under the Federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act and of the availability of assistance in marking the ballot, and procedures for voting by mail ballot and procedures for early voting (at least 60 days prior to election). (10 ILCS 5/12-1)

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to transmit a validly requested mail ballot to persons in the United States Service (members of the Armed Forces while on active duty, members of the Merchant Marines, and United States government employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) or their spouse and dependents, citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and nonresident civilians from whom the Board has received a request for ballot at least

45 days before the election (at least 45 days prior to election). (42 U.S.C. §1973ff-1(a)(8) / (52 U.S.C. § 20302(a)(8)(A)); 10 ILCS 5/7-16, 5/16-5.01)

Thursday, September 24, 2026

First day for the Board to mail an official ballot to a registered voter within the confines of the United States who has made application to vote by mail (no earlier than 40 days before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19-4)

Monday, October 5, 2024

Last day for an unregistered citizen temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States to make simultaneous application for registration and a mail ballot (not less than 30 days before election – actual date is Sunday, October 4, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). However, if the Board receives one of such applications after 30 days but not less than 10 days before the election, the applicant will be sent a ballot containing federal offices only and registration for that election will be waived. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.1, 5/20-3)

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to arrange with nursing home administrators a mutually convenient time period on the Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday immediately preceding the general election to conduct voting on the premises of such facilities and to post in a prominent place in the offices of the Board a notice of the agreed day and time period for conducting such voting at each facility (not less than 30 days before election – actual date is Sunday, October 4, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

First day a qualified voter admitted to a hospital, nursing home or rehabilitation center not more than 14 days before the General Election may make application for personal delivery of a mail ballot. (10 ILCS 5/19-13)

Monday, October 26, 2026

Last day for unregistered citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and who expect to be absent from their county of residence on election day to make simultaneous application to the election authority having jurisdiction over his/her precinct of residence for registration and a mail ballot containing Federal offices only (not less than 10 days before election – actual date is Saturday, October 24, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). If application is received after 30 days but not less than 10 days before the election, the applicant shall be sent a ballot containing Federal offices only and registration is waived. Application should be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the election authority. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.1)

Last day any member of the United States Service (i.e., a member of the Armed Forces while on active duty or a member of the Merchant Marine, and his/her spouse and dependents of voting age residing with or accompanying him/her, as well as a United States government employee serving outside the territorial limits of the United States) who expects to be absent from his/her county of residence on election day may apply for an official ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over their residence (not less than 10 days before election – actual date is Saturday, October 24, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). No registration is required to vote. Application should be made on the Federal Post Card Application or on forms provided by the election authority. Members of the Armed Forces on active duty and their spouses and dependents may apply via fax or electronic transmission. (10 ILCS 5/20-2, 5/20-2.3, 5/20-3)

Last day any nonresident civilian citizen, otherwise qualified to vote, may make application to the election authority having jurisdiction over his/her precinct of former residence for a mail ballot containing Federal offices only (not less than 10 days before election – actual date is Saturday, October 24, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). No registration required to vote. Application should be

made on the Federal Post Card Application. Nonresident civilians may make application via fax or other method of electronic transmission. (10 ILCS 5/20-2.2, 5/20-5)

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Last day any registered voter who is within the confines of the United States may apply by mail for a mail ballot (not less than 5 days before election). (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

Last day for any physically incapacitated voter who is a resident of a federally operated veterans' home, hospital or resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act or the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act, the ID/DD Community Care Act, or the MC/DD Act to apply to vote at such facility (not less than 5 days before the election). Such voting shall be conducted on the Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday immediately preceding Election Day. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Last day by noon (on the Thursday before the election) for the Board of Election Commissioners to post the names and addresses of nursing home facilities from which no applications for ballot have been received and in which no supervised voting will be conducted. (10 ILCS 5/19-12.2)

Friday, October 30, 2026

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Monday, November 2, 2026

Dates that may be scheduled by the Board of Election Commissioners for voting on the premises of (i) a federally-owned veterans' home, hospital or facility (Jesse Brown VA Medical Center) or (ii) a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act or the Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act, the ID/DD Community Care Act, or the MC/DD Act for the sole benefit of the residents of such facility who have made prior application not later than 5 days before the election. Such voting shall be conducted during any continuous period sufficient to allow all applicants to cast their ballots between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on any one of these days. (10 ILCS 5/19-4, 5/19-12.2)

Monday, November 2, 2026

Last day any registered voter may apply in person in the office of the Board for an official ballot for the General Election (not less than one day before election). (10 ILCS 5/19-2)

Last day for any temporarily or permanently physically disabled voter to request of the election authority that two judges of election of opposite political party affiliation deliver a ballot to the voter at the point where the voter is unable to continue forward motion toward the polling place (but in no case beyond 50 feet of the entrance to the building) because of structural features of the building in which the polling place is located (not later than the close of business at the Board's office on the day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/17-13, 5/18-5.1)

***Registration, Grace Period Registration and Voting, Civic Organizations,
Miscellaneous Notices, Pollwatcher Credentials***

Monday, July 6, 2026

Last day for the Board of Election Commissioners to notify every principal and vice-principal of each high school, elementary school and vocational school situated in the city of Chicago of their eligibility to serve as deputy registrars and offer training courses for service as deputy registrars (at least 4 months prior to the election – actual date is Independence Day (observed), Friday, July 3, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/6-50.2(a))

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

Last day for Board of Election Commissioners to complete any systematic program to remove ineligible voters from the voting rolls (at least 90 days before election). (42 USC 1973gg-6(c)(2)(A))

Saturday, September 12, 2026

The first Saturday the office of the Board of Election Commissioners is open from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon for voter registration (the last four Saturdays immediately preceding the end of the period of registration preceding election). The Board office will be open for voter registration from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon on each Saturday through the close of registration. (10 ILCS 5/6-50)

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Last day for civic organizations and proposition proponents and opponents to register their names and addresses and the names and addresses of their principal officers in order to be eligible for pollwatcher credentials for the General Election (at least 40 days before the election). File in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners. (10 ILCS 5/17-23(5), 5/18-6)

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, through Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Completed registrations and supporting materials accepted by deputy registrars and in library branch offices during this period (between the 35th and 28th day preceding election) must be returned to office of the Board of Election Commissioners within 48 hours of the date received by the registrar or by the close of business on October 9, 2024, whichever occurs first. (10 ILCS 5/6-35.03, 5/6-50.2)

Monday, October 5, 2026

Last day to publish notice of General Election (at least 30 days before General Election – actual date is Sunday, October 4, 2026 - moved to next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/12-1)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Last day to register to vote or to transfer registration to a new address before the General Election (no new registrations during the 27 days preceding the election), with the exception of “grace period” registration and voting and on-line voter registration. (10 ILCS 5/6-29, 5/6-50, 5/6-51, 5/6-53, 5/6-35.03, 5/6-50.2, 5/6-100)

- in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners
- through deputy registrars and registrars in library branch offices
- by mail, or
- in qualifying State agencies and in Secretary of State driver’s license examination stations.

NOTE: State agency and motor vehicle offices will continue to accept registrations after the statutory close of registration; however, only those registration applications completed before the close of registration will be accepted and processed by the Board for the general election. If an application for registration is accepted at a Secretary of State facility or at a qualified State agency within the 5 days before the last day for voter registration, the application must be transmitted to the Board within 5 days of the date of acceptance. (42 USC §1973gg-5(d)(2))

NOTE: A mail registration application will be accepted and processed for the general election if postmarked on or before the day that voter registration is closed. If no postmark exists or if the postmark is illegible, the application will be considered timely filed and will be processed only if received by the Board of Election Commissioner no later than 5 calendar days after the close of registration. (10 ILCS 5/1A-16(b))

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

“Grace period” registration and voting begins (from the close of registration for an election until and including the day of the election). (10 ILCS 5/6-100) During the grace period, individuals may (i) register to vote or submit a change of registered voter’s address and (ii) vote in person

- in the Board’s office
- at voter registration locations designated by the Board

- at any polling place established for early voting (only beginning the 15th day before the election through the day before election day), or
- at precinct polling places and Vote Centers on election day.

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Last day for employee to give employer written notice that he or she will be absent from place of employment on Election Day because of appointment as a judge of election (at least 20 days written notice). An employer may not penalize an employee for that absence other than a deduction in salary for the time the employee is absent from his or her place of employment. An employer may not require an employee wishing to serve as an election judge to use earned vacation time or any form of paid leave time while serving as an election judge. Does not apply to employers with fewer than 25 employees. (10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, 5/14-4.5)

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Last day to register to vote by on-line voter registration (no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 16th day prior to an election). (10 ILCS 5/1A-16.5(l))

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Last day for Board of Election Commissioners to have pollwatcher credentials available for distribution (at least 2 weeks prior to election). (10 ILCS 5/17-23, 5/18-6)

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Last day for the Board to publish in two or more newspapers published in and having general circulation in the county a true and legible copy of the specimen ballot containing the names of offices and candidates and statements of measures to be voted on, as near as may be, in the form in which they will appear on the official ballot on election day (at least five days before election day). (10 ILCS 5/24B-18, 5/24C-18)

Last day for Board to conduct public test of automatic tabulating equipment (optical scan voting devices, touch screen voting devices, vote tallying software and equipment) (not less than five days prior to Election Day). Board must give public notice and notify State Board of Elections of date, time and location of test at least 48 hours prior to such test. (10 ILCS 5/24A-9, 5/24B-9, 5/24C-9)

Monday, November 2, 2026

Last day for “grace period” registration and voting at any location designated as a permanent polling place for Early Voting. (10 ILCS 5/6-100)

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Last day for “grace period” registration and voting in the office of the Board of Election Commissioners, at voter registration locations designated by the Board, at precinct polling places, and universal Vote Centers on Election Day. (10 ILCS 5/6-100)

Early Voting, General Election Day and Post-Election Activities

Monday, September 14, 2026

Last day the Board shall post a copy of the schedule with the locations, dates and hours of early voting and precincts served in the office of the Board and at locations to be used as polling places for early voting. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25(b)). The schedule must be posted continuously for a period beginning not later than the 10th day before the first day of the period for early voting and ending on the last day of that period (no less than 50 days before the election). Copies of the schedule shall be made available to the public without charge and posted on the Board’s website.

Last day for the Board to provide to the State Board of Elections a list of all early voting sites and hours each site will be open. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25(f))

Thursday, September 17, 2026, through Wednesday, September 23, 2026

The Board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation during this period (during the week before the period for early voting) a schedule of the dates and times that early voting will be conducted and the location of each permanent and temporary polling place for early voting and the precincts served by each location. The Board shall publish a similar schedule at least once a week during the early voting period. (10 ILCS 5/19A-25(a))

Thursday, September 24, 2026

First day early voting may begin in the offices of the Board* (40th day preceding Election Day). (10 ILCS 5/19A-15(a)) *Voters should first confirm that ballots and voting machines are available.

Monday, October 19, 2026

First day for early voting at permanent polling place locations and at temporary polling place locations designated by the Board as early voting sites (15th day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

Monday, November 2, 2026

Last day for early voting (day before the election). (10 ILCS 5/19A-15)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL ELECTION

Precinct Polling Places and Universal Vote Centers

open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

(10 ILCS 5/2A-1.2(a), 5/18-2, 5/11-8)

The Board shall deliver (prior to the opening of the polls) to judges of election in each precinct a list of registered voters in that precinct to whom mail ballots have been issued, or who have voted during early voting or grace period voting. (10 ILCS 5/6-100, 5/19-4, 5/19A-5(c))

Thursday, November 5, 2026

Last day for the Board to post on its website the number of ballots that remain uncounted, including ballots cast on election day, early voting ballots, provisional ballots, vote by mail ballots received but not counted and vote by mail ballots sent to voters but not yet returned to the Board (not later than 48 hours after closing polling locations on election day). Information shall be updated each day and reported to the State Board of Elections until period for counting provisional and vote by mail ballots has ended. (10 ILCS 5/1-9.2)

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Last day for a person who cast a provisional ballot to submit to the Board additional information to support or verify his or her registration status (within 7 calendar days). Such information must be *received* by the Board by this date. (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(d))

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Last day for the Board to complete the validation and counting of provisional ballots (within 14 days of the election). (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a))

Last day for the Board to process and count valid vote by mail ballots mailed and postmarked by

election day (or, if postmark is absent, date of intelligent mail barcode tracking system or certification on envelope precedes election day) but received after the close of the polls and by this date (before the close of period for counting provisional ballots). (10 ILCS 5/19-8(c))

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Last day for the Board to canvass and proclaim the results of the election and to transmit a tabulated statement of returns to the County Clerk and State Board of Elections (within seven days from completion of the validation and counting of provisional ballots). (10 ILCS 5/18A-15(a), 5/22-1 et seq.)

Last day for Board of Election Commissioners to transmit to the State Board of Elections the following information: (1) number, by precinct, of mail ballots requested, provided and counted; (2) number of rejected mail ballots; (3) number of voters seeking review of rejected ballots; and (4) number of mail ballots counted following review (on or before 21st day after the election). (10 ILCS 5/19-20, 5/20-20)

Tuesday, December 1, 2026

Term of office for the following offices commences:

- County Clerk (on the first day in the month of December following his election on which the office of the county clerk is required, by statute or by action of the county board, to be open) (55 ILCS 5/3-2001)
- County Sheriff (on the first day in the month of December following his or her election on which the office of the sheriff is required, by statute or by action of the county board, to be open) (55 ILCS 5/3-6002)
- County Treasurer (on the first day in the month of December following his election on which the office of the county treasurer is required, by statute or by action of the county board, to be open) (55 ILCS 5/3-10001)

Friday, December 4, 2026

Last day for the State Board of Elections to canvass the returns and proclaim the results of the election (within 31 days of the election or sooner if all returns are received). (10 ILCS 5/1A-19(c), 5/18A-15(a), 5/22-7)

Monday, December 7, 2026

Term of office for the following offices commences:¹⁴

- Supreme, Appellate, Circuit Judges (first Monday in December following the election) (Ill. Const. Art. VI, Sec. 12(d); 10 ILCS 5/1A-19(c), 5/2A-9(b), 5/7A-1)
- Cook County Commissioners (on the first Monday of the month following the month of their election) (55 ILCS 5/2-6004)

¹⁴ Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if the proclamation of election results for an elected office has not been issued by the date of the commencement of the term of that elected office because of the extension of canvassing periods under the amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, then the term of the elected office shall commence on a date 14 days after the proclamation of election results is issued for that elected office. (10 ILCS 5/1A-19(a))

If subsection (a) of Section 1A-19 of the Code applies to the commencement date of an elected official's term, and if the elected official is authorized or required by law to perform an official act by a date occurring before the commencement of his or her term of office, including but not limited to holding an organization meeting of the public body to which the public official is elected, then notwithstanding any law to the contrary the date by which the act shall be performed shall be a date 14 days after the date otherwise established by law. (10 ILCS 5/1A-19(b))

Notwithstanding any other provision of Section 1A-19 or of the Code to the contrary, the terms of office for Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Judges commence on the first Monday in December following their election or retention. Judicial election results must be proclaimed before that date. (10 ILCS 5/1A-19(c))

- Cook County Assessor (first Monday in December) (35 ILCS 200/3-50)
- Cook County Board of Review Member (first Monday in December following their election) (35 ILCS 200/5-5(c))

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Term of office for the following offices commences:

- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioners (on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the month following the month of their election) (70 ILCS 2605/3)

Sunday, January 3, 2027

Term of office for United States Senator and Representatives in Congress elected at the November 3, 2026, General Election commences (at noon on the 3rd day of January after their election). (U.S. Const., Amendment XX, §2)

Monday, January 4, 2027

Last day for Board of Election Commissioners to indicate by italics, asterisk, or other means, on the list of registered voters in each precinct, each registrant who voted at the November 3, 2026, General Election and to provide a copy of such list to the chair of the county central committee of each established political party or to the chair's authorized representative (within 60 days after the general election – actual date is Saturday, January 2, 2027 – moved to the next business day per 10 ILCS 5/1-6). (10 ILCS 5/6-60)

Wednesday, January 13, 2027

Illinois General Assembly shall convene and organize itself (second Wednesday of January). (Ill. Const., Art IV, §§5-6)

Friday, January 15, 2027

Term of office commences for President of the Chicago Board of Education. (105 ILCS 5/34-3(b-10), P.A. 103-0584, *eff.* 3/18/2024.)

Term of office commences for Member of the Chicago Board of Education. (105 ILCS 5/34-3(b-15), P.A. 103-0584, *eff.* 3/18/2024.)

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