

2018 Election Calendar

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

Date	Event	Statutes
January 1, 2018	Absentee precincts established for elections in 2018	7-15-330
January 13	First day 17 year-olds who turn 18 on or before November 6, 2018, may register to vote	7-5-180
March 10	Latest possible date for political parties to publish first notice of county conventions (must be published three weeks prior to convention).	7-9-70
March 16 12:00 noon	Filing opens for candidates seeking political party nominations for: • Governor • Secretary of State • State Treasurer • Attorney General • Comptroller General • State Superintendent of Education • Commissioner of Agriculture • U.S. House of Representatives • State House of Representatives • Multi-county district offices • Solicitor (circuits 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15) • Various countywide and less than countywide offices Candidates file Statement of Intention of Candidacy/Party Pledge (SICPP) and any filing fees with appropriate election office (SEC or county board). Note on Lieutenant Governor: The S.C. Constitution was amended in 2014 to require Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run on a joint ticket in the General Election. As of the date this calendar was produced, the General Assembly had not yet amended state law to provide rules for how Lieutenant Governor candidates will file for office. This calendar will be updated to reflect those rules once established. Rules will likely not be established until February 2018. Note on Adjutant General: The S.C. Constitution was amended in 2015 to provide for the appointment of the Adjutant General by the Governor with advice and consent of the State Senate. Adjutant General is no longer an elected office.	7-11-15 7-11-210 7-11-220 S.C. Constitution, Article IV
March 17	Latest possible date for political parties to publish second notice of county conventions (must be published two weeks prior to convention).	7-9-70
March 30 12:00 noon	Candidate filing closes	7-11-15
March 31	Deadline for political parties to hold county conventions	7-9-70
April 2 12:00 noon	Deadline for SEC and county boards to provide SICPP forms, filing fee receipts and filing fee checks to the appropriate state or county party executive committee.	7-11-15

April 5 12:00 noon	Deadline for political parties holding primaries to certify candidates to appropriate election office (SEC or county board).	7-13-40
April 28	Deadline to mail Primary absentee ballots to military and overseas citizens	7-15-650 7-15-680
April 28	Deadline for political parties to submit list of prospective poll managers for Primaries to county boards	7-13-72
May 5	Latest possible date for parties to publicly announce date of state convention (must be publicly announced at least 10 day prior to state convention)	7-9-100
May 11 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in person for Primaries (unless county board holds weekend hours)	7-5-150
May 13 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote online or by fax or email for Primaries	7-5-155 7-5-185
May 14	Deadline to register to vote by mail for Primaries (must be postmarked by this date)	7-5-155
May 14	County boards must have in-office absentee voting machines available for Primaries	7-13-320(F)
May 15	Deadline for political parties to hold state conventions	7-9-100
June 8 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to apply for absentee by mail ballot for Primaries. Voters should apply at least one week prior to election day to allow adequate mail time. Applying late puts voters at risk of being unable to return ballots by the deadline of 7:00 p.m. on election day.	7-15-330
June 9	Last Saturday prior to Primaries. County boards must hold absentee voting hours from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	
June 11 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote absentee in person for Primaries.	7-15-330
June 12	Statewide Primaries. Polls open 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	7-13-40 7-13-60
June 14 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to: • Hold provisional ballot hearing • Canvass votes • Certify results • Order any necessary runoffs and recounts for county-level offices	7-17-510 7-17-610 7-17-280
June 15 3:00 p.m.	State Board of Canvassers meets to: • Canvass votes • Certify results • Order any necessary runoffs and recounts for state-level offices	7-17-510 7-17-610 7-17-280
June 15 After SEC cert.	County boards may begin transmitting absentee by mail ballots for Runoff	7-15-370
June 18 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protest of Primary with appropriate county or state party executive committee	7-17-520 7-17-560
June 21	Protest hearings held by appropriate party executive committee	7-17-530 7-17-570
June 22 3:00 p.m.	Deadline for notice of appeal to the state party executive committee from decisions by county party executive committee	7-17-540
June 23 12:00 noon	Deadline for state party executive committee to hear appeals	7-17-550

June 26	Primary Runoffs. Polls open 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	7-13-40
June 28 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to: • Hold provisional ballot hearing • Canvass votes • Certify results • Order any necessary recounts for county-level offices	7-17-510 7-17-280
June 29 3:00 p.m.	State Board of Canvassers meets to: • Canvass votes • Certify results • Order any necessary recounts for state-level offices	7-17-510 7-17-280
July 2 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protest of Runoff with appropriate county or state party executive committee	7-17-520 7-17-560
July 5	Protest hearings held by appropriate party executive committee	7-17-530 7-17-570
July 6 3:00 p.m.	Deadline for notice of appeal to the state party executive committee from decisions by county party executive committee	7-17-540
July 7 12:00 noon	Deadline for state party executive committee to hear appeals	7-17-550
July 16 12:00 noon	Deadline to submit petition to appropriate election official for name to be placed on General Election ballot	7-13-351
August 15 12:00 noon	a) Deadline to check petitions and certify petition candidates b) Deadline to certify referendum questions to the county election board to be placed on General Election ballot c) Deadline for political parties to certify candidates to appropriate election office d) Deadline for nonpartisan candidates to file and be certified for General Election ballot (actual filing deadlines for some non-partisan offices could differ according to local legislation)	7-13-350 7-13-351 7-13-352 7-13-355
September 22	Deadline to mail absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act)	7-15-650 7-15-680
October 5 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote in person for General Election (unless county board holds weekend hours)	7-5-150
October 7 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote online or by fax or email for General Election	7-5-155 7-5-185
October 8	Deadline to register to vote by mail for General Election (must be postmarked by this date)	7-5-155
November 2 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to apply for absentee by mail ballot for General Election. Voters should apply at least one week prior to election day to allow adequate mail time. Applying late puts voters at risk of being unable to return ballots by the deadline of 7:00 p.m. on election day.	7-15-330
November 3	Last Saturday prior to General Election. County boards must hold absentee voting hours from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	
November 5 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote absentee in person for General Election.	7-15-330
November 6	General Election Day. Polls open 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.	7-13-10 7-13-60

November 9 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to: • Hold provisional ballot hearing • Canvass votes • Certify results • Order any necessary recounts for county-level offices	7-17-10 7-17-280
November 14 10:00 a.m.	State Board of Canvassers meets to: • Canvass votes • Certify results • Order any necessary recounts for state-level offices	7-17-220 7-17-280
November 14 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protests of county-level offices with county boards	7-17-30
November 19	Protest hearings held by county boards for countywide or less than countywide elections	7-17-50
November 19 12:00 noon	Deadline to file protests of federal, state or multi-county offices with the State Board of Canvassers.	7-17-260
November 26 12:00 noon	a) Deadline to file appeal of county board decision to State Board of Canvassers. b) Deadline for county board to submit transcript of protest hearing to the State Board of Canvassers.	7-17-60 7-17-50
December 10 12:00 noon	Latest possible date for State Board to hear appeals. Appeals must be heard not later than noon, Monday following filing of appeal.	7-17-70
December 14 12:00 noon	Latest possible date for State Board to hear a protest of a federal, state or multi-county offices. Protests must be heard not earlier than the fifth nor later than the 25th day following filing of protest.	7-17-270