November 3, 2026 General Election
Calendar of Important Dates and Deadlines

Candidates for:
Delegate to the United States House of Representatives
Mayor of the District of Columbia
Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia
At-large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia
Ward Member of the Council of the District of Columbia (Wards 1, 3, 5 & 6)
Attorney General
United States Senator
United States Representative
Members of the State Board of Education (Wards 1, 3, 5 & 6)
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner

Friday, June 12, 2026

Board determines signature requirements and makes nominating petitions available for the offices indicated below. **(The signature requirements for all partisan offices listed below, i.e., all offices other than the State Board of Education, apply only to independent and minor party candidates.)** In addition, Board posts in its offices the exact count of qualified registered electors in the District by party, ward, and precinct, as well as the entire list of registered qualified electors upon which such count was based. These documents are posted in the Board's offices until the end of the petition challenge period [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(i)(3)-(4) (144 days before the election)].

Delegate to the United States House of Representatives – Signatures of 3,000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the total number of duly registered electors in the District of Columbia [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.3];

Mayor of the District of Columbia – Signatures of 3,000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the total number of duly registered electors in the District of Columbia [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.3];

Chairman of the Council – Signatures of 3,000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the total number of duly registered electors in the District of Columbia [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.3];

At-large Member of the Council – Signatures of 3,000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the total number of duly registered electors in the District of Columbia [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.3];

Ward Member of the Council - Signatures of 500 duly registered electors who

reside in the ward from which the candidate seeks election [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.4];

Attorney General for the District of Columbia – Signatures of 3,000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the total number of duly registered electors in the District of Columbia [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.3];

U.S. Senator - Signatures of 3,000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the total number of duly registered electors in the District of Columbia [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-123(d)(2) and § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.3];

U.S. Representative - Signatures of 3,000 or 1.5% (whichever is less) of the total number of duly registered electors in the District of Columbia [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-123(d)(2) and § 1-1001.08(j)(1); 3 DCMR § 1603.3]; and

Ward Member of the State Board of Education – Signatures of 200 duly registered electors who reside in the ward from which the candidate seeks election [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(n); 3 DCMR § 1603.6].

Friday, June 19, 2026

Office Closed (Observation of Juneteenth).

Friday, July 3, 2026

Office Closed (Observation of Independence Day).

Monday, July 6, 2026

Board makes petitions available for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner candidates. Signature requirement is 25 registered qualified electors in the single-member district from which the candidate seeks election [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-309.05(b)(1)(B), (b)(2); 3 DCMR § 1603.7 (no later than 120 days before the election)].

Last day to submit a petition for an initiative measure to appear on the ballot [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.16(o)(1), (p)(1); 3 DCMR §§ 1009.1, 1010.1 (Board must certify within 30 days after receipt of the petition whether it meets signature requirements (signed by at least 5% of voters citywide and in at least five wards). Election must be scheduled at least 90 days after Board certifies that the petition meets signature requirements)].

Monday, July 13, 2026

Candidates for State Board of Education

First day nominating petitions for candidates may be filed [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(n) (no earlier than 115 days before the election)].

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 (5:00 p.m.)

Last day to file nominating petitions, petition supplements, Declarations of Candidacy,

and any other affidavits, forms, or declarations required for the particular office sought. [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-123(d)(2), 1-309.05(b)(2)(A), 1-1001.08(d), (f), (j)(1), (n), and (q); 3 DCMR §§ 601.5 and 1605.2 (90 days before the election)].

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Nominating petitions are posted for a 10-day challenge period that ends on **Monday, August 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(o)(1); 3 DCMR §§ 1606.1 (third day after nominating petition filing deadline)].

Sunday, August 9, 2026 – Friday, August 28, 2026

Period during which signers of nominating petitions may file change of address forms with the Board [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.08(o)(3)(B), 1-1021.01; 3 DCMR § 1607.1(b) (changes of address must be filed by no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 10th day after the day the candidate receives notice of the challenge)].

Monday, August 10, 2026

Last day for Executive Director to provide preliminary determination of candidates' eligibility [3 DCMR § 601.6 (third business day after the deadline for filing a candidate nominating petition)].

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Last day to submit petition for a referendum measure to appear on the ballot [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.16(o)(1), (p)(1); 3 DCMR §§ 1009.1, 1010.2 (Board must certify within 30 days after receipt of petition whether measure meets signature requirement. If a previously scheduled primary, general, or special election will occur between 54 and 114 days of Board's certification that measure meets signature requirement, Board may present the referendum measure at that election)].

Last day to submit petition for a recall measure to appear on the ballot [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.17(k)(1), (l) and 1-1021.01; 3 DCMR §§ 1109.1, 1110.1) (Board must certify within 30 days after receipt of petition whether measure meets signature requirement. If a previously scheduled primary, general, or special election will occur between 54 and 114 days of Board's certification that measure meets signature requirement, Board may present the recall measure at that election)].

Monday, August 17, 2026 (5:00 p.m.)

Close of 10-day nominating petition challenge period [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(o)(1); 3 DCMR § 1606.1].

Friday, September 4, 2026

Deadline for Board to provide notice to persons eligible to vote absentee in federal elections pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) of all contests and questions appearing on the ballot and any specific Federal Write-in Ballot (FWAB) instructions. Notice shall be provided on the Board's website, www.dcboe.org [D.C. Official Code § 1-1061.16(a) (60 days before the election)].

[TENTATIVE] Last day for Board to give notice on its website of the pre-election logic and accuracy ("L & A") testing of the voting equipment to be used in the election [assumes testing begins Monday, September 14, 2026] [3 DCMR § 801.3 (at least seven days before the L & A testing period begins)].

Monday, September 7, 2026

Office Closed (Observation of Labor Day).

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Last day for Board to determine the validity of challenges to nominating petitions [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.08(o)(2), 1-1021.01; 3 DCMR § 1606.5) (within 20 days after the challenge to the nominating petition is filed)].

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Deadline for major parties to submit the names of the individuals they have nominated to fill candidate position vacancies and be placed on the general election ballot as the parties' candidates for District partisan offices. The named individuals must also file a completed Declaration of Candidacy by this deadline [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.10(b)(1), (d)(1); 3 DCMR §§ 1600.6(b) (54 days before the election)].

Last day for candidates to submit affidavits withdrawing their nominations so that their names are not printed on the official election ballot [3 DCMR § 603.5 (54 days before the election)]. (The names of candidates who submit affidavits of withdrawal after this deadline may still appear on the ballot, but the Board shall provide notice of any withdrawals in Vote Centers.)

Friday, September 11, 2026

Last day for either challenger or nominee to appeal to D.C. Court of Appeals for review of the Board's determination regarding the validity of nominating petition challenge [D.C. Official Code § 1001.08(o)(2) (within three days after Board determines validity of challenge)].

[TENTATIVE] Board to conduct public lottery to determine ballot positions [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(p); 3 DCMR § 1204.1].

Monday, September 14, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Board to begin conducting pre-election L & A testing of the voting equipment to be used in the election (assumes notice given on or before Monday, September 7, 2026) [3 DCMR § 801.2].

Friday, September 18, 2026

Deadline for Board to transmit validly requested ballots to persons eligible to vote pursuant to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) where requests were received at least 45 days before the election [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-

1061.09(a), 1-1021.01 (no later than 45 days before the election)].

Deadline for Board to publish, if necessary, updated election notice for UOCAVA voters. Notice originally posted on Board's website on **Friday, September 4, 2026** [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1061.16(c), 1-1021.01 (no later than 45 days before the election)].

Monday, September 21, 2026

Last day for registered qualified electors to submit application to correct the voter registration list or challenge the right to vote of a person named on the list [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.07(e)(5)(A), 1-1021.01; 3 DCMR § 521.2 (no later than 45 days before the election)].

Deadline for Board to post alphabetical lists of registered qualified electors current as of 60 days preceding the election **(Friday, September 4, 2026)** in public libraries as follows: one citywide listing in main public library, and one ward listing in every branch library located within the respective wards [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.07(h)(1), 1-1021.01 (no later than 45 days before the election)].

Monday, September 28, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Board begins mailing ballots to registered voters.

Friday, October 2, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Board shall publicly announce the date and method by which it intends to randomly select precincts, voter-verifiable records tabulated centrally, and contests for the manual audit, and the date on which the manual audit will begin [D.C. Official Code § 1001.09a(d), (e) (announce no later than three days after tabulation complete)].

Friday, October 9, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Board publicly conducts and announces the results of the random selection of precincts, voter-verifiable records tabulated centrally, and contests for the manual audit [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09a (d); 3 DCMR § 812.8.].

Friday, October 9, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. – Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at 8:00 p.m.

[TENTATIVE] Period during which mail ballot drop boxes are available for use.

Monday, October 12, 2026

Office Closed (Observation of Indigenous Peoples' Day).

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Deadline for registered qualified electors to change party affiliation status [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.07(g)(4); 3 DCMR § 504.5 (no later than 21 days before the election; requests for change of party affiliation status received after the 21st day before an election shall be held and processed after the election.)].

Deadline for receipt of all voter registration applications (including federal postcard applications (FPCAs), federal write in absentee ballots (FWABs)) and updates except for those submitted in person at the Board or at voter registration agencies [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.07(g)(1)-(3); 3 DCMR § 504.3 (21 days before the election)].

First day the Board can publish a sample copy of the official ballot in at least one newspaper of general circulation [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(a)(6); 3 DCMR § 1201.2 (not more than 21 days before the election)].

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Deadline to petition for poll watcher and election observer credentials at Vote Centers and counting places; the Board may accept additional petitions after this date based upon available space [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09(c); 3 DCMR § 706.3 (not less than 14 days before the election)].

Monday, October 19, 2026

Deadline for receipt of ballot requests from non-UOCAVA voters [3 DCMR § 720.5 (no later than 15 days before the election)].

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Deadline for Board to post a revised citywide list of registered qualified electors in the main public library, and a revised ward list of registered voters in every branch library located within the respective wards [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.07(h)(2) (list must be posted for a period of no less than 14 days before the election)].

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Deadline for Board to make a determination on timely filed petitions for poll watchers and election observers credentials [D.C. Official Code § 1-1021.01; 3 DCMR § 706.8 (not less than 10 days before the election)]. If access is denied, notice must issue within 24 hours of denial [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09(c-1)].

Monday, October 26, 2026 – Sunday, November 1, 2026

Period during which qualified electors may register and cast ballots at Early Vote Centers. Early Vote Centers are open every day during this period between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.09(b-1)(1)-(2); 3 DCMR §§ 700.4, 702.2 (for no more than 12 days before the election)].

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – Thursday, October 29, 2026

Period during which registered qualified electors may challenge the qualifications of prospective non-UOCAVA voters who submitted written requests for ballots [3 DCMR §§ 721.3, 721.4 (for three days beginning seven days before the election)].

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Deadline for UOCAVA voters to request a ballot. [3 DCMR § 720.5 (no later than three

days before the election)].

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 – GENERAL ELECTION DAY

On Election Day, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., qualified electors may register to vote and cast full ballots in person at Vote Centers. All voters who are in line at 8:00 p.m. may cast a ballot [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-123(d)(2), 1-1001.10(a)(2), (a)(3)(A)-(B), (a)(5), and 1-309.06(a) (1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November of each even-numbered calendar year)].

Deadline (8:00 p.m.) to deposit ballots at Vote Centers, drop boxes or the Board's office and for the receipt of all electronically transmitted ballots [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.05(a)(10A)].

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Deadline (5:00 p.m.) for write-in candidate to file an Affirmation of Write-In Candidacy or Declaration of Candidacy with the Board to be eligible for nomination to office [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(r)(3); 3 DCMR § 602.2 (no later than seven days after the election)].

Last day for voters who cast special ballots to present verification of eligibility to vote in the election [3 DCMR § 700.6 (no later than the seventh day after the election)].

Date Board provides toll-free telephone service (1-866-DCVOTES (1-866-328-6837)) and website service, www.dcboe.org, where any voter who cast a challenged or special ballot can learn the Board's preliminary decision whether to count or reject their ballot and the reason for the decision [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09(e)(2)].

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Office Closed (Observation of Veterans Day).

Thursday, November 12, 2026 – Friday, November 13, 2026

Board holds special or challenged ballot hearings [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.09(e)(3)-(4), 1-1021.01; 3 DCMR § 712.4 (no earlier than eight days and no later than 10 days after the election)].

Board makes final determination on validity of special and challenged ballots [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.09(e)(3)-(4); 3 DCMR § 712.7 (the day after the hearing)].

Friday, November 13, 2026 – Monday, November 16, 2026

Last day to appeal Board's decision on the validity of special ballots [D.C. Official Code §§ 1-1001.09(e)(3)-(4); 3 DCMR § 712.8 (the next business day after the date of the Board's decision)].

Friday, November 13, 2026

Deadline for receipt of all mailed ballots (must be postmarked on or before Election Day)

[D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(a)(10A)].

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Deadline to cure mail ballots.

Friday, November 20, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Final count of mail ballots and accepted special and challenged ballots.

Saturday, November 21, 2026 - Wednesday, November 25, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Board conducts public manual audit of the voter-verifiable records tabulated [D.C. Official Code § 1001.09a(b), (c); 3 DCMR § 812.2].

Thursday, November 26, 2026

Office Closed (Observation of Thanksgiving Day).

Monday, November 30, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Board to publish on its website and make available for public inspection a report of results of the manual audit [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.09a(j) (prior to certification of election results)].

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Certification of election results [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(a)(11); 3 DCMR § 813.1].

On date of certification, Board determines which parties qualify as eligible to hold primary elections in 2028 in the District of Columbia based on outcome of contests for the offices of, Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, Chairman of the Council, Member of the Council, Mayor, and Attorney General [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08(h)(2)].

Thursday, December 3, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Deadline by which a person who holds the office of Delegate, Member of the Council, Mayor, Attorney General, or member of the State Board of Education, and who is elected to any other of these offices in the general election, must either: 1) resign from the office he or she holds (effective no later than noon on January 1, 2027 (24 hours before the date upon which that person would assume the office to which he or she has been elected)); or 2) decline to accept the office for which he or she was a candidate [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.15(b) (within 24 hours after certification of election results)].

Wednesday, December 9, 2026

[TENTATIVE] Last day for a voter in the election to file a petition for review of the results of the election in the D.C. Court of Appeals [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.11(b)(1) (within seven days after the certification)].

[TENTATIVE] Last day for a candidate in the election to request a recount of the certified votes cast in one or more voting precincts [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.11(a)(1) (within seven days after the certification)].

Monday, February 1, 2027

Deadline for Board to publish after-action report on the election on website [D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(k); 3 DCMR § 817.1 (90 days following the election)].