



2016 Ohio Elections Calendar



Ohio Secretary of State
Jon Husted

2015

Reference

Dec. 6	Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of March 15, 2016 presidential primary election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3511.16
Dec. 16	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of the General Assembly must be filed with Secretary of State (90 days before presidential primary election)	OH Const. XVI. §1
	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Declarations of candidacy for presidential delegates and alternates to a party's national nominating committee must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.121
	Local questions and issues for March 15, 2016 presidential primary election, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
	Applications for absentee ballots for March 15, 2016 presidential primary election may be accepted (90 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02
Dec. 28	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (78 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14

2016

Reference

Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for all 2016 elections may be accepted (first day of the year; presidential primary election applications for absentee ballots accepted starting Dec. 16, 2015)	R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02
Jan. 3	Nov. 3, 2015 general election ballots may be discarded, except for federal office, unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after general election)	R.C. 3505.31, 52 USC 20701
Jan. 4 *	Protests against partisan candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
	Write-in candidates for March 15 presidential primary election must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.041
Jan. 5	Form of official ballots for March 15 presidential primary election must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (70 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
	Boards of elections of most populous county in a multi-county district must certify names of all candidates to other boards of elections (70 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.05
Jan. 8	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.041
Jan. 15	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of precinct election officials (within 60 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3501.27
	Election Administration Plans for March 15 presidential primary election must be submitted to Secretary of State's Office (60 days before presidential primary election)	
Jan. 30	UOCAVA absentee ballots for March 15 presidential primary election must be ready (45 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3509.01, 3511.04
	Boards of elections must update and publish notices of March 15 presidential primary election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 45 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3511.16
Feb. 2	Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3503.12
Feb. 4	Presidential candidates may withdraw from March 15 presidential primary election by 4 p.m. (40 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.30
Feb. 16*	Deadline for voter registration for March 15 presidential primary election (30 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3503.19
Feb. 17	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for March 15 presidential primary election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.01
Feb. 24	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (20 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3503.24
	Deadline for an elector to challenge qualification of another elector (20 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3505.19
	Committees advocating or opposing issues on March 15 presidential primary election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3505.21
March 1	Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists (14 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3503.23
March 4	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and recognized issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3505.21
March 5	Boards of elections must give public notice of March 15 presidential primary election (10 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3501.03
March 7*	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on March 15 presidential primary ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.30
March 10	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on March 15 presidential primary ballot in only one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.30
March 12	Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for March 15 presidential primary election must be received by boards of elections by noon (3 days before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02
March 14	Nominating petitions of independent candidates, other than joint candidates for president and vice president, for offices for which a primary election may be held must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.257
	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3505.21
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's Office (no later than day before presidential primary election)	R.C. 3501.29
March 15	Primary Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	R.C. 3501.01, .32
	If voter, or voter's minor child is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	R.C. 3509.08
	Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
March 25	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than March 14 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3509.05
	UOCAVA absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3511.11
March 26	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of March 15 presidential primary election ballots (11 days after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.22
March 30	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of March 15 presidential primary election ballots no later than this date (15 days after presidential primary election).....	R.C. 3513.22
April 5	Boards of elections must complete canvass of March 15 presidential primary election ballots no later than this date (21 days after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.22
April 24	Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of Aug. 2 special election by this date, and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before special election)	R.C. 3511.16
April 29	Board of elections of most populous county of a multi-county district must transmit petitions of independent candidates to other boards of elections (no later than the end of the 6th week after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.262
May 4	Local questions and issues for Aug. 2 special election must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before special election)	R.C. 3501.01, .02
May 15	March 15 presidential primary election ballots may be discarded, except for federal office, unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3505.31, 52 USC 20701
May 27	Boards of elections must certify independent candidate petitions by this date (no later than the end of the 10th week after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.262
June 10	Protests against independent candidates nominated by petition must be filed by 4 p.m. (end of the 12th week after presidential primary election)	R.C. 3513.262
June 16	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listing to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before Aug. 10 deadline for filing petitions for Nov. 8 general election)	R.C. 4301.33, 4305.14
June 18	UOCAVA absentee ballots for Aug. 2 special election must be ready (45 days before special election)	R.C. 3511.04
	Boards of elections must update and publish notices of Aug. 2 special election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 45 days before special election)	R.C. 3511.16
June 21	Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before special election)	R.C. 3503.12
July 5*	Deadline for voter registration for Aug. 2 special election (30 days before special election)	R.C. 3503.19
July 5	Deadline for prospective minor political parties to file party formation petitions with the Secretary of State (126 days before general election)	R.C. 3517.012
July 6	Constitutional amendments or statutes proposed by initiative petitions to be submitted directly to the voters must be filed with Secretary of State (125 days before general election)	OH Const. II, §§1a-1b
	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for Aug. 2 special election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.01
July 11	Election Administration Plans for Nov. 8 general election must be submitted to Secretary of State's Office (120 days before general election)	
July 13	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (20 days before special election)	R.C. 3503.24
	Deadline for an elector to challenge qualification of another elector (20 days before special election)	R.C. 3505.19
	Committees advocating or opposing issues on Aug. 2 special election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before special election)	R.C. 3505.21
July 19	Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists for special election (14 days before special election)	R.C. 3503.23
July 21	Nominating petitions of minor political party candidates (for minor party that submitted party formation petition) must be filed (110 days before general election)	R.C. 3517.012
July 22	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before special election)	R.C. 3505.21
July 23	Boards of elections must give public notice of Aug. 2 special election (10 days before special election)	R.C. 3501.03
July 30	Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for Aug. 2 special election must be received by noon (3 days before special election)	R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02
July 31	Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of Nov. 8 general election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before general election)	R.C. 3511.16
Aug. 1	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before special election)	R.C. 3505.21
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's Office (no later than day before special election)	R.C. 3501.29
Aug. 2	Special Election may be held. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	R.C. 3501.01, .32
	If voter, or voter's minor child is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	R.C. 3509.08
	Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11

*Note: In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the Secretary of State and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended pursuant to R.C. 1.14 to the next succeeding day when the appropriate office is open for regular business hours. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline. SOS 0503 (01/05/2016)

2016

Reference

Aug. 5	Boards of elections must notify the appropriate minor political party of the validity and sufficiency of any nominating petitions filed by that minor political party's candidates (for minor party that submitted party formation petition) (95 days before general election)	R.C. 3517.012
Aug. 10	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly must be filed with Secretary of State (90 days before general election)	OH Const. XVI, §1
	Major political parties must certify the names of their joint candidates for president and vice president to the Secretary of State by this date (90 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.10
	Deadline for minor political parties to certify candidates (and list of electors) for the offices of president and vice president to Secretary of State (90 days prior to the day of general election)	R.C. 3505.10
	Nominating petitions of independent joint candidates for president and vice president must be filed with the Secretary of State by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.257
	Nominating petitions of candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election)	R.C. 1907.13, 3513.259, .263
	Local questions and issues for Nov. 8 general election, including local option petitions, must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before general election)	R.C. 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 12	Absentee ballots for Aug. 2 special election returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than Aug. 1 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after special election)	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
	UOCAVA absentee ballots for Aug. 2 special election must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after special election)	R.C. 3511.11
Aug. 13	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of Aug. 2 special election ballots (11 days after special election)	R.C. 3505.32
Aug. 15*	Political party or independent candidate nominating committees must certify name of person to fill vacancy on Nov. 8 general election ballot caused by withdrawal or disqualification of candidate by 4 p.m. (86 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
Aug. 17	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of Aug. 2 special election ballots no later than this date (15 days after special election)	R.C. 3505.32
Aug. 22	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races (78 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.263
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of nominating petition papers of independent joint candidates for president and vice president (78 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.263
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before general election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 23	Boards of elections must complete canvass of Aug. 2 special election ballots no later than this date (21 days after special election)	R.C. 3505.32
Aug. 25	Deadline for minor political parties (that submitted party formation petition) to certify slate of candidates to Secretary of State (75 days before general election)	R.C. 3517.012
Aug. 26	Protests against candidates for nonpartisan office must be filed by this date (74 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.263
	Protests against independent joint candidates for president and vice president must be filed by this date (74 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.263
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before general election)	R.C. 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 29*	Write-in candidates must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.041
Aug. 30	Form of official ballots for Nov. 8 general election must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (70 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.01
	Board of elections of most populous county of a multi-county district must certify names of all candidates to other boards of elections (70 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.01
Sep. 2	Protests against write-in candidates for general election must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.041
Sep. 9	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of precinct election officials (within 60 days before general election)	R.C. 3501.27
Sep. 24	UOCAVA absentee ballots for Nov. 8 general election must be ready (45 days before general election)	R.C. 3511.04
	Boards of elections must update and publish notices of Nov. 8 general election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 45 days before general election)	R.C. 3511.16
Sep. 27	Boards of elections must advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (6 weeks before general election)	R.C. 3503.12
Oct. 2	Aug. 2 special election ballots may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after special election)	R.C. 3505.31
Oct. 11*	Deadline for voter registration for Nov. 8 general election (30 days before general election)	R.C. 3503.19
Oct. 12	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for Nov. 8 general election must be ready (first day after close of voter registration)	R.C. 3509.01
Oct. 19	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct voter registration lists (20 days before general election)	R.C. 3503.24
	Deadline for an elector to challenge qualification of another elector (20 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.19
	Committees advocating or opposing issues on Nov. 8 general election ballot must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.21
Oct. 25	Boards of elections must prepare precinct voter registration lists for general election (14 days before general election)	R.C. 3503.23
Oct. 28	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before general election)	R.C. 3505.21
Oct. 29	Boards of elections must give public notice of Nov. 8 general election (10 days before general election)	R.C. 3501.03
Oct. 31*	Certificate to fill vacancy on Nov. 8 general election ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
Nov. 3	Certificate to fill vacancy on Nov. 8 general election ballot caused by death of independent or nonpartisan candidate prior to Oct. 29 (10 days before general election) must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
	Certificate to fill vacancy on Nov. 8 general election ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in only one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (5 days before general election)	R.C. 3513.31
Nov. 5	Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for Nov. 8 general election must be received by boards of elections by noon (3 days before general election)	R.C. 3509.03, .08, 3511.02
Nov. 7	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before general election)	R.C. 3505.21
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms of handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's Office (no later than day before general election)	R.C. 3501.29
Nov. 8	General Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	R.C. 3501.01, .32
	If voter, or voter's minor child is hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency, voter may apply for an absentee ballot until 3 p.m.	R.C. 3509.08
	Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
Nov. 18	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than Nov. 7 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election)	R.C. 3509.05, 3511.11
	UOCAVA absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election).....	R.C. 3511.11
Nov. 19	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of Nov. 8 general election ballots (11 days after general election)	R.C. 3505.32
Nov. 23	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of Nov. 8 general election ballots no later than this date (15 days after general election)	R.C. 3505.32
Nov. 29	Boards of elections must complete canvass of Nov. 8 general election ballots no later than this date (21 days after general election).....	R.C. 3505.32
Dec. 8	Last day for certain local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before Feb. 1, 2017 petition filing deadline for May 2, 2017 primary election)	R.C. 4301.33, 4305.14

2017

Reference

Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for all elections held in 2017 may be accepted (first day of the year; special election applications for absentee ballots accepted starting Nov. 9, 2016)	R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02
Jan.3*	Last day for local option petitioners contesting community facility to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (30 days before Feb. 1 petition filing deadline for May 2 primary/special election)	R.C. 4301.334
Jan. 8	November 8, 2016 general election ballots, except for federal office, may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after general election)	R.C. 3505.31, 52 USC 20701
Jan. 22	Boards of elections must prepare and publish notices of the May 2 primary/special election and provide the notices to federal write-in absentee voters upon request (no later than 100 days before primary/special election)	R.C. 3511.16

Recounts and Election Contests

Application for a recount must be filed not later than 5 days after official results are declared	R.C. 3515.02
A petition contesting an election must be filed in the appropriate court within 15 days after the official results are declared or, if a recount of the election is conducted, within 10 days after the official results of a recount are declared	R.C. 3515.09

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