



South Dakota Primary and General Election Calendar 2020

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Disclaimer: This election calendar is only a general guide and may not be all-inclusive of all election dates and deadlines in the state.

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2020 South Dakota Election Calendar

November 4, 2019	Deadline for filing petitions to place initiated measures and initiated constitutional amendments on the ballot. (Constitution, Art. XXIII, Sec. 1, SDCL 2-1-1.1, 2-1-1.2) (One year prior to the General Election)
January 1, 2020	Earliest day for June primary or independent candidates to circulate nominating petitions, and to file nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-6-4, 12-6-4.1, SDCL 12-7-1, 12-7-1.1)
January 15 and January 30	Publish the notices of offices to be filled by nomination or by declaration and the deadline for filing in all official newspapers in the appropriate district, at least once each week for two consecutive weeks, between the fifteenth and thirtieth day of January in an even-numbered year. (ARSD 5:02:04:17, SDCL 12-12-1) See NOTE 1 on page 9.
January 31	Last day for statewide candidate committees, statewide ballot question committees, statewide political parties and statewide political action committees to file a year-end report of receipts and expenditures for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. (SDCL 12-27-21.1 & 12-27-22)
March 31	<p>Last day to file primary election nominating petitions. Registered mail postmarked by the deadline accepted. (SDCL 12-6-4)</p> <p>Last day nominees for party precinct committeeman and committeewoman may file statement of candidacy with the county auditor. (ARSD 05:02:08:45, SDCL 12-5-4)</p> <p>Last day for sheriff candidates who filed a primary nominating petition to file a certificate of qualification with the County Auditor. (SDCL 23-3-43.1)</p> <p>Last day for water development district candidates to file petitions. (SDCL 46A-3B-4)</p> <p>Last day for Heartland Consumer Power District candidates to file petitions (SDCL 49-36-1.3)</p>
March 31	Last day for new political parties forming that <u>intend to have a candidate</u> for US Senate, US House, Governor or Legislature, <u>in the Primary Election</u> , to file new party formation petitions with the Secretary of State by 5 pm (CT). (SDCL 12-5-1)
April 2	<p>Last day for candidates to file for withdrawal from the primary election - (ARSD 5:02:07:05, SDCL 12-6-8.1) (Two days after filing deadline) (Registered mail post marked by April 2 is timely filed)</p> <p>Cities and Schools certify candidate names and ballot language if combining with County for the Primary Election. (SDCL 13-7-10.3, 9-13-37)</p>
April 6 (Tentative)	Drawing for candidate position on the ballot for the primary election will be held in the office of the Secretary of State at a time TBD. (SDCL 12-16-8) (Counties draw their own candidate order for their county candidates; use this date or set their own date.)
April 15	<p>Last day for candidate to file "Candidate Statement of Financial Interest" if nominating petition was filed on March 31. This statement must be filed within fifteen days after filing nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-25-28, 12-25-30)</p> <p>Last day for candidate to file "Statement of Organization" if nominating petition was filed on March 31 and if the candidate committee has not already filed a statement of organization. This statement must be filed within fifteen days after filing nominating petitions. (SDCL 12-27-3)</p>

April 15	Deadline for primary election ballots to be printed and in the auditor's possession. (SDCL 12-16-1)
April 17	Absentee voting begins on this day. (SDCL 12-19-1.2) **Within 48 hours of receiving application, ballot must be sent out (SDCL 12-19-3)**
April 20	Deadline for county central committees to submit names to the county auditor to be used as election board workers (at least 45 days prior to the election). If the county auditor fails to receive the list at least forty-five days prior to an election, the county auditor shall make the appointments. (SDCL 12-15-1)
April 28	Last day for independent candidates to file nominating petitions with the Secretary of State or county auditor for all non-judicial offices. Registered mail postmarked by the deadline accepted. (SDCL 12-7-1) (Last Tuesday in April)
Week of April 27 - May 2 & Week of May 4-9	Publish notice of voter registration deadline for two consecutive weeks. (ARSD 5:02:04:04, SDCL 12-4-5.2) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 9.
May 1	Last day for auditor to submit names of persons to be employed at an electronic voting system counting center to the county chairmen of each party to assure bipartisan representation. (SDCL 12-17B-11) (At least 30 days prior to the election) See NOTE 3 on page 9.
No Later than May 13	Deadline for the county auditor to appoint precinct superintendents and deputies for each election precinct. (SDCL 12-15-1, 12-15-2, 12-15-3) (Not less than 20 days before the election)
May 18	Deadline for Attorney General to deliver an attorney general statement (title, explanation, recitation) for each proposed amendment to the Constitution proposed by the Legislature, each initiated measure and any referred measure from an odd year. (SDCL 12-13-9) (Before the third Tuesday in May)
Weeks of May 18-23 & May 25-30	Publish the notice of election for two consecutive weeks. (ARSD 5:02:04:16, SDCL 12-12-1)
May 13 - June 3	Candidates and political committees must file supplemental campaign finance statements if they receive an aggregate contribution of \$500 or more within the 20 days prior to the election. The report must be filed within 48 hours of receipt of the contribution. (SDCL 12-27-28)
May 18	Deadline for voter registration for the primary election. (SDCL 12-4-5) (15 days preceding the election) (5:00 PM local time)
May 18	Pre-Primary Campaign Finance Report deadline for all statewide office holders, statewide candidates, statewide political parties, statewide political action committees and statewide ballot questions committees, ALL candidates running for a legislative or county office (counties with a population greater than 10,000 SDCL 12-27-39) with a recognized political party if there is any primary race for that particular office must file a pre-primary report campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State. (SDCL 12-27-22) (15 days prior to the Primary 12-27-21.1) (County candidates file with the County Auditor)

May 22 - June 1	Timeframe for the county auditor to test automatic tabulating equipment in counties using electronic voting systems. Notice of testing must be published at least 48 hours prior to the test - (ARSD 5:02:09:01.01, SDCL 12-17B-5) See NOTE 2 on page 9.
May 18-23	The facsimile shall be published at least once in each official newspaper within the two calendar weeks prior to each election. (SDCL 12-16-16, 12-16-16.1 and 12-16-16.2) Instructions to voters regarding voting rights to be published with the facsimile ballot for general elections – ARSD 5:02:05:02.01.
June 1	Last day to request an absentee ballot by 5 pm local time. (SDCL 12-19-2.1)
June 2	<p><u>PRIMARY ELECTION DAY</u></p> <p>Polls are open from <u>7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</u> local time. (SDCL 12-2-1, 12-2-3)</p> <p>Ballots and election supplies must be delivered to the superintendent of each election precinct prior to the opening of the polls. (SDCL 12-16-18)</p> <p><u>Applications</u> for absentee ballots, using an authorized messenger only, may be requested until 3:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots have to be returned to the county auditor in time for them to be delivered to the correct polling location by the time the polls close. (SDCL 12-19-2.1) (Voter must be confined due to sickness or disability to use authorized messenger.)</p> <p>Independent sheriff’s candidate has to file certification of qualification with the County Auditor. (SDCL 23-3-43.1) (First Tuesday after the first Monday in June)</p>
Run-Off Election Information (proceed to pages 8-9)	<p><u>Run-Off Election Procedures (SDCL 12-6-51.1)</u></p> <p>If a Run-Off Election is required to be held, the Secretary of State’s Office will provide more guidance in addition to the deadlines and publications listed on pages 8 & 9.</p> <p>Note: There may be additional publications and deadlines required that are not included on pages 8 and 9.</p>
June 8	<p>Last day for county canvass of returns. (SDCL 12-20-36) (Within six calendar days after the close of any election)</p> <p>Certified copies of the official county canvass must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately following the official canvass. (SDCL 12-20-38.1) (May be sent electronically (seal must be visible) and followed up with original in the mail.)</p>
June 9	<p>Last day for convening the state board of canvassers. (SDCL 12-20-47) (Within seven days after the day of election) (SOS will notify auditors when the state canvass is completed)</p>
June 11	<p>Last day for filing recount petition with the county auditor by a county candidate assuming county canvass was completed on June 8 - (ARSD 5:02:19:05, SDCL 12-21-10) NOTE: This action must be initiated within three days following completion of the official county canvass. See note 3 on page 9.</p>
June 12	<p>Last day for filing recount petition with the county auditor(s) by legislative and statewide candidates assuming state canvass was completed on June 9. (ARSD 5:02:19:05) County auditor shall notify the Secretary of State of a legislative recount. (SDCL 12-21-10, 12-21-11, 12-21-11.1, 12-21-12) NOTE: The petition must be filed within three days following completion of the official state canvass. See NOTE 3 on page 9. (See recount manual for additional information)</p>

June 19	Last day for filing petition with the secretary of state for recount on a statewide ballot question, assuming canvas was completed June 9 - ARSD 5:02:19:07. (SDCL 12-21-14) NOTE: Above actions must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official state canvass. See NOTE 3 on page 9.
July 1	Last day for conservation district petitions to be filed with the Secretary of State if the district covers multiple counties. Filed with the County Auditor if district covers one county. (SDCL 38-8-39)
July 1	Last day for a new political party forming, that <u>does not intend to have a candidate</u> for US Senate, US House, Governor, or Legislature, in the Primary election, to file formation petitions with the Secretary of State by 5 pm (CT). (SDCL 12-5-1.5)
July 13	Deadline for Attorney General to deliver an attorney general statement (title, explanation, recitation) for each proposed amendment to the Constitution proposed by the Legislature, each initiated measure and any referred measure from an even year. (SDCL 12-13-9) (Before the 2 nd Tuesday in July)
July 15	Deadline for County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the primary election in Total Vote. (SDCL 12-4-37)
August 4	Last day for candidates to withdraw nominations from general election - ARSD 5:02:07:05. (SDCL 12-6-55) (Not later than the first Tuesday in August at 5:00 p.m. before the ensuing election) (No registered mail option)
August 4	Last day for municipalities and schools to submit language or candidate names to the county auditor to be on the general election ballot. (SDCL 9-20-11.2, 13-7-10.3) (By the first Tuesday in August of the year of the general election.)
August 4	Deadline for an incumbent justice of the Supreme Court to request the secretary of state to place the justice's name on the Supreme Court justice retention ballot. (ARSD 5:02:06:03:02) (first Tuesday in August)
August 11	Last day for party central committees to fill vacancies created by candidates who withdrew their nominations - (ARSD 5:02:07:06, SDCL 12-8-6) (filed not later than the second Tuesday in August at 5 p.m. or mailed by <u>registered mail</u> by that date and time prior to the election) <u>No option to fill vacancy of independent candidate.</u> Last day for any candidate for sheriff that was appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to (SDCL 12-6-56) , to file a certificate of qualification. (SDCL 23-3-43.1) (Shall file with the county auditor a certification of qualification by the second Tuesday in August.)
August 11 (Tentative)	Drawing for party order (counties DO NOT draw for party order), and if applicable candidate order, on the ballot for the general election will be held in the office of the Secretary of State at a time TBD. (Counties draw their own candidate order for their county candidates; use this date or set their own date.) (SDCL 12-16-3.1, 12-16-8, SDCL 12-16-5)
August 11	Deadline for Secretary of State to certify copies of all ballot questions to the county auditors. (SDCL 12-13-1) (At least twelve weeks prior to the general election.)

August 11	Last day for political party to hold state convention. (SDCL 12-5-22) The chair of the committee shall notify the secretary of state at least fifteen business days prior to the date chosen. (15 days prior to this date is July 27) (12-5-17) Nominations by a state convention shall be made by a majority vote of the votes cast and shall be certified to the secretary of state by the officers of the convention, within three days of the close of the convention. No certification may be received by the secretary of state later than the second Tuesday in August . (SDCL 12-5-22)
August 18	Last day for Secretary of State to certify to the county auditors the names of all candidates for state and district office to be placed on the general election ballot. (SDCL 12-8-8) (Not later than the third Tuesday in August at 5 p.m. before the general election)
September 16	Deadline for general election ballots to be printed and in the auditor's possession. (SDCL 12-16-1, 12-16-17) (The sample ballots and official ballots shall be printed and in the possession of the county auditor not later than forty-eight days prior to a primary or general election.)
September 18	Absentee voting begins. (SDCL 12-19-1.2) (Absentee voting shall begin neither earlier nor later than forty-six days prior to the election including any voter identified as being covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) **Within 48 hours of receiving application, ballot must be sent out. (SDCL 12-19-3)**
September 21	Deadline for county central committees to submit names to the county auditor to be used as election board workers. If the county auditor fails to receive the list at least forty-five days prior to an election, the county auditor shall make the appointments. (SDCL 12-15-1) See NOTE 3 on page 9.
On or before October 1	Deadline for the county auditor to send by electronic transmission or mail to each official newspaper of the county a copy of all statewide measures and questions certified by the Secretary of State. (SDCL 12-13-2) (On or before the first day of October)
Week of Sept. 28 & Oct. 2 Week of Oct 12-17	Publish notice of voter registration deadline for two consecutive weeks. (ARSD 5:02:04:04, SDCL 12-4-5.2) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 9.
October 2	Last day for auditor to submit names of persons to be employed at an electronic voting system counting center to the county chairmen of each party to assure bipartisan representation. (SDCL 12-17B-11) (At least 30 days prior to the election) See NOTE 3 on page 9.
October 5-9	Time in which all official county newspapers must publish at least once the full text, statement, title, explanation and the recitation of effect of each submitted ballot question. (SDCL 12-13-3) See NOTE 2 on page 9.
October 14	Deadline for the county auditor to appoint superintendents and precinct deputies for each election precinct. (SDCL 12-15-1, 12-15-2, 12-15-3)
October 19	Voter registration deadline for the general election. (SDCL 12-4-5) 5:00 PM local time

Oct. 19-24 & Oct. 26-31	Publish the notice of the general election for two consecutive weeks. (ARSD 5:02:04:05, SDCL 12-12-1) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 9.
October 14 - November 3	If any political committee required to file a campaign finance disclosure report receives a contribution of five hundred dollars or more within the twenty days immediately prior to an election for which a campaign finance disclosure report may be filed, a supplemental report shall be filed. The report shall be filed by the treasurer within forty-eight hours of the receipt of the contribution. (SDCL 12-27-28) See NOTE 3 on page 9.
October 19	Pre-General Campaign Finance Report deadline for all statewide candidates, legislative candidates, statewide political action committees, statewide political parties, county political parties, ballot question committees and county candidates in counties with population greater than ten thousand to file the pre-general campaign finance reports of receipts and expenditures with the Secretary of State. (SDCL 12-27-22) (15 days prior to the General Election) (County candidates file with the County Auditor)
October 23 – November 2	Timeframe for the county auditor to test electronic voting system tabulating equipment. Notice of the time and place of the test must be published in the official newspaper at least 48 hours prior to testing - (ARSD 5:02:09:01.01 SDCL 12-17B-5) (Not more than ten days prior to an election) (This is the only test that requires a published notice) See NOTE 2 on page 9.
October 26 – 31	The facsimile shall be published at least once in each official newspaper within the two calendar weeks prior to each election. (SDCL 12-16-16, 12-16-16.1 and 12-16-16.2). Instructions to voters regarding voting rights to be published with the facsimile ballot for general elections – ARSD 5:02:05:02.01.
November 1	Daylight Savings - As part of your election readiness preparations, we would like to remind you that on Sunday, November 1, clocks “fall back.” Auditors, make sure to set the clocks on ExpressVotes and tabulators to the correct time prior to election day.
November 2	Last day to request an absentee ballot by 5 pm local time. (SDCL 12-19-2.1)

<p>November 3</p>	<p><u>GENERAL ELECTION DAY</u></p> <p>Polls are open from <u>7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.</u> local time. (SDCL 12-2-2, 12-2-3)</p> <p>Ballots and election supplies must be delivered to the superintendent of each election precinct prior to the opening of the polls. (SDCL 12-16-18)</p> <p>No <u>applications</u> for absentee ballots, using an authorized messenger, may be honored by the county auditor after 3:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots have to be returned to the county auditor in time for them to be delivered to the correct polling location by the time the polls close. (SDCL 12-19-2.1) (Voter must be confined due to sickness or disability to use authorized messenger.)</p>
<p>November 9</p>	<p>Last day for the county canvass of election returns. (SDCL 12-20-36) (Within six calendar days after the close of any county election.)</p> <p>Certified copies of the official county canvass must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately following the official canvass. (SDCL 12-20-38.1) (May be sent electronically (seal must be visible) and followed up with original in the mail.)</p>
<p>November 10</p>	<p>Last day for convening the state board of canvassers. (SDCL 12-20-47). (Within seven days after the day of election)(SOS will notify auditors when state canvass is complete.)</p>
<p>November 13</p>	<p>Last day for filing a recount petition with the county auditor by county candidates, assuming the county canvass was completed on November 9. (ARSD 5:02:19:05, SDCL 12-21-10)</p> <p>NOTE: This action must be initiated within three days following completion of the official county canvass. See NOTE 3 on page 9.</p>
<p>November 13</p>	<p>Deadline for petition for recount in precinct by voters of the precinct. (ARSD 5:02:19:06, SDCL 12-21-8). (Within 10 days after the election)</p> <p>Last day for filing recount petition with the county auditor by legislative or statewide candidates, assuming state canvass was completed on November 10. (ARSD 5:02:19:05)</p> <p>County auditor shall notify the Secretary of State of a legislative recount. (SDCL 12-21-10, 12-21-11, 12-21-11.1, 12-21-12) See NOTE 3 on page 9.</p>
<p>November 19</p>	<p>Last day for a county candidate to initiate action to contest, assuming county canvass was completed on November 9 and no recount is in progress. (SDCL 12-22-5)</p> <p>NOTE: This action must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official county canvass.</p>
<p>November 20</p>	<p>Last day for filing petition with the county auditor for recount on a statewide ballot question. (ARSD 5:02:19:07, SDCL 12-21-14)</p> <p>NOTE: This action must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official state canvass.</p>
<p>November 20</p>	<p>Last day for initiating a contest by a legislative or statewide candidate, or by citizens on behalf of a ballot question, assuming the state canvass was completed on November 10 and no recount is in progress. (SDCL 12-22-5) NOTE: This action must be initiated within ten days following completion of the official state canvass.</p>
<p>December 15</p>	<p>Deadline for County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the general election in Total Vote. (SDCL 12-4-37)</p>

Primary Run-Off Election Procedures (SDCL 12-6-51.1)

June 8	Drawing for candidate position on the ballot for the run-off election will be held in the office of the Secretary of State a time TBD. (SDCL 12-16-8)
June 10	Last day for Secretary of State to certify run-off candidates to county auditors if no candidate for nomination for United States Senator, United States Representative or Governor received thirty-five percent of the votes cast in the party primary election. (SDCL 12-6-51.3) (Within 24 hours after completion of canvass)
June 13 – 14	Days for Secretary of State to publish notice of run-off election and facsimile ballot in state newspapers that publish on Saturday and Sunday. (SDCL 12-12-1)
June 24	Deadline for Run-Off Election ballots to be printed and in the auditor’s possession. (SDCL 12-16-1, 12-16-17)
June 26	Absentee voting begins for Run-Off Election. (SDCL 12-19-1.2) **Within 48 hours of receiving application, ballot must be sent out (SDCL 12-19-3)**
Week of July 6-10 & Week of July 13-17	Weeks for notice of voter registration deadline for Run-Off Election. (ARSD 5:02:04:04, SDCL 12-4-5.2) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 9.
July 27	Deadline for voter registration for the Run-Off Election. (SDCL 12-4-5) 5:00 PM local time
Week of July 26-30 & Week of August 3-7	Weeks in which the county auditor must publish the notice of the Run-Off Election. (ARSD 5:02:04:18, SDCL 12-12-1) See NOTES 1 & 2 on page 9.
August 10	Last day to request an absentee ballot by 5 pm local time. (SDCL 12-19-2.1)
August 11	<u>RUN-OFF ELECTION DAY</u> Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time. (SDCL 12-2-2, 12-2-3) Ballots and election supplies must be delivered to the superintendent of each election precinct prior to the opening of the polls. (SDCL 12-16-18) No <u>applications</u> for absentee ballots, using an authorized messenger, may be honored by the county auditor after 3:00 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots have to be returned to the county auditor in time for them to be delivered to the correct polling location by the time the polls close. (SDCL 12-19-2.1) (Voter must be confined due to sickness or disability to use authorized messenger.)
August 17	Last day for county canvass of returns for run-off election. (SDCL 12-20-36) Certified copies of the official county canvass for a run-off election must be filed with the Secretary of State immediately following the official canvass. (SDCL 12-20-38.1) (May be sent electronically (<i>seal must be visible</i>) and followed up with original in the mail.)
August 18	Last day for convening of state board of canvassers for run-off election. (SDCL 12-20-47) (Within seven days after the day of election)(SOS will notify auditors when state canvass is complete)
September 25	Deadline for County Auditor to transmit voter election history from the run-off election in Total Vote. <u>This date is not set in state law</u> but using (SDCL 12-4-37) as a guideline.

****** IMPORTANT NOTES ******

NOTE 1: At least five days shall intervene between publications which are to be done during consecutive weeks. (SDCL 17-2-17)

NOTE 2: Official notices may not be published on Sunday. (SDCL 1-5-2)

NOTE 3: When a deadline falls on a holiday, Saturday or Sunday, an act may be performed on the next business day. If the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays shall be excluded in the computation. (SDCL 12-1-17)

NOTE 4: Be sure to include cost of publication in each notice. (SDCL 17-2-28)

For more info on campaign finance, visit our campaign finance page <https://sdcfr.sdsos.gov/Default.aspx>.

OFFICIAL SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HOLIDAYS – 2020 (SDCL 1-5-1)	
January 1	New Year's Day
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 17	Presidents' Day
May 25	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 7	Labor Day
October 12	Native Americans' Day
November 11	Veterans' Day
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas Day