



2026 ELECTION DATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

- 12:00 Noon – First day for nonpartisan prosecutor and judicial candidates to file petitions for ballot access in the Nonpartisan Election without paying a filing fee. *Ark. Code § 7-10-103(c)(1)(A)(i)*

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

- 12:00 Noon – Last day for nonpartisan prosecutor and judicial candidates to file petitions for ballot access in the Nonpartisan Election without paying a filing fee. *Ark. Code § 7-10-103(c)(1)(A)(i)*

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

- Party Filing Period Begins at 12:00 Noon *Ark. Code § 7-7-203(c)(1), Act 405 of 2025*
- Nonpartisan Filing Period Begins at 3:00 pm *Ark. Code § 7-10-103(b)(2)(B)*

NOVEMBER 11, 2025* Please see disclaimer on page 2

- Party Filing Period Ends at 12:00 Noon *Ark. Code § 7-7-203(c)(1), Act 405 of 2025*
- Nonpartisan Filing Period Ends at 3:00 pm *Ark. Code § 7-10-103(b)(2)(B)*

FEBRUARY 16, 2026* Please see disclaimer on page 2

Early voting begins for the Preferential Primary Election, and shall be available between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday. Early voting ends at 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to the election. *Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)*

MARCH 3, 2026

- Preferential Primary Election *Ark. Code § 7-7-203(b), Act 405 of 2025*
- Nonpartisan General Election *Ark. Code § 7-10-102(b)(1)*
- Annual School Election *Ark. Code § 6-14-102(a)(1)(A); Act 503 of 2025*
- Deadline to apply to register to vote – Sunday, February 1, 2026*
 - Actual deadline is Monday, February 2, 2026.
Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51

MARCH 31, 2026

- General Primary Election *Ark. Code § 7-7-203(a)*
- Deadline to apply to register to vote – Sunday, March 1, 2026*
 - Actual deadline is Monday, March 2, 2026
Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51

OCTOBER 19, 2026

- Early voting begins for the General Election between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am – 4:00 pm on Saturday. Early voting ends at 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to the election.
Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)

NOVEMBER 3, 2026

- General Election *Ark. Code § 7-5-102*
- Nonpartisan Runoff Election *Ark. Code § 7-10-102(c)(2)*
- Annual School Runoff Election *Ark. Code § 6-14-121(a)(3), Act 503 of 2025*
- Deadline to apply to register to vote – Sunday, October 4, 2026*
 - Actual deadline is Monday, October 5, 2026
Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51

DECEMBER 1, 2026

- General Runoff Election (County and Municipal) *Ark. Code § 7-5-106*
 - Or in case of a tie for certain state or township offices.
- Deadline to apply to register to vote – Sunday, November 1, 2026*
 - Actual deadline is Monday, November 2, 2026.
Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51

*Deadlines that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday will advance to the next business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. For this publication, the Office of the Secretary of State has interpreted “legal holiday” as being an official state holiday and an official federal holiday in which the deadline is affected by the availability of mail services through the United States Postal Service.

2026 ELECTION CALENDAR

July 20, 2025 – Sunday	60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PETITION FILING DEADLINE FOR NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES First day for nonpartisan candidates wishing to file by petition to begin circulating petitions. <i>Ark. Code § 7-10-103(c)(1)(B)</i>
August 14, 2025 – Thursday	90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION FILING DEADLINE First day for candidates filing by petition to circulate petitions for Annual School Election. Petition must contain at least twenty (20) registered voters who are residents of the school district and, if applicable, the position's electoral zone. 90 days before the end of the Party Filing Period. <i>Ark. Code § 6-14-111(e)(1); Act 503 of 2025</i>
August 30, 2025 – Saturday*	DEADLINE FOR CITY OR TOWN COUNCILS WITH THE MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT Deadline for city or town councils with mayor-council form of government to pass a resolution requesting the county party committees of recognized political parties under the laws of the state to conduct party primaries for municipal offices for the forthcoming year. <u>By resolution passed before August 31 of the calendar year before election.</u> <i>Ark. Code § 14-42-206(a)(1)</i>
<i>[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, September 1, 2025.]</i>	
September 11, 2025 – Thursday	53 DAYS BEFORE BEGINNING OF PARTY FILING PERIOD 12:00 Noon – First day for nonpartisan prosecutor and judicial candidates to file petitions for ballot access in the Nonpartisan Election without paying a filing fee. Political practices pledge to be filed with petition. <i>Ark. Code § 7-6-102(a)(6); Ark. Code § 7-10-103(c)(1)(A)(i)</i>
September 18, 2025 – Thursday	46 DAYS BEFORE BEGINNING OF PARTY FILING PERIOD 12:00 Noon – Deadline for nonpartisan prosecutor and judicial candidates to file petitions for ballot access in the Nonpartisan Election without paying a filing fee. Political practices pledge to be filed with petition. <i>Ark. Code § 7-6-102(a)(6); § 7-10-103(c)(1)(A)(i)</i>
September 19, 2025 – Friday	DEADLINE TO REVIEW NAMES ON POLITICAL PRACTICES PLEDGE The names and titles as proposed to be used by each candidate on the political practices pledge shall be reviewed no later than one (1) business day after the filing deadline by the Secretary of State for state and district offices (including nonpartisan candidates filing by petition) and by the county board of election commissioners (CBEC) for nonpartisan county, township, and municipal offices filing by petition. <i>Ark. Code § 7-7-305(c)(3)</i>

September 20, 2025 – Saturday*

2 DAYS FOLLOWING THE DEADLINE TO FILE THE POLITICAL PRACTICES PLEDGE BY NONPARTISAN PROSECUTOR AND JUDICIAL CANDIDATES FILING BY PETITION

Deadline for Secretary of State or county clerk to notify by certified mail those candidates who have failed to file a signed political practices pledge.

Ark. Code § 7-6-102(a)(6); § 7-6-102(c)(2)(A)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, September 22, 2025.]

November 3, 2025 – Monday

PARTY FILING PERIOD BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON

12:00 Noon – Party pledges, if any, and affidavits of eligibility shall be filed, filing fees of a political party, if any, shall be paid, and party certificates shall be issued by the party during regular office hours during the filing period. A party certificate and the political practices pledge shall be filed with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, during regular office hours during the party filing period.

Ark. Code § 7-7-203(c)(1)

BEGIN FILING: INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

Start of the period for a person desiring to have his/her name placed on the ballot as an independent candidate without political party affiliation to file political practices pledge, affidavit of eligibility, and notice of candidacy.

Ark. Code § 7-7-103(a)(1)

BEGIN PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES

3:00 pm – The period for paying fees and filing political practices pledges for nonpartisan offices not filing by petition shall begin at 3:00 pm on the first day of the party filing period.

Ark. Code § 7-10-103(b)(2)(B)

BEGIN: CANDIDATE FILING FOR THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

12:00 Noon – First day a candidate filing by petition can file a petition, political practices pledge, and affidavit of eligibility with the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 6-14-111(c)(1); Act 503 of 2025

November 11, 2025 – Tuesday*

PARTY FILING ENDS AT 12:00 NOON

12:00 Noon – Deadline for party pledges, if any, and affidavits of eligibility to be filed, any filing fees of a political party, if any, to be paid, and party certificates shall be issued by the party. A party certificate and the political practices pledge shall be filed with the county clerk or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, during regular office hours during the party filing period.

Ark. Code § 7-7-203(c)(1)

DEADLINE FOR FILING: INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WITHOUT PARTY AFFILIATION

Deadline for a person desiring to have his or her name on placed on the ballot as an independent candidate without political party affiliation to file a political practices pledge, an affidavit of eligibility, and notice of candidacy.

Ark. Code § 7-7-103(a)(1)

DEADLINE: PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES

3:00 pm – The period for paying fees and filing political practices pledges for nonpartisan offices not filing by petition shall end at 3:00 pm on the last day of the party filing period.

Ark. Code § 7-10-103(b)(2)(B)

DEADLINE: CANDIDATE FILING FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

12:00 Noon – Deadline for a candidate filing by petition to file a petition of candidacy, affidavit of eligibility, and political practices pledge with the county clerk for the Annual School Election held in March.

Ark. Code § 6-14-111(e)(1); Act 503 of 2025

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Wednesday, November 12, 2025.]

November 13, 2025 – Thursday

DEADLINE TO REVIEW NAMES ON THE POLITICAL PRACTICES PLEDGE

The names and titles as proposed to be used by each candidate on the political practices pledge shall be reviewed no later than one (1) business day after the filing deadline by the Secretary of State for state and district offices and by the CBEC for Nonpartisan County, township, and municipal offices filing by petition.

Ark. Code § 7-7-305(c)(3)

November 14, 2025 – Friday

2 DAYS FOLLOWING THE DEADLINE TO FILE THE POLITICAL PRACTICES PLEDGE

Deadline for Secretary of State or county clerk to notify by certified mail those candidates who have failed to file a signed political practices pledge.

Ark. Code § 7-6-102(c)(2)(A)

November 17, 2025 – Monday

DEADLINE FOR NON-INCUMBENT CANDIDATES TO FILE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Non-incumbent candidates for elective office shall file the Statement of Financial Interest for the previous calendar year on the first Monday following the close of the period to file as a candidate.

- State and district officials with the Secretary of State.
- District Judges file with the Secretary of State.
- County, township, and school officials file with the county clerk.
- Municipal officials file with the city clerk or recorder.
- Members of regional boards or commissions file with the county clerk of the county in which they reside.

Ark. Code § 21-8-701(c)(1)(A); Ark. Code § 21-8-703(a)

November 24, 2025- Monday

10 DAYS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR BALLOT DRAW

The CBEC shall give at least ten (10) days written notice of the time and place of the ballot draw meeting (December 4, 2025) to the chairs of the county committees.

Ark. Code § 7-7-305(b)(2)

November 26, 2025 – Wednesday

14 DAYS AFTER THE FILING DEADLINE

Deadline for county clerk to notify each candidate in person or by mail of the deadlines for filing the financial disclosure reports, including the ten-day pre-election and final reports required, and at that time, furnish each candidate with the appropriate forms and instructions for complying with deadlines. If notice is sent by mail, then notice shall be postmarked within fourteen (14) days after the deadline for filing for office.

Ark. Code § 7-6-208(b)(3)(A) and (B)

December 1, 2025 – Monday

92 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for the Secretary of State to certify to all CBECs full lists of names of all candidates who have filed party certificates in order to be placed on the preferential primary ballots in their respective counties.

Ark. Code § 7-7-304(a)(1)

Deadline for the clerk of each county to certify to the CBEC a full list of candidates who have filed party certificates with him or her to be placed on the ballot.

Ark. Code § 7-7-304(b)(1)

Deadline for county clerk to certify to CBEC the names of those candidates who are registered voters in the school district and the electoral zone, if applicable, and who have qualified for ballot access by petitions for the Annual School Election.

Ark. Code § 6-14-111(j)(1); 7-7-304 (b); Act 460 of 2025

3 DAYS PRIOR TO BALLOT DRAW DEADLINE (December 4, 2025)

At least three (3) days before the ballot draw meeting, the CBEC shall publish notice of the time and place of holding the meeting in some newspaper of general circulation in the county.

Ark. Code § 7-7-305(b)(2); § 6-14-111(k); Act 503 of 2025

December 3, 2025 – Wednesday

90 DAYS BEFORE FEDERAL ELECTION

County Clerks: NVRA § 8 removal process shall cease as the “90 days before a federal election” date when NVRA § 8 removal is prohibited. Removal of voters pursuant to §8 could resume after any primary runoff in April, but must stop again 90 days before general election UOCAVA date. Statutory and Constitutional exceptions (allowing removal of felons, decedents, etc.) continue to be allowed.

52 U.S.C. §20507 (c)(2)(A)

December 4, 2025 – Thursday

89 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for ballot draw. The order in which the names of candidates shall appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot at a public meeting of the CBEC not less than 89 days before the Preferential Primary Election, including school board candidates.

Ark. Code § 7-7-305(b)(1); § 6-14-111(k); Act 503 of 2025

December 21, 2025 – Sunday*

72 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for school district to submit to the county clerk the language to be used to submit the rate of tax to the voters during the annual school election.

Ark. Code § 6-14-111(i)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, December 22, 2025.]

January 1, 2026- Thursday

DEADLINE FOR CITY ORDINANCE TO BE FILED

Deadline for city council (mayor-council form of government) to pass an ordinance to request all council members to be elected by ward. The ordinance must be filed with the county clerk no later than the close of business.

Ark. Code §14-43-307; Ark. Code § 14-44-103; Act 283 of 2025

January 2, 2026 – Friday

60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for county clerks to make available applications for absentee ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-405(a)(1)

Deadline for CBEC to change precinct boundaries.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(b)(2)

Deadline for CBEC to change polling sites

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(2)

January 15, 2026 – Thursday

47 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for the CBEC to deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk for mailing to all qualified applicants.

Ark. Code § 7-5-407(a)(1)

January 16, 2026 – Friday

UOCAVA DEADLINE - 46 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to deliver ballots to those absentee voters who made timely application under § 7-5-406 (members of uniformed services and other citizens residing outside the United States).

Ark. Code § 7-5-407(a)(2)

January 20, 2026- Tuesday

42 DAYS PRIOR TO AN ELECTION

The county board of election commissioners shall submit the one (1) of the following by email to a candidate that filled for office and that included an email address on their political practices pledge:

- A proof copy of each ballot style for the county; or
- A report generated from the ballot programming software which includes the following information:
 - The name of the candidate as it appears on the ballot;
 - The ballot contest that the candidate is assigned; and
 - The precincts or precinct parts that the race is assigned.

Ark. Code § 7-5-214 (b)

January 31, 2026 – Saturday*

DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN DISCLOSURE FILINGS

Deadline for incumbent office holders to file statement of financial interest for 2025 .

- State and district officials file with the Secretary of State.
- District Judges file with the Secretary of State.
- County, township, and school officials file with the county clerk.
- Municipal officials file with the city clerk or recorder.
- City attorneys file with the city clerk or recorder.
- Members of regional boards or commissions file with the county clerk of the county in which they reside.
- Members of an advertising and promotion commission as well as members of a research park authority board.

Ark. Code § 21-8-701(c)(1)(A); Ark. Code § 21-8-703(a)

Deadline for every member of a CBEC to file required annual disclosure report to the Secretary of State.

Ark. Code § 7-4-119(a)

90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR FILING PETITIONS AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

First day for individuals who want to qualify as an independent candidate for any United States office (other than President or Vice President) or state, county, township, or district office to circulate petitions (due May 1, 2026).

Ark. Code § 7-7-103(b)(3)(B)

February 1, 2026 – Sunday*

30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline to apply to register to vote in the Preferential Primary Election, Nonpartisan Election and the Annual School Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 9(b)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, February 2, 2026]

February 6, 2026 – Friday

25 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

The county clerk automatically shall mail, no later than twenty-five (25) days before each election, an absentee ballot for each election for those persons voting by absentee ballot who:

- Reside outside the county in which they are registered to vote,
- Have a disability as defined in § 7-5-311, or
- Reside in a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state.

The absentee ballot application for those voters shall remain in effect for one (1) year unless revoked by the voter or the administrator of the facility has presented an absentee ballot request from the voter authorizing the administrator to receive absent ballot on behalf of the voter for that election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(b)(2)(A)

February 7, 2026- Saturday*

PUBLICATION DEADLINE: AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO PUBLIC TEST

CBEC shall give public notice of the time and place of logic and accuracy test at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the public test by publication one (1) time in one (1) or more daily or one (1) weekly newspaper published in the town, city, or county using the machines. ***Recommend publishing the week of February 2, 2026.**

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c)(2)(A); Ark. Code § 7-5-611(b)(1)

February 8, 2026 – Sunday*

8 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTON

Deadline for CBEC or county clerk to prepare and post in a public place in the county clerk's office its lists of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting. The list may appoint election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting in the event of a runoff election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)(A)

Deadline for CBEC to give first public notice of the following in a newspaper of general circulation in the county:

- The date of the election.
- The hours of voting on Election Day.
- The places and times for early voting.
- Polling sites for holding the elections in the county.
- The candidates and offices to be elected at that time.
- The time and location of the opening, processing, canvassing, and counting of ballots.
- The location where a list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting can be found and the date the list is available.
 - A person shall not serve as an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy if: the person is married to or related within the second degree or consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election, the spouse of a member of the CBEC, or a county party chairman or his/her spouse, AND another person makes an objection to his or her service to the CBEC within Seven (7) calendar days after posting the list of officials.
- Directions for filing an objection to the service of an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(a)(1)(A-H) and (2)(B)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, February 9, 2026.]

February 9, 2026 – Monday

7 DAYS PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to conduct logic and accuracy testing and public testing of voting machines, election media, and vote tabulation devices. After completion of the logic & accuracy test and the public test, the CBEC shall certify the accuracy of the voting system by sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State and filing the test results with the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c); § 7-5-611(a) and (c)

February 10, 2026 – Tuesday

THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline for new political parties who wish to select nominees at the next General Election to file petitions with the Secretary of State to form a new political party.

Ark. Code § 7-7-205(a)(6)

February 11, 2026 – Wednesday

20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to appoint a sufficient number of election officials for each polling site and other duties.

Ark. Code § 7-4-107(b)(1)

20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to upload sample ballots to the Voter View website.

Ark. Code § 7-5-206 (b)(2)(A)

February 13, 2026 – Friday

FINAL BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO EARLY VOTING

If a county is providing sample ballots for a specified polling site in bound volumes or electronic databases under § 7-5-202(c), the sample ballots must have been posted to an internet website prior to the beginning of early voting.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c)(1)(B)(ii)

February 16, 2026 – Monday*

**15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION,
NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION**

Early voting begins. Open between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday. Early voting ends at 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)

First day for a designated bearer to pick up a maximum of two (2) absentee ballots for the Preferential Primary Election. Upon delivery of an absentee ballot to an individual authorized to receive an absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark the precinct voter registration list to indicate that an absentee ballot has been delivered to the voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-409(f); § 7-5-403

DEADLINE FOR COUNTY CLERKS TO MAIL NOTICE

Deadline for county clerk to mail a notice of any changes made in polling sites used in the last election to each affected voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(3)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026.]

February 21, 2026 – Saturday*

**10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION,
NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION**

Deadline for the CBEC to make publication of all nominations, all proposed amendments to the Arkansas Constitution, and of all other measures and questions required by law to be submitted to the electors by posting a list thereof at the door of the courthouse at least ten (10) days before the date of election. (Recommend posting prior to the beginning of early voting.)

Ark. Code § 7-5-206

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, February 23, 2026.]

February 23, 2026 - Monday

**8 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION**

Deadline for CBEC or county clerk to prepare and post in a public place in the county clerk's office its lists of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct election day voting. The list may appoint election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct voting in the event of a runoff election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)(B)

February 24, 2026 – Tuesday

**7 DAYS PRIOR TO PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION,
NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION**

Deadline for county clerk to receive absentee ballot applications by mail, fax, or electronic mail for the Preferential Primary Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(ii) and (vi)(a)

NO EARLIER THAN TUESDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION

First day the election officials can meet in a place designated by the CBEC for the purpose of opening the outer envelope, processing, and canvassing the absentee ballot paper work of the outer envelope.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

February 26, 2026 – Thursday

5 DAYS BEFORE THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for second public notification by CBEC of information described in Ark. Code § 7-5-202(a)(1). Information shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The information may also be posted at each polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(1)

February 27, 2026 – Friday

FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to receive in-person applications for absentee ballots for the Preferential Primary Election, Nonpartisan Election, and Annual School Election from the voter, designated bearer, or administrator is no later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(i), (iii), and (v)

Deadline for the voter, designated bearer, or administrator to personally deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk is no later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(C)

March 1, 2026 – Sunday*

30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL PRIMARY

Deadline to register to vote to participate in the General Primary Election

Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 9(b)

Deadline for CBEC to change polling sites for the General Primary Election

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(2)(B)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, March 2, 2026.]

March 2, 2026 – Monday

1 DAY PRIOR TO THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND NONPARTISAN ELECTION

Last day for voter to participate in early voting. Early voting closes at 5:00 pm on the Monday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)

Deadline for CBEC to designate suitable person/persons to deliver ballots and necessary supplies to the polls. The suitable person/persons shall not be an elected official, an elected official's deputy, or a candidate.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(1)(A-B)

Deadline for the CBEC to deliver to the designated person/persons, for each set of poll workers at each polling site, the following additional election supplies, if applicable:

- A good and sufficient ballot box with numbered seals.
- Sufficient list-of-voters forms adequate to record the names of all registered voters who appear to vote in the polling site.
- A precinct voter registration list.
- Sufficient tally sheets.
- Envelopes to seal the ballots and certificates.

- Separate sheets containing blank forms of certificates prepared to enable the poll workers to properly certify the paper ballot count at the polling site, upon which certificates shall be endorsed.
- A blank form of oath to be taken by poll workers before entering upon the discharge of their duties.
- Voter registration application forms for voters using fail-safe voting and other record-keeping supplies necessary to document fail-safe voting procedures.
- In those counties in which an optical scanner is used to count paper ballots, the marking instrument recommended by the manufacturer of the optical scanner for proper marking on the ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(2)(A-H)

March 3, 2026 – Tuesday

**PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION,
AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION**

Polls open 7:30 am to 7:30 pm.

Ark. Code § 7-7-203(b); § 7-10-102(b)(1); § 7-5-304; § 6-14-102(a)(1)(A)

NO LATER THAN POLLS CLOSE

Deadline for the county clerk to receive county to county transfer of registered voters allowed to vote in the election.

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 10(b)(2)(B); Act 372 of 2025

CBEC shall post at each polling site:

- The public notice of the election.
- At least two sample ballots marked with the word “SAMPLE” of each ballot style that will be used at the polling site, OR, if sample ballots were posted online before early voting began, two bound volumes of sample ballots marked with the word “SAMPLE”, or one bound volume and one electronic device allowing access to sample ballots.
- Two copies of the full text of measures on the ballot including copies posted under subdivision (c)(1)(C)(i) of this section shall include a copy of the concise abstract prepared and distributed under § 7-9-114
- At least two copies of the instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a provisional ballot, and instructions for fail-safe voting.
- General information on voting rights including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated.
- General information on federal and state laws regarding acts of fraud and misrepresentation.
- Information about the availability of the Attorney General’s Election Integrity Unit, including without limitation the telephone number to the hotline established under § 7-4-305.
- Double-sided two foot (2’) by two foot (2’) signs, each containing the words “VOTE HERE”, and an arrow pointing to the polling site, shall be posted near each main driveway entrance to the polling site.
- One printout from each voting machine, terminal, or ballot tabulator showing that the candidate and question counters register zero (0).
- A copy of the poll watcher rights and responsibilities
- A notice stating that if any voter needs assistance, the voter may ask a poll worker
- A notice on electioneering, to be posted inside the polling site; and

- During preferential primary election and nonjudicial elections, the following additional postings:
 - A posting containing an example of the primary ballot's selections; and
 - A notice that:
 - States "CROSSOVER VOTING IS A CRIME";
 - Explains crossover voting; and
 - States the penalties for a violation of crossover voting laws under § 7-1-103 (a)(18)(B) and § 7-1-104(a)(10).

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c)(1)(A-L); Act 487 of 2025

8:30 am – First time the election officials can meet for the purpose of opening the inner absentee ballot envelope and counting the absentee ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

12:00 Noon – Deadline for candidates nominated by a new political party shall file a certificate of nomination and a political practice pledge with the Secretary of State or county clerk, as the case may be, no later than 12:00 noon on the date of the Preferential Primary election.

Ark. Code § 7-7-205(c)(2)(B-C) and § 7-7-205(c)(3)

1:30 pm – Deadline for delivery of application for an absentee ballot to the office of the county clerk by an authorized agent of the voter for the Preferential Primary Election and the Nonpartisan General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(iv)

7:30 pm – Deadline for county clerk to receive absentee ballots by mail (excluding military and overseas) or by physical delivery of the authorized agent of the absentee voter who is medically unable to vote at the regular polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411 (a)(1)(A)(i) and § 7-5-411(a)(1)(B)

Deadline for qualified electors outside the United States or active duty uniformed personnel to sign, date, and postmark (not required by military), and mail absentee ballots to the county clerk. Must be received by the county clerk by 5:00 pm, ten (10) calendar days after the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Immediately after the polls close – Deadline for poll workers to process returns and deliver all election materials and stub boxes to CBEC.

Ark. Code § 7-5-317(b)

After the close of voting, the certified printout, signed by the poll workers, shall be returned to the CBEC and filed with the election returns.

Ark. Code § 7-5-518(c); Ark Code § 7-5-526

After the count of the vote is complete, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after polls close – The CBEC shall report by precinct the initial count of early votes and absentee ballot votes to the Secretary of State as provided under § 7-5-701. A statement of the number of outstanding ballots of voters who requested ballots under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, provisional ballots, and ballots required to be duplicated under § 7-5-615 shall also be included.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(7)(B); Ark Code § 7-5-701; Act 458 of 2025

March 4, 2026 – Wednesday

ONE DAY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION

No earlier than 8:30 a.m. Voter statements shall be made available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(b)(1)(L)(ii)

March 5, 2026 – Thursday

48 HOURS AFTER THE ELECTION

The earliest time for the CBEC to meet to canvass the returns and certify the Preferential Primary Election and Nonpartisan Election results providing that there are no outstanding absentee ballots of overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status is no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the tenth (10) calendar day after the Preferential Primary Election and the Nonpartisan Election.

Ark. Code § 7-7-309; and § 7-5-411(a)(1)(ii)

Earliest date for unopposed candidates, other than candidates for mayor, governor, and circuit clerk, to be separately declared and certified by CBEC to the Secretary of State as elected in the same manner as if the candidate had been voted upon at the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a)(2)

The timeframe in which the CBEC must ascertain and declare results for the Annual School Election and file certification of election with the county clerk is no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the 15th calendar day after the Annual School Election.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(a)

The county clerk of the county in which the school district is administered, after receiving the certification of election from the CBEC, shall file a certified copy of the certified results and a certification of the outcome of each race or issue with the county clerk of each county in which any part of the school district lies.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(b)

March 9, 2026 – Monday

MONDAY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION

12:00 Noon – Deadline for a voter, who voted a provisional ballot because of failure to provide verification of registration, to present a copy of a document or identification card to the CBEC or the county clerk.

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 13

March 11, 2026 – Wednesday

20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline for the CBEC to appoint a sufficient number of election officials for each polling site and other duties.

Ark. Code § 7-4-107(b)(1)

March 12, 2026- Thursday

30 DAYS AFTER THE FILING DEADLINE OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY

Secretary of State shall determine the lawful sufficiency of petition signatures for the new political party petition submissions within 30 days of filing. Sponsors will be responded via written communications regarding insufficiency.

Ark. Code § 7-7-205(b)

March 13, 2026 – Friday

10 DAYS AFTER THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

5:00 pm – Deadline for absentee ballots of overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status to be received by the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Deadline for the CBEC to meet to canvass the returns and certify the Preferential Primary Election and Nonpartisan Election results. No earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the tenth (10th) calendar day after the Preferential Primary Election and Nonpartisan Election. If no time is specified for the meeting of the CBEC, the meeting shall be at 5:00pm.

Ark. Code § 7-7-309; Ark. Code § 7-7-203(e)(2)

March 16, 2026 – Monday

15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline for the county clerk to mail a notice of any changes made in polling sites used in the last election to each affected registered voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(3)(A)

8 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC or county clerk to prepare and post in a public place in its county clerk's office its list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting. The list may appoint election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting in the event of a runoff election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)(A).

8 DAYS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL PRIMARY

Deadline for the CBEC to give first public notice of the following in the newspaper of general circulation in the county:

- The date of the election.
- The hours of voting on Election Day.
- The places and times for early voting.
- Polling sites for holding the elections in the county.
- The candidates and offices to be elected at that time.
- The time and location of the opening, processing, canvassing, and counting of ballots.
- The location where a list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting can be found and the date the list is available.
 - A person shall not serve as an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy if: the person is married to or related within the second degree or consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election, the spouse of a member of the CBEC, or a county party chairman or his/her spouse, AND another person makes an objection to his or her service to the CBEC within seven (7) calendar days after posting the list of officials.
- Directions for filing an objection to the service of an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(a)(1)(A-H) and (2)(B)

March 17, 2026 – Tuesday

PUBLICATION DEADLINE: AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR THE PUBLIC TEST

The CBEC shall give public notice of the time and place the test shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the public test by publication one (1) time in one (1) or more daily or one (1) weekly newspaper published in the town, city, or county using the machines.

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c)(2)(A); Ark. Code § 7-5-611(b)(1)

March 18, 2026 – Wednesday

15 DAYS AFTER THE PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION, NONPARTISAN ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Final day for unopposed candidates, other than candidates for mayor, governor, and circuit clerk, to be separately declared and certified by CBEC to the Secretary of State as elected in the same manner as if the candidate had been voted upon at the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a)

15th CALENDAR DAY FOLLOWING ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to ascertain and declare results for the Annual School Election and file certification of election with the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(a)(1)(B)(iii)

The county clerk of the county in which the school district is administered, after receiving the certification of election from the CBEC, shall file a certified copy of the certified results and a certification of the outcome of each race or issue with the county clerk of each county in which any part of the school district lies.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(b)

The county clerk (or designee) shall deliver to the person having the highest number of legal votes:

- A certificate of election
- Notice of the requirement to all directors elected to an initial or nonconsecutive term that he or she must subscribe to the director's oath
- The date that is ten (10) days later, within which to have the oath administered
- A list of individuals qualified to give the oath under § 21-2-105
- A copy of the directors oath*,
- A notice that the individual shall be unable to assume the duties of a director until a copy of the administration of the oath is received by the county clerk or his or her designee.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(a)(2)

*(*Further instruction and timelines regarding the administration of oaths for school board members are located in Ark. Code § 6-13-617, as amended by Act 401 of 2025.)*

March 19, 2026 – Thursday

5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL PRIMARY

Deadline for CBEC to conduct logic and accuracy testing and public testing of voting machines, election media, and vote tabulation devices. After completion of the logic & accuracy test and the public test, the CBEC shall certify the accuracy of the voting system by sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State and filing the test results with the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c); § 7-5-611(a) and (c)

March 21, 2026 – Saturday*

10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL PRIMARY

Deadline for the CBEC to prepare official absentee ballots and deliver them to the county clerk for mailing to any qualified applicants for the General Primary Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-407(b)

Deadline for CBEC to upload sample ballots to the Voter View website.

Ark. Code § 7-5-206 (b)(2)(A)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, March 23, 2026.]

March 23, 2026 – Monday

FINAL BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO EARLY VOTING

If a county is providing sample ballots for a specified polling site in bound volumes or electronic databases under § 7-5-202(c), the sample ballots must have been posted to an internet website prior to the beginning of early voting.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c)

20 DAYS AFTER THE ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk of county in which the school district is administered to submit certified copies of election results, certification of the outcome of each race, and text of each issue on the ballot to the Commissioner of Education.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(c)

Note: This requirement is contingent on when the CBEC certifies the election results. Refer to *Ark. Code § 6-14-115 (a) and (c)* for additional information.

March 24, 2026 – Tuesday

7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Early voting begins for General Primary Election and shall be available to any qualified elector who applies to the county clerk during regular office hours. Early voting ends the day before Election Day at the time the county clerk's office regularly closes.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(2)

First day for designated bearer to pick up from the county clerk a maximum of two absentee ballots for the General Primary Election. Upon delivery of an absentee ballot to an individual authorized to receive an absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark the electronic voter registration list and precinct voter registration list to indicate that an absentee ballot has been delivered to the voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-409(f-g)

Deadline for the county clerk to receive absentee ballot applications by mail, fax, or electronic mail for the General Primary Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(ii) and (vi)(a)

NO EARLIER THAN THE TUESDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION

First day the election officials can meet in a place designated by the CBEC for the purpose of opening the outer envelope, processing, and canvassing the absentee ballot paper work of the outer envelope.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

March 26, 2026 – Thursday

5 DAYS PRIOR THE GENERAL PRIMARY

Deadline for second public notification by CBEC of information described in § 7-5-202(a)(1). Information shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The information may also be posted at each polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(1)

March 27, 2026 – Friday

FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to receive in-person applications for absentee ballots for the General Primary from the voter, designated bearer, or administrator is no later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(i), (iii), and (v)

Deadline for the voter, designated bearer, or administrator to personally deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk is no later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(C)

March 30, 2026 – Monday

1 DAY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL PRIMARY

Last day for voter to participate in early voting. Early voting closes the day before the Election Day at the time the county clerk's office regularly closes.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(2)

Deadline for CBEC to designate suitable person/persons to deliver ballots and necessary supplies to the polls. The suitable person/persons shall not be an elected official, an elected official's deputy, or a candidate.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(1)

Deadline for the CBEC to deliver to the designated person/persons of each set of poll workers at each polling site, the following additional election supplies, if applicable:

- A good and sufficient ballot box with numbered seals.
- Sufficient list-of-voters forms adequate to record the names of all registered voters who appear to vote in the polling site.
- A precinct voter registration list.
- Sufficient tally sheets.
- Envelopes to seal the ballots and certificates.
- Separate sheets containing blank forms of certificates prepared to enable the poll workers to properly certify the paper ballot count at the polling site; upon which the certificates shall be endorsed.
- A blank form of oath to be taken by poll workers before entering upon the discharge of their duties.
- Voter registration application forms for voters using fail-safe voting and other record-keeping supplies necessary to document fail-safe voting procedures.
- In those counties in which an optical scanner is used to count paper ballots, the marking instrument recommended by the manufacturer of the optical scanner for proper marking on the ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(2)(A-H)

March 31, 2026 – Tuesday

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Polls open 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Ark. Code § 7-7-203(a); § 7-5-304

NO LATER THAN POLLS CLOSE

Deadline for the county clerk to receive county to county transfer of registered voters allowed to vote in the election.

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 10(b)(2)(B); Act 372 of 2025

CBEC shall post at each polling site:

- The public notice of the election.
- At least two sample ballots marked with the word "SAMPLE" of each ballot style that will be used at the polling site, OR, if sample ballots were posted online before early voting began, two bound volumes of sample ballots marked with the word "SAMPLE", or one bound volume and one electronic device allowing access to sample ballots.

- Two copies of the full text of measures on the ballot including copies posted under subdivision (c)(1)(C)(i) of this section shall include a copy of the concise abstract prepared and distributed under § 7-9-114.
- At least two copies of the instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a provisional ballot, and instructions for fail-safe voting.
- General information on voting rights including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated.
- General information on federal and state laws regarding acts of fraud and misrepresentation.
- Information about the availability of the Attorney General's Election Integrity Unit, including the hotline telephone number established under § 7-4-305 .
- Double-sided two foot (2') by two foot (2') signs, each containing the words "VOTE HERE", and an arrow pointing to the polling site, shall be posted near each main driveway entrance to the polling site.
- One printout from each voting machine, terminal, or ballot tabulator showing that the candidate and question counters register zero (0).
- A copy of the poll watcher rights and responsibilities.
- A notice stating that if any voter needs assistance, the voter may ask a poll worker.
- A notice on electioneering, to be posted inside the polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c) (1)(A-K); Act 487 of 2025

8:30 am – First time the election officials can meet for the purpose of opening the inner absentee ballot envelope and counting the absentee ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

1:30 pm – Deadline for delivery of application for an absentee ballot to the office of the county clerk by an authorized agent of the voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(iv)

7:30 pm – Deadline for county clerk to receive absentee ballots by mail (excluding military and overseas) or by physical delivery of the authorized agent of the absentee voter who is medically unable to vote at the regular polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411 (a)(1)(A)(i) and § 7-5-411(a)(1)(B)

Deadline for qualified electors outside the United States or active duty uniformed personnel to sign, date, and postmark (not required by military), and mail absentee ballots to the county clerk. Must be received by the county clerk by 5:00 pm, ten (10) calendar days after the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Immediately after the polls close – Deadline for poll workers to process returns and deliver all election materials and stub boxes to CBEC.

Ark. Code § 7-5-317(b)

After the close of voting the certified printout, signed by poll workers, shall be returned to the CBEC and filed with the election returns.

Ark. Code § 7-5-518(c); Ark. Code § 7-5-526

After the count of the vote is complete, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after polls close – The CBEC shall report by precinct the initial count of early votes and absentee ballot votes to the Secretary of State as provided under § 7-5-701. A statement of the number of outstanding ballots of voters who requested ballots under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, provisional ballots, and ballots required to be duplicated under § 7-5-615 shall also be included.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(7)(B); Ark Code § 7-5-701; Act 458 of 2025

April 1, 2026 – Wednesday

ONE DAY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION

No earlier than 8:30 a.m. Voter statements shall be made available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(b)(1)(L)(ii)

April 2, 2026 – Thursday

48 HOURS AFTER THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

The earliest time for CBEC to meet to canvass the returns and certify the General Primary Election results providing that there are no outstanding absentee ballots of overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status is no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the tenth (10th) calendar day after the General Primary Election.

Ark. Code § 7-7-309; Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(B)

April 6, 2026 – Monday

MONDAY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL PRIMARY

12:00 Noon – Deadline for a voter, who voted a provisional ballot because of failure to provide verification of registration, to present a copy of a document or identification card to the CBEC or the county clerk.

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 13

April 10, 2026 – Friday

10 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL PRIMARY

5:00 pm – Deadline for absentee ballots of overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status to be received by the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Deadline for the CBEC to meet to canvass the returns and certify the General Primary Election results no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the tenth (10th) calendar day after the General Primary Election. If no time is specified for the meeting of the CBEC, the meeting shall be at 5:00 pm.

Ark. Code § 7-7-309; Ark. Code § 7-7-203(e)(2)

May 1, 2026 – Friday

DEADLINE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES TO FILE PETITIONS.

12:00 Noon – Deadline for independent candidates to file petitions and signature collection affidavits for federal, state, county, township, or district offices with the Secretary of State or county clerk. The candidate must have previously filed a political practices pledge, an affidavit of eligibility, and a notice of candidacy stating the name and title the candidate proposes to appear on the ballot and identifying the elective office sought, including the position number, if any during the party filing period.

Ark. Code § 7-7-103(b)(1)(A)

May 7, 2026 – Thursday

90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES TO FILE PETITIONS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES

First day that independent candidates running for municipal offices with **MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT** may circulate petitions of nomination.

Ark. Code § 14-42-206(b)

90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES TO FILE PETITIONS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES

First day that independent candidates running for municipal offices with **CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT** may circulate petitions of nomination.

Ark. Code § 14-47-110(a)(3)(A)(i)(b)

90 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES TO FILE PETITIONS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES

First day that independent candidates running for municipal offices with **CITY ADMINISTRATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT** may circulate petitions of nomination.

Ark. Code § 14-48-109(a)(5)(B)

June 3, 2026- Wednesday

PUBLICATION DEADLINE: PETITIONS FOR BALLOT

At least thirty (30) days prior to filing a petition to place an initiated measure on the General Election Ballot, the proposed measure shall have been published once, at the expense of the petitioners, in some paper of general circulation.

Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1

July 3, 2026 – Friday

4 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline to file petitions with the Secretary of State to place an initiated measure on the General Election ballot.

Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 1

July 26, 2026 – Sunday *

100 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for the Secretary of State to notify by registered mail the chair and secretary of the state committee of the respective political parties that a certificate of nomination is due for all nominated candidates for the United States, state, and district offices in order that the candidates' names be placed on the ballot of the General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-7-203(h)(1)(A)

Deadline for county clerk to notify by registered mail the chairs and secretaries of the county committees of the respective political parties that a certified list of all nominated candidates for county, township, and municipal offices is due and shall be filed with the county clerk in order that the candidates' names be placed on ballot for the General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-7-203(h)(2)(A)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, July 27, 2026.]

July 29, 2026 – Wednesday

CANDIDATE FILING FOR MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON

12:00 Noon- First day that independent candidates running for municipal offices with Mayor-Council form of government may file petitions of nomination, affidavit of eligibility and political practices pledge with the county clerk. County clerk must determine whether or not the petition contains a sufficient number of qualified electors within fourteen (14) days.

Ark. Code § 14-42-206(b)(1); § 14-42-206(b)(3)(B)(i), Act 360 of 2025

CANDIDATE FILING FOR CITY ADMINISTATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON

12:00 Noon -First day candidates for mayor or director may file with the city clerk a statement of candidacy and the petition for nomination.

Ark. Code § 14-48-109(a)(3), Act 360 of 2025

CANDIDATE FILING FOR CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT BEGINS AT 12:00 NOON

12:00 Noon-First day for candidates running for the office of director in a city manager form of government to file petitions with the city clerk or recorder.

Ark. Code § 14-47-110(a)(2), Act 360 of 2025

August 5, 2026 – Wednesday

CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE FOR MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

12:00 Noon – Last day that independent candidates running for municipal offices with Mayor-Council form of government may file petitions of nomination, affidavit of eligibility, and political practices pledge with the county clerk. County clerk must determine whether or not the petition contains a sufficient number of qualified electors within fourteen (14) days.

Ark. Code § 14-42-206(b)(1); § 14-42-206(b)(3)(B)(i)

CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE FOR CITY ADMINSTATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT

12:00 Noon – Deadline for candidates for mayor or director to file with the city clerk a statement of candidacy and the petition for nomination.

Ark. Code § 14-48-109(a)(3)

CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE FOR CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

12:00 Noon – Deadline for candidates running for the office of director in a CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT to file petition with city clerk or recorder.

Ark. Code § 14-47-110(a)(2)

90 DAYS BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION, REMOVALS

County Clerks: NVRA §8 removal processes must cease. Statutory and Constitutional exceptions (allowing removal of felons, decedents, etc.) continue to be allowed as always.

52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2)(A)

August 10, 2026 – Monday

DEADLINE FOR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES IN MAYOR-COUNCIL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT TO FILE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST WITH CITY CLERK OR RECORDER

Unless previously filed by January 31, 2026.

Ark. Code § 21-8-701(c)(1)(A); § 21-8-703(a)(3)

DEADLINE FOR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES IN CITY ADMINISTATOR FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO FILE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST WITH CITY CLERK OR RECORDER

Unless previously filed by January 31, 2026.

Ark. Code § 21-8-701(c)(1)(A); § 21-8-703(a)(3)

DEADLINE FOR MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES IN CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO FILE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTEREST WITH CITY CLERK OR RECORDER

Unless previously filed by January 31, 2026.

Ark. Code § 21-8-701(c)(1)(A); Ark. Code § 21-8-703(a)(3)

August 13, 2026 – Thursday

10 DAYS PRIOR TO DEADLINE FOR BALLOT DRAW

The CBEC shall give at least ten (10) days written notice of the time and place of the ballot draw meeting to the chairs of the county committees.

Ark. Code § 7-7-305(b)(2)

August 19, 2026 – Wednesday

14 DAYS AFTER THE FILING DEADLINE

Deadline for county clerk to notify each candidate in person or by mail of the deadlines for filing the financial disclosure reports, including the ten-day pre-election and final reports required, and at that time, furnish each candidate with the appropriate forms and instructions for complying with deadlines. If notice is sent by mail, then notice shall be postmarked within fourteen (14) days after the deadline for filing for office.

Ark. Code § 7-6-208(b)(3)(A)

August 20, 2026 – Thursday

75 DAYS BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for the county clerk to certify to the CBEC a full list of all candidates to be voted for in the county as the nominations have been certified or otherwise properly submitted.

Ark. Code § 7-5-203(b)(1)

Deadline for the Secretary of State to certify to all CBECs full lists of all candidates to be voted for in their respective counties as the nominations have been certified or otherwise properly submitted.

Ark. Code § 7-5-203(a)(1)

Deadline for city clerk or recorder to certify to the CBEC full lists of all candidates to be voted for in their respective municipalities for City Manager and Mayor-Council forms of government.

Ark. Code § 14-47-110(a)(3)(D)(i); § 14-42-206(b)(3)(B)(ii)

Deadline for city clerk or recorder to certify list of names to the CBEC of all persons filing by petition for the office of mayor or director signed by at least fifty (50) qualified electors of the municipality requesting the candidacy of the candidate.

Ark. Code § 14-48-109(a)(6)(C)

Deadline for the Secretary of State to certify any proposed measures, questions, or amendments to the Arkansas Constitution to the CBECs of each county.

Ark. Code § 7-5-204(a)

3 DAYS PRIOR TO BALLOT DRAW DEADLINE

Deadline for public notice of ballot draw for the General Election. Deadline for the CBECs to give notice of the public meeting by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in at least three (3) days before the drawing.

Ark. Code § 7-5-207(c)(2)

August 23, 2026 – Sunday*

72 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for ballot draw – the order in which the names of respective candidates shall appear on the ballot shall be determined by lot at a public meeting of the CBEC.

Ark. Code § 7-5-207(c)(1)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, August 24, 2026.]

September 4, 2026 – Friday

60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for county clerks to make available applications for absentee ballots for the General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-405(a)(1)

Deadline for CBEC to change precinct boundaries for General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(b)(2)

Deadline for CBEC to change polling sites for General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(2)

September 17, 2026 – Thursday

47 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for the CBEC to deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk for mailing to all qualified applicants.

Ark. Code § 7-5-407(a)(1)

September 18, 2026 – Friday

UOCAVA DEADLINE - 46 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to deliver ballots to those absentee voters who made timely application under § 7-5-406 (members of uniformed services and other citizens residing outside the United States).

Ark. Code § 7-5-407(a)(2)

September 22, 2026- Tuesday

42 DAYS PRIOR TO AN ELECTION

The county board of election commissioners shall submit the one (1) of the following by email to a candidate that filled for office and that included an email address on their political practices pledge:

- A proof copy of each ballot style for the county; or
- A report generated from the ballot programming software which includes the following information:
 - The name of the candidate as it appears on the ballot;
 - The ballot contest that the candidate is assigned; and
 - The precincts or precinct parts that the race is assigned.

Ark. Code § 7-5-214(b)

October 4, 2026 – Sunday*

30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline to apply to register to vote in the General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 9(b)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, October 5, 2026.]

October 9, 2026 – Friday

25 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

The county clerk automatically shall mail, no later than twenty-five (25) days before each election, an absentee ballot for each election for those persons voting by absentee ballot who:

- Reside outside the county in which they are registered to vote
- Have a disability as defined in § 7-5-311
- Reside in a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state.

The absentee ballot application for those voters shall remain in effect for one (1) year unless revoked by the voter or the administrator of the facility has presented an absentee ballot request from the voter authorizing the administrator to receive absent ballot on behalf of the voter for that election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(b)(2)(A) and (C)

October 10, 2026 – Saturday*

PUBLICATION DEADLINE AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR THE PUBLIC TEST

The CBEC shall give public notice of the time and place the test shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the public test by publication one (1) time in one (1) or more daily or one (1) weekly newspaper published in the town, city, or county using the machines.

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c)(2)(A); Ark. Code § 7-5-611(b)(1)

October 11, 2026 – Sunday*

8 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC or county clerk to prepare and post in a public place in the county clerk's office its lists of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting. The list may appoint election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting in the event of a runoff election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)(A)

Deadline for CBEC to give first public notice of the following in a newspaper of general circulation in the county:

- The date of the election.
- The hours of voting on Election Day.
- The places and times for early voting.
- Polling sites for holding the elections in the county.
- The candidates and offices to be elected at that time.
- The time and location of the opening, processing, canvassing, and counting of ballots.
- The location where a list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting can be found and the date the list is available.
 - A person shall not serve as an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy if: the person is married to or related within the second degree or consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election, the spouse of a member of the CBEC, or a county party chairman or his/her spouse, AND another person makes an objection to his or her service to the CBEC within seven (7) calendar days after posting the list of officials.
- Directions for filing an objection to the service of an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(a)(1)(A-H) and (2)(A-B)

October 12, 2026 – Monday*

7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to conduct logic and accuracy testing and public testing of voting machines, election media, and vote tabulation devices. After completion of the logic & accuracy test and the public test, the CBEC shall certify the accuracy of the voting system by sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State and filing the test results with the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c); § 7-5-611(a) and (c)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Tuesday, October 13, 2026.]

October 14, 2026 – Wednesday

20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to appoint a sufficient number of election officials for each polling site and other duties. Note: Deadline also applies to the Annual School Election if being held in November.

Ark. Code § 7-4-107(b)(1)

20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to upload sample ballots to the Voter View website.

Ark. Code § 7-5-206 (b)(2)(A)

Deadline for Attorney General to prepare and transmit to the Secretary of State a concise abstract of the contents of each statewide initiative and referendum measure proposed under the Arkansas Constitution Amendment 7, Article 5 § 1.

Ark. Code § 7-9-114(a)

October 16, 2026 – Friday

18 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for the Secretary of State to transmit a certified copy of the Attorney General's Abstract to the CBECs.

Ark. Code § 7-9-114(b)

Deadline for the Secretary of State to furnish the State Board of Election Commissioners and CBEC a certified copy of the ballot title and a popular name for each proposed measure and each referred act to be voted upon at the ensuing election.

Ark. Code § 7-9-115

FINAL BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO EARLY VOTING

If a county is providing sample ballots for a specified polling site in bound volumes or electronic databases under § 7-5-202(c), the sample ballots must have been posted to an internet website prior to the beginning of early voting.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c)(2)

October 19, 2026 – Monday

15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Early voting begins for General Election between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday. Early voting ends at 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)

Deadline for the county clerk to mail a notice of any changes made in polling sites used in the last election to each affected voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(3)

First day for a designated bearer to pick up from the county clerks a maximum of two (2) absentee ballots for the General Election. Upon delivery of an absentee ballot to an individual authorized to receive an absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark the precinct voter registration list to indicate that an absentee ballot has been delivered to the voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-409(f-g); § 7-5-403

October 24, 2026 – Saturday*

10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to make publication of all of the nominations, proposed amendment to the Arkansas Constitution, and of all other measures and questions required by law to be submitted to the electors at any election by posting a list thereof at the door of the courthouse. (Recommend posting prior to the beginning of early voting.)

Ark. Code § 7-5-206

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, October 26, 2026.]

October 26, 2026 – Monday

8 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC or county clerk to prepare and post in a public place in the county clerk's office its list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct election day voting. The list may appoint election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional hired to conduct election day voting in the event of a runoff election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)(B)

October 27, 2026 – Tuesday

7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to receive absentee ballot applications by mail, fax, or electronic mail for the General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(ii) and (vi)(a)

NO EARLIER THAN THE TUESDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION

First day the election officials can meet in a place designated by the CBEC for the purpose of opening the outer envelope, processing, and canvassing the absentee ballot paper work of the outer envelope.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

October 29, 2026 – Thursday

5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for second public notification by CBEC of information described in Ark. Code § 7-5-202(a)(1). Information shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The information may also be posted at each polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(1)

October 30, 2026 – Friday

FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to receive in-person applications for absentee ballots for the General Election from the voter, designated bearer, or administrator is no later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(i), (iii), and (v)

Deadline for the voter, designated bearer or administrator to personally deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk is no later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(C)

November 1, 2026 – Sunday*

30 DAYS PRIOR TO GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to change polling sites for General Runoff Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(2)

Deadline to apply to register to vote in the General Runoff Election

Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 9(b)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Monday, November 2, 2026.]

November 2, 2026 – Monday

1 DAY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION

Last day for voter to participate in early voting. Early voting closes at 5:00 pm on the Monday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(1)(A)

Deadline for CBEC to designate suitable person/persons to deliver ballots and necessary supplies to the polls. The suitable person/persons shall not be an elected official, an elected official's deputy, or a candidate.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(1)(A-B)

Deadline for the CBEC to deliver to the designated person/persons, for each set of poll workers at each polling site, the following additional election supplies, if applicable:

- A good and sufficient ballot box with numbered seals.
- Sufficient list-of-voters forms adequate to record the names of all registered voters who appear to vote in the polling site.
- A precinct voter registration list.
- Sufficient tally sheets.
- Envelopes to seal the ballots and certificates.
- Separate sheets containing blank forms of certificates prepared to enable the poll workers to properly certify the paper ballot count at the polling site.
- A blank form of oath to be taken by the poll workers before entering upon the discharge of their duties.
- Voter registration application forms for voters using fail-safe voting and other record-keeping supplies necessary to document fail-safe voting procedures.
- In those counties in which an optical scanner is used to count paper ballots, the marking instrument recommended by the manufacturer of the optical scanner for proper marking on the ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(2)(A-H)

November 3, 2026 – Tuesday

GENERAL ELECTION, NONPARTISAN RUNOFF ELECTION, AND ANNUAL SCHOOL RUNOFF ELECTION

Polls open 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Ark. Code § 7-5-102; § 7-5-304(a); § 6-14-121(a)(3); Act 503 of 2025

NO LATER THAN POLLS CLOSE

Deadline for the county clerk to receive county to county transfer of registered voters allowed to vote in the election.

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 10(b)(2)(B); Act 372 of 2025

CBEC shall post at each polling site:

- The public notice of the election.
- At least two sample ballots marked with the word “SAMPLE” of each ballot style that will be used at the polling site, OR, if sample ballots were posted online before early voting began, two bound volumes of sample ballots marked with the word “SAMPLE”, or one bound volume and one electronic device allowing access to sample ballots.
- Two copies of the full text of measures on the ballot including copies posted under subdivision (c)(1)(C)(i) of this section shall include a copy of the concise abstract prepared and distributed under § 7-9-114.
- At least two copies of the instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a provisional ballot, and instructions for fail-safe voting.
- General information on voting rights including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated.
- General information on federal and state laws regarding acts of fraud and misrepresentation.
- Information about the availability of the Attorney General’s Election Integrity Unit including without limitation the telephone number to the hotline established under § 7-4-305 .
- Double-sided two foot (2’) by two foot (2’) signs, each containing the words “VOTE HERE”, and an arrow pointing to the polling site, shall be posted near each main driveway entrance to the polling site.
- One printout from each voting machine, terminal, or ballot tabulator showing that the candidate and question counters register zero (0).
- A copy of the poll watcher rights and responsibilities.
- A notice stating that if any voter needs assistance, the voter may ask a poll worker.
- A notice on electioneering, to be posted inside the polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c) (1)(A-K); Act 487 of 2025

8:30 am – First time the election officials can meet for the purpose of opening the inner absentee ballot envelope and counting the absentee ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

1:30 pm – Deadline for delivery of application for an absentee ballot to the office of the county clerk by an authorized agent of the voter for the General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(iv)

7:30 pm – Deadline for county clerk to receive absentee ballots by mail (excluding military and overseas), or by physical delivery of the authorized agent of the voter who is medically unable to vote at regular polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411 (a)(1)(A)(i) and § 7-5-411(a)(1)(B)

Deadline for qualified electors outside of the United States or active duty uniformed personnel to sign, date, postmark (not required for military), and mail absentee ballots to the county clerk. Must be received by the county clerk by 5:00 pm, ten (10) calendar days after the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Immediately after the polls close – Deadline for poll workers to process returns and deliver all election materials and stub boxes to CBEC.

Ark. Code § 7-5-317(b)

After the close of voting, the certified printout signed by poll workers, shall be returned to the CBEC and filed with the election returns.

Ark. Code § 7-5-518(c); Ark. Code § 7-5-526

After the count of the vote is complete, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after polls close – The CBEC shall report by precinct the initial count of early votes and absentee ballot votes to the Secretary of State as provided under § 7-5-701. A statement of the number of outstanding ballots of voters who requested ballots under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, provisional ballots, and ballots required to be duplicated under § 7-5-615 shall also be included.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(7)(B); § 7-5-701; Act 458 of 2025

November 4, 2026 – Wednesday

ONE DAY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION

No earlier than 8:30 a.m. Voter statements shall be made available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(b)(1)(L)(ii)

November 5, 2026 – Thursday

48 HOURS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION

The earliest time for the CBEC to meet to canvass the returns and certify the General Election results providing that there are no outstanding absentee ballots from overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status is no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the 15th calendar day after the General Election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a); Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(ii)

Earliest date for unopposed candidates, other than candidates for mayor, governor, circuit clerk, shall be separately declared and certified to the Secretary of State as elected in the same manner as if the candidate had been voted upon at the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a)(2)

The timeframe in which the CBEC must ascertain and declare results for the Annual School Runoff Election and file certification of election with the county clerk is no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the 15th calendar day after the Annual School Election.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(a)

The county clerk of the county in which the school district is administered, after receiving the certification of election from the CBEC, shall file a certified copy of the certified results and a certification of the outcome of each race or issue with the county clerk of each county in which any part of the school district lies.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(b)

The county clerk (or designee) shall deliver to the person having the highest number of legal votes:

- A certificate of election.
- A notice of the requirement to all directors elected to an initial or nonconsecutive term that he or she must subscribe to the director's oath.
- The date that is ten (10) days later, within which to have the oath administered.
- A list of individuals qualified to give the oath under § 21-2-105.
- A copy of the directors oath*
- A notice that the individual shall be unable to assume the duties of a director until a copy of the administration of the oath is received by the county clerk or his or her designee.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(a)(2)

*(*Further instruction and timelines regarding the administration of oaths for school board members are located in Ark. Code § 6-13-617, as amended by Act 401 of 2025.)*

November 9, 2026 – Monday

MONDAY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL ELECTION

12:00 Noon – Deadline for a voter, who voted a provisional ballot because of failure to provide verification of registration, to present a copy of a document or identification card to the CBEC or the county clerk.

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 13

November 11, 2026 – Wednesday*

20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to appoint a sufficient number of election officials for each polling site and other duties.

Ark. Code § 7-4-107(b)(1)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadline will be Thursday, November 12, 2026.]

November 13, 2026 – Friday

10 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION

5:00 pm – Deadline for absentee ballots of overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status to be received by the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Within ten (10) days after the date of the election, the results shall be certified by the county boards of election commissioners to the Secretary of State who shall tabulate all returns received by him or her and certify to the Governor the total vote for and against the proposition submitted under this section.

Ark. Code Ann. § 15-20-1318(d)(3)

November 16, 2026 – Monday

8 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to give first public notice of the following in a newspaper of general circulation in the county:

- The date of the election.
- The hours of voting on Election Day.
- The places and times for early voting.
- Polling sites for holding the elections in the county.
- The candidates and offices to be elected at that time.
- The time and location of the opening, processing, canvassing, and counting of ballots.

- The location where a list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting can be found and the date the list is available.
 - A person shall not serve as an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy if: the person is married to or related within the second degree or consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election, the spouse of a member of the CBEC, or a county party chairman or his/her spouse, AND another person makes an objection to his or her service to the CBEC within seven (7) calendar days after posting the list of officials.
- Directions for filing an objection to the service of an election official, deputy county clerk, or additional deputy.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(a)(1)(A-H) and (2)(B)

Deadline for CBEC or county clerk to prepare and post in a public place in the county clerk's office its list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct early voting. The list may appoint election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional hired to conduct election day voting in the event of a runoff election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)(A)

Deadline for the county clerk to mail a notice of any changes made in polling sites used in the last election to each affected registered voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(3)(A)

November 17, 2026 – Tuesday

PUBLICATION DEADLINE: AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE FOR THE PUBLIC TEST

The CBEC shall give public notice of the time and place the test shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the public test by publication one (1) time in one (1) or more daily or one (1) weekly newspapers published in the town, city, or county using the machines.

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c)(2)(A); Ark. Code § 7-5-611(b)(1)

November 18, 2026 – Wednesday

15 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for the CBEC to certify election results to the Secretary of State.

Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a)(1)

Last day for unopposed candidates, other than candidates for mayor, governor, circuit clerk, to be separately declared and certified to the Secretary of State as elected in the same manner as if the candidate had been voted upon at the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a)(2)

Deadline for CBEC to ascertain and declare results for the Annual School Runoff Election if applicable, and file certification of election with the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(a)(1)(B)(iii)

The county clerk of the county in which the school district is administered, after receiving the certification of election from the CBEC, shall file a certified copy of the certified results and a certification of the outcome of each race or issue with the county clerk of each county in which any part of the school district lies.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(b)

The county clerk (or designee) shall deliver to the person having the highest number of legal votes:

- A certificate of election

- A notice of the requirement to all directors elected to an initial or nonconsecutive term that he or she must subscribe to the director's oath
- The date that is ten (10) days later, within which to have the oath administered, a list of individuals qualified to give the oath under 21-2-105
- A copy of the directors oath*
- A notice that the individual shall be unable to assume the duties of a director until a copy of the administration of the oath is received by the county clerk or his or her designee.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(a)(2)

*(*Further instruction and timelines regarding the administration of oaths for school board members are located in Ark. Code § 6-13-617, as amended by Act 401 of 2025.)*

November 19, 2026 – Thursday

5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to conduct logic and accuracy testing and public testing of voting machines, election media, and vote tabulation devices. After completion of the logic & accuracy test and the public test, the CBEC shall certify the accuracy of the voting system by sending a copy of the electronic results to the Secretary of State and filing the test results with the county clerk.

Ark. Code § 7-5-515(c); § 7-5-611(a) and (c)

November 21, 2026 - Saturday*

10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC to upload sample ballots to the Voter View website.

Ark. Code § 7-5-206 (b)(2)

Deadline for CBEC to prepare and deliver absentee ballots to county clerk for mailing.

Ark. Code § 7-5-407(b)

November 22, 2026 – Sunday*

19 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION

Deadline for the CBEC to deliver a certificate of election to the person having the highest number of legal votes for any county office.

Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a)(4)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadlines will be Monday, November 23, 2026.]

November 23, 2026 – Monday

20 DAYS AFTER THE ANNUAL SCHOOL RUNOFF ELECTION IF APPLICABLE

Deadline for county clerk of the county in which the school district is administered to submit certified copies of election results, certification of the outcome of each race, and text of each issue on the ballot to the Commissioner of Education.

Ark. Code § 6-14-115(c)

Note: This requirement is contingent on when the CBEC certifies the election results. Refer to *Ark. Code § 6-14-115 (a) and (c)* for additional information.

FINAL BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO EARLY VOTING

If a county is providing sample ballots for a specified polling site in bound volumes or electronic databases under § 7-5-202(c), the sample ballots must have been posted to an internet website prior to the beginning of early voting.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c)

8 DAYS PRIOR TO GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Deadline for CBEC or county clerk to prepare and post in a public place in the county clerk's office its list of appointed election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional deputies hired to conduct election day voting. The list may appoint election officials, deputy county clerks, or additional hired to conduct election day voting in the event of a runoff election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)

November 24, 2026 – Tuesday

7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Early voting for the general runoff election shall be available to any qualified elector who applies to the county clerk during regular office hours, beginning seven (7) days before the election and ending on the day before the election day at the time the county clerk's office regularly closes.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(2)

First day for a designated bearer to pick up from the county clerk a maximum of two absentee ballots for the General Runoff Election. Upon delivery of an absentee ballot to an individual authorized to receive an absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark the precinct voter registration list to indicate that an absentee ballot has been delivered to the voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-409(f-g)

NO EARLIER THAN THE TUESDAY BEFORE THE ELECTION

First day the election officials can meet in a place designated by the CBEC for the purpose of opening the outer envelope, processing, and canvassing the absentee ballot paper work of the outer envelope.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

November 26, 2026 – Thursday*

5 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Deadline for second public notification by CBEC of information described in § 7-5-202(a)(1). Information shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The information may also be posted at each polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(1)

[*Deadlines falling on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday are extended to the following business day, per Ark. Code § 7-1-108. The actual deadlines will be Friday, November 27, 2026.]

November 27, 2026 – Friday

FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to receive in-person applications for absentee ballots for the General Runoff Election and Annual School Runoff Election from the voter, designated bearer, or administrator is no later than the close of regular business hours on the day before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A)(i), (iii), and (v)

Deadline for the voter, designated bearer, or administrator to personally deliver absentee ballots to the county clerk is no later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday before the election.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(C)

November 30, 2026 – Monday

1 DAY PRIOR TO THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Last day for voter to participate in early voting. Early voting closes the day before the Election Day at the time the county clerk's office regularly closes.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(2)

Deadline for CBEC to designate suitable person/persons to deliver ballots and necessary supplies to the polls. The suitable person/persons shall not be an elected official, an elected official's deputy, or a candidate.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(1)(A-B)

Deadline for the CBEC to deliver to the designated person/persons, for each set of poll workers at each polling site, the following additional election supplies, if applicable:

- A good and sufficient ballot box with numbered seals.
- Sufficient list-of-voters forms adequate to record the names of all registered voters who appear to vote in the polling site.
- A precinct voter registration list.
- Sufficient tally sheets.
- Envelopes to seal the ballots and certificates.
- Separate sheets containing blank forms of certificates prepared to enable the poll workers to properly certify the paper ballot count at the polling site, upon which certificates shall be endorsed.
- A blank form of oath to be taken by poll workers before entering upon the discharge of their duties.
- Voter registration application forms for voters using fail-safe voting and other record-keeping supplies necessary to document fail-safe voting procedures.
- In those counties in which an optical scanner is used to count paper ballots, the marking instrument recommended by the manufacturer of the optical scanner for proper marking on the ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-211(a)(2)(A-H)

December 1, 2026 – Tuesday

GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION

Polls open 7:30 am to 7:30 pm.

Ark. Code § 7-5-106; 7-5-304(a)

NO LATER THAN POLLS CLOSE

Deadline for the county clerk to receive county to county transfer of registered voters allowed to vote in the election.

Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51 § 10(b)(2)(B); Act 372 of 2025

CBEC shall post at each polling site:

- The public notice of the election.
- At least two sample ballots marked with the word "SAMPLE" of each ballot style that will be used at the polling site, OR, if sample ballots were posted online before early voting began, two bound volumes of sample ballots marked with the word "SAMPLE", or one bound volume and one electronic device allowing access to sample ballots.
- Two copies of the full text of measures on the ballot including copies posted under subdivision (c)(1)(C)(i) of this section shall include a copy of the concise abstract prepared and distributed under § 7-9-114.
- At least two copies of the instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a provisional ballot, and instructions for fail-safe voting.

- General information on voting rights including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated.
- General information on federal and state laws regarding acts of fraud and misrepresentation.
- Information about the availability of the Attorney General's Election Integrity Unit, including without limitation the telephone number to the hotline established under §7-4-305.
- Double-sided two foot (2') by two foot (2') signs, each containing the words "VOTE HERE", and an arrow pointing to the polling site, shall be posted near each main driveway entrance to the polling site.
- One printout from each voting machine, terminal, or ballot tabulator showing that the candidate and question counters register zero (0).
- A copy of the poll watcher rights and responsibilities.
- A notice stating that if any voter needs assistance, the voter may ask a poll worker.
- A notice on electioneering, to be posted inside the polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(c) (1)(A-K); Act 487 of 2025

8:30 am – First time the election officials can meet for the purpose of opening the inner absentee ballot envelope and counting the absentee ballots.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(1)

1:30 pm – Deadline for delivery of application for an absentee ballot to the office of the county clerk by an authorized agent of the voter.

Ark. Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)A(iv)

7:30 pm – Deadline for county clerk to receive absentee ballots by mail (excluding military and overseas absentee voters who did not cast "instant runoff" ballots), or by physical delivery of the authorized agent of the voter who is medically unable to vote at regular polling site.

Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(B) and (a)(1)(A)(i)

Immediately after the polls close – Deadline for poll workers to process returns and deliver all election materials and stub boxes to CBEC.

Ark. Code § 7-5-317(b)

After the close of voting, the certified printout signed by poll workers, shall be returned to the CBEC and filed with the election returns.

Ark. Code § 7-5-518(c); § 7-5-526

After the count of the vote is complete, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after polls close – The CBEC shall report by precinct the initial count of early votes and absentee ballot votes to the Secretary of State as provided under § 7-5-701. A statement of the number of outstanding ballots of voters who requested ballots under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, provisional ballots, and ballots required to be duplicated under § 7-5-615 shall also be included.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(a)(7)(B), Ark. Code § 7-5-701; § 7-5-615, Act 458 of 2025

December 2, 2026 – Wednesday

ONE DAY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION

No earlier than 8:30 a.m. Voter statements shall be made available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours.

Ark. Code § 7-5-416(b)(1)(L)(ii)

December 3, 2026 – Thursday	48 HOURS AFTER THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION The earliest time for the CBEC to meet to canvass the returns and certify the General Runoff Election results providing that there are no outstanding absentee ballots from overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status is no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the 15th calendar day after the General Runoff Election. <i>Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a); Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(ii)</i>
December 7, 2026 – Monday	MONDAY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION 12:00 Noon – Deadline for a voter, who voted a provisional ballot because of failure to provide verification of registration, to present a copy of a document or identification card to the CBEC or the county clerk. <i>Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51, § 13</i>
December 11, 2026 – Friday	10 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION 5:00 pm – Deadline for absentee ballots of overseas voters or armed services personnel serving in active status to be received by the county clerk. <i>Ark. Code § 7-5-411(a)(1)(A)(ii)</i>
December 16, 2026 – Wednesday	15 DAYS AFTER THE GENERAL RUNOFF ELECTION Deadline for the CBEC to certify election results to Secretary of State and the county clerk, mayor of the municipality, or city clerk or recorder. <i>Ark. Code § 7-5-701(a); Ark. Code § 14-43-304(b)(1)</i>

****This Election Calendar is provided as a courtesy by the Secretary of State and should not be construed as an official legal opinion****