



SENATE DISTRICT 26 SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION CALENDAR

The deadlines that are listed below are statutorily required deadlines based on the dates in the Governor's Proclamation, which she entered under protest to comply with an unlawful court order. Given the unlawful order, it is impossible to comply with the statutory deadlines. It may be helpful for the relevant officials to inform the public of which deadlines they will be able to meet.

SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION: January 6, 2026

- Deadline to apply to register to vote – December 7, 2025*
 - Actual deadline is Monday, December 8, 2025.
Ark. Code § 7-5-201(a); Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 51
- Early Voting begins – December 30, 2025
- Early Voting ends – January 5, 2026

***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.**

November 7, 2025 – Friday

60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

November 16, 2025 – Sunday

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE PETITION CIRCULATION

First day for independent candidates to circulate petitions.

Set by the Governor's proclamation.

November 18, 2025 – Tuesday

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 (November 28, 2025) to the chairs of the county committees.

Ark. Code § 7-7-305(b)(2)

November 20, 2025 – Thursday

47 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

November 21, 2025 – Friday

UOCAVA DEADLINE - 46 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

November 25, 2025 – Tuesday

3 DAYS PRIOR TO BALLOT DRAW DEADLINE (November 28, 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)

42 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

November 26, 2025 – Wednesday

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE PETITION CIRCULATION ENDS AT 12:00 NOON

12:00 Noon – Deadline for independent candidates to file petitions with the Secretary of State.

Set by the Governor's proclamation.

November 28, 2025 – Friday

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.

Ark. Code § 7-7-305(b)(1); Set by Governor's proclamation.

December 7, 2025 – Sunday*

30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

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

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

Deadline for CBEC to change polling sites.

Ark. Code § 7-5-101(d)(2)

[*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 8, 2025]

December 12, 2025 – Friday

25 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

December 17, 2025 – Wednesday

20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

December 21, 2025- Sunday*

PUBLICATION DEADLINE: AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO PUBLIC TEST

CBEC shall give public notice of the time and place of the public 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 December 15, 2025.**

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

December 22, 2025 – Monday

8 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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.

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)

15 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

First day for a designated bearer to pick up a maximum of two (2) absentee ballots for the Special 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

December 23, 2025 – Tuesday

7 DAYS PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF EARLY VOTING FOR THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

December 27, 2025 – Saturday*

10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline for the CBEC to make publication of all nominations 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.

Ark. Code § 7-5-206

10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

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, December 29, 2025]

December 29, 2025 – 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)(1)(B)(ii)

8 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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.

Ark. Code § 7-5-202(b)(2)(B)

December 30, 2025 – Tuesday

7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Early voting begins. Open during county clerk's regular office hours.

Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(2)(A)

7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

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

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

NO EARLIER THAN TUESDAY BEFORE THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

8:30 AM - 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)

January 1, 2026 – Thursday*

5 DAYS BEFORE THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

[*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 Friday, January 2, 2026]

January 2, 2026 – Friday

FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Deadline for county clerk to receive in-person applications for absentee ballots for the Special Primary 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)

January 5, 2026 – Monday

1 DAY PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Last day for voter to participate in early voting during the county clerk's regular office hours.
Ark. Code § 7-5-418(a)(2)(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)

January 6, 2026 – Tuesday

SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

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

Ark. Code § 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.
- 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 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-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)

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 Special 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

January 7, 2026 – Wednesday

ONE DAY FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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)

The earliest time election officials can meet for the purpose of duplicating damaged or defective ballots.

Ark Code § 7-5-615; Act 458 of 2025

January 8, 2026 – Thursday

48 HOURS AFTER THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

The earliest time for the CBEC to meet to canvass the returns and certify the Special 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 (10) calendar day after the Special Election.

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

January 12, 2026 – Monday

MONDAY FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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; Ark. Code § 7-5-308(f)(1)

January 16, 2026 – Friday

10 DAYS AFTER THE SPECIAL PRIMARY 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 Special Primary Election results. No earlier than forty-eight (48) hours and no later than the tenth (10th) calendar day after the Special Primary 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); Set by the Governor's proclamation.