

Filing Requirements for Candidacy (Government Code Sec. 2051.152(a)(4))

Requirements for Candidacy

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. (a)

To be eligible to be a candidate for, or elected or appointed to, a public elective office in this state, a person must:

- (1) be a United States citizen;
- (2) be 18 years of age or older on the first day of the term to be filled at the election or on the date of appointment, as applicable;
- (3) have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be:
 - (A) totally mentally incapacitated; or
 - (B) partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote;
- (4) have not been finally convicted of a felony from which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities;
- (5) have resided continuously in the state for 12 months and in the territory from which the office is elected for six months immediately preceding the following date:
 - (A) for a candidate whose name is to appear on a general primary election ballot, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;
 - (B) for an independent candidate, the date of the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot;
 - (C) for a write-in candidate, the date of the election at which the candidate's name is written in;
 - (D) for a party nominee who is nominated by any method other than by primary election, the date the nomination is made; and
 - (E) for an appointee to an office, the date the appointment is made;
- (6) on the date described by Subdivision (5), be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected; and
- (7) satisfy any other eligibility requirements prescribed by law for the office.

Text of subsection effective on January 1, 2020

(a-1) For purposes of satisfying the continuous residency requirement of Subsection (a)(5), a person who claims an intent to return to a residence after a temporary absence may establish that intent only if the person:

- (1) has made a reasonable and substantive attempt to effectuate that intent; and
- (2) has a legal right and the practical ability to return to the residence. Text of subsection effective on January 1, 2020

(a-2) Subsection (a-1) does not apply to a person displaced

Important Election Dates & Filing Deadlines for 2023 & 2024

Important 2023 Election Dates

May 6, 2023 - Uniform Election Date

Authority Conducting Elections	Local Political Subdivisions and Counties
Deadline to post candidate requirements ⁵ Form 1-15 (PDF)	Friday, May 6, 2022
Deadline to Post Notice of Candidate Filing Deadline (Local Political Subdivisions Only) ¹	Monday, December 19, 2022 for local political subdivisions that have a first day to file for their candidates ¹
First day to apply for a ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).	Sunday, January 1, 2023* <i>*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2023 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.</i>
First Day to File for Place on General Election Ballot (for local political subdivisions ONLY) ¹	Wednesday, January 18, 2023
Last Day to File for Place on General Election Ballot (for local political subdivisions ONLY) ²	Friday, February 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. See note below relating to four-year terms ³
Last Day to Order General Election or Election on a Measure	Friday, February 17, 2023
Last Day to Register to Vote	Thursday, April 6, 2023
First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Monday, April 24, 2023
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Tuesday, May 2, 2023
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Saturday, May 6, 2023 (election day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Monday, May 8, 2023 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴

November 7, 2023 - Uniform Election Date

These dates are subject to changes from the 2023 legislative session.

Authority Conducting Elections	Local Political Subdivisions and Counties
Deadline to post candidate requirements ⁵ Form 1-15 (PDF)	Monday, November 7, 2022
First day to apply for a ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).	Sunday, January 1, 2023* <i>*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2023 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.</i>
Deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline	Thursday, June 22, 2023 for local political subdivisions that have a first day to file for their candidates ¹
First Day to File for Place on General Election Ballot (for local political subdivisions ONLY) ¹	Saturday, July 22, 2023 ("first day" does not move; office hours not required)
Last Day to Order General Election or Election on a Measure	Monday, August 21, 2023

Last Day to File for Place on General Election Ballot (for local political subdivisions ONLY) ²	Monday, August 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. See note below relating to four-year terms ³
Last Day to Register to Vote	Tuesday, October 10, 2023* *First business day after Columbus Day
First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Monday, October 23, 2023 (17th day before election day falls on a Saturday, first day moves to next business day)
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Friday, October 27, 2023
Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Friday, November 3, 2023
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, November 7, 2023 (election day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, November 8, 2023 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴

¹ For the few entities who do not have a first day to file: For the May 6, 2023 election, Wednesday, January 18, 2023 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. For the November 7, 2023 election, Saturday, July 22, 2023 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates.

Local political subdivisions include: cities, school districts, water districts, hospital districts, and any other local government entity that conducts elections. Many of these elections are conducted on the May uniform election date. Note: Counties may also be holding local proposition (measure) elections on May 6, 2023.

² Filing deadlines: generally, the filing deadline is the 78th day prior to Election Day. The Code may provide a different special election filing deadline. See Section 201.054 of the Texas Election Code (the “Code”). Write-in deadlines for general and special elections vary. See the long calendar for this election date for details. The write-in deadline for most local (city, school, other) special elections is now the same day as the filing deadline for application for a place on the ballot. Section 201.054.

³ If no candidate for a four-year term has filed an application for a place on the ballot for a city office, the filing deadline for that office is extended to 5 p.m. of the 57th day before the election. For the May 6, 2023 election, this is Friday, March 10, 2023. For the November 7, 2023 election, this is Monday, September 11, 2023. See Section 143.008 of the Code.

⁴ Different deadlines apply to the last day to receive ballots sent by the following: 1) non-military and military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and submitted a regular state Application for Ballot by Mail (“ABBM”), 2) non-military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and who submitted a Federal Postcard Application (“FPCA”), and (3) military voters and members of the Texas National Guard, who mailed ballots domestically or from overseas and who submitted an FPCA. See Secs. 86.007, 101.001 and 101.057 of the Code.

⁵ Section 2051.201 of the Government Code requires all political subdivisions with the authority to impose a tax maintain a publicly accessible Internet website and post the date and location of the next election for officers of the political subdivision and the requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy of each elected office of the political subdivision, which shall be continuously posted for at least one year before the election day for the office.

Important 2024 Election Dates

****These dates are subject to changes from the 2023 legislative session** Longer calendars are on the Conducting Your Elections pages when available.**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 - Primary Election

First day to file for a place on the Primary ballot for precinct chair candidates.	Tuesday, September 12, 2023
First day to file for all other candidates for offices that are regularly scheduled to be on the Primary ballot; first day for independent candidates to file declaration of intent.	Saturday, November 11, 2023
Filing deadline for primary candidates; filing deadline for independent candidates to file declaration of intent.	Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM
First day to apply for a ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail	Monday, January 1, 2024*

(ABBM) or Federal Postcard Application (FPCA).	*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2024 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.
Last Day to Register to Vote	Monday, February 5, 2024
First Day of Early Voting	Tuesday, February 20, 2024* *First business day after Presidents' Day
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received , not Postmarked)	Friday, February 23, 2024
Last Day of Early Voting	Friday, March 1, 2024
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, March 5, 2024 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, March 6, 2024 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴

Saturday, May 4, 2024 – Uniform Election Date (Limited)

Authority Conducting Elections	<p>Local Non-County Political Subdivisions</p> <p>(County-ordered elections may not be held on this date. County Election Official may, but is not required to, contract to provide election services to political</p>
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	subdivisions holding elections on this date.)
Deadline to post candidate requirements ⁵ Form 1-15	Thursday, May 4, 2023
Deadline to Post Notice of Candidate Filing Deadline (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only) ¹	Monday, December 18, 2023
First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Monday, January 1, 2024* *First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2024 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.
First Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only) ¹	Wednesday, January 17, 2024
Last Day to Order General Election or Special Election on a Measure	Friday, February 16, 2024
Last Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only) ²	Friday, February 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. See note below relating to four-year terms ³
Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only)	Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
Last Day to Register to Vote	Thursday, April 4, 2024

First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Monday, April 22, 2024
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Tuesday, April 30, 2024
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Saturday, May 4, 2024 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Monday, May 6, 2024 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 – Primary Runoff Election

First day to apply for a ballot by mail using Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) or Federal Postcard Application (FPCA)	Monday, January 1, 2024* <i>*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2024 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.</i>
Last Day to Register to Vote	Monday, April 29, 2024
First Day of Early Voting	Monday, May 20, 2024
Last Day to Apply by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Friday, May 17, 2024
Last Day of Early Voting	Friday, May 24, 2024

Last Day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, May 28, 2024 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, May 29, 2024 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴
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Tuesday, November 5, 2024 - Uniform Election Date

Deadline to post candidate requirements ⁵ Form 1-15	Sunday, November 5, 2023
Deadline to Post Notice of Candidate Filing Deadline (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only)	Thursday, June 20, 2024 for local political subdivisions that have a first day to file for their candidates ¹
First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Monday, January 1, 2024* <i>*First day to file does not move because of New Year's Day holiday. An "Annual ABBM" or FPCA for a January or February 2024 election may be filed earlier, but not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the January or February election.</i>
First Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only) ¹	Saturday, July 20, 2024
First Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (General Election for State and County Officers)	Saturday, July 20, 2024

Last Day to Order General Election or Special Election on a Measure	Monday, August 19, 2024
Last Day to File for a Place on the General Election Ballot (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only) ²	Monday, August 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. See note below relating to four-year terms ³
Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (General Election for State and County Officers)	Monday, August 19, 2024
Last Day to File a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy (Local Non-County Political Subdivisions Only)	Friday, August 23, 2024
Last Day to Register to Vote	Monday, October 7, 2024
First Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Monday, October 21, 2024
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)	Friday, October 25, 2024
Last Day of Early Voting by Personal Appearance	Friday, November 1, 2024
Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail	Tuesday, November 5, 2024 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, November 6, 2024 (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply) ⁴

¹ For the few entities who do not have a first day to file: For the May 4, 2024 election, Wednesday, January 17, 2024 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates. For the November 5, 2024 election, Saturday, July 20, 2024 is the deadline to post notice of candidate filing deadline for local political subdivisions that do not have a first day to file for their candidates.

Local political subdivisions include: cities, school districts, water districts, hospital districts, and any other local government entity that conducts elections. Many of these elections are conducted on the May uniform election date.

² Filing deadlines: generally, the filing deadline is the 78th day prior to Election Day. The Code may provide a different special election filing deadline. See Section 201.054 of the Texas Election Code (the "Code"). Write-in deadlines for general and special elections vary. See the long calendar for this election date for details. The write-in deadline for most local (city, school, other) **special elections** is now the same day as the filing deadline for application for a place on the ballot. Section 201.054.

³ If no candidate for a **four-year term** has filed an application for a place on the ballot for a **city office**, the filing deadline for that office is extended to 5 p.m. of the 57th day before the election. For the May 4, 2024 election, this is Friday, March 8, 2024. See Section 143.008 of the Code.

⁴ Different deadlines apply to the last day to receive ballots sent by the following: 1) non-military and military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and submitted a regular state Application for Ballot by Mail ("ABBM"), 2) non-military voters who mailed ballots from overseas and who submitted a Federal Postcard Application ("FPCA"), and (3) military voters and members of the Texas National Guard, who mailed ballots domestically or from overseas and who submitted an FPCA. See Secs. 86.007, 101.001 and 101.057 of the Code.

⁵ Section 2051.201 of the Government Code requires all political subdivisions with the authority to impose a tax maintain a publicly accessible Internet website and post the date and location of the next election for officers of the political subdivision and the requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy of each elected office of the political subdivision, which shall be continuously posted for at least one year before the election day for the office.

Please contact the Elections Division of the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at 1-800-252-VOTE (8683) for additional information