



2009 OHIO ELECTION CALENDAR

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE JENNIFER BRUNNER

	R.C. Reference
2009	
Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2009 elections may be accepted (first day of the year)..... 3509.03, 3511.02
Jan. 5	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (45 days before Feb. 19 deadline for filing petitions) 4301.33, 4305.14
*Jan. 5	Deadline for voter registration for Feb. 3 special election (30 days before the election) 3503.19
Jan. 14	Committees advocating or opposing ballot issues must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before the election) 3505.21
Jan. 23	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the election) 3505.21
Jan. 24	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election) 3501.03
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms for handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's office by this date (no later than 10 days before the election) 3501.29, Secretary of State Directive 2008-44
Jan. 31	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for Feb. 3 special election must be received by the boards of elections by noon (3 days before the election) 3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
Feb. 2	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of regular business hours (day before the election) 3509.03, 3511.10
	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3509.031
	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3505.21
Feb. 3	Special Elections may be held 3501.01
	Voter, or voter's minor child, hospitalized because of medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m. 3509.08
	Armed Services absentee voter may apply and vote in person at board of elections office until close of polls 3511.10
	Absentee ballots, returned in person , must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls 3509.05, 3511.11
Feb. 4	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly to be filed with Secretary of State by this date (90 days before the primary election) OH Const. XVI, §1, 3501.02
Feb. 13	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States must be postmarked not later than February 2 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3509.05
	Out-of-country civilian absentee ballots must be postmarked or signed on or before close of polls on February 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3509.05
	Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before close of polls on February 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3511.11
Feb. 19	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (75 days before the primary) 3513.05
	Local questions and issues for primary election, including local option petitions , must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election) 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 26	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (68 days before the primary) 3513.05
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (68 days before the election) 4305.14
Mar. 2	Protests against partisan candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before the primary) 3513.05
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before the election) 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Mar. 4	Write-in candidates for primary must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (62 days before the election) 3513.041
Mar. 6	Form of official ballots must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (60 days before the primary) 3513.05
	Board of elections of most populous county of a multi-county subdivision must certify names of candidates to other boards of elections (60 days before the election) 3513.05
	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of polling place officials (within 60 days before the election) 3501.27
Mar. 9	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (57 days before the election) 3513.041
Mar. 24	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (six weeks before the election) 3503.12
Mar. 31	Primary election absentee ballots must be ready (35 days before the election) 3509.01, 3511.04
Apr. 5	February 3, 2009 special election ballots may be discarded, except for federal office, unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after election) 3505.31, 42 USC 1974
*Apr. 6	Deadline for voter registration for primary election (30 days before the election) 3503.19
Apr. 15	Corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists may be filed (20 days before election) 3503.24
	Committees advocating or opposing ballot issues must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before the election) 3505.21
	Deadline for an elector to challenge qualification of another elector (20 days before the election) 3505.19
Apr. 21	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration lists (14 days before the election) 3503.23
Apr. 24	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the election) 3505.21
Apr. 25	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election) 3501.03
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms for handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's office by this date (no later than 10 days before the election) 3501.29, Secretary of State Directive 2008-44
*Apr. 27	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on primary ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before election) 3513.30
Apr. 30	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on ballot in one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before election) 3513.30
May 2	Applications by mail for absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by noon (three days before the election) 3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
May 4	Nominating petitions of independent candidates for offices for which a primary election may be held must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3513.257
	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3505.21
	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3509.031
	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of regular business hours (day before the election) 3509.03
May 5	Primary Election Day . Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. 3501.01, .32
	Voter, or voter's minor child, hospitalized because of medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m. 3509.08
	Armed Services absentee voter may apply and vote in person at board of elections office until close of polls 3511.10
	Absentee ballots, returned in person , must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls 3509.05, 3511.11
May 15	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States must be postmarked not later than May 4 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after election) 3509.05
	Out-of-country civilian absentee ballots must be postmarked or signed on or before close of polls on May 5 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3509.05
	Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before close of polls on May 5 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3511.11
May 16	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the election) 3513.22
May 20	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the election) 3513.22
May 21	Local questions and issues for Aug. 4 special elections must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election) 3501.01, .02
May 26	Boards of elections must complete canvass of ballots no later than this date (21 days after the election) 3513.22
Jun. 15	Board of elections of most populous county of a district located in more than one county must transmit petitions of independent candidates to other boards of elections 3513.262
Jun. 26	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (six weeks before special election) 3503.12
July 1	Constitutional amendments or laws proposed by initiative petitions to be submitted directly to the voters must be filed with Secretary of State by this date (125 days before the election) OH Const. II, §1a and §1b; 3501.02
Jul. 5	Primary election ballots may be discarded, except for federal office, unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after election) 3505.31, 42 USC 1974
*Jul. 6	Deadline for voter registration for Aug. 4 special election (30 days before the election) 3503.19
Jul. 6	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listing to Division of Liquor Control (45 days before Aug. 20 deadline for filing petitions) 4301.33, 4305.14
Jul. 15	Boards of elections must certify independent candidate petitions 3513.262
	Committees advocating or opposing ballot issues must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before the election) 3505.21
Jul. 24	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the election) 3505.21
Jul. 25	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election) 3501.03
	Boards of elections must submit verification forms for handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's office by this date (no later than 10 days before the election) 3501.29, Secretary of State Directive 2008-44
Jul. 30	Protests against nominating petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. 3513.262

Campaign Finance Reports - Primary Election

For full instructions and additional filing requirements, see Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.10

2009	
Jan. 20	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports 3517.11
Jan. 30	Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of January) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 31, 2008 3517.10
Apr. 13	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports 3517.11
Apr. 23	Pre-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through April 15 (20 days before the election) 3517.10
Jun. 2	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports 3517.11
Jun. 12	Post-primary election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds) and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through June 5 (the seventh day before the report is filed) 3517.10
Jul. 21	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file semiannual campaign finance reports 3517.10
Jul. 31	Semiannual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. last business day of July detailing contributions and expenditures through June 30, 2009 3517.10

Note: The charter provisions in various municipalities may affect certain dates and/or requirements set forth above. Contact your county board of elections for such charter information.

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



2009 OHIO ELECTION CALENDAR

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	R.C. Reference
2009	
Aug. 1	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for Aug. 4 special election must be received by noon (three days before the election) 3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
Aug. 3	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of regular business hours (day before the election) 3509.03 Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3509.031 Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3505.21
Aug. 4	Special Elections may be held 3501.01 Voter, or voter's minor child, hospitalized because of medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m. 3509.08 Armed Services absentee voter may apply and vote in person at board of elections office until close of polls 3511.10 Absentee ballots, returned in person , must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls 3509.05, 3511.11
Aug. 5	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly to be filed with Secretary of State by this date (90 days before the election) OH Const. XVI, §1; 3501.02
Aug. 14	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States , must be postmarked not later than August 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after election) 3509.05 Out-of-country civilian absentee ballots must be postmarked or signed on or before close of polls on August 4 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3509.05 Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before close of polls on August 4 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3511.11
Aug. 19	Political party or independent candidate's nominating committee must certify name of person to fill vacancy on ballot caused by withdrawal of candidate by 4 p.m. (76 days before the election) 3513.31
Aug. 20	Nominating petitions of candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election) 3513.251, .253, .254, .255, .28 Local questions and issues for general election, including local option petitions , must be certified to or filed with boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election) 731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 27	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races (68 days before the election) 3513.263 Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (68 days before the election) 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Aug. 31	Protests against candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races must be filed by this date (64 days before the election) 3513.263 Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (64 days before the election) 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Sep. 2	Write-in candidates must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (62 days before the election) 3513.041
Sep. 4	Form of official ballots must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (60 days before the election) 3505.01 Board of elections of most populous county of a multi-county subdivision must certify names of all candidates for general election ballot to other boards of elections (60 days before the election) 3505.01 Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of polling place officials (within 60 days before the election) 3501.27
*Sep. 8	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (57 days before the election) 3513.041
Sep. 22	Boards of elections shall advertise in newspaper(s) the places, dates, times, qualifications, and methods for voter registration (six weeks before the election) 3503.12
Sep. 29	General election absentee ballots must be ready (35 days before the election) 3509.01, 3511.04
Oct. 4	August 4, 2009 special election ballots may be discarded, except for federal office, unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after election) 3505.31, 42 USC 1974
*Oct. 5	Deadline for voter registration for general election (30 days before the election) 3503.19
Oct. 14	Corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists may be filed (20 days before the election) 3503.24 Committees advocating or opposing ballot issues must file by 4 p.m. to be recognized as a committee to appoint observers (20 days before the election) 3505.21 Deadline for an elector to challenge qualification of another elector (20 days before the election) 3505.19
Oct. 20	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration list (14 days before the election) 3503.23
Oct. 23	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the election) 3505.21
Oct. 24	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election) 3501.03 Boards of elections must submit verification forms for handicapped accessible parking and handicapped accessible polling locations to the Secretary of State's office by this date (no later than 10 days before the election) 3501.29, Secretary of State Directive 2008-44
*Oct. 26	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in more than one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (10 days before the election) 3513.31
Oct. 29	Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of independent or nonpartisan candidate prior to Oct. 24 (10 days before the election) must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before the election) 3513.31 Certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in one county must be filed by 4 p.m. (five days before the election) 3513.31
Oct. 31	Applications by mail for absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by noon (three days before the election) 3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
Nov. 2	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of regular business hours (day before the election) 3509.03 Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3509.031 Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election) 3505.21
Nov. 3	General Election Day . Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. 3501.01, .32 Voter, or voter's minor child, hospitalized because of medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m. 3509.08 Armed Services absentee voter may apply and vote in person at board of elections office until close of polls 3511.10 Absentee ballots, returned in person , must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls 3509.05, 3511.11
Nov. 13	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States must be postmarked not later than November 2 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after election) 3509.05 Out-of-country civilian ballots must be postmarked or signed before close of polls on Nov. 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3509.05 Out-of-country armed service absentee ballots must be signed on or before close of polls on Nov. 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election) 3511.11
Nov. 14	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the election) 3505.32
Nov. 18	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the election) 3505.32
Nov. 19	Local questions and issues for Feb. 2, 2010 special elections must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (75 days before the election) 3501.01, .02
Nov. 24	Boards of elections must complete canvass of ballots no later than this date (21 days after the election) 3505.32

2010	
Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2010 may be accepted 3509.03, 3511.02
Jan. 3	General Election ballots from 2009, except for federal office, may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after the election) 3505.31, 42 USC 1974
Jan. 4	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (45 days before Feb. 18 deadline for filing petitions) 4301.33, 4305.14
*Jan. 4	Deadline for voter registration for Feb. 2 special election (30 days before the election) 3503.19

Note: The charter provisions in various municipalities may affect certain dates and/or requirements set forth above. Contact your county board of elections for such charter information.
*In some instances, the statutory deadline falls on a day when the offices of the Secretary of State and boards of elections are closed. In those instances, the deadlines are extended, pursuant to R.C. 1.14, to the next succeeding day when the appropriate office is open for regular business hours. The preceding dates reflect the extended deadline.

Recounts and Election Contests

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

Campaign Finance Reports - General Election

For full instructions and additional filing requirements, see Ohio Revised Code Section 3517.10

2009	
Oct. 12	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports 3517.11
Oct. 22	Pre-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (12 days before the election) detailing contributions and expenditures from the last day reflected in the previous report through Oct. 14 (20 days before the election) 3517.10
Dec. 1	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports 3517.11
Dec. 11	Post-general election campaign finance reports must be filed by candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (38 days after the election) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 4 (the seventh day before the report is filed) 3517.10
2010	
Jan. 19	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports 3517.11
Jan. 29	Annual campaign finance reports must be filed by certain candidates, political action committees, caucus committees (legislative campaign funds), and political parties by 4 p.m. (last business day of January) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 31, 2009 3517.10