

Candidate Guide – Important Dates 11/3/26

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DAYS BEFORE ELECTION
July 13, 2026 to August 7, 2026	Period for filing nomination documents for school, municipal, and special district offices for the General Election. Elections Code §§10220, 10407, 10510	113 to 88
July 31, 2026 Semi-Annual Campaign Statement Due	All committees filing campaign must file a semi-annual statement Government Code §§84200, 84218	Date Fixed by Law
August 5 to November 3, 2026 90-Day Contribution Reporting Period	Candidates, ballot measure committees, and recipient committees that make or receive a late contribution or loan that totals in the aggregate \$1,000 or more during the 90-day election cycle before an election must report late monetary contributions within 24 hours and non-monetary contributions within 48 hours by personal delivery, fax, or guaranteed overnight service. Government Code §§82036, 84203, 85204	90 To E-Day

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August 7, 2026 Deadline to File Nomination Documents & Measures	All nomination documents must be filed or withdrawn no later than 5 p.m. on this date (except in the cases of extended nomination periods). <i>Elections Code §§8020, 8063, 8801, 10220</i> <i>Education Code §5322;</i> <i>Elections Code §§9051(b)</i>	88
August 8, 2026 to August 12, 2026 Extended Nomination Period	If an incumbent eligible to be elected for an office fails to file the required nomination documents by 5 p.m. on E-88, anyone other than the incumbent who is otherwise qualified shall have five (5) calendar days to file for that office. This section does not apply when there is no incumbent eligible to be elected. <i>Elections Code §§8022, 10225, 10407, 10510, 10516</i> *For dates that fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, use the next regular business	87 to 78
August 10, 2026 Withdraw Statement of Qualifications	Any candidate for an office that is <i>not</i> going to extension has until 5 p.m. on this day to withdraw their Statement of Qualifications. <i>Elections Code §§13307 (a)(3)</i>	85

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August 14, 2026 Deadline For Arguments For/Against Measures & Impartial/Fiscal Analysis	Final filing date for arguments for or against any school, county, or special district measure to appear on the ballot, as set by the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters. Arguments must be filed in the Registrar of Voters Office not later than 5 p.m. on this date. <i>Elections Code §§9162, 9163, 9282, 9286, 9315, 9316, 9501, 9502, 9600</i>	81
August 21, 2026 Rebuttal Arguments For Measures	If both an argument in favor of and an argument against any school, county, or special district measure have been filed, the Registrar of Voters Office shall send copies of each argument to the opposing author(s). The opposing author(s) may, if desired, file rebuttal arguments no later than 10 days after the final date for filing direct arguments. <i>Elections Code §§9167, 9285, 9317, 9504, 9600</i>	74

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September 7, 2026 to October 20, 2026 Write-In Period	Period when nomination documents for write-in candidates may be obtained from and delivered to the Registrar of Voters Office. Each write-in candidate must file a Statement of Write-In Candidacy, along with the requisite number of signatures (if any), in order to have their votes counted. <i>Elections Code §8600 et seq.</i>	57 to 14
September 24, 2026 First Pre-Election Campaign Statement	Deadline for candidates, ballot measure committees, and recipient committees to file (by first class mail or personal delivery) the first preelection campaign statement covering the reporting period of July 1 through September 19, 2026 (E-45). <i>Government Code §§84200.5, 84200.8(a)</i>	40
September 24, 2026 to October 13, 2026 Mail County Voter Information Guides	During this period the Registrar of Voters Office shall mail County Voter Information Guides to all voters who registered to vote prior to the 28th day before the election. information about where they can obtain the County Voter Information Guide. <i>Elections Code §§ 13303, 13304, 13306</i>	40 to 21

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October 5, 2026 Vote-By-Mail Ballots Available	First day voters can pick up (or have mailed to them) Vote-by-Mail ballots at the Registrar of Voters Office. <i>Elections Code §§ 3001, 3003, 3017, 3020, 3021</i>	29
October 19, 2026 Close of Standard Voter Registration	Deadline for any qualified elector to submit a standard registration form to vote in the upcoming election. Any person who has moved, changed their name, or wishes to change their political party preference must re-register by this date. <i>Elections Code §§2102, 2115, 2116, 2152</i>	15
October 22, 2026 Second Pre-Election Campaign Statement	Deadline for candidates, ballot measure committees, and recipient committees to file (by overnight service or personal delivery but not first-class mail) the second pre-election campaign statement covering the reporting period of September 20, 2026 (E-44) through October 17, 2026 (E-17). <i>Government Code §§84200.5, 84200.8(b)</i>	12

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October 24, 2026 to November 2, 2026 11-Day Vote Centers Open	Period during which a limited number of Vote Centers are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. <i>Elections Code §4005(a)(4)(A)</i>	10 to 1
October 31, 2026 to November 2, 2026 4-Day Vote Centers Open	Period during which an expanded number of Vote Centers are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. <i>Elections Code §4005(a)(4)(B)</i>	3 to 1
November 3, 2026 Election Day	Vote-by-Mail ballots may be returned in person or by a designated person not later than 8 p.m. either to the Registrar of Voters Office, any official Vote Center in the State, or any official Ballot Drop Box in the State. Vote-by-Mail ballots may also be returned in the mail as long as they are postmarked on or before Election Day and received within seven days. <i>Elections Code §§4005(a), 3017, 3020, 3021, 10541</i>	E-Day

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November 5, 2026 Official Canvass	No later than the Thursday following the election, the Registrar of Voters Office shall commence the official canvass of votes cast. The canvass shall be open to the public and, for state or statewide elections, shall result in a report of results to the Secretary of State. The canvass shall be continued daily (Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excepted) for not less than six hours each day until completed. <i>Elections Code §§335.5, 362, 15301, 15360</i>	E+2
December 3, 2026 Completion of Canvass	The Registrar of Voters Office shall prepare a certified statement of the results of the election and submit it to each local governing body participating in the election within 30 days of the election. <i>Elections Code §§15372, 15400, 15401</i>	E+30

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February 1, 2027 Semi-Annual Campaign Statement Due	All candidates and committees filing campaign finance statements in conjunction with the November 3, 2026, General Election, must file a semi-annual statement no later than February 1, 2027, for the period beginning July 1, 2026 (or from the date of last filing), and ending December 31, 2026. Government Code §§84200, 84218	Date Fixed By Law
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