Election Calendar

For a City's General Election on November 3, 2026

(version on August 6, 2026[1])

Abbreviations are the same as those in the *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual* (6th edition) [M] with a green cover. SOS form numbers are provided as a convenience, not a requirement.

This calendar presumes that SB 2753 will NOT be implemented in November 2026. SB 2753 eliminates the gap between early voting by personal appearance and election day and changes the early voting period, among other things highlighted in blue in this calendar for purposes of discussion. The Secretary of State will implement SB 2753 after publishing a report about how to implement the bill no later than August 1, 2027. Runoff dates appear in green rows.

This calendar does not apply to all elections. For example, to prepare a calendar for a special election to fill a vacancy in office (even one on a uniform election date), see M §12.03; for a special election on a measure, see M §12.12. This calendar omits actions that vary from one city to another (for example, preparation of voting equipment). Each city secretary should use the chart at M §1.62 to create a personal election calendar.

Dates in column 1 are 2026 unless noted otherwise. Actions in column 2 relate to general elections (those in *italics pertain to early voting*). Actions are typically taken by the city secretary; deviations appear in column 3. Column 4 is a cross reference to the Elections Manual. If this cross reference includes a year, then refer to the updated page, not the originally printed one.

"ED Interval" in column 5 is the time between the action and election day. For example, the notation "-50" means the 50th day before election day; the notation "+40" means the 40th day after election day. (***For office hours on holidays, see endnote 7 regarding new law***). An asterisk (*) in column 5 indicates the time stated is not required by statute; recommendations are not mandatory. Not all due dates revolve around election day and are so noted.

The last column (T) can be used to show completion of the event in column 2. A dashed line in the table between entries indicates separate events that fall on the same day.

When reading the Election Code, read the chapter and subchapter titles to determine if the section applies to cities—not all sections apply. Note that counties cannot order elections of their own in May of even-numbered years and may decline to contract with cities at that time.

[1] The last day for the early voting ballot board to meet is not November 12, but November 16. Thank you to Stephanie Story at the City of Wylie.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
June 19	Juneteenth Holiday/Emancipation Day	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
June 18	LAST DAY to post notice on bulletin board of the filing period for the general election (SOS Form 2-1).	City Secretary	2.13(d)	-138 (30 days before 1st day to file)	
July 4	Independence Day Holiday	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
July 6	Recommended* period to obtain forms: candidate's application for place on ballot, appointment of campaign treasurer (candidate and specific-purpose committee), report of contributions and expenditures (candidate-officeholder and specific-purpose committee), application for mail ballot, administrative forms, and precinct forms.	City Secretary	5.31	*-120	
July 6 to July 27	Recommended* period to review M §1.62 for possible action: Steps 1-5 (revising election precincts, designating polling places, changing method of voting, and contracting, if any) and Step 12 (establishing or changing terms of election judges).	City Secretary and City Council	1.62 5.42 5.21 5.11 7.42	*-120 through *-99	
July 15	LAST DAY for timely filing of semi-annual report of contributions and expenditures.	City Secretary	3.12(b) 3.16	July 15	
July 18	FIRST DAY for filing application for place on general election ballot (SOS Form 2-49). Note: The first day does not move despite Saturday. Office hours not required. Filing for a general election may occur before the election is ordered (as opposed to a special election). Periods ends at 5 p.m., ED -78 days.	City Secretary	2.13(a)	-108 (30 days before filing deadline)	
July 18	FIRST DAY for filing declaration of write-in candidacy (SOS Form 2-55). Note: Period ends at 5 p.m. ED -74 days.	City Secretary	2.18(b)	-108	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
July 23 to Aug. 17	Recommended* period and statutory deadline for ordering a general election (SOS Form 1-2). Note: While the 6th edition of the Manual recommends ordering shortly before the opening of the filing period for the general election, there is no statutory "first day" to order a general election, and an order can be made when convenient (meaning as early as you want). However, to avoid confusion, wait until after the prior election and runoff. Sometimes the phrase "calling election" is used. The start date for a special election on a measure varies according to controlling law. See endnote 2 for mock student elections. Home-rule cities see endnote 3. Cities contracting should informally notify their contracting partners as soon as possible.	Mayor	6.03	*-103 through -78	
Aug. 5	LAST DAY for small city in small county to apply for exception to accessibility requirements (SOS Form 16-1).	City Secretary	5.25(c)(3)	-90	
Aug. 15 midnight	Death and ballot preparation: If a candidate dies on or before this date, the City Secretary MUST remove the candidate's name from the ballot. Note: If a candidate dies after this date but on or before the filing deadline, see endnote 4.	City Secretary	6.23(c)	-80 (2 days before filing deadline)	
Aug. 17	LAST DAY for ordering a general (SOS Form 1-2) or special election on a measure (SOS Form 1-8) for Nov. Note: The first date to order a special election depends on controlling law. Mandatory office hours for a special election start 3 days after the election is ordered. See endnote 2 for mock student elections. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.03 12.03(e)(2)	-78	
Aug. 17 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for filing application for place on a general election ballot (SOS Form 2-49). Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. Mailed applications are filed on receipt. A home-rule charter may not change this date. For deceased candidates, see endnote 4. If no candidate has filed in a city with four-year terms, the filing deadline is extended to ED -57 (except in Nov. of even-numbered years).	City Secretary	2.13(b) 2.14 6.23(c)	-78	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Aug. 17	Recommended* last day for notice designating election precincts and polling places. Note: These are likely to match the county's locations in a November election.	City Council	5.42(d)	*-78	
Aug. 17	Recommended* first day to provide 4-day notice of drawing to candidate. Note: Only written notice by mail is required 4 days before the drawing, but phone or email notice should follow the same timeline. Public notice must be posted (SOS Form 3-1) 72 hours before date of drawing.	City Secretary	6.22(a)(2)	*-78	
Aug. 20	Recommended* first day for preliminary work to appoint election judges.	City Secretary	7.01	*-75	
Aug. 20	Recommended* first day to post public's 72-hour notice of drawing for order of names on ballot (SOS Form 3-1).	City Secretary	6.22(a)(1)	*-75	
Aug. 21 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for a write-in candidate to declare candidacy in the general election (SOS Form 2-55). Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. Mailed applications are filed when received. For deceased candidates, see endnote 4.	City Secretary	2.18(b) 2.18(c)	-74	
Aug. 22	Recommended* date to deliver the certification of unopposed candidates to city council if a candidate does not have an opponent in an election considered to be a separate election (SOS Form 13-1).	City Secretary	6.12	*-73	
Aug. 23 to Aug. 27	Recommended* period to conduct drawing for order of names on ballot, prepare ballot format, and send it to the printer. Note: Notice of drawing (SOS Form 3-1) must be posted 72 hours before drawing. Ask candidates to proof their names and offices.	City Secretary	6.22(b) 6.25 6.26	*-72 through *-68	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Aug. 24 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for omitting a general election candidate's name from the ballot if the candidate withdraws (SOS Form 2-66) or is declared ineligible. Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. A withdrawal submitted after this date is valid if it is submitted before the ballots are prepared AND if the public notice of the logic and accuracy test "has not been published." However, L&A testing is no longer published. NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025) requires L&A testing at least 48 days before election day and notice posted (not published) at least 48 hours before then. Per EC §145.092(e), EC §1.006 does not apply to withdrawal deadlines.	City Secretary	2.31(b) 2.31(c)	-71	
Aug. 24	Recommended* first day to cancel (SOS Form 13-2). Note: Unopposed races must be cancelled if no opposed at-large race is on the ballot.	City Council	6.13	*-71	
Aug. 27	LBJ Day Holiday	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Sept. 4 to Nov. 3	Ethics Commission will defer an investigation of candidates until after election (or runoff).	City Secretary Texas Ethics Commission	3.01(b)(2)	-60 through ED or runoff	
Sept. 4	LAST DAY to deliver notice of the election to the county clerk and voter registrar of each county where the city is located. Note: This is not the publication or posting deadline. For counties with elections administrators, notice goes to them.	City Council (City Secretary)	6.54(a)	-60	
Sept. 4	Recommended* day to contact the county to get the initial list of voters who have submitted annual applications for ballot by mail (ABBM).	City Secretary	9.43	*-60	
Sept. 7	Labor Day Holiday	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Sept. 10 to Sept. 21	Recommended* period for appointing election judges (SOS Forms 4-15, 4-16, 4-17) plus members of the EVBB (SOS Forms 4-19) and SVC (SOS Form 10-12, 10-13, 10-14). Note: Home-rule cities see endnote 3. The SVC cannot meet until ED – 20 days. The EVBB can meet any time after ballots are returned and no later than ED – 9 days.	Mayor City Council Early Voting Clerk City Secretary	7.42(a)(2) 7.23-.24 7.33-.34	*-54 through *-43	
Sept. 13	Recommended* date to print ballots that have been prepared earlier.	City Secretary	6.25	*-51	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Sept. 14	FIRST DAY for mandatory office hours for a general election. Note: City Secretary must keep office open for at least 3 hours a day during regular office hours on regular business days. Period ends ED +40 days. Office hours for a special election start 3 days after the election is ordered. See endnote 7 for impact of holidays.	City Secretary	6.80(a)	-50	
Sept. 14	LAST DAY for a challenge of a candidate application based on form, content, and procedure.	City Secretary	2.16(d)	-50	
Sept. 15	National Voter Registration Day. Note: Not a holiday recognized by the EC.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Sept. 16	LAST DAY to conduct logic & accuracy testing and test any automatic tabulating equipment used in a central counting station or polling place. Note: NEW LAW SB 2166 (2025). If testing cannot be done by this date, the SOS must be notified. Expect changes to SOS Forms 15-1 to 15-8. Notice for testing equipment must be posted on the city's website at least 48 hours before testing begins. Tabulators used in a central counting station must be tested again before and after each use.	City Secretary	6.63(d)(1) 6.63(d)(2) 6.64(c)	-48	
Sept. 19	*LAST DAY to mail ballots to FCPA voters and other voters who are eligible for early voting because they are voting from outside the United States.* Note: If it is not possible to mail these ballots by this deadline, the City Secretary must notify SOS within 24 hours. SOS does not apply EC §1.006 to this deadline. Respond to FPCA applications received after this date within 7 days (the same as non-FPCA applications). Rosters must be posted to city website by 11 a.m. on the following day (SOS Forms 5-7 & 6-55).	City Secretary	9.49(b) 9.81	-45	
Oct. 4	FIRST DAY to begin posting continuous notice if SVC meets on first available date (ED – 20 days). Note: The first day is not extended if it falls on a weekend. The city council appoints (SOS Form 10-13) not later than 5 days after the City Secretary calls for appointment (SOS Forms 10-12). Post notice of appointment (SOS Form 10-14), notice of delivery (SOS Form 10-15), and notice of meeting (SOS Form 10-16).	City Secretary	6.70(a) 7.33 7.34	-30	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Oct. 4	Recommended* day to begin posting the notice of voting order priority on the city's website (SOS Form 7-38).	City Secretary	10.23(c)	*-30	
Oct. 4 to Oct. 24	Period for publishing notice of election (SOS Form 1-14). Note: Must be published at least once; perhaps more for a special election on a measure. The city attorney may apply EC §1.006 to publication deadlines, but SOS does not. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.52(a)	-30 through -10	
Oct. 5 5 p.m. or midnight	LAST DAY for filing first report of campaign contributions and expenditures by opposed candidates and specific-purpose committees (commonly called the "30-day Report"). Note: Because the calculated day falls on Sun., the deadline moves to Mon. City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. The deadline is extended to midnight for electronic filing. See endnote 5 for current threshold dollar amounts.	City Secretary	3.13(b)	-30	
Oct. 5	LAST DAY for submitting voter registration application in time to vote at the election or for requesting transfer of registration in time to vote in new precinct not in the same county and territory. Note: Because the calculated date falls on Sun., the deadline moves to Mon. For a city-run election, request a list of registered voters shortly after this date.	Registrar	4.07(f) 4.07(g) 4.34(a)	-30	
Oct. 12	Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day Note: Mandatory office hours are in effect; see endnote 7.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Oct. 13	LAST DAY for posting notice of election (SOS Form 1-14) on the city's website and the bulletin board used for posting notices of city council meetings. Note: The notice must remain posted until midnight at Nov. 3. For cities conducting special elections on measures, additional posting and publication requirements may apply. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	City Secretary	6.52(a) 12.15(e)	-21 through ED	
Oct. 14	Type B cities: LAST DAY to post notice of election in 3 public places (SOS Form 1-14). Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to this LGC deadline.	City Secretary	6.52(b)(3)	-20	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Oct. 14	*FIRST DAY SVC may begin work.* Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to the starting date. EC §87.0271 requires SVC to inform voters of certain defects in the carrier envelope within 2 days of identification (SOS Forms 10-28 to 10-32).	Signature Verification Committee	6.70(a) 6.72	-20	
Oct. 14	*LAST DAY for unregistered FPCA applicant to apply and be eligible to vote a full ballot.*	City Secretary	9.61(b) 9.68(a)	-20	
Oct. 15 to Oct. 23	*Period when unregistered FPCA applicants receive a federal ballot only.* Note: This may mean that no ballot is sent.	City Secretary	9.61 9.68	-19 to -11	
Oct. 16	*LAST BUSINESS DAY to conduct L&A testing on an electronic poll book to be used in early voting.* Note: Notice must be posted to the web 48 hours before the testing starts.	City Secretary	EC § 129.0321	48 hours before use	
See page 1 for effective date. **SB 2753 Early Voting Period** Default rule = ED -12. May and its runoff = ED -9 **SB 2753 Early Voting Hours (6 a.m. – 10 p.m.)** Weekend and holiday voting is mandatory. Main EV/permanent branch (satellite office): 9 hours each day or 4 hours if less than 1,000 registered voters. Temporary branches: 8 hours each day. November: 12 hours the last 4 days except 9 on Sundays. **SB 2753 Early Voting Polling Places** All early voting locations must be used on ED; however, there may be more polling places on ED. November: Local entities must match the county and cannot add an EV location not used by the county on ED.					
Oct. 19	*FIRST DAY for early voting by personal appearance.* Note: Because the calculated date falls on Sat., the date moves to Mon. by operation of EC §85.005(a). Rosters must be posted by 11 a.m. on the day after voting. Period ends ED -4 days. If voting is conducted on a Sat. or Sun., notice of same must be posted at least 72 hours before such voting begins. Early voting in May is ED -12 days.	City Secretary	9.14	-17	
Oct. 19	*LAST DAY to accept an FPCA without a postmark and mail the voter a full ballot.* Note: The voter only gets a federal ballot if checking "my intent to return is uncertain" or "my return is uncertain."	City Secretary	9.66(b)	-15	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Oct. 19	LAST DAY for notifying judges of duty to hold the election (SOS Form 4-17).	Mayor	7.44(a)	-15	
Oct. 19	LAST DAY to challenge write-in candidate for form, content, and procedure.	City Secretary	2.18(f)	-15	
Oct. 22	*FIRST DAY a voter who becomes sick, disabled, or confined due to childbirth on or after this date may apply for late (emergency) early voting ballot (SOS Form 5-32.* Note: Period ends at 5 p.m. on ED. For uniform election dates, the calculation is ED – 12 days, but for other elections, the period starts the day before the last day to apply for a ballot by mail.	Voter's Agent & EVC	9.72(a)	-12	
Oct. 23 later of noon or close of business	*LAST DAY to accept any type of application for a ballot to be voted by mail, by 12 noon or close of business, whichever is later.* Note: If the deadline falls on a Sat., Sun., or legal holiday, then personal delivery must be the first regular business day preceding that day. EC § 84.007(c). Originals are due 4 days after fax or email (except emailed FCPA).	City Secretary	9.44(b)(1) 9.45(b-c) 9.61 9.68(a, c)	-11	
Oct. 23	*LAST DAY for county clerk or elections administrator to deliver final list of voters that submitted an annual ABBM.*	City Secretary	9.43(a)(2)	-11	
Oct. 24	LAST DAY to publish notice of election. Note: The city attorney may apply EC §1.006 to publication deadlines, but SOS does not. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.52(a)	-10	

See page 1 for effective date.

SB 2753 starts early voting by personal appearance in May on ED -9.
Large counties can start counting ballots by mail ED -4.
EV by personal appearance cannot be counted until ED.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Oct. 26	*If the EVBB has not yet met, it must do so by this date.* Note: Because the calculated day falls on a Sun., the deadline moves to Mon. While the date the EVBB meets is now uniform regardless of county population, the EVBB may not count ballots until after the end of early voting by personal appearance unless there is a joint election in a county with population of 100,000 or more. 24-hour notice must be posted for each delivery of voting materials made before election day (SOS Forms 10-3 & 10-4). The board must provide notice of opportunity to cure certain defects in the carrier envelope within 2 days of identifying the deficiency (SOS Form 10-32).	Early Voting Ballot Board	9.57(a)(2) 10.03	-9	
Oct. 26 5 p.m. or midnight	LAST DAY for filing second report of campaign contributions and expenditures by 5 p.m. or midnight if filing electronically. Note: See endnote 5 for current monetary thresholds. Reports must be posted to the city's website no later than 10 business days after receipt..	City Secretary	3.13(c)	-8	
Oct. 29	*FIRST DAY for death in family to qualify for late (emergency) early voting (SOS Forms 5-28 & 5-29).* Note: While the death occurs on or after the day before the last day of early voting by personal appearance, the application cannot be submitted until the day after early voting by personal appearance ends. Voting by this method ends close of business the day before election day.	City Secretary	9.73(a)	-5	
See page 1 for effective date. SB 2753 repeals emergency voting for death in the family. SB 2753 extends early voting by personal appearance to ED -1. SB 2753 allows large counties to start counting ballots by mail ED -4. EV by personal appearance cannot be counted until ED.					
Oct. 30	*LAST DAY of regular early voting by personal appearance.*	City Secretary	9.11(b)	-4	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Oct. 30 to Nov. 3 7 p.m.	*Once early voting by personal appearance is over until 7 p.m. on ED, early voting materials may be delivered to the EVBB for qualifying purposes if paper ballots are used or if automatically tabulated ballots are used at a central counting station (CCS).* Note: Post notice of delivery continuously 24 hours before each delivery (SOS Forms 10-3 & 10-4). NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025) requires testing before and after use of automatic tabulating equipment at CCS.	City Secretary Early Voting Ballot Board	9.57(a)(1) 9.57(a)(3)	-4 through close of polls on ED	
See page 1 for effective date.					
SB 2753 repeals EC § 87.023 regarding delivery of automatically tabulated ballots at the CCS.					
Oct. 31 to Nov. 2	*Period to apply for late (emergency) early voting because of death in family (SOS Forms 5-28 & 5-29).* Note: Requires absence from county on election day.	City Secretary	9.73(a)	-3 to -1	
See page 1 for effective date.					
SB 2753 repeals emergency voting for death in the family.					
Oct. 31 to Nov. 3	*Period to apply for late (emergency) early voting because of illness or disability originating on or after ED -12 days (SOS Form 5-32).* Note: Application deadline ends at 5 p.m., but ballot can be returned until 7 p.m.	City Secretary	9.72(b)	-3 through ED	
See page 1 for effective date.					
SB 2753 moves the deadline for late (emergency) early voting to 5:00 p.m. on Election Day.					
Oct. 31	LAST BUSINESS DAY to conduct L&A testing on electronic poll books to be used on election day. Note: Notice must be posted to the web 48 hours before the testing starts.	City Secretary	EC § 129.0321	48 hours before use	
Nov. 1	Daylight savings time ends.	–	–	1st Sun. in Nov.	
Nov. 2	*LAST DAY to deliver precinct list of registered voters, with the early voting voters marked, to presiding judges and recommended* date for delivery of supplies to presiding judges.*	City Secretary	9.82(e)	-1	
Nov. 2	One-year deadline to post certain candidacy information on the city's website. Note: See endnote 1 (item 4) and SOS Form 1-20. Continuous posting of notice of voting order priority (SOS form 7-38) is also recommended.	City Secretary	2.13(d)(2)	Nov. 2, 2027 – 365 days	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Nov. 2	Recommended* date for delivery of equipment to polling places. Note: The statutory deadline is 6 a.m. on election day.	City Secretary	6.65(b)	*-1	
Nov. 3 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	ELECTION DAY. *Note: Early voting clerk's office must remain open for early voting activities.* Voting by sick or disabled voters may occur at the main early voting place where electronic voting systems are used at precinct polling place (SOS Form 6-57).	City Secretary	ch 10 10.13(c)(1)	ED	
Nov. 3	*Deliver early voting ballots, etc., to EVBB.* Note: Second key to ballot box is delivered by chief of police or marshal.	City Secretary Judge EVBB (sets time)	10.13(c)(1) 9.57(b)(1)	ED	
Nov. 3 5 p.m.	*LAST HOUR for late applications for ballots (SOS Form 5-32) from voters who became ill or disabled on or after ED -12 days.* Note: Can still receive ballot until ED 7 p.m.	City Secretary	9.72(b)	ED	
Nov. 3 7 p.m.	*LAST HOUR for receiving ballots from voters who became ill or disabled ill or disabled on or after ED -12 days.*	City Secretary	9.72(b)	ED	
Nov. 3 7 p.m.	*LAST HOUR to receive mailed ballots with no postmark, except overseas and armed forces ballots and certain ballots placed for delivery before this deadline.* Note: Check mailbox at 7 pm regardless of regular delivery schedule. See deadline ED +1 day.	City Secretary	9.50(a)	ED	
Nov. 3 after 7 p.m.	Receive precinct records, voted ballots, etc. Note: Chief of police or marshal receives keys to ballot boxes containing voted ballots.	City Secretary Mayor	10.13(c) 10.32(d)	ED	
Nov. 3 after 7 p.m.	Prepare unofficial tabulation of results. Note: Presiding judge must notify city secretary if counting will not be complete by 2 a.m.	City Secretary	10.34 10.32(b)	ED	
Nov. 4 5 p.m.	*LAST DAY to receive mailed ballots if the carrier envelope arrives before 5 p.m. and has a cancellation mark indicating it was placed for delivery at or before 7 p.m. local time for the place of election.* Note: This deadline applies to voters who applied for a ballot by mail and cast a by-mail ballot from within the U.S. Check your mailbox at 5 p.m.	City Secretary	9.50(a)	+1	
Nov. 4	LAST DAY to deliver provisional ballots to voter registrar of each county in which city is located.	City Secretary	10.30(a)(2)	+1	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Nov. 6 to Nov. 14	*Recommended* period to complete report of early votes cast for each candidate or measure, by election precinct.* Note: must occur before canvass.	City Secretary	11.04(b)	*+3 through *+11	
Nov. 6 to Nov. 17	Period for official canvass. Note: ● TIMING: canvass may occur only if all FPCA and provisional ballots have been counted, and there are no deficiencies in mailed ballot carrier envelopes. As with any council meeting, notice must occur 3 days before the canvass. ● PERIOD: 11 days except even Novembers (14 days). ● QUORUM: 2. See runoff note below if needed. ● WINNER: cannot assume office (accept Type A cities) until canvass & oaths. ● PIA: images of voted ballots or cast vote records are publicly available the day after the canvass. See SOS Advisory 2025-20 for redaction guidance. ● RECOUNTS: petition is due 2 p.m. 1st day (expedited) or 5 p.m. 3rd day after canvass. ● RUNOFF (not a tie): order the runoff not later than 5 days after the canvass. It is recommended that the runoff be ordered and notice issued at the canvass meeting (which would require a normal quorum).	Mayor (sets time) City Secretary (records results) City Council (takes action)	11.12 6.72	+3 through +14	
See page 1 for effective date. SB 2753 requires the canvass to include the total number of votes received for each candidate and measure to be reported by polling location.					
Nov. 6 to Nov. 17	After canvass, recommended* period to issue certificates of election (SOS Form 23-1), official statement of elected officer (SOS Form 23-3), and oath of office (SOS Form 23-2). Note: If a recount is requested, documents are not issued until after the recount.	Mayor City Secretary	11.20 11.21	*+3 through *+14	
Nov. 6 to Nov. 24	Period for partial manual count of electronically counted ballots. Note: This must begin no later than 72 hours after the polls close on ED and be completed by ED +21.	City Secretary	11.31	+3 through +21	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Nov. 9	Type A cites: FIRST DAY elected officials may qualify and assume duties of office. Note: LGC §22.006 states 5th day after election not counting Sun. The resulting day is the 6th day after. Officials may not take office until the canvass is complete unless the election was cancelled. EC §1.006 does not apply to LGC.	Candidate with City Secretary	11.23(a)	+6 Doesn't move	
Nov. 9	*LAST DAY to receive a ballot from military or non-military voters casting from outside the U.S. who submitted an ABBM, IF cancellation mark indicates ballot was placed for delivery by 7 p.m. on ED.* Note: Because the calculated date falls on Sun., the deadline moves to Mon. EC §1.006.	City Secretary	9.50(b)(1) 9.68 11.02	+5	
Nov. 9	*LAST DAY to receive an FPCA ballot from a member of the U.S. Armed Services, Merchant Marines, or a spouse or dependent of a member.* Note: NO cancellation or receipt mark showing date placed for delivery is required on these ballots.	City Secretary	9.50(b)(2) 9.68 11.02	+6	
Nov. 9	*LAST DAY for a vote-by-mail voter to cure certain deficiencies in the carrier envelope.*	Voter	6.72	+6	
Nov. 9	LAST DAY for provisional voter to present ID to voter registrar or execute required affidavit.	Voter	11.01(d) 6.21(f) 9.26	+6	
Nov. 10	*FIRST DAY a mailed ballot can be rejected if (1) the carrier envelope was not properly executed or is missing a statement of residence, and (2) the signatures do not match; provided the voter has been notified.* Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to first days.	Early Voting Ballot Board	6.72 11.03(a)	+7	
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day Note: Mandatory office hours are in effect; see endnote 7.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Nov. 12	Deadline to register for runoff election.	Voter	4.07(f-g)	Runoff -30	
Nov. 12 to Dec. 2	Period to publish notice of the runoff election. Note: The runoff must be ordered first. See note for the canvass period. SOS does not apply EC §1.006.	City Secretary	6.52(a)	Runoff -30 to -10	
Nov. 13	LAST DAY for presiding judge of EVBB to mail notices of rejected mail ballots to voters (SOS Form 6-2).	Judge of EVBB	11.03(a)	+10	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Nov. 13	LAST DAY for voter registrar to complete the review of provisional ballots. Note: The period is one day longer for elections in Nov. of even-numbered years	Voter Register	10.30(d)	+10	
Nov. 16	LAST DAY for the EVBB to convene for counting the provisional ballots or any mail ballots timely and properly received after ED. Note: This deadline is the 13th day for elections in Nov. of even-numbered years.	Early Voting Ballot Board	11.01(b)	+9 or +13	
Nov. 16 to Nov. 27	Period during which notice of outcome of provisional ballots (SOS Form 9-9) must be mailed to voters. Note: EC §1.006 arguably does not apply to a timeframe set by rule, 1 TAC 81.176(e).	Judge of EVBB or City Secretary	11.01(f)	Varies, by 10th day after canvass	
Nov. 18	Election records must be available in an electronic format no later than this day, for a fee of not more than $50.00.	City Secretary	11.70(c)	+15	
Nov. 21	LAST DAY to post notice of the runoff. Note: SOS does not apply EC §1.006.	City Secretary	6.52	Runoff -21	
Nov. 24	LAST DAY for mailing results of manual count to secretary of state.	City Secretary	11.31(c)	+21	
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Holiday Note: Mandatory office hours are in effect; see endnote 7.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Nov. 27	Day after Thanksgiving Holiday Note: Mandatory office hours are in effect; see endnote 7.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Nov. 30	FIRST DAY of early voting in person for the runoff. Note: Early voting cannot be split over the Thanksgiving holiday.	Voter	9.11	Set by SOS	
Dec. 1	LAST DAY to receive application for ballot by mail for the runoff election.	City Secretary	9.44(b)(1) 9.45(b-c) 9.68(b) chart	Runoff -11	
Dec. 3	Type A cites: LAST DAY elected officials may qualify and assume duties of office; if they fail to qualify by this day, the office is considered vacant.	Candidate with City Secretary	11.23(a)	+30	
Dec. 4	LAST DAY to file campaign finance report for the runoff.	Candidate with City Secretary	3.14(a)	runoff - 8	
Dec. 8	LAST DAY of early voting in the runoff. Note: The SOS will set the early voting period.	Voter	9.44	Set by SOS	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	T (done)
Dec. 12	RUNOFF ELECTION DAY	Voter	12.01(d)	Set by SOS	
Dec. 13	LAST DAY of mandatory office hours. Note: SOS does not apply EC §1.006.	City Secretary	6.80(a)	+40	
Dec. 14 5 pm	LAST DAY to receive returned ballot by mail for runoff with a postmark on or before runoff election day.	City Secretary	9.68(b)	Runoff + next business day	
Dec. 15 to Dec. 27	Period to canvass runoff.	City Council	11.12	Runoff +3 to +14	
Dec. 18	LAST DAY to receive mailed ballots from FPCA voters.	City Secretary	9.68(b)	Runoff +6	
Dec. 25	Christmas Holiday	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Dec. 31	NEW LAW: HB 1620 (2025) allows certain cities to move their general elections to November by this date.	City Council	_	_	
Jan. 3 2027	FIRST DAY for transfer of voted ballots from the locked ballot box to another secure container. Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to the first day.	City Secretary	11.70(e)	+61	
Jan. 15 2027	LAST DAY for timely filing of semiannual report of contributions and expenditures.	City Secretary	3.12(b)	Jan. 15	
Feb 12 2027	Call deadline/candidate filing deadline	Mayor City Secretary	6.03 6.80 2.13(a) 6.23(c)	-78	
May 1 2027	ELECTION DAY	City Secretary	10.13(c)(1)	ED	
Sept. 4 2028	LAST DAY of preservation period for ballots and other precinct election records, except for candidate applications.	City Secretary	11.71(c)	day after +22 months	
Nov. 6 2028	LAST DAY of preservation period for candidate applications and certain petitions.	City Secretary	11.71(d)	day after +2 years	

Endnotes

1. Any city imposing ad valorem property tax must have a website. [Tax §26.18] The following information must be posted on a city's website [M §2.13(d)]:

   (1) the city's contact information, including a mailing address, telephone number, and email

address;
(2) each elected officer;
(3) the date and location of the next election for officers;
(4) the requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy of each elected office for the next election (posted one year prior to the date of that election);
(5) notice of city council meetings; and (6) minutes of city council meetings.

A city with population of less than 5,000 located in a county with population of less than 25,000 does not have to post (5) and (6). [GC §2051.201].

2. The city's governing body may choose to conduct a mock student election under EC §276.007. The major steps taken for a general election should be taken for a student election. The student election may be held on the first day before the election, but results must not be published until after the polls close on election day.

3. Follow home-rule city's charter provision, if any. However, a home-rule city cannot alter the candidate filing deadline. [EC 143.005(a)].

4. If a candidate dies on or before the filing deadline, the City Secretary MAY remove the candidate from the ballot, in which case, the filing deadline is extended 5 days. If that extended filing deadline for filing falls on a weekend or holiday, it moves to the next business day. Withdrawal deadlines after the extended filing deadlines will be impacted.

5. See Texas Ethics Commission rules [1 TAC §18.31] for the full list of reporting triggers and dollar amounts. The following is a summary of the most common amounts [M Ch. 3]:

Election Code §	Threshold Description	Original Amount	2025 Amount	2026 Amount
253.031(b)	*PAC*: amount of contributions or expenditures before appointment of treasurer is required.	$500	$1,080	$1,110
254.036	*Electronic Filing Exemption*: amount at or below which a filer may qualify.	$20,000	$33,910	$34,890
254.095	*Local officeholders, contributions*: amount over which reporting is required.	$500	$1,110	$1,140
254.181 254.182 254.183	*Candidate or specific-purpose PAC, modified reporting*: contribution or expenditure amount at or below which filers may avoid pre-election reports.	$500	$1,110	$1,140

6. See M §1.52 & §6.80. Under EC §1.006, if a deadline falls on a Sat., Sun., or legal state/national holiday, the deadline moves to the next regular business day. See the next note for a list of holidays.

   Exceptions where the deadline moves to the first preceding regular business day:
   (1) EC §84.007 (general rule for applications for ballot by mail);
   (2) EC §86.0015 (deadline for certain ABBM based on disability).

Under EC §85.001, early voting by personal appearance includes weekends and holidays unless the first day is one of these, moving the start date to the next business day.

7. A holiday may or may not impact the city secretary's duty to keep the office open for at least three hours "during regular office hours, on regular business days." NEW LAW: HB 640 (EC §31.122) defines a "regular business day" as the day when the city's main office is regularly open for business. Thus, if the city offices are closed on Good Friday or the Battle of Flowers, then the city secretary's office may also close. The following are Election Code holidays *unless noted otherwise in italics*:

Holidays in 2026	**Date**	**Day**
New Year's Day	January 1	Thu
Confederate Heroes Day	January 19	Mon
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. (3rd Monday in January)	January 19	Mon
Presidents' Day/Washington's Birthday (3rd Monday in February)	February 16	Mon
Texas Independence Day	March 2	Sun
Cesar Chavez Day (not an Election Code holiday)	*March 31*	*Tues*
Good Friday (not an Election Code holiday)	*April 3*	*Fri*
San Jacinto Day	April 21	Tues
Memorial Day (last Monday in May)	May 25	Mon
Emancipation Day/Juneteenth	June 19	Fri
Independence Day	July 4	Sat
Lyndon Baines Johnson Day	August 27	Thu
Labor Day (1st Monday in September)	September 7	Mon
National Voter Registration Day (not an Election Code holiday)	*September 15*	*Tue*
Yom Kippur	*Sept 20*	*Sun*
Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day (2nd Monday in October)	October 12	Mon
Veteran's Day	November 11	Wed
Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)	November 26	Thu
Friday after Thanksgiving	November 27	Fri
Day before Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)	*December 24*	*Thu*
Christmas Day	December 25	Fri
Day after Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)	*December 26*	*Sat*