



2011 OHIO ELECTION CALENDAR

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

2011

R.C. Reference

Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2011 elections may be accepted (first day of the year)	3509.03, 3511.02
*Jan. 10	Deadline for voter registration for Feb. 8 special elections (30 days before the election)	3503.19
Jan. 19	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. 28	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the election)	3505.21
Jan. 29	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election)	3501.03
Feb. 2	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, Sec. of State Directive 2008-44
Feb. 2	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	3513.05
Feb. 2	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before the primary election)	3513.05
Feb. 2	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. (90 days before the election)	731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 5	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for Feb. 8 special election must be received by the boards of elections by noon (3 days before the election)	3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
Feb. 7	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of regular business hours (day before the election)	3509.03
Feb. 7	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election)	3509.031
Feb. 7	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election)	3505.21
Feb. 8	Special Elections may be held. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3501.01, .32
Feb. 8	Voter, or voter's minor child, hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m.	3509.08
Feb. 8	Uniformed services or overseas absentee voter may apply and vote in person at board of elections office until close of polls.....	3511.10
Feb. 8	Absentee ballots, returned in person , must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	3509.05, 3511.11
Feb. 14	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of partisan candidates' petitions (78 days before the primary election).....	3513.05
Feb. 14	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before the primary election)	4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 18	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States must be postmarked not later than February 7 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election).....	3509.05, 3511.11
Feb. 18	Out-of-country uniformed service and overseas absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election).....	3511.11
Feb. 18	Protests against partisan candidates' petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before the primary election).....	3513.05
Feb. 18	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before the primary election)	4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14
Feb. 19	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the election)	3505.32
*Feb. 22	Write-in candidates for primary election must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before the primary)	3513.041
Feb. 22	Form of official ballots must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (70 days before the primary election)	3513.05
Feb. 22	Board of elections of most populous county of a multi-county subdivision must certify names of candidates to other boards of elections (70 days before the primary election).....	3513.05
Feb. 23	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the election)	3505.32
Feb. 25	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before the primary election)	3513.041
Mar. 1	Boards of elections must complete canvass of ballots no later than this date (21 days after the election).....	3505.32
Mar. 4	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of polling place officials (within 60 days before the election).....	3501.27
Mar. 19	UOCAVA absentee ballots for May 3 election must be ready (45 days before the election)	3511.04
Mar. 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
Mar. 29	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for May 3 election must be ready (35 days before the election)	3509.01
*Apr. 4	Deadline for voter registration for May 3 election (30 days before the election).....	3503.19
Apr. 10	February 8, 2011 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. 13	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists (20 days before election)	3503.24
Apr. 13	Deadline for an elector to challenge qualification of another elector (20 days before the election)	3505.19
Apr. 19	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
Apr. 19	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration lists (14 days before the election)	3503.23
Apr. 22	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the election)	3505.21
Apr. 23	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election)	3501.03
Apr. 23	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, Sec. of State Directive 2008-44
*Apr. 25	Deadline for eligible party committee to file certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on primary ballot in more than one county by 4 p.m. (10 days before primary)	3513.30
Apr. 28	Deadline for eligible party committee to file certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate whose name is on the ballot in only one county by 4 p.m. (five days before primary election)	3513.30
Apr. 30	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for May 3 election must be received by boards of elections by noon (three days before the election)	3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02
May 2	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
May 2	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the election)	3505.21
May 2	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the election).....	3509.031
May 2	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of regular business hours (day before the election)	3509.03
May 3	Primary/Special Election Day . Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3501.01, .32
May 3	Voter, or voter's minor child, hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m.	3509.08
May 3	Uniformed services or overseas absentee voter may apply and vote in person at board of elections office until close of polls.....	3511.10
May 3	Absentee ballots, returned in person , must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls	3509.05, 3511.11
May 4	Local questions and issues for Aug. 2 special elections must be certified to boards of elections by 4 p.m. (90 days before the election)	3501.01, .02
May 13	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States must be postmarked not later than May 2 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after election).....	3509.05, 3511.11
May 13	Out-of-country uniformed services and overseas absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election).....	3511.11
May 14	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the election)	3513.22
May 18	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the election)	3513.22
May 24	Boards of elections must complete canvass of ballots no later than this date (21 days after the election).....	3513.22
June 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
June 16	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listing to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before Aug. 10 deadline for filing petitions).....	4301.33, 4305.14
June 20	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 3	May 3 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
*July 5	Deadline for voter registration for Aug. 2 special elections (30 days before the election).....	3503.19
July 6	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 general election)	OH Const. II, §1a and §1b
July 13	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
July 15	Boards of elections must certify independent candidate petitions	3513.262
July 22	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the election)	3505.21
July 23	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the election)	3501.03
July 23	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, Sec. of State Directive 2008-44
Jul. 30	Applications by mail for absentee ballots for Aug. 2 special elections must be received by noon (three days before the election)	3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02

Campaign Finance Reports - Primary Election

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

2011

Jan. 21	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports	3517.11
Jan. 31	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, 2010	3517.10
Apr. 11	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports.....	3517.11
Apr. 21	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 13 (20 days before the election)	3517.10
May 31	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports	3517.11
June 10	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 3 (the seventh day before the report is filed)	3517.10
July 19	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file semiannual campaign finance reports	3517.11
July 29	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, 2011	3517.10

*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.



2011 OHIO ELECTION CALENDAR

OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

			R.C. Reference
2011			
*Aug. 1	Protests against nominating petitions must be filed by 4 p.m.	3513.262	
	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. 2	Special Elections may be held. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.	3501.01, .32	
	Voter, or voter's minor child, hospitalized because of accident or medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m.	3509.08	
	Uniformed services or overseas 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. 10	Constitutional amendments proposed by joint resolution of General Assembly to be filed with Secretary of State by this date (90 days before the general election)	OH Const. XVI, §1	
	Nominating petitions of candidates in nonpartisan races must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before the general election)	1907.13, 3513.251, .253, .254, .255, .259, .263	
	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. (90 days before the general election)	731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .333, .334, 4305.14	
Aug. 12	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States , must be postmarked not later than August 1 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after election)	3509.05, 3511.11	
	Out-of-country uniformed services and overseas absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the election)	3511.11	
Aug. 13	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the election)	3505.32	
*Aug. 15	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. (86 days before the general election)	3513.31	
Aug. 17	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the election)	3505.32	
Aug. 22	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races (78 days before the general election)	3513.263	
	Boards of elections must certify the validity and sufficiency of local option petitions (78 days before the general election)	4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14	
Aug. 23	Boards of elections must complete canvass of ballots no later than this date (21 days after the election)	3505.32	
Aug. 26	Protests against candidates' petitions in nonpartisan races must be filed by this date (74 days before the general election)	3513.263	
	Protests against local option petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. (74 days before the general election)	4301.33, .331, .332, .333, .334, 4305.14	
*Aug. 29	Write-in candidates must file declarations of intent by 4 p.m. (72 days before the general election)	3513.041	
Aug. 30	Form of official ballots must be certified by Secretary of State to boards of elections (70 days before the general 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 (70 days before the election)	3505.01	
Sep. 2	Protests against write-in candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (67 days before the general election)	3513.041	
Sep. 9	Boards of elections must schedule a program for instruction of polling place officials (within 60 days before the general election)	3501.27	
Sep. 24	UOCAVA absentee ballots for Nov. 8 election must be ready (45 days before the election)	3511.04	
Sep. 27	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	
Oct. 4	Non-UOCAVA absentee ballots for Nov. 8 general election must be ready (35 days before the election)	3509.01	
Oct. 2	August 2, 2011 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. 11	Deadline for voter registration for general election (30 days before the election)	3503.19	
Oct. 13	Last day for local option petitioners to send street listings to Division of Liquor Control (55 days before Dec. 7 deadline for filing petitions)	4301.33, 4305.14	
Oct. 19	Deadline to file corrections and challenges to precinct registration lists (20 days before the general election)	3503.24	
	Deadline for an elector to challenge qualification of another elector (20 days before the general election)	3505.19	
	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 general election)	3505.21	
Oct. 25	Boards of elections shall prepare precinct voter registration list (14 days before the general election)	3503.23	
Oct. 28	Deadline for political parties, groups of candidates and issue committees to file notice of observer appointments (11 days before the general election)	3505.21	
Oct. 29	Boards of elections must give public notice of election (10 days before the general 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 general election)	3501.29, Sec. of State Directive 2008-44	
*Oct. 31	Deadline to file 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 by 4 p.m. (10 days before the general election)	3513.31	
Nov. 3	Deadline to file certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of independent or nonpartisan candidate prior to Oct. 29 (10 days before the general election) by 4 p.m. (five days before the general election)	3513.31	
	Deadline to file certificate to fill vacancy on ballot caused by death of candidate nominated at primary election whose name is on ballot in only one county by 4 p.m. (five days before the general election)	3513.31	
Nov. 5	Applications by mail for absentee ballots must be received by boards of elections by noon (three days before the general election)	3509.03, .031, .08, 3511.02	
Nov. 7	Absentee ballots may be voted in person at boards of elections until close of regular business hours (day before the general election)	3509.03	
	Militia on active duty may file applications in person for absentee ballots by 4 p.m. (day before the general election)	3509.031	
	Amendments to observer appointments must be filed by 4 p.m. (day before the general election)	3505.21	
Nov. 8	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 accident or medical emergency , voter may apply for absentee ballots until 3 p.m.	3509.08	
	Uniformed services or overseas 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. 18	Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail from within the United States must be postmarked no later than Nov. 7 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after general election)	3509.05, 3511.11	
	Out-of-country uniformed services or overseas ballots must be received by boards of elections by this date to be counted (10 days after the general election)	3511.11	
Nov. 19	Boards of elections may begin official canvass of ballots (11 days after the general election)	3505.32	
Nov. 23	Boards of elections must begin official canvass of ballots no later than this date (15 days after the general election)	3505.32	
Nov. 29	Boards of elections must complete canvass of ballots no later than this date (21 days after the general election)	3505.32	
Dec. 7	Declarations of candidacy for partisan candidates must be filed by 4 p.m. (90 days before the presidential primary election)	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. (90 days before the presidential primary election)	731.28, .29, 3501.02, 4301.33, .331, .333, .334, 4305.14	

2012			
Jan. 1	Applications for absentee ballots for 2012 may be accepted	3509.03, 3511.02	
Jan. 8	General Election ballots from 2011, except for federal office, may be discarded unless ordered held by a court or the Secretary of State (61 days after the general election)	3505.31, 42 USC 1974	
*Feb. 6	Deadline for voter registration for Mar. 6 presidential primary election (30 days before the primary election)	3503.19	

Note: *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

2011			
Oct. 17	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file pre-election campaign finance reports	3517.11	
Oct. 27	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. 19 (20 days before the general election)	3517.10	
Dec. 6	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates to file post-election campaign finance reports	3517.11	
Dec. 16	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 general election) detailing contributions and expenditures through Dec. 9 (the seventh day before the report is filed)	3517.10	
2012			
Jan. 21	Secretary of State and boards of elections must send notice to candidates required to file annual campaign finance reports	3517.11	
Jan. 31	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, 2011	3517.10	