

The seal of the State of South Dakota is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a landscape with a river, a bridge, and a plow. Above the landscape is a banner with the motto "UNDER GOD THE PEOPLE RULE". The outer ring of the seal contains the text "STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA" at the top and "1889" at the bottom, flanked by two stars.

2026 City & School Election Calendars

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monae L. Johnson".

Monae L. Johnson

South Dakota Secretary of State

Division of Elections
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Last Updated: November 7, 2025

2026 City & School Combined Election Calendar	June 2, 2026 -- Primary Election --	November 3, 2026 -- General Election --
Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL 9-13-6; 13-7-5). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	December 15th through December 30th	-- --
Deadline for the governing body to establish an election date (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10).	Cities: January 14th Schools: First regular meeting in January	Cities: January 14th Schools: First regular meeting in January
Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL 9-13-6; 13-7-5). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	-- --	May 15th through May 30th
Earliest date for a candidate to sign the declaration of candidacy, begin petition circulation, and file a petition (SDCL 9-13-9; 13-7-6).	February 2nd	July 3rd
Deadline for a candidate to file nominating petitions or to withdraw their name from the ballot (SDCL 9-13-7; 9-13-37; 13-7-6).	March 24th	August 25th
Deadline for candidate names and ballot language to be certified to the county auditor (SDCL 9-13-37; 13-7-10.3).	March 26th	August 27th
Deadline for candidates in first-class municipalities and school districts with >2,000 students to file a Candidate Financial Interest Statement (SDCL 12-25-30). Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the candidate filing their nominating petition.	April 8th	September 9th
First day of absentee voting (SDCL 12-19-1.2). Note: Yellow sample ballots must be made available to voters when absentee voting begins.	April 17th	September 18th
Publish notices for the voter registration deadline (SDCL 12-4-5.2). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	Weeks of April 26th & May 3rd	Weeks of September 27th & October 4th
Publish notices of election (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	Weeks of May 17th & May 24th	Weeks of October 18th & October 25th
Deadline for voter registration (SDCL 12-4-5).	May 18th	October 19th
Publish facsimile ballot (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8). Note: Must be published between Monday and Saturday during the week prior to the election.	Week of May 24th	Week of October 25th
ELECTION DAY! (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10)	June 2nd	November 3rd
Deadline for official canvass (SDCL 9-13-24; 13-7-18).	Cities: June 9th Schools: Next regular meeting after election	Cities: November 10th Schools: Next regular meeting after election

2026 City & School Uncombined Election Calendar	June 2, 2026 -- Primary Election --	November 3, 2026 -- General Election --
Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL 9-13-6; 13-7-5). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	December 15th through December 30th	-- --
Deadline for the governing body to establish an election date (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10).	Cities: January 14th Schools: First regular meeting in January	Cities: January 14th Schools: First regular meeting in January
Publish notice of vacancies and the time and place of filing petitions (SDCL 9-13-6; 13-7-5). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	-- --	May 15th through May 30th
Earliest date for a candidate to sign the declaration of candidacy, begin petition circulation, and file a petition (SDCL 9-13-9; 13-7-6).	February 2nd	July 3rd
Deadline for a candidate to file nominating petitions or to withdraw their name from the ballot (SDCL 9-13-7; 9-13-37; 13-7-6).	March 24th	August 25th
Deadline for candidates in first-class municipalities and school districts with >2,000 students to file a Candidate Financial Interest Statement (SDCL 12-25-30). Note: Must be filed within fifteen days of the candidate filing their nominating petition.	April 8th	September 9th
Publish notices for the voter registration deadline (SDCL 12-4-5.2). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	Weeks of April 26th & May 3rd	Weeks of September 27th & October 4th
Publish notices of election (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8). Note: Must be published at least once each week for two consecutive weeks.	Weeks of May 17th & May 24th	Weeks of October 18th & October 25th
First day of absentee voting (SDCL 12-19-1.2). Note: Yellow sample ballots must be made available to voters when absentee voting begins.	May 18th	October 19th
Deadline for voter registration (SDCL 12-4-5).	May 18th	October 19th
Publish facsimile ballot (SDCL 9-13-13; 13-7-8). Note: Must be published between Monday and Saturday during the week prior to the election.	Week of May 24th	Week of October 25th
ELECTION DAY! (SDCL 9-13-1; 13-7-10)	June 2nd	November 3rd
Deadline for official canvass (SDCL 9-13-24; 13-7-18).	Cities: June 9th Schools: Next regular meeting after election	Cities: November 10th Schools: Next regular meeting after election

City Election Notes

Oaths of Office: There is nothing that outlines the form/wording of an oath of office. Please work with your city's attorney to write the oath. Also, there is nothing that clearly guides you as to when your officials must take the oath. Work with your attorney regarding this. Reference SDCL 9-14-5 for the process of qualifying for office.

Notices: Please keep holidays in mind when planning notices, as newspaper publication schedules may be affected. Always make sure to get confirmation from your local newspaper that they have received the required notice, that they plan to publish the notice, and—after the planned date of publication—that they actually published the notice.

Missed Election Notices: We encourage any city that misses a publication to get it published and post the notice around their jurisdiction. The notice would still be considered late, and the election could still be challenged. Contact your city's attorney if you miss a notice.

Petitions: To check the registration status of the candidate and petition signers (this is required by law), per ARSD 5:02:08:00 and 5:02:08:00.01, go to: <http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx>. If you forgot your username and password, or never had one, contact the Secretary of State's office (Elections@state.sd.us or 605-773-3537) and one will be provided to you.

First Class Municipalities: Aberdeen, Belle Fourche, Box Elder, Brandon, Brookings, Harrisburg, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Sturgis, Tea, Vermillion, Watertown and Yankton.

Home Rule Municipalities: Aberdeen, Beresford, Brookings, Elk Point, Faith, Ft. Pierre, Pierre, Sioux Falls, Springfield and Watertown.

Contact the Secretary of State's office with any questions at Elections@state.sd.us or 605-773-3537. Additional election information can be found at: <https://sdsos.gov>.

School Election Notes

Election Results: Certified election results must be published in the school board's minutes within sixty days for the canvass of the election (SDCL 13-7-30 and 13-7-31).

Oaths of Office: There is nothing that outlines the form/wording of an oath of office. Please work with your school district's attorney to write the oath. Also, there is nothing that clearly guides you as to when your officials must take the oath. Work with your attorney regarding this. Reference SDCL 13-8-4 for the process of qualifying for office.

Notices: Please keep holidays in mind when planning notices, as newspaper publication schedules may be affected. Always make sure to get confirmation from your local newspaper that they have received the required notice, that they plan to publish the notice, and—after the planned date of publication—that they actually published the notice.

Missed Election Notices: We encourage any school that misses a publication to get it published and post the notice around their jurisdiction. The notice would still be considered late, and the election could still be challenged. Contact your school district's attorney if you miss a notice.

Petitions: To check the registration status of the candidate and petition signers (this is required by law), per ARSD 5:02:08:00 and 5:02:08:00.01, go to: <http://cityandschoollookup.sdsos.gov/Login.aspx>. If you forgot your username and password, or never had one, contact the Secretary of State's office (Elections@state.sd.us or 605-773-3537) and one will be provided to you.

Contact the Secretary of State's office with any questions at Elections@state.sd.us or 605-773-3537. Additional election information can be found at: <https://sdsos.gov>.

General Notes

Counties, cities, and schools that are looking to combine their elections in 2026 will need to produce a written agreement detailing how expenses and responsibilities will be split, as well as how other issues will be handled.

Please consider the following (this is *not* an exhaustive list):

1. How will costs be split?
2. Will all jurisdictions print in the same paper, and who will be responsible for the publications?
3. Who will be responsible for recruiting election workers?
4. Who will be responsible for providing election materials?
5. Where will voting take place?
6. How will absentee voting be handled?
7. What will happen if all jurisdictions agree to combine, but one does not need to have an election after petitions are filed?

Negotiations will need to begin early since cities and schools may have to publish vacancy notices in December, even before the election date is officially established.

OFFICIAL SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HOLIDAYS – 2026 (SDCL 1-5-1)	
January 1	New Year’s Day
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 16	Presidents’ Day
May 25	Memorial Day
June 19	Juneteenth
July 4	Independence Day
September 7	Labor Day
October 12	Native Americans’ Day
November 11	Veterans’ Day
November 26	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas Day