

Checks and Balances in Indiana: Important Dates for the November 2026 Election

Indiana's elections are governed by a number of laws and regulations that ensure there are checks and balances throughout the process. Bipartisan teams of election workers at the local, county, and state levels go through a meticulous list of steps to verify the count, check for accuracy, and ensure all rules are followed.

Below, we detail the dates for each step to provide greater transparency into the rigorous efforts underway to deliver a free and fair election in Indiana. Importantly, this is nonpartisan educational research intended for 501(c)(3)-compliant purposes only. It is not to be used for any partisan, political, or electioneering activities by any organization.

Voting by Mail

- [**Saturday, September 19**](#) - Counties must complete mailing ballots to all absentee or military and overseas (UOCAVA) voters with applications received and accepted on or before this date. Following this date, ballots must be mailed on the day of receipt of an application.
- [**Thursday, October 22**](#) - Absentee ballot applications must be received by 11:59 p.m.
- [**Tuesday, November 3 \(Election Day\)**](#) - Completed absentee ballots must be received by election officials by the close of polls at 6:00 p.m.
- [**Wednesday, November 11**](#) - Voters must cure absentee ballots with missing or mismatched signatures by noon.
- [**Friday, November 13**](#) - Military and overseas ballots may be accepted until noon if postmarked before election day.

In-Person Voting (In-Person Absentee & Election Day)

- [**Monday, October 5**](#) - Voter registration period ends. Registration applications submitted by mail must be *postmarked* by this date.
- [**Tuesday, October 6**](#) - In-person absentee voting period begins.
- [**Monday, November 2**](#) - In-person absentee voting period ends at noon.

- **Tuesday, November 3 (Election Day)**
 - [6:00 a.m.](#) - All polling locations open.
 - [6:00 p.m.](#) - All polling locations close.

Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- [Saturday, October 31 - Monday, November 2](#) - Counties using e-poll books or vote centers may pass a unanimous resolution to begin processing and counting absentee ballots at noon one to three days before election day.
- **Tuesday, November 3 (Election Day)**
 - [6:00 a.m.](#) - Counties may begin the central count of absentee ballots after updating voter lists to reflect absentee ballots received by midnight.
 - [6:00 p.m.](#) - The County Election Board must meet to begin the canvass. Ind. Code Ann. § 3-12-4-6.
- [Monday, November 16](#) - County Election board must certify results by noon.
- [Tuesday, November 24](#) - Deadline for the Election Division to tabulate votes cast for state offices and certify election results.

Recounts & Election Contests

- [Tuesday, November 17](#) - Deadline for a candidate to initiate an election contest or recount.
- [Friday, November 20](#) - Deadline for a state or county party chairperson to initiate an election contest recount.

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