

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

Nevada'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 Nevada. 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

- [**Friday, Sept. 18**](#) - Counties must begin sending mail ballots to military and overseas (UOCAVA) voters with accepted applications.
- [**Thursday, Sept. 24**](#) - Counties must begin sending mail ballots for residents outside of the state by this date.
- [**Tuesday, Oct. 6**](#) - Deadline for registering to vote by mail or by personal appearance. This is the last day for Nevadans to register to vote by mail or by appearing in person at the county clerk/registrar of voters. Mail applications must be *postmarked* by this date to be considered timely.
- [**Monday, Oct. 12**](#) - Counties must send mail ballots to Nevada voters residing within the state no later than this date (4th Monday before the General Election).
- [**Monday, Oct. 19**](#) - Counties may begin verifying and counting mail ballots. The mail ballot central counting board may begin counting received and processed mail ballots 15 days before Election Day.
- [**Wednesday, Oct. 21**](#) - Deadline for registered voters to update their registration and receive a mail ballot for the general election. Eligible Nevadans who register to vote less than 14 days before the election [may vote only in person](#).
- [**Tuesday, Nov. 3 \(Election Day\)**](#) - Voters returning ballots by mail must *postmark* the ballot by Election Day for it to be counted. Voters returning mail ballots in person must deliver them to the county clerk or any ballot drop box by the close of polls at 7 p.m.

- [Saturday, Nov. 7](#) - For a mail ballot to be counted, ballots mailed and postmarked on or before Election Day must be received by the county clerk by 5 p.m. on the fourth day after the election.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 10](#) - Signature cure deadline.¹ Voters have until 5 p.m. to provide a signature or otherwise cure their signature as directed for their ballot to be counted.

In-Person Voting (Early & Election Day)

- [Friday, Sept. 4](#) - Mail ballot opt-out deadline; this is the deadline for clerks to receive opt-out forms from voters electing not to receive a mail ballot.
- [Tuesday, Sept. 22](#) - On or before this date, counties either publish an alphabetical list of all registered voters, to include each voter's precinct, or a statement that they will provide such an alphabetical list upon request without charge.
- [Tuesday, Oct. 6](#) - Deadline for registering to vote by mail or by personal appearance. This is the last day for Nevadans to register to vote by mail or by appearing in person at the county clerk/registrar of voters. Mail applications must be *postmarked* by this date to be considered timely.
- [Saturday, Oct. 17](#) - Early in-person voting begins in all counties. Registered voters may vote early in person at specified early voting locations.
- [Friday, Oct. 30](#) - Last day of early voting by personal appearance. This is the last day for registered voters to vote early in person at designated Early Voting locations.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 3](#) - **Election Day**
 - **7 a.m.** - Polling locations open.
 - **Same Day Registration** - Voters can [register to vote on](#) Election Day [through 7 p.m. at the polls](#).
 - **7 p.m.** - Polling locations close. All voters still in line must be allowed to vote. Voters returning mail ballots to their board must do so by this time.
- [Friday, Nov. 6](#) - Provisional ballot identification confirmation deadline. Voters who cast a provisional ballot have until 5 p.m. on Friday after the election to provide identification or other information necessary as directed by the county clerk/registrar of voters for their ballot to count.

Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- [Friday, Oct. 30](#) - Deadline for county clerks/registerars of voters to transmit the number of registered voters by precinct and district, along with the voters' political affiliation (if any), to the secretary of state.

¹ "Curing" is the process by which a voter: 1) receives notice from election officials of a discrepancy or reasonable question regarding the signature used for the mail ballot matching the voter's registration/pre-registration signature on file; and 2) has an opportunity to correct the issue and have the ballot counted. In Nevada, a voter may have an opportunity to [cure an identification envelope](#) if: 1) the voter failed to sign the envelope; or 2) election officials determine there is a reasonable question whether the voter's signature used for the ballot matches the voter's registration signature on file or otherwise belongs to the voter.

- **Tuesday, Nov. 3 - (Election Day)**
 - **After 8 a.m.** - The appropriate bipartisan county election boards appointed by the clerk begin counting early in-person ballot votes after 8 a.m.
 - **After polls close** - The counting board must first account for all paper ballots —both used and unused — not already accounted for as part of the mail ballot central counting board’s process. That number of ballots must first be checked against the number of names on the roster of voters, and the two numbers must agree, and any discrepancy must be recorded. Then the board must count the ballots voted, and the process must be public and continue uninterrupted until it is complete. The county clerk must post a copy of the tabulated voting results outside the counting place or local courthouse.
- **Friday, Nov. 13** - Deadline for county audits. County clerks/registrars of voters must conduct post-election audits and transmit the results to the secretary of state no later than seven working days after the election.
- **Friday, Nov. 13** - County canvass deadline.² The board meets and canvasses the returns as soon as the board of county commissioners receives results from all precincts and districts. They must complete that canvass, certify the results, and send an electronic version of the count (“abstract”) to the secretary of state no later than ten days after the election.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 24** - State canvass and certification.³ The Justices of the Supreme Court (at least a majority) meet with the secretary of state on the fourth Tuesday of Nov. after the election to canvass the certified county abstracts and declare the results. Almost immediately afterward, the governor issues certificates of election and a proclamation declaring the election of candidates.

Election Contests & Recounts

- **Tuesday, Nov. 17** - Deadline to contest an election if no recount is demanded, excluding certain federal and statewide elections (no later than 14 days after the election).
- **Wednesday, Nov. 18** - Last possible day for commencing a recount for county races demanded by a candidate for the general election (within three working days after the canvass).
- **Wednesday, Nov. 18** - Deadline to file a statement of contest. Eligible parties wishing to contest the election must file a statement of contest with the appropriate

² “Canvassing” is the process by which the appropriate authority checks the results from each voting location and ballot counting location for accuracy and compliance with statutory procedures. After these checks, the results from each location are compiled to create results for each race on the ballot. In Nevada, the county canvass is typically conducted by the board of county commissioners. The state canvass is conducted by justices of the state Supreme Court and the Secretary of State.

³ “Certification” is the process by which winners in elections are officially declared following the completion of the canvass. For local races that can be determined following the county canvass, certification will occur after the county canvass. For federal, state, and multicounty races that must be determined by the state canvass, certification will generally occur immediately following the completion of the state canvass.

authority within 14 days after the election unless a recount is demanded.

- [Tuesday, Dec. 1](#) - Deadline for commencing recounts demanded for statewide office or statewide ballot question.

Secure Democracy Foundation is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization building stronger elections, state by state. Our work is state-focused, informed by election policy insights from a national perspective, and realized by seizing common ground.