

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

New Hampshire'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 New Hampshire. 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, Sept. 19](#)** - Deadline to mail UOCAVA voters their ballots if the request was submitted before this date. Requests made after this date must be fulfilled without delay.
- **Monday, Nov. 2**
 - **[3 p.m. - 5 p.m.](#)** - Clerks' offices must be open to accept delivery of mail ballots.
 - **[After 5 p.m.](#)** - Clerks can no longer issue or accept mail ballots at their offices.
- **Tuesday, Nov. 3 - Election Day**
 - **[2 hours after polls open \(1 p.m. at the latest\)](#)** - Clerks may begin processing and verifying mail ballots.
 - **[5 p.m.](#)** - General deadline by which mail ballots must be received.

In-Person Voting (Election Day)

- **[Tuesday, Nov. 3](#) - Election Day.**
 - **[Voters may register at their polling place.](#)**¹
 - **11 a.m.** - Latest time a municipality can open polls

¹ HB 1569 (2024) prohibited the use of voter affidavits for purposes of proving U.S. citizenship, as a result, any individual wanting to register to vote was required to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship. Subsequent litigation in federal court found this provision in HB 1569 to be unconstitutional and blocked the state from enforcing its documentary proof of citizenship requirement. New Hampshire filed an appeal which is pending.

- **7 p.m.** - Earliest time a municipality can close polls

Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- **Tuesday, Nov. 3 - Election Day**
 - [Close of polls](#) - Counting of mail and in-person ballots may begin.
 - [Counting continues until it is completed.](#)
 - [At completion of counting,](#) moderators must announce results at their polling place and transfer them to the clerk.
- [Wednesday, Nov. 4](#) - Clerks must send a copy of results to the secretary of state no later than 8 a.m.
- [Tuesday, Dec. 1 \(or earlier if candidates waive right to challenge results\)](#) - Governor may begin to issue certificates of election.

Recounts & Election Contests

- [Friday, Nov. 6](#) - Deadline for a candidate who received general election votes to apply to the secretary of state for a recount.
- [Thursday, Nov. 12](#) - Last day the secretary of state may begin a recount.
- [Monday, Nov. 23](#) - Ballot Law Commission meets to hear disputes.
- [Monday, Nov. 30](#) - Deadline to file an appeal of a decision of the Ballot Law Commission.

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