

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

New York'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 York. 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](#) - Deadline for local boards of elections to send mail ballots to military and overseas (UOCAVA) voters with accepted applications.
- [Monday, Oct. 19](#) - Deadline for boards of elections to receive change-of-address notices to be processed before the election.
- [Saturday, Oct. 24](#) - Deadline for registering to vote by mail or by personal appearance. This is the last day to register to vote by mail or to register to cast a regular ballot in person. This is also the last day for boards of elections to receive mail ballot applications from UOCAVA voters [if not previously registered](#).
- [Tuesday, Oct. 27](#) - Deadline for boards of elections to receive applications for mail ballots from UOCAVA voters if previously registered (seventh day before the election).
- [Tuesday, Nov. 3 \(Election Day\)](#) - Voters returning ballots by mail must be sure to *postmark* the returned ballot by Election Day for the ballot to be counted. Voters returning mail ballots in person must deliver them to the board of elections or any ballot drop box by the close of polls.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 10](#) - For a mail ballot to be counted, ballots mailed and postmarked on or before Election Day must be received by the board of elections by 5 p.m. on the seventh day after the election.

- [Tuesday, Nov. 10](#) - Ballot cure deadline.¹ Voters have seven days after a notice of a defect is sent to them, or until 5 p.m. on the seventh day after the election, to return their cure affidavit. Affidavits sent electronically must be received by midnight.

In-Person Voting (Early & Election Day)

- [Monday, Oct. 19](#) - On or before this date, the board of elections must publish a list of names and addresses of all registered voters for each election district. The list must be available for sale at a charge not exceeding the cost of publication.
- [Saturday, Oct. 24](#) - Deadline for registering to vote by mail or by personal appearance. This is the last day for New York to register to vote by mail or to register to cast a regular ballot in person. This is also the last day for boards of elections to receive mail ballot applications from UOCAVA voters [if not previously registered](#).
- [Saturday, Oct. 24](#) - Early voting begins for the general election. Registered voters may vote early in person at specified early voting locations.
 - [Same Day Registration](#) - Voters may register to vote on the first day of early voting only.
- [Sunday, Nov. 1](#) - 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)**
 - **6 a.m.** - Polling locations open.
 - **9 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.
- [Monday, Nov. 9](#) - Provisional "affidavit" ballot review deadline (four business days after the election). Boards of elections must review all provisional ballots, including those cast by voters whose identity had not been verified. If the central board of canvassers determines that a person was entitled to vote, the ballot must be counted.

Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- [Friday, Oct. 23](#) - The day before early voting begins, the central board of canvassers may scan valid absentee, early mail, military and special ballots. Officials may place the ballots in counting machines, but no tabulation of votes can occur until one hour before the close of polls on Election Day.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 3](#) - **Election Day**
 - **After 8 p.m.** - County boards may begin to tabulate results for valid ballots

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 New York, 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.

previously scanned, but results may not be publicly released after polls close.

- **9 p.m.** - After close of polls, unofficial tabulations may be added to the election night totals.
- **[Wednesday, Nov. 18](#)** - Deadline for the canvass of general election returns. County boards of elections, or bipartisan committees appointed by them, canvass the tabulated result tape from each ballot scanner and compare it with the return of canvass.
- **[Wednesday, Nov. 18](#)** - Deadline for the verifiable audit of voting systems. County boards, or bipartisan committees appointed by them, must audit voter-verifiable audit records from 3% of voting machines or systems within the board's jurisdiction, selected through a random process. The audits may be performed manually or using an automated tool authorized by the state board of elections.
- **[Saturday, Nov. 28](#)** - County canvass deadline.² Local boards of elections must complete that canvass, certify the results, and send certified copies of the statement to the state board of elections secretary of state no later than 25 days after the election.
- **[Tuesday, Dec. 15](#)** - State canvass and certification.³ Last day for the state board of canvassers to meet to certify the general election and determine individuals elected to covered offices and whether statewide ballot proposals were adopted.

Election Contests & Recounts

- **[Wednesday, Nov. 18](#)** - Deadline for the canvass of general election returns. County boards of elections, or bipartisan committees appointed by them, canvass the tabulated result tape from each ballot scanner and compare it with the return of canvass.
- **[After the canvass](#)**, a full manual recount by bipartisan teams is required for a contest if the margin of victory is 20 votes or less; 0.5% or less; or, in a contest where one million or more ballots were cast, less than 5,000 votes.
- **[Monday, Nov. 23](#)** - Deadline to begin a proceeding challenging the casting or canvassing of ballots (or refusal to do so) in an election other than a village election (20 days after the election).
 - **[Note](#)**: Only the attorney general can challenge the results of a general election

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 New York, the county canvass is typically conducted by the board of elections. 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.

through a *quo warranto* action, while courts may direct a recanvass or correction of error after the board has completed its canvass.

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