

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

Oregon'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 Oregon. 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 send mail ballots to military and overseas (UOCAVA) voters.
- [Monday, Sept. 21](#) - First day to provide a ballot, either in person or by mail, to voters who will be absent during the election.
- [Monday, Oct. 5](#) - First day to mail ballots to voters with a non-Oregon address who are not military or overseas voters.
- [Wednesday, Oct. 14](#) - First day to mail ballots to all active voters.
- [Upon Receipt](#) - Verification of mail ballots may begin.
- [Friday, Oct. 16](#) - Last day to mail ballots to voters without daily mail service.
- [Tuesday, Oct. 20](#) - Last day to mail ballots to all active voters.
- [Thursday, Oct. 29](#) - Last day that counties are required to mail absentee, reissued, or replacement ballots to voters. County clerks may still mail these ballots after this day, but they can also make them available at the clerk's office.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 3 \(Election Day\)](#)
 - Ballots returned by mail must be *postmarked* by Election Day and received within seven days after the election.
 - Ballots returned by hand must be delivered to the county clerk's office or a drop site by 8 p.m. on Election Day. The clerk's office must be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drop sites must be open for a minimum of eight hours on Election Day. Drop sites may be available before Election Day, at each county's discretion.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 10](#) - Last day for ballots returned by mail and postmarked by Election Day to be received.

- [Tuesday, Nov. 24](#) - Deadline for voters to cure any missing or mismatched information on their mail ballots.¹

In-Person Voting (Early & Election Day)

- [Monday, Sept. 21](#) - First day to provide a ballot, either in person or by mail, to voters who will be absent during the election.
- [Tuesday, Oct. 13](#) - Last day to register to vote for the Nov. 2026 election. Registrations must be *postmarked* by this date.
- [Wednesday, Oct. 14](#) - First day for voters who receive a ballot in the mail to choose to vote in person in a private [voting booth](#) at a county clerk's office during standard business hours.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 3 \(Election Day\)](#)
 - **7 a.m.** - County clerk's offices open for in-person voting.
 - **8 p.m.** - County clerk's offices close for in-person voting. All voters still in line must be allowed to vote.

Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- [Upon Receipt](#) - Mail ballots may be verified and scanned into tabulators. The results cannot be released until after 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- [Tuesday, Nov. 3 \(Election Day\)](#) - After voting locations close, election officials can begin publishing unofficial results. They must do so at least once before midnight.
- [Wednesday, Nov. 25](#) - Deadline for the secretary of state to determine which contests and which precincts or ballot batches must be hand counted to verify the accuracy of the election results.
- [Monday, Nov. 30](#) - Deadline for the county clerk to canvass and certify the election.²
- [Monday, Nov. 30](#) - Deadline for counties to begin the hand count to verify the accuracy of the election results. Counties may choose to conduct a [risk-limiting audit](#) instead.
- [Tuesday, Dec. 8](#) - Deadline for counties to complete the hand count to verify the accuracy of the election results.
- [Thursday, Dec. 10](#) - Deadline for the secretary of state to canvass and certify the election results.

¹ "Curing" is the process by which a voter: 1) receives notice from election officials of a discrepancy on the mail ballot envelope; and 2) has an opportunity to correct the issue and have the ballot counted. In Oregon, a voter may have an opportunity to cure a ballot envelope if: 1) the voter failed to sign the envelope or 2) election officials are unsure if the voter's signature on the envelope matches the information in the voter's registration record.

² "Canvassing" is the process by which the appropriate authority checks the results from each voting 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 Oregon, the county canvass is typically conducted by the county clerk. The state canvass is conducted by the secretary of state. "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.

Recounts & Election Contests

- [Thursday, Dec. 10](#) - Deadline for the secretary of state to determine if any races qualify for an automatic recount. Automatic recounts are conducted in races if the certified margin is [0.2% or less](#).
- [Monday, Dec. 14](#) - Deadline to file an election contest, if the race is not subject to a recount. Statute does not specify a completion deadline.
- [Tuesday, Dec. 15](#) - Deadline to request a recount at the requestor's full or partial expense. Statute does not specify a completion deadline.

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