

Table 6.4
ELECTION DATES FOR NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS
(Formulas and dates of state elections)

State or other jurisdiction	Type of primary	National (a)		State (b)	
		Primary	General	Primary	General
Alabama	Open	March, 2nd T March 8, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 1st T June 3, 2014	6th T AP July 15, 2014
Alaska	Semi-Closed	(c) NA	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 3rd T Aug. 19, 2014	...
Arizona	Closed	Feb., 4th T (d) Feb. 23, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	10th T Prior Aug. 26, 2014	...
Arkansas	Open	T 3 wks. prior to runoff May 24, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	T 3 wks. prior to runoff May 20, 2014	June, 2nd T June 10, 2014
California	Rep: Closed Dem: Semi-Closed	June ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June ★ June 3, 2014 (e)	...
Colorado	Closed	(e)(f) Feb. 2, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, last T June 24, 2014	...
Connecticut	Closed	April, Last T April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd T Aug., 12, 2014	...
Delaware	Closed	April, 4th T April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 2nd T after 1st M Sept. 9, 2014	...
Florida	Closed	(e)(g) March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	10th T prior to General Aug. 26, 2014	...
Georgia	Open	(h) March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	24th T prior to General May 20, 2014	9th T after Primary July 22, 2014
Hawaii	Rep: Closed Dem: Open	(c) NA	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd S Aug. 9, 2014	...
Idaho	Rep: Closed Dem: Semi-Closed	(c) NA	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 3rd T May 20, 2014	...
Illinois	Open	March, 3rd T March 15, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	March, 3rd T March 18, 2014	...
Indiana	Open	May ★ May 3, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May ★ May 6, 2014	...
Iowa	Closed	(e)(i) Jan. 18, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June ★ June 3, 2014	...
Kansas	Closed	(e)(k) NA	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st T Aug. 5, 2014	...
Kentucky	Closed	May, 1st T after 3rd M May 17, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 1st T after 3rd M May 20, 2014	...
Louisiana	Closed	March, 3rd S after 1st T March 19, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Oct., 2nd to last S (k) Oct. 24, 2015	...
Maine	Closed	(c) NA	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 10, 2014	...

See footnotes at end of table.

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State or other jurisdiction	Type of primary	National (a)		State (b)	
		Primary	General	Primary	General
Maryland.....	Closed	April, 1st T April 5, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, last T June 24, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Massachusetts.....	Semi-closed	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	7th T Prior Sept. 9, 2014 (l)	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Michigan.....	Open	Feb., 4th T Feb. 23, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug.★ Aug. 5, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Minnesota.....	Open	Feb., 1st T (c)(m) Feb. 2, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 12, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Mississippi.....	Open	March, 2nd T March 8, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug.★ Aug. 4, 2015	Nov.★ Nov. 3, 2015
Missouri.....	Open	Feb.★ Feb. 2, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug.★ Aug. 5, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Montana.....	Open	June★ June 7, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June★ June 3, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Nebraska.....	Semi-closed	May, 1st T after 2nd M May 10, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 1st T After 2nd M May 13, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Nevada.....	Closed	(c) Feb. 6, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 10, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
New Hampshire.....	Closed	Set by Secretary of State (n) Jan. 26, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 2nd T Sept. 9, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
New Jersey.....	Closed	June★ June 7, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June★ June 2, 2015	Nov.★ Nov. 3, 2015
New Mexico.....	Closed	June★ June 7, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June★ June 3, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
New York.....	Closed	Feb., 1st T Feb. 2, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 1st T after 2nd M (o) Sept. 9, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
North Carolina.....	Semi-Closed (p)	Tues. after South Carolina primary Feb. 16, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	May★ May 6, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
North Dakota.....	Rep: Closed Dem: Open	(c)(q) NA	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 10, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Ohio.....	Open	March★ March 8, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	May★ May 6, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Oklahoma.....	Closed	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, last T June 24, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014
Oregon.....	Closed	May, 3rd T May 17, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 3rd T May 20, 2014	Nov.★ Nov. 4, 2014

See footnotes at end of table.

**ELECTION DATES FOR NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS
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State or other jurisdiction	Type of primary	National (a)		State (b)	
		Primary	General	Primary	Runoff
Pennsylvania	Closed	April, 4th T April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 3rd T May 20, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Rhode Island	Semi-Closed	April, 4th T April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 2nd T after 1st M Sept. 9, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
South Carolina	Open	(c) Feb. 13, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 10, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
South Dakota	Rep: Closed Dem: Open	June ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June ★ June 3, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Tennessee	Open	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st TH Aug. 7, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Texas	Open	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	March, 1st T March 4, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Utah	Rep: Closed Dem: Open	Feb., 1st T Feb. 2, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 4th T June 24, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Vermont	Open	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 4th T Aug. 26, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Virginia	Open	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 9, 2015	Nov. ★ Nov. 3, 2015
Washington	Rep: Closed Dem: Semi-Closed	May, 4th T (r) May 24, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st T Aug. 5, 2014 (s)	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
West Virginia	Semi-Closed	May, 2nd T May 10, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 2nd T May 13, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Wisconsin	Open	April, 1st T April 5, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 12, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Wyoming	Closed	(c) NA	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st T After 3rd M Aug. 19, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Dist. of Columbia	Closed	April, 1st T April 5, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	April, 1st T April 1, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
American Samoa	Open	(c)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	(t) ...	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Guam	Closed	(c)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	NA Aug. 30, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
No. Mariana Islands ...	Closed	(c)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	NA NA	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
Puerto Rico	Rep: Open Dem: Closed	Rep: NA Dem: June 5, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	NA NA	June 1, 2016 Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014
U.S. Virgin Islands	Closed	(c)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st S Aug. 2, 2014	Nov. ★ Nov. 4, 2014

See footnotes at end of table.

ELECTION DATES FOR NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS (Formulas and dates of state elections)

Source: The Council of State Governments, May 2014.

Note: This table describes the basic formulas for determining when national and state elections will be held. For specific information on a particular state, the reader is advised to contact the state election administration office. All dates provided are based on the state election formula and dates are subject to change.

Key:

- ★ — First Tuesday after first Monday.
- ... — No provision.
- M — Monday.
- T — Tuesday.
- TH — Thursday.
- S — Saturday.
- Prior — Prior to general election.
- AP — After primary.
- NA — Not available at press time.
- (a) National refers to presidential elections.
- (b) State refers to election in which a state executive official or legislator is to be elected. See Table 6.1, State Officials to be Elected.
- (c) The dates for presidential caucuses are set by the political parties.
- (d) The Arizona governor can use his or her proclamation powers to move the state's primary to a date on which the event would have an impact on the nomination.
- (e) In June 2010, California voters approved Proposition 410. State primary elections will now be open to all registered voters and the top two vote getters in every race—no matter their party affiliations—will advance to the November general election.
- (f) The state parties have the option of choosing either the first Tuesday in March (March 1, 2016) date called for in the statute or moving up to the first Tuesday in February (Feb. 2, 2016).
- (g) The date of the presidential primary is selected by the Presidential Preference Primary Date Selection Committee. It may be no earlier than the first Tuesday in January and no later than the first Tuesday in March in the year of the presidential preference primary.
- (h) The secretary of state has the authority to set the date of the presidential primary election. Currently held in March, the presidential primary could be held as late as June 14.
- (i) Iowa does not have a presidential primary. The Iowa Caucuses mark the beginning of the presidential candidate selection process by choosing delegates to the next level of political party conventions.
- (j) Kansas has not held a presidential primary since 1992, because the Legislature has not appropriated money for that purpose. However, state statute grants the Kansas secretary of state the option of choosing a date that either coincides with at least 5 other states' delegate selection events or is on the first Tuesday in April or before.

(k) Louisiana has an open primary which requires all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, to appear on a single ballot. If a candidate receives over 50 percent of the vote in the primary, that candidate is elected to the office. If no candidate receives a majority vote, then a single election is held between the two candidates receiving the most votes. For national elections, the first vote is held on the first Saturday in October of even-numbered years with the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. For state elections, the election is held on the second to last Saturday in October with the runoff being held on the fourth Saturday after first election.

(l) On November 26, 2013, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick signed HB 3764, which moves the 2014 primary date from September 16 to September 9. The bill only applies to 2014, so under current law, primaries in years beyond 2014 continue to be seven weeks before the general election, which would have been September 16 in 2014 if HB 3764 had not been passed.

(m) Parties must notify the Secretary of State's Office in writing prior to Dec. 1st the year preceding the date of the election of their intentions to hold a preference primary election. Unless the chairs of the two major political parties jointly propose a different date, the caucuses are held on the first Tuesday in February.

(n) The secretary of state selects a date for the primary, which must be 7 days or more immediately preceding the date on which any other state holds a similar election.

(o) New York's current September primary date for state offices is effectively too late to comply with a federal law that requires ballots for military and overseas voters to be sent out at least 45 days before the general election. In January 2014, the Assembly passed a bill (AB 8198) to move state primaries to the fourth Tuesday in June to coincide with the state's federal primary date. However, at press time the Senate has not yet acted.

(p) Unaffiliated voters, by state statute and with permission of a party, may vote in a party primary. Currently both the Democratic and Republican parties allow this.

(q) On one designated day, following presidential nominating contests in the states of Iowa and New Hampshire and prior to the first Wednesday in March in every presidential election year, every political party entitled to a separate column may conduct a presidential preference caucus. Before August 15 of the odd-numbered year immediately preceding the presidential election year, the secretary of state shall designate the day after consulting with and taking recommendations from the two political parties casting the greatest vote for president of the United States at the most recent general elections when the office of president appeared on the ballot.

(r) The Washington Legislature voted to suspend the 2012 presidential primary for budgetary reasons, replacing it with caucuses. The primary is expected to return in 2016.

(s) All candidates for voter-nominated offices are listed on one ballot and only the top two vote getters in the primary election—regardless of party preference—move on to the general election.

(t) American Samoa does not conduct primary elections.