

TABLE 6.4

Election Dates for National and State Elections (Formulas and Dates of State Elections)

State or other jurisdiction	National (a)		State (b)			Type of primary (c)
	Primary	General	Primary	Runoff	General	
Alabama	March, 1st T March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	March, 1st T March 6, 2018	6th TAP April 17, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Alaska	(d)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 3rd T Aug. 21, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	(e)
Arizona	T following March 15 March 17, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	10th T Prior Aug. 28, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Closed
Arkansas	T 3 wks. prior to runoff May 19, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	T 3 wks. prior to runoff May 22, 2018	June, 2nd T June 12, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
California	June, ★ June 2, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, ★ June 5, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Top Two
Colorado	(d) (g) March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, last T June 26, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Closed
Connecticut	April, last T April 28, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug. 2nd T Aug. 14, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
Delaware	April, 4th T April 28, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Sept., 2nd T after 1st M Sept. 11, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
Florida	March, 3rd T March 17, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	10th T prior to General Aug. 28, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
Georgia	(h)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	24th T prior to General May 22, 2018	9th T after Primary July 24, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Hawaii	(d) Rep: March 10, 2020 Dem: TBD	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 2nd S Aug. 11, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Idaho	(d) Rep: March 10, 2020 Dem: TBD	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, 3rd T May 15, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Rep: Closed (i) Dem: Partially Closed
Illinois	March, 3rd T March 17, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	March, 3rd T March 20, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Open
Indiana	May, ★ May 5, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, ★ May 8, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Open
Iowa	(d)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, ★ June 5, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Open
Kansas	(d) (j)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 1st T Aug. 7, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed (k)
Kentucky	May, 1st T after 3rd M May 19, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, 1st T after 3rd M May 22, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
Louisiana	March, 1st S March 7, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Oct., 2nd to last S (l) Oct. 19, 2019	...	Nov., 4th S AP (l) Nov. 16, 2019	Top Two
Maine	(d)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, 2nd T June 12, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed (n)
Maryland	April, 4th T April 28, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, last T June 26, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed (p)
Massachusetts	March, 1st T March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	7th T Prior Sept. 18, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Closed
Michigan	March, 2nd T March 10, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., ★ Aug. 7, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Minnesota	(d) (r) March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 14, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Mississippi	March, 2nd T March 10, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., ★ Aug. 6, 2019	3rd TAP Aug. 27, 2019	Nov., ★ Nov. 5, 2019	(s)
Missouri	March, 2nd T after 1st M March 10, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., ★ Aug. 7, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Montana	June, ★ June 2, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, ★ June 5, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Nebraska	May, 1st T After 2nd M May 12, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, 1st T After 2nd M May 15, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Top Two
Nevada	(d)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, 2nd T June 12, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
New Hampshire	(t)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Sept., 2nd T Sept. 11, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Closed (u)
New Jersey	June, ★ June 2, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, ★ June 4, 2019	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 5, 2019	Closed
New Mexico	June, ★ June 2, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, ★ June 5, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
New York	Feb., 1st T (aa)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Sept., 1st T after 2nd M Sept. 11, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed

See footnotes at end of table

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TABLE 6.4

Election Dates for National and State Elections (Formulas and Dates of State Elections) (continued)

State or other jurisdiction	National (a)		State (b)			Type of primary (c)
	Primary	General	Primary	Runoff	General	
North Carolina	May, ★ May 5, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, ★ May 8, 2018	7 wks. AP June 26, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Closed
North Dakota	(d)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, 2nd T June 12, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Ohio	March, 2nd T after 1st M March 10, 2020 (v)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, ★(v) May 8, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Open
Oklahoma	March, 1st T March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, last T June 26, 2018	Aug., 4th T Aug. 28, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Dem: Partially Closed Rep: Closed (w)
Oregon	May, 3rd T May 19, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, 3rd T May 15, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
Pennsylvania	April, 4th T April 28, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	April, 4th T April 24, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
Rhode Island	April, 4th T April 28, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Sept., 2nd T after 1st M Sept. 11, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Open
South Carolina	(d)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, 2nd T June 12, 2018	2nd T AP June 26, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
South Dakota	June, ★ June 2, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, ★ June 5, 2018	10th T AP (x) Aug. 14, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Rep: Closed Dem: Partially Closed
Tennessee	March, 1st T March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 1st TH Aug. 2, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Texas	March, 1st T March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	March, 1st T March 6, 2018	May, 4th T May 22, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Utah	(y)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, 4th T June 26, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Rep: Closed (z) Dem: Open
Vermont	March, 1st T March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 14, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Virginia	March, 1st T March 3, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, 2nd T June 11, 2019	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 5, 2019	Open
Washington	May, 4th T May 26, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 1st T Aug. 7, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Top Two
West Virginia	May, 2nd T May 12, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	May, 2nd T May 8, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Partially Closed
Wisconsin	April, 1st T April 7, 2020	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 14, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
Wyoming	(d)	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Aug., 1st T After 3rd M Aug. 21, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
Dist. of Columbia	June, 2nd T (q) June 9, 2018	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	June, 2nd T (q) June 12, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed
American Samoa	(d)	(m) ...	(o)	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	(o)
Guam	(d)	(m) ...	Aug., last S Aug. 25, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Open
CNMI*	(d)	(m) ...	(o)	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	(o)
Puerto Rico	Rep: (f) Dem: June 7, 2020	(m) ...	N.A. March 19, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 3, 2020	Open
U.S. Virgin Islands	(d)	(m) ...	Aug., 1st S Aug. 4, 2018	...	Nov., ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 6.4

Election Dates for National and State Elections (Formulas and Dates of State Elections) (continued)

Sources: The Council of State Governments, November 2017.

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.

*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Key:

★—First Tuesday after first Monday.

...—No provision.

M—Monday.

T—Tuesday.

TH—Thursday.

S—Saturday.

SN—Sunday.

Prior—Prior to general election.

AP—After primary.

(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 Executive Branch Officials to be Elected, and Table 6.2, State Legislature Members to be Elected.

(c) Open: Voters can privately select which party's ballot to vote, regardless of party affiliation.

Closed: Voters must be a registered member of the party to vote its primary ballot.

Partially Open: Voters can choose in which primary to vote but that choice is not private. In certain states, a voter's primary ballot selection may be regarded as a form of registration with the corresponding party.

Partially Closed: Unaffiliated voters may participate in any party's primary. Members of a political party are not allowed to cross over and vote in a different political party's primary.

Top Two Primaries: All voters in California and Washington receive one ballot with candidates from all parties listed together. The top two finishers face each other at the general election. Louisiana has a similar election type but its primary is held in October with a runoff election in November if no candidate garners 50 percent or more of the vote. Nebraska uses a single primary ballot to elect lawmakers to its nonpartisan legislature.

(d) The dates for presidential caucuses are set by the political parties.

(e) Alaska law allows a political party to select who may participate in their party's primary. Parties may expand or limit who may participate in their Primary Election by submitting a written notice with a copy of their pre cleared by-laws to the Director of Elections no later than September 1st of the year prior to the year in which a Primary Election is to be held.

(f) The primary law allows Puerto Rico parties affiliated with U.S. national parties to select a primary date any time between the first Tuesday in March and June 15.

(g) The state parties have the option of choosing either the first Tuesday in March (March 3, 2020) date called for in the statute or moving up to the first Tuesday in February (Feb. 4, 2020).

(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) In 2011, the Idaho Legislature passed HB 351, implementing a closed primary system. However, the law gives political parties the option of opening their primary elections to unaffiliated voters and members of other political parties. The party chairman must notify the Secretary of State 6 months prior to the primary if the party intends to open its primary election to those outside of the party. The Republican party currently allows only voters registered with its party to vote (closed), while the Democratic Party allows unaffiliated voters to vote in its primary (partially closed).

(j) In 2015, the Kansas legislature passed a bill (HB 2104) that repealed the statute calling for a presidential preference primary election. It replaces it with a requirement that each recognized political party select a presidential nominee in accordance with party procedures, for every presidential election beginning with the 2016 election.

(k) Unaffiliated voters may register with a party on primary day to vote in that party's primary.

(l) 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.

(m) Residents of U.S. territories may vote in presidential primaries, but the Electoral College system does not permit them to vote in presidential elections.

(n) Voters who have already registered but have not enrolled in a party may enroll in a party at the polls on Election Day. Any voter who wishes to change party enrollment must do so at least 15 days before the vote.

(o) American Samoa and the Northern Marianas Islands do not conduct primary elections. Instead, the law provides for a run off when none of the candidates receives more than 50% of the vote.

(p) Under Maryland law, parties may allow unaffiliated voters to cast ballots in their primaries by notifying the election board six months in advance. However, both major parties currently hold closed primaries.

(q) In 2014, the Council of the District of Columbia passed a bill (B20-0265) to move the presidential primary from the 1st Tuesday in April to the 2nd Tuesday in June.

(r) 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.

(s) Mississippi voters do not have to register with a party, but state law requires they must intend to support the party nominee if they vote in that party's primary election. Since voter intent is difficult to dispute in court, some characterize Mississippi's system an open partisan primary.

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TABLE 6.4

Election Dates for National and State Elections (Formulas and Dates of State Elections) (continued)

- (t) 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.
- (u) An unaffiliated voter may choose one party's ballot, which makes them a registered member of that party. However, temporary affiliation is possible, as voters can fill out a card at the polling place to return to undeclared status after the vote is cast.
- (v) In 2015, Ohio lawmakers passed a bill (HB 153) that moves the date of the primary back one week to the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March. In non-presidential election years, the primary is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. The move to a later week allows Republicans to allocate delegates in a winner-take-all fashion.
- (w) In November of each odd-numbered year, recognized political parties declare whether or not they will permit Independents to vote in their primary elections during the following two calendar years. For 2016 and 2017, the Democratic Party granted permission for Independents to vote in its primaries and runoff primaries. Independents cannot vote in Republican primaries.
- (x) South Dakota only holds runoffs for the offices of U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative and governor.
- (y) If funded, Utah can hold a primary on either the first Tuesday of February or in conjunction with the regular primary on the fourth Tuesday in June.
- (z) In November, 2015, a federal judge ruled that the state cannot force political parties to open their primaries to unaffiliated voters, invalidating a provision in a 2014 law (SB 54). This decision allows the Utah Republican Party to continue to hold closed primaries.
- (aa) In the past two election presidential primary cycles, New York has chosen to move their primary to April. The 2020 date is yet to be determined.