

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	General	
	Runoff	Runoff	Runoff	Runoff	
Alabama.....	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	March, 1st T March 6, 2018	6th T AP April 17, 2018	Open
Alaska.....	(d) Rep: March 1, 2016 Dem: March 26, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 3rd T Aug. 16, 2016	...	(e)
Arizona.....	T following March 15 March 22, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	10th T Prior Aug. 30, 2016	...	Partially Closed
Arkansas.....	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	T 3 wks. prior to runoff March 1, 2016 (f)	March, 4th T March 22, 2016 (f)	Open
California.....	June,★ June 7, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June,★ June 7, 2016	...	Top Two
Colorado.....	(d)(g) March 1, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, last T June 28, 2016	...	Partially Closed
Connecticut.....	April, Last T April 26, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 9, 2016	...	Closed
Delaware.....	April, 4th T April 26, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 2nd T after 1st M Sept. 13, 2016	...	Closed
Florida.....	March, 3rd T March 15, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	10th T prior to General Aug. 30, 2016	...	Closed
Georgia.....	(h) March 1, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	24th T prior to General May 24, 2016	9th T after Primary July 26, 2016	Open
Hawaii.....	(d) Rep: March 8, 2016 Dem: March 26, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd S Aug. 13, 2016	...	Open
Idaho.....	(d) Rep: March 8, 2016 Dem: March 22, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 3rd T May 17, 2016	...	Rep: Closed (f) Dem: Partially Closed
Illinois.....	March, 3rd T March 15, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	March, 3rd T March 15, 2016	...	Partially Open
Indiana.....	May,★ May 3, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	May,★ May 3, 2016	...	Partially Open
Iowa.....	(d) Feb. 1, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June,★ June 7, 2016	...	Partially Open
Kansas.....	(d)(f) March 5, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug. 1st T Aug. 2, 2016	...	Closed (k)
Kentucky.....	(d) Rep: March 5, 2016 (l) Dem: May 17, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 1st T after 3rd M May 17, 2016	...	Closed
Louisiana.....	March, 1st S March 5, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	Oct., 2nd to last S (m) Oct. 19, 2019	...	Top Two
Maine.....	(d) Rep: March 5, 2016 Dem: March 6, 2016	Nov.★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 14, 2016	...	Closed (n)

See footnotes at end of table.

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

	National (a)		State (b)		Type of primary (c)
	Primary	General	Primary	General	
Maryland	April, 4th T (o) April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	April, 4th T (o) April 24, 2018	Nov. ★ Nov. 6, 2018	Closed (p)
Massachusetts	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept. 8, 2016 (q)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Partially Closed
Michigan	March, 2nd T March 8, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug. ★ Aug. 2, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Minnesota	(d)(r) March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 9, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Mississippi	March, 2nd T March 8, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug. ★ Aug. 6, 2019	Nov. ★ Nov. 5, 2019	(s)
Missouri	March, 2nd T after 1st M March 15, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	3rd T AP Aug. 27, 2019	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Montana	June ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Nebraska	May, 1st T after 2nd M May 10, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 1st T after 2nd M May 10, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Top Two
Nevada	(d) Rep: Feb. 23, 2016 Dem: Feb. 20, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 14, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Closed
New Hampshire	(t) Feb. 9, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 2nd T Sept. 13, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Partially Closed (u)
New Jersey	June ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June ★ June 6, 2017	Nov. ★ Nov. 7, 2017	Closed
New Mexico	June ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Closed
New York	April 19, 2016 (v)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 1st T after 2nd M Sept. 13, 2016 (v)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Closed
North Carolina	March 15, 2016 (w)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	March 15, 2016 (w)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Partially Closed
North Dakota	(d)(x) Dem: June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 14, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Ohio	March, 2nd T after 1st M March 15, 2016 (y)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	March, 2nd T after 1st M March 15, 2016 (y)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Partially Open
Oklahoma	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 1st T June 28, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Dem: Partially Closed
Oregon	May, 3rd T May 17, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 3rd T May 17, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Rep: Closed (z) Closed

See footnotes at end of table.

**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	General	
Pennsylvania	April, 4th T April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	April, 4th T April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Closed
Rhode Island	April, 4th T April 26, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Sept., 2nd T after 1st M Sept. 13, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Partially Open
South Carolina	(d) Rep: Feb. 20, 2016 Dem: Feb. 27, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 14, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
South Dakota	June, ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, ★ June 7, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Rep: Closed Dem: Partially Closed
Tennessee	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st TH Aug. 4, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Texas	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Utah	(bb) March 22, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 4th T June 28, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Rep: Closed (cc) Dem: Open
Vermont	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 9, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Virginia	March, 1st T March 1, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T June 13, 2017	Nov. ★ Nov. 7, 2017	Open
Washington	May, 4th T May 24, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st T Aug. 2, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Top Two
West Virginia	May, 2nd T May 10, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	May, 2nd T May 10, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Partially Closed
Wisconsin	April, 1st T April 5, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 2nd T Aug. 9, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
Wyoming	(d) Rep: March 1, 2016 Dem: April 9, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Aug., 1st T after 3rd M Aug. 16, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Closed
Dist. of Columbia	Rep: March 12, 2016 (dd) Dem: June 14, 2016 (dd)	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	June, 2nd T (dd) June 14, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Closed
American Samoa	(d) Rep: March 22, 2016 Dem: March 1, 2016	(ee) ...	(ff) ...	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	(ff)
Guam	(d) Rep: March 12, 2016 Dem: May 7, 2016	(ee) ...	Aug., last S Aug. 27, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
No. Marianas Islands ...	(d) Rep: March 17, 2016 Dem: March 15, 2016	(ee) ...	(ff) ...	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	(ff)
Puerto Rico	Rep: March 6, 2016 Dem: June 5, 2016	(ee) ...	June 5, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Open
U.S. Virgin Islands	(d) Rep: March 10, 2016 Dem: June 4, 2016	(ee) ...	Aug., 1st S Aug. 6, 2016	Nov. ★ Nov. 8, 2016	Closed

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, March 2016.

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.

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 bylaws to the Director of Elections no later than September 1 of the year prior to the year in which a Primary Election is to be held.

(f) In 2015, the Arkansas General Assembly passed a bill (SB 8) to move the primary to March 1, 2016 and the runoff to March 22, 2016. The measure applies only to the 2016 elections.

(g) 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).

(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) In 2015, the central committee of the Kentucky Republican Party voted to adopt a March 5 caucus for the 2016 presidential nomination process. The switch from a May 17 primary to a caucus allowed Sen. Rand Paul to run for the Republican presidential nomination and the U.S. Senate, because state law prohibits a candidate from running for more than one office on a ballot.

(m) 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.

(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) In 2015, Maryland lawmakers passed a bill (SB 204) to move the primary back three weeks, shifting the election further from the Easter holiday, which would have coincided with the first day of early voting in 2016.

(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) Massachusetts lawmakers set the 2016 primary date for Thursday, September 8 as part of a supplemental appropriations bill (HB 3829). This date was selected to avoid having the primary on the Tuesday after Labor Day, as many cities and towns would accrue additional costs since they would have to pay workers overtime to set up polling places.

(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.

(t) The Secretary of State selects a date for the primary, which must be 7 days or more immediately preceding the date on which 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 undecided status after the vote is cast.

(v) In 2015, the New York Legislature passed legislation (SB 5958) that sets the state's presidential primary date for 2016 to April 19, 2016. At press time, the Legislature was considering legislation (AB 9108) that would combine the state's primary with the federal primary on June 28, 2016, to bring the state into compliance with the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, which ensures military and overseas voters are able to participate in the electoral process.

(w) In 2015, the North Carolina Legislature passed a bill (HB 373) that sets the presidential and state primary date as March 15 for 2016 only. The presidential primary is set in statute for the Tuesday after the South Carolina primary, while the state primary is the second Tuesday in June. Per HB 2 passed in the 2016 extra session, there will be no runoff elections in 2016; all 2016 elections will be determined by a plurality.

(x) The Republican Party will not vote at its caucus, allowing its 28 delegates to remain unpledged to a specific candidate.

(y) 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.

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(z) 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.

(aa) South Dakota only holds runoffs for the offices of U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative and governor.

(bb) In 2015, the Utah legislature failed to pass a bill (HB 329) to allocate \$3 million to move the primary from June to March. As a result, the presidential primary is scheduled for the same date as the June state primary date. However, it is too late under both Republican and Democratic party rules, making the state, "out of compliance," resulting in penalties from the national parties. Both parties are instead holding a caucus.

(cc) 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.

(dd) 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. Because the national Republican convention will be held in mid-July, the June 14 primary date violates Republican National Committee rules. As a result, D.C. Republicans will hold a convention on March 16.

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

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