

50 State Survey of Dates for Absentee Ballot Processing and Tabulation, Release of Election Results, and Certification Dates

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Announced	Date for Election Certification	Source
Alabama	Noon on Election Day.	Ballots cannot be tallied until the polls close on Election Day.	Unofficial county level results must be posted in the county courthouse no later than 2 hours after polls close.	Within 22 days of the election.	Section 11-46-44, Section 17-11-10, Section 17-12-6, Section 17-12-8, Section 17-12-17, Section 17-14-33, & Section 17-14-34
Alaska	7 days prior to Election Day.	8pm on Election Day.	N/A	Upon completion of the state ballot counting review the director shall certify the person receiving the largest number of votes for the office for which that person was a candidate.	AK Stat § 15.15.450 AK Stat § 15.20.201
Arizona	Upon receipt.	14 days before Election Day.	Unofficial results can be made public either one hour after an election is closed or once all precincts have reported their tallies.	On the 4th Monday following a general election.	Ariz. Stat. §16-550, Ariz. Stat. §16-551, Ariz. Stat. §16-642(A), & Ariz. Stat. §16-648

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Arkansas	7 days prior to Election Day.	8:30 a.m. on Election Day.	No election results can be released prior to closing of polls on Election Day.	County Board of Election Commissioners must certify elections to the Secretary of State between 48 hours and 15 days after an election.	A.C.A. § 7-5-416, & A.C.A. § 7-5-701
California	All-mail jurisdictions: 29 days before Election Day. All other jurisdictions: 5pm on Election Day.	For the 2020 General Election, any jurisdiction who can, may tally ballots 29 days before the Election, but jurisdictions without the necessary equipment must still wait until 5pm on the day before the election. (Note: In other years, jurisdictions that are all mail can tally ballots 10 business days prior to Election Day. All other jurisdictions must wait until 5pm on the day before Election Day.)	8pm on the day of the election.	No later than the 38th day after the election.	West's Ann. Cal. Elec. Code § 15101 & West's Ann. Cal. Elec. Code § 15501
Colorado	Upon receipt.	15 days before the election,	7pm on Election Day	27th day after an election.	C.R.S. 1-7.5-107.5 & C.R.S. 1-10-103
Connecticut	For 2020 only, 14 days before the election. (Note: In all other years, 7 days before the election.)	At the discretion of the local registrar of voters.	Closing of polls. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-147c	Last Wednesday of the month of the election.	HB 6002, Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-150a, Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-314, & Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-315

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Delaware	Friday before the day of the election.	Friday before the day of the election.	Close of polls.	2nd day after the general election at 10am	15 Del. C. § 5510, 15 Del. C. §5701, & DEL. CONST. ART V, § 6
District of Columbia	Upon receipt.	15 days before the day of the election. However, vote totals cannot be tabulated until the close of polls on Election Day.	Close of polls.	Not specified. However, within 90 days after a general election the Board of Elections must publish a post-election report.	D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05 3 DCMR § 806.1, § 808.3, § 808.4, § 813.1, & § 817.1
Florida	Upon receipt.	After 7am on the 22nd day before the election, but before noon on the day following the election.	Close of polls.	14th day after a general election.	F.S.A. § 101.68 & F.S.A. § 102.111(2)
Georgia	Upon receipt.	7am on Election Day.	Close of polls.	By 5pm on the 14th day following an election.	O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386 & O.C.G.A. § 21-2-499(b)
Hawaii	Upon receipt.	10 days before an election.	Close of polls.	Not later than 4:30pm on the last day in the month of the election.	HRS §14-24, HRS § 15-9(b), & H.A.R. § 3-177-767
Idaho	Upon receipt. (Note: For the 2020 General Election, absentee ballots may be opened and scanned 7 days prior to election day.)	Close of the polls.	No election results can be released before all polling locations in the state have closed on Election Day.	Within 15 days after the general election.	Idaho Code §34-1005, Idaho Code §34-1007, & Idaho Code §34-1211
Illinois	Upon receipt.	8pm on Election Day.	N/A	31 days after the election.	10 ILCS 5/19-8 & 10 ILCS 5/22-7

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Indiana	Upon receipt.	No later than noon on Election Day or immediately after the electronic poll books used at each polling place or vote center have been updated to indicate the county received the absentee ballot.	N/A	Last Tuesday in November.	IC 3-11.5-4-12, IC 3-11.5-5-3, & IC 3-12-5-7
Iowa	Day before election.	Election Day.	Close of polls.	27 days after the election.	Iowa Code 2020, Section 50.15A, Iowa Code 2020, Section 50.38, & Iowa Code 2020, Section 53.23
Kansas	Prior to Election Day, but exact timing not specified.	Election Day or earlier, at the discretion of the county election officer. However, final tabulation cannot be completed until Election Day.	Close of polls.	December 1, unless it falls on a Sunday, then not later than the following day.	KSA §25-1133, KSA §25-1134, & KSA §25-3206
Kentucky	For 2020 general election, September 21st. (Note: In other years, 8am on Election Day.)	8am on Election Day.	6pm Election Day.	3rd Monday after election.	Secretary of State Emergency Rule Making, Section 14, KRS § 117.087, & KRS 118.425(5)
Louisiana	Day before Election Day in a parish with 1,000 or more absentee ballots. Prior to the closing of polls on Election Day in a parish with less than 1,000 absentee ballots.	Absentee by mail and early voting ballots are counted at a time fixed by the parish board of election supervisors, which must be no later than 8:00pm on Election Day.	Close of polls.	Within 30 days.	SB 397, LSA-R.S. §18:1313, LSA-R.S. §18:513, & LSA-R.S. §18:574

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Maine	Municipalities can opt to process absentee ballots one or more days prior to the election.	Ballots cannot be counted until polls close on Election Day.	Close of polls.	Within 20 days after an election.	21-A M.R.S.A. §695, 21-A M.R.S.A. §722, 21-A M.R.S.A. §760-B, & 29-250-535 Me. Code R. § 6
Maryland	For the 2020 general election, October 1st. (Note: In other years, processing could not begin until after the election.)	For the 2020 general election, October 1st. (Note: In other years, 8am the Wednesday after Election Day. Also absentee ballots could be counted at 10 am on the Thursday after the election.)	For the 2020 general election, results cannot be released until 8pm on Election Day. (Note: In other years, results could be released once tabulation is complete.)	The Board of State Canvassers must convene within 35 days of the election.	MD Code, Election Law, § 11-302, MD Code, Election Law, § 11-503, COMAR 33.11.04.03, COMAR 33.11.04.11, & Maryland State Board of Elections Press Release
Massachusetts	Upon receipt.	No later than one hour after polls close.	Towns not divided into precincts and with permission can announce results as soon as the count is complete.	Within 15 days after the election.	MA Gen L ch 54 § 94, MA Gen L ch 54 § 95, MA Gen L ch 54 § 105, & MA Gen L ch 54 § 112

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Michigan	For 2020 only, cities or towns with at least 25,000 residents can begin to process absentee ballots between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. the day before Election Day. (Note: In other years, processing starts on Election Day.)	On Election Day.	Immediately after the canvass is complete. Michigan Election Law 168.807	No later than the 40th day after an election. Michigan Election Law 168.842	SB 757, Michigan Election Law 168.765, Michigan Election Law 168.807, & Michigan Election Law 168.842
Minnesota	Upon receipt.	Close of the polls.	No vote totals from ballots may be made public before the close of voting on election day.	Third Tuesday following the state general election and must declare the result within three days after completing the canvass.	M.S.A. §203B.121 & M.S.A. §204C.33
Mississippi	On Election Day.	Close of the polls.	Unofficial and incomplete returns may be released during the count. Upon the completion of the counting, the official returns shall be open to the public.	Within 30 days after an election.	Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-523, Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-605, & Miss. Code Ann. § 23-15-639
Missouri	5 days before election.	On Election Day.	7pm Election Day.	Second Tuesday of December	V.A.M.S. 115.300, V.A.M.S. 115.511, & V.A.M.S. 115.655

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Montana	At the Election Administrator's discretion, up to 3 business days before the election. For counties with less than 8,000 registered electors or less than 5,000 absentee electors at the close of regular registration, no sooner than 1 business day before the election.	Absentee ballots may be counted 1 day prior to election day by automatic tabulation or on election day, if hand-counting.	Close of polls.	Within 27 days after the election.	Mont. Code Anno., § 13-15-207, Mont. Code Anno., § 13-13-241, Mont. Code Anno., § 13-15-502, & Mont. Code Anno., § 13-35-241
Nebraska	On the 2nd Friday before the election.	At the discretion of the election commissioner or county clerk, no earlier than 24 hours prior to the opening of the polls on the day of the election.	Close of polls.	4th Monday after a statewide general election.	Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1027 & Neb. Rev. Stat. §32-1037
Nevada	Signatures can be verified as soon as an absentee ballot is received by a county clerk. Absentee ballots can be processed and prepared for counting not earlier than 4 working days before the election.	On Election Day.	Close of polls.	4th Tuesday of November	Nev. Stat. §293.325, Nev. Stat. §293.333, & Nev. Stat. §293.395

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
New Hampshire	For 2020, absentee ballots can be processed the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Monday before the election. (Note: In other years, absentee ballots could be processed at 1pm on Election Day or at a time that is no earlier than 2 hours after polls have opened.)	Close of the polls.	After tabulation.	After the time for any recount or appeal to the ballot law commission or superior court has expired or when all candidates for an office have waived in writing a recount and an appeal. (Note: Applications for recounts must be submitted by the Friday following the election.)	HB 1266, N.H. Rev. Stat. § 659:49, N.H. Rev. Stat. § 659:84, N.H. Rev. Stat. § 659:70, & N.H. Rev. Stat. § 660:1
New Jersey	Upon receipt.	On Election Day.	After tabulation.	No later than the 30th day after the day of election.	N.J.S.A. 19:16-10 N.J.S.A. 19:21-1, N.J.S.A. 19:63-17, & N.J.S.A. 19:63-22
New Mexico	Upon receipt and until the fifth day before the election.	Close of the polls.	It is unlawful for a person to disclose the results of a count and tally or the registration on a voting machine of mailed ballots prior to the later of the closing of the polls or the deadline for receiving mailed ballots.	3rd Tuesday after the election.	N. M. S. A. § 1-6-14 & N. M. S. A. § 1-13-15

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
New York	On Election Day.	Close of the polls.	After tabulation.	In a year when president and vice-president are chosen, on or before the first Monday after the first Wednesday, of December.	McKinney's Election Law § 9-209 & McKinney's Election Law § 9-216
North Carolina	For 2020, absentee ballots can be processed beginning on the 5th Tuesday before the election. (Note: In other years, absentee ballots can be processed starting on the 3rd Tuesday before the election.)	County boards of election can begin counting as early as 2 weeks before the election with passage of a resolution.	7:30pm on Election Day.	11am on the Tuesday 3 weeks after election day.	H1169, C Gen Stat § 163-182.5, NC Gen Stat § 163-230.1, & NC Gen Stat § 163-234
North Dakota	Day before election.	Close of the polls.	Close of polls.	Not later than 17 days next following an election.	NDCC 16.1-07-12, NDCC 16.1-11.1-06, & NDCC 16.1-15-35
Ohio	The day following the close of voter registration for that particular election, which ends 30 days before an election.	Election Night.	State law requires that all boards of elections provide regular periodic election results for specified contests to the Secretary of State's Office.	Not later than the 21st day after the day of the election. 81 days after the day of the election, the canvass of election returns shall be deemed final.	R.C. 3503.19, R.C. 3505.27, R.C. 3505.32, R.C. 3509.06 Ohio Election Official Manual, Chapter 5, Section 1.06, & Ohio Election Official Manual, Chapter 8, Section 1.02

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Oklahoma	10am on Thursday before an election. With permission from the Secretary of the State Election Board, processing may start earlier.	Prior to Election Day, with written permission from the Secretary of the State Election Board.	7pm Election Day.	5pm on Tuesday after the election.	26 Okl. St. Ann. § 7-136, 26 Okl. St. Ann. § 14-123, & 26 Okl. St. Ann. § 14-125
Oregon	7th day before an election.	If a counting board has been appointed, the tally of ballots may begin on the date of the election. Does not specify what actions occur in the event a counting board had not been appointed.	8pm Election Day.	Not later than the 30th day after any election.	O.R.S. § 254.478, O.R.S. § 254.555, O.R.S. § 254.485, & O.R.S. § 260.705
Pennsylvania	7am on Election Day.	7am on Election Day.	Close of polls.	The Secretary of the Commonwealth certifies an election after receiving the certified returns from the county boards of election. (Note: Said boards meet on 8th day following an election to canvass absentee ballots.)	25 P.S. § 3146.8 & 25 P.S. § 3159
Rhode Island	14 days before an election.	8pm on Election Day.	N/A	The state board will certify an election after the results have been ascertained.	§ 17-20-26, § 17-22-1, & § 17-22-5

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
South Carolina	For 2020, absentee ballots can be processed at 7am on Sunday, November 1, 2020. (Note: In other years, processing starts at 9:00am on Election Day.)	7am on Election Day.	Close of polls.	Within 10 days after any general election.	H5305, S.C. Code § 7-15-420 & S.C. Code § 7-17-220
South Dakota	Upon receipt by precincts.	Close of the polls on Election Day.	Close of polls.	Within 7 days of the election.	SDCL § 12-19-10, SDCL § 12-19-43 SDCL § 12-19-46, & SDCL § 12-20-47
Tennessee	Upon receipt.	No later than 4 hours before polls close for a November election or no later than 2 hours before polls close for any other election, the absentee ballot counting board can begin recording absentee ballot votes. However, no votes can be totaled until the close of the polls on Election Day.	After polling place tabulation.	As soon as the results are provided and verified, the governor presents certificates of election to the winning candidates. (Note: County election commissions must meet to certify the county-level results no later than the 3rd Monday after the election.)	Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-202, Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-303, Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-304, Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-136, Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-8-101, & Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-8-110

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Texas	Upon receipt.	When the polls open on Election Day, or in a jurisdiction with more than 100,000 people, counting can begin at the end of in-person early voting. A presiding judge may also direct the counting of ballots to occur at any time after the polls have been open for one hour.	After the polls close and the last voter has voted, the presiding judge may announce the status of the vote count from time to time.	Not earlier than the 15th or later than the 30th day after election day.	V.T.C.A., Election Code § 65.002, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 65.015, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 67.012, V.T.C.A., Election Code § 87.0241, & V.T.C.A., Election Code § 87.041
Utah	Upon receipt.	Counting can begin before Election Day, but the exact time is not specified.	Close of polls.	At noon on the 4th Monday of November.	U.C.A. § 20A-3a-202, U.C.A. § 20A-3a-401, U.C.A. § 20A-3a-402, U.C.A. § 20A-4-306, & U.C.A. § 20A-4-505
Vermont	30 days before Election Day. If a town is using a vote tabulator, absentee ballots may be deposited into such tabulator the day before the election.	No ballots can be tabulated until the close of polls on Election Day.	Close of polls.	10am 1 week after the day of the election.	17 V.S.A. § 2546, 17 V.S.A. § 2546a, 17 V.S.A. § 2573, & 17 V.S.A. § 2592

State	Date of Absentee Ballot Processing	Date of Absentee Ballot Tabulation	Earliest Unofficial Election Results Can be Posted	Date for Election Certification	Source
Virginia	Before Election Day, as needed to expedite counting absentee ballots. In the case of machine-readable ballots, the ballot container may be opened and the absentee ballots may be inserted in the counting machines prior to the closing of the polls, but the ballot count totals cannot be conducted until the polls close.	Close of the polls on Election Day. With the exception of hand counted absentee ballots, which can be tallied any time after 3pm on Election Day.	Close of polls.	3rd Monday in November.	VA Code Ann. § 24.2-679, VA Code Ann. § 24.2-680, VA Code Ann. § 24.2-709.1, & VA Code Ann. § 24.2-712
Washington	Upon receipt.	8pm on Election Day.	8pm on Election Day.	No later than the 30th day after the day of election.	RCW 29A.40.110, RCW 29A.60.250, & RCW 29A.84.730
West Virginia	On Election Day.	On Election Day.	After polling is closed and precinct returns have been posted on the door of the polling place.	Board of canvassers certificates must be transmitted to the Secretary of State by the 30th day after an election or recount.	W. Va. Code, §3-3-8 & W. Va. Code, §3-6-11
Wisconsin	Opening of polls on Election Day.	Opening of the polls on Election Day.	Close of polls.	First day of December following a general election.	W.S.A. 6.88, W.S.A. 7.51, W.S.A. 7.52, & W.S.A. 7.70
Wyoming	On Election Day.	On Election Day.	N/A	2nd Wednesday following the election.	W.S. § 22-9-121 & W.S. § 22-16-118