

2008 ELECTIONS CALENDAR

AUGUST 2008

August 2 (Saturday)

Last day for officials who have received supplementary petitions from candidates to notify the secretary of state of the status of such petition (not later than two days after the last day for filing supplementary petitions). 17 V.S.A. §§ 2103(13), 2359

August 5 (Tuesday)

Town clerks receive at least five copies of the warning and notice for each polling place in the town (at least five days before they must be posted). Blanks should be filled in on each warning by the town clerk, listing the polling place, address and the time polls open in each town. 17 V.S.A. § 2521(b)

August 10 (Sunday)

Last day for posting the warning and notice for the primary (30 days before the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2521(a) The checklist must also be posted in two or more public places in the town in addition to being posted at the town clerk's office in towns with over 5,000 population. In towns with less than 5,000 population, the checklist must only be posted one place in addition to the clerk's office. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2141, 2521(a). In towns that divide their checklist, that portion of the checklist that applies to the district should be posted in each district.

August 11 (Monday)

Town clerks must receive primary ballots (not later than 30 days before the election). Clerks should store the ballots, except those used for sample ballots and early or absentee ballots, in a secure location until the date of the election. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2479, 2103(13)

August 20 (Wednesday)

Last day for town clerks to post sample ballots (for the primary election) in the same places that have previously posted copies of the warning, notice, and checklist (20 days before primary). 17 V.S.A. § 2522(a)

August 25 (Monday)

Candidates for state office, state senate, state representative, political parties, and political committees, who have made expenditures or received contributions of \$500.00 or more must file campaign finance reports with the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2811(a)(1), 2103(13) (25th of each month.) Candidates for the state senator or state representative must also file such reports with the clerk of the candidates' respective senate or house district (the same clerk where the candidate files nominating petitions). 17 V.S.A. § 2811(e)

AUGUST 2008 (cont.)

August 26 (Tuesday)

Last day to post notice (in three public places) of party caucus to nominate candidates for justice of the peace. (seven days before caucus) 17 V.S.A. § 2413 (d)

August 28 (Thursday)

Last day for U.S. Congressional candidates to file FEC 12-day pre-primary reports (July 1-Aug. 24). 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)

August 29 (Friday)

Last day for political parties in towns of population more than 1,000 to publish notice of caucus to nominate candidates for justice of the peace in a newspaper having general circulation in the town. (three days before caucus) 17 V.S.A. § 2413(d)

August 30 (Saturday)

Voting machines must be tested using official ballots that are clearly marked "test ballots" (at least 10 days before the election). 17 V.S.A. §2493(b)

SEPTEMBER 2008

September 2 (Tuesday)

Candidates for county office (probate judge, assistant judges, state's attorneys, sheriffs, high bailiff and justice of the peace) to file ten-day pre-primary campaign finance reports with the county clerk with whom nomination papers were filed. If a filing deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be extended to the next business day. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2821 and 2103(13)

During the eight days immediately preceding and on election day, the clerk shall divide the list of ill and physically disabled early or absentee voters into as many equal parts as there are pairs of designated justices, and deliver those lists to the justices, together with early or absentee ballots and envelopes. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2538(b), 2103(13)

On or before the first Tuesday in September, upon the call of the town committee, party members in town may meet and nominate candidates for justice of the peace. 17 V.S.A. § 2413 If no caucus is held, the town committee meets and nominates candidates for justice of the peace. 17 V.S.A. § 2381(a)(3)

SEPTEMBER 2008 (cont.)

September 3 (Wednesday)

Last day, until 5:00 p.m., to apply for addition to the checklist to vote in the primary. Clerks' offices must be kept open from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to receive applications. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144(a) and (b), 2103(13)

Last day for town clerks to receive a simultaneous request for an application for addition to the checklist accompanying an early or absentee ballot request. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2532(b) and (c), 2103(13)

Last day for people who are not eligible to register by this date but who will be by election day to file a written notice of intent to apply with the town clerk and to apply for an early or absentee ballot. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2144(b) and (c), 2103(13)

September 4 (Thursday)

Last day for Town Clerk to forward to the Board of Civil Authority a list of voters added to the checklist (at least five days before election). 17 V.S.A. § 2144b(d)

September 5 (Friday)

First day for independent and minor political party candidates, nominees of major parties that have failed to nominate candidates in the primary, and candidates for the office of justice of the peace to file statements of nomination with the appropriate filing officer (not more than 60 days before the general election). 17 V.S.A. § 2386

September 6 (Saturday)

Last day for the board of civil authority to designate pairs of justices of the peace, assuring political balance, to deliver early or absentee ballots to ill and physically disabled voters. (three days prior to the election.) 17 V.S.A. § 2538(a)

September 8 (Monday)

Voters, family members, authorized persons, or health care providers may request early or absentee ballots until 5:00 p.m. or the closing of the town clerk's office on this day. 17 V.S.A. § 2531(a) Clerks must make a list of early or absentee voters available upon request in their offices. 17 V.S.A. § 2534

The presiding officer of each polling place must also post a copy of the warning and notice, sample ballots and the current checklist in a conspicuous place in each polling place before the polls open on election day. 17 V.S.A. § 2523(a)

The presiding officer shall also ensure that signs informing voters of procedures for depositing ballots are placed on or near the ballot boxes before the polls open on election day. 17 V.S.A. § 2523(b)

SEPTEMBER 2008 (cont.)

**SEPTEMBER 9 (Tuesday)
PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**

A primary election shall be held on the second Tuesday of September in each even numbered year for the nomination of candidates of major political parties for all offices to be voted for at the succeeding general election, except candidates for president and vice president of the United States, their electors, and justices of the peace. 17 V.S.A. § 2351

Clerks must make a list of all early or absentee voters available upon request in each polling place as soon as it opens. 17 V.S.A. § 2534

September 10 (Wednesday)

Representative district canvassing committees for single town districts meet at 10:00 a.m. to tally returns. 17 V.S.A. § 2368

PLEASE OVERNIGHT YOUR OFFICIAL RETURNS (ORV) to the Office of the Secretary of State, 26 Terrace Street, Montpelier, VT 05609-1101. We must data enter all results on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in order to have the Statewide Canvassing Report for 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

September 11 (Thursday)

In a manner prescribed by the Secretary of State and within 48 hours of the close of the polls, the town clerk shall deliver one certified copy of the official return of vote to the secretary of state, representative district clerk, senatorial district clerk and county clerk. 17 V.S.A. § 2588

September 12 (Friday)

Representative district canvassing committees in multi-town districts, and canvassing committees for state senator and county offices meet at 10:00 a.m. to tally returns. (three days after the election.) 17 V.S.A. § 2368

Last day for canvassing committees in single town districts to prepare and sign certificates of nomination and mail or deliver in person to each candidate nominated a notice of nomination. (within two days after the canvassing meeting) 17 V.S.A. § 2371(a)

Last day for validly nominated candidates to withdraw their names from the ballot by filing a written notice with the town clerk in the case of a justice of the peace, or with the secretary of state in the case of all other offices (third day following the primary). 17 V.S.A. § 2412

Last day for independent and minor political party candidates, nominees of major parties that have failed to nominate candidates in the primary, and candidates for the office of justice of the peace to file statements of nomination with the appropriate filing officer (third day following the primary election). 17 V.S.A. § 2386

Canvassing committee for single member district must also file with the secretary of state a list (the "canvassing report") showing the vote for each candidate of each party for each office. 17 V.S.A. § 2371(a)

SEPTEMBER 2008 (cont.)

September 15 (Monday)

Last day for canvassing committees in multi-town representative districts and for countywide offices and for state senator to prepare and sign certificates of nomination and mail or deliver in person to each candidate nominated a notice of his or her nomination. (two days after the canvassing meeting) 17 V.S.A. §§ 2371(a), 2103(13)

September 16 (Tuesday)

Canvassing committees for statewide and congressional offices meet at 10:00 a.m. to tally returns (one week after the primary) 17 V.S.A. § 2368

September 18 (Thursday)

Party chair must certify in writing the names of the presidential and vice presidential candidates selected at the party's national convention (forty-seven days before the general election). 17 V.S.A. § 2716

September 19 (Friday)

Last day for a losing candidate to request a recount (within 10 days after the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2602(b)

Last day that a candidate nominated by more than one political party for the same office may elect the party or parties in which the nominee will be a candidate (2nd Friday following primary). The nominee shall notify the Secretary of State or town clerk, as the case may be, of such choice. 17 V.S.A. §2474

Last day for persons nominated by any means for the same office by more than one political party to elect the party or parties for which they will be candidates (2nd Friday following the Primary Election). 17 V.S.A. § 2474(a)

Last day for party committees to nominate a candidate due to the death or withdrawal of a candidate after the Primary Election. The party committee has seven days from the date of withdrawal of a candidate. 17 V.S.A. §2386(b)

September 20 (Saturday)

Within five days of the date of mailing or personal delivery of a statement of nomination to a candidate for state representative from a single town district, that candidate may request that an error in the candidate's name, residence or party affiliation be corrected or that the candidate's preference as to the candidate's own name be used on the ballot, as well as choosing which party affiliation will be listed if the candidate was nominated by more than one party. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2371(b), 2474

SEPTEMBER 2008 (cont.)

September 22 (Monday)

Last day that a candidate for county office (probate judge, assistant judge, state's attorney, sheriff, high bailiff and justice of the peace), state senator, or state representative from a multi-town district may request that an error in the candidate's name, residence or party affiliation be corrected, or that the candidate's preference as to the candidate's own name be used on the ballot (within five days of mailing of certificates). 17 V.S.A. §§ 2371(b), 2103(13)

September 24 (Wednesday)

Last day that a legal voter may contest the results of the primary election (within 15 days after the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2603(c)

September 25 (Thursday)

Candidates for state office, state senate, state representative, political parties, and political committees, who have made expenditures or received contributions of \$500.00 or more must file campaign finance reports with the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2103(13), 2811(a)(1). (25th of each month.) Candidates for the state senator or state representative must also file such reports with the clerk of the candidates' respective senate or house district (the same clerk where the candidate files nominating petitions). 17 V.S.A. § 2811(e)

Last day for clerks to request additional ballots for the General Election, due to unusual growth of the checklist. (40 days prior to the election.) 17 V.S.A. § 2478(d)

Last day for the board of civil authority to divide the checklist and designate polling places for the general election. 17 V.S.A. § 2501(a)

September 30 (Tuesday)

Town clerks receive at least five copies of the warning and notice for each polling place in the town (at least five days before they must be posted). Blanks should be filled in on each warning by the town clerk, listing the polling place, address and the time polls open in each town. 17 V.S.A. § 2521(b)

OCTOBER 2008

October 5 (Sunday)

Last day to post the warning and notice for the general election (30 days before the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2521(a) The checklist must also be posted in two or more public places in the town in addition to being posted at the town clerk's office in towns with over 5,000 population. In towns with less than 5,000 population, the checklist must only be posted one place in addition to the clerk's office. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2141, 2521(a) In towns that divide their checklist, that portion of the checklist that applies to the district should be posted.

OCTOBER 2008 (cont.)

October 6 (Monday)

Town clerks will receive general election ballots by this date (not later than 30 days before the election). Clerks should store the ballots, except those used for sample ballots and early or absentees, in a secure location until the date of the election. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2479, 2103(13)

October 15 (Wednesday)

Last day for town clerks to post sample ballots (for the general election) in the same places that have previously posted copies of the warning, notice, and checklist. (20 days prior to the election.) 17 V.S.A. §2522(a)

Last day for U.S. Congressional candidates to file FEC quarterly reports for the October quarter (Aug. 25-Sept. 30). 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)

October 23 (Thursday)

Last day for U.S. Congressional candidates to file FEC 12-day pre-general election reports (Oct. 1-Oct. 19). 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)

October 27 (Monday)

Candidates for state office, state senator, state representative, political parties, and political committees who have made expenditures or received contributions of \$500.00 or more must file campaign finance reports with the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. 17 V.S.A. § 2811(a)(1) Candidates for the state senator or state representative must also file such reports with the clerk of the candidates' respective senate or house district (the same clerk where the candidate files nominating petitions). 17 V.S.A. § 2811(e)

Candidates for county office (probate judge, assistant judge, state's attorney, sheriff, high bailiff and justice of the peace) who have raised or expended \$500 or more must file a ten-day pre-general campaign finance report with the county clerk. If a filing deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be extended to the next business day. 17 V.S.A. §§ 2821(a)(2) and 2103(13) Copies of these reports must be forwarded by the county clerk to the secretary of state within five days of receipt. 17 V.S.A. § 2821(c)

During the 8 days preceding the election and on election day, the clerk shall divide the list of ill and physically disabled voters into as many equal parts as there are pairs of designated justices, and deliver those lists to the justices, together with early or absentee ballots and envelopes. 17 V.S.A. § 2538(b)

OCTOBER 2008 (cont.)

October 29 (Wednesday)

Last day, until 5:00 p.m., to apply for addition to the checklist in order to vote in the general election. Clerks' offices must be kept open from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to receive applications. 17 V.S.A. § 2144(a)

Last day, until 5:00 p.m., for people who are not eligible to register by this date but who will be by election day to file a written notice of intent to apply with the town clerk. 17 V.S.A. § 2144(b) and (c)

Last day for town clerks to receive a request for an application for addition to the checklist accompanying an early or absentee ballot request. 17 V.S.A. § 2532(b) and (c)

October 30 (Thursday)

Last day for Town Clerk to forward to the Board of Civil Authority a list of voters added to the checklist (at least five days before election). 17 V.S.A. § 2144b(d)

NOVEMBER 2008

November 1 (Saturday)

Last day for the board of civil authority to designate pairs of justices of the peace, assuring political balance in each pair, to deliver early or absentee ballots to ill and physically disabled voters (not later than three days before the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2538(a)

November 3 (Monday)

Voters, family members, authorized persons, or health care providers may request early or absentee ballots until 5:00 p.m. or the closing of the town clerk's office. 17 V.S.A. § 2531(a)
Clerks must make a list of early or absentee voters available upon request in their offices. 17 V.S.A. § 2534

The presiding officer of each polling place must also post a copy of the warning and notice, sample ballots and the current checklist in a conspicuous place in each polling place before the polls open on election day. 17 V.S.A. § 2523(a)

The presiding officer shall also ensure that signs informing voters of procedures for depositing ballots are placed on or near the ballot boxes before the polls open on election day. 17 V.S.A. § 2523(b)

**November 4 (Tuesday)
GENERAL ELECTION DAY**

Clerks must make a copy of all early or absentee voters available at their office and in each polling place as soon as it opens. 17 V.S.A. § 2534

NOVEMBER 2008 (cont.)

November 6 (Thursday)

In a manner prescribed by the Secretary of State and within 48 hours of the close of polls, the town clerk shall deliver one certified copy of the official return of vote to the secretary of state, representative district clerk, senatorial district clerk and county clerk. 17 V.S.A. § 2588

PLEASE OVERNIGHT YOUR OFFICIAL RETURNS (ORV) TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, 26 Terrace Street, Montpelier, VT 05609-1101.

November 11 (Tuesday)

At 10:00 a.m. all canvassing committees (statewide, county, senatorial, and representative) must meet to tally returns. 17 V.S.A. § 2592(g) and (h) The committee shall prepare certificates of election and send or deliver these to the candidates elected, except the statewide committee shall prepare the certificates but not sign them. Each canvassing committee shall also file a canvassing report of its findings with the Secretary of State. 17 V.S.A. § 2592(m)

November 14 (Friday)

Deadline for filing ten-day post election campaign finance reports by candidates for local office (probate judge, assistant judge, state's attorney, sheriff, high bailiff and justice of the peace) who have expended or received \$500.00 or more. Local candidates shall file these reports with the town clerk. 17 V.S.A. § 2822

Last day for a losing candidate to request a recount (within 10 days after the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2602(b)

Candidates for state office, state senator, state representative, political parties, and political committees who have made expenditures or received contributions of \$500.00 or more must file campaign finance reports with the secretary of state by 5:00 p.m. 17 V.S.A. § 2811(a)(1). Candidates for state senator or state representative must also file such reports with the clerk of the candidates' respective senate or house district (the same clerk where the candidate files nominating petitions). 17 V.S.A. § 2811(e)

Last day for statewide and general assembly candidates who have not made expenditures and received contributions of \$500.00 or less to file statement with the Secretary of State's office that candidate has not made expenditures or received contributions of more than \$500.00.

November 19 (Wednesday)

Last day that a legal voter may contest the results of the general election (within 15 days after the election). 17 V.S.A. § 2603(c)

DECEMBER 2008

December 4 (Thursday)

Last day for U.S. Congressional candidates to file FEC 30-day post-general reports (Oct. 20-Nov. 28), 2 U.S.C. § 434(a)(2)

December 15 (Monday)

Deadline for filing forty-day post election campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State by candidates for statewide office, state senator, state representative, political committees, and political parties who have expended or received \$500.00 or more. Also deadline for filing forty-day post election campaign finance reports by county office candidates who have made expenditures or received contributions of \$500.00 or more. County candidates (probate judge, assistant judge, state's attorney, sheriff, high bailiff and justice of the peace) shall file with the county clerk with whom his or her nomination papers were filed. Copies of these reports must be forwarded by the county clerks to the secretary of state within five days of receipt.

17 V.S.A. §§ 2811, 2821(c), 2831 If a filing deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the deadline shall be extended to the next business day. 17 V.S.A. § 2103(13) Candidates for the state senator or state representative must also file such reports with the clerk of the candidates' respective senate or house district (the same clerk where the candidate files nominating petitions). 17 V.S.A. § 2811(e)

Electors shall meet at the state house to vote for president and vice president agreeably to the laws of the United States (first Monday after the second Wednesday in December following the general election). 17 V.S.A. § 2732.