



Timeline of Important Dates for Pennsylvania's 2022 November Election

Voting by Mail

- **September 19: First day ballots could be mailed.** Counties begin processing applications for ballots, whether [excuse-required absentee](#) or [no-excuse mail-in](#), 50 days before the election. Ballots are sent to people with approved [absentee](#) or [mail-in](#) applications as soon as they are available. Even if litigation is delaying mail-in ballots' availability, they [must be made available](#) by the second Tuesday before Election Day.
- **Tuesday, November 1** - Deadline for voters to request to receive an [absentee ballot](#) or a [mail-in ballot](#) is 5 p.m. November 1. Applications must be *received* by the appropriate county official by this date to be accepted.
- **Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day** -
 - **7 a.m.** Election officials [may begin verifying](#) absentee and mail-in ballots received by that point.
 - **8 p.m.** Voters must return their [absentee](#) and [mail-in ballots](#) so they are received by 8 p.m., the close of polls, regardless of return method.
- **Friday November 11** - Election officials [must begin verifying](#) absentee and mail-in ballots.

In-Person Voting (Early & Election Day)

- **September 19 - October 25** - As soon as [mail-in ballots](#) are available, people may apply for them in person, vote them, and return them. Even if litigation is delaying their availability, they [must be made available](#) by the second Tuesday before Election Day.
- **Monday, October 24** - Voter registration deadline.
- **Tuesday, November 1** - Last day of the in-person early voting period. Early voting ends at 5 p.m. as mail-in ballots cannot be applied for in-person after that.
- **Tuesday, November 8 - Election Day.**
 - **7 a.m.** - Polling locations open.
 - **8 p.m.** - Polling locations close. All voters still in line must be allowed to vote.

Counting, Canvassing, & Certification

- **Tuesday November 8 - Election Day** -
 - **7 a.m.** - County boards of elections **may** begin counting absentee and mail-in ballots as part of a 'pre-canvassing' meeting.
 - **8 p.m.** - County boards of elections **may** begin canvassing¹ absentee and mail-in ballots.
- **Wednesday November 9, 3 a.m.** - Deadline for county boards of elections to transmit the general returns from polling places to the state.
- **Friday November 11, 9 a.m.** - County boards **must** begin to canvass the results and continue until they finish. When they finish, the results are considered unofficial for five days. (The statute does not specify calendar or business days).
- **Tuesday, November 15, 5 p.m.** - Deadline for counties to submit their unofficial results to the Department of State, although they are submitted whenever the results are complete and could be before this deadline.
- **Saturday, November 20, 2022** - Unofficial county results become official and are certified by the county five days after they have been submitted to the Department of State unless a recanvass or recount is underway, or a court has otherwise ordered.
- **State Certification** - After all counties have certified their results, the Secretary of the Commonwealth canvasses the results and certifies them. Statute does not set a specific deadline. In 2020, all counties certified their Presidential results by Monday, November 23 (Election Day was November 3) and the [Secretary certified](#) them the next day.

Recounts & Election Contests

- **Tuesday, November 8 - Tuesday November 15** - The county board of elections will recanvass any district in which it believes there is a discrepancy in the returns.
- **Thursday November 17 (or two days after a county submits unofficial returns to the state)** - Deadline for anyone contesting any order or decision of a county board of elections regarding counting, canvassing, recounting, or recanvassing to appeal to the appropriate court.²
- **Monday, November 21 (or five days after a county Submits unofficial returns to the state)** - Deadline for three voters of an election district to petition the appropriate court for a recanvass or a recount of their election district by alleging under oath an error or fraud in their district's returns. Upon receipt of the proper papers and filing

¹ "Canvassing" is the process by which the appropriate authority checks the results from each voting location and ballot counting location for accuracy and compliance with statutory procedures. After these checks, the results from each location are compiled to create results for each race on the ballot. In Pennsylvania, the county canvass is conducted by county boards of elections. The state canvass is conducted by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

² Appeals concerning the conduct of an automatic recount ordered by the Secretary of the Commonwealth must be filed in the Commonwealth Court. All other appeals must be filed in the court of common pleas with jurisdiction over the election in question.

fee:

- **Recanvassing tabulators/voting machines**: If the alleged fraud or error requires recanvassing voting machines, the court will order the machines' registering ballot counters exposed so they can be seen and recanvassed. Ballots are not retabulated. This recanvass can take place any time after the court order through twenty days after
- **Recounting ballots in ballot boxes**: If the alleged fraud or error requires opening a ballot box to be recounted, the court will order the election district recounted. This recount can occur up to four months after Election Day.
- **Thursday, November 24** - The Secretary of the Commonwealth must order an automatic statewide recount by this date for any statewide race for which unofficial returns show the margin in the race is less than 0.5%.
- **Monday, November 28** - Deadline for groups of voters who participated in the election to file a petition contesting the results of an election for any office other than Governor or Lieutenant Governor. The number of voters who must attest to the filings varies with the office being contested.
- **January 13, 2023** - Deadline for 100 voters, at least 20 of whom have attested to the facts underlying their petition for an election contest, to petition the presiding officer of the state Senate for a contest for the offices of governor or lieutenant governor. The Legislature presides over any contest for those offices.