

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Election Calendar For a City's General Election on May 2, 2026

(dated January 6, 2026)¹

Abbreviations are the same as those in the *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual* (6th edition) [M] with a green cover. SOS form numbers are provided as a convenience not a requirement.

This calendar presumes that SB 2753 will NOT be implemented in May 2026; the calendar will be updated if the situation changes. SB 2753 eliminates the gap between early voting by personal appearance and election day and changes the early voting period, among other things **highlighted in yellow in this calendar**. The Secretary of State will implement SB 2753 after publishing a report about how to implement no later than August 1, 2027. **Runoff** dates appear in **green rows**.

This calendar does not apply to all elections. For example, to prepare a calendar for a special election to fill a vacancy in office (even one on a uniform election date), see M §12.03; for a special election on a measure, see M §12.12. This calendar omits actions that vary from one city to another (for example, preparation of voting equipment). Each city secretary should use the chart at M §1.62 to create a personal election calendar.

Dates in column 1 are 2026 unless noted otherwise. Actions in column 2 relate to general elections (those in *italics pertain to early voting*). Actions are typically taken by the city secretary; deviations appear in column 3. Column 4 is a cross reference to the Elections Manual. If this cross reference includes a year, then refer to the updated page, not the originally printed one.

"ED Interval" in column 5 is the time between the date of the action and election day. For example, the notation "-50" in the entry for March 13 means mandatory office hours begin the 50th day before election day; the notation "+40" in the entry for June 11 means that the LAST DAY for mandatory office hours is the 40th day after election day. (**For office hours on holidays, see endnote 6 regarding new law**). An asterisk (*) in column 5 indicates the time stated is not required by statute. Not all due dates revolve around election day and are so noted.

The last column has been reserved to show completion of the event in column 2. A dashed line in the table between entries indicates separate events that fall on the same day.

When reading the Election Code, read the chapter and subchapter titles to determine if the section applies to cities. Not all sections apply. Note that counties cannot order elections of their own in May of even-numbered years and may decline to contract with cities at that time.

¹ Changes from 11/1/25 version: (1) added hyperlink to SOS proclamation for the runoff; (2) added note to 4/21 to explain impact of the San Jacinto holiday; (3) corrected first day of early voting in the runoff to 6/1 [not 6/2]; corrected last day for applications for ballot by mail to 4/20 [not 4/22]; (4) added weekend/holiday exceptions to endnote 6.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Dec 15 2025	LAST DAY to post on the city's bulletin board notice of the filing period for the general election (SOS Form 2-1).	City Secretary	2.13(d)(1)	-138 (30 days before 1st day to file)	
Jan 1 2026	New Year's Holiday. <i>FIRST DAY voters may apply for a ballot by mail (ABBM), for an Annual ABBM, or for a Federal Postcard Application (FPCA).</i> Note: The first day does not move despite the New Year's Day holiday. See ED – 11 days for end of period.	City Secretary	9.44(a)	1st day of the year	
Jan 2	Recommended* period to obtain forms: candidate's application for place on ballot, appointment of campaign treasurer (candidate and specific-purpose committee), report of contributions and expenditures (candidate-officeholder and specific-purpose committee), application for mail ballot, administrative forms, and precinct forms.	City Secretary	5.31	*-120	
Jan 2 to Jan 23	Recommended* period to review M §1.62 for possible action: Steps 1-5 (revising election precincts, designating polling places, changing method of voting, and contracting, if any) and Step 12 (establishing or changing terms of election judges).	City Secretary and City Council	1.62	*-120 through *-99	
Jan 14	FIRST DAY for filing application for place on general election ballot (SOS Form 2-49). Note: Filing for a general election may occur before the election is ordered (as opposed to a special election). Period ends at 5 p.m. ED – 78 days.	City Secretary	2.13(a) 2.14(a)	-108 (30 days before filing dead-line)	
Jan 14	FIRST DAY for filing declaration of write-in candidacy (SOS Form 2-55). Note: Period generally ends at 5 p.m. ED – 78 days. See that date for exception.	City Secretary	2.18(b)	-108	
Jan 15	LAST DAY for timely filing of semi-annual report of contributions and expenditures. Note: See endnote 6.	City Secretary	3.12(b) 3.16	n/a	
Jan 19	Holidays: Confederate Heroes and Martin Luther King, Jr. Note: Mandatory office hours not yet effective. See endnote 6.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Jan 20 to Feb 13	Recommended* period and statutory deadline for ordering a general election (SOS Form 1-2). Note: While the 6th edition of the manual recommends ordering shortly before the opening of the filing period for the general election, there is no statutory “first day,” and an order can be made when convenient. However, to avoid confusion, wait until after the prior election and runoff. Sometimes the phrase “calling” election is used. The deadline may be different for a special election. See endnote 2 for mock student elections. Home-rule cities see endnote 3. Cities contracting should informally notify their contracting partners as soon as possible.	Mayor	6.03	*-102 through -78	
Feb 2	LAST DAY for small city in small county to apply for exception to accessibility requirements (SOS Form 16-1). Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon.	City Secretary to SOS	5.25(c)	-90	
Feb 10 midnight	Death and ballot preparation: If a candidate dies on or before this date, the City Secretary MUST remove the candidate’s name from ballot. Note: If a candidate dies after this date but on or before the filing deadline, see endnote 4.	City Secretary	6.23(c)	-81 [day before day before filing deadline (3rd day)]	
Feb 13	LAST DAY for ordering a general (SOS Form 1-2) or a special election (SOS Form 1-8) for the May uniform date. Note: See endnote 2 for student elections. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.03	-78	
Feb 13 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for filing application for place on general election ballot (SOS Form 2-49). Note: City Secretary’s office should stay open until 5 p.m. Mailed applications are filed when received. For deceased candidates, see endnote 4. If no candidate has filed in a city with 4-year terms, the filing deadline is extended to ED – 57 days (except in Nov. of even-numbered years). A home-rule charter may not change this date.	City Secretary	2.13(a) 6.23(c)	-78	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Feb 13	Recommended* first day to provide 4-day notice of drawing to candidate. Note: Only written notice by mail is required 4 days before the drawing, but phone or email notice should follow the same timeline. Public notice must be posted (SOS Form 3-1) 72 hours before date of drawing. This 72-hour time is required by the EC, not the Open Meetings Act.	City Secretary	6.22(a)(2)	*-78	
Feb 16	President's Day Holiday. Recommended* first date for preliminary work to appoint election judges. Note: Mandatory office hours not yet effective. See Endnote 6.	City Secretary	7.01	*-75	
Feb 16	Recommended* first day to post public's 72-hour notice of drawing for order of names on ballot (SOS Form 3-1).	City Secretary	6.22(a)	*-75	
Feb 17 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for a write-in candidate to declare candidacy in the general election (SOS Form 2-55). Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. Mailed applications are filed when received. For deceased candidates, see endnote 4.	City Secretary	2.18(b)	-74	
Feb 18	Recommended* date to deliver the certification of unopposed candidates to city council if a candidate does not have an opponent in an election considered to be a separate election (SOS Form 13-1).	City Secretary	6.12	*-73	
Feb 19 to Feb 23	Recommended* period to conduct drawing for order of names on ballot, prepare ballot format, and send information to the printer. Note: Notice of drawing (SOS Form 3-1) must be posted 72 hours before drawing. This 72-hour time is required by the EC, not the Open Meetings Act. Ask candidates to proof their names and offices.	City Secretary	6.22(b) 6.25 6.26	*-72 through *-68	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Feb 20 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for omitting a general election candidate's name from the ballot if the candidate withdraws (SOS Form 2-66) or is declared ineligible. Note: The city secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. A withdrawal after this date is valid if it is submitted before the ballots are prepared AND if the public notice of the logic and accuracy test has not been "published." NEW LAW: SB 2166 (2025) requires L&A testing at least 48 days before election day and notice posted (not published) at least 48 hours before then. Per EC §145.092(e), EC §1.006 does not apply to withdrawal deadlines.	City Secretary	6.23(c) 2.31(b) 2.33(d)	-71	
Feb 20	Recommended* first day to cancel a general election (SOS Form 13-2). Note: Unopposed races must be cancelled if no opposed at-large race is on the ballot. General elections cannot be cancelled until after the write-in deadline.	City Council	6.13	*-71	
Mar 2	Texas Independence Holiday. Note: Mandatory office hours not yet effective. See endnote 6.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Mar 3 to at least May 3	Texas Ethics Commission will defer an investigation of candidates until after the election any applicable runoff.	City Secretary Texas Ethics Commission	3.01(b)(2)	-60 through ED or runoff	
Mar 3	LAST DAY to deliver notice of the election to the county clerk and voter registrar of each county where the city is located. Note: This is not the publication or posting deadline. For counties with elections administrators, notice goes to them. This notice is due even if the city does not contract with the county.	City Council (City Secretary)	6.54(a)	-60	
Mar 3	Recommended* day to contact the county to get the initial list of voters who submitted annual applications for ballot by mail (ABBM).	City Secretary	9.43	*-60	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Mar 6 5 p.m.	Extended deadline to file for a place on the ballot in a city office having a 4-year term if no candidate files by ED – 78 days. Note: This extension is not applicable in Nov. of even-numbered years.	City Secretary	2.13(b)	-57	
Mar 9 to Mar 20	Recommended* period for appointing election judges (SOS Forms 4-15, 4-16, 4-17) plus members of the EVBB (SOS Forms 4-19) and SVC (SOS Form 10-12, 10-13, 10-14). Note: Home-rule cities see endnote 3. The SVC cannot meet until ED – 20 days. The EVBB can meet any time after ballots are returned and no later than ED – 9 days.	City Council	7.42(a)(2) 7.23-.24 7.33-.34	*-54 through *-43	
Mar 12	Recommended* date to print ballots that have been prepared earlier.	City Secretary	6.25	*-51	
Mar 13	FIRST DAY of mandatory office hours. Note: City Secretary's office must be open at least 3 hours a day during regular office hours on regular business days. Period ends ED + 40 days. See endnote 6.	City Secretary	6.80(a)	-50	
Mar 13	LAST DAY for a challenge of a candidate application based on form, content, and procedure.	City Secretary	2.16(d)	-50	
Mar 16	LAST DAY to conduct logic & accuracy testing and test any automatic tabulating equipment used in a central counting station or polling place. Note: NEW LAW SB 2166 (2025). If testing cannot be done by this date, the SOS must be notified. Expect changes to SOS Forms 15-1 to 15-8. Notice for testing equipment must be posted on the city's website at least 48 hours before testing begins. Tabulators used in a central counting station must be tested again before and after each use. Because the deadline falls on Sunday, it moves to Monday.	City Secretary	6.63(d)(1) 6.63(d)(2) 6.64(c)	-48	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Mar 18	<i>LAST DAY to mail ballots to FPCA voters and other voters who are eligible for early voting because they are voting from outside the U.S.</i> Note: If it is not possible to mail these ballots by this deadline, the City Secretary must notify the SOS within 24 hours. SOS does not apply EC §1.006 to this deadline. Respond to FPCA applications received after this date within 7 days (the same as non-FPCA applications). Rosters must be posted to website by 11 a.m. on the following day (SOS Forms 5-7 & 6-55).	City Secretary	9.49(b) 9.82	-45	
Mar 31	Cesar Chavez Holiday. Note: See endnote 6 for impact on office hours.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Apr 2 5 p.m.	LAST DAY for filing first report of campaign contributions and expenditures by opposed candidates and specific-purpose committees. Note: City Secretary's office should stay open until 5 p.m. The deadline is extended to midnight for electronic filing. See endnote 5 for current threshold dollar amounts.	City Secretary	3.13(b)	-30	
Apr 2	LAST DAY for submitting voter registration application in time to vote at the election or for requesting transfer of registration in time to vote in new precinct not in the same county and territory.	Registrar	4.07(f) 4.07(g)	-30	
Apr 2 to Apr 22	Period for publishing notice of election (SOS Form 1-14). Note: Must be published once; perhaps more for a special election on a measure. The city attorney may apply EC §1.006 to publication deadlines, but the SOS does not. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.52(a)	-30 through -10	
Apr 2	FIRST DAY to begin posting continuous notice if SVC meets on first available date (ED – 20 days). Note: The city council appoints (SOS Form 10-13) not later than 5 days after the City Secretary calls for appointment (SOS Forms 10-12). Post notice of appointment (SOS Form 10-14), notice of delivery (SOS Form 10-15), and notice of meeting (SOS Form 10-16).	City Secretary City Council	6.70(a) 7.33 7.34	-30	
Apr 2	Recommended* last day to request voter registrar to prepare lists of registered voters and furnish statement of residence forms to be used in conducting the election.	City Secretary	4.34(a)	*-30	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Apr 3	Good Friday Holiday. Note: See endnote 6 for impact on office hours.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Apr 11 (Apr 10 recommended)	LAST DAY for posting notice of election (SOS Form 1-14) on the bulletin board used for posting notices of city council meetings and website. Note: For cities conducting special elections on measures, additional posting and publication requirements may apply. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	City Secretary	6.52(b) 12.15(e)	-21 through ED	
Apr 12 (Apr 10 recommended)	Type B cities: LAST DAY to post notice of election in 3 public places (SOS Form 1-14). Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to this LGC deadline; the better practice is to post before the weekend.	City Secretary	6.52(b)(3)	-20	
Apr 12	<i>FIRST DAY SVC may begin work.</i> Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to the starting date. EC §87.0271 requires SVC to inform voters of certain defects in the carrier envelope within 2 days of identification (SOS Forms 10-28 to 10-32).	City Secretary	6.70(a) 6.72	-20	
Apr 13	<i>LAST DAY for unregistered FPCA applicant to apply and be eligible to vote a full ballot.</i> Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun., it moves to Mon. for postmarked FPCAs.	City Secretary	9.61(a)	-20	
Apr 13 to Apr 21	<i>Period when unregistered FPCA applicants receive a federal ballot only.</i> Note: This may mean no ballot is sent.	City Secretary	9.61 9.68(a) chart	-19 through -11	
Apr 17	<i>LAST DAY to accept an FPCA without a postmark and mail the voter a full ballot.</i> Note: The voter only gets a federal ballot if checking “my intent to return is uncertain” or “my return is uncertain.”	City Secretary	9.66(b)	-15	
Apr 17	LAST DAY to notify judges of duty to hold the election (SOS Form 4-17).	Mayor	7.44(a)	-15	
Apr 17	LAST DAY to challenge write-in candidate for form, content, and procedure.	City Secretary	2.18(f)	-15	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Apr 20	<i>FIRST DAY a voter who becomes sick, disabled, or confined due to childbirth on or after this date may apply for late (emergency) early voting ballot (SOS Form 5-32. Note: Period ends at 5 p.m. on ED. For uniform election dates, the calculation is ED – 12 days, but for other elections, the period starts the day before the last day to apply for a ballot by mail. EC § 1.006 does not apply to first day.</i>	Voter	9.73	-12	
Apr 20	<i>LAST DAY to accept application for a ballot to be voted by mail, by 12 noon or close of business, whichever is later. Note: If the deadline falls on a Sat, Sun, or legal holiday, then personal delivery must be the first regular business day preceding that day. EC § 84.007(c). This year, the deadline falls on San Jacinto Day, moving it back to Monday. Originals are due 4 days after fax or email (except emailed FPCA).</i>	City Secretary	9.44(b)(1) 9.45(b-c) 9.68(b) chart	-11 (-12 due to holiday)	
Apr 20	<i>FIRST DAY for early voting by personal appearance. Note: If the first day is a legal state holiday, it moves to the next day. EC § 85.005(a). If voting will be conducted on Sat. or Sun., notice of same must be posted at least 72 hours before such voting begins (SOS Form 5-15). This 72-hour notice is required by the EC, not the Open Meetings Act. Rosters (SOS Form 5-6) must be posted by 11 a.m. on the day after voting. Period ends ED -4 days. The EV period in Nov. is ED -17.</i>	City Secretary	9.14	-12	

SB 2753 Early Voting Period

Default rule = ED -12.

May and its runoff = ED -9

SB 2753 Early Voting Hours (6 a.m. – 10 p.m.)

Weekend and holiday voting is mandatory.

Main EV/permanent branch (satellite office): 9 hours each day or 4 hours if less than 1,000 registered voters.

Temporary branches: 8 hours each day.

November: 12 hours the last 4 days except 9 on Sundays.

SB 2753 Early Voting Polling Places

All early voting locations must be used on ED; however, there may be more polling places on ED.

November: Local entities must match the county and cannot add an EV location not used by the county on ED.

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Apr 21	San Jacinto Holiday. Note: This holiday has several impacts. See endnote 6 for impact on mandatory office hours. See EC § 85.001: early voting by personal appearance is conducted on this day unless the holiday is the first day of the early voting period. See 84.007(c): when the deadline for applications for ballot by mail fall on this holiday, the deadline moves to the preceding business day.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
Apr 21	<i>LAST DAY to accept an ABBM/FPCA.</i> Note: The unregistered FPCA voter may only get a federal ballot, which may mean no ballot. See 84.007(c): when the deadline for applications for ballot by mail fall on this holiday, the deadline moves to the preceding business day.	City Secretary	9.61(c) 9.68(b) chart	-11 (-12 due to holiday)	
Apr 22	<i>LAST DAY for county clerk or election administrator to deliver final list of voters that submitted an annual ABBM.</i> Note: Because the deadline falls on San Jacinto Day, it moves to Wed.	City Secretary	9.43(a)(1)	-11	
Apr 22	LAST DAY to publish notice of election (SOS Form 1-14). Note: The city attorney may apply EC §1.006 to publication deadlines, but SOS does not. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.	Mayor	6.52(a)(1)	-10	
Apr 23	<i>If the EVBB has not yet met, it must do so by this date.</i> Note: While the date the EVBB meets is now uniform regardless of county population, the EVBB may not count ballots until after the end of early voting by personal appearance unless there is a joint election in a county with population of 100,000 or more. 24-hour notice must be posted for each delivery of voting materials made before ED (SOS Forms 10-3 & 10-4). The board must provide notice of opportunity to cure certain defects in the carrier envelope within 2 days of identifying the deficiency (SOS Form 10-32).	Early Voting Ballot Board	9.57(a)(2) [2024] 9.57(f)(2) 10.03	-9	
SB 2753 starts early voting by personal appearance in May on ED -9. Large counties can start counting ballots by mail ED -4. EV by personal appearance cannot be counted until ED.					

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Apr 24 5 p.m. or midnight	LAST DAY for filing second report of campaign contributions and expenditures by 5 p.m. or midnight if filing electronically. Note: See endnote 5 for current monetary thresholds. Reports must be posted to the city's website no later than 10 business days after receipt.	City Secretary	3.13(c)	-8	
Apr 27	<i>FIRST DAY for death in family to qualify for late (emergency) early voting (SOS Forms 5-28 & 5-29).</i> Note: While the death occurs on or after the day before the last day of early voting by personal appearance, the application cannot be submitted until the day after early voting by personal appearance ends. Voting by this method ends close of business the day before election day.	City Secretary	9.73(a)	-5	
SB 2753 repeals emergency voting for death in the family.					
Apr 28	<i>LAST DAY of regular early voting by personal appearance.</i>	City Secretary	9.11(b)	-4	
SB 2753 extends early voting by personal appearance to ED -1.					
Apr 28 to May 2 7 p.m.	<i>Once early voting by personal appearance is over until 7 p.m. on ED, early voting materials may be delivered to the EVBB for qualifying purposes when paper ballots are used or automatically tabulated ballots are used at a central counting station.</i> Note: Ballots may not be counted until election day, except if election is held jointly with a county of 100,000 or more. Post notice of delivery continuously 24 hours before each delivery (SOS Forms 10-3 & 10-4). Ensure that the counting equipment has been tested at least 48 hours before tabulation begins.	City Secretary	9.57(a)(1) 9.57(a)(3)	-4 through close of polls on ED	
SB 2753 repeals EC § 87.023 regarding delivery of automatically tabulated ballots at the CCS.					
Apr 29	<i>FIRST DAY the EVBB may begin counting ballots in an election held jointly with a county having a population of 100,000 or more.</i>	Early Voting Ballot Board	9.57(a)(2) [2024] 9.57(f)(1)	-3	
April 29	LAST DAY to post notice of council meeting to canvass the returns if canvass will be on 3rd day after election. Note: Notice must be posted at least 3 business days before time of meeting. Due to late ballots that can be counted, a later canvass may be likely.	City Secretary	11.13	-3	
SB 2753 allows large counties to start counting ballots by mail ED -4. EV by personal appearance cannot be counted until ED.					

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Apr 29 to May 1	<i>Period to apply for late (emergency) early voting because of death in family (SOS Form 5-28 & 5-29). Note: Requires absence from county on ED.</i>	City Secretary	9.73	-3 through -1	
SB 2753 repeals emergency voting for death in the family.					
April 29 to May 2 5 p.m.	<i>Period to apply for late (emergency) early voting because of illness or disability originating on or after ED -12 days (SOS Form 5-32). Note: Application deadline ends at 5 p.m., but ballot can be returned until 7 p.m.</i>	City Secretary	9.72(b)	-3 through ED	
SB 2753 moves the deadline for late (emergency) early voting to 5:00 p.m. on Election Day.					
May 1	<i>LAST DAY to deliver precinct list of registered voters, with the early voting voters marked, to presiding judges.</i>	City Secretary	9.83(e)	-1	
May 1	One-year deadline to post certain candidacy information on the city's website. Note: See endnote 1 (item 4). Continuous posting of notice of voting order priority (SOS form 7-38) is recommended.	City Secretary	2.13(d)(2)	next May election - 365 days	
May 1	Recommended* date for delivery of equipment to polling places. Note: Statutory deadline is 6 a.m. on ED.	City Secretary	6.65(b)	*-1	
May 2 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	ELECTION DAY. Note: <i>Early voting clerk's office must remain open for early voting activities.</i> Voting by sick or disabled voters may occur at the main early voting place where electronic voting systems are used at precinct polling place (SOS Form 6-57).	City Secretary	10.13(c)(1)	ED	
May 2	<i>Deliver early voting ballots, etc., to EVBB.</i> Note: Second key to ballot box is delivered by chief of police or marshal.	City Secretary Judge EVBB (sets time)	10.13(c)(1) 9.57(b)(1)	ED	
May 2 5 p.m.	<i>LAST HOUR for late applications for ballots (SOS Form 5-32) from voters who became ill or disabled on or after ED -12 days.</i>	City Secretary	9.72(b)	ED	
May 2 7 p.m.	<i>LAST HOUR for receiving ballots from voters who became ill or disabled on or after ED -12 days.</i>	City Secretary	9.72(b)	ED	
May 2 7 p.m.	<i>LAST HOUR to receive mailed ballots with no postmark, except overseas and armed forces ballots and certain ballots placed for delivery before this deadline.</i> Note: Check mailbox at 7 p.m. regardless of regular delivery schedule. See deadline ED +1 day.	City Secretary	9.50(a)	ED	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
May 2 after 7 p.m.	Receive precinct records, voted ballots, etc. Note: Chief of police or marshal receives keys to ballot boxes containing voted ballots.	City Secretary Mayor	10.13(c) 10.32(d)	ED	
May 2 after 7 p.m.	Prepare unofficial tabulation of results. Note: Presiding judge must notify City Secretary if counting will not be complete by 2 a.m.	City Secretary	10.34 10.32(b)	ED	
May 4 5 p.m.	<i>LAST DAY to receive mailed ballots if the carrier envelope arrives before 5 p.m. and has a cancellation mark indicating it was placed for delivery at or before 7 p.m. local time for the place of election.</i> Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon. This deadline applies to voters who applied for a ballot by mail and cast a by-mail ballot from within the U.S. Check your mailbox at 5 p.m.	City Secretary	9.50(a)	+1	
May 4	LAST DAY to deliver provisional ballots to voter registrar of each county in which city is located. Note: Because the deadline falls on Sun, it moves to Mon.	City Secretary	10.30(a)(2)	+1	
May 5 to May 11	<i>Period during which EVBB may meet to count ballots received from outside the U.S. if the early voting clerk certifies that all ballots mailed from outside the U.S. have been received.</i> Note: The ED interval is +13 in Nov. of even numbered years.	Early Voting Ballot Board	11.02	+3 through +9	
May 5 to May 13	<i>Recommended* period to complete report of early votes cast for each candidate or measure, by election precinct.</i> Note: must occur before canvass.	City Secretary	11.04(b)	*+3 through *+11	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
May 5 to May 13	Period for official canvass. Note: ● TIMING: canvass may occur only if all FPCA and provisional ballots have been counted, and the time to cure any deficiencies in mailed ballot carrier envelopes has expired. ● PERIOD: 11 days except even Nov. (14 days). ● QUORUM: 2 but see runoff note. ● WINNER: cannot assume office (except Type A cities) until canvass & oaths. ● PIA: Images of voted ballots or cast vote records are publicly available the day after the canvass. See SOS Advisory 2024-20 for redaction guidance. ● RECOUNTS: petition is due 2 p.m. 1st day (expedited) or 5 p.m. 3rd day after canvass. ● RUNOFF (not a tie): order not later than 5 days after the canvass. It is recommended that the runoff be ordered and notice issued at the canvass meeting (which would require a normal quorum).	Mayor (sets time) City Secretary (records results) City Council (takes action)	11.12	+3 through +11	
SB 2753 requires the canvass to include the total number of votes received for each candidate and measure to be reported by polling location.					
May 5 to May 16	After canvass, recommended* period to issue certificates of election (SOS Form 23-1), official statement of elected officer (SOS Form 23-3), and oath of office (SOS Form 23-2). Note: If a recount is requested documents are not issued until after the recount.	Mayor City Secretary	11.20 11.21	*+3 through *+14	
May 5 to May 26	Period for partial manual count of electronically counted ballots to begin not later than 72 hours after polls close and be completed by ED +21st day. Note: Because the deadline falls on Sat. and Mon. is Memorial Day, the deadline moves to Tue. This 72-hour time is mandated by the EC, not the Open Meetings Act. NEW LAW; SB 827 renames the partial manual count as the hand count election audit.	City Secretary	11.31	+3 through +21	
May 7	<i>LAST DAY to receive a ballot from military or non-military voters casting from outside the U.S. who submitted an ABBM, IF cancellation mark indicates ballot was placed for delivery by 7 p.m. on ED.</i>	City Secretary	9.50(b)(1) 9.68 11.02	+5	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
May 8	<i>LAST DAY to receive an FPCA ballot from a member of the U.S. Armed Services or Merchant Marines or a spouse or dependent of a member. Note: NO cancellation or receipt mark showing date placed for delivery is required on these ballots.</i>	City Secretary	9.50(b)(2)	+6	
May 8	LAST DAY for provisional voter to present ID to voter registrar or execute required affidavit (SOS Form 9-5).	Voter Registrar	10.30(d) 9.26(d)(3)	+6	
May 8	LAST DAY for voter registrar to complete the review of provisional ballots. Note: The period is one day longer for elections in Nov. of even-numbered years.	Voter Registrar	10.30(d)	+6	
May 8	<i>LAST DAY for a vote-by-mail voter to cure certain deficiencies in the carrier envelope.</i>	Voter	6.72	+6	
May 8	Type A cites: FIRST DAY elected officials may qualify and assume duties of office. Note: LGC §22.006 states 5th day after election not counting Sun. The resulting day is the 6th day after. Officials may not take office until the canvass is complete unless the election was cancelled. EC §1.006 does not apply.	Candidate with City Secretary	11.23(a)	+6 Doesn't move	
May 9	<i>FIRST DAY a mailed ballot can be rejected if (1) the carrier envelope was not properly executed or is missing a statement of residence, and (2) the signatures do not match; provided the voter has been notified. Note: EC §1.006 does not apply to first days.</i>	Early Voting Ballot Board	6.72 11.03(a)	+7	
May 11	LAST DAY for the EVBB to convene for counting the provisional ballots or any mail ballots timely and properly received after ED. Note: This deadline is the 13th day for elections in Nov. of even-numbered years.	Early Voting Ballot Board	11.01(b)	+9	
May 12	LAST DAY for presiding judge of EVBB to mail notices of rejected mail ballots to voters (SOS Form 6-2).	Judge of EVBB	11.03(a)	+10	
May 13	LAST DAY for conducting the official canvass of the election.	City Council	11.12	+11	
May 14	LAST DAY to register to vote for the runoff of this May election.	Voter Voter Registrar	4.07(f) 4.07(g)	runoff-30	
May 14 to Jun 3	Period to publish notice of the runoff election. Note: The runoff must be ordered first. See note for the canvass period.	City Secretary	6.52(a)	runoff-30 to runoff-10	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
May 15 to May 23 (May 22 recommended)	Period during which notice of outcome of provisional ballots must be mailed to voters (SOS Form 9-9). Note: EC §1.006 arguably does not apply to a timeframe set by rule, 1 TAC 81.176(e). Mon is Memorial Day. Accordingly, Fri is recommended.	Judge of EVBB or City Secretary	11.01(f)	Varies, by 10th day after canvass	
May 18	LAST DAY to make election records available in an electronic format for a fee of not more than \$50.00. Note: Because the deadline is Sun, it moves to Mon.	City Secretary	11.70(c)	+15	
May 25	Memorial Day Holiday. See endnote 6 for impact on mandatory office hours.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
May 26	LAST DAY for mailing results of manual count to SOS. Note: The deadline is Sat and Mon is Memorial Day. See endnote 6.	City Secretary	11.31(c)	+21	
Jun 1	Type A cities: LAST DAY elected officials may qualify and assume duties of office; if they fail to qualify by this day, the office is considered vacant.	Candidate with City Secretary	11.23(a)	+30	
Jun 1	FIRST DAY of early voting in person for the runoff.	Voter	9.11	runoff-12	
SB 2753 shortens the start of early voting by personal appearance in May to ED -9.					
Jun 9	LAST DAY of early voting in the runoff.	Voter	9.44 9.11	runoff-4	
SB 2753 extends the period for early voting by personal appearance in the May election to runoff day -1.					
Jun 11	LAST DAY of mandatory office hours. Note: SOS does not apply EC §1.006.	City Secretary	6.80(a)	+40	
Jun 13	RUNOFF FOR MAY ELECTION	Voter	12.01(d)	set by SOS	
Jun 19	Juneteenth Holiday. Note: No impact on mandatory office hours, which ended earlier.	EC	1.52, 6.80	n/a	
July 2	FIRST DAY for transfer of voted ballots from the locked ballot box to another secure container and make original voted ballots available	City Secretary	11.70(e)	+61	
July 15	LAST DAY for timely filing of semiannual report of contributions and expenditures.	City Secretary	3.12(b) 3.16(a)	July 15	

Date	Action	By or With Whom Taken	M §	ED Interval	Done
Mar 3 2028	Last day of preservation period for ballots and other precinct election records of city election, except for candidate applications.	City Secretary	11.71(c)	day after +22 months	
May 3 2028	Last day of preservation period for candidate applications and certain petitions.	City Secretary	11.71(d)	day after +2 years	

Endnotes

1. Any city imposing an ad valorem property tax must have a website. [Tax §26.18] The following information must be posted on a city's website [M §2.13(d)]:

(1) the city's contact information, including a mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address;

(2) each elected officer of the city;

(3) the date and location of the next election for officers of the city;

(4) the requirements and deadline for filing for candidacy of each elected office of the city for the next election (posted one year prior to the date of that election);

(5) notice of city council meetings; and

(6) minutes of city council meetings.

A city with population of less than 5,000 located in a county with population of less than 25,000 does not have to post (5) and (6). [GC §2051.201].

2. The city's governing body may choose to conduct a mock student election under EC §276.007. The major steps taken for a general election should be taken for a student election. The student election may be held on the first day before the election, but results must not be published until after the polls close on election day.

3. Follow home-rule city's charter provision, if any. However, a home-rule city cannot alter the candidate filing deadline. [EC 143.005(a)].

4. If a candidate dies on or before the filing deadline, the City Secretary MAY remove the candidate from the ballot, in which case, the filing deadline is extended 5 days. If that extended filing deadline for filing falls on a weekend or holiday, it moves to the next business day. Withdrawal deadlines after the extended filing deadlines will be impacted.

5. See Texas Ethics Commission rules [1 TAC §18.31] for the full list of reporting triggers and dollar amounts. The following is a summary of the most common amounts [M Ch. 3]:

Election Code §	Threshold Description	Original Amount	2025 Amount	2026 Amount
253.031(b)	<i>PAC</i> : amount of contributions or expenditures before appointment of treasurer is required.	\$500	\$1,080	\$1,110
254.036	<i>Electronic Filing Exemption</i> : amount at or below which a filer may qualify.	\$20,000	\$33,910	\$34,890
254.095	<i>Local officeholders, contributions</i> : amount over which reporting is required.	\$500	\$1,110	\$1,140
254.181 254.182 254.183	<i>Candidate or specific-purpose PAC, modified reporting</i> : contribution or expenditure amount at or below which filers may avoid pre-election reports.	\$500	\$1,110	\$1,140

6. See M §1.52 & §6.80. Under EC §1.006, if a deadline falls on a Sat., Sun., or legal state/national holiday, the deadline moves to the next regular business day. Exceptions where the deadline moves to the first preceding regular business day: EC §84.007 (general rule for applications for ballot by mail); §86.0015 (deadline for certain ABBM based on disability). Under EC §85.001, early voting by personal appearance includes weekends and holidays unless the first day is one of these, moving the start date to the next business day. NEW LAW: HB640 defines a “regular business day” as the day when the city’s main office is regularly open for business. Thus, you do not need to conduct mandatory office hours on a city holiday such as Good Friday or the Battle of Flowers. The following are Election Code holidays *unless noted otherwise in italics*:

Holidays in 2026	Date	Day
New Year’s Day	January 1	Thur
Confederate Heroes Day	January 19	Mon
Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (3rd Monday in January)	January 19	Mon
Presidents’ Day/Washington’s Birthday (3rd Monday in February)	February 16	Mon
Texas Independence Day	March 2	Sun
<i>Cesar Chavez Day (not an Election Code holiday)</i>	<i>March 31</i>	<i>Tues</i>
<i>Good Friday (not an Election Code holiday)</i>	<i>April 3</i>	<i>Fri</i>
San Jacinto Day	April 21	Tues
Memorial Day (last Monday in May)	May 25	Mon
Emancipation Day/Juneteenth	June 19	Fri
Independence Day	July 4	Sat
Lyndon Bains Johnson Day	August 27	Thur
Labor Day (1st Monday in September)	September 7	Mon
<i>National Voter Registration Day (not an Election Code holiday)</i>	<i>September 15</i>	<i>Tue</i>
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	<i>Sept 20</i>	<i>Sun</i>
Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day (2d Monday in October)	October 12	Mon
Veteran’s Day	November 11	Wed
Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November)	November 26	Thu
Friday after Thanksgiving	November 27	Fri
<i>Day before Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)</i>	<i>December 24</i>	<i>Thur</i>
Christmas Day	December 25	Fri
<i>Day after Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)</i>	<i>December 26</i>	<i>Sat</i>

