

TEXAS MUNICIPAL CLERKS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Election Calendar
For a City's General Election on May 3, 2025

(last updated October 13, 2024; subject to 89th Legislative Session)

Abbreviations in the calendar are the same as those in the *Texas Municipal Election Law Manual* (6th edition) [M]. This most recent edition has a green cover. Check that you have any updated pages that address legislative changes since the edition was originally printed.

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. Always verify the latest version of this calendar on the TMCA's website.

Dates in column 1 are 2025 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, but 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 indicates the time between the date of the action and election day. For example, the notation "50th" in the entry for March 14 means mandatory office hours begin the 50th day before election day; the notation "+10" in the entry for May 13 means that the LAST DAY for the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board to mail voters notices of rejected mail ballots is the 10th day after election day. An asterisk (*) in this column indicates the time stated is not required by statute.

When a statutory provision prescribes the LAST DAY for the performance of an act, the number in column 5 reflects that day. If the statutory date is moved because of a Saturday, Sunday, or state or national holiday [M §1.52(b); endnote 6], the resulting date is designated in column 1, and column 5 indicates, in parentheses and italics, the actual number of days measured from election day. 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, the city secretary should remember to 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. Because 2025 is an odd-numbered year, counties should be more flexible. However, deadlines may be subject to legislative changes.

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|----------|
| Thu May 2 2024 | One-year deadline for posting certain candidacy and other information on the city's website. Note: See endnote 1. | City Secretary | 2.13(d)(2) | 366 | |
| Mon Dec 16 2024 | 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) | |
| Mon Jan 1 2024 | <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 year | |
| Thu 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 | *121st | |
| Thu Jan 2- Fri Jan 24 | 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 | *121st through *99th | |
| Mon 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 | Jan 15 | |
| Wed Jan 15 | 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) | 108th (30 days before filing deadline) | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Jan 15 | FIRST DAY for filing declaration of write-in candidacy (SOS Form 2-55). Note: Periods ends at 5 p.m. ED – 74 days. | City Secretary | 2.18(b) | 108th | |
| Mon Jan 20 to Fri Feb 14 | 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 | *103rd through 78th | |
| Mon Feb 3 | 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) | 90th (89th) | |
| Tue Feb 11 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) | 81st [day before day before filing deadline (3rd day)] | |
| Fri Feb 14 | LAST DAY for ordering a general (SOS Form 1-2) or 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 | 78th | |
| Feb 14 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. Home-rule cities see endnote 3. | City Secretary | 2.13 6.23(c) | 78th | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Feb 14 | 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. | City Secretary | 6.22(a)(2) | *78th | |
| Mon Feb 17 | Recommended* first date for preliminary work to appoint election judges. | City Secretary | 7.01 | *75th | |
| Feb 17 | 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) | *75th | |
| Tue Feb 18 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) | 74th | |
| Wed Feb 19 | 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 | *73rd | |
| Thu Feb 20 to Mon Feb 24 | 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. Ask candidates to proof their names and officers. | City Secretary | 6.22(b) 6.25 6.26 | *72nd through *68th | |
| Fri Feb 21 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. 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. 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) | 71st | |
| Feb 21 | 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. | City Council | 6.13 | 71st | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Tue Mar 4 to Sat May 3 | Period the Texas Ethics Commission will defer an investigation of candidates until after election (or runoff). | City Secretary Texas Ethics Commission | 3.01(b)(2) | 60th through ED or runoff | |
| Mar 4 | 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. | City Council (City Secretary) | 6.54(a) | 60th | |
| Mar 4 | Recommended* day to contact the county concerning availability of the initial list of voters who submitted annual applications for ballot by mail (ABBM). | City Secretary | 9.43 | *60th | |
| Fri Mar 7 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) | 57th | |
| Mon Mar 10 to Fri Mar 21 | 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 | *54th through *43rd | |
| Thu Mar 13 | Recommended* date to print ballots that have been prepared earlier. | City Secretary | 6.25 | *51st | |
| Fri Mar 14 | 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) | 50th | |
| Mar 14 | LAST DAY for a challenge of a candidate application based on form, content, procedure. | City Secretary | 2.16(d) | 50th | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Wed Mar 19 | <p><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></p> <p>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).</p> | City Secretary | 9.49(b) 9.82 | 45th | |
| Thu Apr 3 5 p.m. | <p>LAST DAY for filing first report of campaign contributions and expenditures by opposed candidates and specific-purpose committees.</p> <p>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.</p> | City Secretary | 3.13(b) | 30th | |
| Apr 3 | <p>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.</p> | Registrar | 4.07(f) 4.07(g) | 30th | |
| Apr 3 to Wed Apr 23 | <p>Period for publishing notice of election (SOS Form 1-14). Note: Must be published once; perhaps more for a special election on a measure. Home-rule cities see endnote 3.</p> | Mayor | 6.52(a) | 30th through 10th | |
| Apr 3 | <p>FIRST DAY to begin posting continuous notice if SVC meets on first available date (ED – 20 days).</p> <p>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).</p> | City Secretary City Council | 6.70(a) 7.33 7.34 | *30th | |
| Apr 3 | <p>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.</p> | City Secretary | 4.34(a) | *30th | |
| Apr 3 | <p>Recommended* day to begin posting the notice of voting order priority for voters with mobility issues on the city's website (SOS Form 7-38).</p> | City Secretary | 10.23(c) | *30th | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Sat Apr 12 (Fri Apr 11 recom- mended) | LAST DAY for posting notice of election (SOS Form 1-14) on <i>the</i> bulletin board used for posting notices of city council meetings and website. Note: Notice must include date of election, location of each polling place, and each candidate and measure on the ballot 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) | 21st (22nd) | |
| Sun Apr 13 (Fri Apr 11 recom- mended) | 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) | 20th (22nd) | |
| Apr 13 | <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 | 20th | |
| Mon Apr 14 | <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) | 20th (19th) | |
| Tue Apr 15 to Tue Apr 22 | <i>Period when unregistered FPCA applicants received a federal ballot only.</i> Note: This may mean no ballot is sent. | City Secretary | 9.61 9.68(a) chart | 19th thru 11th | |
| Apr 15 | <i>Recommended* last day for publication of notice of the test of automatic tabulating and DRE equipment to be used in early voting (SOS Forms 15-1 to 15-8).</i> Note: Notice for tabulating equipment must be 48 hours before date of test. Notice for DRE equipment must be 48 hours before test begins. DREs cannot be used after Sept 1, 2026 except by disabled voters. | City Secretary | 6.63(d)(1) 6.63(d)(2) 6.64(c) | *18th | |
| Fri Apr 18 | <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) | 15th | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|---------------|---|------------------------------|--|---|----------|
| Apr 18 | LAST DAY to notify judges of duty to hold the election (SOS Form 4-17). | Mayor | 7.44(a) | 15th | |
| Apr 18 | LAST DAY to challenge write-in candidate for form, content, and procedure. | City Secretary | 2.18(f) | 15th | |
| Sat Apr 19 | <i>LAST DAY for conducting first test of automatic tabulating and DRE equipment to be used for early voting.</i> Note: Notice for tabulating equipment must be 48 hours before date of test. Notice for DRE equipment must be 48 hours before test begins. DREs cannot be used after Sept 1, 2026 except by disabled voters. | City Secretary | 6.63(d) 6.64(c) | 2 days before early voting in person starts | |
| Mon Apr 21 | <i>FIRST DAY for early voting by personal appearance.</i> Note: 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). The EV period in Nov. is longer. Rosters (SOS Form 5-6) must be posted by 11 a.m. on the day after voting. Period ends ED – 4 days. | City Secretary | 9.14 | 12th | |
| Apr 21 | 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: <i>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.</i> | Voter | 9.73 | 12th | |
| Tue Apr 22 | <i>LAST DAY to accept application for a ballot to be voted by mail, by 12 noon or close of business, whichever is later.</i> 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. Originals are due 4 days after fax or email (except emailed FPCA). | City Secretary | 9.44(b)(1) 9.45(b-c) 9.68(b) chart | 11th | |
| Apr 22 | <i>LAST DAY to accept an FPCA.</i> Note: The unregistered FPCA voter may only get a federal ballot, which may mean no ballot. | City Secretary | 9.61(c) 9.68(b) chart | 11th | |
| Apr 22 | <i>LAST DAY for county clerk or election administrator to deliver final list of voters that submitted an annual ABBM.</i> | City Secretary | 9.43(a)(1) | 11th | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--|---|---------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Wed Apr 23 | LAST DAY to publish notice of election (SOS Form 1-14). Note: Home-rule cities see endnote 3. | Mayor | 6.52(a)(1) | 10th | |
| Thu Apr 24 | <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 | 9th | |
| Fri Apr 25 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: Deadline extended to midnight for electronic filing. 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) | 8th | |
| Mon Apr 28 | <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 ED. | City Secretary | 9.73(a) | 5th | |
| Tue Apr 29 | <i>LAST DAY of "regular" early voting by personal appearance (versus special forms of early voting).</i> | City Secretary | 9.11(b) | 4th | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Apr 29 to Sat May 3 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. Note: Ballots may not be counted until ED, 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.</i> | City Secretary | 9.57(a)(1) 9.57(a)(3) | 4th through close of polls | |
| Wed April 30 | LAST DAY for first test of automatic tabulating or DRE equipment to be used at a polling place. Note: To ensure 48 hours before 7 a.m. of ED, test must be by 3rd day. Notice must be published at least 48 hours before date of test. | City Secretary | 6.63(d)(2) 6.64(b-c) | 3rd | |
| April 30 | <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. Note: Ensure that the counting equipment has been tested at least 48 hours before tabulation begins.</i> | Early Voting Ballot Board | 9.57(a)(2) [2024] 9.57(f)(1) | 3rd | |
| April 30 to Fri May 2 | <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. Period ends the day before ED.</i> | City Secretary | 9.73 | 3rd through 1st | |
| April 30 to Sat May 3 5 p.m. | <i>Period to apply for late (emergency) early voting because of illness or disability originating on or after ED – 12 says (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) | 3rd through ED | |
| Fri May 2 | <i>LAST DAY to deliver precinct list of registered voters, with the early voting voters marked, to presiding judges and recommended date for delivery of supplies to presiding judges.</i> | City Secretary | 9.83(e) | 1st | |
| May 2 | One-year deadline to post certain information on the city's website for the next general election to be held on May 3, 2025. Note: See endnote 1. | City Secretary | 2.13(d)(2) | next May election - 365 days | |
| May 2 | Recommended* date for delivery of equipment to polling places. Note: Statutory deadline is 6 a.m. on ED. | City Secretary | 6.65(b) | *1st | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--|--|---|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| May 2 | Recommended* 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 72 hours before time of meeting. Due to late ballots that can be counted, a later canvass may be likely. | City Secretary | 11.13 | *1st | |
| Sat May 3 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 3 | <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 3 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 3 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 3 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 pm regardless of regular delivery schedule. See deadline ED +1 day. | City Secretary | 9.50(a) | ED | |
| May 3 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 3 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 | |
| Mon May 5 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 (+2) | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|----------------|------------------------|---|
| May 5 | 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 (+2) | |
| Tue May 6 to Mon May 12 | <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 6 to Wed May 14 | <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 | |
| May 6 to Wed May 14 | Period for official canvass. Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 (accept 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 | |
| May 6 to Wed May 14 | 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 *+11 | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| May 6 to Tue May 27 | 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. | City Secretary | 11.31 | +3 through +21 (+24) | |
| Thu May 8 | <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 | |
| Fri May 9 | <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 9 | 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 9 | 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 9 | <i>LAST DAY for a vote-by-mail voter to cure certain deficiencies in the carrier envelope.</i> | Voter | 6.72 | +6 | |
| May 9 | 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 §86.007(d-1) does not apply. | Candidate with City Secretary | 11.23(a) | +6 | |
| Sat May 10 | <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 | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|----------|
| Mon May 12 | 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 | |
| Tue May 13 | 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 | |
| Wed May 14 | LAST DAY for conducting the official canvass of the election. | City Council | 11.12 | +11 | |
| Thu May 8 | LAST DAY to register to vote for the runoff of the May 4 election. | Voter Voter Registrar | 4.07(f) 4.07(g) | June 7 runoff – 30 days | |
| May 8 to Wed May 28 | 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) | June 7 runoff – 30 days to – 10 days | |
| Fri May 16 to Sat May 24 (May 23 recom- mended) | 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, May 26, is Memorial Day. Accordingly, Fri, May 23 is recommended. | Judge of EVBB or City Secretary | 11.01(f) | Varies, by 10th day after canvass | |
| Mon May 19 | 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 (+16) | |
| Tue May 27 | LAST DAY for mailing results of manual count to SOS. Note: The deadline is Sat and Mon, May 26 is Memorial Day. See endnote 6. | City Secretary | 11.31(c) | +21 (+24) | |
| May 27 | FIRST DAY of early voting in person for the runoff. | Voter | 9.11 | June 7 runoff - 11 days | |
| Mon Jun 2 | 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 | |

| Date | Action | By or With Whom Taken | M § | ED Interval | ✓ |
|----------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| Tue Jun 3 | LAST DAY of early voting in the runoff. | Voter | 9.44 9.11 | June 7 runoff – 4 days | |
| Thu Jun 12 | LAST DAY of mandatory office hours. | City Secretary | 6.80(a) | +40 | |
| Sat Jun 7 | RUNOFF ELECTION DAY. | Voter | 12.01(d) | set by SOS | |
| Thu July 3 | 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 | |
| Tue July 15 | LAST DAY for timely filing of semiannual report of contributions and expenditures. | City Secretary | 3.12(b) 3.16(a) | July 15 | |
| Thu Mar 4 2026 | 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 | |
| Tue May 4 2027 | 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)], if the city maintains a website [M §1.53]: (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 on the ballot dies on or before the filing deadline, the City Secretary MAY choose to 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 ones [M Ch. 3]:

| Election Code § | Threshold Description | Original Amount | 2024 Amount | 2025 Amount |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 253.031(b) | <i>PAC</i> : amount of contributions or expenditures permitted before appointment of treasurer is required. | \$500 | \$1,050 | To be determined by January 15 |
| 254.036 | <i>Electronic Filing Exemption</i> : amount at or below which a filer may qualify. | \$20,000 | \$32,810 | “ |
| 254.095 | <i>Local officeholders, contributions</i> : amount over which reporting is required. | \$500 | \$1,080 | “ |
| 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 | \$1,080 | “ |

6. See M §1.52 and §6.80 regarding the types of holidays and the impact on deadlines and office hours. Please note, while the SOS does not recognize certain holidays (such as Good Friday), your city attorney may recognize that such a day is not a regular business day and allow the city secretary’s office to close. The following are Election Code holidays unless noted otherwise in italics:

| Holidays in 2025 | Date | Day |
|--|---------------------|------------|
| New Year’s Day | January 1 | Wed |
| Confederate Heroes Day | January 19 | Sun |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Day. (3rd Monday in January) | January 20 | Mon |
| Presidents’ Day/Washington’s Birthday (3rd Monday in February) | February 17 | Mon |
| Texas Independence Day | March 2 | Sun |
| <i>Cesar Chavez Day</i> | <i>March 31</i> | <i>Mon</i> |
| <i>Good Friday</i> | <i>April 18</i> | <i>Fri</i> |
| San Jacinto Day | April 21 | Mon |
| Memorial Day (last Monday in May) | May 26 | Mon |
| Emancipation Day/Juneteenth | June 19 | Thu |
| Independence Day | July 4 | Fri |
| Lyndon Bains Johnson Day | August 27 | Wed |
| Labor Day (1st Monday in September) | September 1 | Mon |
| <i>National Voter Registration Day</i> | <i>September 16</i> | <i>Tue</i> |

| | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| <i>Yom Kippur</i> | <i>October 1</i> | <i>Wed</i> |
| Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day (2d Monday in October) | October 13 | Mon |
| Veteran's Day | November 11 | Tue |
| Thanksgiving Day (4th Thursday in November) | November 27 | Thu |
| Friday after Thanksgiving | November 28 | Fri |
| <i>Day before Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)</i> | <i>December 24</i> | <i>Wed</i> |
| Christmas Day | December 25 | Thu |
| <i>Day after Christmas (not an Election Code holiday)</i> | <i>December 26</i> | <i>Fri</i> |