



★ VIRGINIA ★
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

Political Party Bulletin

For United States Senate and Local Offices

Ballot Access Requirements for the
August 4, 2026, Primary Elections
and

November 3, 2026, General and Special Elections

2026 Election Calendar

Type of Election	Last Day to Submit Candidate Ballot Access Documents	Last Day to Register to Vote	Last Day to Apply for Absentee
Primary August 4, 2026	April 2, 2026, 5:00 pm	July 24, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person: 5:00 pm • Online: 11:59 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online, Fax, Mail: July 24, 2026, 5:00 pm • Early Voting In Person: August 1, 2026, 5:00 pm
General and Special November 3, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General: June 16, 2026, 7:00 pm • Special: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st November after vacancy: August 14, 2026, 5:00 pm ○ 2nd November after vacancy: June 16, 2026, 7:00 pm 	October 23, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person: 5:00 pm • Online: 11:59 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online, Fax, Mail: October 23, 2026, 5:00 pm • Early Voting In Person: October 31, 2026, 5:00 pm
Find in Va. Code §§: 24.2-503 and 24.2-507			
		24.2-416	24.2-701 and 24.2-701.1

What, where, and when do political parties file?

What do I need to file?	Where do I file this form?	When does filing open?	What is the deadline to file?
Contact information for state, congressional district, legislative district, county, and city party chairs	With the Department of Elections (ELECT).	January, 2026	Updates should be provided, preferably the first week of June and first week of November.
Related Code: Va. Code § 24.2-516			
Party Notice of Nomination Method	With ELECT via online submission form.	February 11, 2026	March 3, 2026
Related Code: Va. Code § 24.2-516			
Party Certification of Primary Candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Senate, State and General Assembly candidates: With ELECT. • All other candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With ELECT and ○ The general registrar in each locality where the candidate will appear on the ballot. 	April 2, 2026, 5:01 pm <i>(After the candidate primary filing window closes.)</i>	April 7, 2026, 5:00 pm
Related Code: Va. Code § 24.2-527			
Reminder: deadlines to nominate non-primary candidates:	Nominations may begin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General: April 30, 2026 • Special: When the election is ordered. 	Nominations must be completed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General: June 16, 2026, 7:00 pm • Special: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st November after vacancy: August 14, 2026, 5:00 pm ○ 2nd November after vacancy: June 16, 2026, 7:00 pm 	
Related Code: Va. Code § 24.2-510			
Party Certification of Non-Primary Candidate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Senate, State, and General Assembly candidates: With ELECT. • All other candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With ELECT and ○ The general registrar in each locality where the candidate will appear on the ballot. 	General: After party has nominated the candidate. Special: After party has nominated the candidate, but no sooner than April 30, 2026.	Nominations must be completed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General: June 22, 2026 • Special: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1st November after vacancy: August 14, 2026 ○ 2nd November after vacancy: June 22, 2026
Related Code: Va. Code § 24.2-511			

2026 August Primary and November General and Special Elections U.S. Senate and Local Office **Political Party Ballot** Access Quick Look One Pager



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Additional information, including November Special Election information can be found in the Political Party Bulletin found on ELECT’s website: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-bulletins/>.

- A. **January, 2026**, file the following with the **Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT)**.*
**ELECT strongly encourages the party to submit updated lists the first week of June, and the first week of November.*
 - **Contact lists for all party chairs** (state, congressional district, legislative district, county, city).

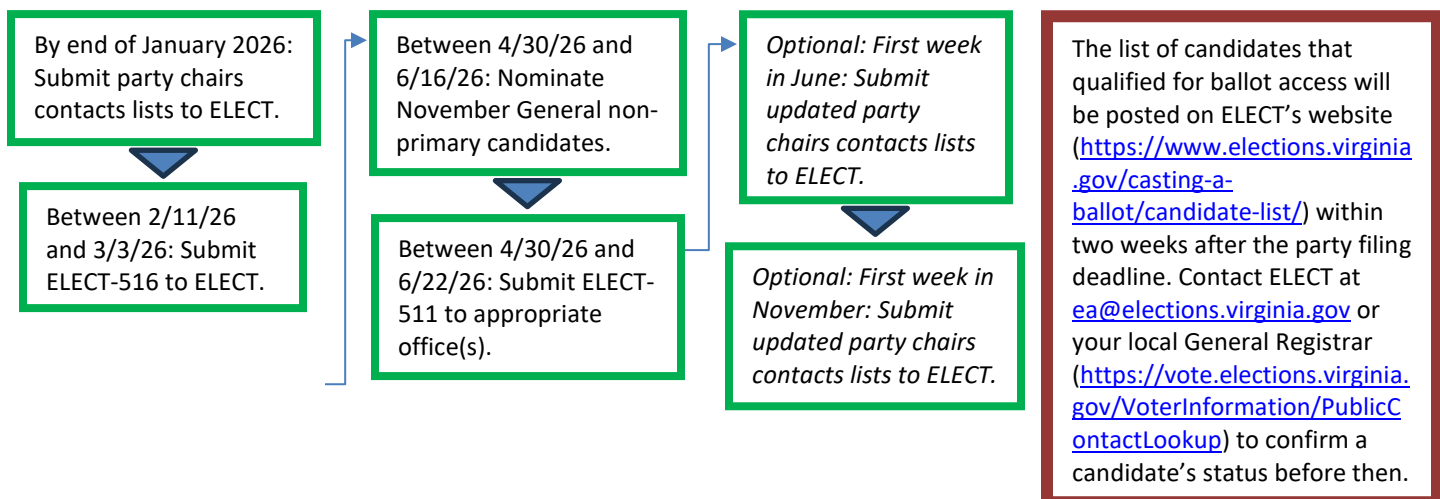
- B. **Between 2/11/26 and 3/3/26** file the following with **ELECT** for each office you are responsible for.
 - **ELECT-516 Party Notice of Nomination Method**
<https://fs28.formsite.com/vaelect/NominationMethod/index>

- C. **Between 5:01 pm, 4/2/26 and 5:00 pm, 4/7/26** file the following as follows for each office you are responsible for.
 - **ELECT-527 Party Certification of Primary Candidates**
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-forms/>
 - For State, Congressional, and General Assembly candidates, file with ELECT.
 - For all other candidates, file with ELECT and the General Registrar’s Office in each locality where the candidate will appear on the ballot. <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>

- D. Reminder: Parties may nominate non-primary November General candidates between 4/30/26 and 6/16/26.*
**See political party bulletin for November Special Election dates.*

- E. **Between 4/30/26* and 6/22/26**** file the following as follows for each office you are responsible for.
**After the party has nominated the candidate.*
***See political party bulletin for November Special Election dates.*
 - **ELECT-511 Party Certification of Non-Primary Candidates**
<https://www.elections.virginia.gov/candidatepac-info/candidate-forms/>
 - For State, Congressional, and General Assembly candidates, file with ELECT.
 - For all other candidates, file with ELECT and the General Registrar’s Office in each locality where the candidate will appear on the ballot. <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>

Political Party Flow Chart





Between 5:01 pm,
4/2/26 and 5:00 pm,
4/7/26: Submit ELECT-
527 to appropriate
office(s).

General Disclaimer

Political parties are responsible for complying with all current and applicable regulations, and local, state, and federal law. The purpose of this document is to provide political parties a brief overview regarding certain filings or information that must be submitted to the Department of Elections or general registrar throughout the year. This document does not purport to provide legal advice or binding statements of official policy. Applicable laws and regulations are subject to change in content and interpretation. Political parties should contact their legal representation for guidance and information regarding local election laws and regulations.