



May 2026 election dates

May 5, 2026 regular election

Tuesday, January 20, 2026	4 p.m.	Nominating petitions and Affidavits of Identity for partisan and nonpartisan candidates due.	168.322
Friday, January 23, 2026	4 p.m.	Written withdrawal requests for partisan and nonpartisan candidates due.	168.322a
Monday, January 26, 2026		Deadline for local clerk to forward names and addresses of partisan and nonpartisan candidates to county clerk.	168.321
Tuesday, January 27, 2026	5 p.m.	Deadline for petitions to place county or local ballot question on the May ballot to be filed with the applicable local or county clerk.	168.646a
Friday, January 30, 2026		Deadline for a recall petition to be filed for May election. (Local officials only face recall in May and November).	168.963
Wednesday, February 4, 2026		Configuration set(s) for tabulator(s) must be selected, if conducting early voting.	168.720j
Wednesday, February 4, 2026		Local board of election commissioners that establishes an Election Day vote center must inform applicable county clerk that vote center will be established in city or township.	168.523b
Tuesday, February 10, 2026	4 p.m.	Deadline for ballot wording of proposals qualified to appear on May ballot certified to local or county clerks.	168.646a
Thursday, February 12, 2026		Local clerks receiving ballot wording must forward to county clerk.	168.646a
Thursday, February 19, 2026		Beginning of period for regular inspection of AV drop boxes to ensure compliance with requirements.	168.761d
Thursday, February 19, 2026		Beginning of period for required video monitoring of AV drop boxes (this requirement now applies to all drop boxes, regardless of when they were purchased or installed).	168.761d
Friday, March 6, 2026		Location of each early voting site must be finalized (If early voting is occurring).	168.720i



Friday, March 6, 2026		Deadline for cities and townships to establish, move, or abolish a polling place for the May election. Beginning of period during which local legislative body or board of county election commissioners may not establish, move, or abolish a polling place, early voting site, or central polling place, unless damaged, destroyed, or rendered inaccessible or unusable.	168.662
Friday, March 6, 2026		Local clerk in a combined absent voter counting board agreement must inform applicable county clerk that an Election Day absent voter counting board has been authorized by local board of election commissioners.	168.764d
Saturday, March 21, 2026		Beginning of period during which clerk must make reasonable effort to verify or reject AV ballot application or AV ballot return envelope by the end of the business day after the application or envelope is received.	168.766b
Saturday, March 21, 2026		County clerk must provide each municipal clerk or early voting site coordinator with programming for electronic voting equipment to be used at early voting site.	168.720j
Saturday, March 21, 2026		Deadline for clerks to electronically transmit or mail (as requested) an absent voter ballot to each absent UOCAVA (uniformed services or overseas) voter who applied for an absent voter ballot 45 days or more before the election (MOVE deadline).	168.759a; Mich. Const. Art II Sec 4
Saturday, March 21, 2026		Deadline for county clerks to deliver absent voter ballots for the May election to local clerks.	168.714
Saturday, March 21, 2026		Notice of polling place or early voting site must be provided for sites newly established or changed by 60 days before Election Day.	168.662
Thursday, March 26, 2026		Absent voter ballots must be available for issuance to voters.	Mich. Const. Art II Sec 4
Thursday, March 26, 2026		Beginning of period secure drop boxes must be accessible 24 hours each day (until 8 p.m. on Election Day).	Mich. Const. Art II Sec 4
Tuesday, March 31, 2026		Beginning of period of required daily collection of election materials from AV drop boxes on each day clerk's office is open.	168.761d





Monday, April 6, 2026		Beginning of optional early voting period.	168.720e
Monday, April 6, 2026		Deadline for notice of days and hours for voter registration at clerk's office to be published in the newspaper. If considered advisable by the township or city clerk, notice may also be posted in at least two conspicuous places in each precinct. Notice must include offices and proposals that will be on the ballot.	168.498
Monday, April 6, 2026		Deadline for clerk to post and enter into QVF any additional locations and hours that clerk will be available to issue and receive absent voter ballots, if applicable.	168.761b
Monday, April 6, 2026		Deadline for clerk to post and enter into QVF the hours the clerk's office will be open on the Saturday or Sunday (or both) immediately before the election to issue and receive absent voter ballots.	168.761b
Tuesday, April 7, 2026		Clerks intending to process or tabulate AV ballots before Election Day must submit written notice to the Secretary of State.	168.765a
Tuesday, April 14, 2026		Deadline for notice of temporary change to early voting site, if applicable and if offering 9 days of early voting (otherwise deadline is 21 days prior to the first day of early voting).	168.662
Tuesday, April 14, 2026		Deadline for election inspectors for the election to be appointed by local election commission.	168.674
Friday, April 17, 2026		Deadline to post notice on website (if available) and in clerk's office of the location, dates, hours, and number of election inspectors for AV counting place if processing and tabulating AV ballots before Election Day.	168.765a
Monday, April 20, 2026		Deadline to register by mail or online and be eligible to vote for the May election.	168.497
Tuesday, April 21, 2026		In-person registration with local clerk with proof of residency allowed between this date and the day before Election Day.	168.497
Friday, April 24, 2026	4 p.m.	Write-in candidates' declaration of intent form due to respective filing official.	168.737a





Friday, April 24, 2026	5 p.m.	Deadline for voters to submit a written request to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new absent voter ballot by mail.	168.765b
Friday, April 24, 2026	5 p.m.	Deadline for voters who have returned their absent voter ballot to submit a written request in person to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new absent voter ballot in the clerk's office.	168.765b
Saturday, April 25, 2026		Deadline for county clerks to deliver remainder of ballots and election supplies for the May election to local clerks.	168.714
Monday, April 27, 2026		Cities or townships with a population of at least 5,000 may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.	168.765a
Tuesday, April 28, 2026		Deadline to publish notice of election. One notice required.	168.653a
Thursday, April 30, 2026		Deadline for public logic and accuracy test to be conducted by applicable election commission. Notice of accuracy test must be published at least 48 hours before test. (MCL 168.798) If conducting early voting, public logic and accuracy test must be conducted 5 days before start of early voting. (MCL 168.720j)	R 168.778
Thursday, April 30, 2026		Beginning of period when clerk must verify or reject AV ballot application or AV ballot return envelope by the end of the day the application or envelope is received.	168.766b
Friday, May 1, 2026	4 p.m.	Deadline for an applicant to cure a signature deficiency on AV application and receive an AV ballot by mail.	168.761
Friday, May 1, 2026	5 p.m.	Deadline for clerks to send an absent voter ballot by mail.	168.759
Friday, May 1, 2026	5 p.m.	Deadline for voters who have lost their absent voter ballot or not yet received their ballot in the mail to submit a written request to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new absent voter ballot in the clerk's office or by mail.	168.765b(5)
Friday, May 1, 2026		Municipal clerk must post on website the location where precinct canvass of early votes for the municipality will take place and time precinct canvass will begin, if conducting early voting (canvass cannot begin before 8 p.m. on Election Day).	168.720j





Friday, May 1, 2026		Eligible city or township that establishes Election Day vote center must post notice of establishment and location of vote center on website and in clerk's office.	168.523b
Monday, May 4, 2026		Last day of early voting; must end at 4 p.m. (optional for local elections). (168.720b)	Mich. Const. Art II Sec 4
Monday, May 4, 2026	4 p.m.	Deadline for voters who have lost their absent voter ballot or not yet received their ballot in the mail to submit a written request to spoil their absent voter ballot and receive a new absent voter ballot in the clerk's office.	168.765b(7)
Monday, May 4, 2026		Any city or township may begin processing and tabulating AV ballots.	168.765a
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	7 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Election Day	168.641
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	4 p.m.	Deadline for emergency absentee voting (Begins Friday at 5 p.m.)	168.759b
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	8 p.m.	Election Day registrants may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot in person in clerk's office or vote in person in the proper precinct.	168.761
Thursday, May 7, 2026	9 a.m.	Deadline for Boards of County Canvassers to meet to canvass election.	168.821
Friday, May 8, 2026	5 p.m.	Deadline for voter to cure the signature on AV ballot return envelope, allowing an otherwise valid ballot to be accepted for tabulation.	168.766
Monday, May 11, 2026		Deadline for a ballot submitted by a MOVE voter and postmarked on or before Election Day to be deemed timely received and counted.	168.759a
Monday, May 11, 2026		Deadline for local clerk to deliver ballots with a signature that was cured after Election Day and by 5:00 p.m. the third day after Election Day to the county clerk.	168.766





Tuesday, May 12, 2026		Deadline for local clerk to deliver MOVE ballots received within 6 days of Election Day to the county clerk.	168.759a
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