

2016 Election Calendar

Efforts are made to ensure all important dates and deadlines are included and calendar complies with current law. Some election-related dates and deadlines may not be included. If calendar conflicts with law, law controls. Calendar is subject to change. Statutes reference S.C. Code of Laws.

Date	Event	Statutes
September 23, 2015	First day that voters who turn 18-years-old on or before November 8, 2016, may register to vote	7-5-180
TBD	Voters may begin applying for absentee ballots for Presidential Preference Primaries (PPPs) (TBD, date will be based on official notification by parties of PPP dates)	7-11-20
TBD	Candidate filing deadline for PPPs (TBD, deadline will be set by parties)	7-11-20
January 1, 2016	Voters may begin applying to vote absentee for 2016 elections	7-5-330
January 6	Deadline to mail PPP absentee ballots to military and overseas citizens	7-15-405
January 27	Deadline to register to vote in PPPs (Tentative, deadline based on 2/27 PPP)	7-5-150
February 16 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to return absentee by mail application for Republican PPP. Warning: Absentee by mail applications should be returned as early as possible. Late application increases risk of failing to meet ballot return deadline.	7-15-330
February 19 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote absentee in person for Republican PPP	7-15-330
February 20	Republican PPP Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	7-11-20
February 23 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to return absentee by mail application for Democratic PPP (Tentative, based on 2/27 PPP). Warning: Absentee by mail applications should be returned as early as possible. Late application increases risk of failing to meet ballot return deadline.	7-15-330
February 25 before 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards of voter registration and elections (county boards) to hold provisional ballot hearing, canvass votes, and certify results for Republican PPP.	7-17-510
February 26 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote absentee in person for Democratic PPP (Tentative, deadline based on 2/27 PPP)	7-15-330
February 27 before 12:00 noon	Deadline for Board of State Canvassers to meet to canvass votes and declare results of Republican PPP	7-17-510
February 27	Democratic PPP (Tentative, party to set official date) Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	7-11-20
March 2	Date on which notice of filing must be published in newspaper of general circulation by county election commission	7-13-45
March 3 before 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county boards to hold provisional ballot hearing, canvass votes, and certify results for Democratic PPP. (Tentative, deadline based on 2/27 PPP)	7-17-510
March 4 before 12:00 noon	Deadline for Board of State Canvassers to meet to canvass votes and declare results of Democratic PPP. (Tentative, deadline based on 2/27 PPP)	7-17-510

March 16 12:00 noon	Filing opens for all candidates seeking a political party nomination for the following offices in the 2016 General Election: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - U.S. Senate - U.S. House of Representatives - State Senate - State House of Representatives - multi-county district offices - Solicitor (Circuits 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16) - countywide and less than countywide offices 	7-11-15 7-11-210 7-11-220
March 30 12:00 noon	Filing closes	7-11-15
March 31	Deadline for political parties to hold county conventions	7-9-70
April 5 12:00 noon	Deadline for political parties holding primaries to certify candidates to appropriate election commission	7-11-15 7-13-40
April 30	Deadline to mail Primary absentee ballots to military and overseas citizens	7-15-405
April 30	Deadline for political parties to submit list of prospective poll managers for primary to county election commission	7-13-72
May 14	Deadline to register to vote in June 14 Primaries	7-5-150
May 15	Deadline for political parties to hold state conventions	7-9-100
June 10 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to return absentee by mail application for Primary. Warning: Absentee by mail applications should be returned as early as possible. Late application increases risk of failing to meet ballot return deadline.	7-15-330
June 13 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote absentee in person for Primary	7-15-330
June 14	Primary Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	7-13-40
June 16 before 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county board of voter registration and elections to meet to hold provisional ballot hearing, canvass votes, certify results, and order any necessary recounts and runoffs	7-17-510
June 18 12:00 noon	Deadline for State Board of Canvassers to meet to certify results of Primaries and call for any necessary recounts and runoffs	7-17-510
June 20 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protest of primary with appropriate county or state party executive committee	7-17-520 7-17-560
June 23	Protest hearings held by appropriate party executive committee	7-17-530 7-17-570
June 24 3:00 p.m.	Deadline for notice of appeal of county party executive committee's decision to the state party executive committee	7-17-540
June 25 12:00 noon	Deadline for state party executive committee to hear appeals	7-17-550
June 24 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to return absentee by mail application for Primary Runoff. Warning: Absentee by mail applications should be returned as early as possible. Late application increases risk of failing to meet ballot return deadline.	7-15-330
June 27 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote absentee in person for Primary Runoff	7-15-330
June 28	Primary Runoff Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. NOTE: Certification and protest procedures for runoffs follow same time frame as for Primary.	7-13-40
July 15 12:00 noon	Deadline for candidates to submit petition to appropriate election official for name to be placed on General Election ballot	7-13-351

August 15 12:00 noon	a) Deadline to check petitions and certify petition candidates b) Deadline to certify referendum questions to the county election commission to be placed on General Election ballot c) Deadline for political parties to certify candidates to appropriate election commission d) Deadline for nonpartisan candidates to file and be certified for General Election ballot (actual filing deadlines for some non-partisan offices could differ according to local legislation)	7-13-350 7-13-351 7-13-352 7-13-355
September 6 12:00 noon	Deadline for political parties to certify candidates for President and Vice President	7-13-350(B)
September 24	Deadline to mail General Election absentee ballots to military and overseas citizens	7-15-406
October 8	Deadline to register to vote in General Election	7-5-150
November 4 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to return absentee by mail application for General Election. Warning: Absentee by mail applications should be returned as early as possible. Late application increases risk of failing to meet ballot return deadline.	7-15-330
November 7 5:00 p.m.	Deadline to vote absentee in person for General Election	7-15-330
November 8	General Election Polls open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	7-13-10
November 11 1:00 p.m.	Deadline for county board of voter registration and elections to meet to hold provisional ballot hearing, canvass votes, certify results, and order any necessary recounts	7-17-10 7-17-20
November 16 12:00 noon	Deadline for filing protests of county-level offices with county election commissions	7-17-30
November 18	Deadline for State Board of Canvassers to meet to certify General Election results	7-17-220
November 21	Protest hearings held by county boards of voter registration and elections for countywide or less than countywide elections	7-17-50
November 23 12:00 noon	Latest possible date for protests of federal, state or multi-county offices to be filed with the State Board of Canvassers. Actual deadline is noon on the fifth day following State Board certification.	7-17-260
November 28 12:00 noon	Deadline to file appeal of county board decision to State Board	7-17-60
December 12 12:00 noon	Latest possible date for State Board of Canvassers to hear appeals.	7-17-70
December 18	Latest possible date for State Board to hear protests of federal, state or multi-county offices. Protests must be heard not earlier than the fifth nor later than the 25th day following filing of protest.	7-17-270