2020

NORTH DAKOTA ELECTION CALENDAR

North Dakota

Votes

2020

	SECRETARY OF STATE Alvin A Jaeger State of North Dakota 600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 108 Bismarck ND 58505-0500 ELECTIONS UNIT (701) 328-4146 soselect@nd.gov Vote.ND.Gov	

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December 2019

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Section 1 – Election Dates – 2020

Township Elections ..... Tuesday, March 17, 2020

School District Elections ..... Between April 1 and June 30, 2020
Set at the discretion of the school board

City Elections ..... Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Cities with home rule charters may have different election dates

June Election ..... Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Federal, Statewide, District, and County Office Primary

General Election ..... Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Section 2 – Township Elections

Township elections are held annually on the third Tuesday in March. The clerk must give proper notice of election at least 10 days before the March 17, 2020, election. NDCC § 58-04-01

Before the township electors proceed to elect township officers, the moderator shall proclaim the opening of the polls. A similar proclamation must be made of any adjournment and of the opening and closing of the polls until the election has ended. NDCC § 58-04-07

Offices on the Ballot

- Township Supervisor
- Township Treasurer
- Township Clerk
- Township Assessor

Section 3 – School District Elections

An individual seeking election to a school district board shall prepare and sign a document stating the individual's name and the position for which that individual is a candidate. A candidate shall also file a Statement of Interests as required by section 16.1-09-02.
NDCC § 15.1-09-08

The statement setting forth the candidate's name and the position for which the person is seeking election and the Statement of Interests must be filed with the school district business manager, or mailed to and in the possession of the business manager by 4:00 p.m. of the 64th day before the election. This also applies when the school election is held in conjunction with the county.

Offices on the Ballot

- School Board Member

Section 4 – City Elections

Cities hold elections on the second Tuesday in June in each even numbered year. Thirty days prior to the candidate filing deadline, a city must post a public notice of the approaching filing deadline. Public notice of the election is made by publication 10 days before the election in the city's official newspaper. To hold the election (unless it is a special city election), the governing body of the city must enter into an agreement with the governing board of the county or counties in which the city lies. NDCC § 40-21-02

Candidates for city offices are required to collect signatures of 10 percent of the electors who voted for that office in the last city election; however, no more than 300 signatures are required.

The Petition/Certificate of Nomination as well as the Statement of Interests form must be filed before 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the election. A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed prior to January 1, 2020. NDCC § 40-21-07

Earliest day to begin circulating petitions .....Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Earliest day to file petitions..... Thursday, January 2, 2020*

Last day to file petitions.....4:00 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2020

*The first day to file petitions falls on a state holiday making the next business day the first permissible filing day.

Offices that may be on the Ballot: (Depending on form of city governance)

Council Form

- Mayor
- Council Member at Large
- Council Member
- Municipal Judge

Commission Form

- Commission President
- City Commissioner
- Municipal Judge

Polling Hours

Polling locations cannot open earlier than 7:00 a.m. and must be open by 9:00 a.m. All polling locations must remain open until 7:00 p.m. and close no later than 9:00 p.m. NDCC § 16.1-01-03

Section 5 – Federal, State, and County Offices on Ballots in 2020

FEDERAL - CONGRESSIONAL

President of the United States (November Election Only) .....4 year term
Representative in Congress.....2 year term

STATE

Statewide Political Party Ballot

Governor and Lt. Governor .....4 year term
State Auditor.....4 year term
State Treasurer.....4 year term
Insurance Commissioner.....4 year term
Public Service Commissioner.....6 year term

State Legislative District Seats

23 seats Senate (all even numbered districts) .....4 year term
46 seats House of Representatives (all even numbered districts).....4 year term

No-Party Ballot

Superintendent of Public Instruction .....4 year term
Justice of the Supreme Court (statewide) .....10 year term
Judges of the District Court..... 6 year terms (exceptions noted below)

Judicial District	Judgeship Number(s)
East Central	1, 5, 6, 7, and 9
Northwest	2, 3, and 4
North Central	1
Northeast	2, 3, 4, and 6 (terms end 12/31/2024 for judgeships 2 and 6)
Northeast Central	3, 4, and 5 (term ends 12/31/22 for judgeship 3)
South Central	1, 6, 7, and 8
Southeast	1 (term ends on 12/31/2024)
Southwest	none

COUNTY (Depending on county structure)

County Commissioners.....4 year term

Director, Southwest Water Authority (June Election only).....4 year term
Adams, Billings, Dunn, Grant, Oliver, Slope, and Dickinson (position within the city limits), each jurisdiction elects one director.

Supervisor, Soil Conservation District (November Election only) .....6 year term

Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District .....4 year term
Barnes, Bottineau, Burleigh, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, LaMoure, McKenzie, Nelson, Ransom, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, and Williams, each elect one director

Section 6 – Political Party Presidential Caucuses 2016

An established political party can choose to hold a presidential caucus or rely on some other selection process recognized by the national party. The timeline and process is decided by the individual political party and is not covered under the North Dakota Century Code. Please contact the individual political party for more information.

North Dakota Republican Party	North Dakota Democratic-NPL Party
1029 5th St N	1902 E. Divide Ave.
Bismarck ND 58501	Bismarck ND 58501
(701) 255-0030	(701) 255-0460
info@ndgop.org	people@demnpl.com
www.ndgop.org	www.demnpl.com

Section 7 – Primary Election – 2020

Congressional, Statewide, Legislative District, Judicial District, and County Offices

A. Election Date: June 9, 2020

The primary election is held on the second Tuesday in June. NDCC § 16.1-11-01

B. Placement of Candidate's Name on Ballot

To place his or her name on the ballot, a candidate may choose one of the following two options: Certificate of Endorsement (political party nominee) or Petition. The forms are available from either the Secretary of State or the County Auditor.

B.1 Certificate of Endorsement – Political Party Nominee

Candidates for congressional, statewide, and legislative office who are nominees of a political party must file a Certificate of Endorsement with the Secretary of State. Certificates of Endorsement may not be filed with the Secretary of State prior to January 2, 2020* and must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the Primary Election. NDCC §§ 16.1-11-06 and 16.1-11-11

B.1.a Filing Dates for Certificate of Endorsement

Earliest day to file Certificate of Endorsement ..... Thursday, January 2, 2020*

Last day to file Certificate of Endorsement .....4:00 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2020

*The first day to file endorsements falls on a state holiday making the next business day the first permissible filing day

B.2 Petition

Congressional, Statewide, or Judicial Candidates: If the office sought is under a political party designation, signatures on petitions must be obtained from qualified electors equal to at least 3% of the total vote cast at the last General Election for that party's candidate for the same office. However, no more than 300 signatures are required. If the office sought did not have a candidate from that party on the ballot in the preceding General Election, or if the office sought has a no-party designation, at least 300 signatures are required on petitions. Candidates must file a petition with the Secretary of State to have their name placed on the ballot. Petitions may not be circulated or signed prior to January 1, 2020. Petitions may not be filed earlier than January 2, 2020 and must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the election. NDCC §§ 16.1-11-06 and 16.1-11-15.

Legislative Candidates: Petitions for legislative office must contain signatures of at least 1% of the total resident population of the legislative district; however, no more than 300 signatures are required. A candidate for these offices must file a petition with the Secretary of State. Petitions may not be circulated or signed prior to January 1, 2020. Petitions may not be filed earlier than January 2, 2020 and must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the election. NDCC §§ 16.1-11-06 and 16.1-11-15.

County or Multi-County Candidates: Petitions for Director, Southwest Water Authority must contain signatures equal to not less than 2% of the qualified electors of the county as determined by the number of votes cast in the county for that office at the most recent election at which the office appeared on the ballot; however, no more than 300 signatures are required. Petitions for Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy District must contain not less than 50 signatures of qualified electors of the county; however, no more than 300 signatures are required. Petitions for Soil Conservation District Supervisor must contain not less than 25 signatures of qualified electors of the district; however, no more than 300 signatures are required. Petitions for the remaining county offices must contain signatures of not less than 2% of the votes cast for the same office in the last General Election; however no more than 300 signatures are required. A candidate for these offices must file a petition with the County Auditor in their county of residence. Petitions may not be circulated prior to January 1, 2020. Petitions may not be filed earlier than January 2, 2020 and must be in the physical possession of the County Auditor no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the election. NDCC §§ 16.1-11-11, 16.1-11-15, 61-24-03, 61-24.5-06 and 4.1-20-16.

B.2.a – Circulating and Filing Dates for Petition

Earliest day to begin circulating petitions .....Wednesday, January 1, 2020

Earliest day to file petitions..... Thursday, January 2, 2020*

Last day to file petitions.....4:00 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2020

*The first day to file petitions falls on a state holiday making the next business day the first permissible filing day.

C. Notice of Election

No later than 100 days before the Primary Election, an election notice shall be published on the Secretary of State's website containing a list of all of the ballot measures and federal, state, and local offices expected to be on the ballot. NDCC § 16.1-07-30 (1)

Last day by which Secretary of State
must publish the notice of election..... Sunday, March 1, 2020

D. Certified List of Nominees

No later than 55 days before the Primary Election, the Secretary of State shall electronically transmit to the County Auditors the names of the nominees for congressional, statewide, and district office, and if applicable, the party represented by each. NDCC § 16.1-11-20

Last day by which Secretary of State
must certify list of nominees ..... Wednesday, April 15, 2020

E. Withdrawal of Candidate's Name from Ballot

Nominees wishing to withdraw their names from the Primary Election ballot must do so in writing and file the letter with the appropriate filing officer, i.e. Secretary of State or County Auditor. The letter must be in the physical possession of the applicable filing officer no later than 48 hours after the filing deadline. NDCC § 16.1-11-12(3).

Last day a candidate may withdraw.....4:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2020

F. Certificate of Write-In Candidacy

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for a congressional, statewide, or judicial district office at the Primary Election must file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the Primary Election. A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for legislative office at the Primary Election shall file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 4th day before the Primary Election. The sworn Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the name, address, and signature of the candidate. Forms are available from the Secretary of State. Write-in candidates for multi-county district, county, city, or school district offices are not required to file these forms. NDCC § 16.1-12-02.2

Last day to file Congressional, Statewide, or Judicial District
Certificate of Write-In Candidacy ..... 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Last day to file Legislative
Certificate of Write-In Candidacy ..... 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 5, 2020

G. Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are made available to military voters and their families stationed away from their North Dakota residence and residents residing overseas (UOCAVA voters) on the 46th day before the Primary Election. Absentee ballots for all other North Dakota residents (domestic voters) are made available on the 40th day before the Primary Election.
NDCC §§ 16.1-07-04 and 16.1-07-23

UOCAVA voters' ballots made available ..... Friday, April 24, 2020
Domestic voters' ballots made available ..... Thursday, April 30, 2020

H. Publication of Sample Ballot

The County Auditor must publish in the official county newspaper, once each week for two consecutive weeks before the Primary Election, a notice of election and a sample ballot showing the names of the nominees. NDCC § 16.1-11-21

I. Publication of Measures Analysis

The County Auditor must publish in the official county newspaper, for two consecutive weeks before the sample ballot is published, an analysis of any constitutional amendment, initiated measure, or referred measure. NDCC § 16.1-01-07

J. Polling Hours

Polling locations cannot open earlier than 7:00 a.m. and must be open by 9:00 a.m. All polling locations must remain open until 7:00 p.m. and close no later than 9:00 p.m. NDCC § 16.1-01-03

K. County Canvassing Board

Members of the County Canvassing Board are the County Auditor, County Recorder, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and at least one representative from each of the two political parties receiving the most votes in the last gubernatorial election, for a minimum of five members. In multi-legislative district counties, each political party may request additional representation on the canvassing board if there is equal representation from each political party. The appointed representatives from the political parties may not have served as election board members for that same election. The Board shall meet to canvass the results of the Primary Election six days following the election.
NDCC §§ 16.1-15-15 and 16.1-15-17

County Canvassing Board shall meet ..... Monday, June 15, 2020

L. Auditor Certifies Results to Secretary of State

The County Auditor must certify the results of the election per the reporting instructions provided by the Secretary of State before four p.m. on the eighth day after the election. NDCC § 16.1-15-22

Last day County Auditor may certify results.....Wednesday, June 17, 2020

M. State Canvassing Board

The members of the State Canvassing Board are the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and Chairman, or designated representative, of the applicable state political parties. It must meet no later than 17 days after the Primary Election. NDCC §§ 16.1-15-33 and 16.1-15-35

The State Canvassing Board must meet on or before ..... Friday, June 26, 2020

Section 8 – General Election – 2020

President, Congressional, Statewide, Legislative District, Judicial District, and County Officers

A. Election Date: November 3, 2020

The election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year. NDCC § 16.1-13-01

B. Placement of Candidate's Name on Ballot

Candidate names are placed on the General Election ballot by the following two options:

B.1 Primary Election – Congressional, Statewide, Legislative, Judicial, and County

The congressional, statewide and legislative candidates nominated by a political party who received the highest number of votes for that office in the political party's Primary Election is automatically placed on the General Election ballot. The two candidates for a no-party statewide, judicial district, or county office receiving the most votes are automatically placed on the General Election ballot. No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any Primary Election unless the person receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures that were required to petition for the office at the Primary Election.

B.2 Certificate of Independent Nomination – Congressional, Statewide and Legislative

To appear on the ballot as an independent candidate for a congressional and statewide office (excluding no-party identified offices), a candidate must file with the Secretary of State a Certificate of Independent Nomination. It must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the election and it must contain the signatures of no fewer than 1,000 qualified electors of the state. To appear on the ballot as an independent candidate for a legislative office, a candidate must file with the Secretary of State a Certificate of Independent Nomination. It must be in the physical possession of the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 64th day before the election and it must contain the signatures of a least 2% of the resident population of the legislative district, but in no case are more than 300 signatures required. A Certificate of Independent Nomination may not be circulated or signed more than 150 days before the date the petition must be filed with the applicable filing officer. Forms are available from the Secretary of State.

Earliest day to begin circulating petitions ..... Friday, April 3, 2020

Last day to circulate and file petitions ..... 4:00 p.m., Monday, August 31, 2020

Note: Independent nomination for no-party statewide, judicial, or county office is not allowed for the General Election. To appear on the General Election ballot, candidates for no-party offices must be one of two winners in the June Primary Election. NDCC §§ 16.1-12-02, 16.1-12-02.3, and 16.1-12-04

C. Notice of Officers to be Elected

No later than 100 days before the General Election, an election notice shall be published on the Secretary of State's website containing a list of all the ballot measures and federal, state, and local offices expected to be on the ballot. NDCC § 16.1-07-30 (1)

Last day by which Secretary of State
must publish the notice of election ..... Sunday, July 26, 2020

D. Certified List of Candidates

No later than 55 days before the General Election, the Secretary of State must certify to the County Auditors the names of the candidates for president, congressional, statewide, and district offices. NDCC § 16.1-12-04

Last day for Secretary of State's certification..... Wednesday, September 9, 2020

E. Withdrawal of Candidate's Name from Ballot

Nominees wishing to withdraw their names from the General Election ballot must do so in writing and file the letter with the appropriate filing officer, i.e. Secretary of State or County Auditor. The letter must be in the physical possession of the applicable filing officer no later than 48 hours after the filing deadline. NDCC § 16.1-12-07).

Last day a candidate may withdraw..... 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 2, 2020

F. Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are made available to military voters and their families stationed away from their North Dakota residence and residents residing overseas (UOCAVA voters) on the 46th day before the General Election. Absentee ballots for all other North Dakota residents (domestic voters) are made available on the 40th day before the General Election. NDCC §§ 16.1-07-04 and 16.1-07-23

UOCAVA voters' ballots made available..... Friday, September 18, 2020
Domestic voters' ballots made available..... Thursday, September 24, 2020

G. Certificate of Write-In Candidacy

A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for congressional, statewide, or judicial district office at the General Election must file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the General Election. A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for president at the General Election must file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy-President with the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 21st day before the General Election. A person who intends to be a write-in candidate for a legislative office at the General Election must file a Certificate of Write-In Candidacy with the Secretary of State no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 4th day before the General Election. The sworn Certificate of Write-In Candidacy must contain the complete post office address of the candidate. Forms are available from the Secretary of State. Write-in candidates for Soil Conservation District Supervisor, county, city, or school district offices are not required to file these forms. NDCC § 16.1-12-02.2

Last day to file President, Congressional, Statewide, or Judicial District
Certificate of Write-In Candidacy ..... 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Last day to file Legislative
Certificate of Write-In Candidacy ..... 4:00 p.m., Friday, October 30, 2020

H. Publication of Sample Ballot

The County Auditor must publish in the official county newspaper, once each week for two consecutive weeks before the General Election, a notice of the election and a sample ballot. NDCC § 16.1-13-05

I. Publication of Measures Analysis

The County Auditor must publish in the official county newspaper, for two consecutive weeks before the sample ballot is published, an analysis of any constitutional amendment, initiated measure, or referred measure. NDCC § 16.1-01-07

J. Polling Hours

Polling locations cannot open earlier than 7:00 a.m. and must be open by 9:00 a.m. All polling locations must remain open until 7:00 p.m. and close no later than 9:00 p.m. NDCC § 16.1-01-03

K. County Canvassing Board

Members of the County Canvassing Board are the County Auditor, County Recorder, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, and at least one representative from each of the two political parties receiving the most votes in the last gubernatorial election, for a minimum of five members. In multi-legislative district counties, each political party may request additional representation on the canvassing board if there is equal representation from each political party. The appointed representatives from the political parties may not have served as election board members for that same election. The Board shall meet to canvass the results of the General Election six days following the election.
NDCC §§ 16.1-15-15 and 16.1-15-17

County Canvassing Board shall meet ..... Monday, November 9, 2020

L. Auditor Certifies Results to Secretary of State

The County Auditor must certify the election results according to the reporting instructions provided by the Secretary of State within 8 days after the election. NDCC § 16.1-15-25

Last day County Auditor may certify results.....Thursday, November 12, 2020*

*The 8th day falls on Wednesday, November 11th when government offices are closed, in observance of the Veterans' Day holiday. This makes the next business day the last day the county auditor must certify the election results.

M. State Canvassing Board

The members of the State Canvassing Board are the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and Chairman, or designated representative of the applicable state political parties. It must meet no later than 17 days after the General Election.
NDCC §§ 16.1-15-33 and 16.1-15-35

The State Canvassing Board must meet on or before ..... Friday, November 20, 2020

Section 9 – Affidavit of Candidacy/Statement of Interests

Every candidate for elective office must file a Statement of Interests form with the applicable filing officer at the same time he or she files his or her Petition/Certificate of Nomination or Certificate of Endorsement.

Except for city, school board, and township candidates, all other candidates must also file an Affidavit of Candidacy.

Presidential or congressional candidates may file either a Statement of Interests form or a copy of their personal disclosure statement required by the Federal Election Commission. Any person who files a Statement of Interests or equivalent substitute in the case of Congressional candidates, for the Primary Election need not file another statement before the General Election.

The forms for this filing are available from the Secretary of State office or the County Auditor.
NDCC § 16.1-11-10 and NDCC § 16.1-09-02

Section 10 – Campaign Contribution Statements

Complete campaign finance information is found in NDCC § 16.1-08.1

A. 2020 Campaign Contribution Statement Filing Deadlines

Pre-primary statement for January 1 through April 30

Earliest day to file statement ..... Friday, May 1, 2020

Last day to file statement ..... Friday, May 8, 2020

Pre-general statement for January 1 through September 24

Earliest day to file statement ..... Friday, September 25, 2020

Last day to file statement ..... Friday, October 2, 2020

Year-end statement for January 1 through December 31

Earliest day to file statement ..... Friday, January 1, 2021

Last day to file statement ..... Sunday, January 31, 2021

A.1 48-Hour Statements

Special Filing Deadline for Contributions Received Within 39 Days Prior to Election

If any candidate, political party, or political committee receives contributions in excess of $500 in the aggregate in the 39 days before any election from any individual contributor, that candidate, political party, political committee, or person shall file a supplemental statement stating the name and street address of the contributor and the aggregated amount of the contribution and file the statement in the appropriate office within 48 hours of the receipt of the contribution. NDCC §§ 16.1-08.1-02.3 (2) and 16.1-08.1-02.4 (2)

A.2 Late Filing Fees

All campaign finance statements must be filed in a timely manner according to the applicable due date. If the statement is not timely filed, the filing officer is authorized to charge and collect a late fee as follows. NDCC § 16.1-08.1-06.1

1. If filed within 6 days after the due date, the late fee is $25.
2. If filed within 11 days after the due date, the late fee is $50.
3. If filed 12 or more days after the due date, the late fee is $100.

A.3 Amendments to Filed Statements

A filing officer may require an amendment to be filed for any statement, registration, or report that is incorrect or incomplete. The amendment must be filed with the filing officer within 10 business days after the amendment has been requested in writing. If an amendment is not filed within the prescribed time, the filing officer is authorized to charge and collect a late fee as follows. NDCC § 16.1-08.1-06.1

1. If filed within 6 days after the amendment was due, the late fee is $50.
2. If filed within 11 days after the amendment was due, the late fee is $100.
3. If filed 12 or more days after the amendment was due, the late fee is $200.

Section 11 – Additional Election Information

For more information about elections:

Elections Unit
North Dakota Secretary of State
600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 108, 1st Floor
Bismarck ND 58505-0500

(701) 328-4146
Toll Free – (800) 352-0867, ext. 8-4146

Fax - (701) 328-3413

Email - soselect@nd.gov
Website – Vote.ND.Gov

The North Dakota Secretary of State's website contains election publications, connections to other helpful election websites, and state election forms, which can be completed online before printing and signing.