



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
DEKALB COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Tasha Sims, DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder

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Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – Primary Election Important Dates

Candidate Filing Dates & Deadlines

Tuesday, August 5: First day to circulate petitions for established political party candidates.

Monday, October 27 – Monday, November 3: Petition filing period for established political party candidates.

Monday, November 10: Last day for filing objections to nomination papers of candidates who filed during the October 27 – November 3 filing period.

Wednesday, November 12: Last day to conduct lottery for ballot placement.

Thursday, January 8: Last day to file withdrawal papers with the State Board of Elections.

Wednesday, January 14: Last day to file withdrawal papers with the County Clerk.

Thursday, January 15: Last day to file a notarized declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate.

Referenda Question Deadlines

Monday, December 15: Last day for filing petitions for referenda for the submission of questions of public policy with the local election authority.

Monday, December 29: Last day for local governing boards to adopt a resolution or ordinance to allow a binding or advisory public question to appear on the ballot.

Thursday, January 8: Last day for the circuit court clerk and the local election official to certify any question of public policy to the election authority.

Voter Registration, Early Voting & Mail Voting Dates

Wednesday, December 17: First day for to apply for a ballot by mail.

Thursday, February 5: First day of Early Voting at the office of the election authority & first day for the election authority to mail an official ballot to a voter who has applied for a ballot by mail.

Tuesday, February 17: Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials.

Wednesday, February 18 – Tuesday, March 17: Grace period registration & voting.

Sunday, March 1: Online voter registration closes.

Monday, March 2 – Friday, March 13: Early Voting period at additional satellite locations.

Thursday, March 12: Last day to apply for a ballot by mail.

Ballot Counting & Canvassing Results Deadlines

Tuesday, March 24: Deadline for validating and counting provisional ballots and mail ballots.

Tuesday, April 7: Last day for County Clerk to canvass election results and proclaim results.

Disclaimer: This is not legal advice. The DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder's Office is providing this for general information purposes only. All Candidates should consult with legal counsel regarding election matters. The DeKalb County Clerk & Recorder's Office cannot recommend an attorney or give legal advice on these matters.

For the complete Election Calendar and Candidates Guide please visit the Illinois State Board of Elections Website:

www.elections.il.gov