

2026 Annual School Board Election Timeline

February

February 24

Publication of Notice of Mail-In Ballot Availability for April Annual School Elections by Municipal and/or County Clerks

(prior to the 55th day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-6

March

March 1 – March 30

Publication of Notice of April Annual School Elections by County Boards of Election

(once during the 30 days next preceding the voter registration deadline)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

March 2 by 4 p.m.

Nomination Petition Filing Deadline for April Annual School Elections

(before 4:00 p.m. of the 50th day preceding the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7

March 6

Deadline for Filing in Superior Court to Protect School Board Candidate's Rights

(before the 46th day prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7

March 6 by 4 p.m.

Filing Deadline for Objections to Nominating Petitions for April Annual School Election Candidates

(4:00 p.m. on the fourth day after the last day for filing of petitions)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-10

March 7

Deadline for Withdrawal of School Board Candidates

(before 44th day preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7

March 9

Deadline for Determination of Petition Challenges By School Boards of Education

(44th day preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7, N.J.S.A. 19:11-1

March 9

Deadline for Amendments to Defective Petitions for School Board Candidates

(44th day preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-7, N.J.S.A. 19:11-1

March 11

Drawing of Ballot Positions for School Board Candidates by School Board Secretary

(7 working days following the last day for filing petitions for election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-8

2026 Annual School Board Election Timeline

March 13

Deadline for Certification of Ballot Draw to the County Clerk by School Board Secretary

(within 2 days following the drawing of ballot position)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-8

March 31

Voter Registration Deadline for Annual School Elections

(21 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:31-6

March 31

Deadline for Filing of Challenger Appointments for Annual School Board Elections

(Third Tuesday preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:7-3

April

April 3 by 10 a.m.

Deadline to Submit Public Question Statements for Annual School Board Elections to the County Clerk by the School Board Secretary

(18th day preceding election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-4

April 4

Deadline to Submit Official School Ballot to Printer by the County Clerk

(17th day preceding the annual school election)

N.J.S.A. 19:60-9

April 12 - April 18

Publication of Notice of Annual School Elections by County Boards of Election

(once during the calendar week prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

April 14

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for Annual School Board Elections by County Boards of Election

(7 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

April 14

Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for Annual School Board Elections

(not less than 7 days prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-3

April 15

Mailing of Sample Ballots for Annual School Board Elections

(on or before 12 noon on Wednesday preceding election)

(Consistent with requirements prior to the implementation of early voting which does not apply to school elections)

N.J.S.A. 19:14-25

2025 Annual School Board Election Timeline

April 16

Last Day for Testing of Electronic Scanning Equipment for Tabulation of Paper Ballots for Annual School Board Elections

*(A county board of elections may begin opening the inner envelopes for each mail-in ballot and canvassing each mail-in ballot from the inner envelope no earlier than five days prior to the day of the election-April 21)
(notice to be given 48 hours prior to the start of testing)*

N.J.S.A. 19:53A-8; 19:63-22 (b)

April 17

Deadline for Application to Receive Annual School Board Election Mail-In Ballots by Electronic Means for Qualified Overseas Civilian and Military Voters

(4th day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:59-4

April 20

Publication of Challenge and Complaint Procedures for Annual School Board Elections by County Boards of Election

(1 day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

April 20 by 3:00 p.m.

Deadline for In-Person Mail-In Ballot Applications for Annual School Board Elections

(up to 3:00 p.m. on the day before election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-3

April 21

Annual School Board Elections

N.J.S.A. 19:60-1

(3rd Tuesday in April)

April 21

Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the Annual School Board Election

April 21

Deadline for in Person Submission of Annual School Board Election Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election or to Authorized Ballot Drop Boxes

(by 8:00 p.m. on the day of election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-16; NJSA 19:63-16.1e

April 23

Deadline for Receipt by County Boards of Elections of Mail-In Ballots by delivery of the United States Postal Service that DO NOT Bear a Postmark of Delivery

(no later than 48 hours (2 days) after the time of the closing of the polls for the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-22

April 27

Deadline for Receipt of Timely Mailed Postmarked Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election

(no later than 144 hours (6 days) after the time of the closing of the polls for the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-22

2025 Annual School Board Election Timeline

May

May 4

Deadline for Receipt of Cure Form to County Boards of Election

(no later than 48 hours (2 days) prior to the final certification of the results of the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-17

May 6 at 12 p.m.

Meeting of County Board of Canvassers for Annual School Board Elections

(15 days after the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:19-1, N.J.S.A. 19:19-4, N.J.S.A. 19:19-6

May 9

Deadline for Preparation of Emergency and Provisional Ballot Reports by Each County Board of Election for the Annual School Board Election

(3 days after the certification of the results of the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:53B-21; N.J.S.A. 19:53C-21

May 9

Deadline for Recount Applications for Annual School Board Elections

(within 3 days after the certification of the results of the election)

N.J.S.A. 19:28-1

May 23

Deadline for Filing of Election Contest Petitions for Annual School Elections

(not later than 32 days after election)

N.J.S.A. 19:29-3