

2026 February Fire District Election Timeline

December 2025

December 27

Publication of Notice of Mail-in Ballot Availability for Annual Fire District Election by Fire District Commissioners

(prior to the 55th day before election)

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

January 2026

January 10

Publication of Notice of Fire Election by Fire District Commissioners

(at least 6 weeks prior to election)

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-72

January 23

Nomination Petition Filing Deadline for Fire District Elections

(29 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-71

January 31

Voter Registration Deadline for Fire District Elections

(21 days before election)

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-74

February

February 14

Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot by Mail for Fire District Elections

(not less than 7 days prior to election)

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

February 16

Last Day for Testing of Electronic Scanning Equipment for Tabulation of Paper Ballots for February Fire District Election

(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-February 21)

(notice to be given 48 hours prior to the start of testing)

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

February 17

Deadline for Applications to Receive Mail-In Ballot for Fire District Elections by Electronic Means for Qualified Overseas Civilian and Military Voters

(4th day before election)

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

2026 February Fire District Election Timeline

February 20 – by 3:00 p.m.

Deadline to apply for a Mail-In Ballot in person for Fire District Elections

(up to 3:00 pm on the day before election)

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

February 21

Fire District Elections

(3rd Saturday in February)

N.J.S.A. 40A:14-72

February 21

Deadline for Post Office Receipt of Mail-In Ballots from the Fire District Elections

February 21

Deadline for In-Person Submission of Fire District Election Mail-In Ballots to County Boards of Election

(by 9:00 p.m. on the day of election)

N.J.S.A. 19:63-16; 40A:14-76

February 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

February 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

February 28

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

March

March 2

Fire District Certification of Election Results

(to comply with N.J.S.A. 19:63-22)

March 5 - 8

Deadline for Preparation of Emergency and Provisional Ballot Reports by Each County Board of Elections for the Fire District Elections

(within 15 days after election or 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

March 5

Deadline for Recount Applications for Fire District Elections

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

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

2026 February Fire District Election Timeline

March 25

Deadline for Filing of Election Contest Petitions for Fire District Elections

(not later than 32 days after election)

N.J.S.A. 19:29