

2021 – 2022 REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION CALENDAR

DISCLAIMER: *This calendar is intended only to be a summary of statutory deadlines for the convenience of election officers. In all cases the relevant sections of the law should always be consulted to verify dates and for a full statement of election officers. Unless otherwise indicated, all references are to New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 compilation.*

Please be advised that this is a working document and statutory references are subject to change (based on pending legislation). For the most current version, or if you feel we have omitted pertinent information, please contact the Secretary of State's Office.

JANUARY 2021

<p>No Later Than January 30, 2021 (Saturday)</p>	<p>DEADLINE TO REQUEST EARLY VOTING LOCATION</p> <p>In a regular local election, a county clerk shall provide at least one alternate voting or mobile alternate voting location in a municipality when requested by a municipality in the county; provided that the municipality elects its municipal officers at the regular local election and submits a written request to the county clerk no later than January 30 of the year of the local election.</p>	<p>1-22-19, NMSA 1978</p>
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FEBRUARY 2021

<p>Between February 11, 2021 (Thursday) – AND – August 24, 2021 (Tuesday)</p>	<p>SPECIAL ELECTIONS</p> <p>No special election shall be held beginning the seventieth (70) day prior to any statewide election and until: (1) the one hundredth (100) day following a general or regular local election; or (2) the seventieth (70) day following a major political party primary or an election to fill a vacancy in the office of united states representative.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Date range is subject to change if an election to fill a vacancy in the office of the united states representative, occurs.</i></p>	<p>1-24-1 (C), NMSA 1978</p>
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JUNE 2021

<p>No Later Than June 30, 2021 (Wednesday)</p>	<p>DEADLINE FOR MUNICIPALITIES TO OPT-IN</p> <p>Any municipality may opt in to the election of its municipal officers in the regular local election, if the municipality passes an ordinance and files said ordinance with the secretary of state no later than June 30 of the year in which the next regular local election is scheduled.</p>	<p>1-22-3.1 (B), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>No Later Than June 30, 2021 (Wednesday)</p>	<p>DEADLINE TO NOTIFY SOS OF RUN-OFF ELECTIONS</p> <p>A municipality whose laws provide for a runoff election shall conduct the election in the manner provided by the municipality's ordinance or charter; provided that a municipality may by ordinance choose between conducting a top-two runoff election and a ranked-choice runoff election. The ordinance shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than June 30 of the year the next regular local election is scheduled.</p>	<p>1-22-16 (C), NMSA 1978</p>

JUNE/JULY 2021

<p><i>In June or July, 2021</i></p>	<p>PRECINCTS – DUTIES OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS</p>	<p>1-3-2 & 1-3-8, NMSA 1978</p>
	<p>For the conduct of any statewide election during the period beginning January 1 of the next succeeding even-numbered year until December 31 of the odd-numbered year thereafter, in June or July of each odd-numbered year, the board of county commissioners shall by resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. designate the polling place of each precinct that shall provide individuals with physical mobility limitations an unobstructed access to at least one voting machine; B. consolidate any precincts pursuant to Section 1-3-4 NMSA 1978; C. designate any mail ballot election precincts pursuant to Section 1-6-22.1 NMSA 1978; and D. create additional polling places in existing precincts pursuant to Section 1-3-7.1 NMSA 1978." <p>Upon the adoption of any resolution, or upon the final action of any district court upon a petition creating, abolishing, dividing or consolidating any precinct, or changing any precinct boundary or changing any designated polling place, the board of county commissioners shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. send a certified copy of the resolution or court order to the secretary of state and to the county chairman of each of the major political parties; and B. publish once the resolution in a newspaper as provided in the Election Code [Chapter 1 NMSA 1978]. 	
<p><i>Beginning June 5, 2021 (Saturday)</i> <i>– AND –</i> <i>No Later Than July 5, 2021 (Monday)</i></p>	<p>NOTIFICATION TO COUNTY CLERK: ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS TO BE FILLED AT NEXT REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION</p>	<p>1-22-4 (A), NMSA 1978</p>
	<p>Between one hundred twenty (120) and one hundred fifty (150) days before the next regular local election, each local government shall notify the county clerk of the county in which the primary administrative office of the local government is situate of all local government positions that are to be filled at the next regular local election. Each county clerk shall inform the secretary of state of all positions to be filled no later than one hundred twelve days before the regular location election.</p>	
<h2 style="margin: 0;">JULY 2021</h2>		
<p><i>No Later Than July 13, 2021 (Tuesday)</i></p>	<p>COUNTY CLERKS TO NOTIFY SOS OF ALL POSITION TO BE FILLED AT THE REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION</p>	<p>1-22-4 (A), NMSA 1978</p>
	<p>Each county clerk shall inform the secretary of state of all positions to be filled no later than one hundred twelve days (112) before the regular local election.</p>	

AUGUST 2021

<p>August 4, 2021 (Wednesday)</p>	<p>SOS ISSUES PROCLAMATION FOR LOCAL ELECTION</p> <p>The secretary of state shall by resolution issue a public proclamation in Spanish and English calling a regular local election. The proclamation shall be issued and filed by the secretary of state in the office of the secretary of state ninety (90) days preceding the date of the regular local election, and upon filing the proclamation, the secretary of state shall post the proclamation and certify it to each county clerk.</p>	<p>1-22-4 (B), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>No Later Than August 4, 2021 (Wednesday)</p>	<p>EARLY VOTING AND ALTERNATIVE VOTING LOCATIONS</p> <p>Not later than ninety (90) days before each statewide election, the county clerk shall post the location and hours of operation for early voting locations in the county, which shall open no earlier than 7:00 a.m. and shall close no later than 9:00 p.m. Within ninety (90) days of a statewide election, a county clerk may not modify the location or hours of operation of early voting locations except with the written approval of the secretary of state and upon posting the approved changes. Early voting locations shall be open each day of early voting for at least eight consecutive hours. Alternate voting locations may be closed Sundays and Mondays during the early voting period.</p>	<p>1-6-5.7 (B)(2), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>No Later Than August 19, 2021 (Thursday)</p>	<p>COUNTY CLERKS POST ELECTION PROCLAMATION ON THE CLERK'S WEBSITE AND PUBLISH RELEVANT SECTIONS IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER</p> <p>After receipt of the proclamation from the secretary of state, the county clerk shall post the entire proclamation on the county clerk's website and, not less than seventy-five (75) days before the date of the election, shall publish portions of the proclamation relevant to the county at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.</p> <p><i>Reminder: Proclamation should be posted/published in English and Spanish.</i></p>	<p>1-22-4 (D), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>August 24, 2021 (Tuesday)</p>	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT MUST ADOPT ANY ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS TO ESTABLISH BALLOT QUESTIONS</p> <p>Whenever a local government ballot question is to be submitted to the voters of a local government on a general election or regular local election ballot, not less than seventy (70) days before the election at which the ballot question is proposed to be submitted to the voters, the local government shall file a resolution proposing the ballot question with the county clerk of each county containing any precinct in which votes may be cast for or against the local government ballot question.</p>	<p>1-16-3 (B), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>August 24, 2021 (Tuesday)</p>	<p>CANDIDATE FILING DAY FOR LOCAL ELECTION WITH COUNTY CLERKS</p> <p>A candidate for a position that will be filled at a regular local election shall file a declaration of candidacy with the proper filing officer-between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the seventieth (70)</p>	<p>1-22-7 (A)(B)(C)(D), NMSA 1978</p>

	day before the date of the regular local election. A candidate shall file for only one position in the same local government but may file for a position in more than one local government on the same filing day. A declaration of candidacy shall not be amended after it has been filed with the proper filing officer. Each declaration of candidacy shall be delivered for filing in person by the eligible candidate or by a person acting by virtue of written authorization. The proper filing officer shall not accept for filing from any one individual more than one declaration of candidacy.	
<i>August 27, 2021</i> <i>(Friday)</i>	BALLOT QUESTION; CERTIFICATION Not less than sixty-seven (67) days before the election, each county clerk shall certify the local government ballot question to the secretary of state.	1-16-3 (B), NMSA 1978
<i>August 31, 2021</i> <i>(Tuesday)</i>	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE FILING DAY The declaration shall be filed between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the sixty-third (63) day preceding the date of the election.	1-22-8.1 (C), NMSA 1978
<i>August 31, 2021</i> <i>(Tuesday)</i>	LAST DAY FOR CANDIDATES TO WITHDRAW A candidate's name shall not be printed on the ballot if at least sixty-three (63) days before a regular local election, the candidate files with the proper filing officer a signed and notarized statement of withdrawal as a candidate in that election.	1-10-6 (C), NMSA 1978
SEPTEMBER 2021		
<i>September 3, 2021</i> <i>(Friday)</i>	NOTIFY CANDIDATES OF QUALIFICATION FOR APPEARANCE ON THE BALLOT The proper filing officer shall determine whether a candidate filing a declaration of candidacy is registered to vote within the area to be elected to represent and, if required for the office being sought, whether the candidate's nominating petition for that office has been filed with a number of signatures that is equal to or greater than the number required for that office. If the candidate is so qualified and no withdrawal of candidacy has been filed as provided in the Local Election Act, the proper filing officer shall place the candidate's name on the ballot for the position specified in the declaration of candidacy and notify each candidate in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixtieth (60) day before the local election.	1-22-10 (A), NMSA 1978
<i>September 3, 2021</i> <i>(Friday)</i>	BALLOT CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE SENT TO THE BALLOT PRINTER In a regular local election, not less than sixty (60) days before the election, each county clerk shall certify in writing the ballot for each precinct in the county containing the name of each candidate who has been qualified by a proper filing officer, a space for any offices with a declared write-in candidate and any ballot questions to be voted on at the regular local election.	1-10-4 (C)(H), NMSA 1978

	On the date specified in this section, each ballot certified pursuant to this section shall be sent to the ballot printer or other person preparing the ballot for use by voters and sent to the secretary of state to keep on file for twelve months after which the certified ballot shall be transferred to be a permanent record at the state records center. Upon request of the county chair of political party participating in a partisan election, the county clerk shall furnish proof sheets or a copy of the proof sheets to the certified ballot as soon as they become available.	
September 18, 2021 <i>(Saturday)</i>	TRANSMISSION OF UNVOTED MILITARY-OVERSEAS BALLOT TO FEDERAL QUALIFIED ELECTORS Not later than forty-five (45) days before an election, even if the forty-fifth (45) day before an election falls on a weekend or a holiday. The appropriate clerk shall transmit a ballot and balloting materials to all federal qualified electors who by that date submit a valid military-overseas ballot application.	1-6B-7 (A), NMSA 1978
Beginning September 18, 2021 <i>(Saturday)</i> – AND – No Later Than September 23, 2021 <i>(Thursday)</i>	DEADLINE FOR COUNTY CLERKS TO HAVE PRINTED BALLOTS The county clerk shall have access to sufficient ballots to send to federal qualified electors no later than the last business day before the forty-fifth (45) day prior to an election. All other preprinted ballots shall be in the possession of the county clerk at least forty (40) days before the election. When a county is using a system that is designed to print ballots at a polling location, the system shall be programmed and capable of operation at least forty (40) days before the election.	1-10-5, NMSA 1978
September 21, 2021 <i>(Tuesday)</i>	ELECTION BOARD – APPOINTMENT The county clerk on or before forty-two (42) days next preceding a statewide election shall appoint the necessary election boards for that election, and before twenty-one days next preceding a special election the county clerk shall appoint the necessary election boards for that election. The appointment of the members of each election board shall be in writing and delivered to the person receiving the appointment.	1-2-6 (A), NMSA 1978
Ahead of Performing Any Duties	ELECTION BOARD – SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION A. The county clerk shall cause to be held a public school of instruction for all election board members and others who will be officially concerned with the conduct of an election. B. The schools of instruction provided for in this section shall be held following an election board member’s appointment and before the member performs assigned duties in an election. C. All major details of the conduct of elections shall be covered by the county clerk or the clerk’s authorized representative at such school, with special emphasis being given to recent changes in the Election Code.	1-2-17, NMSA 1978

	<p>D. The school of instruction shall be open to any interested person, and the county clerk shall post notice of the school at least four days before the school is to be held. Each member of an election board shall be notified at least seven days prior to commencement of the school.</p> <p>E. A person shall not serve as a member of an election board in any election unless that person has attended at least one such school of instruction for the election at which the person is appointed to serve and has been certified by the county clerk with respect to the person's completion of the school of instruction. This subsection shall not apply to filing of vacancies on election day as provided in Subsection B of Section 1-2-15 NMSA 1978.</p>	
<p><i>On or Before September 21, 2021 (Tuesday)</i></p>	<p>SEND MAIL BALLOT ELECTION PRECINCT NOTICE</p> <p>If a precinct is designated a mail ballot election precinct, in addition to the notice required pursuant to Section 1-3-8 NMSA 1978, the county clerk shall notify by mail with delivery confirmation all voters in that precinct at least forty-two (42) days before an election that each voter will be sent an absentee ballot twenty-eight days before the election and that there will be no polling place for the precinct on election day. The county clerk shall include in the notice a card informing the voter that if the voter does not want to receive an absentee ballot for that election, the voter should return the card before the date the county clerk is scheduled to mail out absentee ballots.</p> <p>The notice shall also inform the voter that a voting system equipped for persons with disabilities will be available at all early voting sites before election day and in the office of the county clerk on election day in case the voter prefers to vote in person and not by mail. In addition, the notice shall inform the voter if the county is consolidating precincts on election day and, if so, the ability of the voter to cast a ballot at any consolidated precinct on election day if the voter chooses not to receive an absentee ballot, or to cast a provisional ballot at any consolidated precincts if the voter does not receive an absentee ballot, which will be counted upon confirmation that the voter has not returned the absentee ballot.</p>	1-6-22.1 (B), NMSA 1978
<p><i>Beginning September 21, 2021 (Tuesday) – Through – Completion of Associated Tasks</i></p>	<p>VOTING DEVICE PREPARATION, TESTING, CERTIFICATION & SEALING</p> <p>Forty-two (42) days before the election, the county clerk may begin to prepare, inspect, certify and seal electronic voting machines that are to be used in the election, and such preparation, inspection, certification and sealing shall continue until all machines are prepared, inspected, certified and sealed.</p> <p>Beginning ten (10) days before an electronic voting machine is issued for absentee voting, the county clerk may begin to prepare, inspect and seal the voting machine in accordance with Section 1-11-6 NMSA 1978. B. At least one (1) day before an electronic voting machine is used for absentee voting, the county clerk shall certify to the secretary of state and the county</p>	1-11-5 – through – 1-11-10 & 1-6-9.2, NMSA 1978

	chair of each political party represented on the ballot the type and serial number of each voting machine to be used.	
<i>Tentatively Scheduled For Late September</i>	MOCK ELECTION: WEBINAR REVIEW	Best Practice/Election Preparedness
	SOS will conduct a Webinar for the County Clerk Staff in preparation for Mock Election. (A calendar invite will be sent to clerks once the date is set).	
<i>Will Occur Over the Course of Four Consecutive Weeks in October</i>	MOCK ELECTION: ELECTION NIGHT & POST ELECTION – DAY AFTER SIMULATION	Best Practice/Election Preparedness
	To best prepare for Election Day and Canvass, it is imperative that clerks participate in the mock election; there will be four rounds occurring in October. As soon as dates are finalized, the SOS will provide more information.	
OCTOBER 2021		
<i>October 5, 2021 (Tuesday)</i> <i>– SDR Through – October 30, 2021 (Saturday)</i>	VOTER REGISTRATION CLOSES FOR THE REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION (BY MAIL OR ONLINE)	1-4-8 (A) & 1-4-5.7, NMSA 1978
	To participate in an election, the deadline to register to vote or update an existing voter registration is twenty-eight (28) days prior to that election. This is applicable only to mail-in or online registration applications. <i>NOTE: Section D of 1-4-5.7 provides for same day registration to be extended to Election Day, upon approval of the voting system certification committee (which has yet to occur); there is also pending legislation (2021 session) that may change this provision. Refer to the “Post-Legislative Session” update to this calendar (tentatively scheduled to be released this summer).</i>	
<i>October 5, 2021 (Tuesday)</i>	ABSENTEE VOTING / EARLY VOTING BEGINS	1-6-5 (F) & 1-6-5.7 (A), NMSA 1978
	Mailed ballots shall be sent to applicants beginning twenty-eight (28) days before the election. Commencing on the twenty-eighth (28) day preceding the election during the regular hours and days of business at the county clerk's office and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election, early voting shall be conducted in each office of the county clerk.	
<i>October 16, 2021 (Saturday)</i>	EARLY VOTING BEGINS AT ALTERNATE SITES	1-6-5.7 (B)(2), NMSA 1978
	Commencing on the third Saturday prior to a statewide election and ending on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election. Early voting locations shall be open each day of early voting for at least eight consecutive hours. Alternate voting locations may be closed Sundays and Mondays during the early voting period.	

<p>No Earlier Than October 12, 2021 (Tuesday) – AND – No Later Than October 26, 2021 (Tuesday)</p>	<p>NOTICE OF ELECTION</p> <p>The notice of election shall be published at least once, not more than twenty-one (21) nor less than seven (7) days before election day.</p>	<p>1-11-3 (A), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>October 19, 2021 (Tuesday, for domestic & FQE transmission by mail) – OR – October 26, 2021 (Tuesday, for FQE electronic transmission)</p>	<p>ABSENTEE APPLICATION DEADLINES – TIMELY RECEIVED</p> <p>An application for a mailed ballot from a voter who is not a uniformed-service voter or overseas voter is timely if received by the county clerk no later than fourteen days prior to election day.</p> <p>An application from a federal qualified elector who provides information permitting secured electronic delivery of the ballot is timely if received by the county clerk no later than seven days prior to election day. An application from a federal qualified elector who does not provide information permitting secured electronic delivery of the ballot is timely if received by the county clerk no later than fourteen days prior to election day.</p>	<p>1-6-5 (A) & 1-6B-6 (D), NMSA 1978</p> <p>(Pending legislative updates in SB48, 2021 Regular Session)</p>
<p>Between October 19, 2021 (Tuesday) – AND – October 28, 2021 (Thursday)</p>	<p>ABSENTEE BOARD MAY BEGIN THEIR WORK</p> <p>For any election in which fewer than ten thousand mailed ballots were sent to the voters of a county, only between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the five days preceding the election, and beginning at 7:00 a.m. on election day, under the personal supervision of the presiding election judge shall the election judges open the official mailing envelope and the official inner envelope and insert the enclosed ballot into an electronic voting machine to be registered and retained until votes are counted and canvassed following the closing of the polls on election night.</p> <p>For any election in which ten thousand or more mailed ballots were sent to the voters of a county, only during the regular business hours of the office of the county clerk during the two weeks preceding the election, between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the four days preceding the election and beginning at 7:00 a.m. on election day, under the personal supervision of the presiding election judge, shall the election judges open the official mailing envelope and the official inner envelope and insert the enclosed ballot into an electronic voting machine to be registered and retained until votes are counted and canvassed following the closing of the polls on election night.</p>	<p>1-6-14 (F)(G), NMSA 1978</p>

<p><i>No Later Than October 26, 2021 (Tuesday)</i></p>	<p>DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATES TO SUBMIT LIST OF WATCHERS TO COUNTY CLERKS</p> <p>An election-related organization may in a statewide or special election appoint watchers in a county if the organization provides a written notice to the secretary of state at least seven (7) days prior to serving as a watcher during early voting, the election date or the ballot qualification period for mailed ballots in a statewide or a special election and specifies the names of the qualified appointees.</p>	<p>1-2-27 (A)(B), NMSA 1978</p>
<p><i>October 30, 2021 (Saturday)</i></p>	<p>EARLY VOTING ENDS</p> <p>During the regular hours and days of business at the county clerk's office and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately prior to the date of the election.</p>	<p>1-6-5.7 (A), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>NOVEMBER 2021</p>		
<p><i>November 2, 2021 (Tuesday)</i></p>	<p>LOCAL ELECTION DAY</p> <p>A regular local election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each odd numbered year. Except as otherwise provided in the Local Election Act, local elections shall be called, conducted and canvassed as provided in the Election Code.</p>	<p>1-22-3, NMSA 1978</p>
<p><i>Beginning November 8, 2021 (Monday) – And – No Later Than November 12, 2021 (Friday, Almost All Counties) – OR – November 15, 2021 (Monday, Bernalillo County)</i></p>	<p>LAST DAY FOR COUNTY CLERK TO COMPLETE CANVASS AND ISSUE CERTIFICATE OF CANVASS OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION</p> <p>The county canvassing board shall meet to approve the report of the canvass of the returns and declare the results no sooner than six (6) days and no later than ten (10) days from the date of the election. A county canvassing board in a county with more than one hundred fifty thousand voters shall meet to approve the report of the canvass of the returns and declare the results no sooner than six (6) days and no later than thirteen (13) days from the date of the election. The county canvassing board, immediately upon approval of the report of the canvass of the returns of an election, shall issue a certificate of canvass of the results of the election and send one copy of the certified results to: (1) the county clerk; (2) each local governing body with a candidate or ballot question receiving votes from any precinct in the county; (3) the secretary of state; (4) the state records center; (5) the state canvassing board, in the case of a statewide election or a special state election and the results are for candidates or ballot questions voted on by the voters of more than one county.</p>	<p>1-13-13 (A)(B), NMSA 1978</p>
<p><i>November 23, 2021 (Tuesday)</i></p>	<p>STATE CANVASS BOARD CANVASS</p> <p>The state canvassing board shall meet in the state capitol on the third Tuesday after each statewide election and proceed to approve the report of the canvass and declare the results of the election or nomination of each candidate voted upon by the entire state and by the voters of <u>more than one county</u>.</p>	<p>1-13-15 (A), NMSA 1978</p>

<p><i>November 26, 2021</i> <i>(Friday)</i></p>	<p>SOS TO ISSUE CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION TO CANDIDATES AND CERTIFY QUESTIONS</p>	<p>1-13-16 (C), NMSA 1978</p>
<p>Upon receipt of the reports of the county canvass of a local election from each county, the secretary of state shall, not sooner than the twenty-fourth (24) day after a regular local election, issue to those candidates entitled by law the appropriate certificate of election.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 2022</p>		
<p><i>January 1, 2021</i> <i>(Saturday)</i></p>	<p>DATE CANDIDATE TAKES OFFICE WHEN ELECTED IN THE REGULAR LOCAL ELECTION</p>	<p>1-22-18, NMSA 1978</p>
<p>The term of office of a candidate elected in a regular local election or ensuing top-two runoff election shall begin on January 1 following the candidate's election, and the candidate to whom a certificate of election has been issued shall take the oath of office before entering upon the duties of office.</p>		