

# 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

# 2026 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

# 2026 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