



★ VIRGINIA ★  
DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

**Official ELECT Advisory**

**DATE:** February 24, 2026

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Primary Date Shifts to August 4, 2026

**WHY THIS IS NEEDED:** House Bill 29 (HB 29) was signed into law on Friday, February 20, 2026. [Item 4-14 #1s](#) contains several provisions impacting election administration, including the shifting of the 2026 Primary Election from June 16 to August 4, 2026. This advisory will provide information about the relevant provisions of the legislation.

**NOTE:** There are some provisions in HB 29 that are contingent on voter approval of the previously-ordered April 21, 2026 referendum. The Department will provide additional information about those provisions in a future advisory.

**HOW THIS AFFECTS YOU:** The following HB 29 provisions are **NOT** contingent on the passage of the April 21 referendum nor whether the referendum is held. The following should be planned for **immediately**:

- The 2026 Primary Election date for ALL offices is shifted from June 16 to **August 4**. There is no June primary in 2026.
- Early in-person voting for the primary begins on Friday, June 19. If a local office is closed on that Friday for the holiday, then early voting shall start on June 18 in that locality.
- Candidate filing deadlines for all offices **EXCEPT U.S. House of Representatives** are unchanged:
  - The primary filing deadline for U.S. Senate and local offices remains April 2 at 5pm.
  - The non-primary and independent candidate filing deadline for U.S. Senate and local offices remains June 16 at 7pm.
- Candidate filing deadlines for **U.S. House of Representatives** are shifted:
  - The primary filing deadline for U.S. House of Representatives is now **May 25**.
  - The non-primary and independent candidate filing deadline for U.S. House of Representatives is now **August 4 at 7pm**.

- No special elections can be held from April 22 through June 10 (Further, under existing law, no special elections can be held from June 11 through August 4).
- Except as otherwise provided by law, no precincts can be changed through June 19.

The ELECT website and all relevant guidance documents and candidate bulletins have been updated to reflect these date changes.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Stay tuned for further guidance from ELECT regarding these changes.
- Review the updated [2026 Deadlines Calendar](#) and [Upcoming Elections page](#) on ELECT's website.
- Review the 2026 Bulletins and One Pagers located on [ELECT's website](#).
- Update any local materials referencing a June 16 primary date to now show August 4, 2026 (e.g. website, candidate guidance, posted materials, social media).
- Contact local party chairs to provide information about the shifted date and deadlines.

**CONTACT:** **For technical matters:** Submit a JIRA ticket to the System Support team for all VERIS-related issues

**For Election Admin:** [EA@elections.virginia.gov](mailto:EA@elections.virginia.gov)

**For all other matters:**

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ADVISORY NUMBER:

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**PUBLISH ADVISORY**