

# Calendar of Important Dates for Candidates for the 2012 Primary and General Elections

On March 1, 2012, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division ("the federal court"), issued an order in the federal redistricting case ("federal court order") changing the dates of the 2012 Primary Election (to May 29, 2012) and the Runoff Primary Election (to July 31, 2012) and reopening the candidate filing period for the Primary Election, as well as the candidate filing periods relative to Independent and Minor Party candidates. The calendar below has been modified to reflect the court-ordered Primary and Runoff Primary Election dates and the reopened filing periods. The federal court order provides that the reopened filing period applies to all races for federal, state, and county officers. All dates, deadlines or requirements not specifically adjusted by the federal court order remain as required under state or federal law. Unless stated otherwise in the federal court order, deadlines are not extended under Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 1.006.

The federal court order follows a series of orders relating to candidate filing deadlines and election dates relative to the Primary and Runoff Primary Elections. Accordingly, this calendar addresses only the current deadlines for the reopened candidate filing period and election dates and does not address, except if necessary, previous filing periods or deadlines.

## January 2012

<b>2nd</b>	Last day for party with state organization which intends to make nominations by convention to register with the Secretary of State. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 181.0041.
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## March 2012

<b>2nd</b>	Recommended deadline for county chair to post notice on bulletin board used for posting notices of the commissioners court meetings containing the dates of the reopened filing period for candidates to file an application for a place on the primary ballot. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 141.040(a). <b>(Date inferred from the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
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First day of the reopened filing period that a Republican or Democratic Party candidate may file an application for a place on the primary ballot, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.023(b). **(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)**

First day of the reopened filing period that county chairs may accept applications for a place on the primary ballot for office of county chair or precinct chair, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.023(b). **(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)**

First day of the reopened filing period to file declaration of write-in candidacy for county or precinct chair. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §146.025, 171.0231). **(Date the result of the reopening of the filing period by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)**

First day of the reopened filing period that county chairs of political parties who make their nominations by convention and do not hold a primary election may accept applications. **(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)**

First day of the reopened filing period that independent candidate may file declaration of intent to run. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 142.002(b). **(Date the result of the reopening of the filing period by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)**

	<p><b>Note:</b> Under the federal court order, the reopened filing period applies to all races for federal, state, county and local offices. Under the federal court order, all dates, deadlines or requirements not specifically adjusted by the order remain as required under state or federal law.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Under the federal court order, any applications and petitions received by county judges, county chairs, or state chairs after December 19, 2011 but before March 2, 2012 will be deemed submitted as of March 2, 2012, unless later withdrawn by the candidate.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Under the federal court order, an application for a place on the ballot for the office of precinct chair is not invalid if filed more than 90 days before the end of the filing period.</p>
<b>5th</b>	<p>Last day on which a vacancy for an unexpired term in an office of the state or county government may occur and appear on the primary ballot, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 202.004(a). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p>
<b>8th</b>	<p>Deadline for the county chair (or secretary of the county executive committee) to post a notice on the bulletin board used for posting notices of the commissioners court's meetings, containing the address at which the county chair and secretary of the county executive committee will be available to receive applications on the last day for filing an application, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.022. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> If the party secretary is accepting applications at a second location in addition to the party chair, the notice must include <u>both</u> locations.</p>
<b>9th</b>	<p>Last day of the <u>reopened filing period</u> that a Democratic or Republican Party candidate may file an application for a place on the primary ballot (6 p.m.), as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.023(a). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Last day for Democratic or Republican Party candidates to file an application for a place on the primary ballot (6 p.m.) for an office of the state or county government that <u>became vacant on or before March 5, 2012</u>. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Last day of the <u>reopened filing period</u> that county chairs may accept applications for a place on the ballot for office of <u>county chair</u> (6 p.m.), as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.023(a). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Filing <u>deadline</u> for precinct chair falls on June 1, 2012.</p> <p>Last day of the <u>reopened filing period</u> that candidates may file a declaration of <u>write-in candidacy for county chair</u> (6 p.m.), as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 171.0231(d). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Last day of the <u>reopened filing period</u> for political parties that make their nominations by convention and do not hold a primary election to accept applications (6 p.m.). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Last day to file amendments to previously filed applications with respect to office, precinct, place or any other material detail. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Candidates, and not filing authority election staff, may amend their applications by replacing the whole page of such application that requires changes. Each submitted page must contain the signature of the candidate and the date it was signed. <b>(Set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order; see the court order for further details on amending.)</b></p>

	<b>Note:</b> Applications filed with the incorrect authority are deemed to have been timely received by the correct authority if the authority who received the application was the correct authority at the time the application was originally filed. Applications filed with the incorrect authority shall be forwarded to the correct authority without delay. <b>(Set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
<b>11th</b>	Deadline (at least 24 consecutive hours in advance) for county chair to post notice of the date, hour, and place of the drawing for place on the ballot on the bulletin board used for posting notice of meetings of commissioners court, <u>if drawing is to be held on March 12.</u> Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.082(c).
<b>12th</b>	<p>If a candidate withdraws, dies or is declared ineligible by this date, the name is omitted from the primary ballot, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.028(b). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Deadline for the state chair to deliver certified list of statewide and multi-county district candidates to each county chair, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.028(b). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Deadline for county executive committee to conduct a drawing for candidate order on the ballot at the county seat (unless the committee provides by resolution that the primary committee is to conduct the drawing), as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.082(c). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Deadline for state chair to deliver the chair's list to the Secretary of State, and each county chair to deliver a copy of the chair's list to the county clerk, the state chair, and the Secretary of State, as describe in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.029(c). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p>
<b>13th</b>	Precinct conventions held to elect delegates to county or district conventions of minor parties. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 181.061(c), 182.005.
<b>17th</b>	County convention for minor parties that are nominating candidates for single county district, county, or precinct offices. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 181.061(c), 182.005.
<b>24th</b>	District convention for minor parties nominating candidates for multi-county district offices. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 181.061(b).
<b>30th</b>	<p>First day for voters to submit application for ballot by mail for <u>May 29</u> primary election or for both <u>May 29</u> primary and <u>July 31</u> runoff primary election, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 84.001(d), (e) &amp; 84.007.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Under the <b>3/1/2012 federal court order</b>, unless previously rejected as prematurely filed under earlier orders of the federal court by the early voting clerk, applications received before March 1, 2012 and denominated for the primary election or for both the primary and runoff primary elections, shall be deemed to have been received on March 30, 2012.</p>

#### April 2012

<b>14th</b>	Deadline for early voting clerk to mail primary ballots to voters subject to the MOVE Act requirements. <b>(Date the result of the 3/1/2012 federal court order setting the primary election date at May 29.)</b>
<b>25th</b>	Last day for county voter registrar to issue voter registration certificate to each voter in the county whose registration is effective as of the date issued and whose name does not appear on the suspense list, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 14.001. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
<b>30th</b>	Last day citizens may register to vote in <u>May 29</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 13.143(e).

#### May 2012

<b>14th</b>	First day of early voting by personal appearance for <u>May 29</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 85.001(a).
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<b>22nd</b>	Last day for early voting clerk to receive application for ballot by mail for <u>May 29</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 84.007(c).
<b>25th</b>	Last day of early voting by personal appearance for <u>May 29</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 85.001(a).
<b>29th</b>	<p>Primary election day. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> The primary ballot will contain all public offices that are scheduled to be on the general election ballot on November 6, 2012 (except offices for expired terms that become vacant after March 5, 2012) and all party offices, except the office of precinct chair. If the office of precinct chair is contested, it will appear on the runoff primary election ballot on July 31, 2012, in accordance with the 3/1/2012 federal court order.</p> <p>Under Texas law, precinct conventions to elect delegates to county or district conventions of parties holding primaries may be held on primary election day. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 174.022(a). (NEW LAW, HB 2817, 2011 Legislative Session, provides that precinct conventions may be held on primary election day or not later than a date determined by the county executive committee that occurs not later than the fifth day after the date of the general primary election.) However, under a <u>federal court order signed on February 28, 2012</u>, the requirement to hold precinct conventions under Tex. Elec. Code Ann. Chapter 174, <u>precinct conventions is suspended</u>. The February 28, 2012 federal court order directs the state executive committee of each political party to prescribe rules providing for the selection of participants in county and senatorial district conventions. The order also suspends Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 163.006, 191.007, and 191.008 for the purpose of modifying party rules made pursuant to the federal court order.</p>

#### June 2012

<b>1st</b>	<p>First day for voters to submit application for ballot by mail for <u>July 31</u> runoff primary election, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 84.001(d), (e) &amp; 84.007. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p>Deadline for candidates for <u>precinct chair</u> to file, amend, or withdraw their applications for a place on the runoff primary ballot (6 p.m.).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Under the <b>3/1/2012 federal court order</b>, an application for a place on the ballot for the office of precinct chair shall not be invalid if filed more than 90 days before the end of the filing period.</p> <p>Under the <b>3/1/2012 federal court order</b>, there will be no drawing to determine the order of candidates on the ballot for the office of precinct chair. Instead, the list of candidates for that office must be forwarded by the county chair in the order of filing to the authority responsible for preparing the ballot in each county no later than 6 p.m. on June 4, 2012.</p>
<b>4th</b>	Deadline for county chair to forward the list of candidates for precinct chair (if there are contested candidates) in the order of filing to the authority responsible for preparing the ballot in each county (6 p.m.). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
<b>6th</b>	<p>Deadline for local canvass of the primary election for county and precinct offices by county executive committee, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 172.116(b). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Because of the timelines relative to overseas mail ballots and provisional votes, the local canvass may not be conducted earlier than June 5 <u>after</u> the provisional votes have been decided, in accordance with Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 65.051.</p>

<b>7th</b>	Deadline for county chairs to submit canvassed returns for statewide and district offices to state party chair (noon), as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 67.007(d) & 172.119(b). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
<b>9th</b>	Deadline for state executive committees to conduct canvass of statewide and district offices with potential runoffs and certify these candidates to county chairs, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 172.120 & 172.121. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
<b>11th</b>	Deadline for runoff primary candidates to withdraw from the runoff primary ballot (9 a.m.), as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.059.
<b>12th</b>	Deadline for county executive committee to conduct ballot drawing (9 a.m.) for all candidates involved in runoff primary election, as described in Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 172.084(b), (c). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
<b>16th</b>	<p>County and senatorial district conventions are scheduled for this date under Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 174.063. However, under a <u>federal court order signed on February 28, 2012</u>, the date of the county and senatorial district conventions shall be determined by the state chair of each political party. The state executive committee of each political party shall prescribe rules providing for the selection of participants in county and senatorial district conventions.</p> <p>Deadline for early voting clerk to mail runoff primary ballots to voters subject to the MOVE Act requirements. <b>(Date the result of the 3/1/2012 federal court order setting the runoff primary election date at July 31.)</b></p>
<b>7th-9th</b>	Republican State Convention in Fort Worth. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 174.092(a) (NEW LAW, HB 2194, 2011 Legislative Session, permits state convention to be held in June or July).
<b>8th-9th</b>	Democratic State Convention in Houston. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 174.092(a) (NEW LAW, HB 2194, 2011 Legislative Session, permits state convention to be held in June or July).
<b>9th</b>	<p>State Convention for other parties nominating candidates for statewide offices. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 181.061(a).</p> <p>State Convention for Libertarian Party in Austin. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 181.061(a).</p>
<b>29th</b>	<p>Deadline for independent candidates, including candidates for the office of president, to file applications and petitions with the office of the Secretary of State (5 p.m.). Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 142.006, 192.032(c). <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Under the <b>3/1/2012 federal court order</b>, the provisions of Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 142.009 (petition signatures may be collected starting on March 1, 2012, the date the federal court order was signed) are waived to the extent incompatible with the federal court order.</p> <p>Last day minor party chairs may submit petitions and precinct convention lists to Secretary of State and to the appropriate county clerk (or other county election official) for placement on the ballot. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 181.005(a), 181.006(b)(3), 182.003, 182.004. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p>

### July 2012

<b>2nd</b>	<p>Last day to register to vote in <u>July 31 runoff</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 13.143(e).</p> <p>Deadline for county voter registrar to comply with Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 14.023 regarding issuance of a confirmation notice in accordance with Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 15.051. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b></p>
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<b>3rd</b>	Deadline for county voter registrar to enter voter's name on suspense list due to undelivered renewal certificate pursuant to Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 14.021. <b>(Date set by the 3/1/2012 federal court order.)</b>
<b>21st</b>	First day candidates may file Declaration of Write-in Candidacy for November 6 general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 146.025 (date impacted by NEW LAW, SB 100, 2011 Legislative Session).
<b>23rd</b>	First day of early voting by personal appearance for <u>July 31 runoff</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 85.001(b), (c).
<b>24th</b>	Last day for early voting clerk to receive application for ballot by mail (including FPCA) for <u>July 31 runoff</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 84.007(c).
<b>27th</b>	Last day of early voting by personal appearance for <u>July 31 runoff</u> primary election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 85.001(c).
<b>31st</b>	Runoff primary election day. <b>(Date set by the 3/ /2012 federal court order.)</b>

### August 2012

<b>20th</b>	<p>Last day to order November 6 general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 3.003, 3.005 (NEW LAW, SB 100, 2011 Legislative Session).</p> <p>Last day candidates may file Declaration of Write-in Candidacy for November 6 general election (5 p.m.). Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 146.025 (NEW LAW, SB 100, 2011 Legislative Session).</p> <p>New party officers take office. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 171.022(c).</p>
<b>24th</b>	Last day candidates may withdraw or be declared ineligible from general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 1.006, 145.032.

### September 2012

<b>7th</b>	First day to submit application for ballot by mail for November 6 general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 84.007.
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### October 2012

<b>9th</b>	Last day citizens may register to vote in November 6 general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 1.006, 13.143(e). (Deadline extended due to weekend and holiday, Columbus Day).
<b>22nd</b>	First day of early voting by personal appearance for November 6 general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. §§ 85.001(a).
<b>30th</b>	Last day for early voting clerk to receive application for ballot by mail for November 6 general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 84.007(c).

### November 2012

<b>2nd</b>	Last day of early voting by personal appearance for November 6 general election. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 85.001(a).
<b>6th</b>	General election day. Tex. Elec. Code Ann. § 41.002.