Wisconsin Elections Commission

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2027 Spring Candidate Ballot Access Timeline & Challenge Deadlines

MADISON – In preparation for the 2027 Spring Election cycle, the Wisconsin Elections Commission has prepared a timeline regarding ballot access and challenge deadlines for candidates.

Key Dates

- December 1, 2026 – First day candidates can circulate nomination papers
- January 5, 2027 – Deadline for candidates to file
- January 8, 2027 – Deadline for challenges to candidates
- January 12, 2027 – Date by which we will know 1) who is running and 2) whether a statewide primary will be needed in February

2027 Spring Election Timeline & Deadlines

- **Tuesday, December 1, 2026** – First day nonpartisan candidates may begin circulating nomination papers for the 2027 Spring Election. Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a).

- **Monday, December 28, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** – Deadline for current incumbents not seeking reelection to file a notification of noncandidacy to avoid the 72-hour filing extension for the office if the candidate also fails to file nomination papers or a declaration of candidacy by January 5, 2027. Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a). **Note**: The second Friday before the filing deadline is December 25, which is a legal holiday. Accordingly, this deadline will shift to the next business day, which is Monday, December 28. Wis. Stat. § 990.001(4)(b).

- **Tuesday, January 5, 2027, at 5:00 p.m. –** Deadline for candidates to file nomination papers with the WEC. Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a), (5).

- **Friday, January 8, 2027, at 5:00 p.m.** – Last day a challenge could be filed to candidate nomination papers. Wis. Admin. Code § EL 2.07(3)(b).

- ***Friday, January 8, 2027, at 5:00 p.m.** – [*If Necessary*]: Filing deadline for any office subject to a 72-hour filing extension pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a).

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners
Don M. Millis, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Ann S. Jacobs | Carrie Riepl | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

- ***Sunday, January 10, 2027, at 1:30 a.m.** – [*If Necessary*]: Last day a challenge could be filed to candidate nomination papers for any office subject to a 72-hour filing extension pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a). Wis. Admin. Code §§ EL 2.07(3)(j), 2.08(2)(j).[1]

- ***Monday, January 11, 2027, at 10:00 a.m.** – [*If Necessary*]: Last day a response could be filed to a challenge to candidate nomination papers for any office subject to a 72-hour filing extension pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a). Wis. Admin. Code §§ EL 2.07(3)(j), 2.08(2)(j).

- **Monday, January 11, 2027, at 5:00 p.m.** – Last day a response could be filed to a challenge. Wis. Admin. Code. § EL § 2.07(3)(f), 2.08(2)(f). This is also the deadline by which the candidate and challenger will need to indicate to the Commission if they wish to appear at the January 12 Commission meeting to address the Commission.

- **Tuesday, January 12, 2027, at 10:00 a.m. –** Deadline for challenger to submit any rebuttal to the response or to submit Points of Order to the Commission. This deadline is the same for both regular challenges as well as challenges brought against candidates for any office subject to a 72-hour filing extension pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a). Wis. Admin. Code §§ EL 2.07(3)(g) and (j), 2.08(2)(g) and (j).

- **Tuesday, January 12, 2027, at 1:00 p.m.** – Commission meeting to certify candidates for the 2027 Spring Election.

- **Tuesday, January 12, 2027** – Date by which the Commission must send the Type B notice to clerks. Wis. Stat. §§ 10.01(2)(b), 10.06(1)(c)

For additional election dates and deadlines, view the WEC's 2027-2028 Election Calendar:
https://elections.wi.gov/resources/quick-reference-topics/2027-2028-election-calendar-dates-deadlines

[1] Whenever an office is subject to a 72-hour filing extension pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a), the ballot access challenge deadlines are set by the calculations specified in Wis. Admin. Code §§ EL 2.07(3)(j), 2.08(2)(j). In 2027, the 72-hour extension filing deadline would be 5:00:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2027. There are 89 hours between then and 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2027. Dividing that amount between the challenger and candidate yields 44.5 hours each. Twelve hours taken from each side creates a 24-hour rebuttal period, meaning each party would get 32.5 hours to prepare and submit their filings.