General Election 2020
Certification Timeline

General Election / Preliminary Election Returns Due
EV and VBMs tabulated to date must be filed with the Department of State beginning within 30 minutes after polls close and precinct results within 45-minute increments thereafter until complete.

(Preliminary returns not released until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.)

7:00 p.m. Local November 3

No Later Than Noon November 7

1st Unofficials Due / Machine Recount
must occur if the 1st set of unofficial returns indicates that a candidate/issue was defeated or eliminated by ½ of 1% or less of the total votes cast.

No Later Than 3:00 p.m. November 12

2nd Unofficials Due / Manual Recount
must occur if the 2nd set of unofficial returns indicates that a candidate/issue was eliminated or defeated by ¼ of 1% or less of the total votes cast.

No Later Than Noon November 15

Official Returns due to Department of State from County Canvassing Boards.

9:00 a.m. November 17

Elections Canvassing Commission meets to certify official returns.

Midnight November 27

Secretary of State orders any recount, once triggered, for federal, state or multicounty races as determined by statutory thresholds.

Local canvassing boards order recount, if triggered, for all other contests

No Later Than Noon December 14

Public Notice must be provided as soon as possible immediately after recount ordered, if not already conditionally noticed in advance. Recounts are open to the public.

January 6, 2021

Congress Meets in joint session to count the electoral votes.

Contest of Election deadline.

Electoral College
Presidential electors (29) meet to cast votes for U.S. President and Vice President.

December 14

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