November 3, 2026 Statewide General Election

Important dates in the election cycle (as of 8/18/26)

June 2026	Suggested time for jurisdictions holding elections in November 2026 to pass a resolution that 1) orders the election; 2) requests the Santa Cruz County Elections Department to conduct the election, and 3) consolidates it with any other jurisdiction holding an election on that same day.
July 13 – Aug. 7, 2026	Candidate Declaration of Candidacy Period. If the incumbent does not file, filing is extended for 5 calendar days to August 12 for anyone other than the incumbent to file.
August 7, 2026	Last day for a jurisdiction to call an election. Last day for a candidate to file for office.
August 7, 2026	Deadline for filing tax rate statement for bond measures appearing on the November ballot.
August 13, 2026	Deadline for filing arguments for or against local ballot measures. Deadline for filing analyses of local ballot measures.
August 20, 2026	Deadline for filing rebuttals.
September 4, 2026	First day to mail ballots to military and overseas voters
September 24, 2026	First day to mail County Voter Information Guides.
October 5, 2026	First day to mail ballots to vote-by-mail voters. In-person voting open at two locations.
October 19, 2026	Last day to register to vote in November 2026 election and have ballots and voting materials mailed to you.
Oct. 20 – Nov. 3, 2026	For those who missed the deadline to register, they can still register and vote at the county elections office or designated location.
October 24, 2026	Three additional in-person voting locations open.
October 31, 2026	Thirteen additional in-person voting locations open.
November 3, 2026	Election Day – polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm
November 10, 2026	E+7 – VBM ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received by November 10 will be counted.
November 25, 2026	E+22 – last day to cure an unsigned signature on VBM envelope.
December 1, 2026	Election results are certified.