

Election Division Dispatch

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NEWS & UPDATES

New Round of 2026 Election Forms

The IED co-directors released another round of forms used in the 2026 election cycle in late July with IED Order 2025-102. Most are candidate forms, which should complete the candidate forms list for the 2026 cycle after IED Order 2025-102. A few forms still need to be updated, including the state VR forms to reflect a minor legislative change and the ABS-Mail forms to eliminate confusion with the current form used in any November special election. Absentee forms for the 2026 primary election cannot be received until December 1, 2025, so expect the revised forms to be available after the November election date. Current forms are available under the "Election Administrator's Portal" on in.gov/sos/elections and on the legacy SharePoint site available to counties until the new site is made available.

Redistricting Amnesty Reminder

Cities and towns that failed to redistrict or certify election districts following the 2020 decennial census have until October 31, 2025 to complete their work and file the ordinance and map with the county clerk. As a reminder, any redistricting authority who failed to file a redistricting ordinance by June 30, 2025 cannot receive a salary. Further, the redistricting authority must use precinct boundary lines that are already established. It may be necessary to make changes to precinct lines as a result of "split" election districts, if the County Commissioners wish to do so. But a few proposals received by counties have contained precincts that do not currently exist, which creates an administrative issue for county election boards.

Statewide VLM Project Updates

Hoosiers receiving a voter response card, the second card sent to a voter when the first card was returned to the state as undeliverable, have until August 29, 2025, for IED to receive the card for processing. Counties should expect to see a significant uptick in hopper loads on or after Labor Day for processing. Keep in mind that counties need to process out the VLM hopper as quickly as possible so that any voter response cards received after August 29, 2025, can be shared with counties for updating. More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

A reminder that if the USPS mistakenly sends any card 1s or card 2s to your office to **please mail them to the PO Box found on the postcard, NOT the IED office**. Mailing the VLM cards to the post office box will ensure the records are processed correctly. It would also help to email elections@iec.in.gov and let the office know if your county is mistakenly receiving these cards directly. We can work with our USPS contacts to make adjustments, where necessary.

CALENDAR

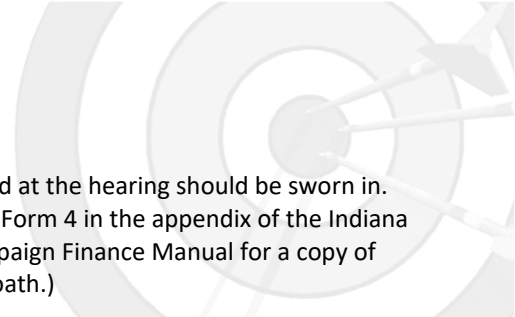
Note: This calendar includes dates to assist counties who have a special election on November 4, 2025. These dates do not apply to a county if no election is being conducted.

- August 1, 2025 (NOON):** Deadline for school corporation to certify to the CEB a school tax levy referendum for November 2025 special election (one-time opportunity under HEA 1427)
- August 22, 2025:** Suggested deadline for voter receiving card 2 to drop it in the mail
- August 27, 2025 (noon):** Deadline to submit proposed precinct changes (IEC-8 & attachments) to IED for processing
- August 29, 2025:** Deadline for IED to receive card 2 for it to be processed and include it in the first VLM hopper load
- Sept. 1, 2025:** Labor Day, IED Closed
- Sept. 20, 2025:** Deadline to send an absentee ballot to a voter with a filed and approved application
- Oct. 6, 2025:** Voter Registration Deadline (for counties with a special election only); last day for counties holding a special election to move a registration to "inactive" as "freeze" period starts the next day
- Oct. 7, 2025:** Early voting begins (for counties with a special election only) unless CEB reduces days or hours under IC 3-11-10-26.5
- Oct. 13, 2025:** Columbus Day, IED Closed
- Oct. 16, 2025:** Travel Board begins (for counties with a special election only)
- Oct. 23, 2025:** ABS-Mail, ABS-VPD deadline to request an absentee ballot for special election
- Oct. 25, 2025:** First of two early voting Saturdays, unless CEB adopts resolution under IC 3-11-10-26.5
- Nov. 1, 2025:** Second of two early voting Saturdays, unless CEB adopts resolution under IC 3-11-10-26.5
- Nov. 1, 2025:** Inspector supply pick-up weekend
- Nov. 3, 2025:** Early voting ends at noon; ABS-Traveling Board apps due by noon; deadline to receive FPCA for an email ballot for any special election
- Nov. 4, 2025:** Special Election Day
- Dec. 1, 2025:** Registration re-opens for May 2026 primary
- Dec. 1, 2025:** First day an absentee application can be received for May 2026 primary election (Note: FPCAs for 2026 cycle can be received on or after 1/1/26)
- Dec. 15-17, 2025:** IED Election Administrators' Conference

AUGUST WEB TRAINING

August 12 & 14 | GIS Geocode Placeholder
August 19 & 21 | Processing ID Updates and Corrections
TBD | August Build Placeholder

2025 Calendar is posted to the INSVRS County Portal and subject to change.



IN FOCUS: Campaign Finance Enforcement Matters

Several counties have reached out in recent weeks about how to enforce the requirement for elected officials to open and maintain a candidate’s committee (CFA-1) beginning July 1, 2025 with the recent change in state law.

Enforcement procedures for failing to timely open a committee are the same as the procedures for failing to timely file a CFA-4 or CFA-11 report. More detailed information can be found in the 2024 Campaign Finance Manual, which includes an enforcement toolkit in the appendix.

If a committee files their CFA-1 (or CFA-2 for PACs or CFA-3 for party committees) after the noon deadline, then the committee accrues a \$50 for each calendar day or part of a day fine, up to \$1000. Should a candidate (or in this case, an elected official) fail to open their committee after the “\$1000 fine clock” has run out, then the CEB is responsible for opening the committee.

Additionally, the CEB is responsible, not

later than 30-days after the deadline to file the statement of organization or campaign finance reports, to send a delinquency letter to each committee alerting them of their late filing or failure to file. See form 1 in the appendix of the 2024 Indiana Campaign Finance Manual for a sample notice.

Before determining if a CFA statement or report is delinquent and committee is subject to a civil penalty, the county election board must hold a hearing.

The committee alleged to have not have filed a timely CFA statement or report or filed it late must be sent a notice of hearing stating the time, place, and purpose of the hearing. (See Form 3 in the appendix of Indiana Campaign Finance Manual.)

The county election board will then conduct the hearing, giving representatives of the committee the opportunity to speak and request a waiver or reduction of their fine. Each person who testifies before the

board at the hearing should be sworn in. (See Form 4 in the appendix of the Indiana Campaign Finance Manual for a copy of the oath.)

Following the hearing the county election board can proceed to discuss the alleged violation, determine if a violation did occur, and issue the appropriate civil penalty under law. This can be done at the same board meeting as the hearing or at a future meeting.

The county election board, by unanimous vote of the entire board, may vote to waive or reduce the imposed civil penalty under IC 3-9-4-19.

However, if the county election board majority votes that a committee did violate state campaign finance law and did not file a timely report, the board must complete and sign a Finding or Facts and Final Order to impose the appropriate civil penalty. (See Form 5 in the appendix of the Indiana Campaign Finance Manual.)

VR CORNER

115+ Year Olds

At least once a year, counties must review a list containing registered voters that the system has calculated have a date of birth of 115-years-old or older. The SVRS reports library contains a report of those individuals, and counties should use this information to perform their own list maintenance work. This can include finding an obituary published in the newspaper or on a licensed funeral home website or a notice of estate administration or any other legally permissible information to confirm the person’s death. (The 2024 VR Handbook provides more details.) If counties identify such a valid piece of information, they may move the voter’s registration status to “cancelled.”

Complete VLM Tasks Within 48-Hours

Beginning July 1, 2025, state law now requires counties to perform voter list maintenance work not later than 48-hours after receiving information that triggers a list maintenance requirement. Additionally, the list of information that can be used to send a statewide address mailing confirmation (SAMC) notice has expanded to include the county receiving information a voter has moved to another state and when a voter’s absentee ballot is return as undeliverable due to unknown or insufficient address. (IC 3-7-38.2-2) IED’s 2025 Legislative Summary (found on in.gov/sos/elections) has more information.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. We’re having a special election in November. Are the procedures any different than a typical election?

A. For the most part, everything operates in the special election the same as any other election. The one exception is that the CEB can adopt a unanimous resolution to reduce the number of early voting days and hours (see IC 3-11-10-26.5). Otherwise, absentee ballots must be sent to those with an approved application not later than 45-days before the election (or 5-days after receiving the absentee ballots, whichever is sooner) and Election Day voting locations are open from 6AM to 6PM. The 2024 Election Administrator’s Manual remains a good resource to walk counties through the finer points—and IED is happy to help with any questions.

Q. How do we handle a death of an officeholder?

A Before a political party can fill an elected office vacancy for a local office under IC 3-13-11, the county clerk must receive information about the local elected official’s death and be “reasonably satisfied” the information is true. If so, within 72-hours of receiving the information, the clerk must notify the county party chair, in writing, about the officeholder’s death. Only then can the party begin the process to fill the elected office vacancy. More information is in the 2024 Election Administrator’s Manual and the relevant statutes can be found in IC 5-8-6, generally, including which official (governor, SOS, clerk) receives notice of an officeholder’s death.