

For more information  
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# 2026

## TOWN OF CHELMSFORD POLITICAL CALENDAR

The Town Clerk shall not furnish blank forms for nomination of candidates for town office to any person other than a candidate seeking such nomination or a person presenting the signed authorization of a candidate to secure said forms on his behalf. MGL c. 53 § 17.

Each candidate shall file with the Town Clerk, prior to obtaining blank nomination papers, a statement containing his name and address, and the office for which he intends to be a candidate. MGL c. 53 § 9A.

No candidate for town office shall receive more blank nomination papers than will contain the number of signatures required to place his name in nomination, multiplied by five. (Eight blank nomination papers for Town Wide Candidates; two blank nomination papers for Town Meeting Representative Candidates.)

Nomination papers must contain the written acceptance of the candidate. MGL c. 53 § 9.

Monday, January 5, 2026	<b>Nominations Papers available for Town-wide Offices and new Town Meeting Members:</b> Town-wide Office Candidates must obtain at least <u>50 signatures</u> from Chelmsford registered voters (MGL 53 § 6). Town Meeting Representative candidates must obtain at least 10 <u>signatures from registered voters from the Precinct they wish to represent</u> (Town Charter 2-3b.) The Clerk recommends obtaining additional signatures for both Town-Wide and Town Meeting candidates.
Monday, January 5, 2026 4:00 pm	Deadline for submission of Citizen Petition Warrant Articles for 2026 Spring Representative Town Meeting (Town By-law Ch. 154 § 2).
Monday, January 15, 2026 4:00 pm	Deadline for town meeting reps removed for failure to attend more than one half of sessions in a calendar year to submit written appeal of vacancy declaration. (Town Charter 2-5c).
Tuesday, January 20, 2026 5:00 pm	Year-end Campaign Finance Reports due for ALL elected officials. Reporting period April 22, 2025, through December 31, 2025. (MGL Ch 55 §18)
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 5:00 pm	<b>Last day and hour for Town Meeting Representatives who are candidates for re-election to submit written notice to Town Clerk</b> (MGL c. 53 §10 – twenty-one days prior to last day and hour of Board of Registrars’ filing of nomination papers with Town Clerk).
Thursday, February 12, 2026 5:00 pm	<b>Last day to obtain blank nomination papers for Annual Town Election.</b> (MGL c. 53 § 9A – forty-eight weekday hours prior to submissions to Board of Registrars).
Tuesday, February 17, 2026 5:00 pm	<b>Last day for Town-Wide and Town Meeting Representative candidates to file nomination papers with Board of Registrars</b> (MGL c. 53 § 7 and Town Charter 2-3 b - forty-nine days before election and fourteen days before filing with Town Clerk).

Wednesday, February 26, 2026 10:00 am	Drawing of names for ballot positions for <b>Annual Town Election</b> :
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 5:00 pm	Last day and hour for Board of Registrars to file nomination papers with Town Clerk (MGL c. 53 §10 – thirty-five days before election).
Tuesday, March 3, 2026 5:00 pm	Last day and hour for Select Board to submit written notice of ballot question(s) for <b>Annual Town Election</b> to Town Clerk. MGL c. 54 § 42C (at least thirty-five days prior to Election).
Thursday, March 5, 2026 5:00 pm	Last day to object or withdraw papers for <b>Annual Town Election</b> . (MGL c. 53 § 11 - thirty-three days before Election).
Friday, March 27, 2026 5:00 pm	<b>Last day and hour to register to vote in person for Annual Town Election.</b> (MGL c. 51 § 26, 28 as amended by Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 - ten days prior to election) (accepted MGL Ch. 41 § 110A; read together with MGL Ch. 4 § 9 and MGL Ch. 51 §31.)
Monday, March 30, 2026 4:00 pm	Last day and hour to submit 8-day pre-election Campaign Finance Reports for Annual Town-Wide Election Candidates. Report all activity from January 1, 2026, to March 20, 2026.
Tuesday, March 31, 2026 5:00 pm	Last day and hour to apply for a ballot by mail for the <b>Annual Town Election</b> (MGL Ch 54 § 25b(a)(2) 5th business day prior to all elections)
Monday, April 6, 2026 <b>12 NOON</b>	Last day and hour to vote absentee in person for the <b>Annual Town Election</b>
<b>Tuesday April 7, 2026, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Annual Town Election.</b> Polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm
Monday, April 27, 2026 7:30 pm	Spring Annual Representative Town Meeting begins. (Town By-law Ch. 154 § 3).
Thursday, May 7, 2026 4:00 pm	Last day and hour to submit 30-day post-election Campaign Finance Reports for Annual Town-Wide Election Candidates. Report all activity from March 21, 2026, to April 27, 2026.
Monday, August 3, 2026 4:00 pm	Deadline for submission of Citizen Petition Warrant Articles for 2026 Fall Representative Town Meeting (Town bylaw Ch. 154 § 2)
Saturday, August 22, 2026 5:00 pm	<b>Last day and hour to register to vote in person for State Primary Election</b> (MGL c. 51 §§ 26, 28 as amended by Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 - ten days prior to election)
Saturday, August 22, 2026, to Friday, August 28, 2026	<b>In person early voting for State Primary.</b> Town Offices Gymnasium Sat/Sun, 1 pm – 5 pm; Mon-Fri - regular business hours

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 5:00 pm	Last day and hour to apply for a ballot by mail for the <b>State Primary</b> (MGL Ch 54 § 25b(a)(2) 5th business day prior to all elections)
Monday, August 31, 2026 <b>12 NOON</b>	Last day and hour to vote absentee in person for the <b>State Primary</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm</b>	<b>State Primary.</b> Polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm
Monday, October 19, 2026 7:30 pm	Fall Annual Representative Town Meeting begins. (Town By-law Ch. 154 § 3).
Saturday, October 24, 2026 5:00 pm	<b>Last day and hour to register to vote in person for State Election</b> (MGL c. 51 §§ 26, 28 as amended by Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2022 - ten days prior to election) (accepted MGL Ch. 41 § 110A; read together with MGL Ch. 4 §9 and MGL Ch. 51 §31.)
Saturday, October 17, 2026, to Friday, October 30, 2026	In person early voting for <b>State Election.</b> Town Offices Gymnasium Sat/Sun, 1 pm – 5 pm; Mon-Fri - regular business hours
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 5:00 pm	Last day and hour to apply for a ballot by mail for the <b>State Election</b> (MGL Ch 54 § 25b(a)(2) 5th business day prior to all elections)
Monday, November 2, 2026 <b>12 NOON</b>	Last day and hour to vote absentee in person for the <b>State Election.</b>
<b>Tuesday November 3, 2026, 7:00 am – 8:00 pm</b>	<b>State Election.</b> Polls open at 7 am and close at 8 pm
Wednesday, January 20, 2027, 4:00 pm	Year-end Campaign Finance Reports due for ALL elected officials. Report all activity from April 28, 2026, to December 31, 2026.