



SUMMARY: STATE ELECTION CANVASSING TIMEFRAMES

November 1, 2010

The following chart provides an overview of the state canvassing timeframes in each state. State laws vary on the specific procedures for carrying out the canvass. In general, after the election, county officials (usually a county canvassing board) meet to compile and review vote totals from the different precincts within the county. For offices that are voted on entirely within the county, canvass officials will declare the winner or determine if a recount is necessary. For offices that are voted on in multiple counties (e.g. statewide and federal offices) county canvass officials certify the total number of votes received within the county. By, or on, a certain date, the Secretary of State, State Elections Board, or the State Canvassing Board (usually consisting of state officers) will meet to canvass the results from all of the counties for the state and federal offices. This usually involves compiling and reviewing the county canvass results and certifying the winner of the election, or determining if a recount is necessary.

State	Canvassing Timeframe
Alabama	Local officials canvass local election returns on Nov 4th (Friday after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State compiles local canvass returns for state and federal legislative offices and issues certificates of election for these offices within 10 days of receiving local canvass results. The Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General meet by Nov 24 th (no later than 22 days after the election) to canvass and certify results for state executive offices. (Alabama Code 17-12-15; 17; 21)
Alaska	The state ballot counting review begins by Nov 18 th (no later than 16 days after the election). The State Director of Elections certifies results for state and federal offices on November 29th (target date). (Alaska Statutes 15-15-450; 2010 Alaska Election Calendar)
Arizona	Local officials canvass local election returns by Nov. 22 nd (no later than the 20 th day after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State (in the presence of the Governor, Attorney General, and Chief Justice) canvasses and certifies results for state and federal offices on Nov 29th (fourth Monday following the election). The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (Arizona Statutes 16-642; 648; 650)
Arkansas	County officials canvass local election returns by Nov 17 th (no later than 15 days after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State (in the presence of the Governor) conducts the state canvass for state and federal offices no later than Dec 17th (30 days after county canvass deadline). The Governor certifies results for federal offices. The Arkansas General Assembly certifies results for state constitutional offices. (Arkansas Statutes 7-5-701; 703; 704; 705)

California	Local officials begin canvassing local election results by Nov 4 th (no later than Thursday after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State by Dec 3 rd (no later than 31 days after the election). The Secretary of State canvasses and certifies results for state and federal offices by December 10th (on or before the 38th day after the election) and issues certificates of election. (California Code 15301; 15374; 15500; 15503; 15504)
Colorado	County officials canvass local election returns by Nov 19 th (no later than 17 days after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State canvasses and certifies election results for state and federal offices by Nov 26th (no later than 24 days after the election) and issues certificates of election. (Colorado Statutes 1-10-102; 103; 1-11-105)
Connecticut	Municipal officials transmit local election results to the Secretary of State by Nov 3 rd (no later than the day after the election). The Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and State Comptroller canvass and declare election results for federal offices on Nov 24th (last Wednesday of month in which votes cast). The same officials canvass and declare election results for state officers by December 2nd (within 30 days of the election). Canvass results are presented to the General Assembly on the first day of session and the candidates with the highest vote totals are elected. (Connecticut Statutes 9-314; 315; 318; Connecticut Constitution Article 4, Section 4)
Delaware	Superior Courts canvass election returns on Nov 4 th (2 nd day after the election) and transmits results to the Governor. The Governor reviews and certifies election results for state and federal offices no later than Nov 7 th (3 days after Superior Court canvass). (Delaware Code 15-5709; 5710)
District of Columbia	Information on specific timeline not available.
Florida	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Department of State by Nov 14 th (by the 12 th day following the election). The Governor, and two members of the Governor's Cabinet, canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices on Nov 16th (14th day after the election). (Florida Statutes 102.111; 102.112)
Georgia	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 9 th (by the 7 th day after the election). The Secretary of State canvasses and certifies election results for state and federal offices on Nov 16th (14th day after the election). (Georgia Statutes 21-2-493; 499)
Hawaii	County officials or the Chief Election Officer canvass and certify election returns after the time expires for an election contest. (Hawaii Statutes 11-155; 11-156)
Idaho	County officials meet by Nov 12 th to canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State, State Controller, and State Treasurer meet by Nov 17th (within 15 days after the election) to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (Idaho Statutes 34-1205; 1207; 1211; 1215)

Illinois	Local official canvass local election returns by Nov 23 rd (within 21 days of the election) and transmit results to the State Elections Board. The Board meets by Dec 3rd (within 31 days after the election) to canvass and declare election results for state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Illinois Statutes 10-5-22-1; 22-7;)
Indiana	Circuit court clerks complete a statement of results for election returns and transmit results to the State Election Division by Nov 15th (no later than the second Monday following election). Upon receipt of results from the circuit court clerks the Election Division canvasses results for U.S. Congress. The Election Division canvasses results for state offices (other than Governor and Lt. Gov) by Nov 30th (no later than the last Tuesday in November). The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. The State Legislature canvasses and certifies results for Governor and Lt. Governor. (Indiana Code 3-12-4-6; 3-12-5-5; 5-6; 5-7; 5-9)
Iowa	County officials canvass local election returns on Nov 8 th or Nov 9 th (Monday or Tuesday after the election) and transmit election results to the State Commissioner by Nov 15 th (within 13 days of the election). The Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and Secretary of Agriculture meet to canvass and declare election results for state and federal offices by Nov 29th (no later than 27 days after the election). The Governor issues certificates of election. (Iowa Code 50.24; 30; 37; 38; 41)
Kansas	County officials canvass local election returns on Nov 5 th (Friday following the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices no later than December 1st. The Secretary of State issue certificates of election. (Kansas Statutes 25-3204; 25-3201; 3202; 3206; 3211)
Kentucky	County officials canvass local election returns after the polls close and transmit result to the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections meets to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices by November 22nd (no later than the 3rd Monday after the election). (Kentucky Statutes 117.275; 118.425)
Louisiana	Parish officials canvass local election returns by Nov 6 th (by the 4 th day after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of state canvasses results for state and federal offices by November 15th (on or before the 12 th day after the election - if falls on a Sunday next business day). Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (Louisiana Statutes 18-574; 513; 1277)
Maine	Local officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 5 th (within 3 days of the election). The Secretary of State canvass results for state and federal elections and presents the tabulation to the Governor by Nov 22nd (within 20 days after the election). The Governor issues certificates of election. (Maine Statutes 21-A-711; 722; 724)
Maryland	Local officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the State Board of Elections by Nov 12 th (the 2 nd Friday after the election, or within 48 hours of completing the canvass). The Secretary of State, the Comptroller, the State Treasurer, the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, and the Attorney General meet by December 7th (within 35 days of the election) to canvass and certify results for state and federal offices. (Maryland Code 11-401; 502; 503)

Massachusetts	Municipal clerks transmit election results to the Secretary of State by November 17th (within 15 days of the election). The Secretary of State presents election results to the Governor. The Governor and 5 members of the Governor's Executive Council canvass the results. The Governor issues certificates of election, but may not do so prior to November 17th (15 days after the election). (Massachusetts Statutes 54-112; 115; 116)
Michigan	County officials meet on Nov 3 rd (the day after the election) to canvass local elections and must finish by Nov 16 th (within 14 days of the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Governor appoints four bi-partisan individuals to the Board of State Canvassers. The Board meets by November 22nd (on or before 20th day after the election) to canvass state and federal election results and must conclude by December 12 (no later than the 40 th day after the election). (Michigan Statutes 168.22(a); 821; 822; 828; 841; 842; 845)
Minnesota	County officials meet between Nov 5 th and Nov 10 th (between the 3 rd and 10 th day following the election) to canvass local election returns. County officials transmit county canvass results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State, two State Supreme Court Judges, and two District Court Judges meet on November 23rd (3rd Tuesday following the election) to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. State canvass results are declared within 3 days of completing the canvass. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election 7 days after the Board declares the results, or upon resolution of any election contest. (Minnesota Statutes 204C.33; 204C.40)
Mississippi	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State no later than November 12th (within 12 days of the election). The Secretary of State canvasses and declares election results for state and federal offices by December 2nd (no later than 30 days after the election). (Mississippi Statues 23-15-601; 603; 605)
Missouri	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State no later than November 16th (no later than the 2nd Tuesday after the election). The Secretary of State, and two disinterested judges selected by the Secretary of State, meet by Dec 14th (no later than the 2nd Tuesday in December) to canvass and announce election results for state and federal offices. (Missouri Statutes 15-507; 15-511; Missouri Constitution Art. 4 sec. 18).
Montana	County officials meet between Nov 5 and Nov 16 th (between the 3 rd and 14 th day after the election) to canvass local election returns. County officials transmit results to the Secretary of State. The State Auditor, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction meet by Nov 29th (within 27 days of the election) to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. (Montana Statutes 13-15-401; 501; 502)
Nebraska	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 22 nd (by the 3 rd Monday after the election). The Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, and Attorney General meet on Nov 29th (4th Monday after the Election) to canvass and determine election results for state and federal offices (except state executive offices). The State Legislature canvasses election results for state executive offices at the next regular session. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election no later than Dec 12 (within 40 days of the election). (Nebraska Statutes 32-1031; 1037; 1039; 1040)

Nevada	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 11 th (no later than 7 working days after the election). The Secretary of State and all, or a majority, of the State Supreme Court justices canvass election results for state and federal offices on Nov 23rd (the 4th Tuesday in November). The Governor issues certificates of election. (Nevada Statutes 293.387; 395)
New Hampshire	Local officials prepare election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 8th (no later than the Monday following the election). The Secretary of State canvasses and declares the results of state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election for federal offices, and the Secretary of state issues certificates for state offices, after the time for requesting a recount. (New Hampshire States 659.75; 659.81; 659.84)
New Jersey	County officials meet on Nov 8th to canvass local election returns. County officials transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 11th (within three days of the county canvass meeting). The Governor, and four bi-partisan members of the state legislature appointed by the Governor, meet by Nov 30th (no later than 28 days after the election) to canvass and certify state and federal election results. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (New Jersey Statutes 19:6-27; 19-1, 21-1; 22-6; 22-7)
New Mexico	County officials meet by Nov 5th (within 3 days of the election) to canvass election returns. County officials must complete the canvass by Nov 12 th (within 10 days of the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Governor, Secretary of State, and Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court meet on Nov 23rd (3rd Tuesday after the election) to canvass and declare election results for state and federal elections. The Board consists of. After the canvass is complete, but not before Dec 3 (31 days after the election) the state canvass officials issue certificates of election. (New Mexico Statutes 1-13-3; 13-13; 13-15; 13-16; New Mexico Constitution 6-33)
New York	County officials meet to canvass local election returns on Nov 3rd (the day after the election). County officials transmit results to the State Board of Elections by Nov 27th (within 25 days of the election), except for results of a Governor's race, which must be transmitted no later than Dec 10 th . The State Board of Elections meets to canvass and certify election results for state and federal elections no later than Dec 15 th . The Board must complete the canvass by Dec 20th (within 5 days). (New York Statutes 9-204; 9-214; 9-216)
North Carolina	County officials meet to canvass local election returns on Nov 12th (the 10th day after the election). County officials transmit canvass results to the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections meets to canvass election results for state and federal offices on Nov 23rd (Tuesday three weeks after the election). The Board issues certificates of election no later than 6 days after the state canvass is complete (unless there is an election protest). (North Carolina Statutes 163-182.5; 182.6; 182.15)
North Dakota	County officials meet to canvass local election returns between Nov 5th and Nov 8th (no earlier than the 3 rd day, and no later than the 6 th day, following the election). County officials transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 12th (by the 10th day following the election). The State Canvassing Board meets by Nov 19th (no later than 17 days after the election) to canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. The Board consists of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, and the Chairman of the State Committee of the two political parties which cast the highest vote for Governor at the last general. (North Dakota Statutes 16.1-15-17; 15-22; 15-33; 15-35; 15-42)

Ohio	County officials canvass local election returns by Nov 23rd (no later than the 21 st day after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State canvasses and declares results for state and federal offices (except state executive offices) by Dec 3 (no later than 10 days after receipt of county canvass results). The State General Assembly canvasses and declares results for state executive office during the first week of regular session. The Secretary of State issues certificates of election. (Ohio Code 3505-32; 34; 35; 38)
Oklahoma	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the State Elections Board by Nov 4 th (Friday following the election). The State Elections Board meets on Nov 9th (Tuesday following the election) to canvass election results for state and federal offices. (Oklahoma Statutes 26-7-136)
Oregon	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of State by Nov 22 nd (no later than the 20 th day after the election). The Secretary of state canvasses and declares election results for state and federal offices (except for Governor) by Dec 2nd (no later than 30 days after the election). The Speaker of the House canvasses and publishes the results for Governor. (Oregon Statutes 254.545; 555; Oregon Constitution Article V, Section 4)
Pennsylvania	County officials canvass local election returns and transmit results to the Secretary of the Commonwealth by Nov 9th (Tuesday following the election). Upon receipt of the county canvass results, the Secretary of the Commonwealth canvasses and certifies election results for state and federal offices. The Secretary of the Commonwealth issues certificates of election for state offices. The Governor issues certificates of election for federal offices. (Pennsylvania Statutes 3154; 3159; 3163; 3164; 3165)
Rhode Island	The State Board of Elections begins canvassing local, state, and federal election results on Election Day or within 24 hours of the election. The Board issues certificates of election upon completion of the canvass. (Rhode Island Statutes 17-19-37; 17-22-1)
South Carolina	County officials meet to canvass local election returns on Nov 5 th (Friday after the election) and transmit results to the State Election Commission by Nov 6 th (Saturday after the election). The State Election Commission canvasses election results for state and federal offices by Nov 12th (within 10 days of the election). The Commission must complete the canvass and certify results no later than Nov 27th (within 15 days). (South Carolina Statutes 7-17-10; 20; 210; 220; 230; 290).
South Dakota	County official meet to canvass local election returns by Nov 8 th (within 6 days of the election). County canvass results are sent to the Secretary of State. The Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Secretary of State meet by Nov 9th (within 7 days of the election) to canvass election results for state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election. (South Dakota Statutes 12-20-36; 37; 46; 47; 49).
Tennessee	County officials meet no later than Nov 22nd (3rd Monday after the election) to canvass local election returns. County canvass results are sent to the Secretary of State. After the Secretary of State receives the county canvass results, the Governor, Secretary of State, and the Attorney General canvass and declare election results for state and federal offices. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Tennessee Code 2-8-101; 109; 110)

Texas	Local officials canvass local election returns between Nov 10 th and Nov 13 th (no earlier than the 8 th day, and no later than the 11 th day, after the election). Upon completion of the local canvass, returns are sent to the Secretary of State. The Governor conducts the state canvass for state and federal offices (except Governor and Lt. Gov.) between Nov 17 th and Dec 2 nd (no earlier than the 15 th day, and no later than the 30 th day, after the election). The Governor issues certificates of election after completing the canvass. The State Legislature canvasses results for Governor and Lieutenant Governor during the first week of the state legislative session (Texas Code 67-001; 012; 016; Texas Constitution Article 4, Section 3)
Utah	County officials meet between Nov 9 th and Nov 16 th (no earlier than the 7 th day, and no later than the 14 th day, after the election) to canvass local election returns. County canvass results are sent to the Lieutenant Governor. The State Auditor, the State Treasurer, and the Attorney General meet on Nov 29 th (the 4 th Monday of November) to canvass and determine election results for state and federal offices. The Lieutenant Governor issues certificates of election. (Utah Code 20A-4-301; 306)
Vermont	By Nov 4 th (within 48 hours of the polls closing) local officials transmit election returns to the Secretary of State. On Nov 9 th (one week after the election), the Secretary of State, and the chair of the state committee of each major political party, canvass and certify election results for state and federal offices. (Vermont Statutes 17-51-2588; 2592).
Virginia	Local officials meet on Nov 3 rd (day after the election) to canvas local election returns. Local canvass results are sent to the State Board of Elections. The State Board of Elections meets on Nov 29 th (the 4 th Monday in November) to canvass and ascertain election results for state and federal offices. The Board issues certificates of election. (Virginia Statutes 24-2-671; 675; 679; 680)
Washington	County officials complete the canvass of local election returns on Nov 23 rd (21 days after the election) and transmit results to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State canvasses and certifies election results for state and federal offices by Dec 2 nd (no later than the 30 th day after the election). (Washington Statutes 29A-60-190; 230; 250)
West Virginia	County Commissions serve as the Boards of Canvassers and meet to canvass election results for local, state, and federal offices on Nov 8 th (5 days after the election, excluding Sunday). The Boards issue certificates of election by Dec 2 nd . (West Virginia Statutes 3-6-9; 3-6-11).
Wisconsin	County officials meet to canvass local election returns by Nov 4 th (no later than Thursday after the election). County officials transmit election results to the General Accountability Board by Nov 16 th (no later than 14 days after the election). The Chairperson of the Board begins canvassing election results for state and federal offices on Dec 1 st and finishes by Dec 11 th (no later than 10 days after the canvass begins). The Board issues certificates of election after the period for requesting a recount has passed. (Wisconsin Statutes 7-60(3); 60(5)(a); 70(3)(a); 70(5)(a))
Wyoming	County officials meet by Nov 5 th to canvass local election returns (no later than Friday after the election). County officials transmit canvass results to the Secretary of State. The Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Auditor, and the State Treasurer meet by Nov 10 th (no later than the 2 nd Wednesday after the election) to canvas and certify results. The Governor issues certificates of election. (Wyoming Statutes 22-16-103; 108; 118; 121)