



## November 3, 2026, Election: Observable Activities Calendar

This calendar is subject to change. To confirm the schedule or obtain the most up-to-date information about a specific activity, members of the public are encouraged to contact the Department of Elections (Department) at (415) 558-6100.

For activities that will be live streamed, the live stream will begin at the date and time indicated for the start of the activity.

All activities available via live stream may also be observed in person.

The Department conducts its operations in an open and transparent manner and welcomes members of the public to observe election processes and share feedback.

For additional information on how to observe election activities, including guidelines and expectations for observers, members of the public are encouraged to review the *Guide to Observing Election Processes*.

### Before Election Day

#### 1. Designation of Letters for Local Ballot Measures

The Department assigns letters to local and district ballot measures following the procedures established in the San Francisco Municipal Elections Code.

*August 10, 9:00 a.m.; City Hall, Room 48.*

#### 2. Selection of Proponent and Opponent Arguments for publishing in the Voter Information Pamphlet

When the Department receives more than one proposed proponent or opponent argument for a measure, the Department selects one official proponent argument and one official opponent argument based on established priority levels and, if necessary, by lottery.

*August 13, 2:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 48.*

#### 3. Drawing of Randomized Alphabet

The Department conducts a randomized alphabet drawing for the State Assembly District 19 contest. The Department uses the results of this drawing to determine the order in which candidate names appear on the ballot when the district includes more than one county. The Secretary of State also conducts a randomized alphabet drawing, which is used as required by state law.

*August 13, 3:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 48.*

#### 4. Logic and Accuracy Testing

During Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing, Department staff verify that voting equipment and related media devices are functioning properly and accurately tabulate test ballots before they are deployed for use in the election.

A. Testing of accessible ballot-marking devices

Staff test ballot-marking devices that allow voters to independently mark their ballots using touch-screen and assistive features.

*September 21 – September 24, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Warehouse, Pier 31*

B. Testing of high-speed ballot scanners and other media devices

Staff test scanners using pre-marked test ballots to confirm accurate ballot interpretation and tabulation.

*September 28– until complete, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 48*

C. Testing of ballot-scanning machines

Staff test ballot-scanning machines that voters use at polling places to ensure ballots are correctly read. .

*September 25 – September 30, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Warehouse, Pier 31*

## **5. Poll Worker and Field Support Personnel Training**

The Department conducts training sessions for poll workers and field support staff covering voting procedures, equipment setup and operation, and voter assistance procedures.

*October 2 - October 11, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 40*

## **6. Preparation of Polling Place Ballots and Roster of Voters**

Department staff receive polling place ballots from the printing vendor and conduct quality control checks to ensure accuracy and completeness. The ballots are then organized and packaged for distribution to polling places. Rosters of Voters are prepared and packaged along with the corresponding polling place materials.

*October 5 - October 16, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Warehouse, Pier 31*

## **7. Voting Center**

Beginning 29 days before Election Day, any voter may register and vote in person, use accessible equipment, or drop off a completed vote-by-mail ballot at the Voting Center.

*October 5 – November 2, City Hall, in front of Room 48*

- *Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., except October 12 holiday.*
- *October 24–25 and October 31– November 1 (Saturday – Sunday), 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

## **8. Vote-by-Mail Ballot Processing**

Department staff process returned vote-by-mail ballots in several stages to prepare them for tabulation.

A. Ballot envelope sorting and signature verification scanning

Staff sort returned ballot envelopes and scan voter signatures to facilitate the signature verification process.

*October 5 – until complete; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 59*

B. Signature verification

Staff compare the signatures on the return envelopes to the signatures from the voters' records.

*October 5 – until complete; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 48*

C. Ballot remake

If a ballot cannot be scanned due to damage or markings that interfere with tabulation, staff duplicate the voter's selections onto a new ballot following established procedures.

*October 5– until complete; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 48*

D. Ballot extraction and preparation

After signature verification, staff remove ballots from their envelopes while maintaining ballot secrecy.

*October 5 – until complete; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 59 hallway*

E. Ballot scanning

Staff scan ballots using high-speed central scanners to record voter selections for tabulation.

*October 6 – until complete; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 48, computer room*

F. Ballot adjudication

Staff review ballots flagged by the voting system for issues such as unclear marks and determine voter intent according to established guidelines.

*October 24 – until complete; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; City Hall, Room 48*

## On Election Day, November 3

### 1. Voting Center / Polling Places

The City Hall Voting Center and 501 polling places are open to voters who wish to register and vote in person, use accessible voting equipment, receive language or personal assistance, or return their vote-by-mail ballots. Language and accessibility assistance is available at every polling place. Electioneering and voter interference are prohibited.

*7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; to find a polling place, visit [sfelections.gov/MyVotingLocation](https://sfelections.gov/MyVotingLocation).*

### 2. Data Collection Center

Department staff receive and log memory cards containing vote data from polling place ballot-scanning equipment.

*8:00 p.m. until all polling place memory cards have been received; City Hall, McAllister Entrance Lobby*

### 3. Processing Center

Department staff receive voted ballots, rosters of voters, and other election materials transported from polling places by Deputy Sheriffs after the close of polls.

*9:00 p.m. until all polling place materials have been received; Warehouse, Pier 31.*

### 4. Election Night Results Reporting

Preliminary election results are made available to the public through multiple channels.

- Online: [sfelections.gov/results](https://sfelections.gov/results)
- In person: Department of Elections, City Hall, Room 48 and the North Light Court
- Broadcast: San Francisco Government Television (SFGTV), Channel 26

Preliminary results will be released at approximately 8:45 p.m., with updated results posted throughout Election Night and during the official canvass period. For the complete reporting schedule, visit [sfelections.gov/results](https://sfelections.gov/results).

## **After Election Day (Official Canvass Period)**

### **1. Ballot Processing and Tabulation**

Department staff continue processing and tabulating ballots after Election Day. This includes vote-by-mail ballots returned at polling places and official ballot drop boxes, ballots received by mail within seven days of Election Day, and ballots that voters timely remedied. Ballot processing follows the same phases and steps described in the “Before Election” section, item 8.

*Ballot processing typically occurs on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with hours extended as needed based on workload. Processing continues until all ballots have been counted, but no later than the December 3 certification deadline; City Hall, Room 48.*

### **2. Provisional Ballot Processing and Tabulation**

Staff verify provisional ballot envelopes cast at polling places, then extract and prepare ballots for tabulation.

*Ballot processing typically occurs on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., with hours extended as necessary depending on workload. Processing continues until all ballots have been counted, but no later than the December 3 certification deadline; City Hall, North–South Hallway (McAllister Street side) and Room 48.*

### **3. Results Reporting**

The Director of the Department of Elections conducts press briefings on any day updated election results are released.

*Daily at approximately 4:00 p.m., in front of Room 48 at City Hall and online at [sfelections.gov/results](https://sfelections.gov/results). For the complete reporting schedule, visit [sfelections.gov/results](https://sfelections.gov/results).*

### **4. Canvass**

Department staff conduct the official canvass, an internal audit process to verify the accuracy and completeness of results.

*November 4 – until complete, but no later than the December 3 certification deadline; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Warehouse, Pier 31.*

### **5. 1% Manual Tallies Random Selection**

Staff conduct public random selection of precincts and ballot batches to be included in the manual tally.

*November 17, 9:00 a.m.; City Hall, Room 48.*

### **6. 1% Manual Tallies**

Staff manually count ballots from the selected precincts and batches to verify the accuracy of voting system tabulation.

*November 18 - until complete, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Warehouse, Pier 31.*