



BALLOTPEDIA

2026

State of Election Policy Legislation
Mid-Year Report

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Executive Summary

2026 has been a year of significant activity in state election legislation across the country.

Lawmakers in 45 states have considered bills related to each of the 127 election policy areas Ballotpedia tracks. Notable topics include:

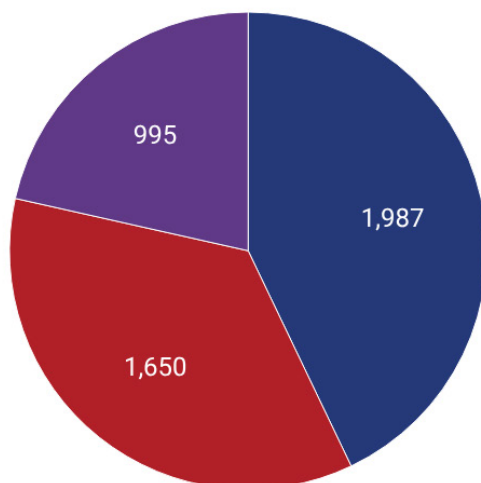
- The administration of **absentee/mail-in voting**.
- Regulations governing **law enforcement presence near polling places**.
- Changes to how **primary elections** are run.
- Policies prohibiting or authorizing the use of **ranked-choice voting**.
- Mid-decade **redistricting**, as well as changes to the criteria used in drawing maps for state or local bodies.
- State-level **voting rights acts**.
- Changes to **voter ID** requirements.
- Policies related to voter registration, including **documentary proof of citizenship** requirements, **automatic voter registration**, and **voter list maintenance**.

As of August 14, 419 bills had been enacted in 44 states. That is a 11.4% decrease from the 473 bills enacted at this point during the 2025 session. Four states – Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas – do not hold regular legislative sessions in even-numbered years.

In 2024, the last session held in an even-numbered year, states had enacted 284 election-related bills at this point. In 2022, 210 election bills had been enacted at this point.

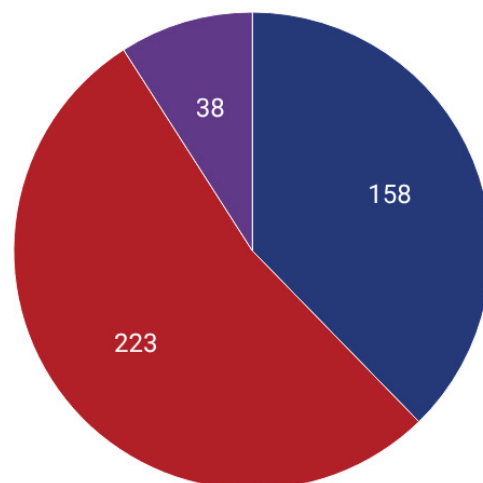
Election bills in 2026, by trifecta status

■ Democratic trifecta ■ Republican trifecta ■ Divided government



Introduced bills

Total:
4,632



Enacted bills

Total:
419

Of the bills enacted in 2026, 37.7% were enacted in states with Democratic trifectas, 53.2% were enacted in states with Republican trifectas, and 9.1% were enacted in states with divided governments.

In 2025, about half as many bills — 18.6% — were enacted in states with Democratic trifectas, while 70.2% were enacted in Republican trifectas and 11.2% were enacted in states with divided governments.

Ballotpedia had tracked 4,632 election-related bills and resolutions as of August 14 — nearly as many as were introduced in all of 2025. Of those measures, 42.9% were introduced in states with Democratic trifectas, 35.6% were introduced in states with Republican trifectas, and 21.5% were introduced in states with divided governments.

At this point in the 2024 session, states had introduced 3,635 election-related bills. In 2022, legislators had introduced 2,417 election bills at this point.

This report covers election-related legislative activity in 2026 state legislative sessions. Unless otherwise noted, all figures are as of August 14.



Introduction

What's in the report

This report contains analysis and takeaways of election-related bills in 2026 legislative sessions. It looks at eight notable topics and provides policy context and legislative updates for each topic. We selected these topics based on the attention lawmakers have given these issues in recent legislative sessions, the range of policy proposals associated with the topics, and relevant new laws or legislative activity.

The report also includes summaries from 23 states that have adjourned their regular legislative sessions since our [2026 Spring Report](#). These summaries highlight noteworthy bills that were enacted, vetoed, or considered in 2026. Two states, Delaware and New York, have adjourned their legislative session but have bills awaiting action from their respective governors and are not included in this report. Arkansas is also not included, as no election-related bills were introduced in that state in 2026.

Where we are in legislative sessions

Forty-six states are holding legislative sessions in 2026. As of Aug. 14, six state legislatures were convened in a legislative session, while 40 states had adjourned their regular legislative sessions.

Topics of note

Absentee/mail-in voting

All states have some form of [absentee/mail-in voting](#). **Connecticut** became the 29th state to allow any eligible voter to cast an absentee/mail-in ballot after Gov. [Ned Lamont](#) (D) signed [HB 5001](#) into law on May 15.

Thirteen states require voters to provide a valid excuse to vote absentee/by mail. Eight states have automatic mail-in ballot systems, also known as all-mail voting systems.

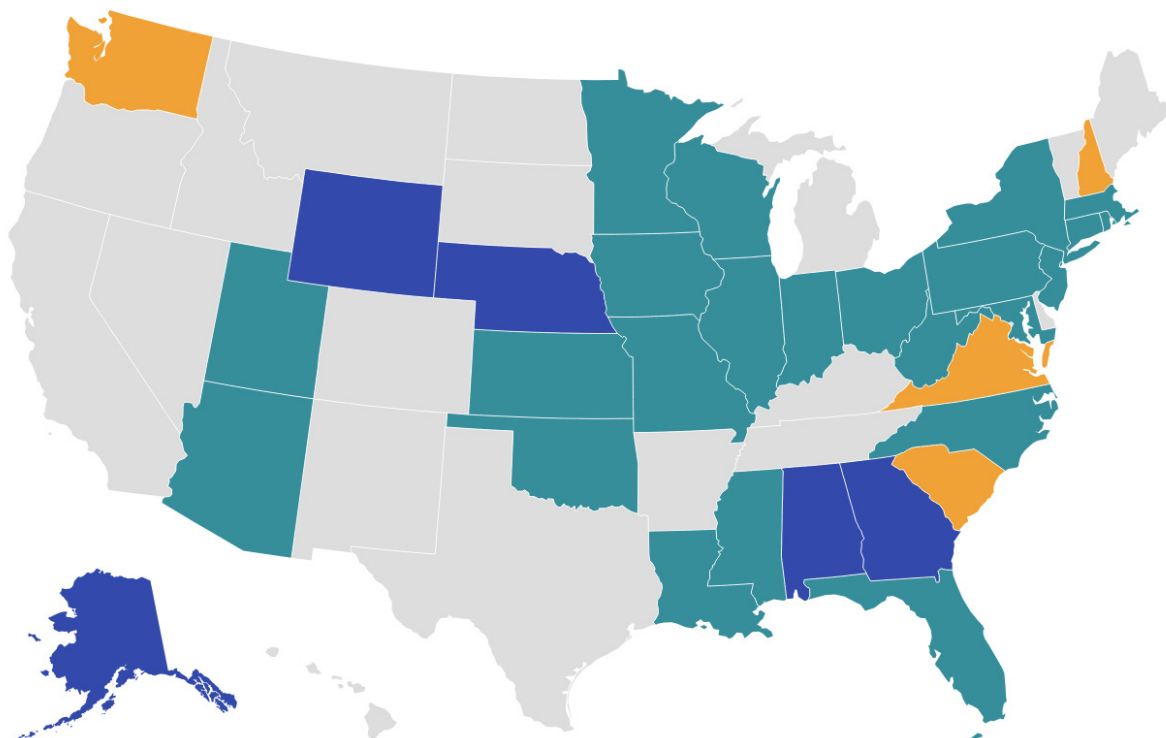
Delaware is now the only state with a Democratic trifecta that requires voters to provide an excuse to request an absentee/mail-in ballot. Legislators passed [SB 3](#), a constitutional amendment that would require no-excuse absentee voting. It passed both legislative chambers this spring but will only take effect if approved again next session. Delaware is the only state where the legislature can amend the constitution without voter approval.

Eleven of the other 12 states which require voters to provide an excuse to vote absentee/by-mail are Republican trifecta states, while one, Kentucky, has a divided government. None of those states advanced bills to allow for no-excuse absentee/mail-in voting.

Legislation related to requesting and returning an absentee/mail-in ballot

Showing states with legislation that would make changes to the process of either requesting or returning an absentee/mail-in ballot, as of August 14, 2026.

Request Request and return Return



Other notable enacted bills related to absentee/mail-in voting include:

- **Mississippi** Gov. [Tate Reeves](#) (R) signed [HB 908](#), which would have required mail-in ballots to be received the day before an election if the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the state's post-election ballot receipt deadline. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in [Watson v. Republican National Committee](#) that Mississippi's return deadline did not violate federal law.
- **North Carolina** Gov. [Josh Stein](#) (D) signed [H 834](#), which extended the cure period for mail ballots to 12 p.m. on the fifth day following an election, among other provisions.
- **Rhode Island** Gov. [Dan McKee](#) (D) signed [S 3112](#), which requires voters to provide a voter identification number when requesting a mail ballot using a state form. Previously, voters only had to provide an ID number when requesting a ballot online.
- **Virginia** Gov. [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D) signed [HB 1244](#), which expands the circumstances in which a voter may request an emergency absentee ballot. Spanberger also signed two bills — [SB 58](#) and [HB 82](#) — that extended the deadline for absentee ballot receipt, as well as for voters to cure defects with their absentee ballots, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the third day after the election.

Lawmakers in 40 states introduced 320 bills and resolutions related to absentee/mail-in voting. These bills address different elements of the absentee/mail-in voting process, including how and when voters can request and return an absentee/mail-in ballot, when election officials must mail ballots, and deadlines and procedures for curing problems with an absentee/mail-in ballot.

Governors in four states vetoed legislation related to absentee/mail-in voting administration:

- In **Alaska**, Gov. [Mike Dunleavy](#) (R) vetoed [SB 64](#), which would have established a cure period for absentee ballots. Election officials would have been required to notify voters about a defect with their absentee ballot. If the voter returned a form to election officials with an acceptable form of ID within 10 days of the election, their ballot would have been counted. Legislators failed to override Dunleavy's veto.
- **Arizona** Gov. [Katie Hobbs](#) (D) vetoed [SB 1060](#), which would have removed a provision in law permitting any U.S. citizen who has never resided in the country and whose parent is a registered voter in Arizona and a U.S. citizen to register and vote using a federal write-in early ballot. Legislators did not attempt to override the veto.
- In **Kansas**, Gov. [Laura Kelly](#) (D) vetoed [HB 2569](#), which would have changed Kansas to an excuse-required absentee voting system if a court struck down the state's signature matching requirement in a case which went to trial in July 2026. Legislators did not attempt to override Kelly's veto.
- **Ohio** Gov. [Mike DeWine](#) (R) vetoed [HB 472](#), which would have required most voters to provide photo identification when either requesting or returning an absentee ballot. Legislators have not said whether they will attempt to override DeWine's veto.

A number of states advanced, but did not enact, legislation making changes to the process of requesting absentee/mail-in ballots:

- In **West Virginia**, [HB 4600](#) would have required election officials to receive absentee ballots by 8 p.m. on the day of an election in order for them to be counted. The bill passed the House on Feb. 10 but was not considered in the Senate before legislators adjourned for the session.

- In **Arizona**, [SCR 1014](#) proposed a constitutional amendment to eliminate the option for voters to return their mail ballot to any polling place in the county by 7:00 p.m. on election day. Voters instead would be allowed to return their mail ballot by hand-delivering it to the county election office by 7:00 p.m. on election day. They also could return it to any voting location in the county before 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. The bill passed the state Senate on Feb. 23 but was not considered in the state House.
- **California** [SB 884](#) would require mail ballot dropoff locations to be open beginning at least 30 days before the election. A state Assembly committee approved an amended version of the bill on Aug. 13.
- In **Pennsylvania**, [HB 37](#) would require a county board of elections to meet no earlier than seven days before Election Day (rather than 7 a.m. on Election Day) to pre-canvass all absentee and mail-in ballots received prior to the meeting. The bill passed the state House on June 9 but has not been considered in the state Senate.

Law enforcement presence at polling places

Seven states enacted 12 bills or resolutions on the presence of law enforcement, National Guard members, or immigration authorities at or near election sites. The majority of the bills would prohibit law enforcement personnel from being within a set distance of polling places, tabulation sites, or election offices.

- **California** [SB 73](#) prohibits a peace officer from interfering with the administration of any election and election-related duties of the secretary, election officials, workers, or volunteers except for responding to urgent threats. Governor [Gavin Newsom](#) (D) signed the bill on May 27.
- **Connecticut** [HB 5001](#) prohibits law enforcement from being within 250 feet of election sites. Governor [Ned Lamont](#) (D) signed the bill on May 15.
- In **New Mexico**, Gov. [Michelle Lujan Grisham](#) (D) signed [SB 264](#) into law on March 9. It prohibits a person from bringing or ordering military troops or armed federal agents to a polling place or ballot drop box location and creates state-level penalties for those actions.
- **Oregon** Gov. [Tina Kotek](#) signed [HB 4138](#) on March 31. It prohibits a law enforcement officer from wearing a facial covering while carrying out their official duties within 250 feet of a ballot deposit site, ballot marking area, or voting booth.
- **Rhode Island** [H7434](#) prohibits U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employees, agents, or officials from entering or remaining within 200 feet of any polling place, including for both early voting and on Election Day, except for when they are present to vote. Governor [Dan McKee](#) (D) signed the bill on June 22.
- **Virginia** enacted four bills related to law enforcement presence near election sites.
 - [HB 1441/SB 783](#) prohibit ICE from conducting any immigration enforcement activity within 500 yards of a polling place during the time polls are open and ballots are counted, or within one hour of the opening or closing of the polls. Governor [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D) signed the bills on April 22.
 - Spanberger also signed [HB 286/SB 387](#), which prohibit the governor from mobilizing the National Guard for the purpose of intimidating, threatening, or coercing any person from voting.

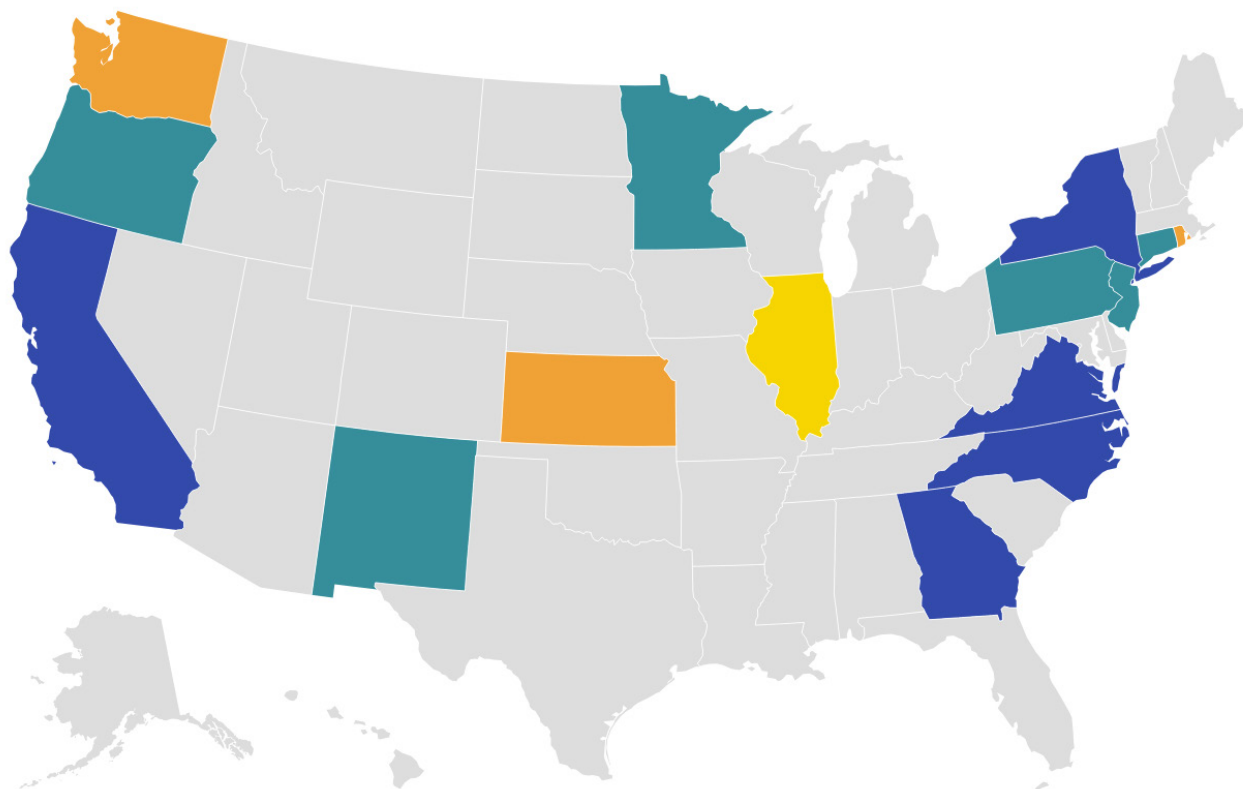
Spanberger also vetoed [HB 650/SB 351](#), which would have prohibited the enforcement of federal immigration laws near a polling place, recount location, or electoral board meeting place. Legislators did not attempt to override her veto.

Other bills that were introduced or considered include:

- **New Jersey** [S4313](#) would establish that an officer of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard who directs military members to a polling place in violation of state or federal law or who interferes with voting is guilty of a third-degree crime. The bill was introduced on May 21 and has not been considered in committee.
- **New York** [A11530](#) and [S10618](#) would have prohibited state or federal law enforcement from being near a polling place unless they were required to be there, requested by an elections official, or repelling an armed enemy of the United States. The bills did not advance out of their chambers of origin before legislators adjourned their session.
- **Washington** [SB 5906](#) would have prohibited election officers, workers, or volunteers from allowing any access to a nonpublic area for immigration enforcement purposes unless the person had a valid judicial warrant or court order. The bill passed the state Senate on Feb. 12 but was not considered in the state House.

Bills governing law enforcement at polling places introduced in 2026

■ Immigration and other law enforcement restrictions ■ Immigration enforcement restrictions ■ Other law enforcement restrictions ■ Resolution on immigration enforcement near polling places



In Arizona, lawmakers considered an amendment to [SB 1570](#) that would have required counties to sign agreements to have federal immigration officers present at polling places or ballot drop-off locations. The amendment was not taken up.

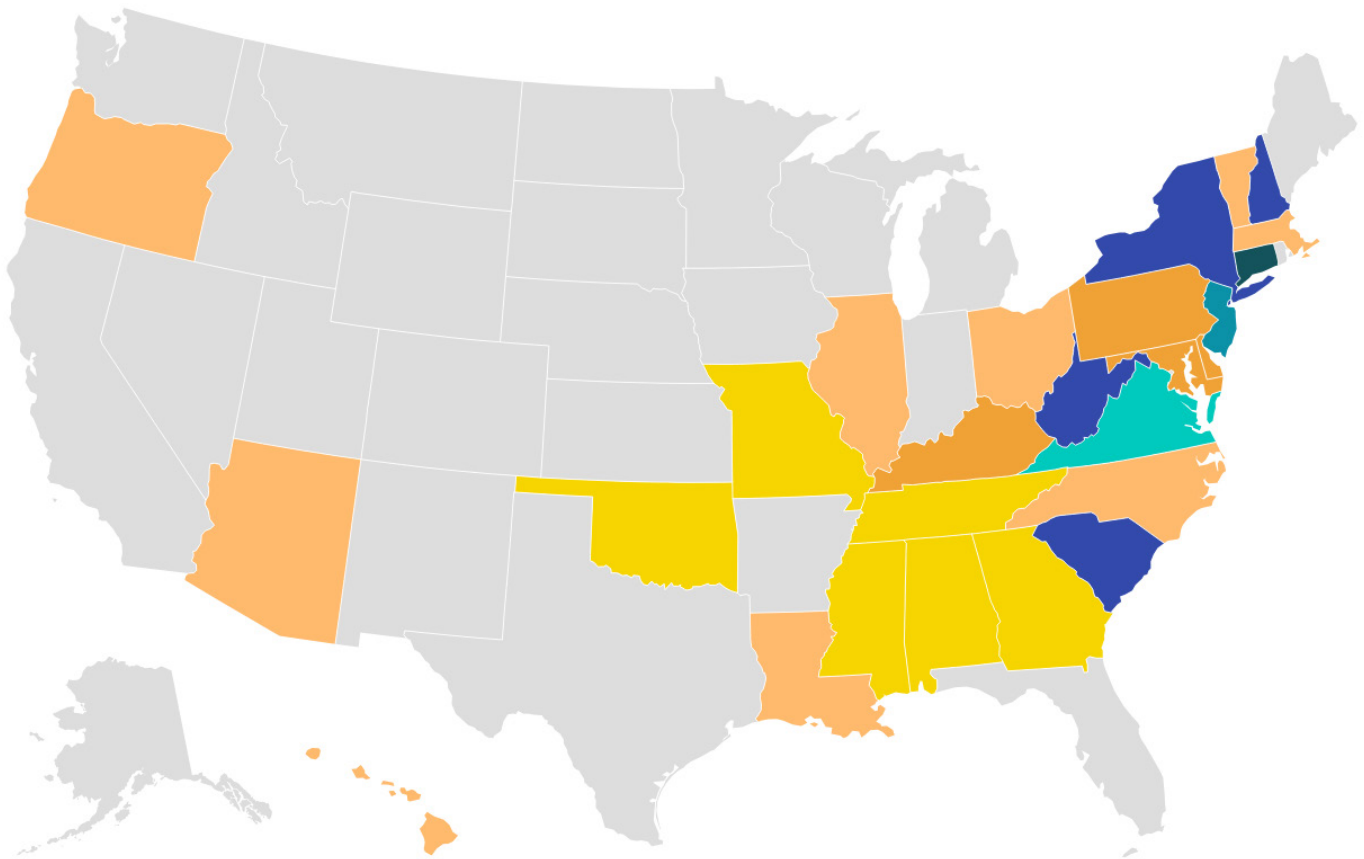
Primary changes

Currently, 14 states require [open primaries](#), 13 require [closed primaries](#), 10 require [semi-closed primaries](#), and five require [top-two style primaries](#) for at least some federal or state-level offices. Eleven states give parties discretion to choose participation rules for their primaries. No states have enacted changes to these broader categories this year.

Legislators introduced 193 bills related to primary elections in 2026. This includes bills that would change how primaries are administered, alter whether unaffiliated voters are allowed to participate in primaries, and move the date of primary elections.

Primary type changes introduced in 2026

■ Move to closed primaries ■ Move to open primaries ■ Move to party choice primary system ■ Move to semi-closed primaries ■ Move to top two primaries or variation ■ Multiple bills ■ Use RCV in primaries



Lawmakers in 26 states introduced or considered bills to change the type of primary they use.

Of the bills that were introduced, 21.9% were introduced by Democratic legislators, 59.4% were introduced by Republican legislators, 17.2% were introduced by a bipartisan group of legislators, and 1.6% were introduced by legislators without partisan affiliation.

Republican legislators introduced bills to implement closed primaries, semi-closed primaries, and top-four primaries. Democratic legislators introduced bills to implement open primaries, semi-closed primaries, and top-four primaries. Bipartisan legislators introduced bills to implement open primaries, semi-closed primaries, top-four primaries, and ranked-choice voting in primaries.

- **Eight** states introduced bills to move to a closed primary system, which does not allow unaffiliated voters to participate.
 - Only one of those bills — **Alabama** [HB 541](#) — advanced. HB 541 would have required voters to register their party affiliation before being allowed to vote in any countywide or statewide primary or runoff election starting Jan. 1, 2027. The bill passed out of the state House on March 19 but was not considered in the state Senate.
- An additional **11** states introduced bills to adopt a top-two system, top-four system, or blanket primaries, where a set number of vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the general election.
- **Six** states introduced bills to move to a semi-closed primary, where unaffiliated voters could choose to participate in a party primary.
 - Only one of those bills — **Delaware** [HB 188](#) — advanced. HB 188 would have allowed unaffiliated voters to request and receive the ballot of their chosen party when appearing to vote in a primary. The bill was approved in the state House on June 30 but was not considered by the state Senate before legislators adjourned for the session.
- **Two** states introduced bills to move to an open primary.
- **Two** states introduced bills to implement ranked-choice voting for primary elections.
- **Two** states introduced bills to move to a system where parties can choose whether unaffiliated voters could participate in primary elections.

Louisiana [HB 842](#) moved the state's 2026 U.S. House races from the state's [semi-closed](#) party election, with primaries on May 16, to the state's [majority-vote system election](#). The change was enacted because lawmakers approved a set of new congressional maps before the 2026 election. In future election cycles, Louisiana will use the semi-closed party primary system for U.S. House races. Governor [Jeff Landry](#) (R) signed the bill on May 14.

South Carolina lawmakers introduced the most bills to change the state's primary type, with 17 bills that would move the state from an open primary system to either a semi-closed primary, a top-two system, or a party choice system. None of the bills advanced out of committee.

Lawmakers in 13 states introduced legislation to change their state's primary date, while six states introduced or considered bills to establish or move a presidential primary election.

Notable enacted bills that changed a primary date include:

- In **Arizona**, Gov. [Katie Hobbs](#) (D) signed [HB 2022](#) on Feb. 6. It moves up the date for primary elections from the first Tuesday in August to the second to last Tuesday in July. This is the second time in recent years that Arizona has moved its primary election date to be earlier. In 2024, Hobbs signed a law moving up that year's primary by a week to July 30.
- In **New Hampshire**, Gov. [Kelly Ayotte](#) (R) signed [HB 481](#) on May 8. It moves up the primary from the second Tuesday in September to the second Tuesday in June of every even-numbered year.
- **Rhode Island** Gov. [Dan McKee](#) (D) signed [S 2147](#) on April 20. It requires a primary election to be held on the next Wednesday following Labor Day if the eighth Tuesday before the general election is the day after Labor Day. The legislation moved the 2026 primary election to Sept. 9.

In other states, legislators introduced bills to move a primary date. Those include:

- **Delaware** [HB 65](#) would have moved primary elections for state, county, and municipal offices from September to the fourth Tuesday in April. The House passed the bill in April 2025, and the Senate placed the bill on its calendar on March 11 but did not consider it before adjourning for the year.
- On March 18, the **Michigan** Senate approved [SB 691](#), which would move the general primary election from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. The legislation has yet to be considered in the state House.
- **Missouri** [HB 2387](#) would have required a presidential preference primary on the first Tuesday in March in every presidential election year. In 2024, both parties ran their own presidential caucuses or primaries. The bill passed out of the state House on April 9 and was not considered in the state Senate before legislators adjourned.
- **New York** [S 8604](#) would have moved the date of the state's presidential primary from the first Tuesday in February to the first Tuesday in March. The state Senate approved the bill on January 12 but it was not considered in the state Assembly before legislators adjourned.

Ranked-choice voting (RCV)

A [ranked-choice voting system](#) (RCV) is an electoral system in which voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. Seven states have laws authorizing or requiring the use of RCV for certain elections.

In 2026, two states with Republican trifectas, [Indiana](#) and [Ohio](#), passed laws prohibiting the use of RCV. Nineteen states now have laws prohibiting or restricting the use of RCV, including Indiana and Ohio.

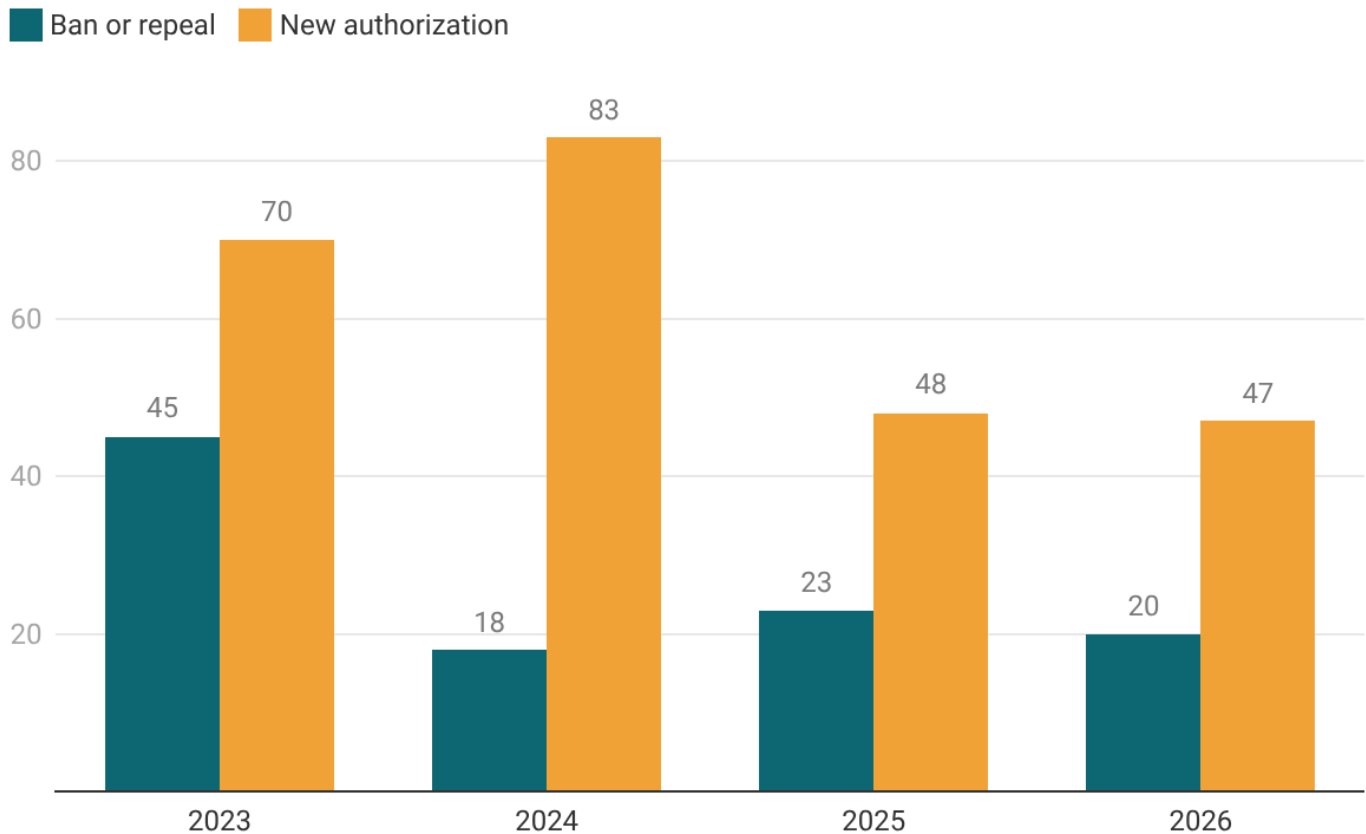
Virginia became the first state since 2023 to approve legislation allowing or requiring the statewide use of ranked-choice voting (RCV) for state or local elections. [SB 176](#) permits the use of RCV to elect members of any local governing body, rather than just city councils and county commissions, and repeals the July 1, 2031, expiration date for the law authorizing the use of RCV. Governor [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D) approved the bill on April 22.

Lawmakers have introduced 78 RCV-related bills. Forty-seven would authorize or require the use of RCV in at least some elections, while 20 bills would prohibit or repeal RCV.

In **Maine**, lawmakers in both the [Maine House of Representatives](#) and the [state Senate](#) approved [LD 1666](#), which would have required the use of RCV for general and special elections for governor and the Legislature. The Senate did not advance the bill to Gov. [Janet Mills](#) (D) after the [Maine Supreme Judicial Court](#) ruled the legislation unconstitutional.

RCV legislation by bill type 2023-2026

Showing the number of RCV bills introduced in state legislatures from 2023-2026 by bill type, as of August 14, 2026.



Legislators in 19 other states introduced bills to allow or require RCV, though none have passed out of their chamber of origin.

Bills prohibiting RCV in Iowa and Michigan passed at least one chamber in 2025 and were carried over into the 2026 session, but have not advanced further. Legislators in 11 states introduced prohibitions on RCV.

Redistricting

In 2025, four states [voluntarily enacted](#) new congressional maps for the 2026 midterm elections. Before 2025, only two states, Georgia and Texas, [had conducted](#) voluntary mid-decade redistricting since 1970.

In 2026, two states, **Louisiana** and **Tennessee**, enacted new congressional maps following the [U.S. Supreme Court's](#) decision in [Louisiana v. Callais](#), in which the court upheld a lower court order striking down Louisiana's congressional map as an unconstitutional gerrymander. The decision affected how Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits voting practices and procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, is applied in future cases involving redistricting.

Louisiana Gov. [Jeff Landry](#) (R) signed [SB 121](#), which redrew the state's congressional maps, on May 29.

In Tennessee, Gov. [Bill Lee](#) (R) signed [HB 7003](#) on May 7. He also signed [HB 7002](#), which eliminated a prohibition on changing congressional districts between apportionments of representation, and [HB 7001](#), which created a special candidate qualifying period for congressional races under the new districts.

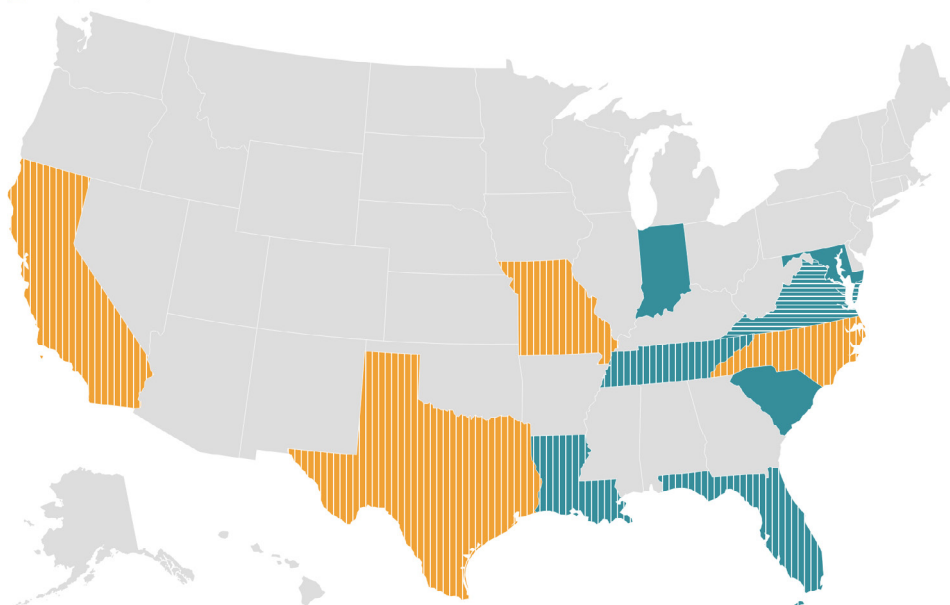
Alabama will also use new maps in the 2026 election cycle after the U.S. Supreme Court allowed it to use a set of districts previously approved in 2023.

Florida also passed new maps in 2026 ahead of the midterm elections. Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) signed [H0001](#), which enacted the new maps, on May 4 following an April special session on redistricting.

Virginia voters approved a legislatively referred [constitutional amendment](#) 51%-48% on April 21 that would enact the maps contained in [HB 29](#). The [Virginia Supreme Court](#), however, ruled that the General Assembly violated procedural requirements when placing the measure on the ballot, overturning the result.

Status of congressional redistricting ahead of the 2026 elections

■ Voluntary redistricting in the 2026 session || New map enacted ▨ New maps overturned by court ruling
■ Voluntary redistricting in the 2025 session



Three states, **Indiana**, **Maryland**, and **South Carolina**, had bills to enact new congressional maps pass one legislative chamber.

- The Indiana Senate rejected [HB 1032](#) on Dec. 11, 2025. The bill would have enacted new congressional maps ahead of the 2026 midterm elections and established procedures for handling any lawsuits over congressional or legislative apportionment. The bill previously passed the state House. Indiana began its 2026 legislative session on Dec. 1, 2025.
- In Maryland, the state House of Delegates approved [HB 488](#) on Feb. 2. The bill would have drawn new legislative districts and submitted a constitutional amendment to voters on changing redistricting criteria. The state Senate did not take up the bill before legislators adjourned their regular session.
- In South Carolina, the state House of Representatives approved [H5683](#) on May 20 to draw new maps. The state Senate did not consider the bill and instead adjourned a special session on redistricting on May 26.

Other notable bills enacted related to redistricting at the state or local level include:

- **Kentucky** [HB 607](#), which establishes redistricting criteria for consolidated local governments. Legislators overrode Gov. [Andy Beshear](#)'s (D) veto to enact the bill on April 14.
- **Louisiana** [SB 25](#), which establishes new boundaries for three state senatorial districts. The bill became law on June 23 without Landry's signature.
- **Maryland** [HB 2100](#) amends the state constitution to establish that the contiguousness, compactness, and population distribution criteria for redistricting in the state constitution only apply to state legislative districts, not congressional districts. It also establishes that the General Assembly has the power to grant original jurisdiction to the Maryland Supreme Court to review congressional redistricting plans for the state. Voters will decide on the amendment on Nov. 3.
- In **New York**, [SB 10637](#) would amend the state constitution to allow the legislature to make changes to any congressional district temporarily any time after they are enacted either legislatively or by court order at the decennial redistricting. It also would allow the legislature to make changes to congressional districts based upon the 2020 federal census. The amendment must be passed again in the 2027 session in order to go before voters.
- **Virginia** [SB 51](#), which requires localities with a population of 400,000 or more to elect their governing bodies through single-member districts. Any localities of that size which do not currently use single-member districts must draw districts to comply with the bill. Governor [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D) signed the bill on March 9.

Nationally, legislators introduced 187 redistricting-related bills. Those included bills establishing criteria that must be considered during the redistricting process, legislation establishing independent redistricting commissions, and proposals requiring standards for redistricting at the town or county level.

Sixty-seven of the bills were proposed in Democratic trifecta states, 83 were proposed in Republican trifecta states, and 37 were proposed in states with a divided government.

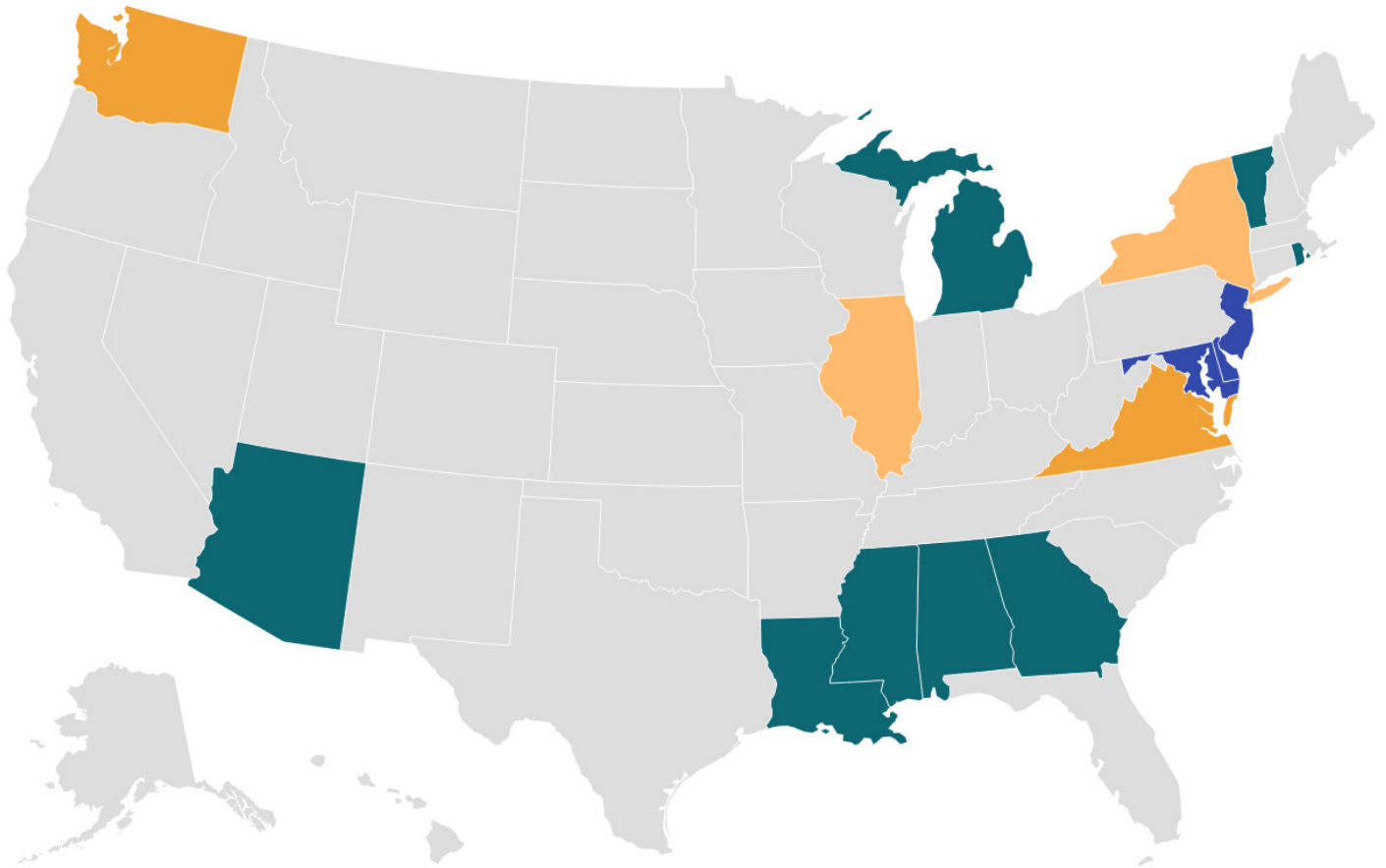
State-level voting rights act

Twelve states have [state-level voting rights acts](#), or laws that mirror or expand upon the provisions of the [Voting Rights Act of 1965](#). State-level voting rights acts may include a range of policies. Those include:

- Requiring local governments to obtain state approval for changes to voting rules.
- Requiring voting materials be made available in languages other than English in cities or counties that meet certain demographic criteria.
- Prohibiting the adoption of electoral systems or district maps that dilute the votes of certain groups.

State-level voting rights acts introduced in 2026

Amendment to state-level VRA introduced Existing state-level VRA amended State-level VRA enacted State-level VRA introduced



In 2026, three states enacted new state-level voting rights acts, while two states with existing laws expanded their statutes. This is the first year that multiple states enacted new state-level voting rights acts in the same year.

- **Delaware** Gov. [Matt Meyer](#) (D) signed [HB 444](#) creating a state-level voting rights act on Aug. 6.
- In **Maryland**, Gov. [Wes Moore](#) (D) signed [SB 255](#) creating a state-level voting rights act on April 28.
- **New Jersey** Gov. [Mikie Sherrill](#) (D) signed [A1715](#) creating a state-level voting rights act on July 2.
- **Virginia** [HB 967](#) amends the state's voting rights act to allow private groups, rather than just individuals, to challenge policies in court, among other changes. Governor [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D) signed the bill on April 13.
- **Washington** [HB 1710](#) and [HB 1750](#) amend the state's existing voting rights act. HB 1710 requires jurisdictions proposing certain election-related changes to obtain approval from the state attorney general before implementation. HB 1750 expands legal grounds for challenging electoral systems that burden racial, color, or language minority groups. Governor [Bob Ferguson](#) (D) signed both bills on March 25.

In **Vermont**, legislators introduced [S0298](#), which would have enacted a state-level voting rights act. The bill was amended to remove the state-level voting rights act provisions. The final version of the bill, which Gov. [Phil Scott](#) (R) signed on June 8, did prohibit vote dilution, a common feature of state-level voting rights acts.

Nationally, 15 states introduced 24 bills to enact or amend state-level voting rights acts.

Voter ID

Thirty-six states require [voters to present identification](#) in order to vote at the polls on election day. Of these states, 24 require voters to present identification containing a photograph, with certain exceptions, and 12 states do not require photo identification.

The remaining 14 states do not generally require voters to present identification in order to vote at the polls on election day.

None of the 14 states [without voter ID requirements](#) advanced bills in 2026 to require it. And no state that allows non-photo identification has enacted legislation to require photo identification.

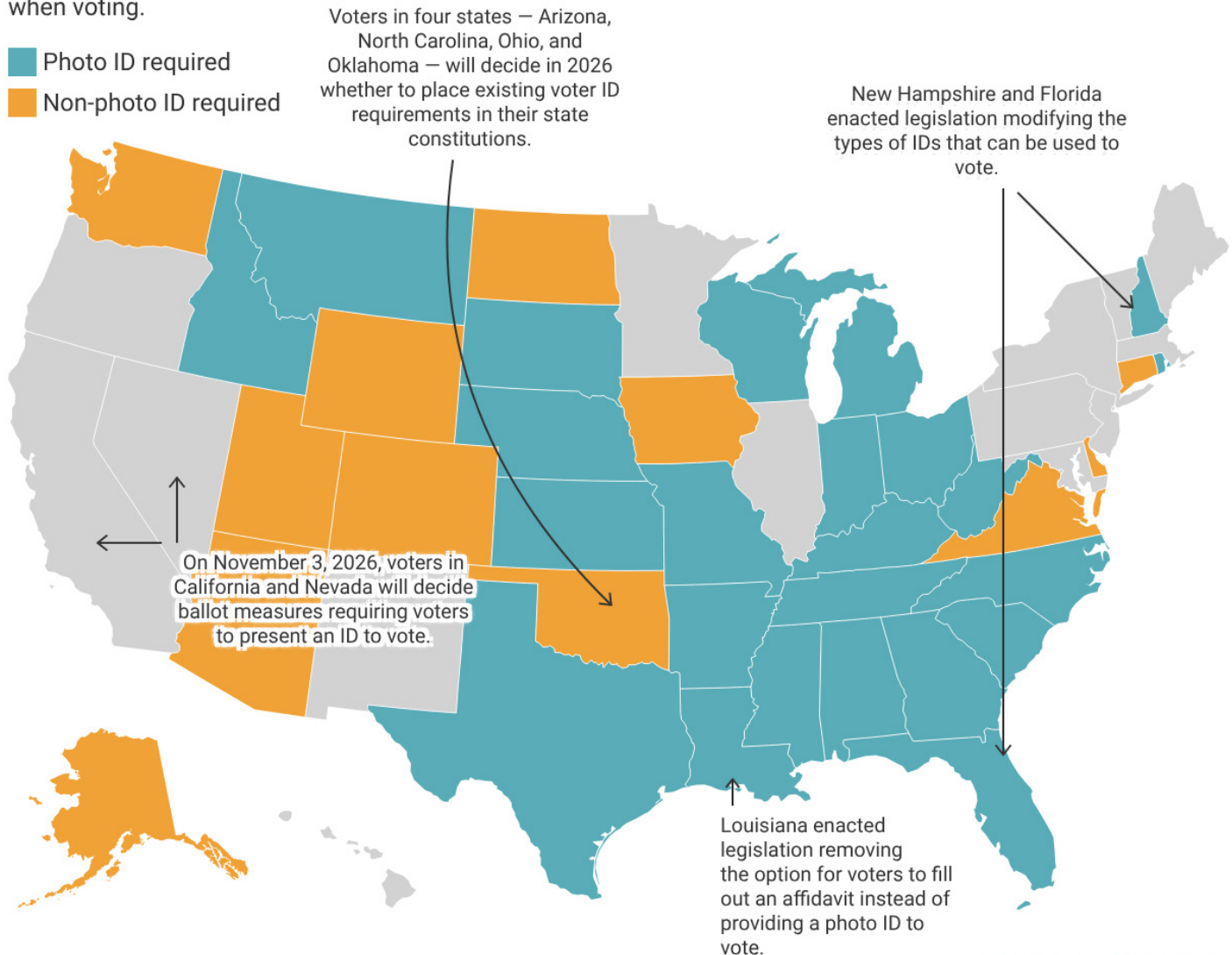
Legislators in three states — [Arizona](#), [Ohio](#), and [Oklahoma](#) — put constitutional amendments on the ballot related to voter ID in 2026. If voters approve them later this year, the amendments would place those states' existing voter ID laws in the state constitution. Three other states — [California](#), [Nevada](#), and [North Carolina](#) — will also have ballot measures in November on new voter ID laws or placing existing requirements in the state constitution.

Some of the 36 states with voter ID laws adopted changes to their existing requirements. Notable enacted bills related to voter ID included:

- In **Florida**, [HB 991](#) adds U.S. passport cards, U.S. uniformed service or Merchant Marine IDs, and federal, state, or county-issued IDs to the list of acceptable IDs. It also removes debit or credit cards, student IDs, retirement center IDs, neighborhood association IDs, and public assistance IDs from the list of acceptable IDs. Governor [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) signed the bill on April 1.
- **Idaho** Gov. [Brad Little](#) (R) signed [S 1322](#) into law on March 31. It requires voters to provide a date of birth, Idaho driver's license number, or state ID card number when filling out an affidavit instead of providing a photo ID when voting. Election officials then verify the information before a voter is issued a ballot.
- **Iowa** [HF 2501](#) removed the option for a person to take an oath attesting to their identity and residency rather than providing valid identification. Governor [Kim Reynolds](#) (R) signed the bill on May 2.
- **Kentucky** [HB 139](#) removes food stamp cards, Social Security cards, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program cards from the list of IDs that can be used if a person can't obtain photo identification. It also removes the option for election workers to affirm the identity of individuals they personally know. The Republican-controlled Legislature overrode Gov. [Andy Beshear](#)'s (D) veto to enact the bill on April 14.
- **Louisiana** Gov. [Jeff Landry](#) (R) signed [SB 319](#) on June 2. It removes the option for voters to fill out an affidavit instead of providing a photo ID to vote, starting on July 1, 2027. It also adds the option for voters to present two alternate forms of ID.
- In **New Hampshire**, [HB 323](#) removes student IDs as acceptable forms of identification for voting purposes. Governor [Kelly Ayotte](#) (R) signed the legislation on April 3, 2026.

Voter identification requirements by state

The map below displays voter ID requirements by state as of August 14, 2026. Many states provide exceptions to these requirements, and states that do not typically require ID may require certain voters present identification when voting.



Legislators have introduced 204 bills related to voter ID so far in 2026. Other notable bills include:

- **Kansas** [HB 2587](#) would have required driver's licenses to indicate the holder's citizenship status. Any person whose driver's license lists the person as a noncitizen could obtain a provisional ballot for voting purposes if they claim to be a citizen. Governor [Laura Kelly](#) (D) vetoed the bill on April 9 and the Legislature did not attempt to override her veto.
- **Oklahoma** [HB 1005](#) would have moved the state from a non-photo ID required state to a photo ID-required state for voting. Currently, county board-issued ID cards without a photograph or expiration date are an acceptable form of voter ID. The bill would remove this exception starting on Jan. 1, 2027. The bill was placed on the calendar for March 5 in the state Senate but was not taken up.

Voter registration

Legislators in 44 states introduced 627 bills related to voter registration, which accounts for 13% of all bills introduced in 2026.

These bills change various aspects of the voter registration process, including creating documentary proof of citizenship requirements, changing the data sources election officials are required to use when carrying out voter list maintenance, and expanding automatic voter registration systems.

Documentary proof citizenship requirements

[Twelve states](#) have laws requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote in at least some cases. In 2025, [Wyoming](#) was the only state to enact a requirement that all voters provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote. In 2026, four states have enacted new proof of citizenship requirements or expanded existing laws, the most ever in a single year.

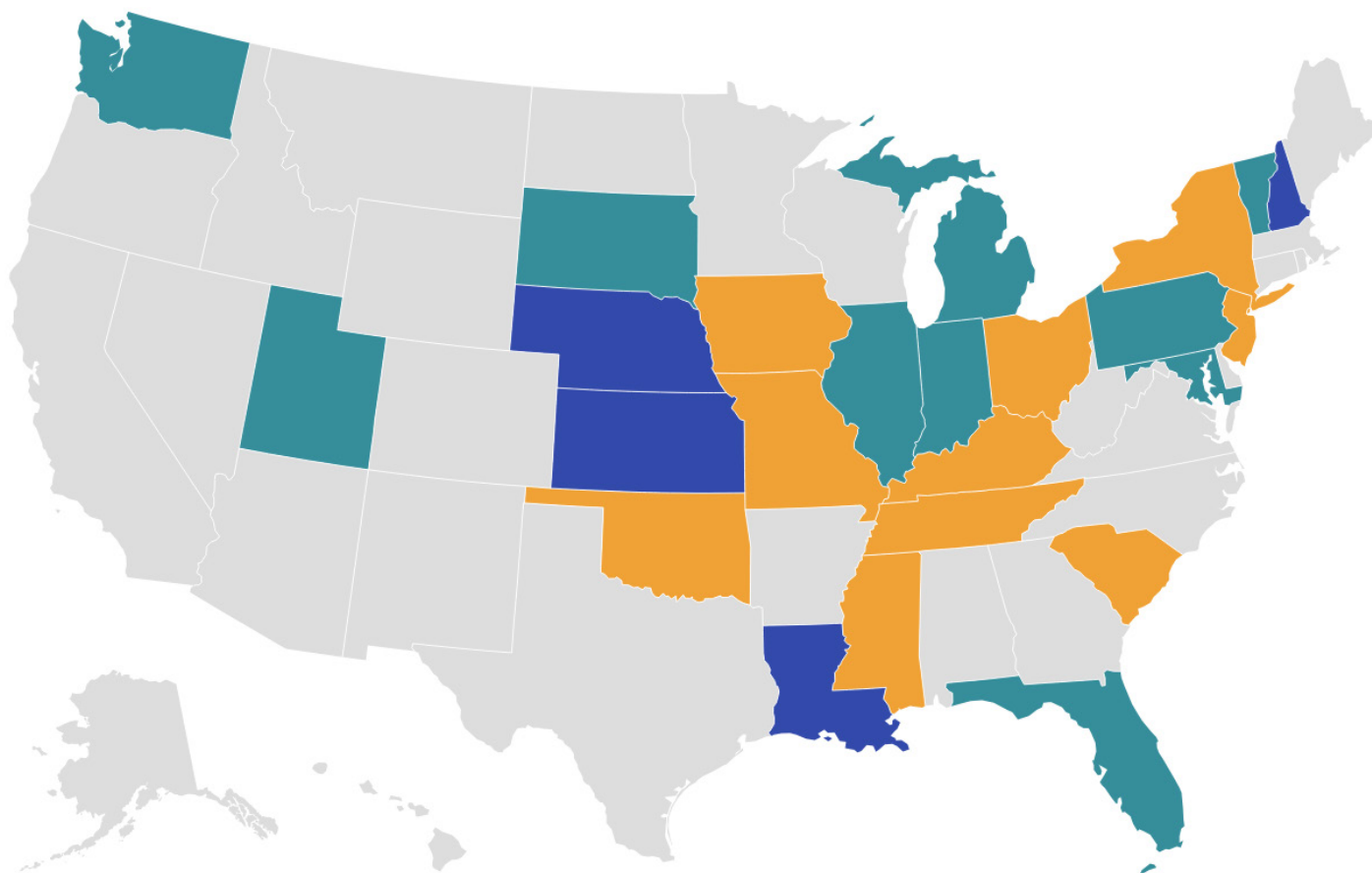
- **Florida** [HB 991](#) requires election officials to verify whether a prospective voter provided proof of citizenship when applying for a driver's license or state ID card. If not, the person must provide proof of citizenship to be registered to vote. This also applies to individuals updating their registration due to a change of name, address, or party affiliation. Governor [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) signed the bill on April 1.
- **Mississippi** [SB 2588](#) requires the secretary of state to annually compare the state's voter rolls with the Department of Homeland Security's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to flag potential noncitizens registered to vote. It also requires officials to check SAVE if a prospective voter does not provide a driver's license number and their driver's license number cannot be found in state data. If the person is deemed to be a possible noncitizen, they must provide proof of citizenship to be registered to vote. Governor [Tate Reeves](#) (R) signed the bill on April 1.
- **South Dakota** [SB 175](#) requires an individual to provide proof of citizenship to register to vote, such as a driver's license which indicates the person has provided evidence of citizenship, a tribal ID, a birth certificate, or a passport. Individuals who do not provide proof of citizenship must be designated as a federal-only voter. Governor [Larry Rhoden](#) (R) signed SB 175 on March 30.
- **Utah** [HB 209](#) requires individuals to provide documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in state and local elections. The law allows voters who do not provide proof of citizenship to cast a ballot in federal elections only. Governor [Spencer Cox](#) (R) signed the bill on March 25.

Sixteen states introduced bills requiring documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration. Those include:

- **Michigan** [HB 4765](#) would require individuals to present documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote in state or local elections. Individuals who do not provide proof of citizenship may only vote in federal elections. The Republican-controlled state House passed HB 4765 on April 14. The Democratic-controlled state Senate has not considered the bill.
- **Missouri** [SB 986](#) would have required election officials to verify the citizenship status of all individuals applying to register to vote. If a person's citizenship status could not be verified, they would have been required to provide proof of citizenship in order to be registered to vote. Individuals registering via the national mail voter registration form whose citizenship status could not be verified would have been registered as federal-only voters. The bill advanced out of the Senate Local Government, Elections and Pensions committee on April 13 but the full chamber did not consider it before legislators adjourned.

Proof of citizenship bills introduced in 2026

Both introduced Citizenship checks for voter list maintenance introduced Documentary proof of citizenship bill introduced



Voter list maintenance

States have different requirements for how election officials must maintain voter registration rolls.

A common legislative focus in 2026 has been on expanding the data sources that election officials are required to use for voter list maintenance. That includes requiring or authorizing officials to use federal or state datasets, such as the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements system (SAVE), to check the citizenship status of individuals who are currently registered to vote.

Enacted bills on this subject include:

- **Iowa** [SF 2218](#), which requires the state registrar of voters to verify registered voters' citizenship status using the SAVE system. A person suspected of being a noncitizen is notified and must provide proof of citizenship to remain on the voter rolls. Governor [Kim Reynolds](#) (R) signed the bill on June 2.
- **Kansas** [HB 2437](#), which requires the secretary of state to conduct two SAVE checks per year and flag any potential noncitizens who are registered to vote for county election officials. A voter would be notified and removed from the voter rolls if they do not provide proof of citizenship. The Republican-controlled legislature overrode Gov. [Laura Kelly](#)'s (D) veto to enact the bill on April 9.
- **Kentucky** [HB 139](#), which authorizes the State Board of Elections to enter into data-sharing agreements with the federal government to identify noncitizens on the voter rolls. The Republican-controlled legislature overrode Gov. [Andy Beshear](#)'s (D) veto to enact the bill on April 14.
- **Louisiana** [HB 691](#) requires the voter registration list to be cross-checked against SAVE. Any potential noncitizens must be investigated. If a person is confirmed to be a noncitizen, their registration must be challenged by local election officials. Governor [Jeff Landry](#) (R) signed the bill on May 15.
- **New Hampshire** [HB 1062](#) allows the secretary of state to conduct random audits of the citizenship qualifications of people who register to vote using a qualified voter affidavit. If a person is deemed to be a noncitizen, that information must be forwarded to the attorney general. Governor [Kelly Ayotte](#) (R) signed the bill on July 16.
- **Tennessee** [HB 2185](#) allows an electronic portal to access SAVE data. Governor [Bill Lee](#) (R) signed the legislation on April 21.

Virginia also enacted three bills on multistate data sharing compacts. That includes [SB 57](#), which requires the state to rejoin the [Electronic Registration Information Center \(ERIC\)](#). Virginia was a founding member of ERIC in 2012 until it withdrew in 2023.

In Georgia, legislators considered [HB 215](#), a bill that would have prohibited the secretary of state from joining a multistate data sharing agreement. The bill was heard in committee on Feb. 10 and did not advance.

Automatic voter registration

Twenty-four states require [automatic voter registration](#), where eligible voters are automatically registered to vote whenever they interact with certain government agencies, such as departments of motor vehicles.

No states enacted legislation to create a new automatic voter registration system, but three states enacted legislation to expand or amend an existing system.

- In **Hawaii**, [SB 2239](#) amends the state's [automatic voter registration](#) system to register applicants for driver's licenses and state IDs to vote unless they affirmatively decline to be registered. Previously, individuals were not registered to vote unless they affirmatively opted into automatic registration. Governor [Josh Green](#) (D) signed the bill on May 29.
- In **Maryland**, [SB 241](#) and [HB 115](#) require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to work with the State Board of Elections to automatically register individuals who are released from state correctional facilities. Governor [Wes Moore](#) (D) signed the bills on May 12.
- **Virginia** enacted legislation to study moving the state's automatic voter registration system from a front-end system, where voters are asked whether they wish to opt out before being registered, to a back-end system, where a person is automatically registered and asked later if they wish to have their registration cancelled. Governor [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D) signed [SB 658](#) and [HB 319](#) into law on April 13.

Legislators in 25 states introduced 64 bills related to enacting or modifying an automatic voter registration system. The bulk of those bills — 71% — were introduced in states with Democratic trifectas.

Other voter registration trends and developments

A bipartisan group of states enacted legislation related to voter registration and voter eligibility for individuals [with felony convictions](#). Notable bills included:

- **Alabama** Gov. [Kay Ivey](#) signed [SB 24](#) on April 16. It requires the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles to create an online form for a person convicted of a felony to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility to Register to Vote.
- **Missouri** Gov. [Mike Kehoe](#) (R) signed [HB 1871](#) on July 13. It restored voting rights to people convicted of all but 11 felonies upon completion of their prison sentence, rather than upon completion of prison sentence, probation, and parole.
- In **Virginia**, Gov. Spanberger approved [HB 964](#) on April 22. It establishes voter registration policies for individuals convicted of a felony. Its implementation is contingent on voters approving [a constitutional amendment](#) in November that would automatically restore voting rights to individuals convicted of a felony upon release from incarceration.

Lawmakers in some states considered legislation to allow voters younger than 18 to [pre-register to vote](#). Those bills include:

- **Connecticut** [HJ 32](#) would have submitted a constitutional amendment to voters that would lower the age to register to vote from 18 to 16-years old. The bill was added to the state House calendar on March 26 but was not considered before legislators adjourned for the year.
- In **Illinois**, [HB 4339](#) requires all eligible students graduating from high school to be offered the opportunity to register to vote. Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) signed the bill on July 10.
- **Wisconsin** [SB 514](#) would have authorized voter pre-registration for 16 and 17 year-olds. The bill was not considered before the Legislature adjourned for the session.

State highlights

Democratic trifectas

[Click here](#) to read summaries from New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington in our State of Election Policy Legislation 2026 Spring Report.

Colorado

The [Colorado General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on May 13 after passing eight election-related bills. Governor [Jared Polis](#) (D) signed all eight bills between April and June.

Among those bills was [HB 1113](#), an omnibus bill making a number of changes to Colorado's election laws.

Those changes included:

- Requiring election officials to mail ballots to voters between 29 and 25 days before the election, rather than between 22 and 18 days before the election.
- Requiring institutions of higher education that use electronic course registration to provide voting hours and locations and information on ballot drop boxes to students via email before election day.
- Allowing employees two hours off from work to vote on any day when voter service and polling centers are open, rather than only on election day.
- Requiring counties to measure and record the wait time at each voter service and polling center and report the data to the secretary of state within 30 days after the election. Counties with a polling place that had wait times of longer than one hour must submit a report to the state.
- Permitting a registered voter to protest the registration of another voter on the grounds that the person is not a citizen, is not at least 15 years old, is deceased, or is no longer a state resident. The bill outlines procedures for filing and adjudicating a protest.

The Senate approved the final version of HB 1113 on May 4 [along party lines](#), with 23 Democrats voting in favor and 12 Republicans voting against. On May 7, the House also approved the bill [along party lines](#), with 42 Democrats voting in favor and 22 Republicans voting against. Polis signed the bill on June 1.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 1023](#), which requires parties to provide alternate means of participating in party caucuses or assemblies, such as a conference call or video call.
- [HB 1038](#), which establishes standards and processes for county commission redistricting.
- [HB 1084](#), which requires the ballot information booklet to include information on an initiated measure's effect on state expenditures if it is deemed to likely increase state expenditures and doesn't provide for revenue or a reduction in state spending to account for the increased expenditures.

- [HB 1320](#), which requires the ballot titles of proposed constitutional amendments to be written in plain language.
- [SB 142](#), which requires voters in a municipality to approve or reject the sale of a thermal energy network.
- [SB 145](#), which establishes requirements for the consideration of charter school capital construction needs when a school district is preparing a ballot question.

Legislators enacted eight election-related bills [in 2025](#), seven [in 2024](#), and three [in 2023](#).

Connecticut

The [Connecticut General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on May 6 after passing five [election-related bills](#). Governor [Ned Lamont](#) (D) signed all five bills in May and June.

Among those bills was [HB 5001](#), which removes the requirement that voters meet one of five criteria to request an absentee ballot, such as being on active military service, being absent from their city or town, or having an illness or physical disability. HB 5001 made Connecticut the 29th state to offer no-excuse [absentee/mail-in voting](#).

The bill also allows voters to request to automatically receive absentee ballot applications for each election. The bill also establishes a [cure process](#) for voters who fail to sign the statement on their absentee ballot return envelope. Previously, Connecticut was one of 17 states that did not have a cure period, in which voters must be notified and allowed to correct issues with their absentee/mail-in ballots.

Other provisions in the bill prohibit law enforcement from being within 250 feet of election sites and require local election officials to notify the state attorney general and secretary of state if they receive a subpoena or warrant for election-related materials.

In 2024, voters approved a [constitutional amendment](#) 58%-42% that removed excuse requirements for absentee voting from the state constitution and authorized legislators to enact no-excuse absentee voting.

The [state House](#) passed the final version of the Democratic-sponsored bill [101-49](#) along party lines on April 23. The [state Senate](#) approved the bill [25-11](#) along party lines on May 6.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 5352](#), which creates an exemption to the requirement that the State Elections Enforcement Commission must dismiss a complaint if it does not issue a final decision within one year of receiving it. The exemption applies to complaints received on or after Oct. 1, 2026, regarding potential violations of state election law.
- [SB 298](#), which includes a number of election-related provisions, including changes to the handling and tabulation of early voting ballots and a requirement that the secretary of state maintain a log of rejected absentee ballots.
- [SB 393](#), which requires a governor to issue a writ for a special election between seven and 17 days after the death of a U.S. senator, representative, or state legislator, and at least seven days after the death of a probate judge.

- [SB 477](#), which requires a presidential elector to pledge that they will vote for their party's presidential nominee and requires that they be replaced if they do not do so.

Legislators enacted four election-related bills [in 2025](#), four [in 2024](#), and 11 [in 2023](#).

Hawaii

The [Hawaii Legislature](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on May 8 after [passing](#) seven election-related bills and one resolution. Governor [Josh Green](#) (D) signed all seven bills between April and July.

Among those bills was [SB 2471](#), which [amends](#) state law to modify the powers granted to corporations. The bill establishes that corporations have artificial-person powers, defined as the ability to carry out their business or other affairs, but they cannot engage in election or ballot measure activity in Hawaii.

Supporters of the bill [said](#) they aimed to limit how the [U.S. Supreme Court's](#) 2010 [Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission](#) decision applies to corporate political spending in the state.

In that ruling, the Supreme Court held that independent corporate election spending is protected by the First Amendment. The ruling struck down parts of the [Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act](#), a federal campaign finance law.

SB 2471 [passed](#) the [House](#) on May 8 with 41 Democrats and nine Republicans voting in favor and one Republican voting in opposition. The state [Senate passed](#) the bill unanimously on May 8. Green signed the bill on May 14.

Lawmakers also enacted [SB 2239](#), which amends the state's [automatic voter registration](#) system to register applicants for driver's licenses and state IDs to vote unless they affirmatively decline to be registered. Previously, individuals were not registered to vote unless they affirmatively opted into automatic registration.

The final version of SB 2239 passed the Senate [24-1](#) on May 6, with 21 Democrats and three Republicans voting in favor and one Democrat voting against. The bill then passed the House with [11 members](#), eight Republicans and three Democrats, voting in opposition. Green signed the bill on May 29.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 2050](#), which increases the expenditure limits for candidates participating in the public campaign finance program and increases the amount of public financing a candidate may receive.
- [HB 2099](#), which revises deadlines for filling candidate and state Senate vacancies.
- [SB 2143](#), which requires certain officials within the Office of Elections to temporarily act in the position of chief election officer if that position is unfilled.
- [SB 2247](#), which prohibits executive branch employees who are nominated by the governor to compensated, Senate-confirmed positions from hosting or organizing political fundraisers.

- [SB 2532](#), which requires candidates to submit various campaign finance reports electronically, rather than mailing or delivering the documents.

In addition, the Senate approved [SR 99](#), a resolution urging the state department of education to provide voter preregistration and eligibility information to high school students.

Hawaii enacted five election-related bills [in 2025](#), six bills [in 2024](#), and 11 bills [in 2023](#).

Illinois

The [Illinois General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on June 1 after passing two election-related bills and one resolution. Governor [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) signed the two bills in June and July.

One of those bills was [HB 4339](#), which requires school districts to provide all eligible graduating high school students with the opportunity to register to vote, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

The state House of Representatives voted [77-24](#) to pass the bill on April 8, with 73 Democrats and four Republicans voting in favor and 24 Republicans voting against. The state Senate passed the bill [41-12](#) on May 29, with 38 Democrats and three Republicans voting in favor and 12 Republicans voting against. Pritzker signed the bill on July 10.

In June, Pritzker signed [SB 3645](#), a bill moving the dissolution of the Ranked-Choice and Voting Systems Task Force to Jan. 1, 2027, rather than July 1, 2026. It also moves the deadline for the task force to publish a set of recommendations to Jan. 1, 2027, rather than June 30, 2025.

The state House also passed one election-related resolution, [HR 652](#), which urged federal agencies, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to refrain from conducting civil immigration enforcement operations at or near locations where voting or election administration is taking place.

Illinois lawmakers enacted no election bills [in 2025](#), three bills [in 2024](#), and six bills [in 2023](#).

Maine

The Maine Legislature adjourned its 2026 regular session on April 29 after enacting two election-related bills, both of which Gov. [Janet Mills](#) (D) signed.

One of those bills was [LD 2000](#), which requires party committees to report all expenditures made to influence a campaign. It also changes various thresholds for when candidates must report contributions made after the 14th day before any election and more than 48 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of any election.

LD 2000 passed the state House on March 24. The state Senate passed it on March 25. Mills signed the bill on April 3.

Lawmakers also enacted [LD 1741](#), which requires a chief deputy serving as acting sheriff in certain vacancy situations to be considered for appointment as sheriff if the chief deputy is enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant.

Lawmakers in both the [Maine House of Representatives](#) and the [state Senate](#) approved [LD 1666](#), which would require the use of ranked-choice voting (RCV) for general and special elections for governor and the Legislature. The Senate did not advance the bill to Mills and instead sought an advisory opinion from the [Maine Supreme Judicial Court](#) on whether the proposal was constitutional.

The court ruled that LD 1666 would violate the state constitution, as it conflicts with a constitutional requirement that the candidate who receives a plurality of the votes be declared the winner.

As a result, legislators did not advance LD 1666 to Mills. Maine continues to use RCV for primaries for governor and the Legislature, as well as for primaries and general elections for Congress and the presidency.

Maine enacted 10 election-related bills [in 2025](#), two [in 2024](#), and 16 [in 2023](#).

Maryland

The [Maryland General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 legislative session on April 13 after sending [22 election-related bills](#) to Gov. [Wes Moore](#) (D). Moore signed each of the bills between April 14 and May 12.

Among those bills was [SB 255](#), which established the Maryland Voting Rights Act. The bill prohibits counties or municipalities from using a method to elect their governing bodies that impairs the ability of members of a protected class to elect candidates of their choice or dilutes or abridges the right to vote for voters who are members of a protected class.

The new law allows the state attorney general or a private party to file a court action to enforce the bill's prohibitions, and creates a legal framework for courts to use when reviewing those actions.

Maryland is the 10th state to enact a [state-level voting rights act](#) and one of [three states](#) to enact a new state-level voting rights act or to amend an existing law so far this year.

The [Senate](#) passed SB 255 [32-14](#) on April 13, with 32 Democrats voting in favor and one Democrat and 13 Republicans in opposition. The [House of Delegates](#) passed the bill [91-19](#) along party lines on April 13. Moore signed the bill on April 28.

Lawmakers also enacted [HB 115](#) and [SB 241](#), which require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the State Board of Elections to automatically restore the voter registration of individuals released from state prisons. Maryland is one of [three states](#) to enact legislation so far this year that modifies an automatic voter registration system.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 1448](#) and [SB 848](#), which require municipalities to provide certain information to the State Board of Elections, including a list of municipal election candidates and policies governing the use of [ranked-choice voting](#).

- [SB 949](#), which requires absentee ballots postmarked by election day and received before 10 a.m. on the second Friday after the election to be counted for non-federal elections if a federal court or federal law establishes requirements for absentee ballots that are different from state law.
- [HB 263](#) and [SB 100](#), which require buses operating on fixed local routes to allow passengers on and off at an entrance of an early voting center on early voting days if the center is within one-half mile of the route, to the maximum extent practicable.
- [SB 29](#), which establishes requirements for the language used in ballot initiative statements. These include a requirement that the statement describe the initiative's policy change in clear, easily understandable language.
- [SB 670](#) and [HB 1001](#), which require police officers on duty at polling places and early voting sites to obey the orders of the state elections administrator, their deputy, or a local election director, in addition to the polling place's election judge. The bills allow those same individuals to order the arrest of anyone who breaches the peace, violates state election laws, or interferes with the duties of election officials.
- [SB 141](#), which requires the State Election Administrator to take action to correct election misinformation or disinformation and authorizes the administrator to seek a court order to remove such information from an online platform.

The House of Delegates voted on Feb. 2 to approve [HB 488](#), which would have enacted new congressional districts for the 2026 elections and submitted a constitutional amendment to voters in the November election authorizing the use of those maps until the 2030 Census. The Senate did not take up the bill.

Maryland enacted 24 election-related bills [in 2025](#), nine [in 2024](#), and nine [in 2023](#).

Massachusetts

On July 31, the [Massachusetts General Court](#) adjourned its formal legislative session after passing one election-related bill, which Gov. [Maura Healey](#) (D) signed into law.

[H5555](#), the state budget bill, allows the secretary of state to award grants for voter registration and education. Those grants may be awarded to community-based voter registration and education organizations. In addition, the bill requires the secretary of state to prepare a report for legislative committees on the total costs incurred in 2022, 2024, and 2026 to issue mail voting postcards, send mail ballots to local election officials for distribution, and use a second envelope for mail ballots.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed H5555 [142-6](#) on July 1, with 125 Democrats and 17 Republicans voting in favor and six Republicans voting against. Later that day, the Massachusetts Senate approved the bill [39-1](#), with 35 Democrats and four Republicans voting in favor and one Republican voting against. Healey signed the bill on July 9.

Both chambers also considered [S2916](#), which would have required that petition forms include a disclosure when being circulated by a paid signature gatherer. It also would have prohibited signature gatherers from being compensated based on the number of signatures collected. The bill would have made Massachusetts the eighth state to require paid circulators [to disclose](#) that fact on petitions and the 11th state to enact a [pay-per-signature prohibition](#).

The bill passed the Senate [38-0](#) on January 15, with 33 Democrats and five Republicans voting in favor. The House amended the bill and passed its version 149-0 on July 1, with 125 Democrats, 23 Republicans, and one independent voting in favor. The Senate moved the bill to a conference committee, but the bill did not advance further.

Massachusetts enacted one election-related bill [in 2025](#), no election bills [in 2024](#), and one election bill [in 2023](#).

Rhode Island

The [Rhode Island General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on June 11 after passing 20 election-related bills. Governor [Dan McKee](#) (D) signed all 20 bills between March and June.

Among those bills were [H7434](#) and [S3339](#), which prohibit U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) employees, agents, or officials from entering or remaining within 200 feet of any polling place, including both during early voting and on Election Day, except when they are present to vote in compliance with the law.

The state House passed the final version of H7434 [58-13](#) on June 10, with 57 Democrats and one independent voting in favor and three Democrats and 10 Republicans voting against. The state Senate passed the bill [31-7](#) on June 11, with 31 Democrats voting in favor and three Democrats and four Republicans voting against. S3339 passed the Senate on June 9 and the House on June 11.

McKee signed the bills on June 22, making Rhode Island one of six states so far this year to enact legislation prohibiting or restricting law enforcement presence near election-related sites. In April, McKee signed [H7049](#) and [S2147](#), which require a primary election to be held on the next Wednesday following Labor Day if the eighth Tuesday preceding the biennial general election is the day after Labor Day. Previously, primary elections were required to be held on the eighth Tuesday preceding the general election without exception. The bills moved the 2026 primary election to Sept. 9.

The state Senate passed the final version of S2147 [34-2](#) on March 31, with 32 Democrats and two Republicans voting in favor and two Republicans voting against. The state House passed the bill [64-0](#) on April 16. McKee signed the bill on April 20.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [H7007](#) and [S2341](#), which allow eligible disabled voters to electronically receive and return their ballots using the same electronic transmission system used by voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act
- [H7090](#) and [S2491](#), which require the primary election for delegates to the national convention for each political party to be held on the first Tuesday in March of presidential election years (rather than the fourth Tuesday in April).
- [H7092](#) and [S2309](#), which amend the deadlines and signature requirements for candidates seeking to be delegates to a national presidential nominating convention.
- [H7358](#) and [S2130](#), which require write-in votes to be tabulated and reported if they may affect the election outcome for a particular office. The bills also permit write-in candidates who meet certain criteria to request tabulation of write-in votes in their race.

- [H7377](#) and [S2136](#), which amend the procedures used for filling vacancies on canvassing authorities and outline duties for chief local election officials.
- [H7494](#) and [S3112](#), which require voters to provide their driver's license number, ID number, or last four digits of their Social Security number when requesting a mail ballot using a state form. The bills also permit election officials to consider identifying information, such as a voter's driver's license or ID number, if there is a discrepancy between a voter's signature on their mail ballot application and the signature on their mail ballot envelope.
- [H7495](#) and [S2334](#), which add a candidate's home or office security expenses to the list of permitted uses of campaign funds.
- [H7782](#) and [S3113](#), which increase the window in which a candidate has to file a recount from seven days after results have been tabulated and declared to nine days.

Rhode Island enacted 10 election-related bills [in 2025](#), 17 bills or resolutions [in 2024](#), and 15 bills or resolutions [in 2023](#).

Virginia

The [Virginia General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on April 22 after sending 51 election-related bills to Gov. [Abigail Spanberger](#) (D) and adopting three resolutions. Spanberger signed 46 bills and vetoed five.

The 2026 session was the first time in five years that Virginia had a [Democratic trifecta](#), where one party controls both chambers of the legislature and the governor's office, after Spanberger won election in 2025. The 49 election-related bills and resolutions approved during the 2026 session was a 250% increase over the state's previous average of 14 measures approved per year from 2023 to 2025.

Spanberger signed 28 election-related bills in February, March, and April, vetoed [one](#), and returned an additional 22 bills to legislators with suggested amendments. Lawmakers approved her amendments to 17 of those bills on April 22. Spanberger vetoed four of the remaining bills and signed [one](#) without her suggested amendments in May.

During the 2026 session, lawmakers passed [HJR 4](#), a resolution that sent [a constitutional amendment](#) to voters to allow [mid-decade redistricting](#) and to enact new congressional maps ahead of the 2026 elections. The amendment was approved in an April 21 special election, but the [Supreme Court of Virginia](#) later nullified that result when it [ruled](#) that the General Assembly violated procedural requirements in enacting the amendment.

Legislators also adopted [HJR 2](#), a [constitutional amendment](#) that would automatically [restore voting rights](#) for individuals convicted of a felony upon completion of their sentence. [HB 964](#) and [SB 164](#) would implement the policy if voters approve the amendment on Nov. 3.

HJR 2 passed the state House of Delegates [63-33](#) on Jan. 14, with 62 Democrats and one Republican voting in favor and 33 Republicans voting against. It then passed the state Senate [21-18](#) on Jan. 16, with 21 Democrats voting in favor and 18 Republicans voting against.

Currently, Virginia has no mechanism for automatically restoring voting rights for individuals convicted of a felony. Instead, people must apply for restoration to the governor's office upon

completion of their sentence, including any prison time, parole, or probation. Some governors have used their authority to automatically restore voting rights to thousands of people with felony convictions upon completion of their sentences.

Other notable election-related bills that were enacted include:

- [HB 215](#) and [SB 57](#), which require Virginia to join the Electronic Registration Information Center and ensure its membership remains in good standing. HB 215 also sets out future requirements for joining or terminating a data-sharing agreement with a third-party organization.
- [HB 965](#) and [SB 322](#), which require Virginia to join the [National Popular Vote Interstate Compact](#), an initiative in which member states agree to award their Electoral College votes to the presidential ticket that receives the most votes nationwide. Virginia was the lone Democratic trifecta state that had not previously joined the NPVIC.
- [HB 967](#), which expands the state's [voting rights act](#) to prohibit local governmental bodies from enacting policies that dilute or abridge the voting rights of protected classes. The bill also allows groups whose membership includes individuals affected by a local government action to initiate a court action or submit public comments regarding the action.
- [HB 1441](#) and [SB 783](#), which prohibit federal agents from conducting any immigration enforcement activity within 500 yards of any polling place during the times the polls are open and ballots are being counted or within one hour of opening and after closing.
- [HB 1483](#) and [SB 51](#), which require localities with a population of 400,000 people or more to use single-member districts for municipal elections.
- [SB 176](#), which permits the use of [ranked-choice voting](#) (RCV) to elect members of any local governing body, repeals the July 1, 2031, expiration date for the law authorizing the use of RCV, and requires the State Board of Elections to develop standards for tabulation software to be used in RCV elections.
- [SB 438](#), which requires early voting to be offered for a minimum of five hours between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the second and third Sundays before the election.

Spanberger's five vetoes of election-related bills were the most in any Democratic trifecta state since Michigan in 2024. The bills Spanberger vetoed were:

- [HB 111](#), which would have prohibited election officials from canceling a voter's registration based on anything other than approved state data, a death notice, or a written request from the voter.
- [HB 639](#), which would have amended the state's prohibition on private election funding to allow election officials to accept private funds or grants of up to \$1,000, as well as property or services valued at any amount.
- [HB 650](#) and [SB 351](#), which would have prohibited immigration enforcement within 40 feet of a polling place, recount location, or electoral board meeting place.
- [SB 661](#), which would have allowed for a referendum on whether to prohibit electronic skill gaming devices at retailers in a locality.

Virginia approved 11 election-related measures [in 2025](#), 18 [in 2024](#), and 13 [in 2023](#). The state had a divided government in each of those years.

Divided government

[Click here](#) to read summaries from Kansas, Kentucky, and Wisconsin in our State of Election Policy Legislation 2026 Spring Report.

Alaska

The [Alaska Legislature](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on May 20 after [passing two](#) election-related bills. Gov. [Mike Dunleavy](#) (R) vetoed both bills in April and July.

One of the bills was [SB 64](#), an omnibus bill that would have made numerous changes to Alaska's election statutes.

The bill would have established a cure provision for absentee ballots, required absentee ballot return envelopes to be postage-paid, required the state to implement online ballot-tracking software, and authorized identification cards issued by federally recognized tribes as an acceptable form of identification for voting and voter registration.

The Alaska House of Representatives passed the final version of the bill [23-16](#) on March 23, with 13 Democrats, five Republicans, one undeclared member, and four members without party affiliation voting in favor and 16 Republicans voting against. Control of the Alaska House is split among multiple parties, with 14 Democrats, five independents, and two Republicans forming the majority party caucus.

The Alaska Senate passed the bill [16-4](#) on March 25, with nine Democrats and seven Republicans voting in favor and four Republicans voting against.

Dunleavy vetoed the bill on April 29. The Alaska Legislature voted [38-22](#) to override Dunleavy's veto on May 4, falling short of the 40 votes required to override and sustaining the veto.

Sen. [Bert Stedman](#) (R), who voted to sustain the veto, [said](#), "I think they need more time to implement [the bill]. That was it, pretty much. I think there's a lot of good work in this bill and a lot of positive things, but it just needs a little more time."

Senate Minority Leader [Mike Cronk](#) (R), who voted to override the veto, [said](#), "If I lose an election because a little old lady in Arctic Village had to cure her ballot, and that one ballot cost me my election, so be it. Aren't we here to make sure every vote counts?"

Dunleavy also vetoed [HB 16](#), which would have reinstated an individual-to-candidate campaign contribution limit in Alaska. The state's previous \$500 individual-to-candidate campaign contribution limit was [struck down](#) as unconstitutional by the [U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit](#) in 2021.

The bill would have imposed a donation limit of \$2,000 per election cycle for individuals donating to a candidate, and it would have raised the limit for groups that are not political parties from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per election cycle. A state commission would have been required to raise the limits every 10 years to match increases in the consumer price index. The bill would also have required donor groups to maintain a physical address within Alaska or designate a registered agent with a physical address within Alaska.

The state Senate approved HB 16 [12-8](#) on May 19, with nine Democrats and three Republicans voting in favor and eight Republicans voting against. The state House approved the bill [21-19](#) on May 20, with 14 Democrats, two Republicans, one undeclared member, and four members without party affiliation voting in favor, and 19 Republicans voting against. Dunleavy vetoed the bill on July 9.

Dunleavy's veto means that [Ballot Measure 1](#), which would establish new campaign contribution limits for campaigns for state and local offices, will appear on the Aug. 18 ballot.

Legislators enacted one election-related bill [in 2025](#), no bills [in 2024](#), and one bill [in 2023](#). No other election bills were vetoed in the last three years.

Arizona

On June 13, the [Arizona Legislature](#) adjourned its 2026 session after passing [21 election-related bills](#) and one constitutional amendment. Gov. [Katie Hobbs](#) (D) signed 11 of the bills and vetoed 10.

Among the bills Hobbs vetoed was HB [4115](#), which would have required a paid petition circulator to disclose to a potential petition signer their state of residence and that they were a paid circulator, and wear a badge disclosing the same information. The bill [would have made](#) Arizona the fifth state with a badge requirement for paid petition circulators.

The Arizona House of Representatives approved HB 4115 [32-24](#) on March 3, with 32 Republicans voting in favor and 24 Democrats voting against. The Arizona Senate then approved the bill [16-13](#) on March 9, with 16 Republicans voting in favor and 13 Democrats voting against. Hobbs vetoed the bill on March 12.

The other bills Hobbs vetoed included:

- [SB 1037](#), which would have prohibited any voting equipment used in a polling place or voting center from having internet access and access to any aggregated data or results, and made other changes to voting equipment requirements.
- [SB 1040](#), which would have required the county recorder to provide access to voter registration rolls via an internet portal that is publicly accessible and allows the information to be downloaded at no cost.
- [SB 1060](#), which would have removed a provision permitting any U.S. citizen who has never resided in the country and whose parent was a registered voter in Arizona and a U.S. citizen to register to vote and vote using a federal write-in early ballot.
- [SB 1186](#), which would have required current or prospective state contractors to disclose anything of value that they had provided to a gubernatorial campaign during the previous five years.
- [SB 1237](#), which would have added county recorders and the chairpersons and ranking members of the House of Representatives and Senate committees with jurisdiction over election matters to the list of public officials that the secretary of state must consult before prescribing rules for the elections instructions and procedures manual.

As of August 2026, Hobbs had vetoed more election bills than any other governor in the country this year. Hobbs vetoed 29 election bills [in 2025](#), seven [in 2024](#), and 21 [in 2023](#).

The 11 bills Hobbs signed included [HB 2022](#), which moved the state's primary election date to the second-to-last Tuesday in July. Previously, primaries occurred on the first Tuesday in August.

HB 2022 passed on a [56-0 vote](#) in the state House on Feb. 2, with 31 Republicans and 25 Democrats voting in favor. It passed the state Senate [27-1](#) on Feb. 5, with 16 Republicans and 11 Democrats voting in favor and one Democrat voting against. Hobbs signed the bill on Feb. 6.

This is the second time in recent years that Arizona has moved its primary election date. In 2024, Hobbs signed [a law](#) moving up that year's primary by a week to July 30.

Among the other bills Hobbs signed were:

- [HB 2327](#), which allows eligible individuals to request that the public be prevented from accessing county recorder data that may directly or indirectly identify them, and lists the information that could be excluded.
- [HB 2874](#), which amends the procedures for terminating a campaign committee.
- [SB 1029](#), which establishes that, upon a candidate's death, the candidate's committee is deemed to have the intention to terminate the committee.
- [SB 1133](#), which establishes that a current statewide officer or legislator who has filed a financial disclosure statement for that year as required for their position is deemed to have complied with the candidate requirement to file a financial disclosure statement.
- [SB 1259](#), which allows an alternative mailing address to be listed on a financial disclosure or campaign committee statement of organization if the person's residential address is protected from public disclosure.

Legislators also enacted [HCR 2001](#), a proposed constitutional amendment that would require individuals to be United States citizens to vote in Arizona elections, prohibit foreign individuals or corporations from making campaign contributions to Arizona candidates or ballot measures, require voters to opt in to receive mail ballots, and require all voters to provide an acceptable government-issued identification in order to vote. The [amendment](#) will be submitted to voters in the Nov. 3, 2026, election.

Arizona enacted eight election bills [in 2025](#), enacted and approved 10 bills and constitutional amendments [in 2024](#), and enacted and approved four bills and constitutional amendments [in 2023](#).

Minnesota

The [Minnesota Legislature](#) adjourned its 2026 legislative session on May 17 after passing two election-related bills, both of which Gov. [Tim Walz](#) (D) signed into law.

[HF 4240](#) is an omnibus bill making changes to numerous areas of election law, including:

- Requiring clerks to use the statewide voter registration system when administering absentee voting, except in town elections.
- Requiring election officials to maintain a printed copy of all voter certificates issued to early voters.
- Removing a requirement that the secretary of state distribute a copy of election laws to each

county auditor and municipal clerk. Instead, the secretary of state must publish election laws online each year.

- Prohibiting elected officials and candidates from betting on elections.

The Minnesota Senate passed the final version of the bill [36-28](#) on May 13, with 32 Democrats and four Republicans voting in favor and 28 Republicans voting against. The Minnesota House of Representatives approved the bill [127-6](#) on May 14, with 67 Democrats and 60 Republicans voting in favor and six Republicans voting against. Walz signed the bill on May 18.

Walz also signed [HF 4239](#), which makes several changes to Minnesota’s campaign finance laws. Those changes include:

- Making street addresses filed by candidates or officeholders on campaign finance reports nonpublic information.
- Allowing a campaign finance complaint to be immediately dismissed if it is deemed to be frivolous, filed for the purpose of harassment, or duplicative.
- Exempting spending on security services from a statutory limit on the amount of money a candidate may give to their own campaign.
- Amending requirements for disclaimers on independent expenditures.

The Senate passed an amended version of the bill [46-21](#) on May 13, with 34 Democrats and 12 Republicans voting in favor and 21 Republicans voting against. The House passed the bill [118-15](#) on May 14, with 67 Democrats and 51 Republicans voting in favor and 15 Republicans voting against. Walz signed HF 4239 on May 18.

Minnesota enacted no election-related bills [in 2025](#), two bills [in 2024](#), and four bills [in 2023](#).

Vermont

The [Vermont General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on May 29 after passing one election-related bill, which Gov. [Phil Scott](#) (R) signed on June 8.

[S. 298](#) is an omnibus elections bill. It includes a prohibition on state or local voting policies that result in a “denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote based on race or color, membership in a language minority group, or having a disability.” It also authorizes the attorney general to file a civil action if they believe the prohibition has been violated. The legislation originally would have enacted a [state-level voting rights act](#) in Vermont, but most of the relevant provisions were removed.

The bill also allows candidates to use campaign funds on security systems, protective details, or cybersecurity. Vermont is the seventh state to enact legislation in 2026 allowing campaign funds to be used for security purposes, joining [Alabama](#), [Kentucky](#), [Nebraska](#), [Oregon](#), [Tennessee](#), and [Utah](#).

Other provisions include:

- Prohibiting individuals from intentionally or recklessly intimidating, threatening, coercing, or attempting to intimidate, threaten, or coerce an election official or another voter.

- Requiring an individual seeking to obtain a municipality's voter list to swear they will not use it for commercial purposes or disclose its contents to a federal agency or foreign government.
- Requiring the State Ethics Commission to provide information materials on “how to accurately complete and submit the candidate disclosure form, and the penalties for failing to properly file the disclosure form.”
- Prohibiting the State Ethics Commission from taking enforcement action against candidates who delinquent file disclosures through May 30, 2027.

The [Vermont Senate](#) passed the final version of S. 298 on May 14, and the [Vermont House of Representatives](#) passed it on May 20. Scott signed the bill on June 8.

Vermont is [one of two states](#), along with Nevada, that have a Republican governor and a Democratic-controlled legislature. It is one of 11 states with a divided government. Vermont enacted three election-related bills [in 2025](#), none [in 2024](#), and eight [in 2023](#).

Republican trifectas

[Click here](#) to read summaries from Alabama, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming in our State of Election Policy Legislation 2026 Spring Report.

Florida

The [Florida Legislature](#) passed eight [election-related bills](#) during its 2026 regular and special sessions, all of which Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) signed between April and June.

Among those bills was [HB 991](#), which requires officials to verify whether a prospective voter provided proof of citizenship when applying for a driver's license or state ID card. If not, the person must provide proof of citizenship to be registered to vote. This also applies to individuals updating their registration due to a change of name, address, or party affiliation.

If a voter does not provide proof of citizenship, they would be issued a provisional ballot. The ballot would only be counted if the voter provided proof of citizenship before 5 p.m. on the second day following the election.

HB 991 also enacted a number of other election-related policies, including:

- Requiring the Department of State to use information from federal jury coordinators that an individual was disqualified or potentially disqualified from jury service due to not having U.S. citizenship, being convicted of a felony, being deceased, or not being a resident of Florida or the relevant county to identify potentially ineligible voters and voter registration applicants.
- Requiring candidates for federal office to state in writing whether they intend to trade stocks in specified manners while serving in office.
- Adding the following forms of identification to the list of acceptable IDs presented by voters when entering a polling place: U.S. passport cards and U.S. uniformed service or Merchant Marine IDs.

- Removing the following forms of identification from the list of acceptable IDs presented by voters when entering a polling place: debit or credit cards, student IDs, retirement center IDs, neighborhood association IDs, and public assistance IDs.

The Florida Senate passed HB 991 [27-12](#) on March 12, with 26 Republicans and one independent voting in favor and 11 Democrats and one Republican voting against. The Florida House of Representatives approved the bill [77-28](#) on March 12, with 77 Republicans voting in favor and 27 Democrats and one Republican voting against. DeSantis signed the bill on April 1.

Other election bills enacted in the 2026 regular session include:

- [H91](#), which requires a person running for office to affirm that they have not changed their name during the 365-day period before the qualifying period begins, unless they changed their name while getting married, dissolving a marriage, or adopting a child.
- [H905](#), which prohibits candidates from soliciting or accepting anything of value from a person from a foreign terrorist organization or a foreign country of concern.
- [H7031](#), which establishes when a county must place a millage referendum for a school district on the ballot.
- [S572](#), which amends the definition of relative for certain campaign finance purposes.
- [S1180](#), which allows for members of the board of supervisors of a community development district to be recalled.

Following an April special session on redistricting, DeSantis signed [HB 1-D](#), which enacted new congressional maps in the state ahead of the 2026 elections. Florida is one of seven states to voluntarily enact a new congressional map between the 2024 and 2026 elections.

[HB 1-D](#) passed the state House [83-28](#) on April 29, with 81 Republicans and two Democrats voting in favor and 27 Democrats and one Republican voting in opposition. It passed the state Senate [21-17](#) also on April 29, with 21 Republicans voting in favor and 12 Democrats, four Republicans, and one independent voting against. DeSantis signed the bill on May 4.

[SB 4-F](#), also passed during a special session, allows a ballot measure summary to exceed the statutory limit of 75 words for a constitutional amendment submitted to the voters on Nov. 3, 2026, regarding certain subsections of Article VII of the state Constitution.

Florida enacted one election-related bill [in 2025](#), five bills or resolutions [in 2024](#), and five bills [in 2023](#).

Georgia

The [Georgia General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular legislative session on April 2 after sending [six election-related bills](#) to Gov. [Brian Kemp](#) (R). Kemp signed the bills on May 11 and 12.

Among those bills was [HB 369](#), which makes elections for district attorney, county commission, and some other county offices nonpartisan in Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties. The offices will be elected on the statewide primary date in even-numbered years.

The Senate passed the final version of HB 369 [32-21](#) on March 25 with all 32 Republicans voting in

favor and 21 Democrats against. The House adopted the bill in a [93-64](#) vote on March 27, with 93 Republicans voting in favor and 62 Democrats and two Republicans voting against.

Lawmakers also approved [HR 251](#), which submits a constitutional amendment to voters that would require all probate judges to be elected on a nonpartisan basis.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 651](#), which requires municipalities to submit the question of whether to purchase automated traffic enforcement safety devices for school zones to voters.
- [HB 1215](#), which adds an additional judgeship to the superior courts of the Atlanta Circuit, Clayton Circuit, Gwinnett Circuit, Middle Circuit, and Northeastern Circuit, and establishes procedures for the appointment and election of those judges.
- [SB 33](#), which requires that special elections on measures relating to an increase in revenue by a local governing authority only be held on certain dates.

The Senate also adopted [SR 563](#), a resolution urging the Georgia secretary of state to comply with the U.S. Department of Justice's request to produce the state's voter registration list.

On June 25, Kemp signed legislation enacted during a May special session delaying the implementation of a state law banning the use of QR codes and other machine coding in ballot tabulation.

The new law, [Senate Bill 3EX](#), sets a 2028 deadline to eliminate the use of QR codes for ballot tabulation and requires a committee to recommend standards for new election equipment. The bill also requires [automatic hand recounts](#) in any statewide executive races listed first or second on the ballot that are decided by less than 0.5% of the vote, making Georgia the [29th state](#) to require automatic recounts in at least some races.

Lawmakers enacted six election-related bills and resolutions [in 2025](#), four [in 2024](#), and six [in 2023](#).

Iowa

The [Iowa General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on May 3 after passing five election-related bills. Governor [Kim Reynolds](#) (R) signed each of the bills by June 2.

Among the enacted bills was [HF 2601](#), which prohibits foreign contributions in ballot measure elections. Iowa previously had a ban on foreign funding for candidate elections, but no such prohibition on foreign contributions to ballot measure committees.

Iowa is now the 25th state [to ban](#) foreign nationals or governments from contributing to ballot measure campaigns. It is also one of 19 states [to prohibit](#) foreign contributions to both campaign and ballot measure committees.

HF 2601 prohibits anyone who is not a citizen or lawful permanent U.S. resident, as well as foreign governments, political parties, and groups, from making contributions to or soliciting contributions for ballot measure campaigns.

It requires donors to political committees involved in ballot measures to certify that they are not

foreign nationals. Political committees must also affirm that they have not knowingly received contributions from a foreign national.

Finally, the bill prohibits foreign nationals from making independent expenditures in candidate and ballot measure elections.

The bill passed the Iowa House [90-0](#) on March 23. The Iowa Senate then approved it [44-0](#) on April 21. Reynolds signed the bill on June 2.

Lawmakers also passed [SF 2218](#), which requires the state registrar of voters to annually verify the U.S. citizenship status of all registered voters through the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system.

County commissioners must give any voters flagged as noncitizens the opportunity to cancel their registration or provide proof of citizenship. Election officials must cancel a person's registration if they do not respond within 90 days.

The bill also requires the state to verify the citizenship status of all newly registered voters on a monthly basis.

Iowa is one of six states to enact legislation in 2026 requiring or allowing election officials to check citizenship data as part of the voter list maintenance process.

The state Senate passed the bill [37-10](#) on April 28, with 31 Republicans and six Democrats voting in favor and 10 Democrats voting against. It then passed the Iowa House [71-20](#) on April 29, with 61 Republicans and 10 Democrats voting in favor and 18 Democrats and two Republicans voting against. Reynolds signed the bill on June 2.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HF 2501](#), which eliminates the ability of a voter without an accepted form of ID to have another person attest to their identity in order to vote.
- [SF 140](#), which prohibits satellite absentee voting stations from being located on school property when a school-related measure is on the ballot for that election.
- [SF 2472](#), which allows voters to approve a levy rate higher than the maximum outlined in state law at an election on or after July 1, 2026.

Iowa enacted four election-related bills [in 2025](#), one [in 2024](#), and four [in 2023](#).

Louisiana

The [Louisiana Legislature](#) adjourned its regular session on June 1 after passing 20 election-related bills, one resolution, and one proposed constitutional amendment. Governor [Jeff Landry](#) (R) signed 19 of the bills in May and June and allowed one bill to become law without his signature.

Among those bills was [SB 121](#), which redraws the state's congressional map after the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in [Louisiana v. Callais](#).

That [decision](#), issued on April 29, 2026, upheld a lower court order striking down Louisiana's

congressional map as an unconstitutional gerrymander. The Legislature had redrawn the maps in 2024 to comply with a court order finding that the previous set of congressional districts enacted in 2022 violated Section 2 of the [Voting Rights Act](#).

The state House passed the final version of SB 121 on May 28 by a vote of [66-36](#), with 65 Republicans and one Democrat voting in favor and six Republicans and 30 Democrats voting against. The state Senate approved the amended bill on May 29 by a vote of [28-10](#), with 28 Republicans voting in favor and 10 Democrats voting against. Landry signed the bill on May 29.

Legislators also enacted [HB 842](#) following the Callais decision, moving the state's 2026 U.S. House races from the state's [semi-closed](#) party election, with primaries on May 16, to the state's [majority-vote system election](#), with the first round on Nov. 3, and moving the filing deadline for those races from Feb. 13 to Aug. 7. In future election cycles, Louisiana will use the semi-closed party primary system for U.S. House races.

Legislators also approved [SB 319](#), which makes changes to the state's voter ID laws. The bill removes the ability for individuals to sign a voter identification affidavit to attest to their identity if they cannot produce a valid form of photo identification.

The new law requires a prospective voter who cannot produce a valid form of photo identification to present two primary documents (such as a passport card or Social Security card) or one primary document and one secondary document (such as a current utility bill or bank statement).

Finally, the bill allows voters to cast a provisional ballot if they do not have proper identification. For the provisional ballot to be counted, a voter must provide identification to the parish registrar of voters by 4:30 p.m. on the second day following the election.

The state Senate passed SB 319 on May 5 by a unanimous [35-0](#) vote. The state House passed the bill [68-30](#) on May 26, with 65 Republicans and three Democrats voting in favor and three Republicans and 27 Democrats voting against. Landry signed the bill on June 2, with the provisions taking effect on July 1, 2027.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 379](#), which allows 17 year-olds to serve as election commissioners if they are in 11th grade at a Louisiana high school or homeschooling program.
- [HB 547](#), which prohibits a person from photographing, recording, or reproducing voter registration information in precinct registers, except for a state or local election official performing their duties.
- [HB 691](#), which requires the secretary of state to annually conduct a check of every registrant's name in the state voter registration computer system against the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program and submit individuals suspected of being noncitizens to parish registrars to be challenged.
- [HB 1057](#), which establishes that an absentee vote by mail application is valid for two years (rather than one year) for U.S. servicemembers or persons living overseas.
- [SB 25](#), which establishes new boundaries for three state senatorial districts and increases compensation for registrars of voters, chief deputy registrars of voters, and confidential assistants. Landry allowed the bill to become law without his signature on June 23.

- [SB 107](#), which schedules a special statewide election for Saturday, April 17, 2027, to consider proposed constitutional amendments.
- [SB 248](#), which allows for the consolidation of polling places with fewer than 20 voters.

Legislators also approved a proposed constitutional amendment. [HB 225](#) proposes changing the state's constitutional term limits for governor to a lifetime cap of two terms. Currently, governors are limited to two consecutive terms, which allows a former governor to run again after leaving office for one term. Voters will decide on the proposed [amendment](#) on Nov. 3.

Finally, legislators adopted a resolution urging Congress [to pass](#) the [SAVE America Act](#).

Louisiana enacted 17 election-related bills and resolutions [in 2025](#), 33 [in 2024](#), and 12 [in 2023](#).

Missouri

The [Missouri General Assembly](#) adjourned its 2026 legislative session on May 15 after passing four election-related bills and a constitutional amendment. Gov. [Mike Kehoe](#) (R) signed all four bills in July.

Among those bills was [HB 1871](#), an omnibus bill that makes several changes to Missouri election law. Those changes include:

- Designating Aug. 12 as Election Worker Appreciation Day in Missouri.
- Allowing registered lobbyists to maintain a campaign committee for a local or school board office, provided they are not registered to lobby the office they are seeking.
- Restoring voting rights to people convicted of all but 11 felonies upon completion of their prison sentence, rather than upon completion of prison sentence, probation, and parole.
- Establishing that lists of absentee ballot applications for people with permanent disabilities must be kept confidential.
- Requiring that a write-in candidate must be registered in order to have their votes counted, even if there are no other candidates filed.
- Allowing election officials to expand the area around a polling place in which electioneering is banned, from 25 feet to 50 feet, after posting notice publicly.
- Requiring donors to give affirmative consent before a candidate can collect recurring campaign donations.
- Establishing childcare and personal security expenses as acceptable uses of campaign funds.

The Missouri Senate passed the final version of the bill [25-6](#) on May 11, with 15 Republicans and 10 Democrats voting in favor and six Republicans voting against. On May 12, the House of Representatives passed the bill [101-47](#), with 51 Republicans and 50 Democrats voting in favor and 47 Republicans voting against. Kehoe signed the bill on July 13.

The following bills were also enacted this session:

- [HB 1940](#), which amends requirements for publishing election notices. It also moves the filing time for declarations of candidacy for offices in political subdivisions or special districts not

otherwise specified in law or charter to be between the 16th Tuesday prior to the election and the 13th Tuesday prior to the election.

- [SB 975](#), which allows ambulance district directors to be elected at large or by district, allows an ambulance district board to abolish existing districts if it cannot find enough qualified candidates, and requires a vote to be held on consolidating an ambulance district only if an objection is filed.
- [SB 1002](#), which requires that school board and bond elections held in school districts in which a majority of the district is located in St. Charles County be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years.

Legislators also passed a constitutional amendment, [SJR 87](#), that would require most counties to elect a sheriff for a four-year term. The city of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County would be exempt from the requirement. The [amendment](#) will be presented to voters on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Missouri lawmakers enacted or approved three election-related bills and one constitutional amendment [in 2025](#), one constitutional amendment [in 2024](#), and no bills or constitutional amendments [in 2023](#).

New Hampshire

The [New Hampshire General Court](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on June 4 after passing 25 election-related bills. Governor [Kelly Ayotte](#) (R) signed all 25 bills between March and July. Among those bills was [HB 323](#), which removes student identification cards from the list of acceptable forms of identification for voting purposes.

HB 323 passed the state House [190-148](#) on Jan. 7, with 186 Republicans and four Democrats voting in favor and 148 Democrats voting in opposition. The bill passed the state Senate [16-8](#) on March 5, with 16 Republicans voting in favor and eight Democrats voting against. Ayotte signed the bill on April 3.

Ayotte also signed [HB 481](#), which moved the state primary election to the second Tuesday in June of every even-numbered year. It was previously held in September.

The final version of the bill passed the state Senate by voice vote on Jan. 7 and was concurred in by the state House by voice vote on April 9. Ayotte signed the bill on May 8. The bill takes effect on Jan. 1, 2028.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 158](#), which requires the secretary of state to review absentee ballot data after each general election and identify absentee ballot requests that should be forwarded to the state Department of Justice's election law unit for an investigative review.
- [HB 340](#), which expands the definition of electioneering to include conducting surveys that are expressly or primarily political.

- [HB 365](#), which requires that if a person does not have documentary proof of citizenship, a clerk must attempt to confirm the person's citizenship through the office of the secretary of state. If the secretary of state's office confirms a person is a U.S. citizen via a database check, the proof of citizenship requirement is considered satisfied.
- [HB 1031](#), which authorizes campaign funds to be used to pay for the reasonable costs of security measures for a state candidate, state officeholder, member of their family, and employees of the candidate's campaign or the state officeholder's office.
- [HB 1062](#), which allows the secretary of state to audit the citizenship qualifications of registered voters who submitted a qualified voter affidavit as proof of citizenship.
- [HB 1381](#), which extends the deadline for a party committee chair to designate a person to fill a candidate vacancy.
- [SB 103](#), which requires a town or city to have a minimum of one polling place for every 15,000 registered voters for a general election in a presidential year, unless certain conditions are met.
- [SB 438](#), which requires the secretary of state to work with local election officials to ensure polling locations have direct or indirect access on election day to the statewide centralized voter registration database.
- [SB 534](#), which extends the state's prohibition on foreign national campaign contributions to city, town, village, and school board elections. It also requires individuals or political committees who violate the prohibition to pay the secretary of state the amount of the prohibited contribution or expenditure, plus interest accrued from the date of the contribution or expenditure.

New Hampshire enacted 18 election-related bills [in 2025](#), 11 [in 2024](#), and three [in 2023](#).

Oklahoma

The [Oklahoma Legislature](#) adjourned its 2026 legislative session on May 14 after enacting five election-related bills and passing one constitutional amendment. Governor [Kevin Stitt](#) (R) signed all five of the bills in May.

Oklahoma voters will decide on a constitutional amendment, [SJR 47](#), during the [Aug. 25 primary runoff](#) election. The [amendment](#) would require prospective voters to provide proof of identity, with the Legislature specifying the requirements. Voters initially approved the state's statutory voter ID requirement via [ballot measure](#) in 2010.

The Senate approved the amendment [39-8](#) on March 26, with 39 Republicans voting in favor and eight Democrats against. The state House approved it [80-13](#) on April 15, with 77 Republicans and three Democrats voting in favor and 13 Democrats voting against.

Other election legislation enacted in 2026 included [HB 4113](#), which amends existing law on voting rights for people convicted of a felony. It establishes that people who have received a commutation or pardon for a felony are eligible to vote if they are not currently incarcerated, on parole, on supervision, or on probation for another felony conviction.

The final version of the bill passed the state Senate on [40-4](#) on April 29, with 36 Republicans and four Democrats voting in favor and four Democrats voting against. It then passed the state House [82-0](#) on May 5. Stitt signed the bill on May 12.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 were:

- [HB 3919](#), which permits a board of county commissioners to hold a vote in order to form a five-member board of directors for a free fair association for a term of three years.
- [SB 1286](#), which requires political subdivisions that own, rent, or lease a facility located near a precinct without a polling place to furnish rooms in the facility for use as a polling place for free upon request by the county election board.
- [SB 1451](#), which requires that a voter registration application be deemed an applicant's request for the cancellation of any previous voter registration in another county or state. It also requires that the voter registration form provide a space for the applicant to list any previous registrations.
- [SB 1491](#), which requires individuals appointed to fill a vacancy of a presidential elector to take an oath stating that the appointee will cast a ballot for the candidate the person's political party nominated for the offices of U.S. President and Vice President.

Legislators enacted 12 election-related bills [in 2025](#), seven [in 2024](#), and 12 [in 2023](#).

South Carolina

The [South Carolina Legislature](#) adjourned its 2026 regular legislative session on May 14 after approving four pieces of election-related legislation.

Among those was [H 3556](#), which establishes certain dates when municipal elections may be held in odd-numbered years. It also allows only municipalities with more than 10,000 residents to have a municipal elections commission and permits municipalities to determine when the terms of their newly elected officers begin, among other provisions.

On April 23, the South Carolina House approved the final version of the bill on a voice vote. The Senate adopted the bill by unanimous consent on May 5. Governor [Henry McMaster](#) (R) signed H 3556 on May 19.

"In recognition of the idea that we are having elections constantly, putting a tremendous amount of burden and work on the folks who run elections, we are trying to be streamline and efficient in how we have those elections," Rep. [Jay Jordan](#) (R) [said](#) on the floor of the state House. "... This, I think, is another step in that vein."

[Similar legislation](#) was also introduced in the 2023-24 session.

Previously, South Carolina was one of 17 states that [allowed municipalities to determine](#) the dates of their general elections. After the new law takes effect on Jan. 1, 2027, the state will be one of 25 requiring [non-consolidated](#) municipal elections, meaning elections held on a date other than the statewide primary or general election.

Lawmakers also approved [S 582](#), which officially ratifies a constitutional amendment stating that

only United States citizens may vote in state or local elections. South Carolina voters approved the [amendment](#) 86%-14% in 2024.

South Carolina is one of 18 states with a constitution that [prohibits noncitizen voting](#) in elections for state and local offices. Fifteen of those states, including South Carolina, have approved ballot measures prohibiting noncitizen voting since 2018.

Federal law prohibits noncitizens from voting in any federal election in all 50 states. Local governments in three states allow noncitizens to vote. No municipalities in South Carolina allowed noncitizens to vote at the time the amendment was approved in 2024.

The state Senate passed the bill [39-0](#) on April 24, 2025, and the House adopted it [106-6](#) on May 5, with 80 Republicans and 26 Democrats voting in favor and 6 Democrats voting against. In South Carolina, the General Assembly must approve a constitutional amendment before and after voters have approved it.

The two other election-related bills enacted this year are:

- [H 3557](#), which moves up the end of the candidate filing period from March 30 to March 25, requires candidates seeking nomination by political party primary or political party convention to pay a filing fee, and specifies when special elections to fill a vacancy may be held. McMaster signed the bill on May 15.
- [S 866](#), which requires municipalities to conduct a referendum on the question of imposing the sales and use tax before the tax can take effect. McMaster signed the bill on May 19.

South Carolina has a [Republican trifecta](#) and [veto-proof majorities](#) in both legislative chambers. The state enacted no election-related bills in 2025, one [in 2024](#), and two [in 2023](#).

Tennessee

The [Tennessee General Assembly](#) adjourned its regular legislative session on April 23 after sending 11 election-related bills to Gov. [Bill Lee](#) (R), who signed the final ones on May 22.

Among those bills was [SB 336](#), which removes the requirements for individuals convicted of a felony to have paid all court costs and be current on all child support payments in order to be eligible to receive a court order restoring their voting rights. Instead, the new law requires that the individuals comply with all child support orders for the previous 12 months before they can regain their voting rights.

On March 9, the Tennessee House passed SB 336 [64-24](#), with 43 Republicans and all 21 Democrats voting in favor and 24 Republicans voting against. On March 12, the Tennessee Senate approved the bill [31-1](#), with 25 Republicans and six Democrats voting in favor and one Republican voting against. Lee signed the bill on March 26.

Other election bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [SB 1619](#), which removes a provision allowing county election boards to accept grants or gifts from private groups with approval from the secretary of state or a designee.
- [SB 1858](#), which establishes procedures for how redistricting litigation is handled.

- [HB 2185](#), which allows an online portal for election officials to access data from the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system run by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The data can be used to verify voter registration.
- [SB 2320](#), which allows officeholders to use campaign funds to enhance security for their personal residences.

Legislators also passed two proposed constitutional amendments. The Legislature must approve both amendments again with a two-thirds vote before they can be sent to voters.

- [SJR 624](#) would establish that only United States citizens are eligible to vote in all federal, state, county, municipal, and district elections held in Tennessee.
- [SJR 551](#) would move elections for judicial offices and most county offices to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, starting in 2034.

Lawmakers also enacted three other bills in a special redistricting session held May 5-7. Lee [called the session](#) on May 1, following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in [Louisiana v. Callais](#).

[HB 7003](#) redistricts the state's nine congressional districts ahead of the 2026 elections. The House approved HB 7003 [64-25](#) on May 6, with 64 Republicans voting in favor and 23 Democrats and two Republicans voting against. The Senate approved the bill on May 7, [25-5](#), with 25 Republicans voting in favor and five Democrats against. Lee signed the bill on May 7.

Lawmakers also enacted [HB 7002](#), which eliminated a prohibition on changing congressional districts between apportionments of representation, and [HB 7001](#), which created a special candidate qualifying period for congressional races under the new districts.

Tennessee enacted 12 election-related bills [in 2025](#), 14 [in 2024](#), and 10 [in 2023](#).

West Virginia

The [West Virginia Legislature](#) adjourned its 2026 regular session on April 12 after enacting [10 election-related bills](#), all of which were signed by Gov. [Patrick Morrisey](#) (R).

Legislators also adopted one resolution, [SJR 9](#), which proposes an amendment to the [West Virginia Constitution](#) stating that "Only citizens of the United States who are citizens of this state" may vote in elections for state or local office. Federal law prohibits noncitizens from voting in any federal election.

Currently, West Virginia is one of 32 states that do not explicitly prohibit noncitizen voting in their state constitutions. The constitutional amendment will be submitted to voters in the November 2026 election. Four other states — Alaska, Arkansas, Kansas, and South Dakota — [will also vote](#) on similar ballot measures in 2026.

The amendment was adopted by the state [House of Delegates](#) on a 97-0 vote on March 13, and the [state Senate](#) passed it unanimously the following day.

Lawmakers also enacted a second bill related to voter eligibility. [SB 59](#) requires that voters be legal residents of the state and the municipality where they wish to vote. The bill defines a legal resident as “a person who is domiciled in the state, county, or municipality in which he or she offers to vote and includes both physical presence within the state, county, or municipality and an intent to remain in the state, county, or municipality indefinitely.”

Other election-related bills enacted in 2026 include:

- [HB 4865](#), which allows student election official trainees to be appointed as election officials.
- [HB 5401](#), which allows U.S. citizens temporarily residing abroad to vote an electronic absentee ballot.
- [SB 640](#), which requires campaign finance statements in municipal, county, or non-statewide elections to be filed with the secretary of state’s office and prohibits the disclosure of certain donor information on a campaign finance statement.
- [SB 643](#), which repeals the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Program.

The state House also approved [HB 4600](#), which would require absentee ballots to be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day, rather than the fifth day after the election, excluding Sunday. The bill died, however, after it was not considered by the state Senate. West Virginia is one of 14 states [that allow](#) absentee/mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day to be counted if they arrive within a set post-election window.

West Virginia enacted eight election-related bills [in 2025](#), 12 [in 2024](#), and three [in 2023](#).

Methodology

Ballotpedia’s comprehensive [Election Policy Legislation Tracker](#) is the basis for the data and analysis in this report.

Using the tracker, we capture election-related legislation across all 50 state legislatures and provide real-time updates as bills progress. To do this, we use:

- Automated keyword searches
- Manual bill review
- Real-time refinements based on keyword results and news monitoring

Once relevant bills are identified and added to the tracker, our team manually reviews each bill and categorizes each one by policy area. We summarize noteworthy bills in neutral, easy-to-understand language.

Our bill tagging system — which includes 127 tags in 26 policy areas — allows us to track policy changes and analyze trends in election-related legislation. We use the tracker to identify key topics, analyze partisan behavior, and tease out the emerging issues that will be in the spotlight in future sessions.

Trifectas

The political makeup of a state's government affects the state's election policy. **State government trifecta** is a term to describe single-party government when one political party holds the governorship and majorities in both chambers of the state legislature.

In 2026, there are 23 Republican trifectas, 16 Democratic trifectas, and 11 divided governments where neither party holds trifecta control.

This map shows the trifecta status of each state:

Current state government trifectas

