

Day: Early voting ballots may be delivered to the early voting ballot board at any early voting by personal appearance ends. Ballots may be qualified and prepared before election day, but they may not be counted until election day; however, for a population of 100,000 or entities contracting or having joint elections with a county population of 100,000 or more may process and count the ballots early, but they may not be released until the polls close on election day. (Secs. 87.023, 87.024, & 87.0241(b)). If ballots are to be delivered before election day, the early voting clerk must give notice at least 24 hours before each delivery at the main early voting polling place. (Secs. 87.023(b), 87.024(b), & 87.0221(b)).

The second test of automatic tabulating equipment used for counting ballots at a counting station must be conducted immediately before the counting of ballots with the equipment begins. The third test must be conducted immediately after the counting is completed. (Secs. 127.093, 127.097, & 127.098).

Precinct election returns are delivered to the appropriate authorities after completion. (Sec. 66.053(a)).

Last day to post notice of governing authority's meeting to canvass returns of election is to take place on Friday, November 7, 2003 (3rd day after election day). Notice must be posted at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting. (Secs. 551.041, & 551.043, Gov't Code).

Thursday, November 6, 2003 (2nd day after election day)

Last day for early voting clerk to receive carrier envelopes placed in the mail by 7:00 p.m. on election day, November 4, 2003, from voters who are voting outside the United States. (Sec. 86.007(d)(3)(B)). **New Law:** Effective September 1, 2003, House Bill 1695 provides that ballots cast from outside the United States can be counted so long as it is received by the early voting clerk on the 2nd day after election day, Sunday November 9, 2003, if it is for a joint election between a county and a local political subdivision or 2) one or more political subdivisions pursuant to a county election services contract. (Sec. 86.007(d)(3)(B)).

Friday, November 7, 2003 (3rd day after election day)

The first day of the period (November 7 - 10, 2003) to conduct official local canvass by governing authority of the political subdivision once the early voting ballot board has finished counting late ballots. (Sec. 67.003). **New Law:** Effective September 1, 2003, House Bill 1695 provides that the canvass date is set for the 7th day after election day for elections between: (1) the county and a local political subdivision or (2) a joint election between one or more local political subdivisions held under a county elections services contract. (Sec. 67.003).

New Law: House Bill 1695 provides that this is the first day that the Early Voting Board may convene to count late ballots cast by voters who reside outside the United States for a local political subdivision elections and other special elections; however, if the board is conducting a joint election: (1) with a county or (2) with one or more political subdivisions pursuant to a county election services contract, then the Early Voting Board is convened on the sixth day. See entry under 6th day after election day, November 6, 2003. (Sec. 81.125(a)).

For districts using electronic voting systems, last day to begin manual recount of ballots in three precincts or one percent of precincts, whichever is greater, unless required by law, has been waived. (Sec. 127.201(a)). Results of manual count must be mailed to State not later than the 3rd day after the manual count is completed. (Sec. 127.201(b)).

Sunday, November 9, 2003 (5th day after election day)

New Law: Effective September 1, 2003, House Bill 1695 provides that this is the last day for the early voting clerk to receive ballots from voters casting ballots from outside of the United States if the voter is in a political subdivision held a joint election with: (1) a county or (2) with one or more political subdivisions pursuant to a county election services contract. (Sec. 86.007(d)(3)(B)).

pursuant to an election services contract with a county. (Sec. 86.007 (d)(3)(A)).

Monday, November 10, 2003 (6th day after election day)

First day that newly elected officers of a type A general-law city may qualify and a duties of their offices. (Sec. 22.006, Local Government Code).

New Law: Effective September 1, 2003, House Bill 1695 provides that the 5th election day is the last day that the Early Voting Ballot Board may convene to ballots cast by voters who reside outside the United States for local political elections and other special elections; however, if the political subdivision is conducting an election: (1) with a county or (2) with one or more political subdivisions pursuant to an election services contract then the Early Voting Ballot Board is convened on the sixth

Last day for official canvass of returns by governing authority of political subdivision if political subdivision is not conducting a joint election with a county or with one or more political subdivisions pursuant to a county election services contract. See entry for the sixth day after election day. (Sec. 67.003).

Tuesday, November 11, 2003 (7th day after election day)

Voting machines may be unlocked or punch-card devices disassembled, but only if needed for another election and if the canvass of the election returns has been completed and the machine's custodian has not received a request for extended security. (Sec. 127.181).

Wednesday, November 12, 2003 (8th day after election day)

New Law: Effective September 1, 2003, House Bill 1695 provides that the seventh day after the election is the day to canvass for local political subdivisions who are conducting an election: (1) with a county or (2) with one or more political subdivisions pursuant to an election services contract. (Sec. 67.003). Since the seventh day falls on a Veteran's Day, the deadline is extended. (Sec. 1.006).

Friday, November 14, 2003 (10th day after election day)

Voting machines remain locked against unauthorized operation and voting devices secured in a secure condition through this date unless they are needed for another election, or the security period is extended. (Secs. 126.031, 126.032, & 127.181).

Tuesday, November 25, 2003 (21st day after election day)

Last day to complete manual count. (Sec. 127.201(a)).

Sunday, December 14, 2003 (40th day after election day)

Last day of the period for mandatory office hours. See entry for Monday, September 22, 2003 (Sec. 31.122).

Monday, January 5, 2004 (62nd day after election day)

Contents of ballot box(es) may be destroyed if no contest or criminal investigation is pending (Secs. 1.013 & 66.058), and if no open records request has been filed (Tex. Att'y Gen. Op. 505 (1988)). Election results must be permanently maintained in the election register (Sec. 67.006). Since the 60th day falls on a Saturday, the deadline is extended. (Sec. 1.006).

Note on Retention of Candidate Application: Candidate applications must be retained by the governing body for two years after date of election. (Sec. 141.036).