

2023 CITY OF SAVANNAH MUNICIPAL ELECTION GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Savannah will hold the Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. The City of Savannah contracts with Chatham County Board of Elections and Board of Registrars to conduct the election.

Election Calendar:

In a race of three or more, the candidate must receive 50% plus one vote to be declared the winner. If there is no winner, a runoff is held between the two candidates receiving the most votes. The runoff is scheduled 28 days after the General Election.

- Advanced (Absentee In-Person) Voting begins 10/16/2023 and ends on the Friday immediately prior to election day, 11/3/2023.
- General Election, Tuesday, November 7, 2023 (polls open 7:00 a.m. and close 7:00 p.m.).
- General Election Runoff, Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

Residency Requirements:

- Mayor and Aldermanic Posts 1 and 2 [per O.C.G.A 45-2-1]: Shall be 12 months' residency within the municipality.
- Aldermanic Districts 1 through 6 [per City Charter]: Shall have been a resident of his or her respective District for at least six months preceding the date of his or her election.

Offices (nonpartisan races):

- Mayor (elected City-wide).
- Aldermanic Posts 1 and 2 (elected City-wide or At-Large).
- Six (6) Aldermanic Districts (elected by District).

Terms of Office:

- The terms of office are four years for all nine positions on City Council beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2027.

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Qualifying Period:

- **When:** Monday through Thursday, August 21 – 24, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday, August 25, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Office of the Clerk of Council, First Floor, Savannah City Hall, 2 East Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

Qualifying Fees (3% of current salary):

- **Mayor:** qualifying fee **\$1,710** (Salary: \$57,000).
- **Aldermanic (Posts 1 and 2; and Districts 1 through 6):** qualifying fee **\$750** (Salary: \$25,000).

Basic Qualifications for Office:

- Shall be at least 18 years of age.
- Shall meet the requirements of a qualified voter of the city, as prescribed by State law.
- Shall not be ineligible for public office pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 45-2-1 of the O.C.G.A.
- Shall meet the residency requirement of 6 months preceding the date of election (Candidates for Aldermanic Districts 1 through 6).
- Shall meet the residency requirement of 12 months residency within the municipality prior to qualifying. (Candidates for Mayor or Aldermanic District Post 1 and 2).
- Shall continue to reside within the city limits for which elected during term of office.
- Persons convicted of a crime involving violation of election laws or felonies involving moral turpitude are not eligible. If such person's civil rights have been restored, ten (10) years must lapse before running for public office.

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Candidate Forms & Disclosures are explained in the attached documents, and they are also available online here: <https://ethics.ga.gov/forms-and-publications/>.

For more information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of Council:

Clerk of Council/Municipal Elections Superintendent
Savannah City Hall, First Floor
2 East Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401
(912) 651-6441

clerkofcouncil@savannahga.gov

CANDIDATE FORMS & DISCLOSURES



Georgia Government Transparency
& Campaign Finance Commission

KNOW THE LINGO

DOI

Declaration of Intention
to Accept Contributions

RC

Registration Form for
a Candidate's Campaign
Committee

COOSA

Choosing the Option of
Separate Accounting

PIN APP

Electronic Filing Access
Code Application

CCDR

Campaign Contribution
Disclosure Statement

FR&TS

Final Report &
Termination Statement

PFDS

Personal Financial
Disclosure Statement

TBD

Two Business
Day Report

Local Filing Officer

Individual a candidate for a
county or municipal office files
with. Usually the city clerk or
elections superintendent.

FORMS

Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions

Reference: O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30(g)

- Must be filed **PRIOR** to accepting contributions.
- A candidate's personal funds expended for their campaign, except for payment of a qualifying fee, are considered campaign contributions.
- A new form must be filed if there is a break in office or if accepting contributions for a different office.
- County and Municipal candidates file this form with their local filing officer. All other candidates file with the Commission.

Registration Form for a Campaign Committee

Reference: O.C.G.A. §§ 21-5-3(2); 21-5-30(b)

- This form registers a candidate's campaign committee.
- A committee is required only if a candidate designates someone to file reports, accept money, or expend money on behalf of the campaign.
- A Chairperson and Treasurer are required to form a committee; however, they can be the same person and can be the candidate. If either position is vacant, the committee cannot accept contributions.
- The committee registration will remain in effect until the registration is canceled by the committee or the candidate.
- Filed with the Commission

Choosing the Option of Separate Accounting

Reference: O.C.G.A. §§ 21-5-43(a)(2); 21-5-30 (c)

- Permits candidates to accept contributions for multiple elections within an election cycle. Thus, a candidate may accept contributions for the general election in an election cycle even if the primary election has not occurred.
- A candidate must designate what election the contribution is accepted for on the applicable CCDR.
- Contributions received for a future election cannot be expended until the current election has occurred.
- If a candidate does not qualify or participate in a future election in an election cycle, the contributions received for the future election must be returned to contributors pro-rata.
- Filed with the Commission

Electronic Filing Access Code Application

Reference: O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34.1(a)

- Used for identification purposes for local and state candidates.
- Filed with the Commission.

DISCLOSURES

Campaign Contribution Disclosure Report

Reference: O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34

- A CCDR is a report filed by a candidate or campaign committee that discloses all contributions received and expenditures made during a reporting period.
- Six reports are due in an election year and two reports are due in a nonelection year. Filing Schedule is found at O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(c).
- \$125 late fee is assessed when a report is filed late. However, there is a five-day grace period.
- Local candidates may be exempt from filing CCDRs if they file an Affidavit of Exemption and meet certain criteria.
- Candidates for any state or state-wide office must file electronically with the Commission and candidates for county and municipal offices file with their local filing officer.

Final Report & Termination Statement

Reference: O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 (m)

- A FR&TS is a statement submitted with the campaign's final CCDR.
- It is filed by all campaigns within 10 days of the dissolution of the campaign.
- The Statement must identify the termination date as well as the person responsible for maintaining campaign records as required by the Act.
- To qualify to file a FR&TS, the filer must have a zero net balance, zero debt, and not be seeking or holding the office.
- Candidates for any state or state-wide office must file electronically with the Commission and candidates for county and municipal offices file with their local filing officer.

Personal Financial Disclosure Statement

Reference: O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50

- A PFDS is a statement filed by a candidate or public official in which the filer discloses information about financial activity for the preceding calendar year.
- A statement must be filed each year, even if information does not change.
- If running for a state-wide position additional information is required to be reported.
- No grace period and a \$125 late fee is assessed when a statement is filed after the due date.
- Candidates for any state or state-wide office must file electronically with the Commission and candidates for county and municipal offices file with their local filing officer.

Two Business Day Report

Reference: O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34 (c)(2)(C)

- A TBD is a report used to report individual contributions (including loans) of \$1,000.00 or more received between the date of the last CCDR due prior to the date the election for which the candidate has qualified and the date of such election.
- These contributions must be reported within two business days of receipt.
- This contribution must also be reported on the next scheduled CCDR.
- Candidates for any state or state-wide office must file electronically with the Commission and candidates for county and municipal offices file with their local filing officer.
- No grace period and a \$125 late fee is assessed when a statement is filed after the due date.

Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission

200 Piedmont Ave. SE, Suite 1416-West Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: 404 463 1980 Website: www.ethics.ga.gov

PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (PFDS) O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50



Georgia Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission

WHAT IS A PFDS?

A statement filed by certain public officers and all candidates in which they disclose fiduciary positions, business interests, real estate interests, and investment interests that they or their spouse held in the previous calendar year.

WHO FILES A PFDS?

- Constitutional Officers
- Elected state officials
- Executive heads of every state department or agency
- Members of the General Assembly
- Elected county officials
- Elected members of a local board of education
- Members of the Campaign Finance Commission
- Members of the State Transportation Board

WHEN IS A PFDS FILED?

- State-Level, Local, & State-Wide Non-Partisan Elected Officials*
 - Election Year: file within 15 days of qualifying.
 - Nonelection Year: file no later than July 1st of that year.
- State-Wide Elected Officials**
 - Election Year: file a PFDS within 7 days of qualifying.
 - Nonelection Year: file no later than July 1st of that year.
- Members of the State Transportation Board
 - Year of Election: no later than 60 days after election to the Board
 - All other years: file PFDS and Affidavit before January 31st of each year

WHERE IS A PFDS FILED?

- State-wide and state level officials, including district attorneys and superior court judges, file with the commission.
- Local officials file with their city clerk or elections superintendent.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLIC OFFICER O.C.G.A. § 21-5-50(A)(2)

Prior to 2010, all public officers were required to file a PFDS. Now certain public officers are no longer required to file a PFDS, instead they file an Affidavit of Public Officer. These public officers are: executive directors of each state board, commission, council, or authority and members of a state board, commission, council, or authority.

OFFICIALS APPOINTED TO VACANT OFFICES

An individual who is appointed to a vacant elected public office files his or her first PFDS the year after they take office. Ex: John Doe is appointed to a vacant superior court office and is sworn into office on August 1, 2015. John Doe files his first PFDS in 2016.

*COURT OF APPEALS AND SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

**GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE, COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE, COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE, COMMISSIONER OF LABOR, STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Office of the Secretary of State | Elections Division



2023 Scheduled Elections Abbreviated Calendar of Events

| ELECTION | ELECTION DATE | REGISTRATION CUTOFF |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| Special Election to Fill a Vacancy & Propose a Question | March 21, 2023 | February 21, 2023* |
| Special Election Runoff | April 18, 2023 | February 21, 2023* |
| Special Election to Fill a Vacancy | June 20, 2023 | May 22, 2023 |
| Special Election Runoff | July 18, 2023 | May 22, 2023 |
| Special Election to Fill a Vacancy | September 19, 2023 | August 21, 2023 |
| Special Election Runoff | October 17, 2023 | August 21, 2023 |
| General Election/Special Election to Fill a Vacancy & Propose a Question | November 7, 2023 | October 11, 2023* |
| General Election/Special Election Runoff | December 5, 2023 | October 11, 2023* |

Key Dates

Dates in red changed to next business day due to state holiday.

Please refer to the Comprehensive Calendar for full text version

| DATE | ACTIVITY |
|--|---|
| January 3, 2023 | Earliest day to file and publish a notice of intention to be a write-in candidate in the General Election. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-133(a) |
| January 3, 2023 | Earliest day to request an absentee ballot for the March 21 st Special Election O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| January 30, 2023 | Earliest day to request an absentee ballot for the April 18 th Special Election Runoff O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| February 1, 2023 | Last day to fix and publish qualifying fees for offices to be filled during the 2023 Election Cycle. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131(a)(1)(A) |
| February 13, 2023 | Deadline to Publish Advance Voting Notice for March Special Election. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(3) |
| February 21, 2023 | 1. Last day to register to vote in the March Special Election and Runoff Election. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-224 2. Last day to issue a Call for Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-540(b) |
| February 27, 2023 | 1. Earliest day for a registrar to mail an absentee ballot for the March Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-384(a)(2) 2. Advanced (Absentee In-Person) Voting begins for the March Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1)(A) |
| March 4, 2023 AND March 11, 2023 | Mandatory Saturday Voting for the March Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d) |
| March 6, 2023 | Early Processing of Absentee Ballots may begin with advanced noticed. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(2)(A) |
| March 10, 2023 | Last day to request a March 21 st Special Election Absentee Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| March 17, 2023 | Last day to begin L&A Testing on voting equipment. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-379.6(c); SEB Rule 183-1-12(.03) |
| March 17, 2023 | Advanced (Absentee In-Person) Voting ends for the March Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1)(A) |
| March 21, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Special Election) |

Office of the Secretary of State | Elections Division



2023 Scheduled Elections Abbreviated Calendar of Events

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| 3 days following | Last day for a voter to submit an absentee ballot cure affidavit (if ballot was received by 7pm on Election day) and any supplemental information to verify a provisional ballot. |
| March 27, 2023 | Last day to certify the March 21, 2023 Special Election |
| April 3, 2023 | Earliest day to request an absentee ballot for the June 20 th Special Election O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| April 7, 2023 | Last day to request an April 18 th Special Election Runoff Absentee Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| April 18, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Special Election Runoff) – Refer to Comprehensive Calendar for Special Runoff Provisions |
| 3 days following | Last day for a voter to submit an absentee ballot cure affidavit (if ballot was received by 7pm on Election day) and any supplemental information to verify a provisional ballot. |
| April 24, 2023 | Last day to certify the April 18, 2023 Special Election Runoff |
| May 16, 2023 | Deadline to Publish Advance Voting Notice for March Special Election. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(3) |
| May 30, 2023 | 1. Earliest day for a registrar to mail an absentee ballot for the June Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-384(a)(2) 2. Advanced (Absentee In-Person) Voting begins for the June Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1)(A) |
| June 3, 2023 AND June 10, 2023 | Mandatory Saturday Voting for the June Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d) |
| June 9, 2023 | Last day to request the June 20 th Absentee Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| June 16, 2023 | Last day to begin L&A Testing on voting equipment. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-379.6(c) / SEB Rule 183-1-12(.03) |
| June 16, 2023 | Advanced (Absentee In-Person) Voting ends for the June Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1)(A) |
| June 20, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Special Election) |
| 3 days following | Last day for a voter to submit an absentee ballot cure affidavit (if ballot was received by 7pm on Election day) and any supplemental information to verify a provisional ballot. |
| June 26, 2023 | Last day to certify the June 20, 2023 Special Election |
| July 18, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Special Election Runoff) – Refer to Comprehensive Calendar for Special Runoff Provisions |
| 3 days following | Last day for a voter to submit an absentee ballot cure affidavit (if ballot was received by 7pm on Election day) and any supplemental information to verify a provisional ballot. |
| July 24, 2023 | Last day to certify the July 18, 2023 Special Election Runoff |
| August 21, 2023 through August 25, 2023 | MUNICIPAL OFFICE CANDIDATE QUALIFYING PERIOD |
| August 21, 2023 | Earliest day to request an absentee ballot for the November Municipal General/Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-384(a)(2) |
| August 28, 2023 | 1. Earliest day for a registrar to mail an absentee ballot for the September Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-384(a)(2) 2. Advanced (Absentee In-Person) Voting begins for the September Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1)(A) |

Office of the Secretary of State | Elections Division



2023 Scheduled Elections Abbreviated Calendar of Events

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| September 6, 2023 | Last day to file the notice of intention to be a write-in candidate and have notice published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-133(a) |
| September 8, 2023 | Last day to request the September 19 th Absentee Ballot. O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| September 15, 2023 | Last day to begin L&A Testing on voting equipment. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-379.6(c); SEB Rule 183-1-12(.03) |
| September 19, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Special Election) |
| 3 days following | Last day for a voter to submit an absentee ballot cure affidavit (if ballot was received by 7pm on Election day) and any supplemental information to verify a provisional ballot. |
| September 25, 2023 | Last day to certify the September 19, 2023 Special Election |
| October 10, 2023 | Deadline For Voter Registration/Change of Address for November 7th General/Special Election and Runoff. O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-224; 21-2-501 |
| October 16, 2023 | Earliest day for a registrar to mail an absentee ballot for the November Municipal General/Special Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-384(a)(2) |
| October 16, 2023 | Advanced (Absentee In-Person) Voting begins for the November General Election. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1) |
| October 17, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Special Election Runoff) – Refer to Comprehensive Calendar for Special Runoff Provisions |
| 3 days following | Last day for a voter to submit an absentee ballot cure affidavit (if ballot was received by 7pm on Election day) and any supplemental information to verify a provisional ballot. |
| October 21, 2023 AND October 28, 2023 | Mandatory Saturday Voting for the November General Election O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385(d)(1) |
| October 23, 2023 | Deadline For County Certification of Election Returns for the October Special Election Runoff O.C.G.A. §21-2-493(k) |
| October 27, 2023 | Last day to request an absentee ballot for the November Municipal General Election O.C.G.A. 21-2-381(a)(1)(A) |
| November 7, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Municipal General/Special Election) |
| November 13, 2023 | Last day for a voter to submit an absentee ballot cure affidavit (if ballot was received by 7pm on Election day) and any supplemental information to verify a provisional ballot. |
| November 14, 2023 | Deadline For County Certification of Election Returns for the November Municipal General Election/Special Election. O.C.G.A. §21-2-493(k) |
| November 27, 2023 | Deadline to submit an absentee ballot application for the December Municipal General Election/Special Election Runoff |
| December 5, 2023 | ELECTION DAY (Special Election Runoff) – Refer to Comprehensive Calendar for Special Runoff Provisions |
| December 11, 2023 | Deadline For County Certification of Election Returns for December Municipal General Election/Special Election Runoff O.C.G.A. §21-2-493(k) |

*O.C.G.A. § 21-2-14. When the last day for the exercise of any privilege or discharge of any duty prescribed or required by this chapter shall fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the next succeeding business day shall be the last day for the exercise of such privilege or the discharge of such duty.

Revised: 2023-02-03