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## COLORADO 2014 ELECTION GUIDE

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The 2014 general election includes races for several state and federal offices. This issue brief provides an overview of key dates for the 2014 primary and general elections and highlights other information on voter registration, mail ballots, and voting procedures after various changes to election law in recent years.

### Primary Election

The primary election is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 24, 2014**, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Colorado conducts closed primary elections — voters must be affiliated with a party in order to vote in that party's primary. An unaffiliated voter may vote in a party's primary election if he or she affiliates with that party at any point up to and on the day of the primary election. For a voter wishing to change or withdraw party affiliation in order to vote in a different party's primary election, he or she must do so by the 29th day before the primary election in order to participate (May 23, 2014).

The primary election ballot includes candidates for office who either received at least 30 percent of the vote by delegates at the party's state assembly or who collected sufficient petition signatures for placement on the ballot. Candidates receiving the most votes at the state assembly appear on the top line of the primary election ballot.

### General Election

The general election is to be held on **Tuesday, November 4, 2014**, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Key races that will be held are listed below. Several statewide ballot measures are also expected to be placed on the ballot through the initiative petition process.

**Federal offices** up for election in 2014 include one U.S. Senate seat (elected to a six-year term) and all seven congressional districts for the U.S. House of Representatives (elected to two-year terms). **State offices** up for election in 2014 include:

- the statewide offices of Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and Attorney General (elected to four-year terms);
- 18 out of 35 State Senate districts (elected to four-year terms);
- all 65 State House of Representatives districts (elected to two-year terms);
- 3 out of 7 members of the State Board of Education (elected to six-year terms); and
- 3 out of 9 regents on the University of Colorado Board of Regents (elected to six-year terms).

### Voter Registration Deadlines

In Colorado, eligible voters may register to vote up to and on election day. However, registration deadlines are in place for voters wishing to receive a mail ballot. The registration deadlines for voters to receive a mail ballot are described in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Voter Registration Deadlines for the  
 2014 Primary and General Elections**

Deadline to Register and Receive a Mail Ballot	Date
<b>Last day to register to vote via a voter registration drive</b> and receive a mail ballot. (22nd day before the election)	<b>Primary election:</b> June 2  <b>General election:</b> October 14
<b>Last day to register to vote by mail, online, or at a voter registration agency or drivers' license office</b> and receive a mail ballot. (8th day before the election)	<b>Primary election:</b> June 16  <b>General election:</b> October 27

Voters registering in the week prior to the election and on election day will not receive a mail ballot (June 17 to June 24 for the primary election and October 28 to November 4 for the general election). During these periods, voters submitting a registration are notified that they must go to a voter service and polling place to cast a ballot. Voters may also register in person at a county clerk's office or at a voter service and polling center and cast or pick up a ballot at that time. Voters may register to vote or update their registration online at: [www.GoVoteColorado.com](http://www.GoVoteColorado.com).

### **Voter Service and Polling Centers**

All primary and general elections in Colorado are now conducted by mail ballot with voter service and polling centers. There are no longer polling places in each precinct. Instead, counties are required to operate a certain number of voter service and polling centers, based on their population. At voter service and polling centers, a voter may, among other things:

- register to vote;
- update his or her registration information;
- drop off a mail ballot; or
- cast an in-person paper ballot.

Voters may go to any voter service and polling center in their county; unlike precinct polling places, these centers serve all voters without regard to the voter's address within the county. In addition, counties must also operate stand-alone ballot drop off locations for the purpose of receiving mail ballots. Voter service and polling centers must be open at least 15 days before a general election and 8 days before a primary election (excluding Sundays). This requires voter service centers to be open, at a minimum, between June 16 and June 24 for the primary election, and between October 20 and November 4 for the general election.

### **Mail Ballots**

Except for voters registering after the 8th day before the election, all registered voters are sent a mail ballot for the general election. Only registered voters affiliated with a political party receive a mail ballot for the primary election. Voters registering fewer than eight days before the election do not receive a mail ballot and must go to a voter service and polling center to vote. Generally, mail ballots are sent between 18 and 22 days prior to the election (between June 2 and June 6 for the primary election and between October 14 and October 17 for the general election). Overseas and military voters requesting an absentee ballot will have their ballots mailed no later than the 45th day before the election (May 10 for the primary election and September 20 for the general election).