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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRIMARY AND
GENERAL ELECTION DATES IN THE U.S.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Federal legislation sets the date for the election of Congressmen and presidential electors as the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.
2. Of the states which elect their Governors in even years all but one use the same date for such elections.
3. The 47 states holding partisan primary elections for the nomination of federal, state or local officers set the dates for the primary between the first Tuesday in April and the second Wednesday after the third Monday in September. In years divisible by 4 the first primary in this country is held even earlier, on the second Tuesday in March.
4. Normally the dates of elections are set by law, but in a few cases the dates of primaries are set by the parties.
5. The time of the primary is most often expressed in terms of a specific day such as the first Tuesday in September rather than in terms of a specific date.
6. In a few states the primary is moved up in the years when presidential electors are chosen to permit the election of national convention delegates or the holding of the presidential preference election and the nomination of party candidates on the same day.
7. Moving back the date of the primary to assure greater time between the primary and the general election has an effect upon a whole series of dates established by law and rule to permit the expeditious handling of the election process.
8. In 1944 and 1946 special provision was made in Wisconsin for moving the primary election to the middle of August in order to enable a larger proportion of the absentee voters in the armed forces to vote.
9. Section 83 of Chapter 455, Laws of 1951, created section 11.70 of the Wisconsin Statutes which substantially simplified the process of voting for members of the armed forces and civilians attached thereto.
10. A federal report on voting by the armed forces made in 1952 recommended that ballots be available at least 45 days before the election date. In Wisconsin today ballots are available about 21 days before the election, but were available 45 days in advance of the election in 1944 and 1946.
11. In 1951 by Chapter 455 the date of the primary in Wisconsin was moved ahead from the third to the second Tuesday in September.
12. It is generally felt that a September rather than an August primary facilitates voting because of the larger proportion of electors who are at their place of residence after the summer vacation period.
13. The Wisconsin primary is one of the last held in the nation.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRIMARY AND
GENERAL ELECTION DATES IN THE U.S.

THE PROBLEM

The programs adopted by both major political parties of Wisconsin at their June 1952 conventions favored revision of the election dates in this state. The Republican party program adopted at their convention in Sheboygan on June 16, 1952 said:

"The Republican party believes that the election laws of the state of Wisconsin are the finest in the nation. The open primary is the keystone of the election of the state of Wisconsin and we will continue to give this system our full support. We recognize, however, that the filing dates contained in our present election laws unnecessarily restrict the time in which members of the armed forces may vote by absentee ballot, and we pledge revision of these laws to afford maximum opportunity to voting to Wisconsin citizens who are serving in the armed forces."⁽¹⁾

The Democratic convention at Oshkosh on June 29, 1952 made the following statement:

"Party endorsement of candidates for nomination to office and the present late date of primary elections seriously interfere with the opportunity of political parties to wage effective campaigns under fair conditions. The Democratic party flatly opposes endorsement of candidates and urges a much earlier date for state primary elections."⁽²⁾

Currently the interval between the primary and general elections is from the second Tuesday in September to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, a period of less than 2 months.

Among the problems created by the present relationship between the dates of the primary and general election are the following:

1. Where contests occur for the party nomination, more time is needed after the primary to develop a campaign.
2. There are substantial numbers of mechanical operations which must be carried out between the primary and the general election by the people in charge of elections.
3. The current movement to increase the percentage of potential voters who actually vote results in more absentee voting. This in turn creates more difficulties for the municipal and county clerks because of the short time between the primary and the general election.
4. The time required to vote in absentia is increased because many of the absentee voters are members of the armed forces who do not have reliable mail service. Thus the election officials must speed up the process of submitting ballots if they hope to secure returns from electors outside the continental U.S.

(1) From Sheboygan Press, June 16, 1952.

(2) From Milwaukee Journal, June 29, 1952.

5. Advancing the date of the primary election into August or earlier may create additional problems because of the larger proportion of electors who are away from their homes due to vacations.
6. Changing the election dates has repercussions on a whole series of other dates relating to elections which are set by statute or administrative action.

The purpose of this bulletin is to bring together certain basic information regarding the election process. This factual data includes:

1. The dates of the primary elections in each of the 47 states holding primaries for the years 1948, 1950 and 1952.
2. An analysis of the 1944-46 Wisconsin legislation changing the primary election date to August.
3. A comparison of the dates of the various steps in the election process in Wisconsin under the August primary in effect in 1944 and 1946 and under the September primary in effect at the present time.
4. A comparison of the method used in the several states of expressing the date on which the primary is held.
5. A summary of the problems of voting created by active duty in the armed forces.

States	Age	Residence				Poll Tax	Literacy Test	Registrations
		In U.S.	In State	In County	In Precinct			
Ala.	21	--	2yrs.	1yr.	3mos.	Yes (6)	Yes	Yes (6)
Ariz.	21	--	1yr.	30days	30days	No	Yes	Yes
Ark.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	30days	Yes (6)	No	No
Cal.	21	--	1yr.	90days	54days	No	No	Yes
Colo.	21	--	1yr.	90days	15days	No	No	Yes
Conn.	21	--	1yr.	(2)	--	No	No	Yes
Del.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	30days	No	No	Yes
Fla.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	--	No	No	Yes
Ga.	18	--	1yr.	6mos.	--	No	No	Yes
Idaho	21	--	6mos.	--	30days	No	Yes	Yes
Ill.	21	--	1yr.	90days	30days	No	No	Yes (6)
Ind.	21(1)	--	6mos.	(3)	30days	No	No	Yes
Iowa	21	--	6mos.	60days	--	No	No	Yes (7)
Kans.	21	--	6mos.	--	30days	No	No	Yes (6)
Ky.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	60days	No	No	Yes (6)
La.	21	--	2yrs.	1yr.	3mos.	No	Yes	Yes
Maine	21	--	6mos.	3mos.	--	No	Yes	Yes (6)
Md.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	--	No	No	Yes (6)
Mass.	21	--	1yr.	6mos. (4)	--	No	Yes	Yes
Mich.	21	--	6mos.	(4)	--	No	No	Yes (6)
Minn.	21	--	6mos.	--	30days	No	No	Yes (7)
Miss.	21	--	2yrs.	--	1yr.	Yes	Yes	Yes (6)
Mo.	21	--	1yr.	60days	--	No	No	Yes (7)
Mont.	21	--	1yr.	30days	30days	No	No	Yes
Nebr.	21	--	6mos.	40days	10days	No	No	Yes (7)
Nev.	21	--	6mos.	30days	--	No	No	Yes (6)
N.H.	21	--	6mos.	--	6mos.	No	No	Yes
N.J.	21	--	1yr.	5mos.	--	No	No	Yes (6)
N.Mex.	21	--	1yr.	90days	30days	No	No	Yes
N.Y.	21	--	1yr.	4mos.	30days	No	No	Yes
N.C.	21	--	1yr.	--	4mos.	No	Yes	Yes
N.Dak.	21	--	1yr.	90days	30days	No	No	No (8)
Ohio	21	--	1yr.	40days	40days	No	No	Yes (7)
Okla.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	30days	No	No	Yes (6)
Oregon	21	--	6mos.	--	--	No	Yes	Yes (6)
Pa.	21	--	1yr.	2mos.	--	No	No	Yes (6)
R.I.	21	--	1yr.	(2)	--	No	No	Yes
S.C.	21	--	2yrs.	1yr.	4mos.	No	(5)	Yes
S.Dak.	21	5yrs.	1yr.	90days	30days	No	No	Yes
Tenn.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	30days	No	No	Yes
Tex.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	--	Yes	No	Yes
Utah	21	--	1yr.	4mos.	60days	No	No	Yes
Vt.	21	--	1yr.	--	--	No	No	Yes
Va.	21	--	1yr.	6mos.	30days	Yes (6)	No	Yes (6)
Wash.	21	--	1yr.	90days	30days	No	Yes	Yes (6)
W. Va.	21	--	1yr.	60days	--	No	No	Yes
Wis.	21	--	1yr.	--	10days	No	No	Yes (6)
Wyo.	21	--	1yr.	60days	10days	No	Yes	Yes

(1) May vote in primary if 21 by \$300 assessed value.
general elections.

(2) City, town or borough for 6 mos. (6) Except members of armed forces.
(3) 60 days in township. (7) Registration required in larger municipalities only.
(4) 30 days in city or township. (8) Registration required for certain local elections only.
(5) Literacy test or property of

*From Voting Information, 1952, Armed Forces Information and Education Division, U.S. Dept. of Defense, 1952, p.9-13

DATES OF PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION, 1952

Code: F = federal; S = state; L = local

State	Date of Primary	Offices Voted For	Runoff	Date of General Election	Offices Voted For
Ala.	May6	F.S.L.	June3	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Ariz.	Sept.9	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Ark.	Aug.12(1)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Cal.	June3(2)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Colo.	Sept.9(3)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Conn.	No primary		--	Nov.4	F.S.
Del.	(3a)	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
Fla.	May6	F.S.	May27(3)	Nov.4	F.S.
Ga.	May14	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
Idaho	Aug.12	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
Ill.	Apr.8(2)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Ind.	May6	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Iowa	June2	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Kans.	Aug.5	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Ky.	Aug.2	F.L.	--	Nov.4	F.L.
La.	July29	F.S.L.	Aug.26	Nov.4	F.S.
Maine	June16	F.S.L.	--	Sept.8(4)	F.S.L.
Md.	May5	F.	--	Nov.4	F.
Mass.	Sept.16(5)	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
Mich.	Sept.9	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Minn.	Sept.9(6)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Miss.	Aug.26	F.	Sept.16	Nov.4	F.
Mo.	Aug.5	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
Mont.	July15	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Nebr.	Apr.1(2)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Nev.	Sept.2	F.L.	--	Nov.4	F.L.
N.H.	Sept.9(7)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
N.J.	Apr.15(3)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
N.Mex.	May6	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
N.Y.	Sept.16(8)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
N.C.	May31	F.S.L.	June28	Nov.4	F.S.L.
N.Dak.	June24	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
Ohio	May6(3)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Okla.	July1	F.S.L.	July22	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Oreg.	May16(2)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Pa.	Apr.22(2)	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
R.I.	R-Sept.15 D-Sept.24(2a)	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
S.C.	July8	F.L.	July22	Nov.4	F.L.
S.Dak.	June3(3)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Tenn.	Aug.7	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Texas	July26	F.S.L.	Aug.23	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Utah	Sept.9	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Vt.	Sept.9	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Va.	July15	F.S.	Aug.19	Nov.4	F.S.
Wash.	Sept.9	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
W.Va.	May13(3)	F.S.L.	--	Nov.4	F.S.L.
Wis.	Sept.9(9)	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.
Wyo.	Aug.19(10)	F.S.	--	Nov.4	F.S.

For footnotes see reverse side.

FOOTNOTES TO CHART ON PAGE 5.

*Data from Voting Information For the Armed Forces, prepared by Armed Forces Information and Education Division, U.S. Department of Defense, 1952, unless otherwise noted.

- (1) Presidential preference primary on July 29, sometimes called preprimary.
- (2) Also presidential preference primary.
- (2a) Republican primary Sept. 15. Democratic primary Sept. 24. The order of these primaries is the same as in 1948 and reversed from 1950 as provided by the law.
- (3) Also convention delegates.
- (3a) Date set by parties between last registration date of July and last Saturday in Aug.
- (4) Pres. and vice pres. only on Nov. 4.
- (5) Presidential preference primary on Apr. 29.
- (6) Presidential primary on Mar. 18.
- (7) Presidential preference on Mar. 11.
- (8) Convention delegates on Apr. 22.
- (9) Convention delegates on Apr. 1.
- (10) Presidential preference primary on May 13.

RELATION OF PRIMARY ELECTION DATES TO GENERAL ELECTION DATES--1952

State	Date	Primary Election Dates						General Election		
		March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Nebr.	4/1									
Ill.	4/8									
N.J.	4/15									
Pa.	4/22									
Md..	5/5									
Ala.	5/6									
Fla.	5/6									
Ind.	5/6									
N.M.	5/6									
Ohio	5/6									
W. Va.	5/13									
Ga.	5/14									
Ore.	5/16									
N.C.	5/31									
Iowa	6/2									
Cal.	6/3									
S.D.	6/3									
Maine	6/16									
N.D.	6/24									
Okla.	7/1									
S.C.	7/8									
Mont.	7/15									
Va.	7/15									
Texas	7/26									
La.	7/29									
Ky.	8/2									
Kans.	8/5									
Mo.	8/5									
Tenn.	8/7									
Ark.	8/12									
Idaho	8/12									
Wyo.	8/19									
Miss.	8/26									
Nev.	9/2									
Ariz.	9/9									
Col.	9/9									
Mich.	9/9									
Minn.	9/9									
N.H.	9/9									
Utah	9/9									
Vt.	9/9									
Wash.	9/9									
Wis.	9/9									
R.I.(R)	9/15									
Mass.	9/16									
N.Y.	9/16									
R.I.(D)	9/24									

General Election Nov. 4th

DATES OF PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS IN 1950*

States	Date of Primary	Runoff-Election	Date of General Election
Ala.	May 2	May 30	Nov. 7
Ariz.	Sept. 12	--	Nov. 7
Ark.	July 25	Aug. 8	Nov. 7
Cal.	June 6	--	Nov. 7
Colo.	Sept. 12	--	Nov. 7
Conn.	--	--	--
Del.	Set by parties	--	Nov. 7
Fla.	May 2	May 23	Nov. 7
Ga.	Sept. 13	Oct. 4	Nov. 7
Idaho	Aug. 8	--	Nov. 7
Ill.	Apr. 11	--	Nov. 7
Ind.	May 2	--	Nov. 7
Iowa	June 5	--	Nov. 7
Kans.	Aug. 1	--	Nov. 7
Ky.	Aug. 5	--	Nov. 7
La.	Aug. 29	Oct. 3	Nov. 7
Maine	June 19	--	Sept. 11
Md.	Sept. 11	--	Nov. 7
Mass.	Sept. 19	--	Nov. 7
Mich.	Sept. 12	--	Nov. 7
Minn.	Sept. 12	--	Nov. 7
Miss.	Aug. 8	Aug. 29	Nov. 7
Mo.	Aug. 1	--	Nov. 7
Mont.	July 18	--	Nov. 7
Nebr.	Aug. 8	--	Nov. 7
Nev.	Sept. 5	--	Nov. 7
N.H.	Sept. 12	--	Nov. 7
N.J.	Apr. 18	--	Nov. 7
N.Mex.	June 6	--	Nov. 7
N.Y.	Sept. 19	--	Nov. 7
N.C.	May 27	June 24	Nov. 7
N.Dak.	June 27	--	Nov. 7
Ohio	May 2	--	Nov. 7
Okla.	July 4	July 25	Nov. 7
Oregon	May 19	--	Nov. 7
Pa.	May 16	--	Nov. 7
R.I.	D Sept. 18	--	Nov. 7
	R Sept. 27 (1)	--	Nov. 7
S.C.	July 11	July 25	Nov. 7
S.Dak.	June 6	--	Nov. 7
Tenn.	Aug. 3	--	Nov. 7
Tex.	July 22	Aug. 26	Nov. 7
Utah	Sept. 5	--	Nov. 7
Vt.	Sept. 12	--	Nov. 7
Va.	Aug. 8	--	Nov. 7
Wash.	Sept. 12	--	Nov. 7
W.Va.	Aug. 1	--	Nov. 7
Wis.	Sept. 19	--	Nov. 7
Wyo.	Aug. 22	--	Nov. 7

*From CIO News, Jan. 9, 1950

(1) Democratic on Sept. 18; Republican on Sept. 27. The order is reversed from that of 1948. The law provides that whichever party held its primary first in 1948 shall be second in 1950.

DATES OF PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1948*

State	Date of Primary	Runoff-Election	Date of General Election
Ala.	May 4	June 1	Nov. 2
Ariz.	Sept. 7	--	Nov. 2
Ark.	July 27	Aug. 10	Nov. 2
Cal.	June 1	--	Nov. 2
Colo.	Sept. 14	--	Nov. 2
Conn.	--	--	Nov. 2
Del.	Aug. 27	--	Nov. 2
Fla.	May 4	May 25	Nov. 2
Ga.	Sept. 8	--	Nov. 2
Idaho	Aug. 10	--	Nov. 2
Ill.	Apr. 13	--	Nov. 2
Ind.	May 4	--	Nov. 2
Iowa	June 7	--	Nov. 2
Kans.	Aug. 3	--	Nov. 2
Ky.	Aug. 7	--	Nov. 2
La.	Aug. 31	Oct. 5	Nov. 2
Maine	June 21	--	Sept. 13(1)
Md.	May 3	--	Nov. 2
Mass.	Sept. 14	--	Nov. 2
Mich.	Sept. 14	--	Nov. 2
Minn.	Sept. 14	--	Nov. 2
Miss.	Aug. 24	Sept. 14	Nov. 2
Mo.	Aug. 3	--	Nov. 2
Mont.	July 20	--	Nov. 2
Nebr.	Apr. 13	--	Nov. 2
Nev.	Sept. 7	--	Nov. 2
N.H.	Sept. 14	--	Nov. 2
N.J.	Apr. 20	--	Nov. 2
N.Mex.	June 8	--	Nov. 2
N.Y.	Aug. 24	--	Nov. 2
N.C.	May 29	June 26	Nov. 2
N.Dak.	June 29	--	Nov. 2
Ohio	May 4	--	Nov. 2
Okla.	July 6	July 27	Nov. 2
Oreg.	May 21	--	Nov. 2
Pa.	Apr. 27	--	Nov. 2
R.I.	R-Sept. 14 D-Sept. 29(2)	--	Nov. 2
S.C.	Aug. 10	Aug. 24	Nov. 2
S.Dak.	June 1	--	Nov. 2
Tenn.	Aug. 5	--	Nov. 2
Texas	July 24	Aug. 28	Nov. 2
Utah	Sept. 7	--	Nov. 2
Vt.	Sept. 14	--	Nov. 2
Va.	Aug. 3	--	Nov. 2
Wash.	Sept. 14	--	Nov. 2
W.Va.	May 11	--	Nov. 2
Wis.	Sept. 21	--	Nov. 2
Wyo.	Aug. 17	--	Nov. 2

*Taken from You Can Vote, Democratic National Committee, June 1948.

(1) Sept. 13 for state officials; Nov. 2 for presidential electors.

(2) Republican primary Sept. 14; Democratic primary Sept. 29.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE 1944-46 WISCONSIN
LEGISLATION ADVANCING THE DATE OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Section 5.03 of the statutes provides that the September primary be held on the second Tuesday in September of each even-numbered year and that any primary other than the September primary be held 3 weeks before the election for which the primary is held.

Chapter 567 of the Laws of the Adjourned Session of 1943 (see 1944-45 Session Laws) enacted "to facilitate so far as practicable the voting by its qualified electors who are serving in the armed forces of the United States" moved the primary election up to August 15 for 1944. That act was to expire after the general election of 1944, but by Chapter 128, Laws of 1945. The provisions were extended to the election of 1946 and the date of the primary election was set as August 13. This law was to expire after the spring election of 1947.

An analysis of the primary and general election total vote from 1920 to 1950 reveals that the 1944 primary election total was the lowest percentage of the total vote cast in the general election in the entire period; and the 1946 primary vote was next to that lowest percentage of the general election vote among the off year elections. Only in one year, 1942, was the actual vote in the primary lower than in 1944 and the 1946 primary vote was among the lowest.

Year	Primary Elections Vote for Governor*	General Election Vote for Governor*	Total General Election Vote Cast In Primary
1930	693,335	606,401	114.3%
1932	899,558	1,124,502	80.0%
1934	561,864	953,757	58.9%
1936	491,056	1,237,095	39.7%
1938	525,478	981,525	53.5%
1940	658,912	1,373,597	47.9%
1942	390,328	800,639	48.7%
1944	451,348	1,320,430	34.1%
1946	531,970	1,040,281	51.1%
1948	599,580	1,266,097	47.3%
1950	593,211	1,138,087	52.1%

*Data from 1931-1952 Blue Book tabulations of vote for Governor in primary and general elections.

A COMPARISON OF THE IMPORTANT DATES IN THE ELECTION PROCESS
IN WISCONSIN IN 1946 AND 1952

Changing the election date not only affects the procedures for that day, but has important repercussions on a whole series of other dates relating to the election process. It affects the opening and closing dates for the submission of nomination papers, the dates on which candidates report their expenditures, the dates on which notices of elections are published, the dates on which ballots are prepared, printed and submitted to the many election districts, the dates on which withdrawals may be made, etc.

The Office of the Secretary of State prepares a biennial pamphlet entitled, Election Dates and Signatures Required, which contains a chronological list of the dates on which various steps in the election process may be started or completed. The following table was prepared by extracting from these pamphlets for the years 1946 and 1952, the significant steps in the election process and relating these steps to the dates.

Some differences exist in the election process between 1946 and 1952 because of the changes in the election laws. Essentially, however, the same steps occur. Because the 1946 primary was held in August instead of September, differences in dates occur. One of the most important dates in terms of current comments on the election process is the date on which the ballots are in the hands of the local clerks. Under the 1946 plan this occurred on September 18. In 1952 the ballots are to be in the hands of the local clerks on October 14. Therefore it may be said that the ballots will be available for shipment in 1952 just 21 days before the election, while under the 1946 plan they were available 48 days before the election.

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE WISCONSIN PARTISAN PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS UNDER THE
1945 LAW ADVANCING THE DATE OF THE PRIMARY AND UNDER THE LAW AS OF 1952

LRL-1B-118

<u>Steps in the Election Process</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1952</u>
First day for circulating nomination papers for primary(Not earlier)	Apr. 2 (11.90(14))	May 9 (5.05(4))*
Poll lists and other supplies for primary election ordered about this date	-----	June 9 (6.28)
Last date for filing petitions for new party primary ticket in state, congressional, senatorial or assembly districts (90 days)	May 15 (5.05(6))(e)	June 11 (5.13(3))
Bids for printing primary ballots secured about this date	May 27 (5.29,6.25(1)(2), 11.90(18))	July 7 (5.012,6.25, 6.26)
Last day for filing nomination papers and declaration of acceptances for primary by state and county candidates (5 p.m.)	May 31 (11.90(14))	July 8 (5.05(1),(8)(a))
Certified list of candidates sent to county clerks by Secretary of State.	June 11 (5.08(1) 11.90(14))	July 22 (5.08(1))
County clerk prepares primary ballot	June 12 (5.11(1) 11.90(18))	July 24 (5.11(1))
Ballots to be in hands of printers	June 13 (11.90(14))	-----
Notice of primary election sent to county clerks by Secretary of State (60 days)	June 14 (5.04(1))	July 11 (5.04(1))
County clerk mails sample ballots for inspection to candidates and party county chairmen	June 16 (5.11(4) 11.90(18))	-----
Notice of primary prepared by county clerk	June 17 (5.04(2))	July 14 (5.04(2))
Proof of primary ballots corrected and printing commenced	June 18 (5.11(5) 11.90(18))	-----
Ballots to be in hands of county clerks	June 27 (11.90(14))	-----

* References to applicable statutes.

Steps in the Election Process(Continued)

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1952</u>
Primary election notice published by Secretary of State on or about this date and July 5, 12, 19 and 26, Aug. 2 and 9.(Reference to dates in 1946 only)	June 28 (5.04(1), 5.29, 11.90(18))	July 11 (5.04(1))
Last day for primary candidates to withdraw	-----	July 15 (5.18)
Primary election notice published by county clerks on or about this date and July 5, 12 and 19.(Reference to dates in 1946 only)	June 28 (5.04(2), 11.90(18))	July 23 (5.04(2))
Ballots to be in hands of local clerks	June 29 (11.90(14))	-----
First day for circulating independent nomination papers for general election (60 days prior to last filing date)	July 1 (5.05(4), 11.90(15))	July 25 (5.05(4), 5.19(6))
Eligible voters in each town, city and village certified to county clerks on or before this date	-----	Aug. 1 (6.26)
Poll lists and other supplies for general election ordered about this date	-----	Aug. 4 (6.28)
Notices of primary for posting, sent to local clerks by county clerk	July 13 (5.04(3), 11.90(18))	Aug. 15 (5.04(3))
Primary blanks shipped by Secretary of State(20 days)	July 24 (6.77)	Aug. 19 (5.11(5)) Aug. 20 (6.77)
Groups, clubs and factions notified to file expense statements, Aug. 3 and Sept. 3(Reference to 1946 dates only)	July 30(12.09(5)(b))	Aug. 25 (12.09(5)(b))
Candidates and personal campaign committees notified to file expense statements Aug, 6 and 17(Reference to 1946 dates only)	July 30(12.09(4)(b))	Aug. 26 (12.09(5)(b))
Last day for local clerks to complete primary notice and post the same	-----	Aug. 26 (5.04(3))
Registration closes, second Wednesday prior	July 31 (6.17(1))	Aug. 27 (6.17(1))
List of primary candidates to be published by county clerks about this date and again on eighth of month	Aug. 1 (5.08(4),(5))	Sept. 1 (5.08(4),(5))

Steps in the Election Process(Continued)

County clerks will ship primary supplies to local clerks
(10 days or earlier if possible)

Associations, clubs, etc. functioning under section 12.09(5)(a)
file preprimary expense statements

Primary supplies in hands of local clerks(7 days)

Last day for candidates and personal campaign and party com-
mittees to file or mail (not later than 5 p.m.)preprimary
expense statements (Tues. before)

Candidates failing to file notified and blank affidavit and
order of court sent to them

Primary held

Inspectors to phone results of primary to county clerk im-
mediately upon completion of tabulations

Inspectors deliver returns to county clerk by 2 p.m.

County canvass of primary begins

County clerk publishes results of canvass for offices for
which he issues certificates of election

Messenger sent for any missing returns

Recount petitions may be filed within 3 days after closing
of canvass

Bids on printing general election ballots secured about
this date

Candidates and personal campaign and party committees
to file postprimary expense statements

Primary election returns sent to Secretary of State

	1946	1952
	Aug. 3 (5.11(5))	Aug. 30 (6.78)
	Aug. 3(12.09(5)(b))	Aug. 30(12.09(5)(b))
	Aug. 6 (5.29,6.29(1))	Aug. 30(6.78)
	Aug. 6 (12.09(1))	Sept. 1 (12.09(1))
	Aug. 8 (12.09(4)(b))	Sept. 4 (12.09(4)(b), 12.10)
	Aug. 13(11.90(14))	Sept. 9 (5.03(1))
	Aug. 13 (6.595, 11.90(14))	Sept. 9 (6.595)
	Aug. 14(6.59,11.90(14))	Sept.10 (5.15(2), 6.59)
	Aug. 15 (5.15(4),(5),(6), 11.90(14))	Sept. 11 (5.15(4), 6.62)
	-----	Sept. 11 (6.64)
	Aug. 15 (5.29, 6.62)	Sept. 11 (6.62)
	-----	Sept. 11 (5.012(2), 6.66)
	Aug. 17 (6.25(1),(2))	Sept. 11 (6.25, 6.26)
	Aug. 17 (12.09(1))	Sept. 13 (12.09(1))
	Aug. 19 (11.90(14))	Sept. 20 (5.15(4),(6))

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Steps in the Election Process(Continued)

Recount petitions may be filed within 3 days after close of canvass

1946
Aug. 19 (6.66)

1952
Sept. 11 (5.012(2), 6.66)

Candidates failing to file notified and blank affidavit and order of court sent nominees

Aug. 20 (12.09(4)(b))

Sept. 16 (12.09(4)(b)
12.10)

First day for filing independent nomination papers for general election with Secretary of State and county clerks

Aug. 23 (5.26, 11.90(14))

Names of nominees who fail to file primary expense statements or whose personal campaign committees fail, by this date, to be left off Nov. ballot unless filing is made by order of court

Aug. 24 (12.10)

Canvass of primary completed by State Board of Canvassers

Aug. 27 (5.16,11.90(14))

Sept. 25 (5.16)

Last day on which candidates for state and county offices at general election may decline to run

Aug. 28 (5.28,
11.90(15))

Sept. 16 (5.18)

Last day for filing independent nomination papers with Secretary of State and county clerks (5p.m.)

Aug. 30 (5.26(1),(6),
11.90(15))

Sept. 23 (5.19(6))

Last day for state and county party committees to file certificates to fill vacancies in nominations (5p.m.)

Aug. 30 (5.28,
11.90(15))

Sept. 20 (5.18)

Platform conventions meet at state capitol to formulate platforms, and elect state central committees, etc. of each party (12 o'clock noon)

Sept. 3 (5.20,
11.90(15))

Sept. 30 (5.36(1))

Last day for associations, clubs, etc. functioning under section 12.09(5)(a) to file postelection expense statements

Sept. 3 (12.09(5)(b))

Sept. 30 (12.09(5)(b))

Platforms made public before 6 p.m.

Sept. 4 (5.20)

Oct. 1 (5.36(1))

Certified list of nominees sent to county clerks by Secretary of State

Sept. 4 (6.19(1),
11.90(15))

Oct. 6 (6.19(1))

County clerk prepares general, presidential and referendum ballots for printer

Oct. 7 (6.25)

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Steps in the Election Process(Continued)

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1952</u>
General election ballots to be in hands of printers	Sept. 6 (6.23, 6.25 11.90(15))	-----
Proof of general election ballots in hands of county clerks ready for inspection by candidates and committees	Sept. 10 (6.25(4), 11.90(18))	-----
Proof of general election ballots corrected and printing commenced	Sept. 12 (5.28, 6.25(4))	-----
Notice of general election sent to county clerks by Secretary of State	Sept. 15 (6.10(2))	Sept. 15 (6.10(2))
Ballots in hands of county clerks	Sept. 16 (11.90(15))	Oct. 15 (6.77)
Ballots in hands of local clerks	Sept. 18 (11.90(15))	Oct. 14 (6.29(1))
County clerk prepares general election notice	Sept. 23 (6.11(1))	Sept. 17 (6.11(1))
General election notice published by state and county on or about Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Nov. 1. (Reference to 1946 dates only)	Sept. 27 (6.10(1), 6.11(1))	Sept. 26 (6.10(1) 6.11(1))
County clerk will send copies of general election notice to local clerks(second Friday)	Oct. 11 (6.11(2))	Oct. 10 (6.11(2))
Ballots of primary given to waste paper salvaging authorities (60 days)	Oct. 13 (5.29, 6.60(3),(7))	Nov. 8 (5.012, 6.60(3))
Facsimile ballot notice prepared by county clerks	Oct. 18 (6.21, 6.23)	-----
Groups, clubs and factions notified to file expense statements, Oct. 26 and Nov. 26	Oct. 22 (12.09(5)(b))	Oct. 20 (12.09 (5)(b))
Candidates and personal campaign committees notified to file expense statements Oct. 29 and Nov. 9	Oct. 22 (12.09(4)(b))	Oct. 21 (12.09(4)(b))
Registration closes (second Wednesday prior)	Oct. 23 (6.17(1))	Oct. 22 (6.17(1))

Steps in the Election Process(Continued)

	<u>1946</u>	<u>1952</u>
Facsimile ballot notice of general election published in weekly papers on or about Oct. 24 and Oct. 31	Oct. 24 (6.21, 6.82(2))	Date designated by county clerk(5.08(4),(5), 6.21, 6.22, 331.25)
County clerks will ship election supplies to local clerks (10 days or earlier if possible)	Oct. 26(6.29(1))	Oct. 25 (6.78)
Associations, clubs, etc. functioning under section 12.09(5)(a) file pre-election expense statements	Oct. 26 (12.09(5)(b))	Oct. 25 (12.09(5)(b))
Preliminary statements filed immediately upon organization	Oct. 26 (12.09(5)(a))	Oct. 25 (12.09(5)(a))
Facsimile ballot notice of general election published in daily papers on or about Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 (Reference to 1946 dates)	Oct. 28 (6.21,6.82(2))	Oct. 27 (5.08(4),(5), 6.21,6.22, 331.25)
Last day for candidates and personal campaign and party committees to file or mail (not later than 5 p.m.) pre-election expense statements(Tues. before)	Oct. 29 (12.09(1))	Oct. 28 (12.09(1))
Election supplies in hands of local clerks (7 days)	Oct. 29 (6.29(1))	Oct. 25 (6.78)
Candidates failing to file notified and blank affidavit and order of court sent them	Oct. 31 (12.09(4)(b))	Oct. 30 (12.09(4)(b), 12.10)
General election	Nov. 5 (6.03, 11.90(15))	Nov. 4(6.03(1), 9.04)
Inspectors to phone results of election to county clerk immediately upon completion of tabulations	Nov. 5 (6.595)	Nov. 4 (6.595)
Inspectors deliver returns to county clerk by 2 p.m.	Nov. 6 (6.59)	Nov. 5 (6.59)
Candidates and personal campaign and party committees to file postelection expense statements	Nov. 9 (12.09(1))	Nov. 8 (12.09(1))
County canvass of general election begins (Tues. after or earlier)	Nov. 12 (6.61)	Nov. 6 (6.62)

Steps in the Election Process(Continued)

1946

1952

Candidates failing to file postelection expense statements notified

Nov. 12 (12.09(4)(b))

Nov. 12 (12.09(4)(b),
12.10)

Last day for sending general election returns to Secretary of State(17 days or earlier, if possible)

Nov. 22 (6.67)

Nov. 15 (6.67)

Final meeting of State Board of Canvassers on or before this date

Dec. 1 (6.71(1))

Dec. 1 (6.71(1))

Certificates of State Board of Canvassers published

Dec. 2 (6.72)

Dec. 1 (6.72)

Certificates of election of congressmen certified to Wash., D.C.; certificates of election issued by Secretary of State

Dec. 2 (6.72)

Dec. 1 (6.72)

Nomination papers of primary given to waste paper salvaging authorities except such as relate to pending litigation (4 months after)

Dec. 13 (5.07(5),
6.60(7))

Jan. 9 (5.05(9))

Last day for filing notices of contested legislative elections with Secretary of State

Dec. 29 (13.16)

Jan. 5 (13.16)

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HOW DATES OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS ARE EXPRESSED (First primary only
in states where there is a runoff primary)

Specific Day:

First Tuesday in April (Nebr.)
Second Tuesday in April (Ill.)
Third Tuesday in April (N.J.)
First Tuesday after first Monday in May (Ind., N. Mex., Ohio)
Third Friday in May (Oreg.)
First Monday in June (Iowa)
First Tuesday in June (Calif.) (S. Dak.)
Third Monday in June (Maine)
Tuesday after second Monday in July (Va.)
Third Tuesday in July (Mont.)
First Tuesday in August (Kans., Mo.)
First Saturday in August (Ky.)
Second Tuesday in August (Ark., Idaho)
First Tuesday after third Monday in August (Wyo.)
First Tuesday in September (Nev.)

In Relation to General Election

Eighth Tuesday prior to general election (Ariz.)

Date Set by Party Executive Committee

Not earlier than 60 days in advance of election - date
refers to when set, not date of election (Ga.)
Seventh Tuesday preceding biennial state election (Mass.)

Determined by Parties

Between last registration in July and last Saturday in
August (Del.)

Dates Varying Depending Upon Whether in Presidential Year
or Not

Second Monday in September but in presidential year.
First Monday in May (Md.)
Third Tuesday in May but in presidential year. Fourth
Tuesday in April (Pa.)
Second Tuesday in August but in presidential year.
Second Tuesday in May (W. Va.)

Dates Varying With Party

One party on third Monday in September and other on
second Wednesday thereafter (R. I.)

States Having Original and Runoff Primaries

First Tuesday in May and fourth Tuesday thereafter (Ala.)
First Tuesday after first Monday in May and fourth
Tuesday after first Monday in May (Fla.)
Last Tuesday in July and 5 weeks thereafter (La.)
Fourth Tuesday in August and 3 weeks thereafter (Miss.)
Last Saturday in May and 4 weeks thereafter (N. C.)
First Tuesday in July and fourth Tuesday in July (Okla.)
Second Tuesday in July and 2 weeks thereafter (S. C.)
First Thursday in August and within 20 days thereafter
(Tenn.)
Fourth Saturday in July and fourth Saturday in August
(Tex.)

SERVICEMEN VOTES IN 1944

A committee of the American Political Science Association at the request of the President of the United States made a special study of voting in the armed forces, which was published March 28, 1952. (Voting in the Armed Forces, 82nd Cong. 2nd session House doc. No. 407)(1) This report on page 27 indicates that in 1944 Wisconsin had approximately 215,296 servicemen of voting age. This figure was arrived at by using the ratio of 9 to 78, the 9 representing the estimated total eligible servicemen and the 78 representing the total estimated civilian voters. Of the 215,296 eligible voters 80,347 or 37.3% cast votes for President. The report estimates that about 2½ million of the estimated 3½ million servicemen at the present time are of voting age. The estimated number of servicemen voting was prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Census: Only 8 states - Colo. Conn. Mich. N.J. N.Y. R.I. Utah and Wyoming exceeded Wisconsin in the percentage of eligible servicemen who voted in 1944. Of all the states, the highest percentage was New Jersey with 51.3% and lowest was South Carolina with 2.1%. The national average was 29.2%.

In terms of the proportion of total votes cast which were cast by servicemen, the range was from 2% in Alabama to 10% in Georgia. Wisconsin had 6% and the national average was 5.6%.

In terms of the percentage of servicemen who applied for ballots who actually voted in 1944, Wisconsin did not fare so well. The percentage ranged from 13% in Texas to 91.2% in Wyoming. The national average was 59.2% and Wisconsin had 57.4%. 28 states had a better record than Wisconsin.

The report of the American Political Science Association committee states that while the percentage of servicemen voting from some states was probably affected by the higher proportions of citizens of those states on combat duty, most of the variation was probably due to the constitutional, legal, administrative and political restrictions in the states. In that year the federal ballot was available only in 20 states which accepted it and in these only if the serviceman had applied for a state absentee ballot by September 1 and had failed to receive it by October 1. Of the 2,691,160 servicemen who voted less than 85,000 voted the federal ballot. Wisconsin did not accept it.

Since 1944 the federal government has proposed that the states improve their absentee voting procedure for their servicemen. The federal proposals provide a standardized post card application for a ballot and free transportation of ballot mail. These proposals recommend that states make their ballots available not less than 45 days before the election. This was based on the time needed for a round trip of a ballot in 1944. The report states that while Wisconsin accepts applications not more than 60 days before the election, ballots are provided about 21 days before the election. Only 17 states provide at least 45 days.

(1) See also Findings and Recommendations of the Special Committee on Service Voting, American Political Science Review, June 1952, p. 512-523.

SERVICEMEN VOTES IN 1944-Cont.

To simplify the process of providing ballots and revising the method of registering members of the armed forces, Wisconsin revised its absentee voting procedure for servicemen by section 83, Ch. 455, Laws of 1951.

The American Political Science Association committee made 10 proposals for voting by servicemen. These proposals and current Wisconsin practice are as follows:

<u>Committee proposals</u>	<u>Wisconsin practice</u>
1. To vote without registering in person.	11.70 (2) Wisconsin Statutes provides for this; includes civilians attached to armed forces.
2. To vote without paying a poll tax.	Wisconsin has none.
3. To vote without meeting unreasonable residence requirements.	Wisconsin requires 1 year residence in state and 10 days residence in voting precinct.
4. To vote without meeting unreasonable literacy and educational requirements.	Wisconsin has none.
5. To use the federal post card application for a ballot.	Wisconsin provision is even simpler as request may be made by serviceman or some other person. 11.70 (4) Wis. statutes.
6. To receive ballots for primary and general elections in time to vote.	Application may be made not more than 60 nor less than 3 days before the election. 11.55, Wis. statutes. Wis. complied in 1944 and 1946.
7. To be protected in the free exercise of their voting rights.	
8. To receive essential information concerning candidates and issues.	
9. To receive essential information concerning the methods by which the right to vote may be exercised.	
10. To receive essential information on the duty of "citizens in uniform" to defend our democratic institutions by using, rather than ignoring, their voting rights.	