

CRS Report for Congress

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Congressional Primary Dates, 1998

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Summary

This report lists the dates of 1998 primary elections and, where applicable, runoff primary dates for the states and the District of Columbia. The election dates listed herein were provided by the respective election offices in the states and the District of Columbia; they are the dates for congressional primaries and for other state offices for which primaries will be held in 1998. (Voters in Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, and Virginia elect most state officials and members of the state legislature in odd-numbered years.)

Table 1. Primary Election Dates in 1998, By State

State	Primary	Runoff Primary ¹
Alabama	June 2	June 30
Alaska	August 25	
Arizona	September 8	
Arkansas	May 19	June 9
California	June 2	
Colorado	August 11	
Connecticut	September 15	
Delaware	September 12	
District of Columbia	September 15	
Florida	September 1	October 1
Georgia	July 21	August 11

State	Primary	Runoff Primary ¹
Hawaii	September 19	
Idaho	May 26	
Illinois	March 17	
Indiana	May 5	
Iowa	June 2	
Kansas	August 4	
Kentucky	May 26	
Louisiana	October 3	
Maine	June 9	
Maryland	September 15	
Massachusetts	September 15	
Michigan	August 4	
Minnesota	September 15	
Mississippi	June 2	June 23
Missouri	August 4	
Montana	June 2	
Nebraska	May 12	
Nevada	September 1	
New Hampshire	September 8	
New Jersey	June 2	
New Mexico	June 2	
New York	September 15	
North Carolina ²	September 15	
North Dakota	June 9	
Ohio	May 5	
Oklahoma	August 25	September 15
Oregon	May 19	
Pennsylvania	May 19	

State	Primary	Runoff Primary ¹
Rhode Island	September 15	
South Carolina	June 9	June 23
South Dakota	June 2	June 16
Tennessee	August 6	
Texas	March 10	April 14
Utah	June 23	
Vermont	September 8	
Virginia ³	June 9	
Washington	September 15	
West Virginia	May 12	
Wisconsin	September 8	
Wyoming	August 18	

1. In Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas, a runoff primary is held if no candidate wins 50% of the vote in the initial primary election. In South Dakota, a runoff primary is held if no candidate wins 35% of the vote in the first primary. In Louisiana, a candidate who wins 50% or more of the vote in the primary is elected to the office. If no candidate achieves a majority in the primary, a runoff election is held at the November general election. All candidates compete against each other in the primary, regardless of party affiliation, and the two highest vote-getters compete in the runoff election, even if they belong to the same political party.

2. North Carolina's congressional primary date was changed from May 5 to September 15 by a federal judicial panel in order to provide sufficient time for the legislature to redraw congressional district boundaries. The congressional runoff primary was canceled for 1998.

3. In Virginia, many candidates are nominated by party convention rather than in a primary.