

Two-Year Election Cycle

The key to political activism in Colorado

The following outline applies to Federal, State, and County Offices, and Issues that may appear on a November ballot. This outline does not take into consideration local government elections such as those for mayor or town council, or elections within special districts.

This outline is provided as an informal reference and should not be considered legal advice. Consult with the Colorado Secretary of State or seek legal advice from a qualified attorney should you have questions or concerns about the two-year election cycle, campaign finance, running for office, or other matters that may apply to federal or state law.

Day 1: The first Wednesday following the first Monday of November during an even numbered year

Election Day is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. If the first of November were to fall on a Tuesday, Election Day would occur on Tuesday, November 8. The first day of the Colorado two-year election cycle occurs on the Wednesday following Election Day.

January of following year (Odd year)

- Persons elected to Federal, state, and local offices are sworn in
- County party holds Central Committee meeting to elect Officers and District Captains
- Precinct leaders from prior even-year Caucus meetings, or those who have filled vacancies, continue in those positions unless elected to higher office (See March, Even Year, Caucus below)
- County Bonus Member Delegates elected to:
 - State Party Central Committee
 - Congressional District Central Committee
 - Judicial District Central Committee
 - Central Committee of each State House and Senate District that exists in that county

Spring of Odd Year

- Members and bonus members of State Central Committee elect officers of the State Party
- Members and bonus members of higher assemblies elect officers of those respective assemblies:
 - Congressional District
 - Judicial District
 - Multi-county State House and Senate Districts

Odd Year Campaigns & Elections

- Non-partisan School Board elections are held in November of each odd year (four-year term)
- Ballot initiatives appear on November ballot during odd year elections
- There is no August primary election held in odd years
- Balloting is by mail (you can still vote in person at voting and polling centers)
- Precinct leaders, district captains, party officers, candidates, volunteers participate in Get Out The Vote (“GOTV”) efforts, parades, exhibit booths, meetings, rallies and protests, etc
- Election Day, first Tuesday after the first Monday of November January of Even Year
- State Representatives begin the second general session (year) of their respective two-year terms
- County Party organizes Precinct Caucus meetings & host Caucus training meeting(s) for district captains, precinct leaders, and volunteer caucus leaders

March of Even Year – March 1, 2016

- Precinct Caucus Meetings held throughout County
- Presidential straw poll conducted (established 2008), *not an official primary election*
- Two persons who reside in each Precinct and who are registered with that respective Party may be elected as Precinct Leaders for a two- year term.
- Delegates and Alternates to County Assembly are elected during the Precinct Caucus meeting
- Some counties will also conduct elections to higher assemblies during Precinct Caucus meetings. Other counties will conduct elections to higher assemblies during the County Assembly, with only delegates to the County Assembly being eligible to stand for election to higher assemblies – be sure to understand how your County Party will conduct those elections so that you may have every opportunity to participate. If elections to higher assemblies will take place at your County Assembly, then it would be critically important to be elected to your County Assembly in order to stand for election to such higher assembly.
 - Being a delegate to a higher assembly is not the same as being a member or bonus member of the Central Committee of that assembly. Delegates would be entitled to attend the upcoming assembly and to vote for the candidate of their choice for that given office/assembly. Members and bonus members of the