

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

HOUSE BILL 3543

By: Hays

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to elections; 26 O.S. 2021, Section 1-102, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2023 (26 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 1-102), which relates to primary elections; modifying primary election date on presidential election years; amending 26 O.S. 2021, Section 5-110, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2023 (26 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 5-110), which relates to candidate filing periods; establishing a December filing period for statewide elected positions; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 1-102, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2023 (26 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 1-102), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1-102. A Primary Election shall be held on the third Tuesday in June of each even-numbered nonpresidential election year, and the third Tuesday in March of each even-numbered presidential election year, at which time each political party recognized by the

1 laws of this state shall nominate its candidates for the offices to  
2 be filled at the next succeeding General Election unless otherwise  
3 provided by law. No candidate's name shall be printed upon the  
4 General Election ballot unless such candidate shall have been  
5 nominated as herein provided, unless otherwise provided by law;  
6 provided further that this provision shall not exclude the right of  
7 a nonpartisan candidate to have his or her name printed upon the  
8 General Election ballots. No county, municipality or school  
9 district shall schedule an election on any date during the twenty  
10 (20) days immediately preceding the date of any such primary  
11 election.

12 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 5-110, as  
13 amended by Section 3, Chapter 329, O.S.L. 2023 (26 O.S. Supp. 2025,  
14 Section 5-110), is amended to read as follows:

15 Section 5-110. Declarations of Candidacy provided herein must  
16 be filed with the secretary of the appropriate election board no  
17 earlier than 8:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of December of any  
18 year and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the next succeeding Friday ~~no~~  
19 ~~earlier than 8:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of April of any even-~~  
20 ~~numbered year and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the next succeeding~~  
21 ~~Friday.~~

22 Such Declarations of Candidacy may be transmitted by United  
23 States mail, but in no event shall the secretary of any election  
24 board accept such Declarations after the time prescribed by law.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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