



Election Division Dispatch

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NEWS & UPDATES

Election Administrators' Conference

At the end of August, IED emailed the registration and hotel link for the annual Election Administrators' Conference to be held December 15 to 17, 2025, in downtown Indianapolis. Please share this information with your D/R county election board members, as we do not have a comprehensive email list for your members. This is a "called" meeting under state law, and most attending the conference can seek reimbursement from the county following IC 3-6-4.2-14.

After registering online, an invoice will be sent under separate cover to the person identified on the registration form. The registration fee is \$400 per person, which is required by state law. Payment must be received before and not later than the start of the conference to attend. Hotel arrangements are coordinated directly with the hotel, using the room block link shared on the invite. The rooms are the current state government rate of \$133 per night.

More details, including an agenda and awards nomination forms, to come later this fall!

Statewide VLM Project Update

After Labor Day, counties should expect an uptick in the records loaded into their VLM Hoppers, most noticeably in the VLM Inactive Hopper. Civix will be loading all records where a voter did not return their second card by August 29, 2025, to this hopper on or around September 9, 2025. Counties must act on their VLM hoppers to clear them out so that Civix can load any "late arriving" cards for county processing. The state is unable to load the "on time" records and the "late" records at the same time, as business rules must be followed in the system to ensure the proper voter status is captured. The "late" records are loaded with their images in the VLM Hoppers for counties to take action upon, instead of waiting on the physical card shipments to manage the process manually, including scanning of the cards. In order to find this efficiency, all counties must clear the VLM hoppers first. Lastly, the state is mailing a letter and blank voter registration forms to voters that ended up in the VLM Exceptions or VLM Cancel hoppers to help those who may still be registered in Indiana to update their information ahead of the next election, if needed.

SEPTEMBER WEB TRAINING

Sept. 2 & 11 | Processing BMV Declinations

Sept. 16 | GIS Geocoding

Sept. 23 & 25 | September Build Placeholder

2025 Calendar is posted to the INSVRS County Portal and subject to change.

CALENDAR

Note: This calendar includes dates to assist counties who have a special election on November 4, 2025. These dates do not apply to a county if no election is being conducted.

Sept. 1, 2025: Labor Day, IED Closed

Sept. 8, 2025: IED to send outreach letters w. blank VR form to voters in the VLM Exceptions or VLM Cancel hoppers

Sept. 9, 2025: Civic to load VLM Inactive hopper with records where no card 2 was returned to state by 8/29

Sept. 20, 2025: Deadline to send an absentee ballot to a voter with a filed and approved application on file

Oct. 6, 2025: Voter Registration Deadline (for the precincts in counties with a special election only); last day for counties holding a special election to move a registration to "inactive" status in those precincts where a special election is being conducted, as "freeze" period starts on Oct. 7, 2025

Oct. 7, 2025: Early voting begins (for counties with a special election only) unless CEB reduces hours under IC 3-11-10-26.5

Oct. 13, 2025: Columbus Day, IED Closed

Oct. 16, 2025: Travel Board begins (for counties with a special election only)

Oct. 22, 2025: First VLM card shipment to counties, including first cards returned as undeliverable on or after 7/10, which counties may use to send a SAMC

Oct. 23, 2025: ABS-Mail, ABS-VPD deadline to request an absentee ballot for special election

Oct. 25, 2025: First of two early voting Saturdays, unless CEB adopts resolution under IC 3-11-10-26.5

Nov. 1, 2025: Second of two early voting Saturdays, unless CEB adopts resolution under IC 3-11-10-26.5

Nov. 1, 2025: Inspector supply pick-up weekend

Nov. 3, 2025: Early voting ends at noon; ABS-Traveling Board apps due by noon; deadline to receive FPCA for an email ballot for any special election

Nov. 4, 2025: Special Election Day

Nov. 12, 2025: Second VLM card shipment to counties, including first cards returned as undeliverable between 10/11 and 10/31/25, which counties may use to send a SAMC

Nov. 18, 2025: Registration re-opens for May 2026 primary

Nov. 27 & 28, 2025: Thanksgiving; IED Closed

Nov. 30, 2025: Deadline for D/R State Parties to file state convention delegate plans with IED

Dec. 1, 2025: First day an absentee application can be received for May 2026 primary election (Note: FPCAs for 2026 cycle can be received on or after 1/1/26)

Dec. 8, 2025: Third VLM shipment to counties, including first cards returned as undeliverable between 11/1 and 11/26/25, and a secondary shipment with all cards received at the start of the project that counties have already acted upon

Dec. 15-17, 2025: IED Election Administrators' Conference

IN FOCUS: YARD SIGNS

Though it seems a little early to be talking about yard signs, believe it or not, the topic has come up a few times this summer as candidates for elected office are starting to put them out for the 2026 election cycle.

Local ordinances control the timing of when yard signs can be planted, if adopted. Otherwise, state law places no restriction on the yard sign season “starts”. So it is possible for candidates to put yard signs out for next year, now.

But, **if there is a local ordinance restricting the time when signs can be placed**, then local rules must be followed. However, state law “suspends” any local ordinance for signs up to 32 square feet to be placed no earlier than 60 days before the election and not later than 5 days afterward. Otherwise, political yard signs can be out any time. (IC 36-1-3-1)

For neighborhoods with a Homeowner’s Association, the HOA can restrict the placement of yard signs to the last 30 days before the election through 5 days afterward. Homeowners should consult the rules of the HOA to determine any restriction on political yard signs. (IC 32-21-13-4)

Yard signs cannot be placed in the public right-of-way. Complaints should be directed to the street department, not the CEB, for removal. Additionally, no person has the right to remove a sign from a person’s yard, which can be considered conversion and subject to a criminal investigation.

The CEB does enforce the disclaimer rule on yard signs, even homemade ones. If the sign is missing the “Paid for by” language in at least 7 point font in a color that contrasts from the background, then a written complaint may be filed. The CEB can then hold a hearing to invite both parties to present facts and evidence for the body to determine if an election law violation occurred.

PACs supporting a public question, however, do not need to place any “paid for by” disclaimer on yard signs, if it is expressing the support or defeat of the public question only.

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

Q. The CAN-16 form no longer includes D/R candidates for the 2026 election cycle. Was there a change in state law?

A. Yes. State law changed in 2024 and now requires that “small” towns (that is, those with a population of less than 3500) that moved their town (municipal) election to the even-numbered years (2026, 2028, and so on) must nominate their D/R candidates at the primary election (or fill the ballot vacancy in the traditional way after the May election). (IC 3-8-5-2.5) This means D/R candidates for the “small town” offices will use the CAN-2/CAN-12 forms in 2026 and file within the Jan. 7 to noon, Feb. 6, 2026 window. Libertarian Party candidates will use the CAN-16/CAN-12 forms and hold their convention and file paperwork, if necessary, by noon, Aug. 28, 2026. Independent or other minor party candidates will use the CAN-21 petition (and CAN-20/CAN-12) to appear on the November ballot, getting at least enough signatures of registered voters in their election district to total at least 2% of the total vote cast for SOS in 2022 in the precincts making up their election district. Write-in candidates for “small town” offices will use the CAN-3/CAN-12 forms, though their name does not appear on the Nov. ballot.

Q. Does an individual who was recently selected to fill an office vacancy (that is, when a currently elected official dies or resigns from office, for example) need to open a campaign finance committee under the new law?

A. Yes, if the office pays \$5000 or more in a calendar year and the individual does not already have an open campaign finance committee, then it is necessary for the individual to file a CFA-1. Their statement of organization must be filed not later than noon, ten days after a copy of their oath of office is filed.

VR CORNER

Non-Residential Address Review

Not later than August 1 of each year, state law requires the county voter registration official to identify potential nonresidential addresses submitted on voter registration applications and voter registrations in the statewide voter registration system that list a potential non-residential address. (IC 3-7-33-5.7(c))

If the county VR official comes across such an address and there are no notes or other findings as researched by the county, then the county VR official must determine if it is possible for the person to reside at the address or if it is a non-traditional address. Any findings should be recorded in SVRS for the county’s next review.

Should the county VR official confirm the registration address appears to be at a non-residential location, then a SAMC must be sent to the voter under IC 3-7-38.2-7.4.