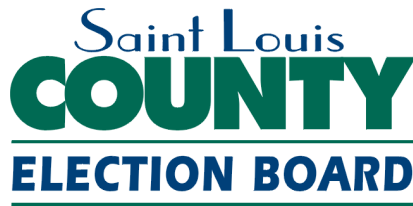


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Commissioner

RICK STREAM
Director of Elections



TRUDI MCCOLLUM FOUSHEE
Secretary

PATRICIA YAEGER
Commissioner

ERIC FEY
Director of Elections

DATE: July 6, 2021

TO: Municipal City Clerks, School Districts, Fire Districts, and Special Districts

FROM: Rick Stream and Eric Fey, Directors of Elections

RE: General Municipal Candidate Filing Dates

In June, Governor Mike Parson signed House Bill 271 into law. A part of HB 271 amends RSMo. 115.127, which changes the dates for candidate filing in local elections:

5. If the opening date for filing a declaration of candidacy for any office in a political subdivision or special district is not required by law or charter, the opening filing date shall be 8:00 a.m., the ~~[sixteenth]~~ **seventeenth** Tuesday prior to the election~~[-except that for any home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county and any political subdivision or special district located in such city, the opening filing date shall be 8:00 a.m., the fifteenth Tuesday prior to the election].~~ If the closing date for filing a declaration of candidacy for any office in a political subdivision or special district is not required by law or charter, the closing filing date shall be 5:00 p.m., the ~~[eleventh]~~ **fourteenth** Tuesday prior to the election. The political subdivision or special district calling an election shall, before the ~~[sixteenth]~~ **seventeenth** Tuesday, ~~[or the fifteenth Tuesday for any home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county or any political subdivision or special district located in such city,]~~ prior to any election at which offices are to be filled, notify the general public of the opening filing date, the office or offices to be filled, the proper place for filing and the closing filing date of the election. Such notification may be accomplished by legal notice published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the political subdivision or special district.

In essence, candidate filing will open one week earlier and close three weeks earlier than previous elections. For example: for the April 5, 2022 General Municipal election, candidate filing will open on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. and close on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. This new law does not change the certification deadline, which remains “not later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Tuesday prior” (115.125).

Please note that any charter city should consult with their attorneys as to how this may affect filing dates, as 115.127 still makes exception for charter cities.

If you have any questions it is best to contact your attorney, but we are happy to assist in any way we can.

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