

Both the Republican and Democratic Party Executive Committees have the legal authority to call county primaries for offices which will be placed on the **August 2, 2018** general election ballot. In 2018, each party has three options:

1. The party can choose to hold the county primary on **May 1, 2018**.
2. The party can choose NOT to hold a county primary.
3. If the party chooses not to hold a primary, the party may choose to hold a caucus to nominate candidates for the general election.

If your executive committee intends to nominate candidates, for all or some of the county offices, by primary election, Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-13-203 (d) requires the executive committee give to the county election commission written notice of this intention no later than 180 days before the qualifying deadline, which is **August 21, 2017**. The notice must be signed by both the committee's chair and secretary.

Any request received after the last day to give original written notice will result in the request for a county primary being denied. It is recommended that the party executive officers either deliver their notification in person or through a time-guaranteed mailing system. The county is responsible for all costs associated with the county primary election.

If either your party calls for a May 1, 2018 county primary, the qualifying deadline for all offices for which a primary has been called falls on **February 15, 2018, 12:00 Noon**. ***This qualifying deadline applies to primary candidates, candidates nominated by caucus/convention and independent candidates for the offices to be nominated by primary election.***

If a party changes its mind regarding the call of a primary, the political party executive committee must rescind the call of the primary no later than the 90th day before the qualifying deadline. The deadline to rescind a county primary called for May 1, 2018 falls on November 17, 2017.

If neither political party calls a primary, the qualifying deadline for all county offices to be placed on the August 2, 2018 ballot falls on **April 5, 2018, 12:00 Noon**. ***This qualifying deadline applies to candidates nominated by caucus/convention and independent candidates.***

If a party desires to nominate candidates for county offices through the caucus method, the county executive committee must certify the name(s) of its nominees to the election commission no later than the applicable qualifying deadline for the office(s). The certification letter must include the names of the candidates who received the party nomination and the names of the individuals who unsuccessfully sought the nomination. The names of individuals who unsuccessfully sought the nomination through the caucus are relevant because these individuals may not qualify as a nominee of a different political party or as an independent candidate on the general election ballot. Questions regarding the process for holding a caucus must be directed to your respective State Executive Committee. The Republican State Executive Committee can be reached at 615-269-4260, and the Democratic State Executive Committee can be reached at (615) 327-9779.

It is permissible for a party to call a primary for some county offices and to caucus and nominate candidates for other offices during the same election.