

# Policy Memo: ABE Programming on Election, Primary and Caucus Days

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Last Revised: January 15, 2020

## Overview

Several ABE consortium managers and staff have asked whether ABE programming can be held on election days or caucus days.

The answer differs for general, primary and special election days and for caucus days, and applies only for state and federal elections.

## General, Primary and Special Elections

Adult Basic Education programming can be held on an election day (includes primary elections and special elections) if it is regularly scheduled, but not if it is a special or one-time only event. Adult Basic Education programs fall under the "public school" section of the law due to our affiliation with Community Education.

Minnesota State Statute 204C.03 outlines events on general, primary and special election days.

## Caucuses

Adult Basic Education programming that ends prior to 6 p.m. can be held on a caucus day. ABE evening programming is not permitted on caucus days.

Minnesota State Statute 202A.19 prohibits school-sponsored events including regular classes from being held after 6 p.m. on caucus night.

## Other Local Political Events

ABE programs can decide whether they choose to offer programming on dates of other tribal nation, local city, county, and township elections and political events.

## Finding Election, Primary and Caucus Dates

The [Elections website for the Minnesota Secretary of State](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/) (www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/) lists dates for state and federal caucuses, primaries and elections.

### Upcoming Dates

2020 General Election: November 3, 2020

2020 Presidential Primary: March 3, 2020

2020 Party Caucus (night): February 25, 2020

## For More Information

This policy, along with other ABE policies and resources, can be found online at the [Minnesota ABE Law, Policy and Guidance page](http://www.mnabe.org/program-management/law-policy-guidance) (www.mnabe.org/program-management/law-policy-guidance).

For more information on elections, please refer to the [Minnesota Secretary of State’s election website](https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/) (www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/).

For more information on state statute, please refer to the [Minnesota State Revisor’s Office website](http://www.revisor.mn.gov) (www.revisor.mn.gov).

If you have additional questions, please contact Brad Hasskamp, Adult Secondary Credential and Education Policy Specialist at brad.hasskamp@state.mn.us or (651) 582-8594.