When 2026 Election Winners Take Office, 2026–27

Legal term-start dates for Congress and all 36 governors, earliest first

DATE	WHAT HAPPENS	DONE
Sun., Jan. 3, 2027	Congress: new House and Senate terms begin at noon Eastern Time	☐
Dec. 7, 2026 (Mon.)	Governors: Alaska, Hawaii (noon)	☐
Fri., Jan. 1, 2027	Governors: Michigan (noon), New Mexico, New York	☐
Mon., Jan. 4, 2027	Governors: Arizona, California, Idaho (noon), Minnesota, Nevada, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming	☐
Tue., Jan. 5, 2027	Governors: Florida, Rhode Island	☐
Wed., Jan. 6, 2027	Governors: Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire	☐
Thu., Jan. 7, 2027	Governors: Massachusetts (noon), Nebraska	☐
Sat., Jan. 9, 2027	Governor: South Dakota, if the governor picks this option	☐
Mon., Jan. 11, 2027	Governors: Illinois, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma	☐
Tue., Jan. 12, 2027	Governors: Colorado, Iowa	☐
Wed., Jan. 13, 2027	Governor: South Carolina (noon)	☐
Fri., Jan. 15, 2027	Governor: Tennessee (term begins; oath Sat., Jan. 16)	☐
Mon., Jan. 18, 2027	Governor: Alabama	☐
Tue., Jan. 19, 2027	Governors: Pennsylvania, Texas	☐
Wed., Jan. 20, 2027	Governor: Maryland	☐
Check the state	Not fixed in the constitution: Arkansas, Georgia, Oregon, Vermont	☐

My notes

Source: 20th Amendment (U.S. National Archives) and each state's constitution or statute. Ceremonies can fall on other days; this lists the legal term start.