

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ABOUT
THE TOP-TWO PRIMARY ELECTION**

THE JUNE 5, 2012 PRIMARY WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM PAST PRIMARY ELECTIONS

- **Why is the June 2012 primary election different from past primary elections?**
Proposition 14, the “Top-Two Open Primary Act” of 2010, changed the way voters elect candidates for statewide offices in a primary election.
- **How will the June 5, 2012 Primary Election for statewide offices be different?**
Now voters, not political parties, will nominate candidates for statewide offices. The names of all “voter-nominated” candidates for statewide offices will be listed on the same ballot. Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of the candidate’s or the voter’s political party preference or lack of one.
- **Which statewide voter-nominated offices are on the ballot in June 2012?**
The statewide voter-nominated offices on the ballot in June 2012 are: U.S. Senator, Member of the U.S. House of Representative, State Senator and Member of the Assembly.
- **Why is this election called the “top-two primary election?”**
The top two candidates who receive the highest and second highest number of votes cast will be on the ballot in the November General Election.
- **Does this new law affect candidates for President and Vice President of the United States or party central committees?**
No. Candidates for these offices are still nominated by members of their respective political parties and will be listed on separate party ballots. Voters must be registered with a political party in order to vote for these candidates unless the party allows voters who have no party preference to vote for President and Vice President.
- **If I did not have a political party preference when I registered to vote, can I still vote for President?**
It depends on the political party. The political parties must inform the Secretary of State by January 22, 2012 if they will allow voters without a party preference to vote for their candidates for President.
- **What action should I take to make sure I can vote for a presidential candidate of my choice?**
Make sure you are registered to vote at your current address with your current political party preference or lack of one by the May 21, 2012 registration deadline.

For more information, call the Elections Department at (530) 621-7480.