

CALIFORNIA'S TOP-TWO PRIMARY



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El Dorado County Elections Department



TOP-TWO PRIMARY

- What Changes?**
- Voter-Nominated Offices**
- Party-Nominated Offices**
- Ballot Examples**



TOP-TWO OPEN PRIMARY ACT

- Senate Bill 6 (Chapter 1, 2009)
- Proposition 14 – June 2010

APPROVED BY 53.8% OF VOTERS



WHAT CHANGED?

- Top-Two Open Primary replaced the Modified Closed Primary (used since 2001)
- Created Voter Nominated offices for Congressional, Statewide, and State Legislative offices
- “Voters” not parties, nominate candidates
- “Party Preference” replaces “Party Affiliation”



VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICES

- ALL “voter-nominated” candidates are listed on same ballot (Dem, Rep, Green, Peace & Freedom, etc.)
- Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of the candidate’s or the voter’s political party preference or lack of one
- **Only the Top-Two (highest and second highest) vote recipients, regardless of party, advance to the General Election**



Voter-Nominated

Voter-Nominated Offices

All voters, regardless of the party preference they disclosed upon registration, or refusal to disclose a party preference, may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office. Voter-Nominated Offices. The party preference, if any, designated by a candidate for a voter-nominated office is selected by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the party indicated, and no candidate nominated by the qualified voters for any voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party.

U.S. SENATOR

JUDICIAL OFFICES

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

COUNTY OFFICES

STATE SENATOR

CITY OFFICES

STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

Also State Propositions & Local Measures

El Dorado County Elections Department



**CANDIDATE'S PARTY PREFERENCE
WILL BE LISTED ON THE BALLOT AS:**

REGISTERED WITH PARTY

- Party Preference: Insert Party Name (DEM, REP, etc.)**

REGISTERED WITH AN UNQUALIFIED PARTY

- Party Preference: None**

NOT REGISTERED WITH A PARTY

- Party Preference: None**



GENERAL ELECTION

- Top-Two candidates receiving the highest and second highest number of votes cast will be on the General Election ballot
- Candidate cannot change parties between the Primary and the General Election
- No Write-Ins on the General Election Ballot for Voter-Nominated Offices



WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

- ❖ Parties nominate candidates for President and Central Committees, known as “Party-Nominated” offices
- ❖ Write-Ins are allowed for qualified write-in candidates
- ❖ Voters registered with a qualified political party vote the party’s ballot
- ❖ Parties may allow voters without a party-preference to vote their party ballot. For the 2012 Primary:

Democratic Party

American Independent Party



Party-Nominated

Party-Nominated Offices

Only voters who disclosed a preference upon registering to vote for the same party as the candidate seeking the nomination of any party for the Presidency of election to a party committee may vote for that candidate at the primary election, unless the party has adopted a rule to permit non-party voters to vote in its primary elections.

PRESIDENT

CENTRAL COMMITTEES

El Dorado County Elections Department



**BALLOT
EXAMPLES**



**EXAMPLE OF OFFICIAL BALLOT LAYOUT
DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION – JUNE, 5, 2012**

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Party-Nominated Offices

Only voters who disclosed a preference upon registering to vote for the same party as the candidate seeking the nomination of any party for the Presidency of election to a party committee may vote for that candidate at the primary election, unless the party has adopted a rule to permit non-party voters to vote in its primary elections.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Presidential Preference
Vote for One

- NEWT GINGRICH
- MITT ROMNEY
- RON PAUL
- RICK SANTORUM
- _____

COUNTY COMMITTEE

COUNTY CENTRALL COMMITTEE
5TH Assembly District
Vote for No More Than Six

- JOHN SMITH
Writer/Director
- SALLY JOHNSON
Small Business Owner
- _____

Voter-Nominated Offices

All voters, regardless of the party preference they disclosed upon registration, or refusal to disclose a party preference, may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office. Voter-Nominated Offices. The party preference, if any, designated by a candidate for a voter-nominated office is selected by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the party indicated, and no candidate nominated by the qualified voters for any voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
4TH Congressional District
Vote for One

- JOAN WRIGHT
Party Preference: Republican
Retired School Teacher
- JOHN DOE
Party Preference: None
Businessman
- GEORGE MILLER
Party Preference: Democratic
U.S. Representative
- _____

**EXAMPLE OF OFFICIAL BALLOT LAYOUT
DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION – JUNE, 5, 2012**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Party-Nominated Offices

Only voters who disclosed a preference upon registering to vote for the same party as the candidate seeking the nomination of any party for the Presidency of election to a party committee may vote for that candidate at the primary election, unless the party has adopted a rule to permit non-party voters to vote in its primary elections.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
Presidential Preference
Vote for One

- BARACK OBAMA
- HILARY CLINTON
- MIKE GRAVEL
- DENNIS KUCINICH
- _____

COUNTY COMMITTEE

COUNTY CENTRALL COMMITTEE
5TH Assembly District
Vote for No More Than Six

- CLARA JONES
Attorney
- JANE WILLIAMS
Assembly Member
- _____

Voter-Nominated Offices

All voters, regardless of the party preference they disclosed upon registration, or refusal to disclose a party preference, may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office. Voter-Nominated Offices. The party preference, if any, designated by a candidate for a voter-nominated office is selected by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the party indicated, and no candidate nominated by the qualified voters for any voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
4TH Congressional District
Vote for One

- JOAN WRIGHT
Party Preference: Republican
Retired School Teacher
- JOHN DOE
Party Preference: None
Businessman
- GEORGE MILLER
Party Preference: Democratic
U.S. Representative
- _____

**EXAMPLE OF OFFICIAL BALLOT LAYOUT
DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION – JUNE, 5, 2012**

NO PARTY PREFERENCE

Voter-Nominated Offices

All voters, regardless of the party preference they disclosed upon registration, or refusal to disclose a party preference, may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office. Voter-Nominated Offices. The party preference, if any, designated by a candidate for a voter-nominated office is selected by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the party indicated, and no candidate nominated by the qualified voters for any voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
4TH Congressional District
Vote for One

- JOAN WRIGHT**
Party Preference: Republican
Retired School Teacher

- JOHN DOE**
Party Preference: None
Businessman

- GEORGE MILLER**
Party Preference: Democratic
U.S. Representative

- _____

MEMBER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE ASSEMBLY
5TH Assembly District
Vote for One

- BILL CHURCH**
Party Preference: Green
Retired Deputy Sheriff

- JANE FULLER**
Party Preference: Republican
Physician

- MIKE MORGAN**
Party Preference: Democratic
Community Volunteer

- _____

COUNTY

County Supervisor
1ST Supervisorial District
Vote for One

- JOHN HALL**
City Councilman

- BRENDA SMART**
Computer Technician

- _____



IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 21st – Last day to register to vote

Change Party Preference

Change Address for Election

JUNE 5th – ELECTION DAY



TOP-TWO PRIMARY



Thank You

(530) 621-7480

El Dorado County Elections Department

