

How to vote in a primary election

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All voters can vote in the primary election.

A primary election in June chooses the candidates who will run in the General Election in November. You may see three different types of primaries on your ballot.

The way each primary works depends on the office.

 Presidential Nominated by party	 California Top-Two Primary Nominated by voters	 County or Local Offices Non-partisan Primary
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Who can vote in each type of primary election?

Only voters who registered in the same political party as the candidate can vote for these offices. Some parties allow voters who registered with no party preference to vote in their primary.	All voters can vote for any candidate running for these offices.	All voters can vote for any candidate running for these offices.
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What is the result of each type of primary election?

The winner of each party's Presidential primary will help select who will represent that political party in the General Election	The top two candidates with the most votes move on to the General Election. They may have the same party preference.	Candidates who receive 50% plus 1 vote are elected. Or, if no candidate wins, the two candidates with the most votes move on to the General Election.
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Which offices are in each type of primary?

The candidates' party always appears on the ballot	The candidates' party preference (or "None") always appears on the ballot.	The candidates' party preference never appears on the ballot
U.S. President Parties also nominate candidates for County Central Committees and County Councils	U.S. Representative U.S. Senator Governor and Lt. Governor State Senator State Assembly Member Other state offices including Treasurer, Secretary of State, Attorney General	County Supervisor Other county offices including Sheriff, County Clerk, Recorder-Assessor Municipal Offices School Districts Superior Court Judges State Superintendent of Public Instruction

On June 8, 2010, California voters approved the Top-Two Open Primary Act (Proposition 14). See www.sos.ca.gov/elections/primary-elections-california/ for more information.