



What is a Primary Election?

A “Primary Election” is one in which only enrolled members of a party may vote for the purpose of nominating party candidates and electing party officers. In any election district, if a race is uncontested, no primary is held.

By enrolling in a constituted party you can help designate candidates by signing petitions and voting in a “primary election”, however, you are not obligated to vote for your party’s candidate in the General Election, you may vote for any candidate from any party.

To vote in a “primary election” you must register for one of the following constituted political parties by indicating your preference on the voter registration form:

***Democratic
Republican
Conservative***

***Green
Working Families
Independence***

***Women's Equality
Reform***

You can also choose to write-in a party or not enroll in a party, but in either of these cases you will not be able to participate in a primary.

Additionally, if you are currently an enrolled voter and change your party status, your change will not be effective until after the next General Election.

***If you are already registered to vote and want to vote in the Presidential Primary on April 19, 2016 but you are not registered in the Party whose primary you want to vote in, unfortunately the deadline for changing your party has passed. Any change of party registration now will not take effect until after the General Election in 2016. All other changes will take effect immediately.**

***If you are not currently registered to vote and want to vote in the Presidential Primary on April 19, 2016, you have until March 25, 2016 to do so.**