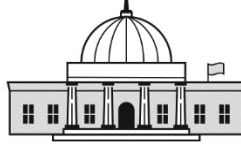


# How California Primary Elections Work: The “Top-Two” System

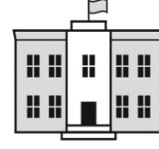
- **All voters can vote in a primary election.**
- Voting for President depends on the political party you are registered with; but for Governor and other offices you are allowed to vote for **any** candidate from **any** political party.
- **Primary elections** allow voters to choose candidates who will run against each other in **general elections**.
- Primary elections are in either March (for President) or June (for Governor). General elections are in November.
- You may see 3 types of primaries on your ballot. **The way each primary works depends on the “office.”**



**Presidential Office  
Nominated by party**



**California Offices  
Nominated by voters**



**County or Local Offices  
Non-partisan candidates**

## Which offices are in each type of primary?

<p>The candidate’s political party is <b>always</b> on the ballot.</p>	<p>The candidate’s party preference (or “None”) is <b>always</b> on the ballot.</p>	<p>The candidate’s party preference is <b>never</b> on the ballot.</p>
<p>U.S. President</p> <p>Political parties also nominate candidates for County Central Committees and County Councils.</p>	<p>U.S. Senator U.S. Representative State Senator State Assembly Member Governor and Lt. Governor Other state offices including: Treasurer; Secretary of State; Attorney General; Controller; &amp; Insurance Commissioner.</p>	<p>County Supervisor Other county offices including: Sheriff, County Clerk &amp; Recorder Assessor. Municipal Offices School Districts Superior Court Judges State Superintendent of Public Instruction.</p>

## Who can vote in each type of primary election?

<p><b>Only voters who registered to vote with the same political party</b> as the candidate can vote for these offices.</p> <p>If you <b>registered with no party preference</b>, then no candidates for these offices will be on your ballot.</p> <p>Some political parties will allow no party preference voters to request a primary ballot. Check <a href="#">here</a> to see which allow it.</p> <p>But, if you want to vote for a party that won’t allow <b>no party preference voters</b>, then you must <b>re-register to vote</b> and select your choice of political party.</p>	<p><b>All voters</b> can vote for any candidate running for these offices.</p> <p>All candidates from all parties will be on the ballot for these offices.</p>	<p><b>All voters</b> can vote for any candidate running for these offices.</p> <p>All candidates will be on the ballot for these offices.</p>
---	--	---

## What is the result of each type of primary election?

<p><b>The winner of each party’s presidential primary</b> will help determine who will represent that party in the general election.</p>	<p><b>The top two candidates with the most votes</b> move on to the general election.</p> <p>They may have the same political party preference.</p>	<p><b>Candidates who receive at least 50% plus 1 vote</b> are elected.</p> <p>Or, if no candidate wins, <b>the two candidates with the most votes</b> move on to the general election.</p>
--	---	--