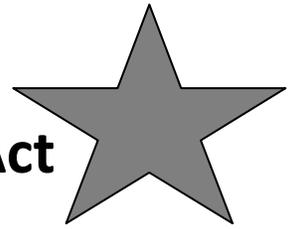


# Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act FAQ's for Voters



## **What is a Top 2 Primary?**

A Top 2 Primary lets you vote for *any* candidate (for most races), even if you are not registered in the same political party. The top 2 candidates – the ones who get the most votes in the primary - will be on the General Election ballot in November.

## **Is Top 2 different than the last primary election?**

Yes. Top 2 is new. It became law in 2010 when we passed Prop 14. Before Top 2, each party could have one candidate on the General Election ballot for all party races.

Now with Top 2, only two candidates get on the General Election ballot for most races – the ones who got the most votes in the primary – no matter what party they are from.

## **What does party preference mean?**

*Party preference* refers to the political party you or the candidate is registered with. It's listed on the ballot near the candidate's name. The word "None" appears for candidates who are *not* registered with a party. For example:

JOHN JOHNEY  
Party Preference: DEM

JANE JANEY  
Party Preference: REP

JOE JOEY  
Party Preference: None

## **Do all offices follow the Top 2 rules?**

No. Top 2 applies to these voter-nominated offices:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Congressperson
- State Senator
- State Assembly Member

Statewide constitutional offices (such as Governor)

The top 2 does *not* apply to elections for President or Party Central Committees. (These races are on not on the ballot for the June 3, 2014 Primary Election).

## **Can the Top 2 candidates be from the same party?**

Yes. The Top 2 candidates might be from the same party, different parties, or no party.

## **If only 1 or 2 candidates run for an office, will they still run in the primaries?**

Yes.

## **I am registered with a political party. What ballot will I receive for the June 3, 2014 Primary Election?**

All voters will receive the same ballot regardless of their political party preference or the way they are registered to vote.

Normally, a voter can only vote in the primary election of the political party he or she has disclosed a preference for upon registering to vote. However, for the June 3, 2014 primary all voters will vote

the same ballot regardless of their political party preference because the Presidential and county central committee races are not on the ballot.

Your ballot will have:

- All candidates from all parties for voter-nominated and nonpartisan offices, and
- State or local measures.

**What ballot do I vote if I am not registered with *any* party?**

All voters will receive the same ballot regardless of the way they are registered to vote. No party ballots will be printed for the June 3, 2014 Primary Election because the party-nominated races such as Presidential and county central committee races are not on the ballot for this election.

**Can I still write in a candidate on my ballot?**

Yes. You can write in a qualified candidate for voter-nominated offices at the primary election, but not for the general election. For other contests, you are allowed to write in a candidate at both the primary and general elections.

**Can I find out what party I am registered with?**

Yes. Telephone the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650.

**Can I change my political party?**

Yes. Fill out a new voter registration card and return it at least 15 days before the election. You can locate the date for the close of registration on the website under current elections.

**Do I need to re-register again for each election?**

No. Fill out a new voter registration card *only* if you have:

- Moved,
- Changed your name, or
- You wish to change your political party preference.

**Where can I register to vote?**

You can get a voter registration card at:

- Online at [www.placerelections.com](http://www.placerelections.com)
- Post office,
- Library,
- Office of Elections, or
- Call our office at 530-886-5650 and request that a registration card be mailed to you.

**What if I have questions about Top 2?**

Call our office at 530-886-5650 or toll free in California at 1-800-824-8683.