## 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.**

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| Presidential Nominated by party | California Top-Two Primary Nominated by voters | County or Local Offices Non-partisan Primary |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/primary-elections-california/) for more information.

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

Voters may either register with a political party preference or choose "none."   
A candidate's party preference does not necessarily mean that they have that political party's support. The list of candidates who receive a party's official endorsement is in the county voter guide.