

# SELECTING A POLITICAL PARTY

## QUALIFIED POLITICAL PARTIES (as of September 1, 2015)

- Republican
- Democratic
- Libertarian
- American Independent
- Green
- Peace & Freedom

[Click here for information on the qualified political parties](#)

## CHOOSING A PARTY ON YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD

A voter's political party preference will impact which ballot he/she will receive in a **Presidential Primary Election only**. That means, voters who are registered with a political party may only vote a Presidential Primary ballot containing the candidates for that political party. However, voters who are registered with no party chosen, independent or with a non-qualified party may select a party's ballot if that party has authorized them to cross-over and vote their ballot.

On June 8, 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act. Except for the office of U.S. President and county central committee offices, all offices that were known as "partisan offices" are now known as "voter-nominated" offices.

Under the Top Two Candidates Open Primary Act, all candidates running in a primary election, regardless of their party preference, will appear on a single Primary Election ballot and voters can vote for any candidate. The top two overall vote-getters will move on to the General Election.

Candidates for a voter-nominated office can choose whether to list their party preference on the Primary or General Election ballots. Political parties can no longer formally nominate candidates for voter-nominated offices, so a candidate who finishes in the top two at the Primary Election and advances to the General Election is not the official nominee of any party for that office.

In Presidential General Elections, all voters – regardless of political party – will receive the same ballot for their precinct that will contain each party's nominee for each of the partisan offices.

When completing a voter registration card either online or in person, there is a section where you may select a political party affiliation or make another choice.

In the political party section, make sure that you either:

- Check one of the listed political party preferences
- Check "Other" and write the name of the party. ***Please note, checking the box "American Independent" will register voters with that political party. To register as an "Independent," voters must write the word "Independent" in the blank space provided next to "Other"***
- Check "No, I do not want to disclose a political party preference"
- If no box is checked in this section, you will be automatically entered as "No party preference"

For more information about a political party's platform, visit that political party's website.