



Top Two Primary (Initiative 872) DRAFT Rules

Candidate Filing:

- Initiative 872 changes the primary election for partisan congressional, state, and county office.
- Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers.
- A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.
- A candidate states his or her party preference on the Declaration of Candidacy.
 - Each candidate is allowed up to 16 characters for the name of the political party.
 - A candidate may also choose to not state a preference for a political party.
- A candidate is not required to obtain approval from a party in order to state a preference for that party.
- Political parties can no longer fill a vacancy on the major party ticket because there is no "party ticket."
 - Only if no candidate files is there a void in candidacy, in which case a special filing period is opened.
- The filing process is the same for *all* candidates; the convention and petition requirements now only apply to minor party and independent candidates for President.

Primary Election Ballot:

- If a candidate states a preference for a political party on the declaration of candidacy, it will be listed on the ballot as:
**JOHN SMITH
(Prefers Example Party)**
- If a candidate does not state a preference, the following will be listed on the ballot:
**JOHN SMITH
(States No Party Preference)**
- Each ballot that includes a partisan race must include the following notice in bold:
Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.
- A similar notice will also be provided as an insert with absentee ballots, and on a sign in poll sites.
- A candidate's preference will be printed the same on both the Primary and General Election ballots.

- Political parties are free to nominate or endorse candidates by whatever mechanism they choose.
 - The law does not allow nominations or endorsements by interest groups, political action committees, political parties, labor unions, editorial boards, or other private organizations to be printed on the ballot.
 - Candidates may mention nominations and endorsements in their voters' pamphlet statement.
- For the Primary, the order in which the candidates in each race appear is determined by lot draw.
- Even if only one or two candidates file, the office will still appear in the Primary.

Voters:

- Voters are not required to affiliate with a political party in order to vote in the Primary.
- For each race, voters may vote for any candidate listed on the ballot.
- Voters in the Primary are voting for candidates, not choosing a political party's nominees.
- The purpose of the Primary is to winnow the number of candidates to two for the General Election.

General Election Ballot

- The two candidates who receive the most votes advance to the General Election ballot.
 - Candidates must also receive at least 1% of all votes cast for that office.
- A candidate's preference does not affect whether the candidate qualifies for the General Election.
- In each race on the General Election ballot, the candidate who received the most votes in the Primary is listed first and the candidate who received the second most votes in the Primary is listed second.
- The party preference information printed on the Primary Election ballot is printed the same on the General Election ballot.
- Candidates for President and vice President are listed on the General Election ballot as:
JOHN SMITH/JANE DOE
Example Party nominees