

# FOUR FACTS ABOUT PRIMARY ELECTIONS

## WHAT IS A PRIMARY ELECTION?

The process by which political parties introduce a list of candidates to voters before a general election:

- Voters choose the candidates they believe are most qualified to represent the party in the general election.
- The candidates who receive the highest number of votes for a particular position proceed to the general election with the party's backing.



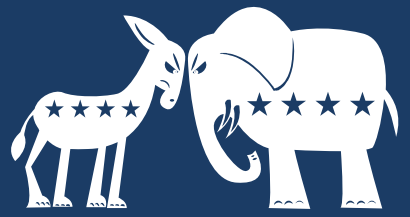
- Closed
- Partially Closed
- Partially Open
- Open to Unaffiliated Voters
- Open
- Two-tier
- Four-tier

## STATES HOLD PRIMARIES USING A VARIETY OF METHODS

## PA HAS A "CLOSED" PRIMARY SYSTEM

Only voters affiliated with a specific party can vote for candidates in the primary election, and they must select candidates from that same party.

In Pennsylvania, voters not affiliated with any party, like Independent voters, are currently not allowed to participate in the party primaries. However, any voter can vote on other ballot measures.



## 7 OTHER U.S. STATES HAVE "CLOSED" PRIMARY SYSTEMS



According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Pennsylvania, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, New York, New Mexico, Nevada, and Wyoming are states that have "Closed" Primary Systems.



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