

Closed Party Primaries in Louisiana

Voter FAQ



★ What's Changing?

Starting in 2026, Louisiana will use closed party primaries for certain federal and statewide races. This replaces the state's traditional open ("jungle") primary for those specific offices.

★ What is a Closed Party Primary?

A closed primary means each political party chooses its own candidate before the general election.

- ➔ Republicans vote only in Republican primaries
- ➔ Democrats vote only in Democratic primaries
- ➔ Voters with "No Party" (independent) can choose ONE party's primary to vote in

★ If I am registered as "No Party," what can I do?

You can vote, but you must:

- ➔ Choose either the Democratic OR Republican primary
- ➔ Vote in only one party's ballot
- ➔ Stick with that party if there is a runoff election

You cannot vote in both parties' primaries.

★ How does the election process work?

- ➔ Democrats run only against Democrats
- ➔ Republicans run only against Republicans
- ➔ Each party picks one winner to move on to the general election

If no one gets more than 50%

- ➔ The top two candidates in that party go to a runoff
- ➔ The runoff decides the party's final nominee

★ What happens in the General Election?

Voters choose between:

- ➔ The Democratic nominee
- ➔ The Republican nominee
- ➔ Any independent or other party candidates

★ Why this matters

This change affects:

- ➔ Which ballot you can vote on
- ➔ How party nominees are chosen
- ➔ How No Party and independent voters participate

★ Races That WILL Use Closed Party Primaries

- ➔ U.S. Senate
- ➔ U.S. House of Representatives
- ➔ Louisiana Supreme Court
- ➔ Public Service Commission
- ➔ Board of Elementary & Secondary Education (BESE)

★ Races That will NOT Use Closed Party Primaries

These will continue under Louisiana's open primary system (all candidates on one ballot):

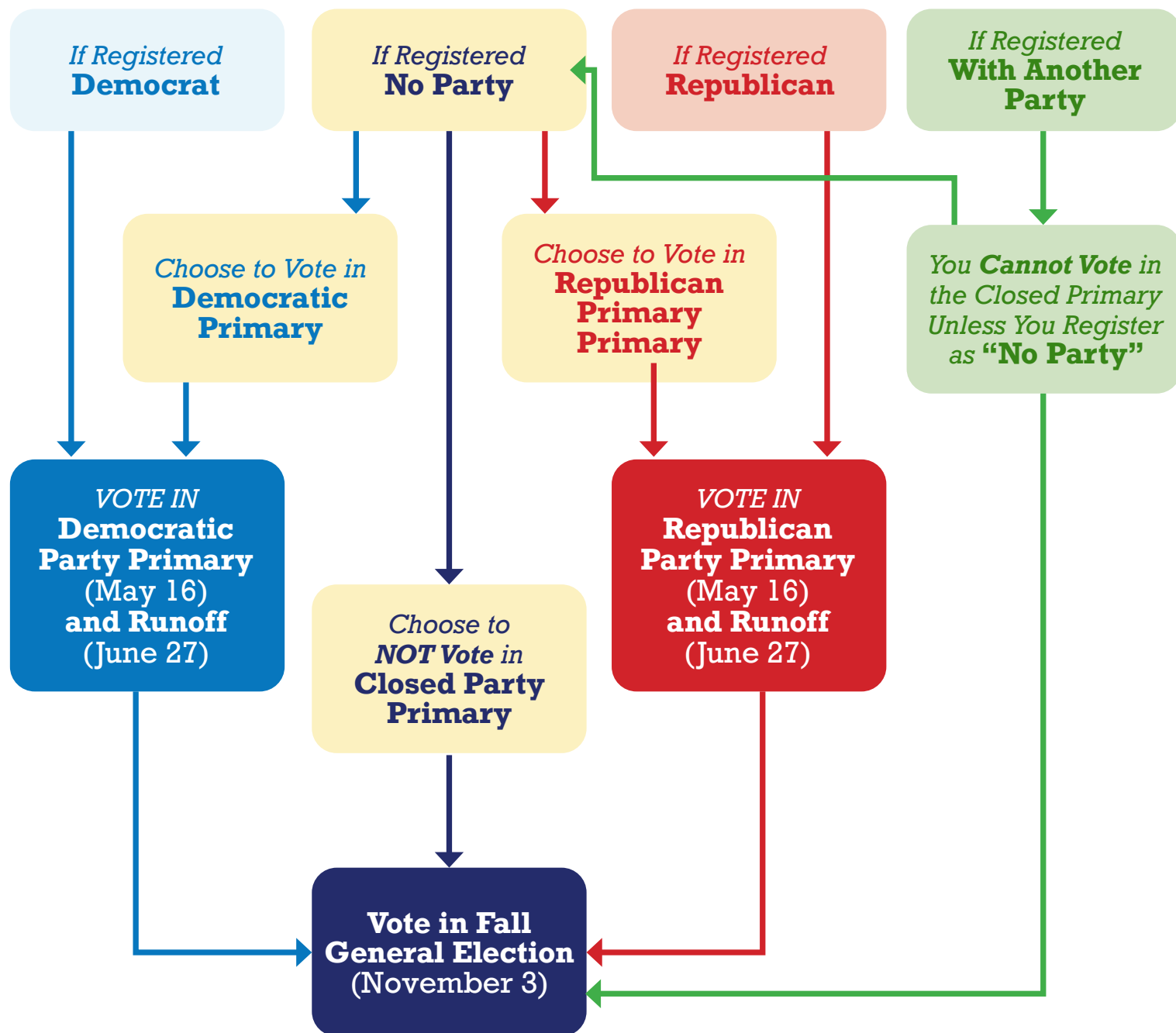
- ➔ **Statewide Offices**
 - ➔ Governor & Lieutenant Governor
 - ➔ Secretary of State
 - ➔ Attorney General
 - ➔ State Treasurer
 - ➔ Insurance Commissioner
 - ➔ Agriculture Commissioner
- ➔ **Legislative & Judicial**
 - ➔ Louisiana House
 - ➔ Louisiana Senate
 - ➔ All state judges except Supreme Court
- ➔ **Local Elections**
 - ➔ Sheriff, District Attorney
 - ➔ Mayor, City Council
 - ➔ School Board, Police Jury
 - ➔ Other local offices



Know your registration.
Know your ballot.
Make your vote count.

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