

# 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):

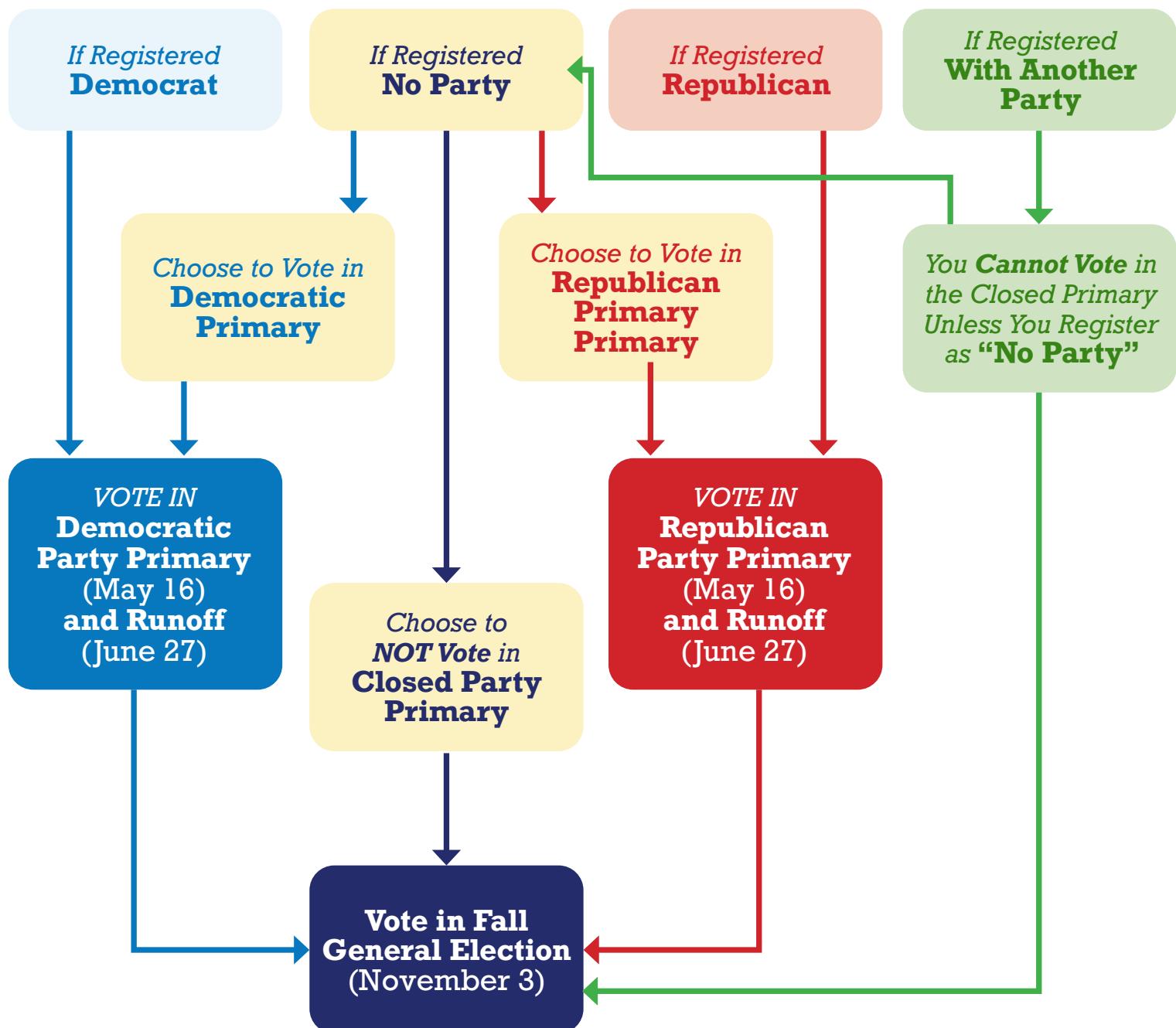
- ▶ **Statewide Offices**
  - ▶ Governor & Lieutenant Governor
  - ▶ Secretary of State
  - ▶ Attorney General
  - ▶ State Treasurer
  - ▶ Insurance Commissioner
  - ▶ Agriculture Commissioner
- ▶ **Legislative & Judicial**
  - ▶ Louisiana House
  - ▶ Louisiana Senate
  - ▶ All state judges except Supreme 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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