

Each major political party uses the Primary Election to nominate their party candidates for the November General Election. Each state has different rules governing Primary Elections. In Oregon, major parties have the option of choosing a "closed system," meaning only registered voters in that party can vote for candidates of the same party. Or, a major party can choose an "open system" where the major party allows registered voters who are not registered with any party to vote for candidates in their party's Primary Election.

Example of the "closed system": If you are registered with the Democratic Party, you may vote for Democratic candidates, nonpartisan candidates and local or state measures. You cannot vote for a candidate from any other party in the Primary Election.

Example of the "open system": The Republican Party can announce they are going to "open" their Primary Election so people who are not registered with any party can vote for Republican candidates in addition to, the nonpartisan candidates and local or state measures.

If you are registered with a minor political party or as a nonaffiliated voter, only non-partisan and local races will appear on your ballot. Office for the US President, US Congressional, US Senate and State Partisan races will not be listed.

All registered voters can participate in the General Election.