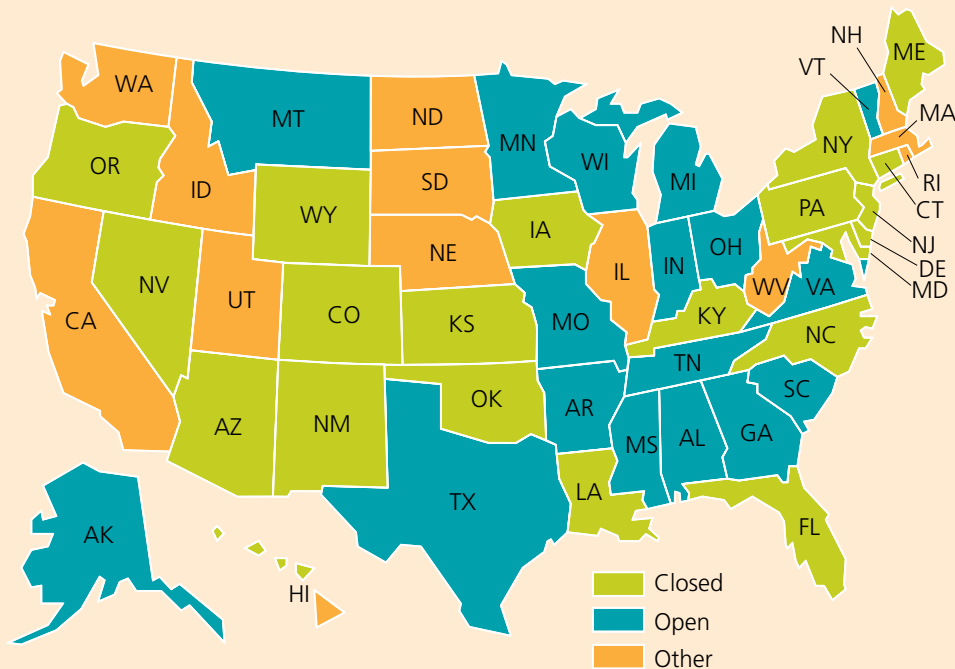


Party Affiliation Requirements for Voting in Direct Primaries, 2012



Source: Fair Vote, "Congressional and Presidential Primaries: Open, Closed, Semi-Closed, and 'Top Two,'" February 2012, <http://www.fairvote.org/research-and-analysis/presidential-elections/congressional-and-presidential-primaries-open-closed-semi-closed-and-top-two/>.

Notes:

Alaska: Closed caucuses for both parties.

California: In 2010, California approved a system in which all candidates compete on the same primary ballot, with the two top finishers, regardless of party, proceeding to the general election.

Idaho: Democrats have a semiclosed caucus, while the Republicans have an open primary.

Iowa: Closed caucuses, but voters may change registration at polls.

Kansas: In the Democratic caucus, independent voters can register as Democrats on caucus day. For Republicans it is a closed caucus.

Louisiana: Primaries are open for congressional elections, as of 2011.

Maryland: Parties can choose to open primaries, but both Democrats and Republicans have chosen not to.

Massachusetts: Registered Democrats and Republicans can vote only for their own party in the primary, but independent voters may decide which party they would like to vote for.

New Hampshire: Closed primaries are in effect, but semiclosed primaries are allowed if a party's rules allow it.

New Jersey: Registered Democrats and Republicans can vote only for their own party in the primary.

North Carolina: A person registered with a party must vote in that party's primary. Unaffiliated voters may choose a party on the day of the primary election.

North Dakota: North Dakota has no voter registration. To vote in the Republican caucus, a citizen must have affiliated with the Republican Party in the last general election or plan to in the next election.

Ohio: A voter must vote in the primary of the same party he or she participated in at the last primary election.

Rhode Island: If voters are registered as “unaffiliated” they may vote in the primary of any party they choose. Once they vote in a primary, however, they are considered a member of that party until and unless they “disaffiliate.”

Utah: Currently only Republicans close their primary. Democrats and independents can vote in the Democratic primary. Conventions are held by the political parties prior to the primary.

Virginia: Parties may choose to nominate by convention rather than by primary election.

Washington: The state in 2004 moved to an open, “top-two” primary system, which the Supreme Court upheld in 2008.

West Virginia: Although technically a closed system, all parties allow any voter not registered with an official party to request their ballot for the primary election.