CALIFORNIA’S TOP-TWO PRIMARY

www.edcgov.us/elections

El Dorado County Elections Department
TOP-TWO PRIMARY

- What Changes?
- Voter-Nominated Offices
- Party-Nominated Offices
- Ballot Examples
TOP-TWO OPEN PRIMARY ACT

- Senate Bill 6 (Chapter 1, 2009)
- Proposition 14 – June 2010

APPROVED BY 53.8% OF VOTERS
El Dorado County Elections Department

**TOP-TWO PRIMARY**

**WHAT CHANGED?**

- *Top-Two Open Primary* replaced the Modified Closed Primary (used since 2001)
- Created *Voter Nominated* offices for Congressional, Statewide, and State Legislative offices
- “Voters” not parties, nominate candidates
- “Party Preference” replaces “Party Affiliation”
## Voter-Nominated Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOTER-NOMINATED OFFICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ ALL “voter-nominated” candidates are listed on same ballot (Dem, Rep, Green, Peace &amp; Freedom, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Voters can vote for any candidate regardless of the candidate’s or the voter’s political party preference or lack of one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Only the Top-Two (highest and second highest) vote recipients, regardless of party, advance to the General Election</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voter-Nominated Offices

All voters, regardless of the party preference they disclosed upon registration, or refusal to disclose a party preference, may vote for any candidate for a voter-nominated or nonpartisan office. Voter-Nominated Offices. The party preference, if any, designated by a candidate for a voter-nominated office is selected by the candidate and is shown for the information of the voters only. It does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the party indicated, and no candidate nominated by the qualified voters for any voter-nominated office shall be deemed to be the officially nominated candidate of any political party.

U.S. SENATOR  JUDICIAL OFFICES
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  COUNTY OFFICES
STATE SENATOR  CITY OFFICES
STATE ASSEMBLY  STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

Also State Propositions & Local Measures

El Dorado County Elections Department
CANDIDATE’S PARTY PREFERENCE
WILL BE LISTED ON THE BALLOT AS:

REGISTERED WITH PARTY
☑ Party Preference: Insert Party Name (DEM, REP, etc.)

REGISTERED WITH AN UNQUALIFIED PARTY
☑ Party Preference: None

NOT REGISTERED WITH A PARTY
☑ Party Preference: None
GENERAL ELECTION

- Top-Two candidates receiving the highest and second highest number of votes cast will be on the General Election ballot.
- Candidate cannot change parties between the Primary and the General Election.
- No Write-Ins on the General Election Ballot for Voter-Nominated Offices.

El Dorado County Elections Department
WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

- Parties nominate candidates for President and Central Committees, known as “Party-Nominated” offices.
- Write-Ins are allowed for qualified write-in candidates.
- Voters registered with a qualified political party vote the party’s ballot.
- Parties may allow voters without a party-preference to vote their party ballot. For the 2012 Primary:
  - Democratic Party
  - American Independent Party
Party-Nominated

Party-Nominated Offices

Only voters who disclosed a preference upon registering to vote for the same party as the candidate seeking the nomination of any party for the Presidency of election to a party committee may vote for that candidate at the primary election, unless the party has adopted a rule to permit non-party voters to vote in its primary elections.

PRESIDENT
CENTRAL COMMITTEES

El Dorado County Elections Department
Primary Election

BALLOT

EXAMPLES
### Party-Nominated Offices

Only voters who disclosed a preference upon registering to vote for the same party as the candidate seeking the nomination of any party for the Presidency of election to a party committee may vote for that candidate at the primary election, unless the party has adopted a rule to permit non-party voters to vote in its primary elections.

**PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**  
Presidential Preference  
Vote for One

- NEWT GINGRICH
- MITT ROMNEY
- RON PAUL
- RICK SANTORUM

**COUNTY COMMITTEE**  
COUNTY CENTRALL COMMITTEE  
5TH Assembly District  
Vote for No More Than Six

- JOHN SMITH  
  Writer/Director
- SALLY JOHNSON  
  Small Business Owner

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**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE**  
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
4TH Congressional District  
Vote for One

- JOAN WRIGHT  
  Party Preference: Republican  
  Retired School Teacher
- JOHN DOE  
  Party Preference: None  
  Businessman
- GEORGE MILLER  
  Party Preference: Democratic  
  U.S. Representative
## Democratic Party

### Party-Nominated Offices

Only voters who disclosed a preference upon registering to vote for the same party as the candidate seeking the nomination of any party for the Presidency of election to a party committee may vote for that candidate at the primary election, unless the party has adopted a rule to permit non-party voters to vote in its primary elections.

### Presidential Preference

**Vote for One**

- **Barack Obama**
- **Hilary Clinton**
- **Mike Gravel**
- **Dennis Kucinich**

### County Committee

**County Centrall Committee**

**5th Assembly District**

**Vote for No More Than Six**

- **Clara Jones**
  - Attorney
- **Jane Williams**
  - Assembly Member

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### U.S. Representative

**United States Representative**

**4th Congressional District**

**Vote for One**

- **Joan Wright**
  - Party Preference: Republican
  - Retired School Teacher
- **John Doe**
  - Party Preference: None
  - Businessman
- **George Miller**
  - Party Preference: Democratic
  - U.S. Representative
### Voter-Nominated Offices

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### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

4TH Congressional District

*Vote for One*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party Preference</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOAN WRIGHT</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>Retired School Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOHN DOE</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Businessman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGE MILLER</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>U.S. Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MEMBER OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY

#### STATE ASSEMBLY

5TH Assembly District

*Vote for One*

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<tr>
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<th>Occupation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BILL CHURCH</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Retired Deputy Sheriff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANE FULLER</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>Physician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIKE MORGAN</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>Community Volunteer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COUNTY

#### County Supervisor

1ST Supervisorial District

*Vote for One*

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOHN HALL</td>
<td>City Councilman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRENDA SMART</td>
<td>Computer Technician</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**EXAMPLE OF OFFICIAL BALLOT LAYOUT**

**DIRECT PRIMARY ELECTION – JUNE, 5, 2012**
TOP-TWO PRIMARY

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 21st – Last day to register to vote
- Change Party Preference
- Change Address for Election

JUNE 5th – ELECTION DAY
Thank You

(530) 621-7480

El Dorado County Elections Department