

Your Guide to the Primaries

What Are Primaries?

Primaries are elections that political parties hold before a General Election. They determine which candidates will represent each party on the ballot in the General Election. Think of them as a "first round" where voters help decide the party's nominee.

Types of Primaries

1. Closed Primary – Only voters registered with a political party can vote in that party's primary.
2. Open Primary – Any registered voter can vote in any party's primary, but only for one party.
3. Semi-Closed / Semi-Open – Varies by state; some allow unaffiliated voters to pick a party primary.

Why Primaries Matter

- Shape the choices in the general election: Your vote influences which candidates make it to the ballot.
- Encourage voter participation: Primaries give communities, students, businesses, faith groups, first-time voters, a voice early in the process.
- Highlight issues that matter locally and nationally: Candidates often focus on policies important to voters in these early elections.

Quick Tip: Check your state's rules for primaries! Some states hold them months before the general election, and your eligibility to vote may depend on your party registration.

Ready to make your voice count? Visit [Vote.Online](#) to check your registration and get ready to vote!