

Closed Primary Elections & Political Parties in Oregon



Major political parties in Oregon hold primary elections to choose candidates to represent them in general elections. **Oregon law allows major political parties to decide whether to hold open or closed primary elections.** In a closed party primary, only voters registered with the party holding the primary election can participate in its primary election. In an open party primary, the primary election is opened up to all non-affiliated voters in the state, as well as those voters registered as members of that party. Non-affiliated voters who wish to participate in a party's open primary must make a written request to the Multnomah County Elections Division for an open primary ballot before the Voter Registration and Party Change Deadline, 21 days before Primary Election Day. Candidates listed on a primary nominating ballot for a major political party are limited to those registered with that political party.

Oregon's minor political parties (see list below) each have their own method for choosing their candidates for the November General Election.

There is no cost or membership fees to be part of a political party. You can change your party selection any time by updating your registration at oregonvotes.gov or by filling out a new Voter Registration Card. **However, if you want to receive a ballot for a major party's primary election you must make changes to party selection no later than the Voter Registration and Party Change Deadline, 21 days before Primary Election Day.**

There are three major political parties and five minor political parties in Oregon. You can choose to be a member of a party, or you can choose to not be a member of a party (non-affiliated).

Oregon's three major political parties are: Democratic Party - dpo.org Independent Party - indparty.com Republican Party - oregon.gop	Oregon's five minor political parties are: Constitution Party - constitutionpartyoregon.net Libertarian Party - lporegon.org Pacific Green Party - pacificgreens.org Progressive Party - progparty.org Working Families Party - workingfamilies.org/states/oregon
--	---

If you have questions or would like more information about closed primary elections and other elections processes:

Visit the Oregon Secretary of State's website at oregonvotes.gov or call 1.866.673.VOTE.

For Voter Education and Outreach support please contact Multnomah County Elections' Voter Education and Outreach Program Specialist, Catherine McMullen at 503.988.9764 or catherine.mcmullen@multco.us.

**The Voter Education and Outreach Program does not provide support at political events and is entirely non-partisan. Multnomah County Elections does not endorse or discuss any particular candidates or measures.

Multnomah County Elections

Tim Scott, Director of Elections

1040 SE Morrison St. Portland, OR 97214

503.988.3720 | elections@multco.us | mcelections.org