

OPEN PRIMARIES

CLOSED PRIMARIES

- 42% of Americans – including 50% of millennials – now identify as independent. Many states bar independents from voting in primaries.
- In America today, 40% of legislators run unopposed. Unopposed! The primary is often the only election that matters. But not everyone is allowed to participate.
- Politicians have incentives to pander to partisan interest groups, not represent all their constituents.
- 26 million Americans can't vote in the Presidential primary. They have no say in determining who our presidential finalists are.
- Primaries are funded by the public. But the parties – private organizations– decide who can and cannot vote. That's wrong. It's unfair. And it's taxation without representation.



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SIMPLE CHANGE

In an open primary, all voters vote. It's that simple. Candidates can no longer ignore the largest and fastest growing group of voters in the country. Both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party could change their party rules and open the Presidential primaries in all 50 states to every voter – it would not require changing state law. Every American should have the opportunity to vote in the 2020 presidential primary.

BIG DIFFERENCE

California, Washington and Nebraska have gone even further and enacted open non-partisan primaries. All the candidates appear on the same ballot. All voters are able to participate and vote for who they want. The two most popular candidates – regardless of party – advance to the general election. In these states, elections are highly competitive and legislators work across party lines and govern productively.

70% of all Americans – Democrats, Republicans, Independents and Third Party Members – want open primaries.



"Partisan primaries are the single most powerful obstacle to achieving outcomes for the common good. Non-partisan primaries empower legislators to get things done."

Harvard Business School Report

"This is voter suppression. This is taxation without representation. This undermines the democratic process."

Dr. Jessie Fields, Open Primaries Spokesperson



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