

## Open and Closed Primary States\*

State	Voter Registration	Presidential Primaries	State Primaries 2012-2013
Alabama	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Alaska	Partisan	Semi-Open	Semi-Open
Arizona	Partisan	Closed	Semi-Closed
Arkansas	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
California	Partisan	Closed	Top Two Open Primary
Colorado	Partisan	Closed Caucuses	Semi-Closed
Connecticut	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Delaware	Partisan	Closed	Closed
District of Columbia	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Florida	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Georgia	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Hawaii	Nonpartisan	Open Caucuses	Open
Idaho	Partisan	Closed	Closed <i>(2012:DP allowed independents to vote)</i>
Illinois	Nonpartisan	Open <i>(vote is public information; voter records kept)</i>	Semi-Open <i>(must vote in party last voted in; voter records kept)</i>
Indiana	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Iowa	Partisan	Semi-Open Caucuses	Semi-Closed
Kansas	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Kentucky	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Louisiana	Partisan	Closed	Nonpartisan Primary <i>(majority vote avoids runoff)</i>
Maine	Partisan	Semi-Closed Caucuses	Semi-Closed
Maryland	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Massachusetts	Partisan	Semi-Open	Semi-Open
Michigan	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Minnesota	Nonpartisan	Open Caucuses	Open
Mississippi	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Missouri	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Montana	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Nebraska	Partisan	Semi-closed	Closed <i>(Congress is semi-open; State Legislature is non-partisan)</i>
Nevada	Partisan	Closed Caucuses	Closed
New Hampshire	Partisan	Semi-Closed	Semi-Closed
New Jersey	Partisan	Semi-Closed	Semi-Closed
New Mexico	Partisan	Closed	Closed
New York	Partisan	Closed	Closed
North Carolina	Partisan	Semi-Open	Semi-Open
North Dakota	No voter registration	Open Caucuses	Open.
Ohio	Nonpartisan	Open <i>(records kept of how voted)</i>	Semi-Open <i>(must vote in party last voted in; records kept)</i>

State	Voter Registration	Presidential Primaries	State Primaries 2012-2013
Oklahoma	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Oregon	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Pennsylvania	Partisan	Closed	Closed
Rhode Island	Partisan	Semi-closed	Semi-Open
South Carolina	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
South Dakota	Partisan	Closed	Closed 2012: (DP Semi-Closed)
Tennessee	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Texas	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Utah	Partisan	Closed	Closed (2012: DP Semi-Closed; RP Closed)
Vermont	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Virginia	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Washington	Nonpartisan	Open	Top Two Open Primary
West Virginia	Partisan	Semi-Closed	Semi-Closed
Wisconsin	Nonpartisan	Open	Open
Wyoming	Partisan	Closed Caucuses	Semi-Closed

### \*Definitions:

- **Closed:** Independents cannot vote in a party primary, unless party votes to open it for a specific election.
- **Open:** There is no partisan voter registration. Voters must choose a party primary in which to vote.
- **Semi-Closed:** Independents/unaffiliated voters can vote in a party primary. However, they must reregister into a party on that day. Some states require a waiting period to reregister such as CO and ME. Other states such as NH and RI allow you to reregister at the poll. Parties can elect to bar independents from participating.
- **Semi-Open:** Independents/unaffiliated voters can vote in state primary. They must ask for a party ballot, and can only vote in that party primary. Parties can elect to bar independents from participating.
- **Top Two:** Not a party primary. Voters can vote for the candidate of their choice for each race on one ballot regardless of party affiliation. The top two vote getters go onto the general election. Candidates can list party preference next to their name.

