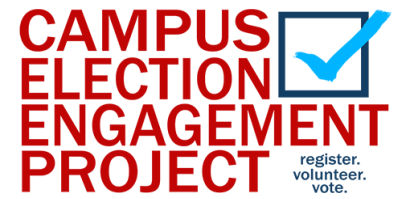


Primary voting for out-of-state students

2018 Primary Elections



As discussed in our main Primary guides, primaries allow voters to pick candidates for the November general election. This is your chance to determine who you and others will ultimately get to vote for.

Who you can vote for in different types of primaries

Eligibility requirements for voting in a primary vary from state to state, and depend on the type of primary being held. Primary rules differ from general election rules, because you not only have to be registered and supply any required ID. You also may also have to register with a particular party to vote for your preferred candidate. If you register to vote in a state that's different from where you're going to school, you can find key information below, but we also recommend that you check for possible eligibility variations at your state election website or Vote411.org (which also provides stands for many of the candidates) If you want email or text reminders, you can get them from TurboVote and Rock the Vote, along with registration documents or online registration.

Here are the types of primaries:

Closed: Voter must be a registered party member. This does not commit you to vote for any particular party in November.

Semi-closed or Open to Unaffiliated Voters (OUV):

Unaffiliated voters can participate in any party primary they choose, but voters registered with one party cannot vote in another party primary. Some states require unaffiliated voters to declare a party affiliation at the polls to vote in that party's primary.

Open: Voters can choose privately (in the voting booth) which party's ballot they complete. This decision does not register the voter with that party.

Semi-open: Voters can cross party lines in their ballot selection but must publicly declare their ballot choice before going into the booth. This avoids avoid having their ballot selection regarded as a form of registration for that party. Some states allow voters to publicly change their party affiliation for the purpose of voting in the primary election.

Top-Two: A small number of states use a common ballot that lists candidates from all parties. The top two nominees, regardless of party affiliation, move on to the general election.

Primary election schedule and types of primaries – all states

Primaries are held in different states from March through September. The table below provides primary election types and dates plus registration deadlines for all states. We've given a range of dates if they have different deadlines for different registration methods (in-person, mail, online). Additional registration details can be found at your state election site, Vote411.org or the U.S. Vote Foundation. Absentee ballot information can be found at the same links.

State	Primary Type	Registration Deadline	Primary Date
Alabama	Closed	May 21	June 5
Alaska	Semi-closed	July 22	August 21
Arizona	Open	July 30	August 28
Arkansas	Semi-open	April 23	May 22
California	Semi-closed	May 21	June 5

State	Primary Type	Registration Deadline	Primary Date
Colorado	Closed	June 18 or election day	June 26
Connecticut	Closed	August 9	August 14
Delaware	OUV	August 11	September 6
District of Columbia		May 28 - June 19	June 19
Florida	Closed	July 30	August 28
Georgia	Semi-open	April 23 - 24	May 22
Hawaii	Semi-closed	July 12	August 11
Idaho	Open	April 20 or election day	May 15
Illinois	Semi-closed	February 20 - March 20	March 20
Indiana	Open	April 9	May 8
Iowa	Open	May 25 or election day	June 5
Kansas	Top Two	July 17	August 7
Kentucky	OUV	April 23	May 22
Louisiana	Open	October 9 or October 16	November 6
Maine	Semi-open	May 22 or election day	June 12
Maryland	Closed	June 5	June 26
Massachusetts	OUV	August 15	September 4
Michigan	Open	July 9	August 7
Minnesota	Open	July 24 or election day	August 14
Mississippi	Open	May 7	June 5
Missouri	Open	July 11	August 7
Montana	Open	May 7 or election day	June 5
Nebraska	Top Two	April 30 or May 4	May 15
Nevada	Closed	May 15 or May 22	June 12
New Hampshire	OUV	Deadlines vary by locality.	September 11
New Jersey	OUV	May 15	June 5
New Mexico	Closed	May 8	June 5
New York	Closed	March 30 or April 14	April 24
North Carolina	Semi-closed	April 13	March 8
North Dakota	Open	Not required	June 12
Ohio	Semi-open	April 9	May 8
Oklahoma	Semi-closed	June 8	June 26
Oregon	Closed	April 24	May 15
Pennsylvania	Closed	April 16	May 15
Rhode Island	OUV	August 12	September 12
South Carolina	Open	May 11 - May 14	June 5
South Dakota	Semi-closed	May 21	June 5
Tennessee	Semi-open	July 3	August 2
Texas	Open	February 5	March 6
Utah	Semi-closed	May 28 or June 19	June 26
Vermont	Open	Election day	August 14
Virginia	Open	May 21	June 12
Washington	Top Two	July 9 or July 30	August 7
West Virginia	OUV	April 17	May 8
Wisconsin	Open	July 25 or August 10	August 14
Wyoming	Semi-open	August 6 or election day	August 21