

# JQ CITIZEN

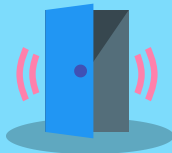
and

# CLOSED PRIMARY ELECTIONS in PA



Now that I REGISTERED TO VOTE, tell me  
WHEN I need to vote!

There are TWO ELECTIONS EVERY YEAR; A CLOSED  
PRIMARY ELECTION in the spring (May 18, 2021), and  
a GENERAL ELECTION in the fall (November 2, 2021).



What is a CLOSED Primary Election in  
Pennsylvania??

THE CLOSED PRIMARY ELECTION is when  
members of ONLY the TWO MAJOR political  
parties--REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC--choose  
their CANDIDATES for the GENERAL ELECTION.



When I registered to vote, I saw the  
Democratic, Republican, Green, and  
Liberterian parties on my application.  
Where was the INDEPENDENT party?

There is no "INDEPENDENT" party in Pennsylvania, but  
candidates in the Libertarian and Green parties can  
run for office in the GENERAL Election. (ANY  
registered voter CAN VOTE for ANY candidate of  
ANY party in the General Election.)



I also remember that when I registered  
to vote, I could have CHOSEN to JOIN  
the Republican or Democratic Party.

Yes. When you REGISTERED TO VOTE,\* in order to vote  
in a Closed Primary Election, you had to CHOOSE either  
the DEMOCRATIC or REPUBLICAN PARTY. PA Primary  
Elections are CLOSED to voters who haven't picked a  
party or who chose a "third" party.



So, if I don't join one of the two major  
parties, I CAN'T VOTE in the PA CLOSED  
PRIMARY ELECTION??  
That's right, except...

Those voters who are NOT registered as Democratic  
or Republican MAY VOTE in a PA Primary Election  
ONLY IF there is a ballot question, constitutional  
amendment or special election.



**\*IMPORTANT!!** At any time, you can add or change your "party affiliation" by going to [VotesPA.com](https://www.votespa.com). If you choose either the Democratic or Republican party, then on PRIMARY ELECTION DAY when you go to your polling place, you will receive a ballot that has candidates only from the party you chose--Republican or Democratic.