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 Libertarian 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. 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.