

FAQ

About Primaries and Primary Runoffs

Q: What is a Primary?

A: The Republican and Democratic parties are the two parties in Georgia that conduct Primaries. A Primary is the process used by these two parties to select only 1 candidate for each office. The candidate selected for each office will then run against the other party's candidate, as well as any third party and independent candidates, in the November General Election.

Q: Why do I have to choose Republican or Democrat?

A: You are choosing which Primary ballot you want to vote. You are only allowed to vote in one party's Primary. Later, in the November General Election, the ballot will include candidates from both parties as well as any third party and independent candidates.

Q: How do I change the party I'm registered in?

A: We don't register in a party in Georgia. Each time there is a Primary, you select which party's Primary you want to vote in. The only restriction is that if there is a Runoff, you must vote in the same party's Runoff.

Q: Why can't I vote for some candidates on the Republican ballot and some candidates on the Democratic ballot?

A: Georgia law requires that you vote in only one party's Primary during each election period.

Q: If I choose a party's ballot in the Primary, will I also get to vote for nonpartisan offices and special referendum questions?

A: Yes. Each party's Primary ballot will also include a section for nonpartisan offices, like judges, and any proposed referendum questions.

Q: I'm an Independent, what if I want to vote nonpartisan?

A: If you don't want to vote in either party's Primary, there may be a third choice called a nonpartisan ballot. If you choose this ballot you will only be voting on the nonpartisan offices, like judges, and any proposed referendum questions.

Q: If I didn't vote in the Primary, can I vote in the Runoff?

A: Yes. If you didn't vote in the Primary, you can select either party to vote in the Runoff.

Q: What if there is no Runoff in my party in my precinct?

A: Then you won't vote at all during the Runoff voting period.

Q: If there is no Runoff in my precinct in the party I selected in May, can I vote in the other party's Runoff in July?

A: No. Georgia law requires that you vote in only one party's Primary during each election period.

Q: If I don't vote in the Primary or Runoff, can I still vote in the November General Election?

A: Yes. In November all the candidates appear on the same ballot and you can vote for whomever you choose.