



I prayed for freedom for twenty years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs.

Frederick Douglass

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.:



Give us the Ballot!

"If you would be truly free, if you would leave an inheritance of dignity and equality for your children, you will register and vote."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Ben Carson



"When we have done our best, we also have to learn that we still need to rely on God. Our best - no matter how good - is incomplete if we leave God out of the picture."

Make your voice matter



Are you registered?

Know Your Voting Rights!

1. As a free American citizen, you are guaranteed the right to register to vote as a member of any political party or as an independent voter, and to vote as such. If you don't vote, your "citizenship voice" won't be counted.

2. There are "open primary," "closed primary," "top-two," or "hybrid" elections before the "general" elections in each of the 50 "United States of America." It is legal to vote for a member of any party you wish to support.

3. **Open Primaries:** Eleven states operate open primaries, which permit any registered voter to cast a vote in a primary, regardless of his or her political affiliation. This means that a Democrat could "cross over" and cast a vote in the Republican primary, or vice versa, and an unaffiliated voter can choose either major party's primary. (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin)

4. **Closed Primaries:** Eleven states operate closed primary elections or caucuses. In either case, only voters who are registered as members of a political party prior to the primary date may participate in the nomination process for its candidates. Proponents say that closed systems contribute to a strong party organization. Opponents note that independent or unaffiliated voters are excluded from the process. (Delaware Florida Kansas Kentucky Maine Nevada New Jersey New Mexico New York Pennsylvania Wyoming)

5. **Top-Two Primaries:** In top-two primaries all candidates, regardless of party affiliation, are listed on one ballot. Voters choose their favorite candidate, and the top two vote-getters become the candidates in the general election. The top-two model is not used for presidential primaries in any states. (California Louisiana Nebraska (for nonpartisan legislative races only) Washington) In America this top two is often Democrats and Republicans.

6. **Hybrid:** Many states use primary election systems that fall somewhere in between "open" and "closed." Procedures are unique from state to state, and how to categorize these primaries is a judgment call. (The remaining states are hybrid.)

7. General Elections: and Final Steps

After the primaries and caucuses, most political parties hold a national convention to select their presidential and vice presidential nominees. Then people cast their final votes in a general election. The final and deciding votes for president of the US then come from the Electoral Board. There are a total of 538 electors. A candidate from one of the top two winning parties needs the vote of more than half (270) to win the presidential election.

8. **Pros and Cons of Open Primaries:** Proponents say that this system gives voters maximum flexibility because they can cross party lines. Opponents counter that this system dilutes a political party's ability to nominate its own candidate without interference from non-members.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States that prohibits racial discrimination in voting. It was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson during the height of the American Civil Rights Movement on August 6, 1965, and Congress later amended the Act five times to expand its protections.