



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 vote.pa.gov. 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.