

Top-Two Open Primary Act – 3 Types of Candidate Contests

On June 8, 2010 California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the “Top Two Open Primary” Act.

Party-Nominated Contests

U.S. President
County Central Committees

Voter-Nominated Contests

Governor	Attorney General
Lt. Governor	State Senator
Secretary of State	State Assembly
State Treasurer	U.S. Senator
State Controller	U.S. Representative
State Insurance Commissioner	
State Board of Equalization	

Nonpartisan Contests

Superintendent of Public Instruction
Superior Court Judges
County Offices
Municipal Offices
Superintendent of Schools
Schools and Special Districts

Who can Vote?

Party-Nominated Contests

Only voters registered with the *same party preference* as the candidate.

(Except parties who allow No Party Preference voters to cross over and join their presidential primary.)

Voter-Nominated Contests

All voters, *regardless of party preference* can vote for any candidate. This replaces party ballots in primary elections with a single ballot listing all candidates.

Candidates have their party preference or lack of party preference printed on the ballot.

Nonpartisan Contests

All voters, *regardless of party preference*.

Who Advances to the General Election

Party-Nominated Contests

Presidential contest only; the top vote-getters in each party.

(Central committee members are elected in the primary.)

Voter-Nominated Contests

The top two vote-getters regardless of party preference.

A candidate who finishes in the top two of the primary and advances to the general is not the official nominee of any party.

Nonpartisan Contests

In majority vote contests, candidates that receive a majority of the votes win outright in the primary.

If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then the top two vote-getters move on to the general.