



JQ CITIZEN

and

The CLOSED PRIMARY in Pennsylvania



Now that I REGISTERED TO VOTE, tell me
WHEN I need to vote!

There are TWO ELECTIONS EVERY YEAR; A CLOSED
PRIMARY in the spring, and a GENERAL ELECTION
in the fall.



What is a CLOSED Primary in
Pennsylvania??

THE CLOSED PRIMARY 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, Green, and Keystone
parties may have candidates on the GENERAL Election
ballot. (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, you had to CHOOSE either the
DEMOCRATIC or REPUBLICAN PARTY. PA Primaries are
CLOSED to voters who haven't joined one of the major
parties or who have chosen a "third" party.



So, if I don't join one of the two major
parties, I CAN'T VOTE in the PA CLOSED
PRIMARY??
That's right, except...

Those voters who are NOT registered as Democratic
or Republican MAY VOTE in a PA Primary
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 to join 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. Non-affiliated voters may vote in a Primary (and will receive a different ballot from Democrats and Republicans) only if there is a ballot question, constitutional amendment or special election.