



What is the Difference
Between an

OPEN

and

CLOSED

PRIMARY



What Is the Difference Between an Open and Closed Primary?

The main difference between an open and closed primary election is who is allowed to vote in them. In an open primary, any registered voter can choose which party's primary they want to vote in. A voter does not have to be registered with that party. However, they can only vote in one party's primary during that election.

In a closed primary, only voters who are officially registered with a political party can vote in that party's primary. This means only party members choose the party's nominee.

Each state decides which primary system to use, usually through state laws, or in some states, political parties have discretion in who gets to vote in their primaries. Voters should check how their state operates to know who is eligible to participate. This can be particularly important in a presidential race, as primaries decide which candidates move forward.

Source: www.eac.gov

guides.vote

