



August 10, 2010

NASS Survey: Do states with closed primaries conduct awareness/education campaigns about the requirement of affiliating with a party in order to participate?

- For those of you with a closed primary, do you conduct awareness/education campaigns about the requirement of affiliating with a party in order to participate in a primary?
- If you do conduct a campaign, what does that campaign include?

State	Type of Primary	Education about registration or not
Alabama		
Alaska	Closed Primary - however the political parties choose through their bylaws which candidates and voters have access to their ballot.	Information regarding party affiliation and ballot choice is published in the Primary Election Ballot Measures Pamphlet. This pamphlet is mailed to the households of every registered Alaska voter.
Arizona		
Arkansas		
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut	Closed Primary	We taped public service announcements, held press conferences, added a tag to our website...
Delaware	Closed Primary	No education program
District of Columbia		
Florida	Closed Primary	In the past, we have explained our closed primary system in our state public service announcements, explanation on our website. There is also an explanation on Florida's Voter Registration Application about being a closed primary state. It is under the explanation

Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20001

(202) 624-3525

(202) 624.3527 Fax

www.nass.org

		for party affiliation. Our local election officials have also provided explanations on their websites, their facebook pages (where applicable) and in their local county outreach.
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Idaho	Open Primary	
Illinois	Closed Primary	No education programs, left to the parties to do.
Indiana	Open or Semi-Open Primary	
Iowa		
Kansas	Closed Primary	We do some outreach on it, but a lot of the work is done by the parties. We train county election officers and provide materials for them to use in training poll workers. We include information about primary voting rules on our web site and in some public announcements such as press releases.
Kentucky	Closed Primary	We highlight the deadlines for switching parties and still being able to vote in a primary (which is year-end) via press releases, social media and earned media. We get a fair amount of earned media coverage. We do the same things around the time of the actual primary to remind voters that party primaries are closed. We send letters to all voters who switched their party affiliation after the year-end party switch deadline to notify them that they are not eligible to vote in the party primary but can still vote in non-partisan primaries, like city and judicial races.
Louisiana	Closed primary	Yes, by press release. Press Release includes this information before the deadline for changing party.
Maine	Closed primary.	Our education campaign consists

		largely of media statements and interviews that unenrolled voters can, in fact, register in a party up to and including election day-- because we also have election day registration (EDR). For party members, there is a 15-day blackout period where they cannot change parties for the purpose of voting in the other party's primary. We really don't have money for marketing during the primaries, which are, after all, a party nomination process conducted by the state.
Maryland	Closed Primary	The State does not conduct awareness/education campaigns about the requirement to affiliate with a party in order to participate, although this information is contained in the voter registration application as well as other materials available to voters (e.g., a how to register and vote brochure) that this office produces.
Massachusetts		
Michigan	Open Primary	
Minnesota	Open Primary	
Mississippi	Open Primary	
Missouri	Open Primary	
Montana	Open/Semi-Open Primary	
Nebraska	Closed Primary	The state does not conduct an awareness or education campaign.
Nevada		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
New Mexico	Closed Primary	We conduct outreach and voter registration campaigns on a non-partisan basis to enfranchise as many voters as we are able to. The key phrase is non-partisan. We do not educate the public on any type of party affiliation
New York		
North Carolina	Closed Primary	No education campaign, nor has

Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20001

(202) 624-3525

(202) 624.3527 Fax

www.nass.org

		there been any public or political demand/request for it. We have been running closed primaries for over 100 years and voters are used to it and know they have to be affiliated with a party.
North Dakota	Open Primary	
Ohio	Closed Primary	The Secretary of State's office provides information on our public website, publishes a Voter Information Guide and provides limited media messaging.
Oklahoma	Closed Primary	The Oklahoma State Election Board includes information about Oklahoma's closed primary system on our website, http://elections.ok.gov . (This information is found in the Guide to Statewide Elections and the FAQ's.) We also reference the closed primary system in sample news releases about the primary election provided to our county election board secretaries, who in turn issue these releases to their local press/media. The State Election Board Secretary also publicizes this information as often as possible in press/media interviews before the primary.
Oregon	Closed Primary	Oregon does not conduct any awareness/education campaigns relative to affiliating with a party
Pennsylvania	Closed Primary	We do not do a "campaign" per se. We do issue a press release reminding voters about the rules regarding closed primaries. We also have some information on our website regarding the issue.
Puerto Rico		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina	Open Primary	
South Dakota	Closed Primary	We certainly talk about the affiliation requirement in our news releases and media statements leading up to the registration deadline and primary election.

Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 401, Washington, DC 20001

(202) 624-3525

(202) 624.3527 Fax

www.nass.org

Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Vermont		
Virginia	Open Primary	
Washington	Top-Two Primary where political party is not a factor	
West Virginia	People who are not registered with the Democrat, Republican or Mountain Parties can chose to participate in the primary nomination of either of the three major parties.	We post information on our website, local election officials provide information and notices are posted at every precinct
Wisconsin	Open Primary	
Wyoming	Closed Primary	Wyoming does a press release statewide prior to the Primary Election letting the public know that in order to cast a ballot for partisan races at the Primary election they must be affiliated w/one of the major parties recognized in the State.