

UNDERSTANDING the NEXT ELECTION

YOU MATTER. YOUR VOTE MATTERS. YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Voting makes your voice heard in one way that affects real change--by resulting in the policies and laws that affect us all.

The 2024 Federal and State Elections will have great IMPACT! Voters will elect a President, a Vice President, and decide who will run our Federal and PA governments.

HISTORY OF VOTING RIGHTS

1778- White Men with Property
1790- 1856- All White Men
1870- African American Men
1920- All Women
1924- Native Americans
1965- Voting Rights Act
1971- Voting Age from 21 to 18

Contrary to these Constitutional Amendments, discrimination by poll taxes, literacy tests, states' right to ratify, and other more recent barriers to voting, like condensing polling places and certain voter ID laws are preventing citizens from their RIGHT TO VOTE.

Naturalized Citizens and Reentering Citizens (free after incarcerated for a felony) also have the right to vote.

WHY DO WE NEED GOVERNMENT?

Besides support for our Constitutional freedoms and for the Rule of Law applied equally to all citizens...

Think about all of the ways laws and regulations HELP citizens by securing the safety of:

- Products--health & beauty
- Food--standards/inspections
- Infrastructure--roads/bridges
- Workers--at least 16 years old
- Environmental-- water/air

Our TAXES pay for teachers, fire fighters, police, social services, and elected government officials.

POLITICAL PARTIES

Members of a POLITICAL PARTY are citizens who have similar ideas and who choose candidates to represent their interests.

--Only members of the two major parties, Democratic and Republican, can vote in PA Closed Primaries--*citizens can choose when they register to vote.*

NO Independent Party in PA, but third parties may be in the General. ALL REGISTERED VOTERS may vote in any election if there is a *ballot question, constitutional amendment, or special election.*

Register to Vote or Update Your Political Party Affiliation at [VotesPA.com](https://www.VotesPA.com).

TWO DIFFERENT ELECTIONS EACH YEAR

PRIMARY Election in the spring.
GENERAL Election in the fall.

CLOSED PRIMARY: Democrats vote for Democrats; Republicans vote for Republicans on their own, different ballots for the...

GENERAL Election: all registered voters can vote for any candidate from any party on the same ballot.

FEDERAL and STATE ELECTIONS will determine who will make up our Federal and State legislatures.

TWO TYPES OF ELECTIONS

FEDERAL and STATE: (Even years)
Presidential, US Congressional, State Legislature, State-wide Officials

MUNICIPAL: (Odd-years)
Local, City, and County Officials, Magistrates and Judges

SPECIAL ELECTIONS: When an elected official can no longer serve. May be held during General or Primary Elections--everyone living in the district can vote.

April 23 - PRIMARY ELECTION.
November 5 - GENERAL ELECTION

HOW TO ELECT A PRESIDENT

Candidate wins by a popular vote in each state. Each candidate then has a slate of their own "electors" who are chosen by their political parties. 538 ELECTORS equal the number of Members of Congress for each state + 3 for Washington, DC. The winning candidate gets that state's electors. Presidential candidates must win at least 270 electoral college votes to win.

Candidate may win the national popular vote and LOSE the Electoral College vote.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS
especially in a "SWING STATE" like PA