

Date Printed: 06/16/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_80
Tab Number: 77
Document Title: Hawaii's Closed Primary
Document Date: 1976
Document Country: United States -- Hawaii
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE02163



* F 3 C E E 6 A 1 - 4 2 1 3 - 4 6 4 D - 9 F 6 7 - 9 5 4 7 7 0 D 6 C A 8 7 *

Why do I have to pick a party ballot at the primary?

Hawaii's

Closed

Primary

**Office of the City Clerk
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: 523-4293**

HAWAII'S CLOSED PRIMARY

What is a primary election?

A primary election is basically a *nomination process* or a preliminary election to select candidates to represent the political party of your choice at the general election. A primary election essentially replaces the traditional political party caucuses and conventions where the slate of candidates is chosen by the party itself. Instead *you, the voter, rather than the political party, directly choose the candidates* to run in the general election.

The intent, then, of conducting a primary election is to provide a fair opportunity for the voters to express their opinions as to whom they wish to have as the candidates representing the party of their choice at the general election.

HAWAII'S CLOSED PRIMARY

Hawaii conducts a closed primary which allows only those voters who declare their party ballot preference to vote in the primary election. If you are a newly registered voter or if you have not voted at any primary election, you must declare your party preference or nonpartisanship and make your ballot selection at the time you go to the polls at the primary election.

The intent of the law is to increase the identification between voters and political parties in Hawaii in order to strengthen and perpetuate our party system, and to allow the voters rather than the political parties to nominate candidates of their party for the general election.

Presidential Election

In a U.S. Presidential Election year, Hawaii holds no primary election for presidential candidates. Instead, each recognized political party in the state holds a convention to select delegates to the national convention at which its presidential and vice-presidential candidates are nominated to run in the general election.

Hawaii's Political Parties

There are presently five recognized political parties in Hawaii that meet the requirements and qualifications of the election laws of the state: *

- Democratic Party of Hawaii
- Republican Party of Hawaii
- The People's Party
- Independents for Godly Government Party
- Libertarian Party

*official political parties at time of printing

AT THE POLLS

Party Ballot Selection

For each primary election, separate ballots are prepared for each party and for nonpartisan candidates so designated. Once you have voted in a primary election, your choice is recorded for future primary elections and *you are automatically given the same party ballot at each successive primary election* in which you participate, unless:

- you register a change of party preference with the City Clerk who is responsible for the voter registration rolls, or
- you reregister to vote because you failed to vote in both a primary and general election within an election year.

Party Ballot Change

You may change your party ballot preference any time up to ninety days before any primary election by writing to the City Clerk or appearing in person at the Clerk's Office to register your party ballot change. *Your change, however, is limited to only those political parties recognized by the State of Hawaii, or to a "Nonpartisan" designation.*

Nonpartisan Designation

A "Nonpartisan" declaration does not mean that you may choose any party ballot at the polls. A Nonpartisan designation does not mean that you are a member of a political party either, but is a provision for any candidate or voter who does not wish to identify himself with any political party. As a Nonpartisan, *you will be given the official Nonpartisan Ballot for races having candidates so designated.*

If there is no "Nonpartisan" candidate or if you do not wish to pick any party ballot, you will not be able to exercise your right to vote at the primary unless there is an official school board ballot available at that election. This ballot, when available, is issued to all voters regardless of party preference.

School Board Ballot

The school board ballot lists candidates of all parties who are running for a seat on the State Board of Education. The members of the Board of Education are elected every four years and will not be up for election again until 1978. You are not required to declare your party preference for a school board ballot; however, you must vote for candidates from one party only, or for nonpartisan candidates only. *Your ballot will not be counted if you cross party lines.*

Remember!

Your party ballot change is limited to only the following ballots as available.*

- Democrat
- Republican
- People's Party
- Independents for Godly Government
- Libertarian
- Nonpartisan

Deadline to Change

90 days before the primary

*official political parties at time of printing

PLEASE DETACH APPLICATION AT LINE BEFORE MAILING

City Clerk
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

PARTY BALLOT CHANGE APPLICATION

(please print)

This is an application to:

1. change my party ballot preference to _____

I am presently registered as	last name	first name	middle initial	
	house number	street name	apartment number	
	city or town	state	zipcode	res. phone
	birthdate	social security number	bus. phone	

2. change/correct my name on my registration record to

last name first name middle initial

3. change/correct my Oahu residence address on registration record to

house number street name apartment number

city or town state zipcode

4. My mailing address is _____

I certify under penalty of law that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I further understand that this application must be received in the Clerk's Office by the party ballot change deadline, and is subject to approval by the City Clerk.

date

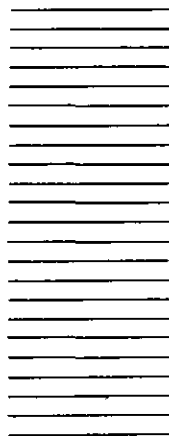
signature

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
No postage stamp necessary if mailed in
the United States

Postage will be paid by

**ELECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813**

First Class
Permit No.
8
Honolulu,
Hawaii



REMEMBER!

Exercise your privilege

and

VOTE!



ELECTIONS

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TO: