



## What is a Primary Election?

- A Primary is an election in which voters can choose their party's candidate for a future general election.
- In New Jersey, only the Democratic Party and the Republican Party hold primary elections to select their candidates. (These are the parties with the most members).
- The Democratic Primary and Republican Primary are conducted on the same day.

## How are Primary and General Elections Different?

- New Jersey Primaries are held in the beginning of June each year; the General Election is held in the beginning of November each year.
- In a Primary election, voters may only choose among candidates belonging to their own party. If you are a Republican, you may only vote for Republican candidates. If you are a Democrat, you may only vote for Democratic candidates.
- In the General Election, the ballot lists candidates from all parties as well as candidates not affiliated with a party.
- You may vote for any candidate in a General election, regardless of party.

## Can I Vote in the Primary Election?

- If you chose a party affiliation on your voter registration form, you may vote in the Primary election.
- If you did not choose a party affiliation on your voter registration form, you can make that choice at the polls on Primary election day.

## Why Should I Vote in the Primary Election?

- Primaries are important because they decide who will represent the two major parties in the General election.
- If a candidate does not make it through the Primary, voters may lose the opportunity to elect the person who best represents the things they care about.
- Primaries are often decided by a very small number of people who turn out to vote.
- Let your voice be heard by voting in the Primary.

***EVERY VOICE SHOULD BE HEARD!***