Top-Two Open Primary

It changes the way candidates are elected in a primary election.

On June 8, 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the "Top-Two Open Primary Act".

There are 3 types of candidate contests

1) <u>Party-Nominated (Formerly known as Partisan)</u> Party-Nominated offices are contests in which the nominee is selected by the political party.

Who can vote: Only voters registered with the same party preference as the candidate (except parties who allow non-partisans to cross-over and join their primary).

Offices of: U.S. President and County Central Committees.

Who advances to the general: Presidential contest only, the top vote getters in each party.

2) <u>Voter-Nominated</u> Voter-Nominated offices are contests in which the nominee is selected by the voter. It also allows candidates to choose whether they want to disclose their party preference on the ballot.

Who can vote: All voters, regardless of party preference can vote for any candidate. This replaces party ballots in primary elections with a single combined ballot listing all candidates.

Offices of: Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Controller, State Insurance Commissioner, State Board of Equalization, Attorney General, State Senator, State Assembly, US Senator, and US Representative.

Who advances to the general election: The top-two vote-getters, regardless of party preference.

3) <u>Non-Partisan</u> A Non-Partisan office is an office in which no political party nominates a candidate. Judicial, school, county and municipal offices are examples of non-partisan offices.

Who can vote: All voters, regardless of party preference.

Offices of: Superintendent of Public Instruction, Superior Court Judges, County Offices, Municipal Offices, Schools and Special Districts.

Who advances to the general: In majority vote contests, candidates that receive a majority of the votes win outright in the Primary. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then the top-two vote-getters move on to the general election.