

## LWV Ohio Primary Election Systems Study: Consensus Questions

Responses to these questions are due **January 31, 2017**. A response from your League is vital for our consensus process. Questions? Please contact [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org)

1. What do you believe is the MORE important purpose of primary elections? Choose one.

a. A way for political party members alone to choose their nominees (partisan)

b. A way for all voters, regardless of political party membership, to narrow the field of candidates (nonpartisan)

Comment

Would your answer to Question 1 vary, regarding the purpose of primary elections, depending on the level of government for which the election is being held?

Yes

No

2. If you answered Yes to the second part of Question 1, please indicate your preference for each of the following levels of government, by selecting Partisan or Nonpartisan in the appropriate column.

Level of Government	Partisan	Nonpartisan
a. U.S. House and Senate races		
b. Statewide office races (e.g. Governor, Auditor, Treasurer, etc.)		
c. OH House and Senate races		
d. Countywide office races (Commissioner, Recorder, Prosecutor, etc.)		
e. City, Village or Township races		

Comment

3. What principles should a good primary election system encourage? (Check as many as you believe important and/or achievable)

a. Increase voter participation

b. Enfranchise independent or third party voters who otherwise have no voice

c. Preserve strong political parties

d. Strengthen the viability of third parties

e. Simplify administration of elections

f. Lessen partisan polarization

g. Reduce costs of elections

h. Result in more competitive general elections.

i. Other

Comment

4. Ohio's current system for local, county and statewide offices is a semi-closed, partisan primary election, in which the voter may request any party ballot at the time of the election, and the voter may be challenged if he/she changed party affiliation. Do you want to keep Ohio's current system?

Yes  
 No

Comment

4. (continued) In some states or local jurisdictions, major systemic reforms have been introduced or recommended, which are listed below. If you answered NO to the first part of question 4, which of the following systems would you prefer instead? (You may choose more than one.)

a. A closed, partisan primary election, in which only registered members of the political party conducting the primary are permitted to vote, with no independent or crossover voting permitted.

b. An open, partisan primary election, in which any registered voter may choose to vote any party's ballot without having to be a member of that particular party.

c. An open, nonpartisan, "top-two" primary, in which ALL candidates appear on the same primary ballot but only the top two vote-getters, regardless of party affiliation, advance to the general election

d. No primary - a nonpartisan general election is held, and possibly a runoff election if no candidate achieves a majority of the votes. (A voter chooses one candidate)

e. No primary - "ranked choice voting" or "instant runoff voting" in the general election, a voting system in which the voter ranks candidates in order of preference.

f. No primary - "approval voting," a voting system in which each voter may vote for (or "approve" of) as many of the candidates as the voter deems acceptable, and in which the winner is the candidate receiving the most votes.

Final comments on any of the preceding questions, this process, or other thoughts regarding Primary election systems.

### Contact Information

Please provide the name of your League

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Name of League member submitting this form

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Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_