

March 1, 2016

Presidential Preference Primary & County Primary

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 is the Presidential Preference Primary. Voters will have the opportunity to vote for the Republican **OR** Democratic presidential candidate they like the best as part of the presidential candidate nomination process.

It is also the Hamilton County Primary for the office of Assessor of Property and a called election for Criminal Court Judge, Division II. The individuals that obtain the most votes during the County Primary Election will advance to the County General Election to run against the other party's nominee and any independents that qualified for that office.

August 4, 2016

County General & State Primary Elections

The winners of the County Primary will face off against each other and any independent candidates for the final selection for office.

During the State Primary for U.S. Congress, State Senate, and State Representative, voters will select the candidate they like best to move on to the State General Election in November.

November 8, 2016

State General and City Elections

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 is the State General Election date for the U.S. President, offices on the August 4th State Primary Ballot, and offices for most Hamilton County municipalities. The winners of these races will assume office.

Hamilton County Election Commission

700 River Terminal Road
Chattanooga, TN 37416

www.hamiltonelections.com

(423) 493-5100

Differences Between



Primary Elections & General Elections

First time voters and voters new to our state are often confused by what is expected of them at a **Primary** Election and what is expected of them at a **General** Election.

A **Primary Election** is a nominating election. Winning the party's nomination is the first step in the election process. It narrows the field in a political party to one individual for a specific office.

A **General Election** is the election in which all voters make the **final choice** from among the party nominees and the independent candidates for a specific office.

*****Not all elected offices are nominated by party*****

Currently, only the Democratic and Republican parties conduct primary elections in Tennessee.



When a candidate is successful in a **Primary Election** they advance to the **General Election** for his/her particular office. For example: in a Primary Election for the Office of Governor, the Republicans run against Republicans and the Democrats run against Democrats. The successful Republican nominee and the successful Democratic nominee for Governor would advance to the General Election to face each other and any independent candidates.



Individuals who get the most votes in any **General Election** are elected with the powers and responsibilities granted to their office by law.

VOTING AT A PRIMARY ELECTION

In Tennessee, citizens register **to vote**. No declaration of party affiliation is required at the time of registration. Tennessee does not register by party.

All legally registered voters in Tennessee are issued a “Voter Registration Card” by their county election office. No party affiliation appears on the voter’s card.



When a voter appears to vote during any **Primary Election** they must declare if they wish to vote in the Republican Primary or the Democratic Primary. The voter’s declaration is recorded on a signed *Application for Ballot*. The ballot issued to the voter for the Primary Election will have only the names of candidates in the party that the voter is affiliating with on that Election Day.

When two Primary Elections are being conducted on the same date (Presidential Preference and County Primary), the voter is prohibited from voting in different primary elections on the same day (one political party locally and the other political party nationally). Their ballot will be a Republican Ballot all the way up and down the ballot or it will be a Democratic Ballot all the way up and down the ballot.

Offices with a Mandatory Primary Election

President, Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. Congress, State Senate and State Representative

What about County Offices & Primaries?

Each of your county’s two Political Parties has the right to call a County Primary Election for ***any or all*** of the County Offices elected in 2016. Local County Election Offices have no authority or right to call a county primary election for either party (nor do local county commissions).

School Board and City Offices are not elected by political party affiliation in the State of Tennessee (unless a city charter expressly permits a primary for a city office).

Office Seekers

Candidates for Federal, State, County or Municipal Office should contact their local County Election Office to inquire about nominating procedures, qualifications and qualifying deadlines for various elected offices.

