

# LET'S TALK PARTIES - THE MYSTERY OF THE PARTY IS SOLVED

## How do I change my Party affiliation?

No, no-not that kind of party! Your political party...Many people ask how they can change their party and some don't even realize that they have prompted a change.

Any time you vote a party ballot in a Partisan Primary Election your party affiliation changes accordingly.

Under Ohio election law, you can only change your political party affiliation in a Partisan Primary Election. This is done by requesting the ballot type for the political party with which you wish to be affiliated (Ohio Revised Code Section 3513.19 and 3513.20). Once your vote is cast your party affiliation cannot be changed again until the next Partisan Primary Election. Some people may be concerned about their party affiliation so be careful when requesting a ballot in a Partisan Primary Election. If you request a ballot to vote for a candidate in a different party than that which you are currently associated with your party affiliation will change to the new party.

## Can I vote for any Candidate I choose regardless of my party?

Yes, in a General Election you can vote for any candidate you are comfortable with regardless of your party affiliation and it won't affect your attachment to your current party. Only in a Partisan Primary Election can a vote for a different party change your party status.

A party affiliation simply means you are associated with that political party because of the party ballot you voted in the last Partisan Primary Election.

## You have an Option!

If you don't wish to have a party affiliation and want to be considered an unaffiliated voter, or as some consider an "Independent Voter", then you need to *not* vote a party ballot in a Partisan Primary Election. You may, however, vote a Questions and Issues ballot if there are Q & I's to vote on in your precinct. Sometimes there are no Questions and Issues, in which case you would have nothing to vote on. Note that no candidates appear on a Questions and Issues ballot.

## What if I have a Party Affiliation and I don't want it anymore?

Relax, you're in luck. If you've already been associated with a party and now want to be unaffiliated all you have to do is wait until the next Partisan Primary Election and only vote the Questions and Issues ballot if one is available to you in your precinct. As long as you don't vote a party ballot in a Partisan Primary Election for two years your party association will be removed.

## One Last Nugget

Sometimes in a Partisan Primary Election there may only be one party in your precinct that has a ballot. When this happens many people think they have to vote because it's an election. However, if you vote and the ballot is for candidates of another party other than the one you are associated with, then your party affiliation will change to reflect the party you voted for.