

## May 2012 Election Outlook



### TEXAS PRIMARY, MAY 29, 2012

#### **PRIMARY ELECTION**

The most basic and common party activity for citizens is voting. Voters cast ballots in primary elections to choose a party's nominee (or general election candidate) from a list of potential party candidates. They vote in the general election to choose the person to occupy a specific public office, like Governor, state Senator and state Supreme Court Justice.

#### **TEXAS HAS AN "OPEN PRIMARY"**

Texas election law allows registered voters to vote in the primary of only one party in a given election, but as you may have noticed, the registration process does not require that you register as a member of a specific political party, as is the case in some other states. Consequently, you are not required to decide what party primary you will vote in until you arrive at the polls. Most voters, of course, don't put the decision off that long.

#### **Question You Will Be Asked at the Polls:**

If both parties are sharing the same polling location, you will be asked if you are voting Republican or Democrat. The poll worker is not being rude but must know this so that he/she may direct you to the right parties qualifying table. Remember the Texas Democratic Party and the Texas Republican parties may share the same polling locations but their poll workers and ballots are separate.

Check out the Collin County Elections web page at [www.collincountytx.gov](http://www.collincountytx.gov) for a list of Early Voting and Election Day information for the 2012 Primary. You can find your sample ballot there as well.

Still have questions? Call the Elections Office at 972-547-1990 or check the Secretary of States website at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/>.

Other helpful numbers and sites:

#### **Collin County Democratic Party**

(972) 578-1483

[www.collindems.us](http://www.collindems.us).

#### **Collin County Republican Party**

(512) 477-9821

[www.collincountygop.com](http://www.collincountygop.com)

