

North Carolina State Board of Elections

UNAFFILIATED VOTER options in the 2019 Election primaries

Many voters, particularly voters who have relocated to North Carolina from other states, may not realize that North Carolina has a semi-closed primary.

The semi-closed primary means that unless a recognized party elected to have its primary open to unaffiliated voters, only the voters registered with that party may vote for that party's candidate.

Under General Statute [§ 163A-989](#), the party, by a resolution of its State Executive Committee, must have notified the State Board by the first day of December preceding the primary that unaffiliated voters could participate in that party's primary. The Republican, Democratic and Libertarian parties have opted to permit unaffiliated voters to participate in their primaries. Neither the Constitution Party nor the Green Party elected to permit unaffiliated voters to participate in their primaries.

Consequently, unaffiliated voters will have the option of voting for Republican, Democratic or Libertarian candidates, but will not have the option of voting for Constitution Party or Green Party candidates in any primaries in 2019.

§ 163A-989. Voting by unaffiliated voter in party primary.

If a political party has, by action of its State Executive Committee reported to the State Board by resolution delivered no later than the first day of December preceding a primary, provided that unaffiliated voters may vote in the primary of that party, an unaffiliated voter may vote in the primary of that party by announcing that intention under G.S. 163A-1137(a). For a party to withdraw its permission, it must do so by action of its State Executive Committee, similarly reported to the State Board no later than the first day of December preceding the primary where the withdrawal is to become effective. (1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 762, s. 7; 2002-159, s. 21(a); 2017-6, s. 3.)