

PRESS RELEASE

(To be released week of Feb. 8th)

From: Franklin County Election Board

Subject: **INDEPENDENTS NOT ABLE TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT IN PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARY ON APRIL 26, 2016**

If you are currently registered as an Independent or with any minor political party (i.e. Green, Libertarian, Constitutional, etc.), you will not be able to vote for any candidate, including President, at the upcoming General Primary to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Pennsylvania has a closed primary voting system which allows only registered Democrats and Republicans to be able to vote for their parties' candidates in the primary.

The only thing that Independents and those registered with minor political parties will be able to vote for at the upcoming election are two Constitutional Amendments, one dealing with judges being able to work until they turned 75 and the other dealing with the abolishment of the Philadelphia Traffic Court. Upon showing up to the polling place to vote on April 26th, the only thing on the Non-Partisan ballot will be the two Constitutional Amendment questions with a Yes/No voting option.

If you wish to vote for all of the candidate races, you will need to change your party affiliation to either Democrat or Republican prior to Monday, March 28th by doing one of the following. You may also submit your change of name and address.

How Do I Submit My Change of Name, Address or Party Affiliation?

- 1) Submit online by going to register.votespa.com.
- 2) In person at the Franklin County Voter Registration Office which is located in the Old Courthouse, Memorial Square, Chambersburg from 8:30-4:30, Monday - Friday.
- 3) By mail in one of two ways:
 - Obtain a state or federal voter registration mail application from a candidate, political party and other Federal, State, and municipal offices. You may also request one from the Department of State's website at www.votespa.com.
 - Download the voter registration application available from the Department of State's website at www.votespa.com or from the County's website at www.franklincountypa.gov.

IMPORTANT: If you are already registered and just need to update your information, you will need to check one of the boxes on Line 3 of the voter registration form to either Change Name, Change Address and/or Change Party.

- 4) Apply at Department of Transportation photo license center when you obtain or update your driver's license.

- 5) Apply at a government agency. Clients of these government agencies may apply to register to vote or make a change to their registration at:
- State offices that provide public assistance and services to persons with disabilities
 - Armed Forces Recruitment Centers
 - County's Clerk of Courts Office
 - Area Agencies on Aging & County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities Offices
 - Centers for Independent Living

What is the Deadline to Change my Name, Address and/or Party on my Voter Registration?

The deadline to apply for a Change of Name, Address and/or Party or to make a New Registration for the upcoming General Primary is Monday, March 28th. If your application is received or postmarked after that date, it will be processed for the 2016 General Election in November. Once the application is processed, each voter will receive a voter registration card in the mail which will notate the location of their polling place.

Any questions concerning updating a voter's registration information should be directed to the Voter Registration Office at (717) 261-3886 or the Franklin County Election Board at (717) 261-3810. You will also find additional election and voter registration information at the County's website, www.franklincountypa.gov.