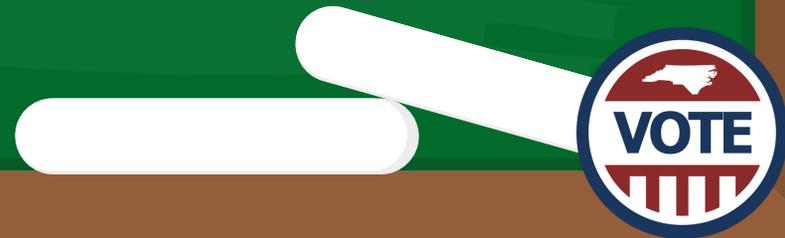
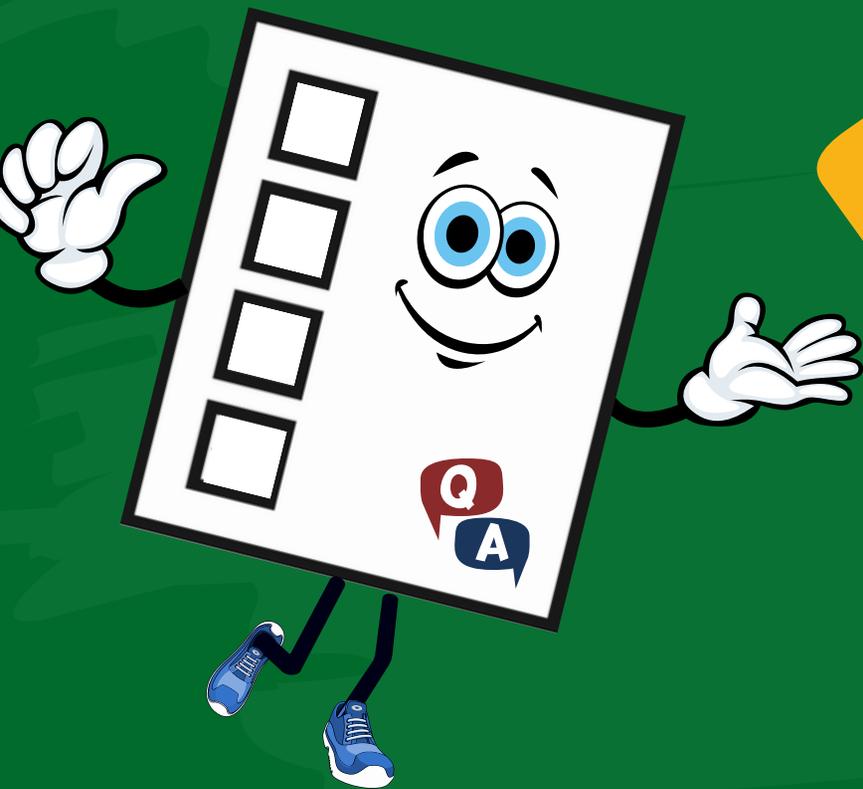
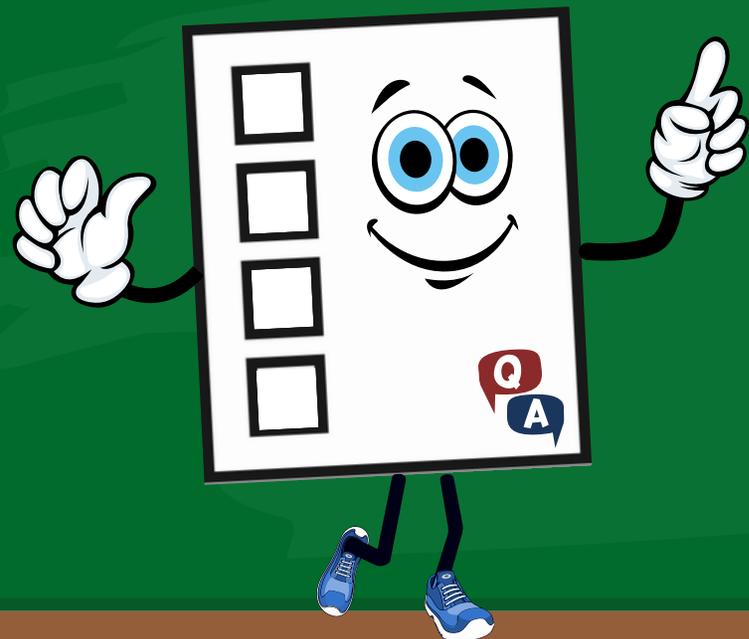
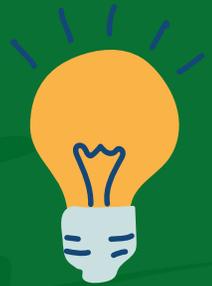


# Mark the Ballot Presents: Primary Elections 101



What is a  
primary election?

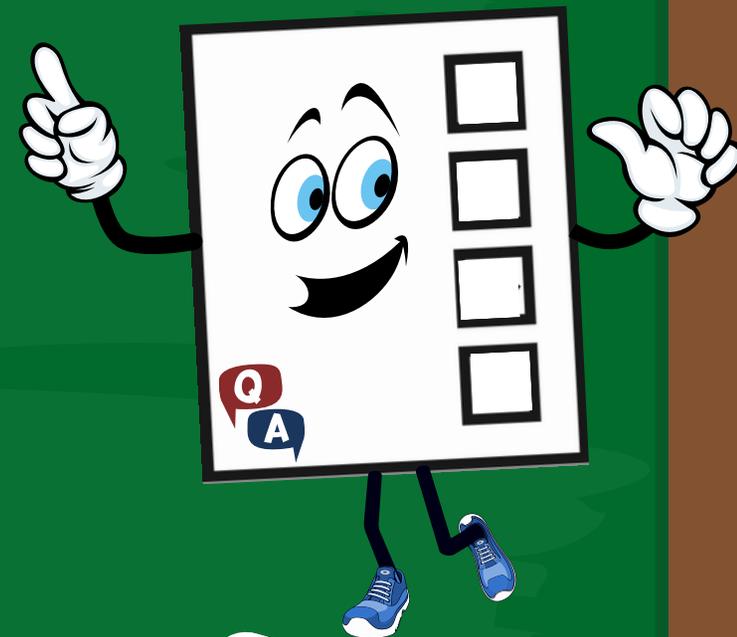
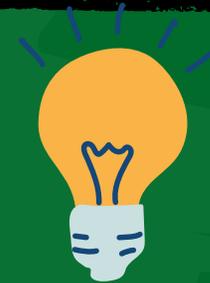


"An election held to determine which candidate will represent a political party for a given office in the general election. Sometimes elections for nonpartisan offices and ballot issues are held during primary elections."

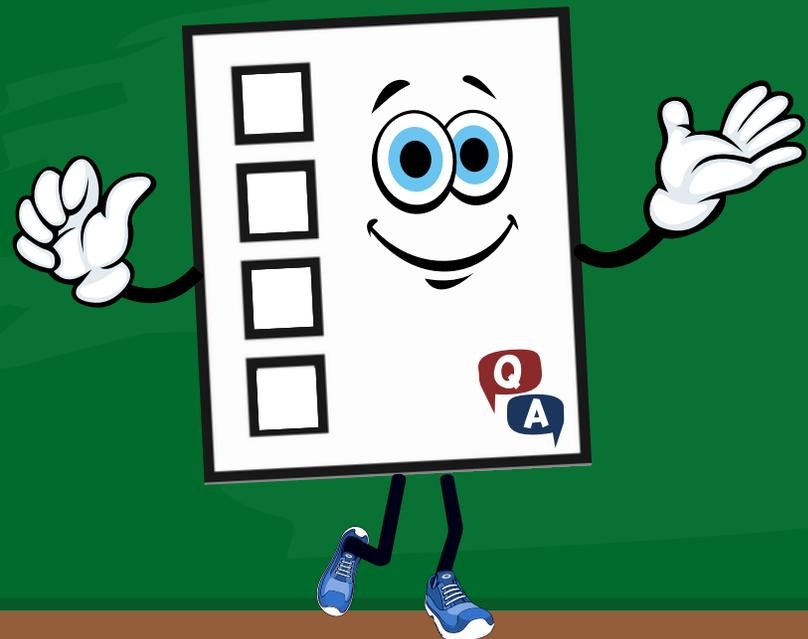
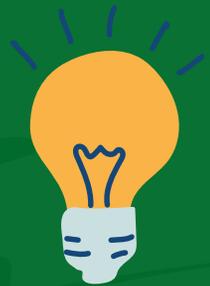


"Races include: The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the N.C. General Assembly, state and local judges, district attorney, and county offices. There may also be municipal contests due to rescheduled municipal elections."

What is going to be on my ballot?



How can I  
register to vote  
in a primary?

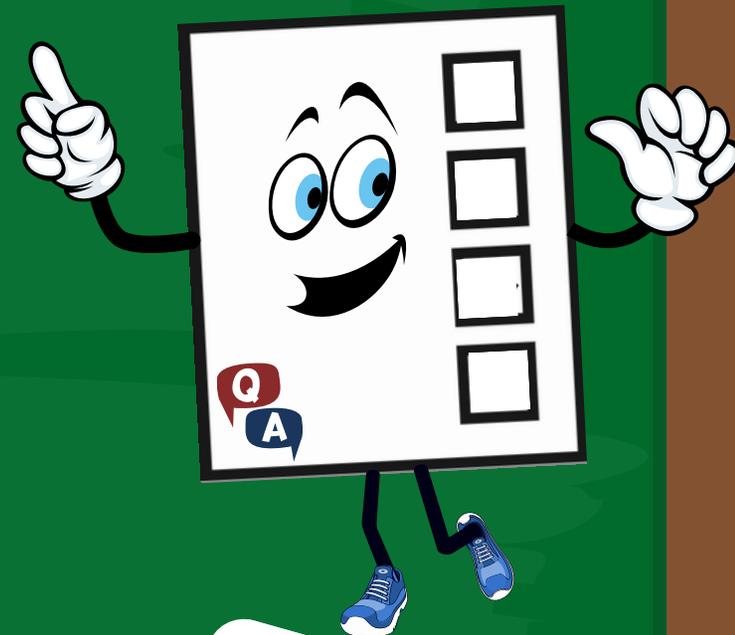
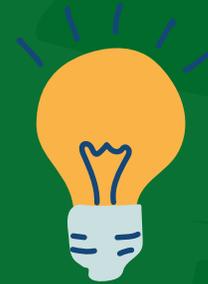


"If you're eligible to register to vote, North Carolina offers several ways to register including online or in person at the DMV, and by mail. Voters can also register to vote in person at their local board of elections office."

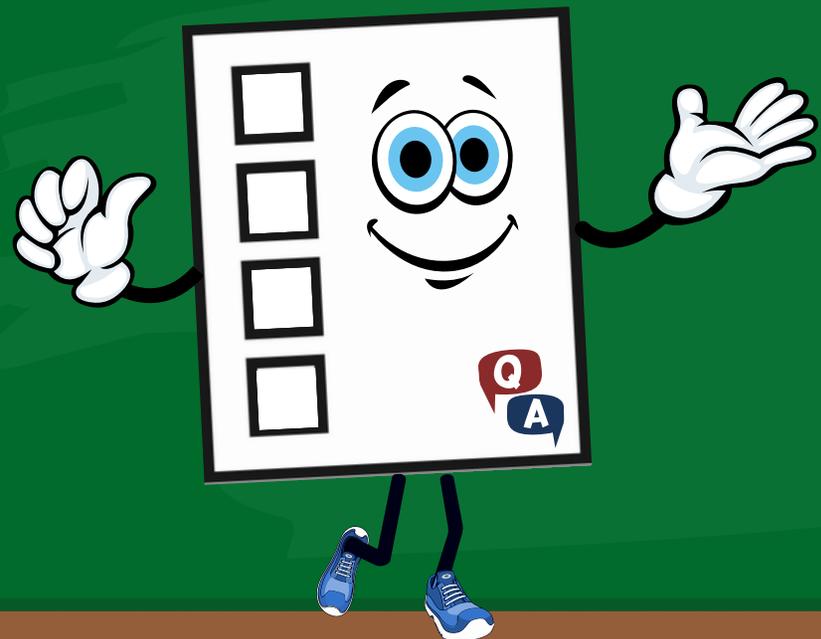
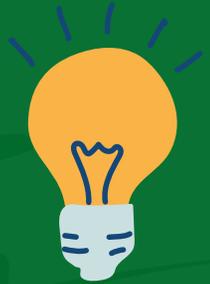


When do I have to register?

"The voter registration deadline is 25 days before Election Day. For the statewide primary on May 17, 2022, the voter registration deadline is April 22, 2022. If you miss the deadline, you can register and vote in person during one-stop early voting."



If I am registered, can I change my information?

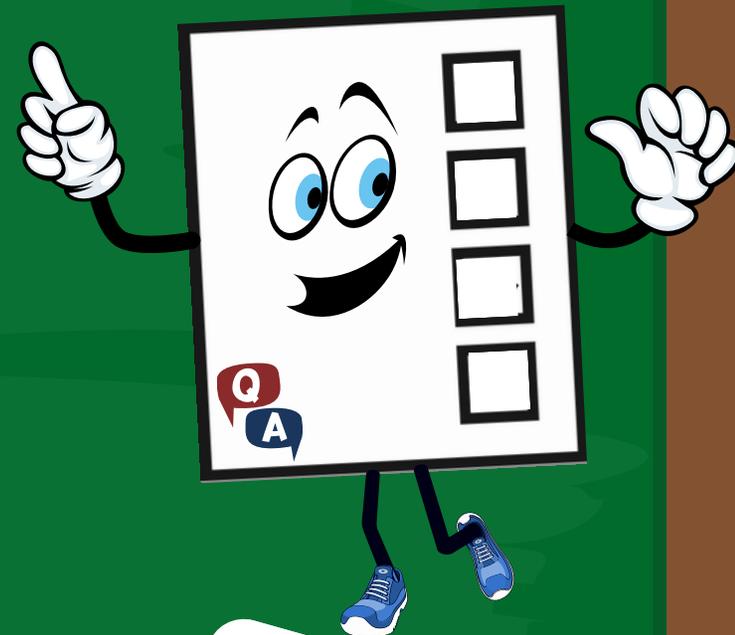
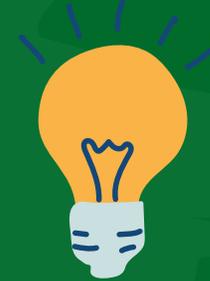


"You can update your information—including name, address, and party affiliation—on a voter registration form that you can mail in or deliver to your county board of elections. You can also update your address and party affiliation through the DMV's online voter registration system. However, you may not use the online voter registration service to change your name."

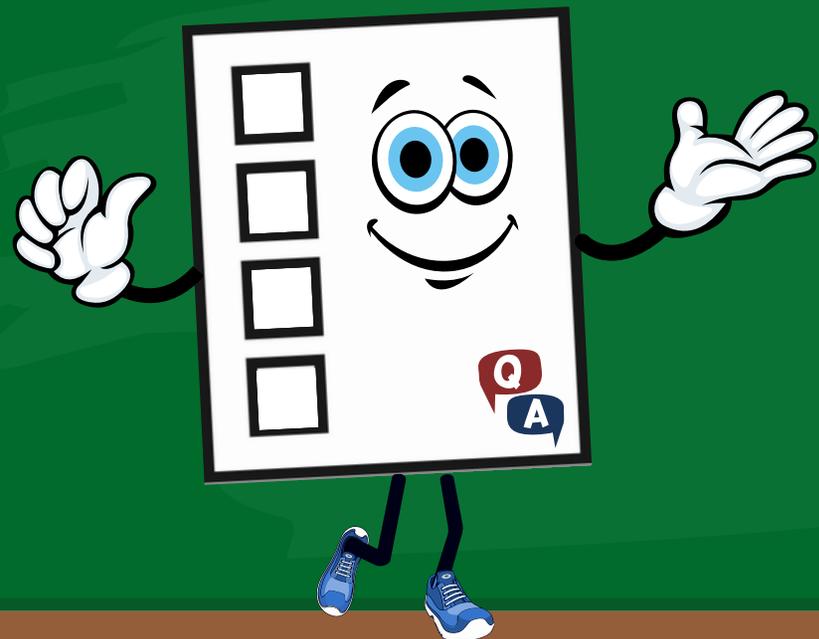
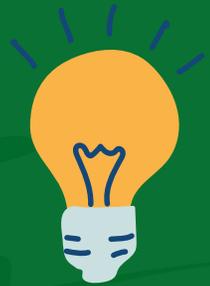


Can I vote  
in the primary?

"Registered voters across the state can vote in the primary. However, voters affiliated with a political party will be given a ballot of candidates for their party. Unaffiliated voters can choose the ballot of candidates for any party: Democratic, Libertarian, or Republican. This year, there is no Libertarian Party primary because there are no contested primary nominations for that party."



What happens to the winners of a primary?  
Is there another election?

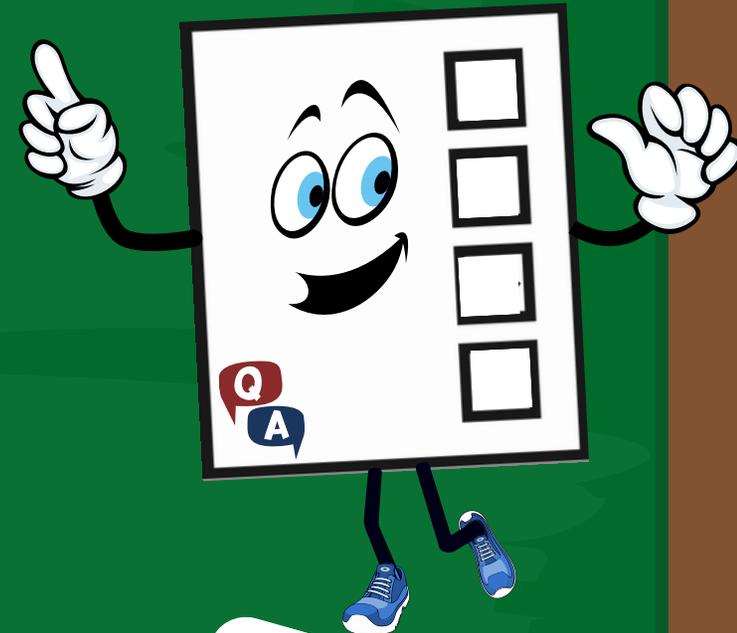
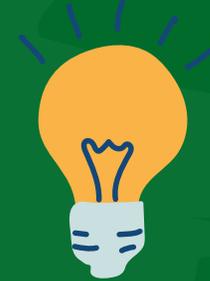


"Each candidate that wins in each contest on their party's ballot will become a nominee. The nominee will appear on the ballot in November's general election contest. To become the party's nominee, the candidate must win with more than 30% of the vote."

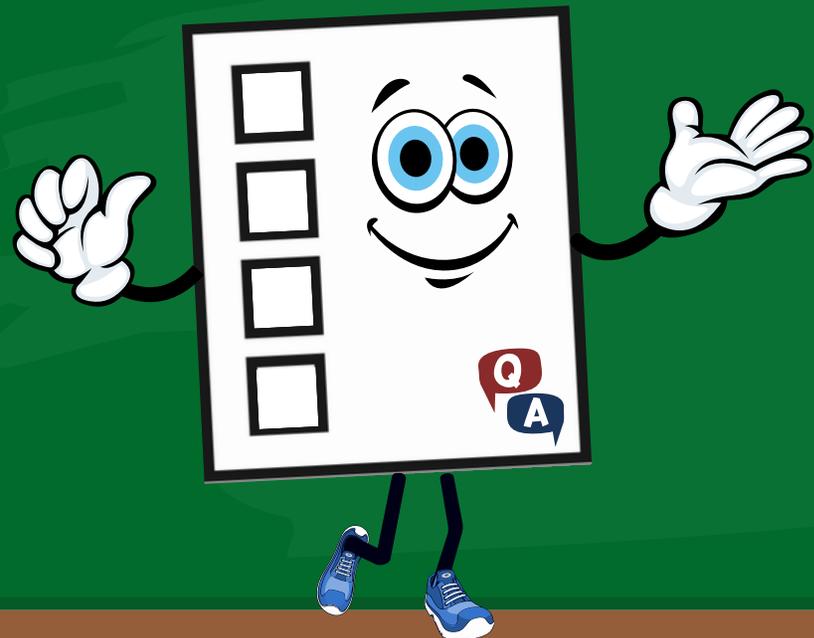
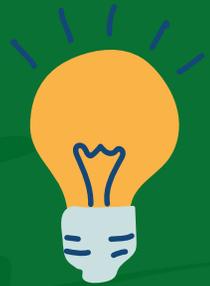


"A second primary may be held if no candidate reaches the total necessary to become the nominee in a contest on the ballot."

What happens if no candidates receive 30% of the vote?



Who can vote in  
the second  
primary?

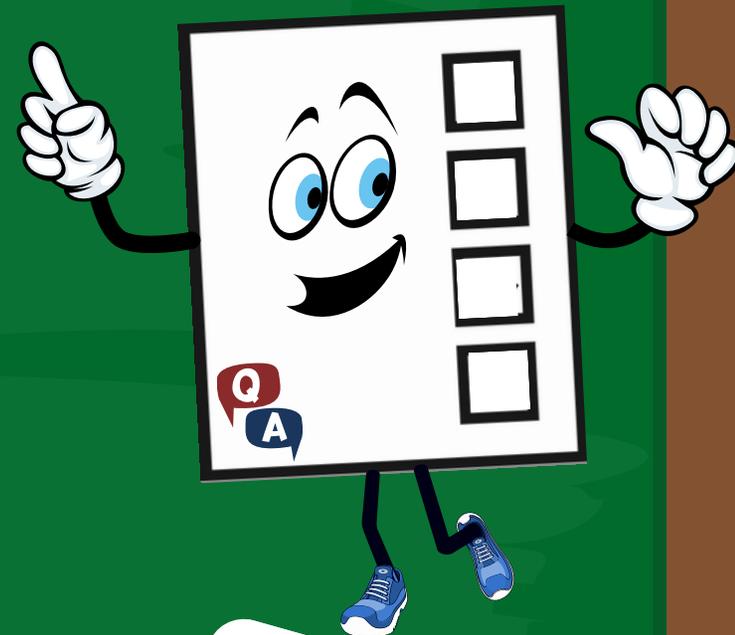
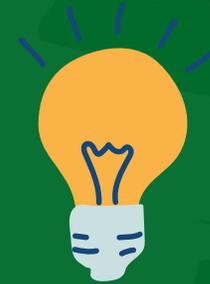


"It depends! Let's start with party registered voters. They may vote in the second primary if their party is having a second primary. A party registered voter whose party does not have a second primary cannot participate. Voters did not need to vote in the first primary to be eligible to vote in the second primary."

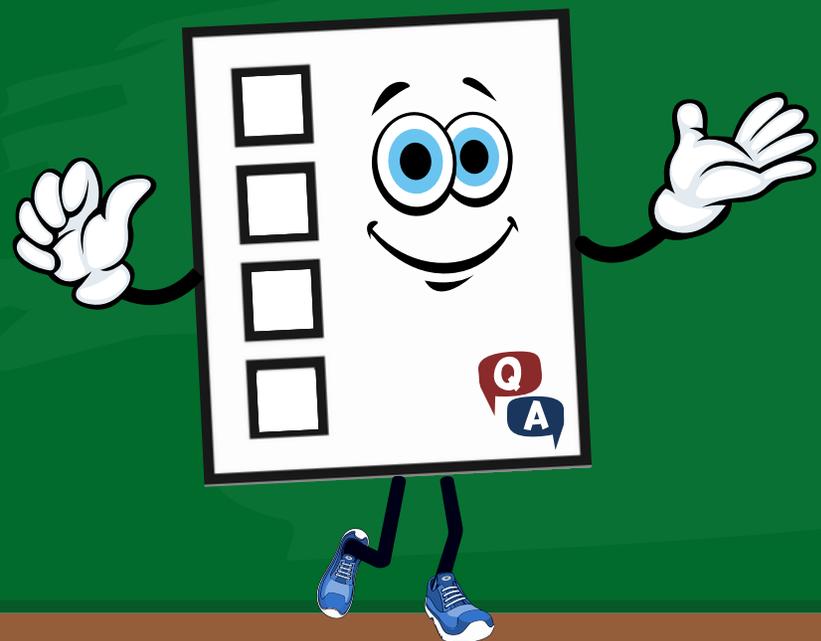
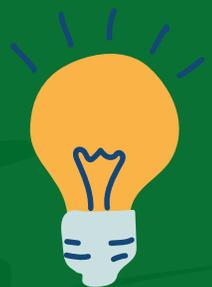


"Unaffiliated voters who participated in the first primary may only be given a ballot style of that same party during the second primary. Unaffiliated voters who did not participate in the first primary can participate in any second primary."

Can unaffiliated voters vote in the second primary?



How do I find my party affiliation?

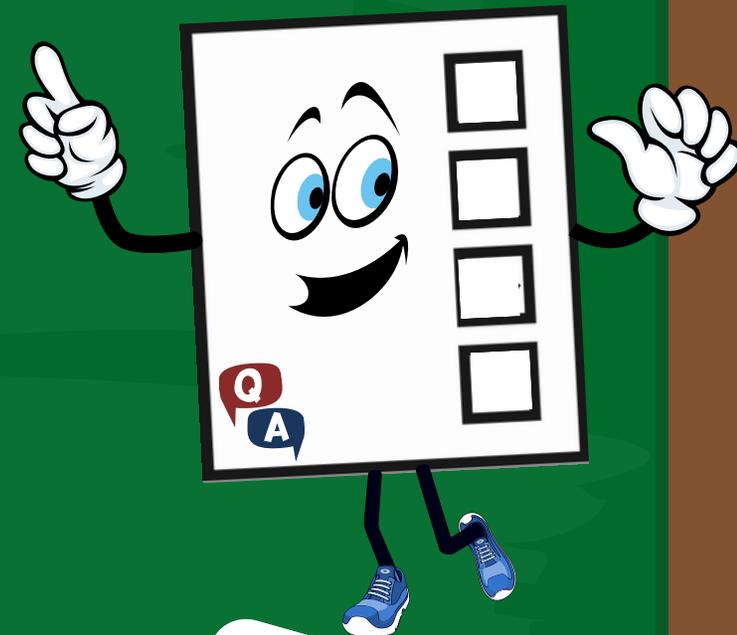
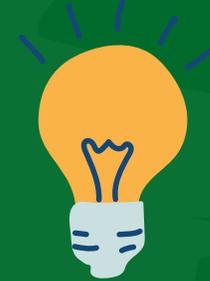


"You can check your registration status including your party affiliation by visiting the North Carolina State Board of Elections website ([NCSBE.gov](https://www.ncsbe.gov)) and using the voter search feature. In addition, you will also be able to see your sample ballot. Also, you can contact your county board of elections office."

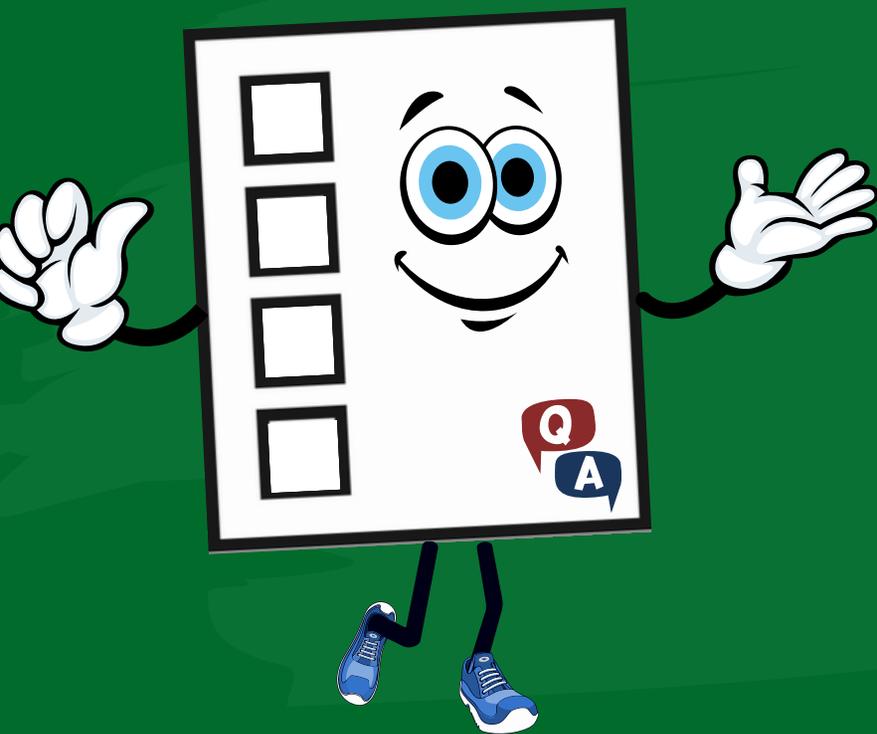
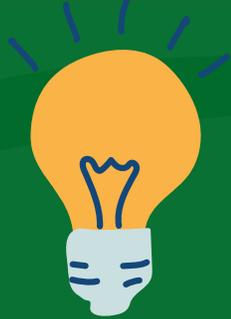


"This could happen for two reasons. The first is your friend has a different party affiliation. The second is you do not reside in the same jurisdiction as your friend. Remember, the contests on your ballot in a primary are determined by your place of residence and party affiliation."

I was able to find my sample ballot using the voter search feature, but I didn't see my friend who was running for office, why is that?



# One last tip from Mark:



"When in doubt, ask an election official! There is lots of information that is incorrect or misleading. Make sure you are informed by asking your very own Democracy Hero."

