

State by State Partisanship (Party)

Political party registration rules and the availability of those data vary from state-to-state. Most states register their voters along with a choice of political party. In some of those states, voters can initially register as “unaffiliated” voters. They are then free to vote in either the next Democratic or Republican primary. Once having made that choice, their party affiliation is then determined by that choice and they are recorded officially as members of one party or the other (see e.g. New Jersey).. In some states, voters can vote in primaries and remain officially registered as “unaffiliated” but they can only vote on non-partisan ballot issues or races. In other cases they can choose to vote in one (but not both) of the partisan primaries and both have their choice remain secret and remain unaffiliated. Other states do register voters by party affiliation but do not report that information in their voter file. Finally, some states have a completely open process, allowing voters to choose a partisan primary ballot in one primary election and then the opposing party primary ballot in a later election without ever tracking or providing that information to others (see e.g. Vermont).

Alabama

Alabama provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2’s assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official. Race is self-reported in the state and plays a major role in party modeling.

Alaska

Alaska voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Arizona

Arizona voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Arkansas

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California

California voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Colorado

Colorado voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Connecticut

Connecticut voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Delaware

Delaware voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

District of Columbia

District of Columbia voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Florida

Florida voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Georgia

Georgia voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent partisan primary ballot is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Self-reported race plays a major role in that modeling.

Hawaii

Hawaii provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2's assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official.

Idaho

Idaho voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Illinois

Illinois voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent even-year partisan primary ballot is used. In the absence of any even year partisan primary participation, the most recent odd-year local partisan primary is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that modeling.

Indiana

Indiana voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent even-year partisan primary ballot is used. In the absence of any even year partisan primary participation, the most recent odd-year local partisan primary is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that modeling.

Iowa

Iowa voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Kansas

Kansas voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Kentucky

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Louisiana

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Maine

Maine voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Maryland

Maryland voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Michigan

Michigan voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan presidential primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent presidential primary ballot is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that modeling.

Minnesota

Minnesota provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2's assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official.

Mississippi

Mississippi voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent even-year partisan primary ballot is used. In the absence of any even year partisan primary participation, the most recent odd-year local partisan primary is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Self-reported race plays a major role in that modeling.

Missouri

Missouri provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2's assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official.

Montana

Montana provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2's assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official.

Nebraska

Nebraska voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Nevada

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New Hampshire

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New Jersey

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New Mexico

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New York

New York voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

North Carolina

North Carolina voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

North Dakota

North Dakota provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2's assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official.

Ohio

Ohio voters do not register by party. The state supplies a party affiliation field in its file but does so based on a partisan-primary rule that it applies to the file. The rule is simply to identify party based on the most recent partisan primary participation. Unfortunately, the state does not apply its own rule correctly. L2 utilizes the actual partisan primary choices to correct the mistakes in the state coding. This technique is then supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that supplementary modeling.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Oregon

Oregon voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

South Carolina

South Carolina voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent even-year partisan primary ballot is used. In the absence of any even year partisan primary participation, the most recent odd-year local partisan primary is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that modeling. South Carolina also has a large number of partisan local primaries which are so identified and which are used for party assignment.

South Dakota

South Dakota voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Tennessee

Tennessee voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent even-year partisan primary ballot is used. In the absence of any even year partisan primary participation, the most recent odd-year local partisan primary is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that modeling.

Texas

Texas voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent even-year partisan primary ballot is used. Texas reports participation in presidential preference primaries in which large percentages vote, particularly in the Republican races. In the absence of any even-year partisan primary participation, the most recent odd-year local partisan primary is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that modeling.

Utah

Utah voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Vermont

Vermont provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2's assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official.

Virginia

Virginia voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent primary ballot is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Self-reported race plays a major role in that modeling. Virginia has high participation rates in both even and odd year partisan primaries.

Washington

Washington voters do not register by party. However, when those voters participate in a partisan presidential primary, that ballot choice is recorded and reported on the state voter file. That information is not found in the state voter file and must be gathered at the county level within a few months following each presidential primary before it is purged by the counties. In the absence of stronger indications (e.g. partisan political contributions or identification due to the holding of partisan public office) the most recent presidential primary ballot is used. This information is supplemented through the use of modeling analytics. Likely race in major urban areas plays a major role in that modeling.

West Virginia

West Virginia voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin provides no party-related information in its state voter file and L2's assignment of party affiliation is based entirely on analytics and the use of commercial data plus a limited amount of information from partisan political contributions and status as a partisan elected official.

Wyoming

Wyoming voters register by party and that choice is reported in the state voter file.