

With an increase in questions regarding the upcoming partisan primary, I would like to take the time to educate voters on their ballot and proper voting procedure. Partisan primaries in Wisconsin date back to 1903. A partisan primary is essentially a nomination election. Those nominated in their specified party/race are then moved forward to the general election ballot in the fall. Each ballot instructs voters to choose **ONE** party's primary preference (Republican, Democratic, Constitution, Libertarian, or Green Party). Votes made *within* that party preference are then counted. Crossover voting is not allowed in a partisan primary. If a voter chooses a party preference, and then votes for candidates in another party's section, the only votes counted will be the ones within the party preference they originally chose. If a voter does not select a party preference and votes in multiple party primaries, no votes will be counted.

To give a clear example that would be relevant to Marquette County voters for the upcoming election- If you are choosing a party preference of Democratic, Constitution, Libertarian, or Green Party, you will not be able to vote under the Sheriff candidates that are listed under the Republican Party ballot. To cast a vote for one of the Sheriff candidates that are printed on the ballot you will need to choose the Republican Party preference section and then cast your vote to the candidate of your choosing. Marquette County does not have ballot candidates for the other party preferences. Write-ins will be counted as scattering and will not be counted towards the printed ballot candidates if made within a different party preference section.

Again, each ballot does notate special instructions as follows:

In the Partisan Primary:

- You may vote in only ONE party's primary.
- If you choose a party, votes cast in that party will be counted. Votes cast in any other party will not be counted.
- If you do not choose a party, and you vote in more than one party, no votes will be counted.
- You must vote for individual candidates

If you have any questions about how a partisan primary works, you can visit <https://elections.wi.gov/>, Marquette County's election page at <https://www.marquettecountywi.gov/government/election-information/>, or reach out to the County Clerk's Office directly at 608-297-3016 or e-mail at klloyd@marquettecountywi.gov.

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