



## 2020 Primary Election Frequently Asked Questions

---

**Q: Do I have to state on the ballot application or the ballot what political party I belong to?**

A: No. Michigan has an open Primary, which means that all political parties appear on the same ballot. Voters do NOT declare anywhere on the ballot or on the Absent Voter Ballot Application which party they affiliate with.

**Q: I am a member of one political party. Can I choose to vote for nominees of another political party?**

A: Yes. A voter can vote for the nominees of any political party. However, a voter can only vote for nominees in ONE political party. When a citizen votes for a nominee from a political party, ALL the rest of the partisan ballot choices must be from the SAME POLITICAL PARTY.

**Q: What happens if I choose to vote for Republican nominees for Congress, but I vote for local Democratic nominees on the rest of the ballot? Will my ballot count?**

A: No. Your entire ballot would be invalidated. That is called CROSSOVER VOTING, and is not permitted. You can only vote for all Democratic nominees or all Republican nominees. If you vote for one Democratic candidate, you must vote only for other Democrats in the Primary. If you vote for one Republican candidate, you must vote only for other Republicans in the Primary.

**Q: I am voting for Republican candidates for Congress and US Senate, but I noticed there are no Republican candidates for Meridian Township Trustee and Clerk races. Does that mean I can vote among the Democratic candidates listed for those local races?**

A: No. Your entire ballot would be invalidated. If you vote for ANY Republican congressional candidates, or other Republican candidates on the ballot, you will not be able to vote for any Democratic candidate for local office. The only way for a voter to select among local candidates running for Meridian Township Trustee or Clerk is to cast votes for only Democratic candidates on the entire Primary ballot.

**Q: What about the ballot proposals – do rules against crossover voting apply?**

A: No. Ballot proposals are nonpartisan. That means that voters of any political party can cast their vote on the ballot proposals without concern of ballot invalidation.

**Q: I submitted an Absentee Voter ballot, and now realize I crossover voted – I selected candidates from more than one political party. Can I get a new ballot?**

A: Yes. A voter can spoil their absentee voter ballot and receive a new ballot at any time up until 4:00 pm on Monday, August 3rd. A voter must come to the Clerk's Office in the Township Municipal Building with photo identification and sign a form which indicates they wish to spoil their ballot. The voter will then be issued a new ballot.

For additional questions, please contact the Meridian Township Clerk's Office at 517.853.4300 or visit [www.meridian.mi.us/elections](http://www.meridian.mi.us/elections).