



Secretary of State

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Partisan Primaries

Clearinghouse Elections Notice

Issue #14-03

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The 2014 Legislature provided an exception to the rule that all partisan offices must participate in a primary. The information summarized in this issue replaces Clearinghouse #13-02 issued May 13, 2013.

In 2013, 2SHB 1195 established that there will *always* be a primary for partisan offices. Consequently, partisan offices appear on the primary ballot, regardless of the term of office or the number of candidates in a race.

Passage of [HB 2106](#) in 2014 now requires a partisan office to skip the primary and advance directly to the subsequent general election when meeting all three of the following conditions:

- The office is a partisan county office.
- The election is filling an unexpired term of office.
- Only one candidate remains after the deadline for withdrawal from the ballot.

This is the only exception to the requirement that all partisan offices must have a primary.

The requirement to include a separate insert for a partisan primary has not changed. ([WAC 434-230-015\(j\)](#))

For more information, please contact the Certification & Training Program of the Office of the Secretary of State's Elections Division.