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S.D. SEC. OF STATE

OPEN PRIMARIES AMENDMENT INFORMATION

Title: An amendment to the South Dakota Constitution establishing top-two primary elections.

Attorney General Explanation: Currently, to appear on the general election ballot, candidates for major political parties for the following offices must participate in a partisan primary election: Governor, State Legislature, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and elected county offices. Only registered members of the candidate's chosen party may vote for that candidate unless the political party has opened the primary to voters not affiliated with the party.

Candidates affiliated with a minor party may be chosen by primary or party convention.

Unaffiliated candidates (independents) do not participate in the primary election; they appear on the general election ballot by filing proper nominating petitions.

For the above offices, this amendment requires one primary election wherein all candidates run against each other in their respective races, including major party, minor party, and independent candidates. All registered voters may vote for any candidate. The two candidates receiving the most votes advance to the general election. If there is more than one candidate to be elected to an office, the number of candidates advancing to the general election will be twice the number to be elected. Primary elections may be held for other offices.

This amendment requires legislative action.

South Dakota Legislative Research Council - Fiscal Note

AN INITIATED AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA CONSTITUTION
REGARDING OPEN PRIMARIES.

Open primaries would require printing additional ballots at a cost of \$0.30 per ballot. The additional cost statewide to counties would currently be \$20,453 for each primary election. The share of the total cost for each county will vary. There is no expected cost to state government.

Sponsor: Nick Reid, sodaknick@gmail.com, 605-430-5759

This circulator is a volunteer.

Filed this 14th day of

July, 2021

Steve Barnett

SECRETARY OF STATE

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