

To: Assembly and Senate Committees on Legislative Operations and Elections

Subj: Please Oppose AB597!

Date: May 27, 2025, 10:00am

Dear Assemblymembers and Senators, Legislative Operations and Elections Committees:

AB597 circumvents the will of voters who voted in 2024 in opposition to Open Primaries via the No on Ballot Measure #3 effort. The purpose of "Open Primaries" is to enable voters to vote for any party during the primary elections.

Why vote against AB597?

1. True "open primaries" can undermine the principles of party loyalty and ideological consistency by allowing voters from outside a party to influence its candidate selection. "Closed primaries" ensure that candidates are chosen by committed party members who are more likely to understand and uphold the party's platform.
2. Political parties are private associations protected by the First Amendment, they should be able to conduct their nomination process as they see fit. Non-partisan voters have options for participating in the general election, including supporting independent candidates, creating their own parties OR changing parties on the day that they vote.
3. **The ability to vote for the other party already exists in Nevada primaries. As an election worker for the past 5 elections in Washoe County, I can confirm that current Nevada law allows voters to change their party on the day they vote.** The number of people who changed parties during the June 2024 primary was not measured but was a "relatively" low number, based on personal observation. This party change is easy and takes just a few minutes. **To say that non-partisan voters are disenfranchised is not accurate!**

While true "open primaries" aim to promote inclusivity, they risk undermining party integrity by enabling voters from another party to harm a candidate. The ability to change parties is available if one wishes but was not utilized significantly by primary voters in 2024. The right to vote for another party candidate already exists if one wants to do so, it should not be made any easier and runs the risk of disenfranchising voters in the major parties if their own candidates can be harmed by the opposing party.

Please Oppose AB597 – we don't need it, we don't want it.

Respectfully,

Nancy Carlson

Washoe County Registrar of Voters Election Worker (2022-2024)