

To: Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations & Elections
Bill: AB597
Position: Oppose

AB597 allows voters registered as "independents" to cast votes in primary elections using partisan ballots.

This citizen opposes this measure because "independents" already have this privilege by changing party affiliation same day at the voting booth. The bill is superfluous. Vote NO.

In November 2024, Ballot Measure #3 which called for a Nevada Constitutional amendment to allow open primaries and ranked choice voting was unequivocally defeated by a vote of 52.96% opposed to 47.04% approved....a substantial 6% margin. Legislators should heed their constituents. Vote NO.

This bill could further undermine voters' already low confidence in the integrity of our elections in that bad actors could use their vote to undercut the success of certain candidates or policies in the primary and thereby put forth weak candidates/policies in the general election. Vote NO.

Our Nation has operated effectively with a two-party system for centuries, allowing full participation of minor parties as well. This bill could conceivably give rise to a consolidated voting block, a Uni-Party, which may promise much but deliver little by eliminating clear cut voting choices. Vote NO.

That the august 83rd Legislative Session of the great State of Nevada would put forth a bill of demonstrated unpopularity at this late stage in proceedings might be construed by some as an affront to constituents and might indicate a blatant disregard of voter sentiments. Confirm our confidence in the integrity and common sense of our Legislators by your NO vote on this bill.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Perine, Reno, NV