

# Partisan Top-Two Primary Elections

(A Good Compromise)

Paul Damian Wells

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## 3 PARTISAN TOP-TWO PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Shown at the bottom of the page are mock ballots and election results for the 2016 Presidential Primary. Each Independent and third party voter would receive a Nonpartisan Top-Two ballot as shown in the middle. All candidates are listed in alphabetical or random order, and political party endorsements are allowed.

On the left, is a mock Partisan ballot that would be received by each Republican voter. All candidates are once again listed, but the Republican candidates are grouped together at the top (A "Total" line has been added to clarify how partisan votes are tallied.) Not shown is the Partisan ballot for Democrats. It would be similar to the Republican ballot, but the Democratic candidates would be grouped together at the top.

In the first stage of the vote tally, the winner of each Partisan contest is determined. In this case it would be Donald Trump with 36 votes. In the second stage of the vote tally, the results of the Partisan ballots are simply added to the results of the Nonpartisan ballots – but, the winner of the partisan contest wins all 93 of the partisan votes. (Winner-Take-All) The results of the Democratic Partisan contest would be combined in a similar manner to determine the top two. Note:

- If this election were conducted as a full Nonpartisan Top-Two, the general election would likely be a runoff between two Democrats. Not because these candidates have the most support, but simply because there are more Republican candidates.
- This is a free election. All candidates and voters are treated equally and all voters have the opportunity to vote for any candidate regardless of party.
- Partisan contests are only conducted for major parties that have multiple candidates per office.

### 1 FREE ELECTIONS OR FAIR ELECTIONS?

- Nonpartisan Top-Two Primaries are free elections. All voters and candidates participate equally in the entire election process. (Primary and General)
- Nonpartisan Top-Two Elections are not fair. This type of primary all but guarantees that major party candidates may not advance to the general election. (Multiple party candidates with similar views may "split" a block of voter support.)
- Closed Partisan Primaries are fair but not free. This type of election process doesn't guarantee equal participation for all voters and candidates.

### 2 A TWO-STAGE PRIMARY ELECTION

A two-stage primary election that incorporates both Partisan and Top-Two contests can provide elections that are both free and fair. The first stage consists of a closed, "winner-take-all" contest for each major party. (The top vote getter for each major party wins all the votes cast for party candidates.) In the second stage, the results of the major party contests are added to the votes cast by Independent and third party voters. Only the top two candidates advance to the general election.

Partisan Republican Ballot			Nonpartisan Top-Two Ballot			Combined Results		
Jeb Bush	Republican	4	Jeb Bush	Republican	1	Jeb Bush	Republican	1
Ted Cruz	Republican	29	Hillary Clinton	Democrat	16	Hillary Clinton	Democrat	16
John R Kasich	Republican	6	Ted Cruz	Republican	7	Ted Cruz	Republican	7
Marco Rubio	Republican	18	Gary Johnson	Libertarian	7	Gary Johnson	Libertarian	8
Donald J. Trump	Republican	36	John R Kasich	Republican	8	John R Kasich	Republican	8
	Total	93	Martin O'Malley	Democrat	0	Martin O'Malley	Democrat	0
Hillary Clinton	Democrat	0	Bernie Sanders	Democrat	22	Bernie Sanders	Democrat	22
Gary Johnson	Libertarian	1	Jill Stein	Pacific Green	2	Jill Stein	Pacific Green	2
Martin O'Malley	Democrat	0	Marco Rubio	Republican	0	Marco Rubio	Republican	0
Bernie Sanders	Democrat	0	Donald J. Trump	Republican	12	Donald J. Trump	Republican	105
Jill Stein	Pacific Green	0	Write-In		9	Write-In		11
Write-In		2						