

Brookings County Finance Office

Attn: Elections

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The guidelines for political party designation shall be based off of the information that is entered on line #8 (Choice of Party) of the Voter Registration Form:

Recognized political party designations - Examples

- **DEM** – Democrat, Democratic, D, DM, Dem, Demo, DFL
- **LIB** – Libertarian, Lib, L
- **NOL** – No Labels
- **REP** – Republican, R, RP, Rep, GOP

Unofficial party designations

- **IND/NPA** – Independent, I, Ind, No Party Affiliation, NA, no party, no choice, none, nonpartisan, line crossed off, blank
(This is not a party in SD)
- **OTH** – If a word other than the examples listed above is written in the party space, the voter's party will be entered as OTH, and the Auditor will enter the actual word(s) in the note field. This will allow those voters to be identified and updated should their party become recognized.

12-1-3. Definition of terms used in title.

Terms used in this title mean:

- (22) "Independent (IND)" or "no party affiliation (NPA)," any currently registered voter who writes independent, I, Ind, no party affiliation, no party, no choice, nonpartisan, or line crossed off in the choice of party field on the voter registration form and any individual who is not currently registered to vote who leaves the choice of party field blank on the voter registration form;

Party Affiliation

A voter may update their party affiliation, name, or address by completing a new registration card.

For any registration card completed by a person that is **already registered to vote in South Dakota**, if the field for party affiliation is left blank, the person's party affiliation shall remain with their current party affiliation.

If a person completes a registration card to register to vote for the first time in the state and **leaves the field for party affiliation blank**, the county auditor must register that person's party affiliation as **No Party Affiliation**.

12-4-15. Voter information and party affiliation--Designation or change.

A person may designate or change that person's party affiliation, name, address, phone number, or email address by completing a new registration card. If a person completes a registration card to change that person's name, address, phone number, or email address, and leaves the field for party affiliation blank, the county auditor must list the person's party affiliation as the most recent party affiliation registered for that person. If a person completes a registration card to register to vote for the first time in the state and leaves the field for party affiliation blank, the county auditor must register that person's party affiliation as no party affiliation.

Primary Elections

Please remember how important a voter's registration information is since it impacts how they are able to vote in the Primary Election.

SDCL 12-6-26. Qualifications of voters at primary--Party registration requirements. No person may vote a party ballot at any primary election unless the person is registered as a member of that political party in the precinct in which the person seeks to vote. Any political party in its constitution or bylaws may allow for participation in the party's primary elections by any person who is registered to vote with no party affiliation. Any such change to the constitution or bylaws of a political party shall be filed pursuant to § 12-5-1.1 by January first of the year in the which the primary is conducted.

Currently, in a primary election

(this may change before the next election depending on each recognized party's bylaws):

- **DEM** voters may only vote on the Democratic ballot.
- **LIB** voters may only vote on the Libertarian ballot.
- **NOL** voters, Secretary of State will update after No Labels turns in their party bylaws.
- **REP** voters may only vote on the Republican ballot.
- **IND** voters may choose either the Democratic, Libertarian or Non-Partisan ballot (if one is available).
- **NPA** voters may choose either the Democratic, Libertarian or Non-Partisan ballot (if one is available).
- **OTHER** voters may vote a Non-Partisan ballot if one is available.