

# KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE: WHAT IS CROSS-FILING?

## WHAT IS IT?

Cross-filing is when a candidate runs in the primary election of their own party and also other political parties. For example, a candidate can file to appear on both the Democratic and Republican ballots in a primary election. This practice is legal and commonplace in Pennsylvania.

Cross-filing is allowed in municipal elections in Pennsylvania, however it is not allowed in national or statewide elections. It is most commonly used in elections for school board and municipal judges.

## WHY SHOULD I CARE?

In a primary election, each political party selects its candidates to run for office during the general election in November. Since candidates can file to appear on both the Democratic and Republican ballots simultaneously, voters may not know the party affiliation of the candidates they are voting for to represent their party in November.

## WHY DO IT?

Candidates often cross-file to eliminate competition. If a candidate can win both the Democratic and Republican primary elections, it is likely they will be the only candidate on the ballot for the position in November. School Board and municipal judicial elections can be won and lost in May during the primary election, well before the general election in November!

## WHAT CAN I DO?

Educate yourself! Before going to vote, find out what each candidate's platform is and what issues are the most important to them. Directly ask candidates their political party affiliation. Check which candidates are endorsed by your local political party.

## WHAT NEXT?

Once you have done your research, share information about cross-filing with all of your friends, family and neighbors to make sure they know about cross-filing, too!

**VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION ON MAY 16, 2023**