

COUNTY CLERK

# BROWN COUNTY

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COUNTY CLERK

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## **WISCONSIN'S PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION**

February 19, 2008, is primary election day in Wisconsin. Candidates for president in the Democratic and Republican parties will be on the ballot across the state. The primary election results are used by political parties to allocate delegates at their national conventions.

Wisconsin is different from some other states because voters don't have to state a political party preference when they register to vote. In addition, during partisan elections Wisconsin voters participate in an "open primary" where candidates are identified by party.

The open primary system means that on February 19<sup>th</sup> (in the privacy of the voting booth) voters can decide whether they vote in the Republican or Democratic Party's primary. Voters can choose from eight Democrats or eight Republicans in the Presidential Primary. After voters have chosen which party's primary they'll vote in, they must choose only between the candidates of that party. Some voting options include voting for a candidate, whose name is printed on the ballot, writing in a different candidate's name or selecting "uninstructed delegation" if voters want to allow the Party delegates to make their own decision at the party convention. (Candidates from other parties are not included on this year's Presidential Preference ballot because their candidates for Governor did not receive more than 10 percent of the vote in the 2006 gubernatorial election.)

It's important to remember that at a Primary election voters are narrowing down their choices for the general election. It may be helpful to think of this primary as the process of helping a political party decide which presidential candidate it will support in the November election.

Also on the February 19<sup>th</sup> ballot will be local primary races for municipal offices and county board supervisor (where there are three or more candidates). These primary elections are non-partisan and do not involve political party designations. Primaries will narrow down the choices for those offices for the April 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Election. In addition, the Town of Ledgeview will have on the February 19<sup>th</sup> ballot a referendum question regarding "village status."

Voters with questions about Wisconsin's Presidential Preference Primary should contact the Brown County Clerk's Office at 920.448.4000 or see the State Elections Division website at <http://elections.wi.gov>.

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