

# Preface

This Statement of Vote is prepared and issued pursuant to Elections Code section 15501.

This is California's first presidential primary to be conducted under the provisions of the Open Primary Law, enacted when voters adopted Proposition 198 in November 1996. The open primary allows voters to cast their ballots for any partisan candidate for state and/or federal office even though they are registered with another party or are not registered with any party at all; i.e., independents. However, national political party rules require that at a primary election only party members may vote for presidential candidates to whom delegates to the party's presidential nominating convention are pledged.

In order to maintain the open primary as adopted by the voters, and also provide the political parties with the information they need, the State Legislature authorized county elections officials to place on each ballot a computer-readable punch or mark and color or mark it to identify the voter's party. As the ballots were counted on election night, the counties were able to count the votes cast by all voters for each of the presidential candidates, as well as the votes cast by voters of each party for these candidates. In this Statement of Vote you will see both the open primary and party vote results for president.

Questions concerning any aspect of the production of these election vote count figures or requests for additional copies of this report should be referred to the Office of the Secretary of State, Elections Division, 1500 11th St., Fifth Floor, Sacramento 95814-5701; telephone (916) 657-2166; fax (916) 653-3214; e-mail: [elections@ss.ca.gov](mailto:elections@ss.ca.gov).

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