

Participant Questions (from Index Cards) from June 14th Press Club Event: FOR ELECTION BOARD

1. Will we have a Presidential Primary in MO in 2024?

A: No, the Presidential Primary was eliminated by HB 1878.

2. How will the Election Board implement the political party affiliation in voter registration as passed in HB1878?

A: There will be a line added to voter registration forms on which voters will be able to indicate a political party affiliation if they like. That party affiliation will be recorded in the voter database.

3. Do County Clerks get any training? *(We had a Libertarian try to file for committeeman, and the county clerk told him that since there was no Libertarian committee in that county, he couldn't file. Seemed like the old "which came first, the chicken or the egg." She would not let him file.)*

A: State law requires county clerks to receive 20 hours of training per year. Obviously, that isn't enough training to learn every aspect of the job. New clerks that haven't worked in the office prior to serving as clerk have a very steep learning curve. (Yes, that Libertarian should've been allowed to file for committeeperson).

4. Media coverage of non-duopoly and independent candidates is much better than in past decades. So is election night coverage. But polling is still back in the '80's. What can be done to get polls to offer the same options in their polls that voters will have on Election Day?

A: Polls are not generally undertaken by public agencies. Therefore, I think it would be difficult to set requirements such as this for pollsters.

5. What [will it] take to eliminate or reduce divisiveness?

A: I'm sure there are a plethora of opinions on this, but I know that I don't have the answer.

6. Do we need, or even have already National Standards about how elections are run? *(Today's tour gave me a high confidence I didn't have. Would be nice to have that same confidence at the National Level.)*

A: The structure of election administration is extremely decentralized in the United States. There is very little federal law dictating the conduct of elections. This decentralization may make it difficult for people to understand what is happening across the country, but it does add responsiveness to local concerns and needs.