

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It's time to close primary election-cycle loopholes

Floridians of all parties want fair elections that empower citizens. That's why back in 1998 Florida voters amended the state constitution so that all primaries must be open to all voters if the winner of the primary will face no opposition in the general election. Unfortunately, disingenuous candidates from both parties use a loophole to get around what voters approved.

If a candidate from another party registers as a write-in candidate, then the primary becomes closed, thus thwarting the will of the voters and reversing the intent of our constitution. It is commonly

referred to as the Write-In Loophole.

Politicians from both parties have been using this loophole for over 20 years. From 1998 to 2022, 114 races that should have been open to all voters were closed by write-in candidates. Over 8 million voters were disenfranchised. Of 137 congressional and state legislative races that were studied, 104 of the write-in candidates spent no money, had no staff and did not campaign. Their name never appeared on the general election ballot. Their sole purpose was to close the primary.

This situation is unfair, exclusionary, and makes a sham of our democracy. To learn more and take action, go to Florida Open Primaries (flopenprimaries.org).

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