Open Primary Top Two

Which method of Open Primary is best for the Voters and the Candidates? The best approach is OPEN PRIMARY TOP TWO ("OPTT). California and Washington have successfully been on OPTT for six years. OPTT allows all voters to vote for any candidate of any political party (or an independent (NAV in Oregon)) in the primary. Let's be honest here - more and more voters do NOT deeply align with any political party. The Top Two candidates from whatever party (or no party at all) move to the general election. Remember, we are electing a person not a political party.

Advantages:

- OPTT allows all voters to vote in all races in a Primary Election.
- OPTT allows voters to vote for candidates of different parties in the same Primary Election.
- OPTT provides equal opportunity for all candidates.
- OPTT does not require to voters to have second and third choices.
- OPTT does not require voters to treat second and third choices as equal or nearly equal to the first choice.
- OPTT simplifies the general election – two candidates for an office.
- OPTT eliminates runoffs.
- OPTT eliminates candidates elected with less than 50% of the vote.
- OPTT is the fairest way to implement allowing all voters including NAVs to vote in the primary. Each candidate gets an equal shot at making the top two. If one candidate gets 50% +1 of the votes and turnout is 50% or greater, they are elected.
- OPTT eliminates the state conducting primaries for the major parties to choose general election candidates.
- OPTT allows the state of Oregon conducts one primary for all candidates and all voters.
- OPTT is EASY to implement - one common ballot goes to all voters per election district rather than multiple ballots by party going to each segment of the voters. Saves $$$ and time.
- OPTT eliminates the state keeping track of political party rolls. That responsibility moves to the parties to keep track of their members.
- OPTT gives minor parties and independents an equal chance. The data from California and Washington shows clearly that third parties and independents can do well in this system. That data is attached.
- The common process to hire a person is involves posting the position, accepting resumes, choosing candidates to interview, interviewing candidates, and selecting finalists. Then a second interview is completed and a successful candidate is chosen. This works very well and gives all those are involved in the selection process a better picture of the candidates and hence a better decision. OPTT does the same basic process for an election which is actually hiring a person.
- OPTT Implementation is very simple - No new software has to be bought and maintained.
- OPTT allows more time for voters to study, consider and ask questions of the top two candidates before making a final choice in the General Election.
- OPTT incentivizes reaching across the political spectrum which may lead to less election polarization.
- OPTT eliminates registering with a specific political party – voters register as voters.
- OPTT eliminates requirement of registering with a party to vote in a primary.