



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Make it ‘the people’s primary’

John Opdycke and Jeremy Gruber, two patriots I have worked with to bring open primaries to Florida, captured the importance of open primaries ([“Have Florida Democrats seen the light on open primaries?” May 21](#)).

I recall the barely failed attempt to enshrine open primaries in the Florida Constitution. We convinced the majority of voters to put it in our Constitution, but fell short of the votes needed for passage by less than 2 percentage points.

In another state, having been a Republican elected to public office as well as an independent elected to my local public school board, I found not having a partisan political party refreshing, since I did not want to be yoked with some party candidates with whom I disagreed. I decided to register in Florida as a no-party-affiliated voter.

The percentage of independents has reached critical mass and it is way past time for either the political parties to share their taxpayer-paid-for and public employee staffed primaries or, if they want exclusivity, to pay the tab themselves.

If the Democrats open the primary, it can truly be seen as “the people’s primary.”

While the Republicans yearn for a return to limiting those who vote, at least the Democrats seem willing to get out the vote.

**Choice Edwards** *Clermont*