

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Sara V <saravieira803@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 8:52 PM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee; Rep. Nardone, George A.  
**Subject:** Oppose HB 5277

My name is Sara Vieira and I am from Coventry. I oppose HB 5277.

Ballot measures to implement jungle primaries were rejected by voters in seven states despite the millions of dollars spent by left-wing groups.

As voters in all these states discovered, there are many reasons to oppose jungle primary schemes. They often lead to candidates from just one party advancing to the general election. Candidates can “win” a top-two primary with very small pluralities (rather than the majority now required) if many candidates run. Minor parties completely disappear. Political parties lose power, which shifts to individual donors and outside groups. They decrease turnout in the general election, can have unintended consequences for political parties, and distort the intentions of voters. In other words, disengagement of voters to participate in elections. <https://ocpathink.org/post/analysis/jungle-primary-ballot-measures-go-down-in-flames>



### 'Jungle primary' ballot measures go down in flames

On Election Day, voters in six states weighed in on measures to enact either top-two, top-four, or top-five primary elections. These “jungle primaries” list all candidates, regardless of party, on the same primary election ballot.

ocpathink.org

The original purpose of primaries is to allow party members to vote to choose candidates to represent them in the general election. These other schemes are just confusing to voters and distorts the intentions of the voters by disenfranchising their votes.

In a 2017 article for *The Daily Caller*, Peter Gemma argued that top-two primaries distort voters' intentions.

“ A top two primary distorts the meaning of a free and fair election. For example, three Democrats and two Republicans ran in the 2014 Washington state open primary for Treasurer. Even though 52 percent of the electorate voted for one of the three Democrats, two Republicans ended up on the general election ballot because they narrowly finished first and second. Democrats were disenfranchised. (And please note: Washington had not elected a Republican as Treasurer since 1952.

Peter Gemma, contributor, *The Daily Caller* (2017)

Thank you,

Mrs. Sara Vieira