

General Election (even years)

2015

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
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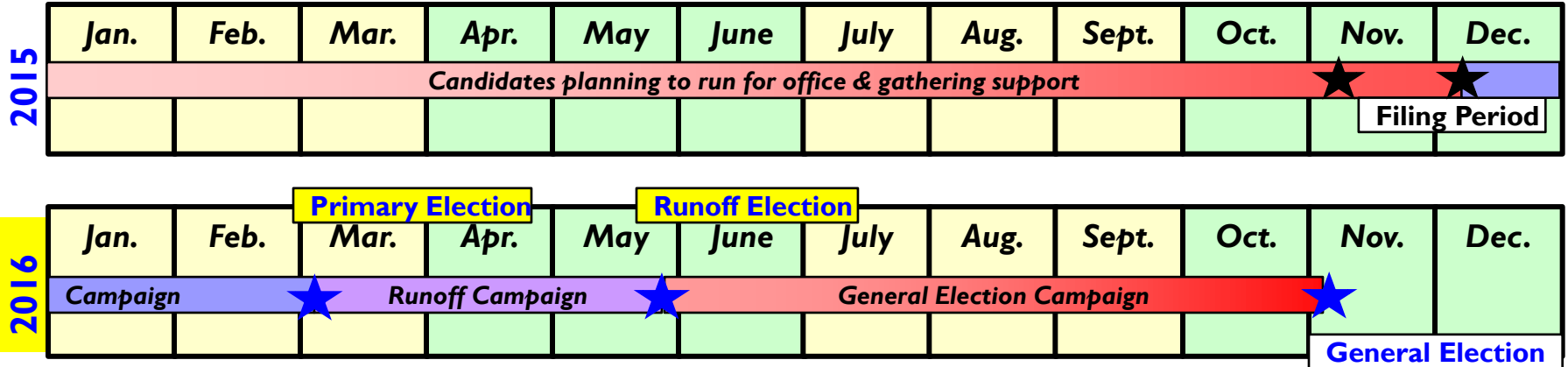
2016

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
										★	
										General Election	

- Purpose: Elect U.S., Texas, & county offices.
- Need to know:
 - Straight-party voting is allowed.
 - Candidate information is easy to obtain for major offices.

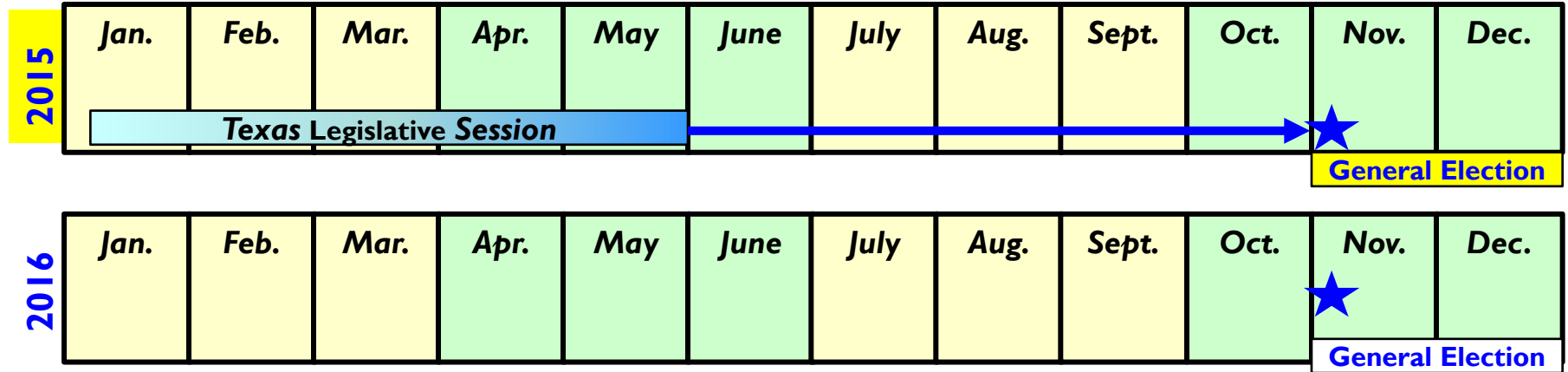
Why do the major parties have only one candidate each?

Party Primary (even years)



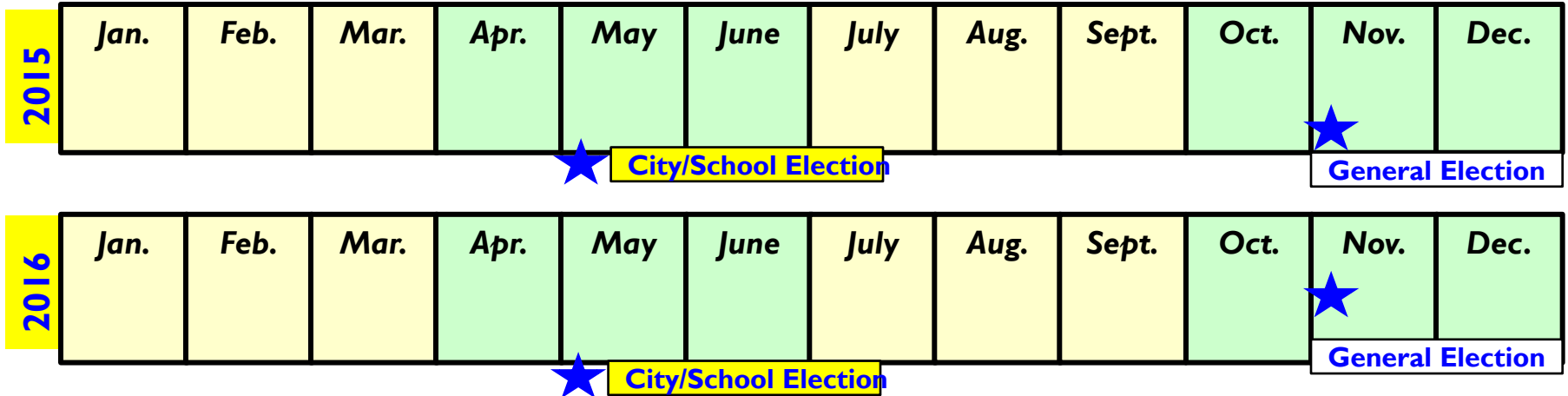
- Purpose: Pick a single General Election candidate (Rep & Dem).
 - Select a candidate to represent the party's values.
 - *Party primaries protect voters from being short-changed.*
- Need to know:
 - Voting establishes your party affiliation.
 - Primary voting provides you an opportunity to influence your party.

General Election (odd years)



- Purpose: Consider changes to Texas' Constitution.
- Need to know:
 - Vague descriptions on the ballot.
 - Review pro & con information before going to vote.
 - “Follow the money” – *Who is spending money & why?*

Municipal Election (yearly)



- Purpose: Elect city & school offices.
Consider municipal borrowing & taxes to repay.
- Need to know:
 - Local elections often train people for higher office.
 - Obtaining voter information can be difficult (*no party label*).
 - “Follow the money” – *Who is spending money & why?*

4 - Year Political Cycle

