

# Nev. nonpartisan voters growing in importance

By Megan Messerly, Las Vegas Sun

Going into the Nevada caucuses, 49-year-old Catana Barnes wanted to help Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders win the state.

But that's not what happened.

The Sanders campaign and the state's Democratic Party had spent weeks reminding nonpartisan voters, like Barnes, that they could register to vote as Democrats in order to participate in the state's closed Democratic caucuses on Feb. 20. They could even show up on caucus day and register to vote.

In Nevada, one in five voters identifies as nonpartisan. With third-party voters added in, that number jumps to one in four Nevadans who do not identify with one of the major two political parties. They're a critical segment of the voting population – they can be the make-or-break group in the general election – but due to the state's closed caucus and closed primary systems, don't participate in deciding who makes it to the November ballot.

**Read the whole story**