Campaigns across country — typically focusing on early states; adds name to state ballots

NATIONAL CONVENTION
A candidate with disappointing results usually withdraws after early events

CAUCUS OR CONVENTION
Attend a gathering at a specific time and place and states their candidate preference (process differs by party and state)

VOTERS
Register to vote and decide party affiliation

REGISTER TO VOTE AND DECIDE PARTY AFFILIATION

CANDIDATE
Campaigns across country — typically focusing on early states; adds name to state ballots

POLL PLACEMENT

DELEGATES
Political parties allot number and type of delegates to each state; formula and process differ between parties

PLEDGED – Candidate choice bound by event results

Voters choose their party’s presidential nominee through a delegate allocation system that culminates at the national conventions.

UNPLEDGED (INCLUDES SUPERDELEGATES) – Free to vote for candidate of one’s choice at national convention

DELEGATES
Delegates pledged to a candidate no longer in race may be pledged to another or change to "uncommitted" status

PLEDGED DELEGATES ARE ALLOCATED TO CANDIDATES; DISTRIBUTION VARIES BY PARTY AND STATE

NATIONAL CONVENTION
Once nominated, announces choice for vice presidential running mate

VOTE TO OFFICIALLY DECIDE PARTY NOMINEE

SOURCE: AP Election Research

J. Balestrieri, C. Kaeser, C. Osgood • AP
Caucus or primary – same outcome

States with the first presidential nomination events exemplify the range of how voter preference can be translated into national delegate allocation.

Iowa, Nevada – multiteried process

Caucuses

Voters arrive at specific time; express presidential preference – may be by show of hands, dividing into groups or paper ballot

For Dems, supporters for candidates with less than 15 percent of the vote can choose again

Iowa: Jan. 3
Nev.: Jan. 19

COUNTY CONVENTIONS

Caucus results are non-binding, but county and state-level delegates usually follow voter consensus during realignment

STATES CONVENTION*

Wyoming** – multiple events

GOP: Jan. 5

Attendees select individual delegates with publicly stated presidential preference**

NATIONAL CONVENTION

NATIONAL DELEGATES

New Hampshire, South Carolina, others – single event

PRIMARY

N.H. Jan. 8
S.C. GOP Jan. 19
S.C. Dem Jan. 26

Voters cast ballots over course of a day

Tabulated results determine delegate allocation based on party and state rules

NATIONAL DELEGATES

Date of first event labeled

* Iowa also holds congressional district conventions
** Wyoming GOP profiled; Dems have different process based on party rules with first event March 8

SOURCES: AP Election Research; Iowa Caucus Project; C. Osgood, C. Kaeser • AP Nevada Republican Party; Nevada State Democratic Party
The series of preliminary presidential events in each state, generally referred to as the primaries, will determine the Democratic and Republican nominees for president. While the complex process varies by party and state, the ultimate outcome of events remains the same. Voters express their presidential preference, which is then translated to the number of national delegates pledged to specific candidates. The delegates, a predetermined number of people assigned to each state, in turn vote for the candidate at the parties’ national conventions. The candidate who receives the majority of the total delegates votes for each party wins the nomination.

### Jockeying for Position
In the presidential race with no incumbent or obvious heir apparent since 1928, many states have scheduled their events much earlier than in the past because the first events have the power to set the tone.

Both parties have penalized states that broke rules for holding delegate-binding events before Feb. 5.

### Rollout of pledged delegates compared to previous years

#### As of Dec. 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Jan.– early February</th>
<th>First Tuesday in February</th>
<th>Remaining Feb. through first Tuesday in March</th>
<th>Remaining March–July</th>
<th>As of Dec. 21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEMOCRAT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984 2%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 1%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REPUBLICAN</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### State-level presidential delegate events

#### Key
- **PARTY**
  - **Democrats (Dem)**
  - **Republicans (GOP)**
- **ELECTION RESULTS**
  - **DATE OF FIRST EVENT**
  - **CONVENTION/CONVENTION**
  - **DATE OF NATIONAL CONVENTION**
  - **DATE OF PRIMARY**
  - **Voter registration deadline**
  - **Other**
  - **NOTE:** Primaries for Senate, House and gubernatorial races may be held separately from presidential delegate allocation events.
- **Republican delegates**
- **Decentralized process, (applicable only)**
- **GOP allocation**
  - **Majority of states have voted for the candidate at the congressional district level**
  - **Majority of states have voted for the candidate at the congressional district level**
  - **Majority of states have voted for the candidate at the congressional district level**
  - **Majority of states have voted for the candidate at the congressional district level**

### Primaries and Conventions

- **Democratic National Convention**
  - **August 25-28**
  - **3,253 Democratic delegates**
- **Republican National Convention**
  - **August 26-30**
  - **2,360 total delegates**

### Relative party strength by state and territory, as percentage of total national delegates

#### Sources
- AP Election Research
- U.S. Census Bureau
- Carrie Osgood, John Balestrieri

---

**SOUTHERN STATES**

- **District of Columbia**
- **American Samoa**
- **Guam**
- **U.S. Virgin Islands**
- **Puerto Rico**

**OTHER**

- **American Samoa**
- **Guam**
- **U.S. Virgin Islands**
- **Northern Mariana Islands**

**OTHER**

- **Canadian provinces**
- **U.S. territories**
- **Dist. of Columbia**
- **American Samoa**
- **Guam**
- **U.S. Virgin Islands**
- **Puerto Rico**

---

**Democrats (Dem)**

- **GOP allocation**
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**Republicans (GOP)**

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---

**Relative party strength by state and territory, as percentage of total national delegates**

- **Democratic delegates**
- **Republican delegates**
- **Pledged Democratic delegates**
- **Pledged Republican delegates**

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**SOURCES**

- AP Election Research
- U.S. Census Bureau
- Carrie Osgood, John Balestrieri
Democrats use a standardized delegate allocation process where event-bound delegates are proportionally distributed to candidates who receive at least 15 percent of the vote by state and congressional district. Republican delegate allocation rules vary by state.

**Delegates go to state winner and congressional district winners**

**Variation of proportional**

**Multitiered caucus (delegates projected)**

**All delegates go to state winner**

**Other:**

- Ill. – Direct election of delegates
- Mass. – Proportional (similar to Dems)
- N.D. – Winner-takes-all or proportional depending on margin of victory

**Other states**

NOTE: W.Va. GOP does not allocate all event-bound delegates at first event; N.J. Dems allocate district level delegates by pairs of state legislative districts, not congressional districts.
Super Tuesday to decide more than 40 percent of delegates

The 24 states holding presidential nominating contests on Feb. 5 will determine the allocation of 42 percent of the national Democratic delegation and 43 percent of the Republican delegation.

NOTE: American Samoa will allocate three of nine Democratic delegates Super Tuesday

*Includes sanctions
McCain takes the lead, Dems in tight race

John McCain won key GOP delegate-rich states to take a substantial lead in the Republican race. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are running neck-in-neck, having closely divided Super Tuesday’s event-bound delegates.

**State results**

(Delегates allocated)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Delegate-rich states to take</th>
<th>Obama</th>
<th>Clinton</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>California</strong></td>
<td>607,011 votes</td>
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<td>11,421 votes</td>
<td>99 percent</td>
<td></td>
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<th>Superdelegate endorsements</th>
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<td>1,024</td>
<td>811</td>
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**Winning candidates of each state**

Clinton: 1,024
Obama: 811

NOTE: Delegate count based on event results and AP reporting; includes projections from non-binding caucus results

*Not all delegates allocated as of 5 p.m. Wednesday

**McCain takes the lead, Dems in tight race**

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**Winning candidates of each state**

Clinton: 1,024
Obama: 811

NOTE: Delegate count based on event results and AP reporting; includes projections from non-binding caucus results

*Not all delegates allocated as of 5 p.m. Wednesday
Texas Dems hold hybrid primary-caucus

Texas' Democratic primary will determine the allocation of 126 pledged delegates. They will be proportionally distributed based on the total vote of each state senate district. An additional 67 delegates will be allocated from the state's caucus and convention results.

Democratic delegates by state senate district, distribution formula based on 2004 and 2006 general election voter turnout; to be allocated from primary results.

Party choice of voters in 2000 primary, by state senate district.

NOTE: Texas holds an open primary; voters pick party ballot upon arrival.

Registered voters, by county.

Total number in thousands:
- 25 50 100

% Hispanic:
- 10 25 50 75 +

% Black:
- 5 10 15 20 +

SOURCES: AP Election Research; Texas Legislative Council
Popular vote lead up to interpretation

Both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama can currently claim a lead in the ambiguous popular vote.

Trackable popular vote tally*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Obama</th>
<th>Clinton</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(mill)</td>
<td>14.4 million</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Includes Florida and Michigan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Does not include Iowa, Nev., Wash., Maine and Texas caucuses, of which Obama won all but Nevada

NOTE: Obama received no votes in Mich. from his name being off the ballot
Obama wins Democratic delegate race

Sen. Barack Obama clinched the Democratic nomination for president Tuesday with the final events in Montana and South Dakota.

Delegate totals, as of 11 p.m. EDT, June 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pledged</th>
<th>Superdelegate endorsements</th>
<th>2,118 needed for nomination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Obama</td>
<td>1,763</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>2,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>1,632.5</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>1,915.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Delegates margin of victory

Superdelegate endorsements

Obama +90

* Delegate tie in Missouri, Guam

NOTE: Delegate count based on event results and AP reporting
The long race to the nomination

While Hillary Clinton began with an early lead in superdelegate endorsements, Barack Obama jumped ahead with a series of wins in February following Super Tuesday. He held on to his lead through the final contests.

Cumulative delegates allocated to Obama and Clinton
Oct. 29, 2007 to June 5, 2008

Obama: 2,180
Clinton: 1,923.5

2,118 needed for nomination