



DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC CHANGE COMMISSION

October 24, 2009
Capital Hilton
Washington, DC

AGENDA

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Call of the Roll & Determination of a Quorum

Opening Remarks

Congressman James E. Clyburn
Co-Chair

Public Comments and Member Q&A

Public Comments on Timing

Public Comments on Super Delegates

Public Comments on Caucuses

Options for Commission Consideration

Adjournment

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Democratic National Committee

Resolution Establishing the Democratic Change Commission

(This resolution was recommended by the 2008 Convention Rules Committee at its August 23, 2008 meeting and adopted by the 2008 Democratic National Convention on August 25, 2008 in Denver, Colorado)

Section 1. Establishment of Democratic Change Commission.

BE IT RESOLVED: That no later than 60 days after the date of the next election of the National Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the National Chair shall establish a commission (the "Commission") to review the Delegate Selection Rules in light of developments during the 2008 presidential nominating cycle and to recommend changes to the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2012 Democratic National Convention, not inconsistent with these resolutions, to improve the nominating process.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Commission shall be known as the "Democratic Change Commission;" that it shall consist of 35 members and two co-chairs, all with the right to vote on Commission business, appointed by the National Chair of the DNC; that its membership shall be equally divided between men and women and shall be geographically and demographically diverse; that the DNC shall provide the Commission with adequate staff and resources to carry out its mandate in accordance with this Resolution; and that the Commission shall issue its report and recommendations to the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the DNC no later than January 1, 2010.

Section 2. Timing of the Primaries and Caucuses.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2012 Convention shall provide that no meetings, caucuses, conventions or primaries which constitute the first determining stage in the presidential nomination process (the date of the primary in primary states and the date of the first tier caucus in caucus states) shall be held prior to the first Tuesday in March of the election year, except as otherwise provided in the Delegate Selection Rules and recognizing the valuable role played by the approved pre-Window states in 2008; and provided that no such meeting, caucus, convention or primary shall in any event be held prior to February 1 of the calendar year of the National Convention; and that the Commission also shall review the sequence and scheduling of primaries and caucuses with a view towards reducing the scheduling of such events on the first allowable date that resulted in 22 primaries and caucuses being held on such date in 2008 and toward reducing frontloading within the Window period; and that the Commission shall review the rules for proper enforcement of the primary and caucus timing requirements and delegate allocation matters, particularly with respect to action by the Rules and Bylaws Committee; and that in making its recommendations, the Commission consider any revision of the Rules of the Republican Party of the United States adopted by the 2008 Republican National Convention regarding the scheduling and sequence of presidential nominating events.

Section 3. Delegates.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Commission shall consider and make appropriate recommendations for revisions to the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2012 Democratic National Convention to provide for a significant reduction of the number of unpledged party leader and elected official (PLEO) delegates in order to enlarge the role and influence of primary and caucus voters in the presidential nominating process. The Commission also shall review the formulas for delegate allocation to assure that delegates are fairly allocated to accurately reflect the will of the voters and that the right of the delegates to reflect the sentiments of those who elected them shall be secured to all delegates.

Section 4. Caucuses.

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Commission shall consider and recommend appropriate revisions to the Delegate Selection Rules for the 2012 Democratic National Convention to provide that:

a. the use of a caucus/convention system for any stage of the delegate selection process by any State Democratic Party shall be approved by the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee in accordance with any new specific criteria to be set out in the Delegate Selection Rules, and which will be designed to ensure that at each stage, any caucus or convention will be adequately planned, organized, and staffed; will take place at such times and in such locations as will meet the requirements of Rule 3 of the Delegate Selection Rules and will otherwise maximize the opportunity for full participation by Democratic voters; will be run using appropriate balloting methods and, as to tiers following the first stage caucus, will utilize accurate lists of participants; and will afford the opportunity for meaningful communication of presidential candidates with their pledged caucus participants reasonably in advance of caucuses and conventions.

b. the use of a caucus/convention system for any stage of the delegate selection process should be organized in a manner that will ensure the maximum ability of Democratic voters to feasibly participate in the first-tier caucuses, including consideration of absentee voting in caucuses to benefit those who cannot attend a scheduled caucus due to military service, work, health conditions, family obligations and other similar reasons that prevent attendance in person.

Section 5. Status of Resolutions

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Commission may address other matters related to the presidential nominating process and Delegate Selection Rules as may be identified by the National Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and that for the purposes of Article Ten, Section 2 of the Charter of the Democratic Party of the United States, these resolutions shall be deemed to be "otherwise designated."



Democratic National Committee

DEMOCRATIC CHANGE COMMISSION

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State Statutes and Legislation Regarding Timing in Pre-March Primary and Caucus States

State	2008 Date	Est. 2012 Date	Governing Law	Governor	Senate	House
Alabama	5-Feb	7-Feb	(a) Primary elections for the purpose of determining the preferred candidates for President of the United States shall be held the first Tuesday in February each year in which a President is to be elected beginning in the year 2008. [Sec. 17-13-100]	R	D (19/13)	D (62/43)
Arizona	5-Feb	24-Feb	A. A presidential preference election shall be held on the fourth Tuesday in February of each year in which the president of the United States is elected to give qualified electors the opportunity to express their preference for the presidential candidate of the political party indicated as their preference by the record of their registration. No other election may appear on the same ballot as the presidential preference election. B. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, the governor may issue a proclamation that the presidential preference election is to be held on a date earlier than the fourth Tuesday in February. The proclamation shall be issued no later than one hundred fifty days before the date of the election as set forth in the proclamation. The governor shall transmit a copy of the election proclamation to the clerk of the county boards of supervisors. [AZ Revised Statutes 16-241]	R	R (12/18)	R (25/35)
Arkansas	5-Feb	29-May	3 weeks prior to the 2nd Tuesday in June [AR Code 7-7-203]	D	D (27/8)	D (71/28/1)
California	5-Feb	7-Feb	(c) Conducting the California presidential primary election on the first Tuesday in February will encourage presidential candidates to campaign in California, and to debate and discuss issues and policies important to the people of California. [Sec. 1000c. 1202]	R	D (26/14)	D (114/37)
Colorado	5-Feb	7-Feb	House Bill 1376 allows political parties to move caucuses from the third Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in February during presidential election years. [CO HB1376]	D	D (21/14)	D (38/27)
Connecticut	5-Feb	7-Feb	Primary date. On the first Tuesday in March of each year in which the President of the United States is to be elected, each party shall conduct a primary in each town if the names of two or more candidates are to be placed on such party's ballot. [Sec. 9-464.]	R	D (24/12)	D (114/37)

State Statutes and Legislation Regarding Timing in Pre-March Primary and Caucus States

State	2008 Date	Est. 2012 Date	Governing Law	Governor	Senate	House
Delaware	5-Feb	7-Feb	(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a presidential primary election for major political parties shall be conducted on the first Tuesday in February in the calendar year of a presidential election. <i>[Delaware Code, Title 15, Chapter 31, § 3181 (1)]</i>	D	D (16/5)	D (24/17)
District of Columbia	12-Feb	10-Jan	(2007--)...moves presidential preference primary election from the 2nd Tuesday in January of each presidential election year to the 2nd Tuesday in February of each presidential election year; <i>[D.C. Official Code Division I, Title 1 Chapter 10, Elections. Subchapter I, Regulation of Elections. 1-1001.01(4)]</i>	D (Mayor)	D (11/0/2) (City Council)	
Florida	29-Jan	31-Jan	(2008-- Last Tuesday in January in each year which is a multiple of 4 <i>[FL Statutes 103.101]</i>	R	R (14/26)	R (44/76)
Georgia	5-Feb	7-Feb	A presidential preference primary shall be held in 2008 and every four years thereafter for each political party or body which has cast for its candidates for President and Vice President in the last presidential election more than 20 percent of the total vote cast for President and Vice President in the state ... Such primary shall be held on February 5, 2008, and on the first Tuesday in February every four years thereafter. <i>[Official Code of GA 21-2-191]</i>	R	R (22/34)	R (75/105)
Illinois	5-Feb	7-Feb	(2007-- In even-numbered years ... an election to be known as the general primary election shall be held on the first Tuesday in February <i>[L. Compiled Statutes 10-5/2A-1.1(a)]</i>	D	D (37/22)	D (70/48)
Iowa	3-Jan	5-Jan	Delegates to county conventions of political parties and party committee members shall be elected at precinct caucuses held not later than the fourth Monday in February of each even-numbered year. The date shall be at least eight days earlier than the scheduled date for any meeting, caucus or primary which constitutes the first determining stage of the presidential nominating process in any other state, territory or any other group which has the authority to select delegates in the presidential nomination. The state central committees of the political parties shall set the date for their caucuses. <i>[Iowa State Code 43.3]</i>	D	D (32/18)	D (56/44)

