

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SEASON

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY SEASON (JANUARY – JUNE)

WINNING THE PARTY NOMINATION

Candidate that wins the majority of the overall delegate vote is the party's nominee

PRIMARY

- The main feature of a presidential primary is that the voters of a particular state are deciding which "delegates" they will send to the national party convention
 - Delegates may be selected on a proportional basis or
 - Delegates may be selected on a "winner-takes-all" basis

CAUCUS

- A caucus is a meeting of party members and supporters of various candidates; it centers on the party organization
- The process starts at local meetings open to all party members, who take positions on candidates and elect delegates to represent their views at the next level; this process repeats until national nominating convention delegates are chosen
- Local Caucuses >> District Convention >> State Convention >> National Convention. Each level selects delegates to attend higher level.

DELEGATES AND SUPER-DELEGATES

Delegates are people who attend a political party national convention and who elect the party nominee. The Democratic Party also has super-delegates – a leader in the National Democratic Party who has a vote at the national convention; they are not selected by state party members.

WINNER-TAKE-ALL

- Candidate getting the most votes from a state's caucus or primary gets all of that state's delegates at the national convention.

PROPORTIONAL

- Each candidate is awarded a number of delegates in proportion to their support in the state caucuses or the number of primary votes they won.

NATIONAL CONVENTION (JULY)

DELEGATES CAST VOTES FOR PARTY NOMINEE

- At the Republican Convention and the Democratic Convention, the delegates selected in the primaries and caucuses will formally nominate their presidential candidate.

SELECTION OF V.P.

- Chosen by the Presidential nominee and rubber stamped by the convention
- "Balancing the Ticket"

HEALING THE WOUNDS

- Reconciliation and unification of party by the end of the convention

PLATFORM BUILDING

- List of the values and actions which are supported by a political party or individual candidate, in order to appeal to the general public, for the ultimate purpose of garnering the general public's support and votes

GENERAL ELECTION (NOVEMBER)

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL/VP CANDIDATE VS. DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL/VP CANDIDATE

- Candidates compete to seek the support of the voters. Televised debates are scheduled.
- Much of the candidates' time, particularly in the later stages of the campaign, will be spent in the contentious "swing" states.

ELECTORAL VOTES

- Plurality win of popular vote in a state = winner-take-all electoral vote of that state
- Concentration of campaigning in large, competitive states (swing states)
- Electors meet in state capitals in December to cast actual electoral ballots (one for president, one for vice president)

270 NEEDED TO WIN

- If no candidate has majority – 12th amendment
 - House selects President among top 3 candidates
 - Each state has 1 vote
 - Done in 1800 and 1824
 - Senate selects V.P. from among top two candidates
 - Every senator casts a vote