

Primary Calendar Stirs Republican Anxiety

By [JEFF ZELENY](#)

Published: July 26, 2011, *The New York Times*, A13.

WASHINGTON — Even as the Republican presidential contenders zigzag through Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, an uncertain and potentially unwieldy primary schedule in subsequent states is alarming party leaders, who fear that the voting could start earlier, last longer and complicate efforts to confront President Obama next year.

The 2012 presidential race is the first to fall under new rules from the Republican National Committee, which had intended the contests to start in February, a month later than in 2008. But at least a half dozen states are threatening to defy the rules and move up their primaries.

The result is that the first ballots are once again likely to be cast in January as Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina move up the dates of their contests to protect their franchises as the early voting states.

At the same time, the rush toward the front of the calendar by Florida, Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia and Missouri is accompanied by another trend: several states are pushing back their presidential primaries — or canceling them entirely — because of tight state budgets.

The outcome is a sharply scaled-back set of contests in the weeks after the initial flurry — with Super Tuesday in particular diminished in importance — followed by a stretch of primaries lasting until summer.

The California presidential primary, which in 2008 took place in February, is most likely to be held in June, the same day as the statewide primary, to save the state \$100 million. New York, which also held its presidential primary in February last time, has pushed back its date to April 24. And the state of Washington will not hold its presidential primary to save \$10 million.

“If there was ever a calendar that was designed for the nominating battle to go the distance, this is it,” said John Weaver, the chief strategist for the campaign of Jon M. Huntsman Jr., a former governor of Utah. “It could easily go into April and May.”

The unsettled calendar has created anxiety and opportunity for Republican candidates.

If Gov. Rick Perry of Texas enters the race, as his advisers believe he will in the next few weeks, he could face a hospitable run of primaries. The Texas primary on March 6, which comes with a large trove of delegates, will be followed by several other contests across the South.

Mitt Romney, a former governor of Massachusetts, has been working to build a muscular political organization to help fortify him through a drawn-out nominating fight. His associates have urged Utah, which he won in 2008, to move up its primary so a clutch of Western states could provide friendly terrain. Republicans in Idaho voted last week to hold caucuses on March 6.

A game of leapfrog takes place every presidential election cycle, with states trying to break the monopoly that Iowa and New Hampshire have held for decades by holding the first caucus and first primary. Yet every effort has produced the same result: Iowa and New Hampshire simply move up their contests.

“At this point, there are a few more states in play than there were four years ago,” said William M. Gardner, New Hampshire’s secretary of state. “New Hampshire will be the first. I just don’t know when it will be.”

The catalyst in the intense jockeying among states is Florida. Republican leaders want the state to hold a prominent spot in the early phase of the nominating process. The Legislature formed a committee to select a primary date, which is likely to be in early March, but could move to February or late January if other states advance their contests.

The ambitions of Florida are being carefully watched by Republican leaders in other states that have their own aspirations to play a key role in helping to select the party’s nominee.

“We can’t let Florida establish an early beachhead in the process,” said Saul Anuzis, a member of the Republican National Committee who is from Michigan. “There’s been this game of chicken between Florida and Michigan, saying if you guys go early, we’re going to go early.”

For all of the precision that presidential campaigns require, the process of selecting a nominee is dictated by a haphazard set of rules that vary by state. Some states conduct closed primaries (registered Republicans only), and others have open primaries (independents and Democrats can

In Arizona, the primary is scheduled by the governor, and Gov. Jan Brewer, a Republican, is considering moving the date to mid-February to coincide with the state’s centennial celebration. In Georgia, the primary is the purview of the secretary of state, Brian Kemp, who is Republican.

“It’s kind of like poker, really,” Mr. Kemp said in an interview. “You’re gambling if you go early. If you get penalized, is it worth it?”

Under [Republican Party](#) rules, states are stripped of half their delegates to the nominating convention if they jump ahead of the proposed guidelines, while states that adhere to them get additional delegates.

Josh Putnam, an assistant professor at Davidson College who studies presidential primaries and writes the blog [FrontloadingHQ](#), said the biggest change to the calendar was the shrinking of Super Tuesday — from 24 states last time to about 10 next year — and the lengthening of the nominating season.

“Four years ago, there was a mad rush to the first Tuesday in February,” Mr. Putnam said. “This time, a sizable chunk of states are deciding to move back.”

Another dynamic in the calendar fight has made this round of behind-the-scenes competition among states even more chaotic.

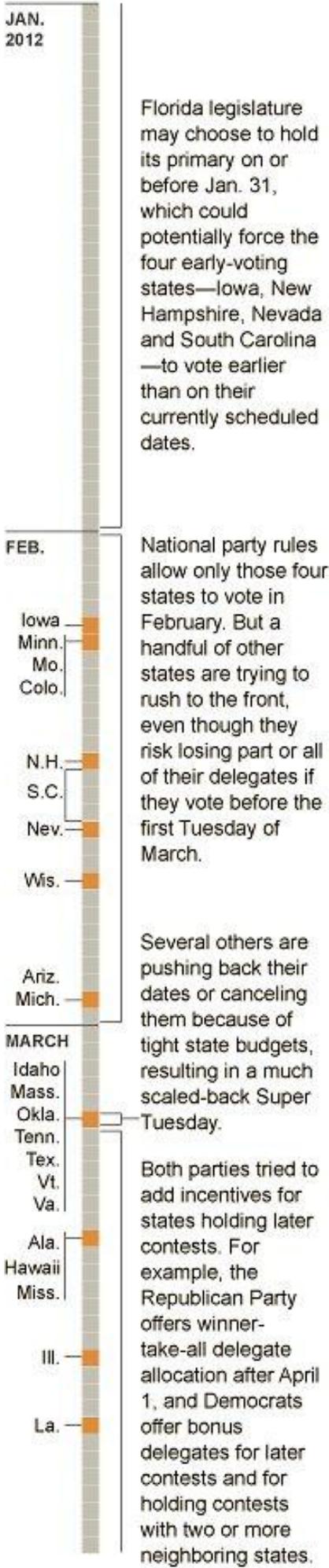
Republicans have long operated under a winner-takes-all system, which has allowed the party to wrap up its nominating fight more swiftly than Democrats, who allow states to award delegates proportional to the share of votes received by the candidates. This time, most Republican delegates will be awarded proportionally for all primaries and caucuses taking place before April 1, which means finishing second can be nearly as fruitful as winning. If the campaign narrows to a head-to-head match between two candidates next year, it has the potential to become a Republican version of the extended 2008 Democratic delegate fight between Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton that was not resolved until all states had voted.

Even as Republican candidates are criticizing Mr. Obama’s policies, campaign strategists say they are studying his campaign playbook, taking particular interest in how his advisers mastered the intricate rules of awarding delegates from primaries and caucuses, which ultimately delivered him the nomination.

Kitty Bennett contributed reporting.

Trying to Be First

The calendar for the 2012 Republican presidential primaries continues to be in flux as states jockey for earlier dates. Dates below are tentative.



Note: Georgia can vote any time between February and March 6.

Sources: Josh Putnam, Frontloading HQ; The Republican Party

The Republican Nomination: Going the Distance

Mitt Romney has pulled ahead of Newt Gingrich in the Florida polls and is the favorite in many of the February contests, but Mr. Gingrich has vowed to continue on until the Republican convention in August.

February contests

While each of the states poses challenges for Mr. Romney, he won five of them in 2008.

Mr. Romney's percentage of the vote in 2008

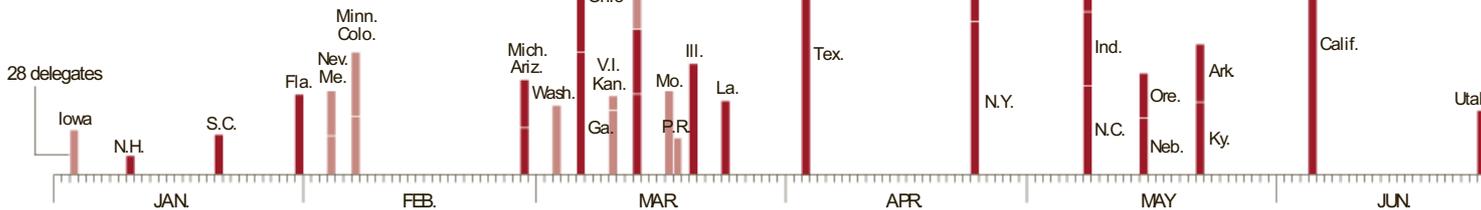
	Romney	McCain	Paul	Others
Nevada	51.1%	12.7	13.7	22.5
Maine	51.9	21.1	18.3	8.7
Minnesota	41.4	22.0	15.7	20.9
Colorado	60.1	18.4	8.4	13.1
Michigan	38.9	29.7	6.3	25.1

March and April

Mr. Gingrich is hoping to increase his delegate count when key southern states (like Georgia, the state he represented in Congress) vote on Super Tuesday and later in March and in April.

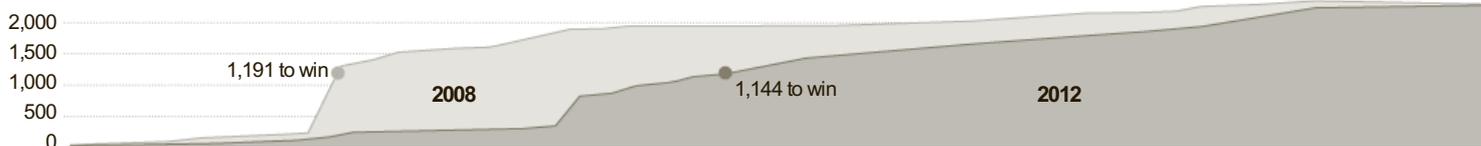
DELEGATES BY STATE

■ PRIMARY ■ CAUCUS



DELEGATE ACCUMULATION

Even if a candidate won every delegate, the nomination couldn't be secured until mid-March.



NOTE: The Maine caucuses are scheduled for Feb. 4-11, and the Wyoming caucuses for March 6-10. Dates for the Guam and Northern Mariana Islands caucuses have not been confirmed.

[Send Feedback](#)

Sources: Josh Putnam, Frontloading HQ; Republican Party; data from polls of likely Republican primary voters conducted by CNN/Time/Opinion Research, NBC/Marist and Quinnipiac University.

Republican Delegate Allocation/Contests

Jan. 3	Iowa Caucuses	28 delegates
Jan. 10	New Hampshire Primary	12 delegates
Jan. 21	South Carolina Primary	25 delegates
Jan. 31	Florida Primary	50 delegates
Feb. 4	Maine Caucuses	24 delegates
	Nevada Caucuses	28 delegates
Feb. 7	Colorado Caucuses	36 delegates
	Minnesota Caucuses	40 delegates
Feb. 28	Arizona Primary	29 delegates
	Michigan Primary	30 delegates
March 3	Washington Caucuses	43 delegates
March 6	Alaska Caucuses	27 delegates
	Georgia Primary	76 delegates
	Idaho Caucuses	32 delegates
	Massachusetts Primary	41 delegates
	North Dakota Caucuses	28 delegates
	Ohio Primary	66 delegates
	Oklahoma Primary	43 delegates
	Tennessee Primary	58 delegates
	Vermont Primary	17 delegates
	Virginia Primary	49 delegates
	Wyoming Caucuses	29 delegates
March 10	Guam Caucuses	9 delegates
	Kansas Caucuses	40 delegates
	Virgin Islands Caucuses	9 delegates
March 13	Alabama Primary	50 delegates
	American Samoa Caucuses	9 delegates
	Hawaii Caucuses	20 delegates
	Mississippi Primary	40 delegates
March 17	Missouri Caucuses	52 delegates
March 18	Puerto Rico Caucuses	23 delegates
March 20	Illinois Primary	69 delegates
March 24	Louisiana Primary	46 delegates
April 3	District of Columbia Primary	19 delegates
	Maryland Primary	37 delegates
	Texas Primary	155 delegates
	Wisconsin Primary	42 delegates
April 24	Connecticut Primary	28 delegates
	Delaware Primary	17 delegates
	New York Primary	95 delegates
	Pennsylvania Primary	72 delegates
	Rhode Island Primary	19 delegates
May 8	Indiana Primary	46 delegates
	North Carolina Primary	55 delegates
	West Virginia Primary	31 delegates
May 15	Nebraska Primary	35 delegates
	Oregon Primary	28 delegates
May 22	Arkansas Primary	36 delegates
	Kentucky Primary	45 delegates
June 5	California Primary	172 delegates
	Montana Primary	26 delegates
	New Jersey Primary	50 delegates
	New Mexico Primary	23 delegates
	South Dakota Primary	28 delegates
June 26	Utah Primary	40 delegates

Aug. 27-30 Republican National Convention

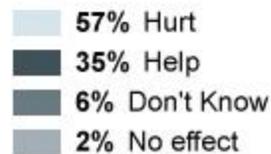
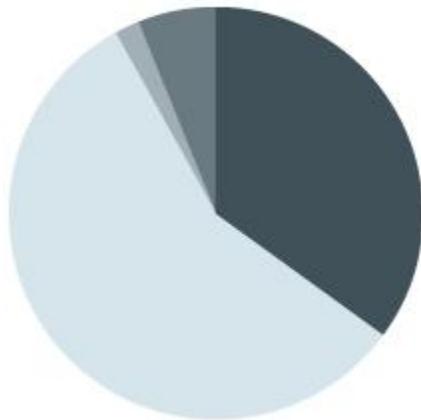
February 14, 2012 6:30 PM

Poll: Most GOP voters think long primary hurts nominee

By [Lucy Madison](#)

Impact of Long Nomination Contest on Republican Nominee

(among Republican primary voters)



(Credit: CBS)

As the Republican presidential field heads into what increasingly looks like a lengthy battle to the GOP nomination, a new CBS News/New York Times poll shows that most Republican voters see a long primary process as potentially damaging to the party's eventual nominee.

According to the poll, conducted by telephone from February 8-13, 57 percent of Republican voters nationwide say a drawn-out nomination battle - and the associated attacks on a candidate - would hurt the nominee's chances in 2012.

Thirty-five percent say a long nomination contest would make the Republican candidate more tested and prepared for the general election; subsequently, they say, a long nominating contest would help the nominee.

Throughout the nomination process, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney -- the front-runner for much of the campaign -- has been the subject of near-constant assault from his Republican rivals, who have attacked his record and cast him as a flip-flopper.

A handful of recent polls, including tonight's CBS News/New York Times poll, suggest that the nomination fight has already taken a toll on Romney, whose support among independents has dropped considerably in the last several weeks.

[According to the poll](#), self-identified independents have recently shifted away from Romney toward President Obama.

A month ago, independents were more inclined to vote for Romney or Ron Paul than for the president; now they favor Mr. Obama against all four of the major Republican challengers.

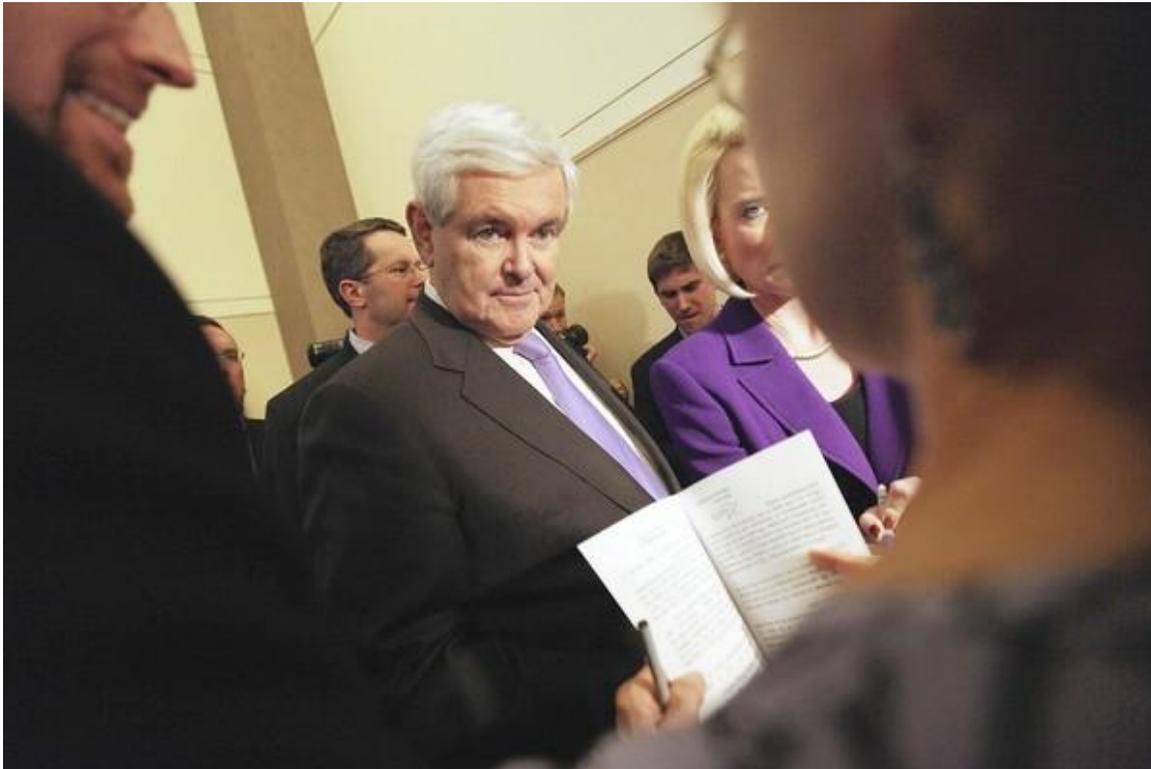
The poll shows also shows Mr. Obama holding for the first time a significant lead over each of his potential Republican opponents -- including Romney -- in the general election.

The new survey shows the president leading Romney by six points, 48 percent to 42 percent, among registered voters. Last month, the two men were tied at 45 percent each. Mr. Obama led the recently-surging Rick Santorum by eight points in the poll, which showed Santorum faring better than Romney among independents.

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-57377866-503544/poll-most-gop-voters-think-long-primary-hurts-nominee/?tag=cbsnewsMainColumnArea, accessed 12 March 2012.

Republicans grow anxious for primary race to end

Some in the party fear the hostile nominating contest is hopelessly damaging its chances of defeating President Obama in November. Democrats cheerfully agree.



Newt Gingrich, campaigning in Ohio, said of rival Mitt Romney: "He's a very long way from having closed out this race." (Mario Tama, Getty Images / March 3, 2012)

By Mark Z. Barabak, *Los Angeles Times*, March 5, 2012

Reporting from Cincinnati—

After a dozen contests, 20 debates and the prospect of weeks or even months of continued skirmishing, there is a growing clamor among [Republicans](#) to bring the presidential nomination race to a close for fear of hopelessly damaging the party's chances against [President Obama](#).

Republicans designed their plan for picking a nominee to test their candidates with a longer, more grueling campaign. But the move threatens to backfire in favor of a Democratic incumbent who has gained strength as the increasingly nasty GOP contest has worn on.

"There's been plenty of preliminaries," said Curt Steiner, a Republican strategist in Ohio, the most important of the nearly dozen states voting this week on Super Tuesday. "It's time to focus on the general election."

Steiner backs [Mitt Romney](#), so it's no surprise he would like to end the primary season with the

former Massachusetts governor ahead, if still far short of the 1,144 convention delegates needed to secure the nomination. Sending a signal from Washington, House Majority Leader [Eric Cantor](#) of Virginia on Sunday announced his endorsement of Romney ahead of his state's Tuesday primary.

It's not just Romney backers, though, who worry about the toll of a prolonged and increasingly nasty contest.

"The campaign has become deeply personal and very negative," said Steve Schmidt, who managed Arizona [Sen. John McCain](#)'s 2008 presidential campaign and is staying neutral this time. "There is no optimistic vision. It's all about stabbing the opponent."

The damage, Schmidt said, is evident in polls that show Obama gaining ground against challengers while negative views of the Republican field increase. More worrisome from the GOP perspective is the shift of political independents toward Obama and the risk of further alienating those swing voters as the discussion strays from economic issues to the merits of [contraception](#) and the separation of church and state.

"This is stuff that will do great harm to the Republican Party," Schmidt said, a view shared, quite happily, by the Obama camp.

The president chimed in at a New York City fundraiser last week. "I recommend you watch the recent debates," he told donors. "I'm thinking about just running those as advertisements."

Yet no one can simply call a halt to the Republican race. The only way the campaign will end, short of one candidate mathematically clinching the nomination, is for the also-rans to quit, something they seem to have no intention of doing anytime soon.

"This is going to go on for a good while," [Newt Gingrich](#) said Sunday on [ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos"](#). Romney may outspend the rest of the GOP field "by multiples," the former House speaker said, but "he's not a very convincing front-runner, and he's a long way from having closed out this race."

With the benefit of deep-pocketed "super PACs" — political action committees that support their effort — and rules allowing them to win delegates even if they finish second or worse, candidates have every incentive to keep running.

In resisting pressure to step aside, Gingrich and former Pennsylvania Sen. [Rick Santorum](#) have played to the insurgent sentiments embodied by the [tea party](#) movement, portraying their candidacies as a rebellion against the top-down order some in the party would like to impose. ([Rep. Ron Paul](#) of Texas, who has a small but indefatigable core of supporters, operates by his own rules.)

"We're up against a sledgehammer here with the Romney campaign ... but we just start getting tougher," Santorum said during a weekend visit to a sandwich shop in Wilmington, Ohio. "I think that's what going to happen in this campaign."

That notion — betterment through competition — is precisely what party leaders intended. Although he is supporting Romney, Saul Anuzis, a member of the Republican National Committee, welcomes the stiff nominating fight.

"It gives them an opportunity to fine-tune their message" in an environment "that's clearly no less intense than what they're going to face in the general election," Anuzis said. "I think whoever emerges as our nominee will probably be a stronger and better candidate because of the process."

Many Republicans point to 2008, when [Democrats](#) Obama and [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) battled into June. Obama improved as a candidate and won such Republican-leaning states as Indiana and North Carolina in November in part because of the groundwork his campaign laid during primaries in those states.

There are, however, important differences.

The Democratic contest got rough at times, but the candidates largely avoided the sort of personal attacks — Romney as a vulture capitalist, Gingrich as ethically unfit, Santorum as a hypocrite — that Republicans have burned into voters' minds with millions of dollars in negative TV ads. In 2008, Schmidt noted, "the primary tension among Democrats was over which of two historic candidates they would choose. They liked both of them.... As this race goes on, Republicans increasingly say, 'We don't like any of them. We want someone else in the race.' "

Independent voters have been especially turned off. For a time, Romney enjoyed a double-digit lead over the president among those unaligned voters, who will be crucial to winning in the fall. But more recent surveys have shown Obama pulling ahead.

Independents are by their very nature less ideological and care far more about jobs and the economy than godliness and debates over morality, subjects that Romney cannot avoid when Santorum thrusts them into the campaign. More than once, the GOP front-runner has highlighted positions — such as opposition to Title X, a federal program that funds contraception and preventive care for poor women — that may fend off his primary opponents but probably wouldn't help him in November.

However, GOP strategist Charlie Black, among others, insists that everything will change once the party has a nominee to rally behind and the focus turns to the fight against Obama. The timing, he said, is immaterial.

"I've done it both ways," said Black, who has spent decades working in Republican presidential campaigns. "There's not any correlation between clinching the nomination early and winning in November."

Even so, plenty of nervous Republicans would like the scuffling to end sooner rather than later.

"Any day we aren't out there talking about economic growth and getting the country moving is not a good day," said Fred Malek, a Romney backer and another veteran GOP strategist. "The closer we get to that day, the better."

###



**2012 CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
AND CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES FOR BALLOT ACCESS**

(Data as of 3/2/12)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/6/12

Establishing the date for a Presidential primary, and determining the type of Presidential primary held, varies from state to state. This is due to differences in state statutes, party constitutions, party rules and regulations, party by-laws, and delegate selection plans. In some states, a caucus and/or convention may be held instead of a Presidential primary election. Other states may use a combination of both caucuses and primaries for delegate selection. This state-by-state variation should be kept in mind when examining this listing of dates for the 2012 Presidential primaries. Questions concerning a state's primary election procedure should be addressed to the state's Election Director.

STATE	PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE	PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS DATE	FILING DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY BALLOT ACCESS	INDEPENDENT ¹ FILING DEADLINE FOR GENERAL ELECTION
Alabama	3/13		1/13	9/6 (Independent) 3/13 (Third/Minor)
Alaska		3/6 (Republicans) 4/9-4/16 (Democrats)	n/a	8/8
American Samoa		3/6 (Democrats) 3/13 (Republicans)	n/a	n/a
Arizona	2/28		1/9 5pm	5/30 5pm (Third/Minor) 9/7 5pm (Independent)
Arkansas	5/22		3/1 Noon	8/6 Noon (Independent)
California	6/5		3/29 (Democrats) 3/23 (All Others)	8/10 (Independent)
Colorado		2/7 (Republicans) 3/6 (Democrats)	n/a	4/2 (Third/Minor) 6/4 3pm (Independent)
Connecticut	4/24		3/2	8/8
Delaware	4/24		2/24 4:30pm	9/4
D.C.	4/3		1/4	8/8
Florida	1/31		10/31	7/15
Georgia	3/6		n/a	8/6 Noon
Guam		5/5 (Democrats) 3/10 (Republicans)	n/a	n/a
Hawaii		3/7 (Democrats) 3/13 (Republicans)	n/a	8/8 4:30pm
Idaho		3/6 (Republicans) 4/14 (Democrats)	n/a	8/24
Illinois	3/20		1/6	6/25
Indiana	5/8		2/10 Noon	7/16 Noon
Iowa		1/3	n/a	8/17
Kansas		3/10 (Republicans) 4/14 (Democrats)	n/a	8/6 Noon (Independent) 6/1 or 6/11 ⁴ (Third/Minor)
Kentucky	5/22		1/31	9/7
Louisiana	3/24		12/9	9/7 5pm
Maine		2/4-2/11 (Republicans) 3/11 (Democrats)	n/a	8/15 5pm (Independent)
Maryland	4/3		1/11	8/6
Massachusetts	3/6		1/6	7/31
Michigan	2/28		12/9	7/19 (Independent)
Minnesota		2/7	n/a	8/21
Mississippi	3/13		1/14	9/7



**2012 CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
AND CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES FOR BALLOT ACCESS**

(Data as of 3/2/12)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/6/12

STATE	PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE	PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS DATE	FILING DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY BALLOT ACCESS	INDEPENDENT ¹ FILING DEADLINE FOR GENERAL ELECTION
Missouri	2/7	3/17 (Republicans)	11/22	7/30
Montana	6/5		3/12	8/15
Nebraska	5/15		3/7	9/1 (Independent)
Nevada		1/21 (Democrats) 2/4 (Republicans)	n/a	7/6 (Independent)
New Hampshire	1/10		10/28	9/5
New Jersey	6/5		4/2	7/30
New Mexico	6/5		3/16	6/26
New York	4/24		2/9	8/21 Independent
North Carolina	5/8		n/a	6/1 Third/Minor 6/29 Independent
North Dakota		3/6 (Republicans) 6/5 (Democrats)	n/a	9/7 4pm
Northern Mariana Islands		3/10 (Republicans)	n/a	n/a
Ohio	3/6		12/30 4pm	8/8 4pm
Oklahoma	3/6		12/7	7/15
Oregon	5/15		3/6	8/28
Pennsylvania	4/24		2/14	8/1
Puerto Rico		3/18 (Republicans) 6/3 (Democrats)	1/18	n/a
Rhode Island	4/24		1/21	9/7
South Carolina	1/21 (Republicans) 1/28 (Democrats)		11/1	7/16 Noon (Independent)
South Dakota	6/5		3/27	8/7 (Independent)
Tennessee	3/6		12/6 Noon	8/16 Noon (Independent)
Texas	5/29		3/9	6/29 (Independent)
Utah	6/26	3/13 (Democrats)	3/15	8/15
Vermont	3/6		1/9	6/14
Virginia	3/6		12/22 5pm	8/24 Noon
Virgin Islands		3/10 (Republicans) 6/3 (Democrats)	n/a	n/a
Washington		3/3 (Republicans) 4/15 (Democrats)	n/a	8/4
West Virginia	5/8		1/28	8/1
Wisconsin	4/3		1/31 5pm	8/7 5pm (Independent)
Wyoming		3/6-3/10 (Republicans) 4/14 (Democrats)	n/a	8/27 (Independent)

Notes:

1. The column Independent Filing Deadline shows the date for the filing of petitions by independent or third/minor party candidates. This is a general reference date for use by the public and voters. Candidates and others seeking specific information should contact the states for other deadlines that may need to be met. For example, the petitions may have to be checked by officials prior to this date. A declaration of candidacy may be due before the petitions are due. New parties may have different deadlines.



**2012 CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
AND CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES FOR BALLOT ACCESS**

(Data as of 3/2/12)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/6/12

STATE		CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATE	CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF DATE	FILING DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY BALLOT ACCESS	INDEPENDENT ¹ FILING DEADLINE FOR GENERAL ELECTION
Alabama		3/13	4/24	1/13	9/6 (Independent) 3/13 (Third/Minor)
Alaska		8/28		6/1	8/28 5pm
American Samoa		n/a		n/a	9/1 4:30pm
Arizona	S	8/28		5/30 5pm	5/30 5pm (Third/Minor) 9/7 5pm (Independent)
Arkansas		5/22	6/12	3/1 Noon	5/1 Noon
California	S	6/5		3/9	n/a
Colorado		6/26		4/2	4/2 (Third/Minor) 6/4 3pm (Independent)
Connecticut	S	8/14 ²		6/12 ²	8/8
Delaware	S	9/11		7/10 Noon	9/4
D.C.		4/3		1/4	8/8
Florida	S	8/14		6/8	5/7
Georgia		7/31	8/21	5/25 Noon	8/6 Noon
Guam		9/1		7/3	7/3
Hawaii	S	8/11		6/5 4:30pm	6/5 4:30pm
Idaho		5/15		3/9	3/9
Illinois		3/20		12/27	6/25
Indiana	S	5/8 ³		2/10 Noon	7/16 Noon
Iowa		6/5		3/16	8/17
Kansas		8/7 ⁴		6/1 or 6/11 ⁴	8/6 Noon (Independent) 6/1 or 6/11 ⁴ (Third/Minor)
Kentucky		5/22		1/31	8/14
Louisiana		n/a ⁵		8/17 5pm	8/17 5pm
Maine	S	6/12		3/15 5pm	6/1 5pm (Independent)
Maryland	S	4/3 ⁶		1/11	8/6
Massachusetts	S	9/6		6/5	7/31
Michigan	S	8/7 ⁷		5/15	7/19 (Independent)
Minnesota	S	8/14		6/5	6/5
Mississippi	S	3/13	4/3	1/13	1/13
Missouri	S	8/7		3/27	7/30
Montana	S	6/5		3/12	3/5
Nebraska	S	5/15		2/15 (Incumbents) 3/1 (All Others)	9/1 (Independent)
Nevada	S	6/12		3/16	2/9 (Independent)
New Hampshire		9/11		6/15	9/5
New Jersey	S	6/5		4/2	6/5
New Mexico	S	6/5		3/20	6/26
New York	S	6/26		4/16	8/21 (Independent)



**2012 CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
AND CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINES FOR BALLOT ACCESS**

(Data as of 3/2/12)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/6/12

STATE		CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATE	CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF DATE	FILING DEADLINE FOR PRIMARY BALLOT ACCESS	INDEPENDENT ¹ FILING DEADLINE FOR GENERAL ELECTION
North Carolina		5/8	7/17	2/29	6/1 (Third/Minor) 6/29 (Independent)
North Dakota	S	6/12		4/13 4pm	9/7 4pm
Northern Mariana Islands		n/a		n/a	8/8
Ohio	S	3/6		12/30 4pm	3/5 4pm (Independent)
Oklahoma		6/26	8/28	4/13	3/1 (Third/Minor) 4/13 (Independent)
Oregon		5/15 ⁸		3/6	8/28
Pennsylvania	S	4/24		2/14	8/1
Puerto Rico		3/18		10/31	10/31
Rhode Island	S	9/11		6/27	7/13
South Carolina		6/12 ⁹	6/26	3/30 Noon	7/16 Noon (Independent)
South Dakota		6/5	6/26	3/27	8/7 (Independent)
Tennessee	S	8/2		4/5 Noon	4/5 Noon
Texas	S	5/29 ¹⁰	7/31	3/9 ¹⁰	6/29
Utah	S	6/26 ¹¹		3/15	3/15
Vermont	S	8/28		6/14	6/14
Virginia	S	6/12 ¹²		3/29 5pm	6/12 7pm
Virgin Islands		9/8	9/22	8/9	8/2
Washington	S	8/7		5/18	n/a
West Virginia	S	5/8		1/28	8/1
Wisconsin	S	8/14		6/1 5pm	6/1 5pm
Wyoming	S	8/21		6/1	8/27 (Independent)

Notes:

- The column Independent Filing Deadline shows the date for the filing of petitions by independent or third/minor party candidates. This is a general reference date for use by the public and voters. Candidates and others seeking specific information should contact the states for other deadlines that may need to be met. For example, the petitions may have to be checked by officials prior to this date. A declaration of candidacy may be due before the petitions are due. New parties may have different deadlines.
- In Connecticut, conventions are held by the Democratic and Republican parties prior to the primary. The Democratic convention date for U.S. Senate is 5/12/12, and the Democratic convention date for U.S. House districts is 5/14/12. The Republican convention date for U.S. Senate and U.S. House is 5/18/12.
- In Indiana, the Libertarian party convention date is 3/24/12.
- In Kansas, the filing deadline is 6/1/12 if redistricting is completed on or before 5/10/12. Otherwise, the filing deadline is 6/11/12. The Libertarian party convention date is 3/24/12. The Reform party convention date is pending.
- In Louisiana, a Congressional primary election is not held. The election for candidates seeking Federal office is the General Election scheduled for 11/6/12. If necessary, a Runoff Election will be held on 12/1/12.
- In Maryland, the Libertarian party convention date is 3/3/12. The Green party convention date is pending.
- In Michigan, the Libertarian party convention date is 6/2/12, the Green party convention date is 6/3/12 and the U.S. Taxpayers party convention date is 6/16/12. The Natural Law party convention date is pending.
- In Oregon, the Constitution, Independent Party, Libertarian, Oregon Progressive, Pacific Green, and Working Families parties may nominate by convention. Convention dates are pending.
- In South Carolina, the Working Families party convention date is 5/5/12. The Constitution, Green, Independence, Libertarian and United Citizens party convention dates are pending.
- In Texas, the Green and Libertarian parties may nominate by convention. The convention dates are 3/17/12 for single county U.S. House Districts 2, 3, 7, 16, 18, 20, 29 and 30; 3/24/12 for multi-county U.S. House Districts 1, 4-6, 8-15, 17, 19, 21-28, 31-36; and 6/9/12 for U.S. Senate.
- In Utah, conventions are held by the political parties prior to the primary. The Constitution party convention date is 4/7/12. The convention date for the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian parties is 4/21/12.
- In Virginia, parties may choose to nominate by convention rather than by primary election. Convention dates are pending.



**2012 PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**

(Data as of 3/2/12)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/6/12

STATE	PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE	PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS DATE		STATE	CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATE	CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF DATE
Iowa		1/3		S Ohio	3/6	
New Hampshire	1/10			Alabama	3/13	4/24
Nevada		1/21 (Democrats)		S Mississippi	3/13	4/3
South Carolina	1/21 (Republicans)			Puerto Rico	3/18	
South Carolina	1/28 (Democrats)			Illinois	3/20	
Florida	1/31			D.C.	4/3	
Maine		2/4-2/11 (Republicans)		S Maryland	4/3 ¹	
Nevada		2/4 (Republicans)		S Pennsylvania	4/24	
Minnesota		2/7		S Indiana	5/8 ¹	
Colorado		2/7 (Republicans)		North Carolina	5/8	7/17
Missouri	2/7			S West Virginia	5/8	
Arizona	2/28			Idaho	5/15	
Michigan	2/28			S Nebraska	5/15	
Washington		3/3 (Republicans)		Oregon	5/15 ¹	
Alaska		3/6 (Republicans)		Arkansas	5/22	6/12
American Samoa		3/6 (Democrats)		Kentucky	5/22	
Colorado		3/6 (Democrats)		S Texas	5/29 ¹	7/31
Georgia	3/6			S California	6/5	
Idaho		3/6 (Republicans)		Iowa	6/5	
Massachusetts	3/6			S Montana	6/5	
North Dakota		3/6 (Republicans)		S New Jersey	6/5	
Ohio	3/6			S New Mexico	6/5	
Oklahoma	3/6			South Dakota	6/5	6/26
Tennessee	3/6			S Maine	6/12	
Vermont	3/6			S Nevada	6/12	
Virginia	3/6			S North Dakota	6/12	
Wyoming		3/6-3/10 (Republicans)		South Carolina	6/12 ¹	6/26
Hawaii		3/7 (Democrats)		S Virginia	6/12 ¹	
Guam		3/10 (Republicans)		Colorado	6/26	
Kansas		3/10 (Republicans)		S New York	6/26	
Northern Mariana Islands		3/10 (Republicans)		Oklahoma	6/26	8/28
Virgin Islands		3/10 (Republicans)		S Utah	6/26 ¹	
Maine		3/11 (Democrats)		Georgia	7/31	8/21
Alabama	3/13			S Tennessee	8/2	
American Samoa		3/13 (Republicans)		Kansas	8/7 ¹	
Hawaii		3/13 (Republicans)		S Michigan	8/7 ¹	
Mississippi	3/13			S Missouri	8/7	
Utah		3/13 (Democrats)		S Washington	8/7	
Missouri		3/17 (Republicans)		S Hawaii	8/11	
Puerto Rico		3/18 (Republicans)		S Connecticut	8/14 ¹	
Illinois	3/20			S Florida	8/14	



**2012 PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATES
IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**

(Data as of 3/2/12)

Note: Dates Subject to Change / S Indicates Senate Election / General Election Date 11/6/12

STATE	PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DATE	PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUS DATE		STATE	CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARY DATE	CONGRESSIONAL RUNOFF DATE
Louisiana	3/24			S Minnesota	8/14	
D.C.	4/3			S Wisconsin	8/14	
Maryland	4/3			S Wyoming	8/21	
Wisconsin	4/3			Alaska	8/28	
Alaska		4/9-4/16 (Democrats)		S Arizona	8/28	
Idaho		4/14 (Democrats)		S Vermont	8/28	
Kansas		4/14 (Democrats)		Guam	9/1	
Wyoming		4/14 (Democrats)		S Massachusetts	9/6	
Washington		4/15 (Democrats)		Virgin Islands	9/8	9/22
Connecticut	4/24			S Delaware	9/11	
Delaware	4/24			New Hampshire	9/11	
New York	4/24			S Rhode Island	9/11	
Pennsylvania	4/24					
Rhode Island	4/24					
Guam		5/5 (Democrats)				
Indiana	5/8					
North Carolina	5/8					
West Virginia	5/8					
Nebraska	5/15					
Oregon	5/15					
Arkansas	5/22					
Kentucky	5/22					
Texas	5/29					
Puerto Rico		6/3 (Democrats)				
Virgin Islands		6/3 (Democrats)				
California	6/5					
Montana	6/5					
New Jersey	6/5					
New Mexico	6/5					
North Dakota		6/5 (Democrats)				
South Dakota	6/5					
Utah	6/26					

Notes:

- In Connecticut and Utah, conventions are held by the political parties prior to the primary. In Virginia, parties may choose to nominate by convention rather than by primary election. In other states, such as Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Oregon, South Carolina, and Texas, minor parties may hold conventions to nominate candidates.

Sources: State Election Offices, Statutes, State Parties and News Articles

Compiled by: Public Disclosure Division, Office of Communications, Federal Election Commission
800/424-9530 (option 2), or 202/694-1120