

A Complicated Path to the Democratic Nomination

Bernie Sanders says winning a plurality of delegates is good enough for the nomination. His rivals say a majority is needed. What does that mean? And why are superdelegates coming up again?



Superdelegates raised the ire of Bernie Sanders’s supporters in 2016. Credit...Eric Thayer for The New York Times

Matt Stevens, *The New York Times* National Edition, February 22, 2020, p. 18.

The last question at Wednesday night’s Democratic debate covered much wonkier territory than the fiery exchanges that preceded it. But it exposed a rift over what could become an extremely relevant topic: how the party’s presidential nominee should be chosen.

“There’s a very good chance none of you are going to have enough delegates to the Democratic National Convention to clinch this nomination,” the moderator Chuck Todd told the candidates. “Should the person with the most delegates at the end of this primary season be the nominee even if they are short of a majority?”

Every four years, pundits imagine such a scenario. But with [eight Democrats still in the 2020 race](#), several of whom could split the available delegates, the premise may be more than theoretical this time around.

Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont was the only candidate to agree that, in his words, “the person with the most votes” should get the nomination. This was not surprising given that he is currently the front-runner and — at least at the moment — appears to be the candidate most likely to win a plurality, but perhaps not a majority, of pledged delegates.

The rest of the candidates said some version of “No, let the process work” or “Play by the rules.” In other words, a candidate should still be required to win a majority of delegates to earn the nomination.

So what, exactly, are the rules? How would the “process” actually work? What needs to be done to win a majority? And why was Mr. Sanders complaining about “superdelegates”? Let’s try to explain.

How to win the Democratic nomination, the easy way

To win the Democratic nomination for president, a candidate needs the support of a majority of delegates eligible to vote on a given ballot at the party’s national convention in Milwaukee in July.

There are a total of 3,979 pledged delegates (who are actual people) eligible to vote on what is known as the first ballot. These delegates are allocated to candidates based on the results of caucus and primary contests in the states. The formulas that determine how those results are translated into delegates won can be complicated, but in general, a candidate must get 15 percent support to be eligible to receive delegates.

Half of 3,979 is 1,989.5. Democratic National Committee officials say that on the first ballot, a candidate must win one delegate more than that, or 1,990.5, which is rounded up to reach the magic number: 1,991. (If a candidate won 1,990 pledged delegates on the first ballot, D.N.C. officials say, that would not be sufficient.)

So, in summary, the quickest and least complicated way to win the nomination is for a candidate to secure 1,991 pledged delegates on the first ballot at the Democratic National Convention in July. (We are keeping track of [how many delegates each candidate has](#).)

But as Mr. Todd noted at the debate, there is a chance no candidate will end up with 1,991 pledged delegates before the convention.

What happens if no one gets a majority?

If no one gets 1,991 votes on the first ballot, then things could get more complicated. This is the scenario people refer to when they use the phrase “contested convention” or “brokered convention.”

In this situation, there would be a second ballot. And on the second ballot, there are votes from two sets of delegates:

- Votes from the 3,979 pledged delegates, who are allowed to support a different candidate on the second ballot if they so choose
- An additional 771 votes from “automatic delegates,” commonly known as superdelegates

To win the nomination, a candidate still must earn a majority of the votes on a given ballot. In this case, that means she or he must amass more than 2,375 pledged and automatic delegates. (In the second and subsequent rounds, a few automatic delegates get only half votes; the D.N.C. says the magic number is 2,375.5, which this time is not rounded up.)

It is theoretically possible that the nomination process would extend through multiple ballots until one candidate hits the magic number (2,375.5) and prevails. One thing to keep in mind is that delegates do not need to stay with the candidate to whom they were originally allocated and can move around.



Mr. Sanders called for Hillary Clinton to be nominated after Vermont’s roll call vote at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Credit...Ruth Fremson/The New York Times

Who are these superdelegates?

Basically, superdelegates are party insiders and V.I.P.s — and they can support whomever they want.

Specifically, they include:

- Members of the Democratic National Committee itself
- Democratic members of Congress
- Democratic governors

- Distinguished party leaders, like former presidents, for instance

Superdelegates have never overridden the will of Democratic voters in a presidential primary in the modern era, since 1972. But their role caused considerable consternation during the 2016 primary between Mr. Sanders and Hillary Clinton; some of Mr. Sanders's supporters claimed that superdelegates were responsible for having "rigged" the nomination system from within to benefit Mrs. Clinton.

In 2018, Democratic Party officials agreed to [changes in the rules](#) — which Sanders backers pushed hard for — that effectively barred superdelegates from participating in the first ballot.

Will there be a 'contested' or 'brokered' convention?

D.N.C. officials have long insisted that a contested convention, sometimes called a brokered convention, is unlikely. Among their arguments:

- Media outlets speculate about the possibility of a contested convention every cycle, but it seldom comes to pass and hasn't happened in decades.
- In this cycle, only two states have voted so far; there are still many more results to come, and voters may begin to coalesce around a single candidate who does in fact go on to win the majority of pledged delegates.
- Even if no one gets to 1,991 delegates, delegates are not legally bound to vote for the candidate to whom they have been allocated. As candidates lose momentum, some could leave the race. Other campaigns could reach out behind the scenes, and a majority of delegates could end up supporting a single candidate by the time the convention rolls around.

That said, there is a chance things will remain unsettled by July. If that happens, candidates could work to convince delegates to come into their camp at the convention itself. Who wins in that chaotic situation is anybody's guess.

And that explains why five of the six candidates on the debate stage this week did not commit to simply handing the nomination to the candidate with the most delegates at the end of the primary. They would rather roll the dice in a contested convention than commit to declaring a winner based on a plurality.

This article also was published in the online edition of *The New York Times* with the title "How to Win the Democratic Nomination, and Why it Could Get Complicated."

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE



This page tracks important dates throughout the 2016 presidential election cycle, including primaries, caucuses and conventions, filing deadlines and campaign finance reporting deadlines.

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Candidate registration and financial disclosure

Federal candidacy registration

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) requires those running for the U.S. House, Senate or presidency to file a Statement of Candidacy form within 15 days raising the first \$5,000 in campaign funding. The Statement of Candidacy form allows a candidate's campaign committee to engage in fundraising and spending of the campaign funds. Within 10 days of the Statement of Candidacy submission, the Statement of Organization form must be submitted to the FEC.^[1]

Campaign finance disclosures

Presidential candidates, like Congressional candidates, must file regular campaign finance disclosure reports, depending on the extent of the committee's fundraising. If the committee has raised or anticipates raising or spending a total of \$100,000 by the end of a calendar year, the committee will file monthly campaign finance reports in the following year. If the committee does not raise, spend or anticipate raising or spending that much, they must only file quarterly reports to the FEC.^[2]

Important campaign dates

Iowa caucus

The Democratic National Committee's Rules and Bylaws Committee chose to tentatively hold the Iowa caucus on February 1, 2016.^[3]

New Hampshire primary

The DNC's proposed date for the New Hampshire primary was February 9, 2016.^[3]

Democratic National Convention

See also: Democratic National Convention, 2016

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), announced on February 12, 2015, that Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will host the Convention during the week of July 25, 2016.^[4]

According to the *National Journal*, the initial list of possible host cities for the DNC were Birmingham, Alabama, Brooklyn, New York, Columbus, Ohio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Phoenix, Arizona.^[5]

Republican National Convention

See also: Republican National Convention, 2016

The Republican National Committee (RNC) will hold the 2016 convention on July 18-21, 2016. "The convention will be held significantly earlier than previous election cycles, allowing access to crucial general election funds earlier than ever before to give our nominee a strong advantage heading into Election Day," Priebus said.^[6]

State primary dates



2016 Presidential Election

General Election Date

November 8, 2016

Declared candidates

Democratic

Lincoln Chafee • Hillary Clinton • Lawrence Lessig • Martin O'Malley • Bernie Sanders • Jim Webb
Democratic Convention
Democratic Primary

Republican

Jeb Bush • Ben Carson • Chris Christie • Ted Cruz • Carly Fiorina • Jim Gilmore • Lindsey Graham • Mike Huckabee • Bobby Jindal • John Kasich • George Pataki • Rand Paul • Marco Rubio • Rick Santorum • Donald Trump
Republican Convention
Republican Primary

2016 election coverage

Presidential debates • Important campaign dates • Polling • Candidates • Ratings and scorecards • Straw polls • Election by state

**2016 Presidential Primaries and Caucuses for Elected National
Convention Delegates by Filing Deadlines**

<u>State</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Filing Deadline</u>	<u>Primary/Caucus</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Democratic*</u>	<u>Republican**</u>
South Carolina	February 20, 2016	September 30, 2015	Republican Primary	Open		31
Arkansas	March 1, 2016	November 9, 2015	Primary	Open	32	22
Texas	March 1, 2016	November 10, 2015	Primary	Open	208	118
Louisiana	March 5, 2016	November 20, 2015	Primary	Closed	54	28
New Hampshire	February 9, 2016	November 27, 2015	Primary	Mixed	24	16
Illinois	March 15, 2016	November 30, 2015	Primary	Open	160	64
Tennessee	March 1, 2016	December 1, 2015	Primary	Open	68	37
Oklahoma	March 1, 2016	December 2, 2015	Primary	Closed	38	25
South Carolina	February 27, 2016	December 7, 2015	Democratic Primary	Open	51	
Idaho	March 8, 2016	December 9, 2015	Republican Primary	Closed		16
Florida	March 15, 2016	December 15, 2015	Primary	Closed	207	91
Virginia	March 1, 2016	December 17, 2015	Primary	Open	95	43
Michigan	March 8, 2016	December 20, 2015	Primary	Closed	133	52
North Carolina	March 15, 2016	December 29, 2015	Primary	Mixed	107	49
Missouri	March 15, 2016	December 30, 2015	Primary	Open	15	34
Nevada	February 20, 2016	January 1, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	31	
Georgia	March 1, 2016	January 2, 2016	Primary	Open	98	52
Massachusetts	March 1, 2016	January 2, 2016	Primary	Mixed	95	37
Ohio	March 15, 2016	January 2, 2016	Primary	Mixed	148	58
Minnesota	March 1, 2016	January 4, 2016	Caucus	Open	78	34
Vermont	March 1, 2016	January 4, 2016	Primary	Open	15	13
Alabama	March 1, 2016	January 6, 2016	Primary	Open	52	31
Kentucky	March 5, 2016	January 7, 2016	Republican Caucus	Closed		28
Hawaii	March 26, 2016	January 8, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	22	
Nevada	February 23, 2016	January 9, 2016	Republican Caucus	Closed		22
Colorado	March 1, 2016	January 9, 2016	Caucus	Closed	64	31
Mississippi	March 8, 2016	January 9, 2016	Primary	Open	36	22
Iowa	February 1, 2016	January 22, 2016	Caucus	Closed	46	22
Rhode Island	April 26, 2016	January 23, 2016	Primary	Mixed	22	16
Kentucky	May 17, 2016	January 26, 2016	Primary	Closed	47	28
Alaska	March 26, 2016	January 29, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	14	
Kansas	March 5, 2016	January 30, 2016	Caucus	Closed	33	22
West Virginia	May 10, 2015	January 30, 2016	Primary	Mixed	26	19
Alaska	March 1, 2016	January 31, 2016	Republican Mixed	Closed		13
Nebraska	March 5, 2016	February 1, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	26	
Wisconsin	April 5, 2016	February 2, 2016	Primary	Open	79	34
Arizona	March 22, 2016	February 3, 2016	Primary	Open	63	37
Maryland	April 26, 2016	February 3, 2016	Primary	Closed	78	34
Utah	March 22, 2016	February 5, 2016	Caucus	Closed	24	22
Indiana	May 3, 2016	February 5, 2016	Primary	Open	70	37
Hawaii	March 8, 2016	February 16, 2016	Republican Caucus	Closed		16
Pennsylvania	April 26, 2016	February 16, 2016	Primary	Closed	160	64
Maine	March 6, 2016	February 21, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	25	

Nebraska	May 10, 2016	February 25, 2016	Republican Primary	Closed		19
Washington	March 26, 2016	February 26, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	86	
Delaware	April 26, 2016	February 26, 2016	Primary	Closed	17	13
New York	April 19, 2016	March 1, 2016	Primary	Closed	233	91
Connecticut	April 26, 2016	March 7, 2016	Primary	Closed	51	25
Montana	June 7, 2016	March 7, 2016	Primary	Open	15	13
Oregon	May 17, 2016	March 8, 2016	Primary	Closed	52	25
Wyoming	April 9, 2016	March 10, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	13	
Idaho	March 22, 2016	March 14, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	20	
Washington, DC	June 14, 2016	March 15, 2016	Primary	Closed	17	16
New Mexico	June 7, 2016	March 17, 2016	Primary	Closed	29	19
California	June 7, 2016	March 25, 2016	Primary	Closed	405	169
South Dakota	June 7, 2016	March 29, 201	Primary	Closed	15	13
New Jersey	June 7, 2016	April 4, 2016	Primary	Mixed	110	46
North Dakota	June 7, 2016	May 2, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	14	
Maine	March 5, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Closed		16
North Dakota	March 1, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Closed		6
Wyoming	March 1, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Closed		13
Washington	March 5, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Closed		40
American Samoa	March 8, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Open		6
Guam	March 12, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Closed		6
Northern Marianas	March 12, 2016	TBD	Democratic Caucus	Closed	6	6
Virgin Islands	March 12, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Open		6
Puerto Rico	March 13, 2016	TBD	Republican Primary	Open		20
Northern Marianas	March 15, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Closed		6
Guam	May 7, 2016	TBD	Democratic Caucus	Closed	6	
Puerto Rico	June 5, 2016	TBD	Democratic Caucus	Open	51	
Virgin Islands	June 5, 2016	TBD	Democratic Caucus	Open	6	
American Samoa	March 1, 2016	TBD	Democratic Caucus	Open	6	6
					3696	1898

TBD = To Be Determined

	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>Republican</u>
December 30, 2015	1,192 (32%)	626 (22%)
January 9, 2016	1,831 (50%)	954 (33%)

2016 Presidential Primaries and Caucuses for Elected National

Convention Delegates by Contest Date

State	Date	Filing Deadline	Primary/Caucus	Type	Democratic*	Republican**
Iowa	February 1, 2016	January 22, 2016	Caucus	Closed	46	22
New Hampshire	February 9, 2016	November 27, 2015	Primary	Mixed	24	16
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American Samoa	March 1, 2016	TBD	Democratic Caucus	Open	6	6
Arkansas	March 1, 2016	November 9, 2015	Primary	Open	32	22
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Nebraska	March 5, 2016	February 1, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	26	
Washington	March 5, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Closed		40
Maine	March 6, 2016	February 21, 2016	Democratic Caucus	Closed	25	
American Samoa	March 8, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Open		6
Hawaii	March 8, 2016	February 16, 2016	Republican Caucus	Closed		16
Idaho	March 8, 2016	December 9, 2015	Republican Primary	Closed		16
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Mississippi	March 8, 2016	January 9, 2016	Primary	Open	36	22
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Northern Marianas	March 12, 2016	TBD	Democratic Caucus	Closed	6	6
Virgin Islands	March 12, 2016	TBD	Republican Caucus	Open		6
Puerto Rico	March 13, 2016	TBD	Republican Primary	Open		20
Florida	March 15, 2016	December 15, 2015	Primary	Closed	207	91
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District of Columbia	June 14, 2016	March 15, 2016	Primary	Closed	17	16
Total					3696	1898

Sources:

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http://ballotpedia.org/important_dates_in_the_2016_presidential_race

Kyle Kondik and Geoffrey Skelley, Sabato's Crystal Ball (accessed October 17, 2015);

<http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/the-real-presidential-deadlines/>

*The Green Papers: Democratic Detailed Delegate Allocation - 2016 (accessed October 17, 2015)

<http://thegreenpapers.com/P16/D-Alloc.phtml>

**The Green Papers: Republican Detailed Delegate Allocation - 2016 (accessed October 17, 2015)

<http://thegreenpapers.com/P16/R-Alloc.phtml>

Democratic National Convention Delegates = 4,483; Republican National Convention Delegates = 2,470

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>
1-Mar-2016	1,001 (22%)	572 (23%)
5-Mar-2016	1,114 (25%)	706 (29%)
8-Mar-2016	1,308 (29%)	818 (33%)
15-Mar-2016	1,951 (44%)	1,158 (47%)
26-Mar-2016	2,180 (49%)	1,217 (49%)

**Estimated Allocation
Sorted Alphabetically**

Rank	(sort) State	Pledged Delegate Votes				Unpledged Delegate Votes						(sort) Total Delegate Votes
		District Delegate Votes	At- Large Delegate Votes	PLEO Delegate Votes	(sort) Total Pledged Delegate Votes	DNC Members	Senate	House	Governor	Distin- guished Party Leaders	(sort) Total Unpledged Delegate Votes	
1	Alabama	34	11	7	52	5		1			6	58
2	Alaska	9	3	2	14	4					4	18
3	American Samoa		6		6	4					4	10
4	Arizona	41	14	8	63	8		4			12	75
5	Arkansas	21	7	4	32	5					5	37
6	California	264	88	53	405	29	2	39	1		71	476
7	Colorado	42	14	8	64	7	1	3	1	1	13	77
8	Connecticut	33	11	7	51	5	2	5	1	1	14	65
9	Delaware	11	4	2	17	5	2	1	1	1	10	27
10	Democrats Abroad		12	1	13	4					4	17
11	District of Columbia	11	4	2	17	16	2	1	1		20	37
12	Florida	135	45	27	207	19	1	10		1	31	238
13	Georgia	64	21	13	98	9		4		1	14	112
14	Guam		6		6	4		1			5	11
15	Hawaii	14	5	3	22	4	2	2	1		9	31
16	Idaho	13	4	3	20	4					4	24
17	Illinois	104	35	21	160	19	1	9		1	30	190
18	Indiana	46	15	9	70	6	1	2			9	79
19	Iowa	30	10	6	46	7		1			8	54
20	Kansas	22	7	4	33	4					4	37
21	Kentucky	31	10	6	47	4		1	1		6	53
22	Louisiana	35	12	7	54	6		1			7	61
23	Maine	17	5	3	25	4		1			5	30
		The District (16.5 rounded to 17) and At-Large (5.5 rounded to 5) rounding was done to favor the District Delegates.										
24	Maryland	51	17	10	78	17	2	7		1	27	105
25	Massachusetts	62	21	12	95	12	2	9		3	26	121
26	Michigan	87	29	17	133	12	2	5			19	152
27	Minnesota	51	17	10	78	7	2	5	1	1	16	94
28	Mississippi	23	8	5	36	4		1			5	41
29	Missouri	49	16	10	75	8	1	2	1	1	13	88
30	Montana	10	3	2	15	5	1		1		7	22
31	Nebraska	17	6	3	26	4		1			5	31
32	Nevada	20	7	4	31	6	1	1			8	39
33	New Hampshire	16	5	3	24	5	1	1	1		8	32
34	New Jersey	72	24	14	110	8	2	6			16	126
35	New Mexico	19	6	4	29	4	2	2		1	9	38
36	New York	152	51	30	233	21	2	18	1	2	44	277
37	North Carolina	70	23	14	107	10		3			13	120
38	North Dakota	9	3	2	14	4	1				5	19
39	Northern Marianas		6		6	4		1			5	11
40	Ohio	97	32	19	148	11	1	4		1	17	165
41	Oklahoma	25	8	5	38	4					4	42
42	Oregon	34	11	7	52	5	2	4	1		12	64
43	Pennsylvania	104	35	21	160	13	1	5	1	1	21	181
44	Puerto Rico	33	11	7	51	5		1	1		7	58
45	Rhode Island	14	5	3	22	4	2	2	1		9	31
46	South Carolina	33	11	7	51	5		1			6	57
47	South Dakota	10	3	2	15	4				1	5	20
48	Tennessee	44	15	9	68	6		2		1	9	77
49	Texas	136	45	27	208	18		11			29	237
50	Unassigned					1					1	1
51	Utah	16	5	3	24	4					4	28
52	Vermont	10	3	2	15	4	1	1	1	1	8	23
53	Virgin Islands		6		6	4		1			5	11
54	Virginia	62	21	12	95	11	2	3	1		17	112
55	Washington	56	19	11	86	7	2	6	1		16	102
56	West Virginia	17	6	3	26	7	1		1		9	35
57	Wisconsin	52	17	10	79	6	1	3			10	89
58	Wyoming	8	3	2	13	4					4	17
	Totals	2,438	847	486	3,769	436	46	192	20	20	714	4,483

Republican Detailed Delegate Allocation - 2016
Sorted Alphabetically

Rank	(sort) State	Electoral		Party Leaders	Bonus Delegates							(sort) Pre-Penalty SubTotal	Penalty	(sort) Total Delegates
		At-Large Delegates	(sort) District Delegates		President	Governor	U.S. Senate	U.S. House	One Chamber	All Chambers	(sort) Total Bonus			
1	Alabama	10	21	3	10	1	2	1	1	1	1	16	50	50
2	Alaska	10	3	3	7		2	1	1	1	1	12	28	28
3	American Samoa	6		3									9	9
4	Arizona	10	27	3	12	1	2	1	1	1	1	18	58	58
5	Arkansas	10	12	3	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	15	40	40
6	California	10	159	3									172	172
7	Colorado	10	21	3			1	1	1	1	1	3	37	37
8	Connecticut	10	15	3									28	28
9	Delaware	10	3	3									16	16
10	District of Columbia	16		3									19	19
11	Florida	10	81	3		1	1	1	1	1	1	5	99	99
12	Georgia	10	42	3	15	1	2	1	1	1	1	21	76	76
13	Guam	6		3									9	9
14	Hawaii	10	6	3									19	19
15	Idaho	10	6	3	7	1	2	1	1	1	1	13	32	32
16	Illinois	10	54	3		1	1					2	69	69
17	Indiana	10	27	3	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	57	57
18	Iowa	10	12	3		1	2	1	1	1	1	5	30	30
19	Kansas	10	12	3	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	15	40	40
20	Kentucky	10	18	3	10		2	1	1	1	1	14	45	45
21	Louisiana	10	18	3	10		2	1	1	1	1	15	46	46
22	Maine	10	6	3		1	1	1	1	1	1	4	23	23
23	Maryland	10	24	3		1						1	38	38
24	Massachusetts	10	27	3		1	1					2	42	42
25	Michigan	10	42	3		1		1	1	1	1	4	59	59
26	Minnesota	10	24	3					1			1	38	38
27	Mississippi	10	12	3	9		2	1	1	1	1	14	39	39
28	Missouri	10	24	3	11		1	1	1	1	1	15	52	52
29	Montana	10	3	3	7		1	1	1	1	1	11	27	27
30	Nebraska	10	9	3	8	1	2	1	1	1	1	14	36	36
31	Nevada	10	12	3		1	1	1	1	1	1	5	30	30
32	New Hampshire	10	6	3			1	1	1	1	1	4	23	23
33	New Jersey	10	36	3		1		1				2	51	51
34	New Mexico	10	9	3		1			1			2	24	24
35	New York	10	81	3					1			1	95	95
36	North Carolina	10	39	3	14	1	2	1	1	1	1	20	72	72
37	North Dakota	10	3	3	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	28	28
38	Northern Marianas	6		3									9	9
39	Ohio	10	48	3		1	1	1	1	1	1	5	66	66
40	Oklahoma	10	15	3	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	15	43	43
41	Oregon	10	15	3									28	28
42	Pennsylvania	10	54	3			1	1	1	1	1	4	71	71
43	Puerto Rico	20		3									23	23
44	Rhode Island	10	6	3									19	19
45	South Carolina	10	21	3	10	1	2	1	1	1	1	16	50	50
46	South Dakota	10	3	3	7	1	2	1	1	1	1	13	29	29
47	Tennessee	10	27	3	12	1	2	1	1	1	1	18	58	58
48	Texas	10	108	3	28	1	2	1	1	1	1	34	155	155
49	Utah	10	12	3	9	1	2	1	1	1	1	15	40	40
50	Vermont	10	3	3									16	16
51	Virgin Islands	6		3									9	9
52	Virginia	10	33	3				1	1	1	1	3	49	49
53	Washington	10	30	3					1			1	44	44
54	West Virginia	10	9	3	8		1	1	1	1	1	12	34	34
55	Wisconsin	10	24	3		1	1	1	1	1	1	5	42	42
56	Wyoming	10	3	3	7	1	2	1	1	1	1	13	29	29
Totals		560	1,305	168	247	29	55	36	39	31	437	2,470		2,470
Rank	State	At-Large Delegates	District Delegates	Party Leaders	President	Governor	U.S. Senate	U.S. House	One Chamber	All Chambers	Total Bonus	Pre-Penalty SubTotal	Penalty	Total Delegates

Bonus Delegate Detail

Bonus delegates are awarded to states who elect Republican Senators, Republican President Electors, Republican Governors, Republican U.S. House Members, and Republican controlled state legislatures.

Republican National Committee

Primaries

The RNC overhauled some of its rules leading into the 2016 presidential primary following what party leaders and strategists saw as a primary campaign that lasted too long, lowering 2012 candidate Mitt Romney's chances of winning in the general election. The committee voted in January 2014, by a vote of 153-9, to move the convention from the end of August, when it was held last year, to as much as two months earlier at the end of June. The 2016 convention will be held July 18-21, 2016.

In order to accomplish such a change, new penalties were introduced to encourage states to hold their campaign events earlier in the year. Additionally, the system of awarding delegates in primaries was changed for primaries held before March 14, 2016. The new rules stated that no primary held before March 14 could award delegates based on the "winner-take-all" system, instead the delegates were to be distributed in proportion to each candidate's support in order to stop any candidate from essentially winning the nomination in early March 2016. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus explained the reasoning, stating, "We have been saying for months that we were no longer going to sit around and allow ourselves to slice and dice our nominee for six months."^{[7][8]}

Debates

Another strategy implemented by the RNC was lowering the number of primary debates from the 20 that took place in 2012. Those familiar with the discussions claimed the new number of Republican debates would be between six and ten, with the intention of having each of the major television networks carry at least one of the debates. The RNC also discussed the idea of adding conservatives to the panels of moderators, potentially resulting in less fiery debates with easier questions, an idea that the networks were open to working with. The final change to debates was aimed at discouraging non-sanctioned debates, by barring candidates participating in them from being a part of the sanctioned debates. While big name candidates would not likely be impacted by the change, it would potentially make it harder for lesser known candidates to break through.^[9]

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