

Virginia's Delegate Selection Process On August 25, 2008, Democrats will convene in Denver, Colorado to nominate the next President of the United States. Virginia's delegation will include 103 delegates and 14 alternates. This brochure briefly describes the process for selection of that delegation and how Virginia Democrats can participate in that process. To obtain more detailed information, including the Virginia Delegate Selection Plan and a workshop presentation, contact the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) at 804-644-1966 or www.vademocrats.org.

Process Summary Virginia will hold a Presidential Preference Primary on February 12, 2008, that will determine the allocation of State and National Convention delegates. Cities and counties will hold caucuses on April 19 or 21 to elect 2000 delegates (and 1000 alternates) to congressional district conventions and the State Convention. These delegates and alternates will attend congressional district conventions on May 10, 17 or 24 and choose 4-6 National Convention delegates (most districts will also choose one alternate). The same state delegates/alternates will attend a State Convention on June 14 in Hampton, Virginia to elect another 31 National Convention Delegates and 4 Alternates.

Get Involved! YOU can participate by registering to vote, volunteering for your favorite campaign (and your local Democratic committee!), seeking to be a congressional district and State Convention delegate, and even running for a National Convention delegate position. The DPVA is committed to an open and inclusive delegate selection process and we encourage YOUR participation.

Step 1 – Register to Vote If you are a Virginia resident who will be 18 years of age by the fall

election, you can register to vote in the primary. Contact your local registrar or the Virginia State Board of Elections (www.sbe.va.us; 804/786-6551; toll free 800-552-9745)

Step 2 – Volunteer Contact the DPVA to get the Virginia contact information for the presidential campaigns and help them organize for the primary. You can also volunteer for your local Democratic committee and help build our party from the ground up.

Step 3 – Presidential Primary The Primary will be held on February 12, 2008 with voting at your usual precinct voting place from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any registered voter may participate, but voters' names will be entered in the Democratic poll book.

The Presidential Primary Result totals will be used to allocate district/State Convention delegates & National Convention delegates. However, to receive either State or National Convention delegates, a candidate must receive 15% of the primary vote. State Party will provide lists to each jurisdiction with the numbers of district/State Convention and National Convention delegates and alternates committed to each candidate.

Step 4 – City or County Caucuses City and county caucuses will elect district/State Convention delegates and alternates. Cities and counties may hold assembled or unassembled caucuses on April 19, 12:00 noon or April 21, 7:30 p.m. Localities may also provide for absentee voting on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. Delegate and alternate candidates must prefile on April 14 or 16. Caucuses must be publicized and locations must be accessible.

Jurisdictions will have a list of the number of delegates allocated to each presidential candidate.

Slate voting is permitted and if only enough delegates pre-file, the local party can cancel the caucus. (Note that some jurisdictions may use city or county conventions as an intermediate step.)

To participate in a city or county caucus, you must (1) be a registered voter, (2) reside in the jurisdiction, and (3) sign a Democratic pledge form. You must prefile to run as a district/State Convention delegate. Participation in the delegate selection process is free; however, there is a voluntary administrative fee for each delegate and alternate candidate to cover caucuses and convention expenses.

Step 5 – District and State Conventions – National Convention Delegate Elections Congressional District Conventions will be held on May 10, 17 or 24 and each convention will select 4 delegates (1st, 2nd, 6th, 10th CDs), 5 delegates (4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th CDs), or 6 delegates (3rd, 8th CDs), and most CDs will also choose 1 alternate. The filing deadlines are April 25, May 2, or May 9. The State Convention will be held on June 14 in Hampton and will elect 18 at large delegates, 3 at-large alternates and 13 Party Leader and Elected Official (PLEO) delegates. The filing deadline is June 2. Virginia's delegation will also include 14 unpledged PLEO (automatic) delegates.

Virginia's National Convention Delegation will be equally divided between men and women at the Congressional District and State levels. Presidential candidates have the right to approve or disapprove all National Delegate candidates. Because the delegate allocations are based on the primary results, all delegates and alternates (with the exception of 2 unpledged delegates elected at the State Convention) must be committed to a presidential candidate; there will be no "uncommitted" delegates.

Affirmative Action To encourage full participation by all Democrats in the delegate selection process, the DPVA has adopted an affirmative action program that includes contacting constituency organizations and holding outreach seminars and workshops. All meetings of the DPVA are open and discrimination is prohibited.

The DPVA encourages all Democrats to become involved in the delegate selection process and continue to be involved with the Democratic Party and support its candidates.

Virginia Delegate Selection Process

Key dates – 2008

- Jan. 14 – Voter registration deadline
- Feb. 12 – Primary
- Apr. 14 or 16 – caucus filing deadline
- Apr. 19 or 21 – city and county caucuses
- Apr. 25, May 2 or 9 – National Delegate filing deadline for district conventions
- May 10, 17 or 24 – District Conventions
- June 2 – At-Large, PLEO filing deadline
- June 14 – State Convention

Authorized and Paid for by the Democratic Party of Virginia

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NOMINATING A DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT

Virginia's Democratic National Convention Delegate Selection Process and Your Part In It



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