

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2008 DELEGATE SELECTION PROCESS IN COLORADO**

(This plan is subject to final approval by the DNC)

Democrats from all across America will come together in Denver, Colorado, August 25-28, 2008 for the 45<sup>th</sup> Democratic National Convention. This unparalleled event will present to the country our party's nominees for president and vice president and highlight the hard work Democrats have done to chart a new direction in America. The 2008 National Convention will put our presidential nominee on the path to victory in the November 2008 general election.

### **The Delegate Selection Process**

- A. The plan Delegate Selection Plan written by the Colorado Democratic Party must comply with the rules adopted by the national party that provides guidelines to ensure a fair and open process;**
- B. Any registered Democrat who is interested in becoming a delegate should contact the Colorado Democratic Party for a copy/summary of the plan including the application form. This document will be posted on the Colorado Democratic Party website ([www.coloradodems.org](http://www.coloradodems.org));**
- C. In order to ensure representation by the various constituencies of our party, Colorado will conduct education, outreach and training on the process beginning in September 2007.**
- D. A preference poll must be taken at the precinct caucus for the election of delegates to the county convention and at the county convention for the election of delegates to the congressional district convention(s) and state convention. The presidential preference poll shall be taken and delegates and alternates apportioned on the basis of fair reflection of candidate support.**
- E. In order to participate in the "caucus" process, voters must be registered as a Democrat by December 5, 2007.**
- F. In presidential election years only, there are two nominating processes: an ASSEMBLY is used to nominate candidates to local, state and national positions (US Senate, congressional seats, State House, State Senate, District Attorney, State Board of Education, University of Colorado Regents), and a CONVENTION process to elect presidential electors, and electing delegates to the national convention for the sole purpose of selecting the nominees for president and vice president.**

### **The Caucus-Assembly-Convention System**

Colorado uses a two-part process to determine delegates/alternates to the next level of participation. The Assembly process as defined above will determine the candidate (s)

who will be listed on the August primary ballot. The convention process determines the delegates and alternates to other conventions (i.e. county, congressional, and state) for the sole purpose of electing delegates/alternates to the national convention and the selection of presidential electors.

To begin this process, Colorado uses the caucus systems, which are local meetings of Democrats in precincts throughout the state. Each county party will establish its precinct meeting location and should be contacted to locate specific precinct meeting places.

Caucus attendees must meet the following qualifications:

1. A registered voter by December 5, 2007;
2. Affiliated with the Democratic Party by December 5, 2007;
3. Resident in their precinct for 30 days prior to February 5, 2008
4. Turned 18 years of age or became a naturalized citizen and registered to vote during the two months preceding February 5, 2008.

The caucus begins promptly at 7:00pm on February 5, 2008. Latecomers may take part in any business that occurs after they arrive, but may not vote on business completed before their arrival. No attendees may be added after the caucus adjourns.

The caucus has three basic tasks: 1) to elect Delegates/Alternates to the County Assembly and Convention; 2) to elect two precinct committee people for 2-year terms; and 3) to vote on proposed platform issues.

In order to be eligible to become a delegate or alternate to either the County Assembly and/or County Convention, you must meet the above basic qualifications and attend your caucus and be elected to the next level of participation. Some counties require a physical attendance at your caucus, but others will permit you to submit in writing a request to be considered as attending. If you are unable to attend, the precinct must accept your request to be considered as physically attending.

### **County Assembly/Convention**

County assemblies and conventions will be held between February 20, 2008 and March 18, 2008. The county convention will select delegates to the congressional district and the state conventions. The county assembly held at the same meeting will choose which candidates will make the ballot for the August primary election. Most county assemblies will elect delegates to various district assemblies.

You must be elected as a delegate or alternate to the county assembly and/or convention in order to be elected to the congressional assembly/convention, and you must be elected as a delegate to the state assembly and/or convention in order to participate as a national delegate.

Delegates to the assemblies and convention may or may not be the same individuals.

## Congressional District Conventions and Assemblies

Colorado's 7 congressional districts will hold conventions and assemblies between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>. The business of these convention meetings includes the nomination of a presidential elector (who casts one of the Colorado's electoral votes for president), and election of delegates to the national convention. The assembly meeting held at the same time will designate candidates for the August primary election (U.S. Congress, State Board of Education, CU Regent).

### Types of Delegates

#### **The following information pertains to the Convention Delegates/Alternates**

The national party allocates each state a certain number of delegates to the convention, based on its population and Democratic voting strength. Colorado has been allocated 70 delegates and 9 alternates. There are 5 types of delegates:

#### **A. District Level:**

1. Colorado is allocated 36 delegates in this category plus 7 alternates  
Congressional District 1: 3 males 3 females and 1 male alternate  
Congressional District 2: 3 males 3 females and 1 female alternate  
Congressional District 3: 2 males 3 females and 1 male alternate  
Congressional District 4: 3 males 2 females and 1 female alternate  
Congressional District 5: 2 males 2 females and 1 male alternate  
Congressional District 6: 2 males 3 females and 1 male alternate  
Congressional District 7: 3 males 2 females and 1 female alternate
  
2. These delegates will be elected at each respective Congressional District Convention to be held between May 3 and May 16<sup>th</sup>.  
  
Congressional District 1: May 10, 2008 LTD (tentative)  
Congressional District 2: May 10, 2008 LTD (tentative)  
Congressional District 3: May 16, 2008 Colorado Springs (tentative)  
Congressional District 4: May 16, 2008 Colorado Springs (tentative)  
Congressional District 5: May 16, 2008 Colorado Springs (tentative)  
Congressional District 6: Date and Location to be determined  
Congressional District 7: Date and Location to be determined
  
3. To run as a district-level delegate, an individual must be registered as a Democrat to vote within the district and must file a written declaration of candidacy and a signed "pledge" of support for a particular presidential candidate ("or uncommitted"). Forms will be available from the Colorado Democratic State Party after February 5, 2008.
  
4. The name of each person who files to run as a delegate pledged to a presidential candidate will be given to the presidential candidate or their designated representative before the selection. Each candidate has the right to approve or disapprove anyone who signs a pledge for him or her.

Delegates should contact the respective campaign to express their desire to support and represent their selected candidate

5. All state plans provide for equal division between men and women.
6. Anyone interested in being elected as a delegate from the Congressional District Convention must file a **Statement of Candidacy**. The filing deadline for submitting to the State Party is April 17, 2008 at 5:00pm.

**B. Pledged “Party Leaders and Elected Officials” (PLEO)**

1. Colorado is allocated 7 pledged party leader and elected officials (PLEO) delegates. This category includes big city mayors and statewide elected officials (to be given equal consideration); state legislative leaders; state legislators; other state, county and local elected officials and party leaders.
2. To participate in this category, individuals must have filed a Statement of Candidacy and the filing deadline for submitting to the state party is April 17, 2008 at 5:00pm MDT. These delegates will be elected at the state convention in Colorado Springs on May 17, 2008. There are no alternates for this category.

**C. Unpledged Delegates**

1. Members of the DNC, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, Democratic Governor, and “Distinguished Party Leader” who all reside in the State of Colorado will be confirmed by the DNC. This group has no alternates.

**D. At-Large Delegates**

1. Colorado has 12 at-large delegates and 2 alternates who will be elected at the state convention on May 17, 2008 in Colorado Springs. Candidates for this delegate position must file a Statement of Candidacy with the state party no later than 5:00pm MDT on April 17, 2008.

**E. Unpledged Add-on**

1. Colorado has 1 unpledged add-on who will be elected at the State Convention on May 17, 2008 in Colorado Springs. Individuals for this position will be nominated by the State Party officers (Chair, Vice Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and by DNC members who submit the nomination in writing to the State Party no later than April 17, 2008, 5:00pm MDT.

**State Assembly/Convention**

The state assembly/convention will be held on May 17, 2008 in Colorado Springs at the World Arena. The assembly will nominate a candidate for U.S. Senate or other statewide

positions. The Convention will complete the filling of the delegates to the National Convention.

The delegates at the State Convention will be responsible for ensuring the equal division between men and women, meeting or exceeding the goals of diversity established by the Outreach Commission.

**The Outreach Commission goals for establishing diversity are as follows:**

African-American	7
Hispanics	17
Native American	2
Asian/Pacific Americans	3
LGBT	4
People with Disabilities	4
Youth (18-35)	13

Additional information is available from the Colorado Democratic Party. The office is located at 777 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO 80204. The telephone number is 303-623-4762. The fax number is 303-623-2443. The complete Delegate Selection Plan will be posted on the Colorado Democratic Party website upon approval by the Rules Committee on the Democratic National Committee.

Remember to register to vote as a Democrat in a timely manner, attend your caucus, be elected to each level of participate. **For the most part, National Convention delegates are elected positions. You will need to campaign actively for these positions.**