



NEVADA
REPUBLICAN PARTY

CHAIRMAN MICHAEL J. MCDONALD

First in the West
Caucus Facts



Overview

- History/Nominating Process
- What is a caucus?
- Presidential Preference Poll
- Caucus Mechanics
- Caucus/Primary Advantages and Disadvantages
- Caucus Myths
- Final Words





Presidential Nominating Process

- Every office in the US is elected by direct vote of the people, except US President
- Presidential candidates are nominated by each party's national convention
- Delegates to the convention are bound by the results of caucuses or primaries in their state
- Presidents are elected by a vote of the electoral college



Presidential Nominating History in Nevada

- From 1864 until 1948, Presidential Electors were directly elected by the people.
- One exception: Democrats held a primary in 1912
- In 1949, legislation passed to have each party select their electors at their state convention
- Primary law was passed in 1953, but repealed in 1955



Presidential Nominating History in Nevada

- Primary law passed 1973; closed primaries held 1976 and 1980 on 4th Tuesday in May
- 1981 Legislature repealed primary law; from 1984 until now, closed caucuses used to bind party delegates
- Exception in 1996, when GOP took advantage of a one-time option for a mail in primary, passed in 1995 and expired 1997



What is a Caucus?

- A caucus is a gathering of neighbors and friends in any given precinct who:
 - Get together to discuss politics and the party platform
 - Elect delegates to the county convention
 - Cast their vote in the Nevada First in the West Presidential Preference Poll
- All Nevada caucuses will be held on February 8 at 5pm PST

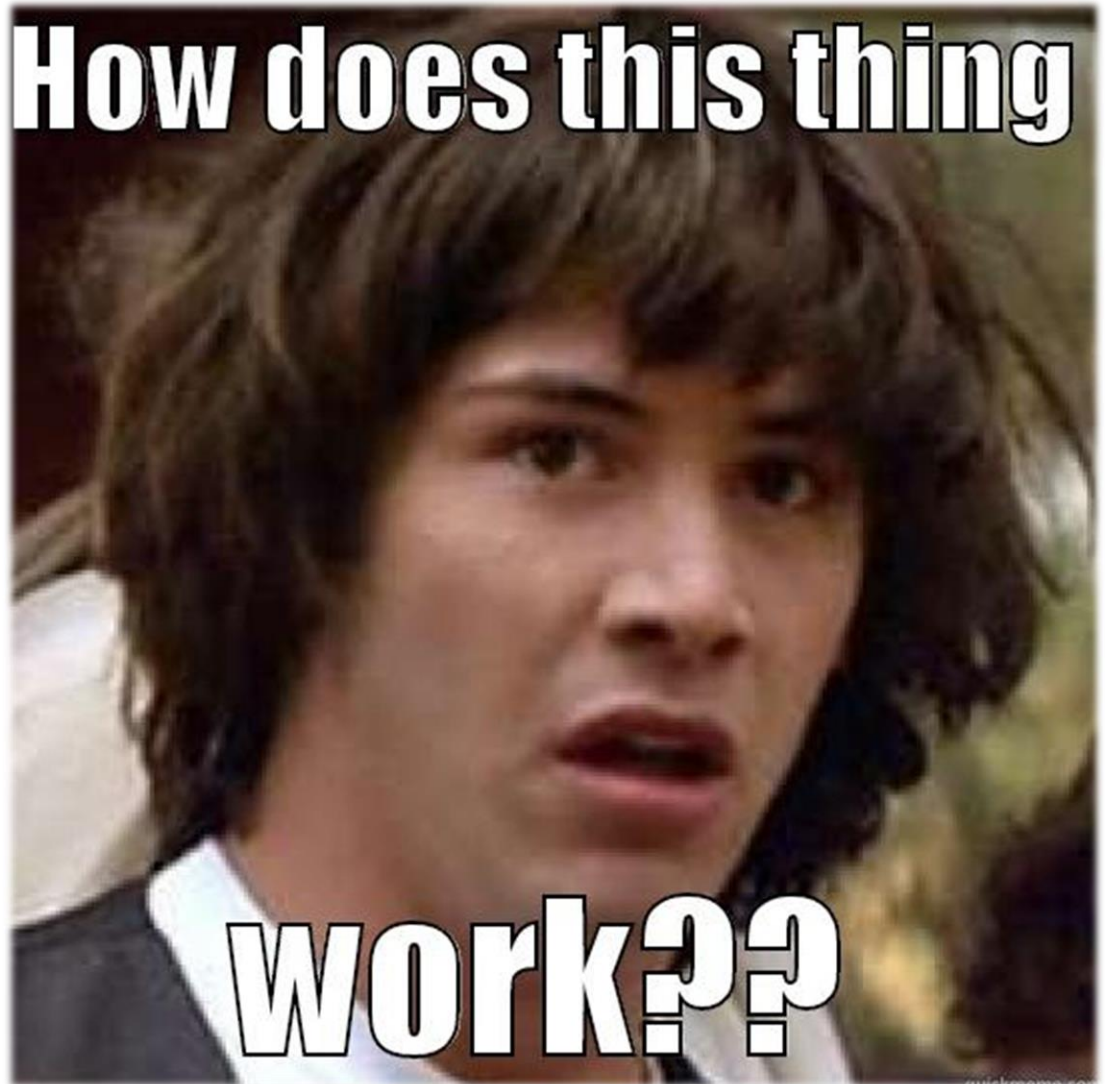


Caucus Goals

- Draw national attention, attract multiple presidential candidates, and brand Nevada as “First in the West” so that we continue to be a national attraction for candidates of both parties for years to come.
- Increase Republican voter registration.
- Build energy and excitement within the party and recruit activists for our 2024 nominee.
- Gather more voter information to sharpen and clean-up the voter file.
- Raise money to help facilitate a successful 2024 electoral cycle.
- Have safeguards on the electoral process because the Democratic Legislature failed to implement themselves.



How does this thing

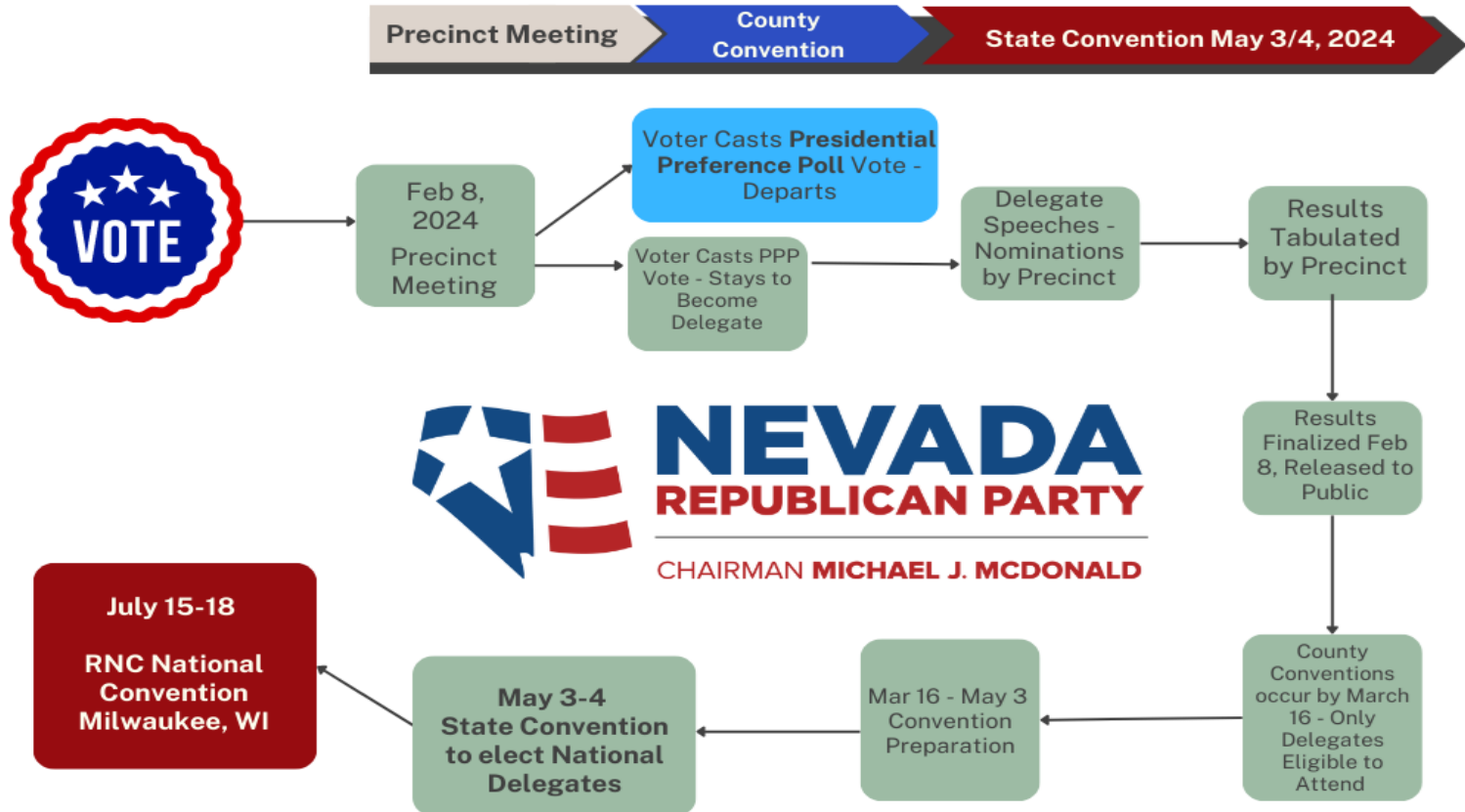


work???



PPP/Caucus Process

Nevada Caucus Process





Presidential Preference Poll

- Presidential preference polling will be done by secret paper ballot during the caucus.
- The results of the presidential preference poll will bind Nevada's delegates to support certain candidates during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July.
- Nevada's delegates will be bound proportionally by the statewide results.
- Altogether, Nevada gets 26 Delegates and 23 Alternate Delegates to the National Convention. These Delegates will be elected at the Nevada GOP convention in May.



Caucus Mechanics

- **Absentee voting** is available to members of the military and their dependents who are stationed outside their home county.
- **Organization:**
 - The caucuses and the accompanying presidential preference poll are run by the Nevada Republican Party and the county Republican parties.
 - A statewide Caucus Team coordinates the activities.
 - Location Captains are appointed for each caucus location. Typically, several precinct caucuses will be held at the same location.
 - Precinct Captains are first appointed and then elected to run each precinct caucus.



Caucus Mechanics

Candidate Qualification

Any Republican Presidential candidate who has paid the filing fee and remains in the race at the time ballots are printed will appear on the ballot.

If a candidate drops – whether before or after the Nevada caucuses – his or her votes will not count toward the delegate allocation, and will be reallocated to remaining candidates





Caucus Mechanics

- **Ballot Tabulation:**
 - Once balloting ends, Precinct Captains will count the results for their precinct in the presence of the attendees, record the results on an envelope, and then enclose the ballots in an envelope.
 - Each location will have a Teller Committee who will collect the balloting envelopes from the Precinct Captains, verify the count and sum up the results by location. Each candidate will be permitted to have official campaign observers during this process.
 - Once ballot totals are verified, the Location Captain will report the results to the county Republican parties and the Nevada Republican Party.
 - The Nevada Republican Party will publicly post results by county and precinct on the website so that all voters can confirm their vote was counted correctly.



WHY

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Caucus



Voter ID

Precinct Based Voting

Election Day Not Election Month

Paper Ballots

Transparent Tabulation

No Dark Money

Primary



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Caucus Advantages

Candidate and Voter Engagement

- ***Boots on the Ground:*** Campaigns must identify supporters and encourage their **ACTIVE** participation – recruit volunteers, join local central committees, attend county/state convention, etc.
- ***Active Campaigns:*** Candidates are motivated to actively campaign, make appearances, and engage directly with voters to be successful rather than just jamming our radio, TV and social media with commercials
- NVGOP is offering incentives to campaigns to encourage candidate events



Caucus Advantages

- . Cost is paid by Candidates,
not Taxpayers***
- . Potentially saves taxpayers
\$5,000,000!***



Caucus Advantages

Election Integrity

- ***100% Voter ID:*** All voters must show ID to participate
- ***No Universal Mail In Ballots:*** Absentee is allowed for military and families serving away from home
- ***PAPER BALLOTS!***
- ***Transparency:*** Tabulation and reporting happens in plain sight with a full chain of custody
- ***Same Day Results:*** Election Day, not Election Week



Primary Advantages

Taxpayer Funded, State Run

- Zero cost to the State Party, County Parties or campaigns.
- Taxpayers fund the estimated expense of \$5,000,000
- No effort for the party – the state does all the work



Caucus Disadvantages

Participation Requires Effort

- In-person attendance
- No mail in voting, except for military
- More work for the party - volunteer recruiting for site managers, precinct captains, etc.
- Only registered Republicans with ID can vote



Primary Disadvantages

Lack of Party Building Opportunity

- County parties still need to hold precinct meetings to elect delegates to their county conventions, county central committees, and to create the 2024 party platform
- Without the Presidential Preference Poll, precinct meeting attendance is far lower, which gives counties less opportunity to recruit volunteers, gather data and raise funds.





Caucus Myth 1:

The Caucus takes too long!

- If a voter stays for the whole caucus, usually the maximum time commitment is an hour, maybe an hour and a half.
- For those who don't want to invest that much time, the caucus offers a drop and go option.
- This makes the caucus much like the state-run Presidential Primary, except that the caucus requires voter ID and uses paper ballots.
- It is the most traditional form of democracy, where voters exchange ideas and decide on the best candidates.



Caucus Myth #2: State law prohibits the caucus

The Nevada Secretary of State and the Nevada Attorney General both argued in court that political parties have the right to use their own process to determine their nominee:

“The results of any PPP election are not binding on a major political party.....throughout the entire PPP election process, no major political party is required to do anything or be bound by any results.”

NVGOP vs. Aguilar, State’s Opposition to
Motion for Preliminary Injunction



Caucus Myth #3:

Caucus Turnout is Much Lower than Primary Elections

- 75,485 Republicans, 17.8%, participated in the 2016 Caucus
- The June 2016 Primary Election had 18.5% total turnout
- Universal Mail-In Ballots have not increased turnout:
 - 2018 Midterm turnout was 62.4%; 2022 was 54.7%
 - 2016 General Election was 76.7%; in 2020 it was 77.2%
 - 2012 General Election turnout was over 80%



Caucus Myth #4: The Caucus Wastes Party Funds

- The Nevada GOP doesn't use donor funds for the caucus – donations will be used to win in 2024!
- Caucus is paid for by candidates who will benefit by winning delegates
- \$55,000 fee is reduced to \$35,000 if candidates work with the state party on a fundraiser
- Idaho is \$50,000; South Carolina \$50,000; Iowa \$30,000
- Caucuses cost candidates much less than primaries, because grassroots work costs far less than media advertising



Caucus Myth #5: Caucus Ballot Fees are High

Source: FEC Campaign Finance Reports as of 6/30/2023

Candidate	Raised as of 6/30	Cash on Hand 6/30
Donald J Trump	\$35,987,476	\$22,516,390
Ron De Santis	\$20,487,494	\$12,240,123
Vivek Ramaswamy	\$19,164,680	\$9,030,639
Doug Burgum	\$11,768,300	\$3,653,939
Nikki Haley	\$10,468,903	\$6,813,533
Tim Scott	\$7,580,798	\$21,106,870
Chris Christie	\$1,656,386	\$1,590,173
Mike Pence	\$1,168,732	\$1,094,380
Asa Hutchinson	\$582,521	\$378,677



Final Words

“First, it is indisputable that mail-in ballots have a greater POTENTIAL for voter fraud than in-person voting, as well as a higher chance that your ballot might not be received (ever had a birthday card get lost in the mail?) or might not be counted for various reasons.

In fact, in the June (2020) primary election – which was an all-mail election – over 10,000 mail-in ballots weren’t counted when only 30% of voters cast a ballot. That number will surely skyrocket in the general election when far more people actually vote.”

- Chuck Muth, Muth’s Truth’s newsletter, August 5, 2020



Final Words, Part 2

“The change (to a primary) would also mean the cost of selecting the Republican and Democrat party nominees would be paid for by the state’s taxpayers instead of the major parties. This is a truly dumb idea being sold as a way to “increase voter participation”

Look, if voters can’t be bothered to show up at a caucus meeting and participate actively, not passively, in the candidate selection process, then they’re not serious and shouldn’t be taken as such.

Worse, they’re probably part of that portion of the electorate known as “low information voters”. Please explain to me how the Republic is strengthened by boosting the number of ill-informed and uninformed voters.”

- Chuck Muth, Silver State Confidential newsletter, April 6, 2015



A Parting Thought

**I'm from the government
and I'm here to help.**

