

COUNTY / SENATE DISTRICT CONVENTION 101: What to Expect

Are you wondering what to expect at your County / Senate District Convention? For the official documents of specific proceedings, visit the Texas Democratic Party Website (www.TxDemocrats.org) and view the 2008 delegate plan.

Basic Information

WHEN: Saturday, March 29, 2008

TIME & LOCATION: Time and location varies by County / Senate District Convention. Please check the tx.barackobama.com website for the latest details on when and where your County / Senate District Convention will occur.

REGISTRATION: Each county or senate district is different, and most have the registration period beginning several hours before the convention. Generally, delegates to the County / Senate District Conventions will be given their credentials and seated at the convention site before the convention begins, with alternates taking the vacant delegate spots. Thus it is incredibly important that all Obama delegates and alternates attend. Again, for registration details for your convention, please find your county specific information by going to:
<http://Texas.BarackObama.com/TXCountyConvention>

TIME COMMITMENT: You should anticipate a time commitment of three to four hours.

There are TWO important votes for Senator Obama that will occur at the Convention. The most important vote will be within the first hour of the convention when a Presidential Preference Poll is conducted to determine the allocation of the delegates from your convention to the State Convention on behalf of Senator Obama and Senator Clinton. This allocation depends on the number of delegates at the County Convention; thus it is important that you are there.

You should also plan to stay at the Convention to vote and elect specific Obama delegates from your precinct - a process that occurs immediately after the poll. If you do not stay to elect Obama delegates, the percentage allocation of delegates to the State Convention could change. These are the MOST IMPORTANT votes that will occur at the Convention for Senator Obama.

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT: If you are a Delegate and unable to attend, it is very important to find someone who was elected as an Alternate to go in your place to the County / Senate District Convention. The substitution process is simple. Give your Alternate a short note that they will use to pick up your credential. The note should read something like:

"I, Joe Smith, delegate for Barack Obama in Precinct 266, appoint John Doe, an Obama Alternate from Pct 266 to take my seat at this County Convention."

Please make sure to sign and date the note. Then, at the Convention, John Doe simply presents the note to pick up the Delegate credential.

Note: If you need assistance finding an Alternate substitute, we can identify one for you. Please work with your Obama for America field organizer or Delegation Chair if you need assistance in identifying that person. If you have an emergency on the morning of the Convention, you should contact your Delegation Chair, so they will be prepared to select an Alternate to replace you when the Convention convenes.

All Obama alternates should attend their Conventions whether or not they have been given a note to pick up the credential.

Convention Procedure

ARRIVAL / CREDENTIALING: Delegates elected at their Precinct Conventions may participate in their County / Senate District Convention. The sign in and credentialing process will take place at the convention site before the convention begins. The time at which the registration opens and the credentialing process begins is adopted locally at each convention. To find your county specific information please visit <http://Texas.BarackObama.com/TXCountyConvention>.

Obama Alternates should attend their County / Senate District Convention to fill spots vacated by delegates who do not show up. If a delegate does not show, the delegation will seat alternates of the same presidential preference. If alternates of the same presidential preference are not present, alternates of the opposite presidential preference may take the seats. Alternates will be seated before the convention is called to order.

CALL TO ORDER / CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT: When the Convention is called to order, the temporary Chair will call for the Credentials Committee to give their report

to set the permanent roll. Upon adoption of the rolls, each Convention will elect a Permanent Chair and a Permanent Secretary.

PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE POLL: Next, the Permanent Chair will call for a poll or vote to be taken to determine the level of support for each Presidential Preference. This will be a public vote. There are no secret ballots at this convention. The poll may be conducted by a show of hands or a standing vote in smaller counties; it may have been done by the "sign in" sheets at the time of credentialing (similar to the sign-in poll done at the Precinct Conventions); and in larger conventions, a printed ballot may be used as long as the ballots are signed. Regardless of the method selected, the purpose of this poll is to determine the number of delegates that will attend the State Convention for Senator Obama.

ANNOUNCING RESULTS: The Chair will announce the percentage of votes cast for each Presidential candidate (and for "Uncommitted" which is always treated as a presidential preference). The Chair will also announce the number of Delegates and Alternates allocated to each Presidential Candidate.

ELECT DELEGATES IN PRECINCT CAUCUSES: The Chair will then call for Precinct caucuses to elect delegates from each precinct. Each precinct's Delegation Chair will conduct an election for State Delegates and Alternates in your precinct. You must be present at the Convention to elect Obama delegates from your precinct. If you are not present, the allocation of delegates may change from the results of the poll.

Your precinct will elect one delegate and alternate for each 120 votes for Chris Bell in the 2006 gubernatorial election. Another way to think about this is that your County will get one State Delegate and one Alternate for each 12 delegates meeting in your Precinct caucus, always rounding down. For example, if you have 24 people caucusing, you will elect 2 delegates and two alternates. If you have 47, you elect 3 delegates and 3 alternates, because you round down.

Scenario I	Scenario II
24 Caucus Delegates	47 Caucus Delegates
Divide 24 by 12 = 2	Divide 47 by 12 = 3.92
2 County or Senate District Delegates	3 County or Senate District Delegates

2 County or Senate District Alternates

(always round down) 3 County or Senate District Alternates
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NOTE: PRECINCTS WITH LESS THAN 12 DELEGATES: If your precinct has less than 12 delegates elected to the County / Senate District Convention, the Executive Committee will pair you with other small precincts to elect your allotted State Delegates and Alternates. Your County or Senate District Chair can tell you the precinct with which your precinct has been paired.

VOTING: To actually elect delegates, nominations are taken in an amount that is equal to or more than the total number of delegates and alternates to be elected. Thus, if you are supposed to elect 2 State Delegates and 2 State Alternates, you should take at least 4 nominations. Once the nominations are complete, each delegate present will cast one vote for one nominee. In the example above, the two persons receiving the highest votes are the Delegates and the next two are the Alternates.

You should work with your fellow delegates and delegation chair to pool your votes to elect the most possible Obama delegates to the State Convention. A well thought-out strategy will help ensure that we leave the conventions with the most possible delegates for Senator Obama.

If, after voting, there are one or more persons tied at the point determining the final delegate position and the first alternate position, you may use any game of chance to order the delegates. Alternatively, if there is an instance where there are Alternates who receive no votes, but there are Alternates still to be awarded, you may also use a game of chance to determine who among the remaining nominees fill these places. Whatever you do, do not leave any seats vacant.

Scenario I
24 Caucus Delegates
Divide 24 by 12 = 2
2 County or Senate District Delegates

Scenario II
47 Caucus Delegates
Divide 47 by 12 = 3.92
3 County or Senate District Delegates

<p>and</p> <p>2 County or Senate District Alternates</p>	<p>(always round down) and</p> <p>3 County or Senate District Alternates</p>
<p>Voting: All delegates vote at their County /Senate District Convention. The two highest vote getters will be slotted as County or Senate District Delegates. The 3rd and 4th highest vote getters are the Alternates.</p>	<p>Voting: All delegates vote at their County/Senate District Convention. The three highest vote getters will be slotted as County or Senate District Delegates. The 4th, 5th, and 6th highest vote getters are the Alternates.</p>

REPORTING RESULTS & THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: The results of the Precinct Caucuses are reported the Chair who refers them to the Nominations Committee. They cannot be changed.

Any person who was not selected as a Delegate or any Alternate selected by a precinct is eligible to be elected by the Nominations Committee to fill the remaining At Large Delegate and Alternate slots. If a Precinct level Alternate becomes an At Large Delegate, the Nominations Committee will select an additional Alternate to replace the precinct alternate.

AT-LARGE DELEGATES USED TO REFLECT THE PRESENTIAL POLL: The Nominations Committee is responsible for insuring that each nominee receives their share of delegates, as determined by the Presidential Preference Poll at the beginning of the County Convention. Significantly, the Committee cannot disturb or change the allocation of delegates for a particular candidate elected by the Precinct Caucuses. Instead, if a candidate wins more precinct delegates through the caucus than they were allocated by the poll, the Nominations Committee will use the At Large delegates to balance the overall allocation of delegates. It is possible that the results of precinct caucuses could alter the results of the poll if there are not enough At Large delegate spots.

Additionally, the Committee must use the At Large delegation to help meet the affirmative action goals for African American, Hispanic, Asian and Native Americans. The delegation must be composed of at least one third the opposite gender of the

majority. In addition, the goals of inclusion of disabled, youth and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered should be met.

RESOLUTIONS (nothing to do with Presidential nominating process): While the Nominations Committee meets, the Resolutions and Platform committee will be reporting resolutions to the full convention for adoption.

ADJOURN: Meeting concludes.

IMPORTANT DATES AND HELPFUL INFORMATION

1. March 29th—County and Senate District Conventions in every County (Counties with more than one Senate District meet using State Senate District Conventions)
2. June 6-8th—Democratic State Convention in Austin (Credentialing and election of National Delegates occurs on Friday, June 7th. You should plan to be in Austin and at the Convention center by noon.
3. August 25 – 28—Democratic National Convention, Denver, CO
4. Most conventions will have sports or arena types of food from vendors. Please plan accordingly if you have dietary concerns. Dress comfortably and wear appropriate shoes.
5. In many County / Senate District Conventions, we will have an Obama Delegate leader or staffer that will be responsible for being the convention day point person to answer questions or deal with any issues that arise. They will be the main point of contact for Obama delegates/alternates and strategy questions. If you do not have such a person available, you may call (512) 476-2008.

HOW CAN I BECOME A DELEGATE IN DENVER?

We strongly recommend you visit the Texas Democratic Party Website www.TxDemocrats.org and view the 2008 delegate plan. You must file a notarized application with the Texas Democratic Party. Forms are available on April 5, 2008 but cannot be turned in until April 21, 2008. The deadline to turn in your forms is exactly one month later, on May 21, 2008. If you do not file, you cannot run as a national delegate at the State Convention.

Attend your County / Senate District Convention after being elected a delegate (or being an elected alternate who fills an empty delegate spot) at your Precinct Convention. Be elected to serve as a delegate to the State Convention. Run for delegate at the State Convention and be elected to serve as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please visit www.Texas.BarackObama.com or email Texas@BarackObama.com. You may also reach an Obama for America representative by calling (512) 476-2008.

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