

"Best Guesses" as to Timing of Presidential Primaries
and Caucuses for 2008

State Laws & History: The Timing of Presidential Contests At A Glance			
State	Note	State	Note
Alabama	Legislation has been filed to move the State presidential primary to the Saturday immediately following the New Hampshire presidential primary. The legislation has passed the Alabama House and is now waiting action in the Senate. Current state law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in June.	Montana	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday following the first Monday of June.
Alaska	Traditionally, Alaska's first-tier precinct caucuses are held in mid-April.	Nebraska	State law provides for a presidential election on the first Tuesday following the second Monday of May.
Arizona	State law provides for a presidential primary election on the fourth Tuesday in February. Furthermore, Arizona law stipulates that the Governor may, by proclamation, set the date of the presidential preference primary, provided that he/she does so prior to 150 days before the new date of the "Presidential Preference Election." In accordance with state law, in 2003 Governor Napolitano issued a proclamation setting the date of the primary as the first Tuesday in February.	Nevada	Traditionally, Nevada's first-tier precinct caucuses are held in early March. However, in 2004, the caucuses were held on the second Tuesday in February.
Arkansas	Legislation has been filed to move the presidential preference primary to the first Saturday in February. Current state law provides for a presidential primary to be held three weeks prior to the second Tuesday in June.	New Hampshire	Pursuant to the Rules, New Hampshire was allowed to hold its primary seven days no more than seven days before the opening of the window.
California	The governor recently signed legislation moving the presidential primary to the second Tuesday in June.	New Jersey	Legislation has been filed to move the presidential preference primary to the last Tuesday in February. Current state law provides for a primary on the Tuesday following the first Monday of June.
Colorado	State law provides for a presidential primary on the Friday following the first Tuesday in March. The state government did not fund the primary in 2004, and the State Party was forced to hold a caucus system on the second Tuesday of April.	New Mexico	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in June. In 2004, for the first time, the State Party ran a caucus system on the opening day of the window. In 2005, the Governor vetoed legislation aimed at moving the date of the presidential preference primary to the Tuesday after the first Monday in June.
Connecticut	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March.	New York	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March.
Delaware	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in February. This was an adjustment for the 2004 cycle. Prior to that, state law required the primary to be held the Saturday immediately after the New Hampshire primary. In 1996 and 2000, the DNC required the State Party to hold a caucus system.	North Carolina	Legislation has been filed to move the presidential preference primary to the first Tuesday in February. Current state law provides for a presidential primary on the Tuesday following the first Monday in May.

Source: Democratic Party Commission on Presidential Timing and Scheduling, May 12, 2005.

State Laws & History: The Timing of Presidential Contests At-A-Glance™

State	Notes	State	Notes
District of Columbia	District law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday of January. This was changed in 2003 from the historical date of the first Tuesday in February. Since the date of the primary violated the window, the DNC required the DC State Party to hold a Party-run nominating event. This was held the second Tuesday in February.	North Dakota	Traditionally, North Dakota's first-tier precinct level caucuses are held in March. In 2004, the state held moved its caucuses to the opening of the window.
Florida	State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in March.	Ohio	Legislation has been filed to move the presidential preference primary to the first Monday in May. Current state law provides for a presidential primary on the Tuesday following the first Monday in March.
Georgia	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March.	Oklahoma	State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in March.
Hawaii	Traditionally, Hawaii's first-tier precinct caucuses are held in March, however in 2004, the State Party held them on the last Tuesday of February.	Oregon	State law provides for a vote-by-mail presidential primary on the third Tuesday in May, with ballots mailed to voters 20 days before the date of the election.
Idaho	State law provides for a presidential primary on the fourth Tuesday in May. However, the State Party has traditionally used a caucus system. In 2004, the caucus was held on the last Tuesday in February. In prior cycles, they were held the first Tuesday in March.	Pennsylvania	Legislation has been filed in the State Senate to move the primary to the second Tuesday in March. State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in April.
Illinois	State law provides for a presidential primary on the third Tuesday in March.	Rhode Island	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March.
Indiana	State law provides for a presidential primary on the Tuesday following the first Monday in May.	South Carolina	South Carolina Democrats held their Party-run primary on the first Tuesday in February 2004. In 2000, they held a caucus system on the Saturday after the opening of the window.
Iowa	Pursuant to the Rules, in 2004, Iowa was allowed to hold its first-tier precinct caucuses no more than 15 days before the opening of the window.	South Dakota	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in June.
Kansas	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in April. However, in 1996, 2000 and 2004 the state did not fund a presidential primary. Subsequently, the State Party held caucuses the second Saturday of March in 2004.	Tennessee	State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in February.
Kentucky	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday following the third Monday in May.	Texas	Texas Democrats use a combination presidential primary and caucus system. State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in March. Precinct conventions are also held on that same day.

State Party: The Timing of Presidential Contests All-Gate

	Yes	No
Louisiana	State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in March.	Utah Utah held its first presidential primary in 2000. State law provides for a presidential primary the Friday following the first Monday in March. In 2004, the state de-funded the presidential primary. Subsequently, the State Party held a Party-run Primary on the last Tuesday of February.
Maine	State held a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March in 1996 and 2000. Prior to that, Maine traditionally used a caucus process beginning with precinct caucuses the Saturday following the New Hampshire primary, pursuant to an exception allowed by the Rules. The State Party has voted to use a caucus process for 2004, however, there is no longer an exception for Maine to hold caucuses before the window.	Vermont State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March.
Maryland	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March.	Virginia State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in February.
Massachusetts	State law provides for a presidential primary on the first Tuesday in March.	Washington State law provides for a presidential primary on the fourth Tuesday in May. Furthermore, state law provides the Secretary of State the ability to convene a committee that has the power to unilaterally establish a new primary date. However, traditionally Washington State Democrats have used a caucus process. In 2004, the caucus was held on the Saturday immediately following the opening of the window.
Michigan	Traditionally, Michigan's caucuses, more commonly known as a "firehouse primary" have been held on Saturdays in mid-March. In 2004, in an agreement reached with the DNC Michigan held its party-run primary on the Saturday after the opening of the window.	West Virginia State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in May.
Minnesota	Traditionally, Minnesota's caucuses have been held in early March.	Wisconsin State law provides for a presidential primary on the third Tuesday in February. This was changed for 2004. Prior to that the primary was held the first Tuesday in April.
Mississippi	State law provides for a presidential primary on the second Tuesday in March.	Wyoming Traditionally, Wyoming's first-tier county conventions are held in late March.
Missouri	State law provides for a presidential primary the first Tuesday in February. State Democrats participated in a primary in 1988, 2000 and 2004. All other cycles, they used a caucus system beginning in early March.	American Samoa Traditionally, American Samoa's caucuses are held in March.
		Democrats Abroad Traditionally, Democrats Abroad country caucuses are held in March.
		Guam In 2000, Guam's caucus was held in March.
		Virgin Islands Traditionally, the Virgin Island's district caucuses are held in early March.