



Louisiana Democratic Party

2008 Democratic National Convention Delegate Selection Brochure

August 25-28, 2008
Denver, Colorado

The Democratic Party, both in Louisiana and Nationally is dedicated to encouraging the broadest participation possible by Democrats from all walks of life. Therefore, this brochure was prepared in an effort to provide a simple, easy to understand explanation of the process by which Democrats in Louisiana may become delegates to the 2008 Democratic National Convention which will be held in Denver, Colorado on August 25-28, 2008.

Louisiana has a total of 67 delegates and 9 alternates.

The Delegate Selection Plan for Louisiana provides for allocation of district-level delegate positions to presidential preferences through a proportional representation primary system. The primary will take place on February 9, 2008.

Candidates for thirty-seven (37) district level delegates and six (6) alternate positions will be elected in a post-primary Congressional District caucus on March 1, 2008. Seven (7) pledged party leader and elected official delegates will be selected by the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana on May 3, 2008. Twelve (12) at-large delegates and three (3) alternates will be selected by the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana on May 3, 2008. One (1) un-pledged add-on delegate will be chosen by the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana on May 3, 2008.

The delegate selection process is governed by the Delegate Selection Rules for the Democratic National Convention, the Regulations of the Rules and By-Laws Committee, the rules of the Louisiana Democratic Party, the Louisiana Election Code and this Delegate Selection Plan.

If after reading this document you still have questions, please feel free to call the Louisiana Democratic Party office at 225.336.4155, or write us at P.O. Box 4385, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

What is the purpose of the Presidential Preference Primary?

The names of all persons qualified as Democratic Presidential candidates along with a listing for uncommitted, should any such group qualify, will appear on the ballot on the February 9, 2008 primary in accordance with the state law. The results will be tallied on a congressional district basis as well as on a statewide basis.

Candidates for the thirty-seven (37) district level delegates positions and the six (6) district level alternate positions, who have signed a statement pledging their support to presidential candidate or the uncommitted status, will be elected in caucuses on March 1, 2008.

CD	Delegates	Alternates	Men	Women
1	4	1	2	2
2	5	1	3	2
3	6	1	3	3
4	5	1	2	3
5	6	1	3	3
6	5	1	3	2
7	6		3	3
Totals	37	6	19	18

In order to qualify to receive any district level delegates, a presidential candidate or the uncommitted bracket must reach a threshold of at least 15% of the votes cast at the primary in each congressional district. If no presidential candidate reaches the applicable threshold, the threshold shall be the percent of the vote received by the frontrunner minus 10%.

There are twelve (12) pledged at-large delegates and three (3) at-large alternates along with seven (7) pledged party and elected officials delegates to be elected by the Democratic State Central Committee on May 3, 2008. The Committee will also elect at least 1 un-pledged add-on delegate on May 3, 2008. In order to receive at-large or pledged party and elected official delegates, a presidential candidate or the uncommitted bracket must receive 15% of the votes cast statewide at the primary. In the selection of the at-large delegation, priority considerations shall be given to Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian-Americans, Women, and Gay & Lesbian. The election of at-large delegates shall be used if necessary, to achieve the equal division of positions between men and women, and shall be used to achieve the representation goals established by the Affirmative Action Committee.

Even though no delegates or alternates are elected directly at the primary, the results are used in order to determine the number of delegates a presidential candidate or the uncommitted bracket receives.

Who may qualify to run as a Delegate and how do I qualify?

Any registered Democrat may qualify as a delegate candidate. District level delegates are elected from throughout a congressional district. At-Large delegates are elected from throughout the state with no requirement that a certain number come from any certain area of the state. Persons eligible to be elected as a party and elected official delegate must be an elected official in the state of Louisiana.

To qualify, an individual should complete the qualifying form contained in this brochure and return it to the Louisiana Democratic Party Headquarters by 5:00p.m. on February 4, 2008. Qualifying forms for the at-large delegates must be received at the Louisiana Democratic Party Headquarters by no later than 5:00p.m. on April 4, 2008.

How Will Delegates and Alternates Actually Be Elected?

The thirty-seven (37) district level delegates and six (6) alternates will be elected on March 1, 2008, at caucuses held in each congressional district. When all voting locations have been secured, this information will be fully publicized.

The results of the February 9, 2008 primary will be used to determine the number of delegates and alternates the presidential or uncommitted bracket are entitled to receive from each congressional district. Persons desiring to vote in the caucus will go to the voting location established in their congressional district. Only registered Democrats may participate.

The voting locations will be open from 9:00a.m. until 5:00p.m. on March 1, 2008. After the close of voting, the sealed ballot box will be delivered to the person who is charged with collecting the ballots for a congressional district. All sealed ballot boxes along with sign-in sheets that will be in an envelope must be delivered to the Louisiana Democratic Party Headquarters on Monday, March 3, 2008 at noon. At 1:00p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2008, the ballots will be tabulated at a public meeting in the state party office located at 701 Government Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

The percentage of the vote received on a statewide basis by the presidential candidates will be used to determine the number of at-large and pledged party and elected official delegates and at-large alternates to which each is entitled. The delegates and alternates will be selected at the Democratic State Central Committee meeting on May 3, 2008. The un-pledged party and elected official delegates and alternates will also be chosen at that time.

The delegate selection slots will be awarded in the order of their election in the post-primary caucuses, equally between men and women as follows.

If presidential candidate is awarded an even number of delegate slots, the respective delegates and alternates will be allocated equally between male and females. If a presidential candidate is awarded an odd number of delegate slots, that candidates representative shall select the gender of the first slot to

be awarded in the district. This choice will establish a male/female pattern on which the remaining slots are to be filled. For example, if Candidate A wins three slots and Candidate B wins two slots, Candidate A establishes the pattern. If he chooses a male as his first choice, then the alternating pattern of male, female, male is established. Candidate A would be awarded 2 men and 1 woman, and Candidate B would be awarded 1 man and 1 woman. The presidential candidate representatives shall make the selection between male and female delegates following the presidential preference primary and the post primary caucus.

If I am an unsuccessful District Level Candidate, will I be permitted to qualify as an At-Large or PLEO Delegate?

Yes. All you would need to do is complete another qualifying form and submit to the Louisiana Democratic Party Headquarters by 5:00p.m. on April 4, 2008.

What is the Presidential Candidate Right of Approval?

At the close of qualifying for each delegate level, the Chair of the Louisiana Democratic Party will submit to the presidential candidates the names of all delegate candidate pledged to them. The presidential candidate will then submit a list of approval delegates candidates to the state chair, provided that approval be given to three times the number of delegate men to be elected and three times the number of delegate women to be elected. If less than this number have qualified as delegate candidates, all candidates are automatically approved.

If Elected, Will I Pay My Own Expenses?

YES. All delegates are totally responsible for his/her travel expenses incurred to participate in the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

Important Dates

February 4 - District-level delegate and alternate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.

February 9 - Presidential preference primary.

February 15 - Secretary of State certifies results of primary; pre-slated district-level delegates and alternates are allocated according to presidential preference.

March 1 - Primary congressional district caucuses slate district-level delegate and alternate candidates.

March 4 - State Party certifies elected district-level delegates and alternates to the Secretary of the Democratic National Committee.

April 4 - Pledged PLEO and at-large delegate or alternate candidate deadline for filing the statement of candidacy and pledge of support forms with State Party.

May 3 - State Central Committee convenes. Unpledged add-on and PLEO delegates selected. Following selection of PLEO delegates. State Central Committee selects at-large delegates and alternates. . National Convention delegation meeting. Delegate select National Convention standing committee members and delegation chair. State Chair names convention pages. State Party certifies remainder of elected delegates and alternates along with standing committee members, delegation chair, and convention pages.



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2008 Democratic National Convention

Qualifying Form

August 25-28, 2008
Denver, Colorado

****Please complete all information listed below and sign your form.**

Parish: _____ Congressional District: _____

On this, the _____ day of _____, 2008, I

Name (Please print or type): _____

Address (City, State, Zip): _____

Telephone (O): _____ (H): _____ (F): _____

Email: _____ (Cell): _____

I hereby notify the Chair of the Democratic State Central Committee of Louisiana that I will be a candidate for delegate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention pledged to: _____
(Presidential Candidate Name)
or _____ as an un-pledged delegate.

I wish to qualify as a candidate for delegate in the following category.

- _____ a. District Level _____ b. Un-pledged party & elected officials
- _____ c. At Large _____ d. Pledged party & elected official

I am a duly qualified elector of Ward _____, Precinct _____.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

****Please submit completed qualifying forms to the Louisiana Democratic Party Headquarters:
Physical Address: 701 Government Street, Baton Rouge LA 70802
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4385, Baton Rouge LA 70821**

For Office Use Only:

Received in the Louisiana Democratic Party Headquarters this _____ day of _____, 2008
at _____ o'clock _____ M by _____.