



HOW YOU CAN HELP PICK THE 2012 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

by Mark Brewer, Chair
Michigan Democratic Party

Michigan Democrats will have the historic opportunity to play a key role in nominating the 2012 Democratic Candidate for President.

This factsheet explains how you can help pick the 2012 Democratic Candidate for President.

1. Q: When and where will the Democrats nominate a Presidential Candidate?

A: Democrats will nominate their candidates for President and Vice-President and adopt a platform at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. The Convention will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on September 3-7, 2012.

2. Q: Who will represent Michigan at the National Convention?

A: Michigan will be represented by the largest delegation ever: 203 Delegates, 13 Alternates, 18 Convention Committee members and 5 Pages.

3. Q: How will that delegation be selected?

A: The delegation will be selected in 3 steps.

First, on Saturday, May 5, 2012, people can attend a Presidential Caucus in the county where they live to vote for their preferred candidate for President. Delegates to the National Convention will be apportioned among the presidential candidates based on the total vote for each presidential candidate from caucus sites.

Then, on June 2, 2012, 122 delegates and 10 alternates will be elected at 15 Congressional District Conventions based on the results of the May 5, 2012 Caucuses.

Finally, on June 23, 2012, based on the results of the May 5, 2012 Caucuses, 61 delegates, 3 alternates, 18 Convention Committee members and 5 pages will be selected at a meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee.

All of these elected delegates, alternates, committee members and pages, together with 20 super-delegates – Michigan's 8 Federal lawmakers and 12 Democratic National Committee Members – will make up Michigan's delegation to the National Convention.

4. Q: How will the May 5, 2012 caucuses work?

A: The caucuses will convene at 11 A.M. EDT. Registration will open no later than 9 A.M. EDT. People wishing to participate must provide proper ID and complete a registration form, including a statement that the person registering is participating as a Democrat. Participants must be 18 years old by November 6, 2012. After the caucuses adjourn, results will be reported back to the Michigan Democratic Party that day and made public.

5. Q: How many caucus sites will there be?

A: There will be at least 200 caucus sites statewide, with at least one caucus site in every county. The sites are apportioned among the counties based on population and Democratic voting performance. Each site will serve a specific caucus zone. The people in each zone vote at the site for that zone. Any building may be used as a caucus site, except a private home. All of the sites must be accessible to people with disabilities.

6. Q: Who is in charge of the caucus sites?

A: The county and congressional district Democratic parties are in charge of locating, staffing and running the sites on May 5, 2012.

7. Q: How can I find out at which caucus site I vote?

A: You can vote only at the caucus site in the caucus zone where you live. Once the sites and zones are established in late January, 2012 the list will be given to the press, local party organizations and local clerks, published in the Michigan Democratic Party newsletter, posted on our website at www.michigandems.com and made available in other ways.

8. Q: Do I have to be a member of the Michigan Democratic Party in order to vote at a caucus site?

A: No. However, at the Caucus sites, everyone must publicly declare him or herself as a Democrat for purposes of voting in the Presidential Caucus.

9. Q: Can there be campaigning at caucus sites?

A: Yes, campaigning, collection of petition signatures and similar activity will be allowed under rules to be set out by the Michigan Democratic Party.

10. Q: Can I vote by mail?

A: You can vote by mail only if you have religious objections to voting on May 5, 2012. Applications will be available from the MDP in early 2012.

11. Q: How can I run for delegate or alternate to the National Convention?

A: To qualify as a candidate for delegate or alternate, an individual must file a "declaration of candidacy" form with the MDP. The forms will be available from the MDP starting January 6, 2012.

To run as a district level delegate or alternate, the declaration must be filed no later than 5:00 P.M. on May 7, 2012. To run as a state level delegate or alternate, the declaration must be filed by 5:00 P.M. on May 24, 2012. There are no exceptions to the deadlines. Presidential candidates have the right to approve all candidates for delegate or alternate pledged to them.

After a person timely files and is approved by a presidential candidate, they must campaign for election as a delegate or alternate at the congressional district or state level.

12. Q: Who is eligible to vote for delegates and alternates at the June 2, 2012 Congressional District Conventions?

A: Precinct delegates elected in August, 2010, certain nominees for county and legislative office and members of the Michigan Democratic Party who join the Party on or before May 3, 2012 are eligible to vote. No proxy votes are permitted. Party membership does not require a financial contribution.

13. Q: How can I join the Michigan Democratic Party?

A: You can join at our website: www.michigandems.com. You can also get a membership form by calling (517) 371-5410, faxing (517) 371-2056, or by writing 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933. Forms must be returned to the MDP at 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933.

14. Q: Who is eligible to vote for delegates and alternates at the June 23, 2012 State Central meeting?

State Central Delegates, Alternates, Michigan DNC Members, and MDP Officers and Officers-at-Large are eligible to vote. They all must be members of the MDP. There is no proxy voting.

15. Q: Who is in charge of this whole process?

A: MDP Chair Mark Brewer supervises the entire delegate selection process.

16. Q: How can I get more details on the whole process?

This document is simply a summary of some key issues and the Delegate Selection Plan is the official governing document. You can get a copy by visiting our website at www.michigandems.com, calling the MDP at (517) 371-5410, faxing (517) 371-2056, or writing 606 Townsend, Lansing, MI 48933.