

Path to the Presidency

1. "Invisible Primary"

☞ campaigning done by unofficial candidates
☞ appearances, etc

2.

☞ Usually at an or appearance

3. Phase

☞ Like "pennant race" to determine who will run in the general election (the "World Series")

☞ Geared toward the party's , where nominee is formally selected

☞ Some states use Method of sending delegates to national convention

☞ Local caucuses lead to district convention to state convention to national convention – each level selects to vote at next level

☞ always has first caucus – used as an indicator of candidates' expectations game, to help , etc.

☞ Other states use to select/ guide delegates – increased use in last

☞ Types of Presidential Primaries:

☞ Beauty Contest: vote for and select to attend convention either on basis or

☞ Delegate Selection: voters vote for to attend convention (Dems save % of seats for)

☞ of Beauty Contest/Delegate Selection

☞ always holds the first primary

☞ " Trend:" primaries are held earlier to maximize of

a state – in 2004, of pledged Dem delegates chosen within weeks of NH

☞ " : " many states hold primaries on same day early in election season; has morphed into situation where many states, Southern and non-Southern, have early primaries

☞ Harmful to races – CA tried having March primary in POTUS years and June in non-POTUS years, has switched to two primaries () in POTUS years

☞ : need to reach , need to contest – more pledged delegates at stake in , publicity helps in raising money, qualifying for

; with abolishment of unit rule (Dems), may as well enter if can win some % of delegates

☞ Big Mo, Baby: spend all \$ and time in , rely on to generate future success

☞ Intraparty primary fights fuel general election ("voodoo economics")

☞ NATIONAL CONVENTION (August)

☞ Selection of – mere formality since winner is known ahead of time based on states' caucus/primary results

☞ Emphasis on "image not scrimmage;" "ratification not nomination" –

☞ Selection of nominee – chosen by , rubber-stamped by convention – effort is made to

☞ Development of

☞ Reconciliation & unification of party by end

BUT CAN YOU DANCE TO IT?

🗳️ NOMINATING SYSTEM PROS:

- 🗳️ Highly – caucuses, primaries, conventions provide many involvement opportunities
- 🗳️ Highly
- 🗳️ that weeds out the weak

🗳️ NOMINATING SYSTEM CONS:

- 🗳️ Low
- 🗳️ Too
- 🗳️ Overemphasis on may not test candidates on as POTUS
- 🗳️ Frontloading adversely affects states with – no say in nominee
- 🗳️ Primary voters tend to be better and more than general election voters
- 🗳️ Primary voters and caucus/convention delegates tend to be – more ideological, more activist, more educated, less moderate, much more wealthy – therefore represents electorate – since most Americans are centrist, impacts validity of chosen nominee

4. Fall campaign

- 🗳️ Focus on
- 🗳️ Effort to hit many states in
 - 🗳️ Whistle-stop tours
 - 🗳️ “Bill and Al’s Excellent Adventure” RV tour (South)

5. Election Day

- 🗳️ First after first in
- 🗳️ (candidate with the most votes wins), NOT (winner must receive 50% +1) system

6. Meeting of Electors

- 🗳️ Chosen by ; usually activists and/or large financial contributors

7. Vote (more on this later)

- 🗳️ Formal act of election

8.

- 🗳️ Members of Congress are sworn in on January 3rd of the year following the election.
- 🗳️ The President is sworn in on January 20th.
- 🗳️ Outgoing POTUS is “ ” prior to inauguration
- 🗳️ In 2001, Senator Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton were in office at the same time for a 2½-week period - the first time in U.S. history for spouses to hold executive/legislative office together.
- 🗳️ After taking the oath of office, the President delivers an outlining their themes/plans for their Presidency (i.e. “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”) followed by a parade and a series of balls (formal parties/dances)