



**NEVADA**  
**REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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CHAIRMAN MICHAEL J. MCDONALD

***Caucus vs. Primary?***

***What's the fuss about?***



# Overview

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- History
- Caucus Advantages
- Primary Advantages
- Caucus Disadvantages
- Primary Disadvantages
- Truth vs. Myth





# Presidential Nominating History in Nevada

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- 1981, AB138 - NV Leg scrapped Presidential Preference Primary in favor of a closed caucus due to limited interest and low turn-out
- 1996, AB695 - NV leg added the option for major parties to participate in a primary election rather than holding a caucus for the 1996 election. The Republican Party opted to participate in the primary election. The statute expired in 1997, and both parties returned to a caucus system.
- 2006 – RNC and DNC jointly agree to move the date of their respective caucuses from May to February / March. This made Nevada one of the 4 “early” states, and the only early state in the western US.

**NEVADA MATTERS!**



# What is a Caucus?

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- A caucus is a gathering of neighbors and friends in any given voter precinct who:
  - Meet to discuss politics and the party platform
  - Elect delegates to the county convention
  - Cast their vote in the Nevada First in the West Presidential Preference Poll



# Caucus Date And Time

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- Date: Thursday February 8, 2024
- All counties will begin at 5:00 PM PST



# Caucus Goals

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- Draw national attention, attract multiple presidential candidates, and brand Nevada as “First in the West” so that we continue to be a national attraction for candidates of both parties for years to come.
- Increase Republican voter registration.
- Build energy and excitement within the party and recruit activists for our 2024 nominee.
- Gather more voter information to sharpen and clean-up the voter file.
- Raise money to help facilitate a successful 2024 electoral cycle.



# Caucus Advantages

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## **Candidate and Voter Engagement**

- A) Boots on the ground – campaigns must identify supporters and encourage their **ACTIVE** participation – recruit volunteers, join CCRCC, attend county / state convention, etc.
  
- B) Active Campaigns – candidates are motivated to actively campaign, make appearances, and engage directly with voters to be successful rather than flooding the airwaves with TV commercials.
  
- C) NVGOP is offering incentives to encourage candidate events



# Caucus Advantages

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**Cost is paid by candidates, NOT TAXPAYERS!!!**

- A) Zero net cost to CCRP / NVGOP per budget estimates
- B) \$55,000 filing fee is in line with fees in other states – Idaho \$50,000; South Carolina \$50,000; Iowa \$30,000
- C) Campaigns that participate in fundraisers receive a \$20k discount
- D) Potentially saves taxpayers \$5,000,000





# Caucus Advantages

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**ELECTION  
INTEGRITY!!!**



# Caucus Advantages

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**ELECTION  
INTEGRITY!!!**



# Caucus Advantages

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**ELECTION  
INTEGRITY!!!**



# Caucus Advantages

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## **Election Integrity**

- A) Process managed and conducted by NVGOP / CCRP, not inept NV SOS and Clark County Election Dept.
- B) 100% VOTER ID – All voters required to show ID to participate
- C) No universal mail-in ballots (absentee allowed under limited circumstances)
- D) Paper ballots - No ‘black box’ electronic voting machines
- E) Transparent tabulation and reporting with full chain of custody



# Caucus Advantages

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**Election Integrity**

**SAME DAY RESULTS!**

***Election Day, not Election Week***



# Caucus Advantages

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## Election Integrity

*“The people who cast the votes don't decide an election, **the people who count the votes do.**”*

Joseph Stalin



# Primary Advantages

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## **Taxpayer Funded**

- A) Zero cost to NVGOP, CCRP, or campaigns
- B) Cost estimated at approx. \$5,000,000



# Primary Advantages

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## **Low-Effort, Simple Process**

- A) Universal mail-in ballots and legal ballot harvesting
- B) Early voting available
- C) Electronic voting machines
- D) Executed and supervised entirely by NV SOS and Clark County Election Dept.
- E) Recruitment of poll workers and poll watchers, rather than volunteer site managers, ballot tabulators, precinct captains, etc.





# Caucus Disadvantages

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## **Participation Requires Effort**

- A) In person attendance required
- B) No mail-in voting other than limited absentee
- C) Volunteer recruiting – site managers, ballot tabulators, precinct captains, etc.
- D) Proof of US citizenship and residency in Nevada Required



# Primary Disadvantages

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- A) Cost to Nevada Taxpayers - **\$5,000,000**
- B) CCRP still needs to hold precinct meetings to elect delegates to the CCRP Convention and create our 2024 County Party Platform
- C) Without the Presidential Preference Poll, precinct meeting attendance will be vastly lower – far less opportunity to recruit volunteers, sign up convention delegates, gather data, or raise money



# Caucus Advantages

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**ELECTION  
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# Caucus Advantages

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# Caucus Advantages

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**ELECTION  
INTEGRITY!!!**



# Primary Disadvantages

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## **ELECTION INTEGRITY!!!**

- A. Mail-in ballots - Over 600,000 ballots will be mailed to Nevada Republicans with zero chain of custody and limited security.
- B. 2016 caucus had approximately 75,000 participants - if participation doubles, 450,000+ uncast ballots in trash cans
- C. Mail-in ballots accepted up to 4 days after the election - final results will not be announced for a week or more



# Primary Disadvantages

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**Ok, so I don't need to stress the importance of election integrity AGAIN, right guys?**



# Primary Disadvantages

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*“A caucus is won by actively campaigning, engaging directly with voters, recruiting grassroots supporters, and playing by the same rules as every other candidate in order to win delegates.*

*A primary is won by spending as much money on TV ads as possible and pandering to low-information voters.”*

- Rob Tyree, September 19, 2023





# Summary

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“The change (to a primary) would also mean the cost of selecting the Republican and Democrat party nominees would be paid for by the state’s taxpayers instead of the major parties. This is a truly dumb idea being sold as a way to “increase voter participation.”

Look, if voters can’t be bothered to show up at a caucus meeting and participate actively, not passively, in the candidate selection process, then they’re not serious and shouldn’t be taken as such.

Worse, they’re probably part of that portion of the electorate known as “low information voters.” Please explain to me how the republic is strengthened by boosting the number of ill-informed and uninformed voters.”

- Chuck Muth, Silver State Confidential Newsletter, April 6, 2015



# Summary

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*First, it is indisputable that mail-in ballots have a greater POTENTIAL for voter fraud than in-person voting, as well as a higher chance that your ballot might not be received (ever had a birthday card get lost in the mail?) or might not be counted for various reasons.*

*In fact, in the June (2020) primary election – which was an all-mail election – over 10,000 mail-in ballots weren't counted when only 30% of voters cast a ballot. That number will surely skyrocket in the general election when far more people actually vote.*

- Chuck Muth, Muth's Truth's Newsletter, August 5, 2020



# Caucus Myth 1: The Caucus takes too long!

- If a voter stays for the whole caucus, usually the maximum time commitment is an hour, maybe an hour and a half.
- For those who don't want to invest that much time, the caucus offers a drop and go option.
- This makes the caucus much like the state run Presidential Primary, except that the caucus requires voter ID and uses paper ballots.
- It is the most traditional form of democracy, where voters exchange ideas and decide on the best candidates.



## Caucus Myth #2: State law prohibits the caucus

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The Nevada Secretary of State and the Nevada Attorney General both argued in court that political parties have the right to use their own process to determine their nominee:

***“The results of any PPP election are not binding on a major political party.....throughout the entire PPP election process, no major political party is required to do anything or be bound by any results.”***

NVGOP vs. Aguilar, State’s Opposition to Motion for Preliminary Injunction



# Caucus Myth #3: Caucus Turnout is Much Lower than Primary Elections

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- 75,485 Republicans, 17.8%, participated in the 2016 Caucus
- The June 2016 Primary Election had 18.5% total turnout
- Universal Mail-In Ballots have not increased turnout:
  - 2018 Midterm turnout was 62.4%; 2022 was 54.7%
  - 2016 General Election was 76.7%; in 2020 it was 77.2%
  - 2012 General Election turnout was over 80%



# Caucus Myth #4: The Caucus Wastes Party Funds

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- The state estimated the costs of their primary at \$5 Million
- The Nevada GOP won't be using donor money to fund the caucus – donations will be used to win in 2024!
- Caucus is paid for by candidates who will benefit by winning delegates
- \$55,000 fee is reduced to \$35,000 if candidates work with the state party on a fundraiser
- Idaho is \$50,000; South Carolina \$50,000; Iowa \$30,000
- Caucuses cost candidates much less than primaries, because grassroots work costs far less than media advertising



# Caucus Myth #5: Caucus Ballot Fees are High

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Source: FEC Campaign Finance Reports as of 6/30/2023

Candidate	Raised as of 6/30	Cash on Hand 6/30
Donald J Trump	\$35,987,476	\$22,516,390
Ron De Santis	\$20,487,494	\$12,240,123
Vivek Ramaswamy	\$19,164,680	\$9,030,639
Doug Burgum	\$11,768,300	\$3,653,939
Nikki Haley	\$10,468,903	\$6,813,533
Tim Scott	\$7,580,798	\$21,106,870
Chris Christie	\$1,656,386	\$1,590,173
Mike Pence	\$1,168,732	\$1,094,380
Asa Hutchinson	\$582,521	\$378,677



# Presidential Preference Poll

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- Presidential preference polling will be done by secret paper ballot during the caucus.
- The results of the presidential preference poll will bind Nevada's delegates to support certain candidates during the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July.
- Nevada's delegates will be bound proportionally by the statewide results.
- Altogether, Nevada gets 26 Delegates and 23 Alternate Delegates to the National Convention. These Delegates will be elected at the Nevada GOP convention in May.





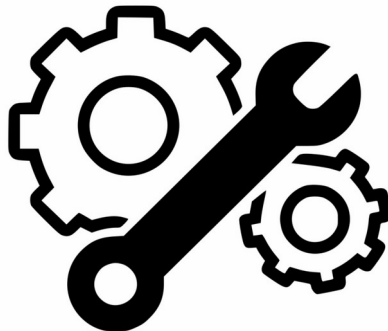
# Presidential Preference Poll

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## Candidate Qualification

Any presidential candidate who has paid the requisite \$35,000 filing fee and remains in the race at the time ballots are printed will appear on the ballot.

If a candidate drops – whether before or after the Nevada caucuses – his or her votes will not count toward the delegate allocation.





**WHY**

**CA  
UC  
US**



## Caucus



Voter ID

Precinct Based Voting

Election Day Not Election Month

Paper Ballots

Transparent Tabulation

No Dark Money

## Primary



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REPUBLICAN PARTY**

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