

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE



This page tracks important dates throughout the 2016 presidential election cycle, including primaries, caucuses and conventions, filing deadlines and campaign finance reporting deadlines.

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Candidate registration and financial disclosure

Federal candidacy registration

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) requires those running for the U.S. House, Senate or presidency to file a Statement of Candidacy form within 15 days raising the first \$5,000 in campaign funding. The Statement of Candidacy form allows a candidate's campaign committee to engage in fundraising and spending of the campaign funds. Within 10 days of the Statement of Candidacy submission, the Statement of Organization form must be submitted to the FEC.^[1]

Campaign finance disclosures

Presidential candidates, like Congressional candidates, must file regular campaign finance disclosure reports, depending on the extent of the committee's fundraising. If the committee has raised or anticipates raising or spending a total of \$100,000 by the end of a calendar year, the committee will file monthly campaign finance reports in the following year. If the committee does not raise, spend or anticipate raising or spending that much, they must only file quarterly reports to the FEC.^[2]

Important campaign dates

Iowa caucus

The Democratic National Committee's Rules and Bylaws Committee chose to tentatively hold the Iowa caucus on February 1, 2016.^[3]

New Hampshire primary

The DNC's proposed date for the New Hampshire primary was February 9, 2016.^[3]

Democratic National Convention

See also: Democratic National Convention, 2016

Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC), announced on February 12, 2015, that Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will host the Convention during the week of July 25, 2016.^[4]

According to the *National Journal*, the initial list of possible host cities for the DNC were Birmingham, Alabama, Brooklyn, New York, Columbus, Ohio, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Phoenix, Arizona.^[5]

Republican National Convention

See also: Republican National Convention, 2016

The Republican National Committee (RNC) will hold the 2016 convention on July 18-21, 2016. "The convention will be held significantly earlier than previous election cycles, allowing access to crucial general election funds earlier than ever before to give our nominee a strong advantage heading into Election Day," Priebus said.^[6]

State primary dates



2016 Presidential Election

General Election Date

November 8, 2016

Declared candidates

Democratic

Lincoln Chafee • Hillary Clinton • Lawrence Lessig • Martin O'Malley • Bernie Sanders • Jim Webb
Democratic Convention
Democratic Primary

Republican

Jeb Bush • Ben Carson • Chris Christie • Ted Cruz • Carly Fiorina • Jim Gilmore • Lindsey Graham • Mike Huckabee • Bobby Jindal • John Kasich • George Pataki • Rand Paul • Marco Rubio • Rick Santorum • Donald Trump
Republican Convention
Republican Primary

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State primary dates

Presidential Primary and Caucus Dates, By State [hide]				
State	Date	Filing Deadline	Primary/Caucus	Primary Type
Iowa	February 1, 2016		Caucus	Closed
New Hampshire	February 9, 2016	November 27, 2015	Primary	Mixed
Nevada	February 20, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
South Carolina	February 20, 2016	September 30, 2015	Republican Primary	Open
Nevada	February 23, 2016	December 18, 2015	Republican Caucus	Closed
South Carolina	February 27, 2016	December 7, 2015	Democratic Primary	Open
Alabama	March 1, 2016	January 6, 2016	Primary	Open
Alaska	March 1, 2016	February 1, 2016	Republican Caucus	Closed
American Samoa	March 1, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Open
Arkansas	March 1, 2016	November 9, 2015	Primary	Open
Colorado	March 1, 2016	January 9, 2016	Caucus	Closed
Georgia	March 1, 2016	January 2, 2016	Primary	Open
Massachusetts	March 1, 2016	January 2, 2016	Primary	Mixed
Minnesota	March 1, 2016		Caucus	Open
North Dakota	March 1, 2016		Republican Caucus	Closed
Oklahoma	March 1, 2016	December 2, 2015	Primary	Closed
Tennessee	March 1, 2016	December 1, 2015	Primary	Open
Texas	March 1, 2016	November 10, 2015	Primary	Open
Vermont	March 1, 2016	January 4, 2016	Primary	Open
Virginia	March 1, 2016	December 17, 2015	Primary	Open
Wyoming	March 1, 2016		Republican Caucus	Closed
Kentucky	March 5, 2016		Republican Caucus	Closed
Kansas	March 5, 2016	January 30, 2016	Caucus	Closed
Louisiana	March 5, 2016	November 20, 2015	Primary	Closed
Maine	March 5, 2016		Republican Caucus	Closed
Nebraska	March 5, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
Washington	March 5, 2016		Republican Caucus	Closed
Maine	March 6, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
American Samoa	March 8, 2016		Republican Caucus	Open
Hawaii	March 8, 2016	February 16, 2016	Republican Caucus	Closed
Idaho	March 8, 2016		Republican Primary	Closed

Michigan	March 8, 2016	December 20, 2015	Primary	Closed
Mississippi	March 8, 2016	January 9, 2016	Primary	Open
Guam	March 12, 2016		Republican Caucus	Closed
Northern Marianas	March 12, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
Virgin Islands	March 12, 2016		Republican Caucus	Open
Puerto Rico	March 13, 2016		Primary	Open
Florida	March 15, 2016	December 15, 2015	Primary	Closed
Illinois	March 15, 2016	November 30, 2015	Primary	Open
Missouri	March 15, 2016	December 30, 2015	Primary	Open
North Carolina	March 15, 2016	December 29, 2015	Primary	Mixed
Northern Marianas	March 15, 2016		Republican Caucus	Closed
Ohio	March 15, 2016	January 2, 2016	Primary	Mixed
Arizona	March 22, 2016	February 3, 2016	Primary	Open
Idaho	March 22, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
Utah	March 22, 2016		Caucus	Closed
Alaska	March 26, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
Hawaii	March 26, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
Washington	March 26, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
Wisconsin	April 5, 2016	February 2, 2016	Primary	Open
Wyoming	April 9, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
New York	April 19, 2016	March 1, 2016	Primary	Closed
Connecticut	April 26, 2016	March 7, 2016	Primary	Closed
Delaware	April 26, 2016	February 26, 2016	Primary	Closed
Maryland	April 26, 2016	February 3, 2016	Primary	Closed
Pennsylvania	April 26, 2016	February 16, 2016	Primary	Closed
Rhode Island	April 26, 2016	January 23, 2016	Primary	Mixed
Indiana	May 3, 2016	February 5, 2016	Primary	Open
Guam	May 7, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
Nebraska	May 10, 2016	February 25, 2016	Republican Primary	Closed
West Virginia	May 10, 2016	January 30, 2016	Primary	Mixed
Kentucky	May 17, 2016	January 26, 2016	Primary	Closed
Oregon	May 17, 2016	March 8, 2016	Primary	Closed
Puerto Rico	June 5, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Open
Virgin Islands	June 5, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Open
California	June 7, 2016	March 25, 2016	Primary	Closed
Montana	June 7, 2016	March 7, 2016	Primary	Open

New Jersey	June 7, 2016	April 4, 2016	Primary	Mixed
New Mexico	June 7, 2016	March 17, 2016	Primary	Closed
North Dakota	June 7, 2016		Democratic Caucus	Closed
South Dakota	June 7, 2016	March 29, 2016	Primary	Closed
District of Columbia	June 14, 2016	March 15, 2016	Primary	Closed
<i>Presidential Primary dates are still being determined. The dates listed are subject to change.</i>				

Committee strategies

Republican National Committee

Primaries

The RNC overhauled some of its rules leading into the 2016 presidential primary following what party leaders and strategists saw as a primary campaign that lasted too long, lowering 2012 candidate Mitt Romney's chances of winning in the general election. The committee voted in January 2014, by a vote of 153-9, to move the convention from the end of August, when it was held last year, to as much as two months earlier at the end of June. The 2016 convention will be held July 18-21, 2016.

In order to accomplish such a change, new penalties were introduced to encourage states to hold their campaign events earlier in the year. Additionally, the system of awarding delegates in primaries was changed for primaries held before March 14, 2016. The new rules stated that no primary held before March 14 could award delegates based on the "winner-take-all" system, instead the delegates were to be distributed in proportion to each candidate's support in order to stop any candidate from essentially winning the nomination in early March 2016. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus explained the reasoning, stating, "We have been saying for months that we were no longer going to sit around and allow ourselves to slice and dice our nominee for six months."^[7]^[8]

Debates

Another strategy implemented by the RNC was lowering the number of primary debates from the 20 that took place in 2012. Those familiar with the discussions claimed the new number of Republican debates would be between six and ten, with the intention of having each of the major television networks carry at least one of the debates. The RNC also discussed the idea of adding conservatives to the panels of moderators, potentially resulting in less fiery debates with easier questions, an idea that the networks were open to working with. The final change to debates was aimed at discouraging non-sanctioned debates, by barring candidates participating in them from being a part of the sanctioned debates. While big name candidates would not likely be impacted by the change, it would potentially make it harder for lesser known candidates to break through.^[9]

References

1. ↑ *Federal Election Commission*, "Quick Answers to Candidate Questions," accessed June 12, 2014
2. ↑ *Federal Election Commission*, "FEC Record: Reporting," accessed June 12, 2014
3. ↑ ^{3.0} ^{3.1} *Politico*, "DNC proposes 2016 Iowa caucus date," May 2, 2014
4. ↑ *Yahoo News*, "Democrats settle on Philadelphia as site of 2016 convention," February 12, 2015
5. ↑ *National Journal*, "Handicapping the Democratic Convention Sites for 2016," July 25, 2014
6. ↑ *Cleveland.com*, "Dates set for Republican National Convention in Cleveland; 4-day event will run July 18-21," January 14, 2015
7. ↑ *Politico*, "Republican National Committee easily passes 2016 calendar tweaks," January 24, 2014
8. ↑ *Politico*, "Republicans brace for 2016 free-for-all," October 7, 2014
9. ↑ *Politico*, "RNC clamps down on 2016 primary debates," May 9, 2014