

HOW A DEMOCRAT BECOMES A DELEGATE IN CALIFORNIA – 2008

The Democratic National Convention is August 25-28, 2008 in Denver, Colorado (Pepsi Center)

At present, there are 4,049 delegate slots nationally, *excluding Florida and Michigan*. Democratic presidential candidates must get 2,025 Delegates to win the nomination. Each state must have a Delegation which is **50% female, 50% male** or within one, and must have a Delegate Selection Plan that includes Affirmative Action Goals (quotas are prohibited). California Democrats will have: 441 Delegates (221 females, 220 males)

62 Alternates (31 females, 31 males)
503 TOTAL (252 females, 251 males)

2008 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION GOALS

Hispanic/Latino	26%	Native American	1%	Youth (Under 30)*	10%
African-American	16%	LGBT	12%		
Asian/Pacific Islander	9%	Persons with Disabilities	10%	* those born 8/29/78 or later	

Requirements for Affirmative Action Goals were established by the DNC because historically these groups have been underrepresented. It should be noted that some delegates will fall into two or more of the above categories.

HOW PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE ALLOCATED DELEGATES. Candidates are allocated **District-Level Delegates** in each Congressional District (CD) in which they receive 15% or more of the primary vote and those candidates who receive 15% or more of the statewide vote are allocated **PLEO and At-Large Delegates**. If Candidate A receives 50% of the statewide vote, then Candidate A gets 50% of the 48 PLEO Delegates and 50% of the 81 At-Large Delegates.

66 SUPERDELEGATES. These categories are automatically Delegates to the National Convention: 33 Democratic National Committee (DNC) Members; 32 Congressional Members; and 1 Former DNC Chair (Chuck Manatt). Actually, there are 36 Democrats in Congress (34 House, plus Boxer and Feinstein) but four of our Congressional Members are on the DNC and are counted as DNC Members.

241 DISTRICT-LEVEL DELEGATES. Each of California's 53 Congressional Districts (CDs) are allocated from 3 to 6 "district-level" delegates, based upon population and presidential voting from the 2000 & 2004 elections. Using the same criteria, 40 of the 53 CDs are also allocated 1 Alternate each. To become a district-level delegate, you must be a registered Democrat, commit to a candidate and then be elected at your CD Caucus held on April 13, 2008. **[Form A filing period is 1/15/08 through 4/2/08]**

81 AT-LARGE (i.e. STATEWIDE) DELEGATES. Any registered Democrat who is committed to a candidate can apply to be an At-Large Delegate by filing Form B. At-Large Delegates are confirmed by a vote of the 241 district-level delegates at the May 18, 2008 statewide Delegation meeting. **[Form B filing period is 2/11/08 through 4/23/08]**

48 PLEDGED PARTY LEADERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS (PLEO). A PLEO is a registered Democrat from the categories below. No elected official or party leader is automatically a PLEO Delegate. In order to be considered for one of the 48 PLEO Delegate spots, an individual must file Form C and pledge support to a presidential candidate who received at least 15% or more of the statewide primary vote. PLEO Delegates are confirmed by a vote of the 241 district-level delegates at the May 18, 2008 statewide meeting. **[Form C filing period is 2/11/08 through 4/23/2008]**

PLEO Categories [in order]: big-city mayors (population 250,000 or more) and statewide elected officials; state legislative leaders and state legislators; other state, county and local elected officials; California Democratic Party leaders.

DELEGATION MEETS [May 18, 2008 - City TBD]: The 241 District-Level delegates will meet and confirm the 134 statewide delegates (81 At-Large, 48 PLEOs and 5 "uncommitted" Add-ons), plus the 22 At-Large Alternates. The Delegation will also confirm Delegate Co-Chairs and 51 National Standing Committee members -- 17 Credentials, 17 Platform and 17 Rules (out of a national membership of 158). There are no forms required for the National Standing Committees.

FYI - Only registered Democrats can apply to be a delegate. Independents (registered to vote in CA as "Decline to State") can vote in our presidential primary but can't be delegates. Democrats abolished the Winner-Take-All system nationwide after the 1972 Convention. Delegates are responsible for all their expenses – travel, hotels, etc. (approx \$2,500+).

For further information and instructions on how to file to be a delegate, go to www.cadem.org/Delegate08.