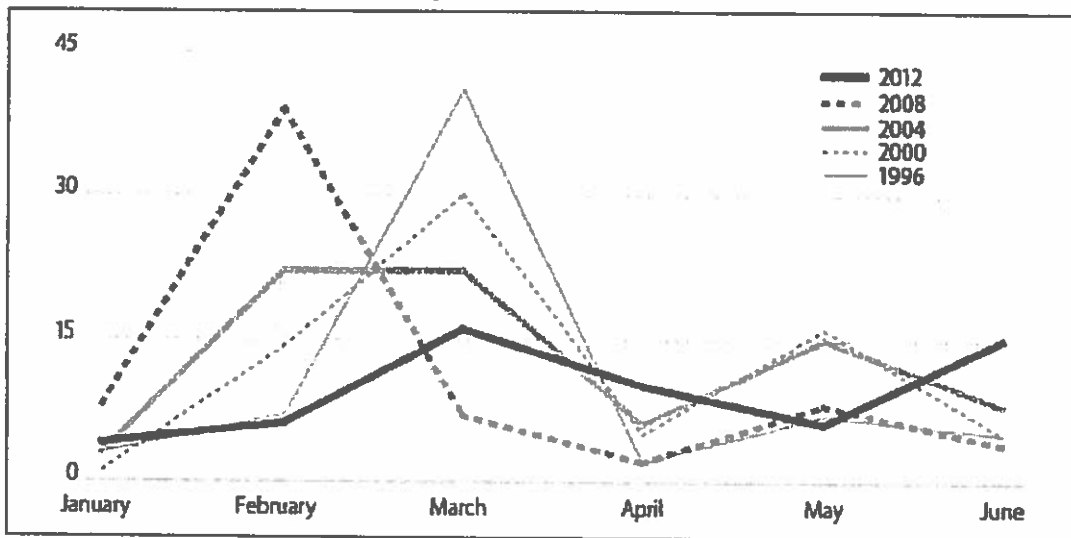


The state-by-state schedule for each party's primary elections and caucuses has changed over the years. Examine the chart and answer the questions below.

**Figure 1. Number of Democratic and Republican Primaries and Caucuses by Month, 1996-2012**



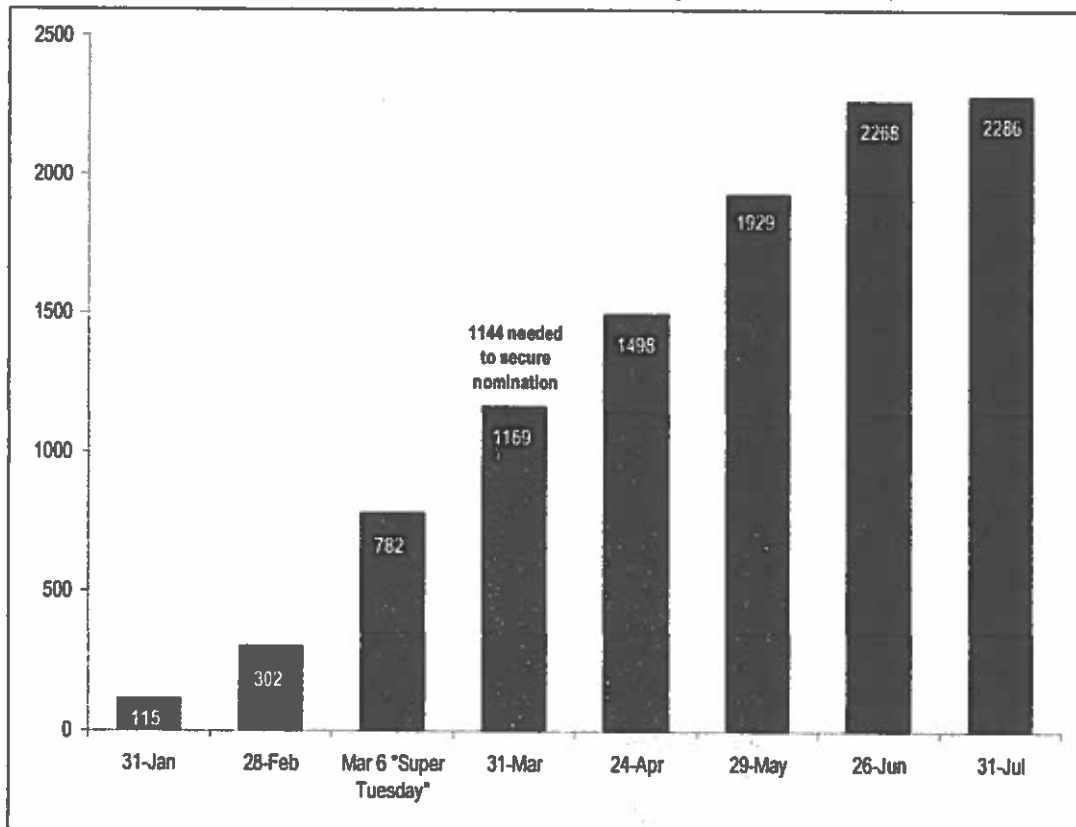
Source: CRS figure based on Federal Election Commission data.

Note: Data include primaries and caucuses held for one or both parties on a single date.

1. Which presidential campaign year had the earliest peak of primaries and caucuses?
2. For the 1996 election, what month held the most primaries and caucuses?
3. What pattern did the primary and caucus schedule follow in 2012? How had it changed? Why?

The 2012 Republican Delegates Available chart shows how many delegates are available in the elections on those corresponding dates. Examine the chart and answer the following questions.

**Figure 2. Republican Delegates Available by Selected Dates, 2012**

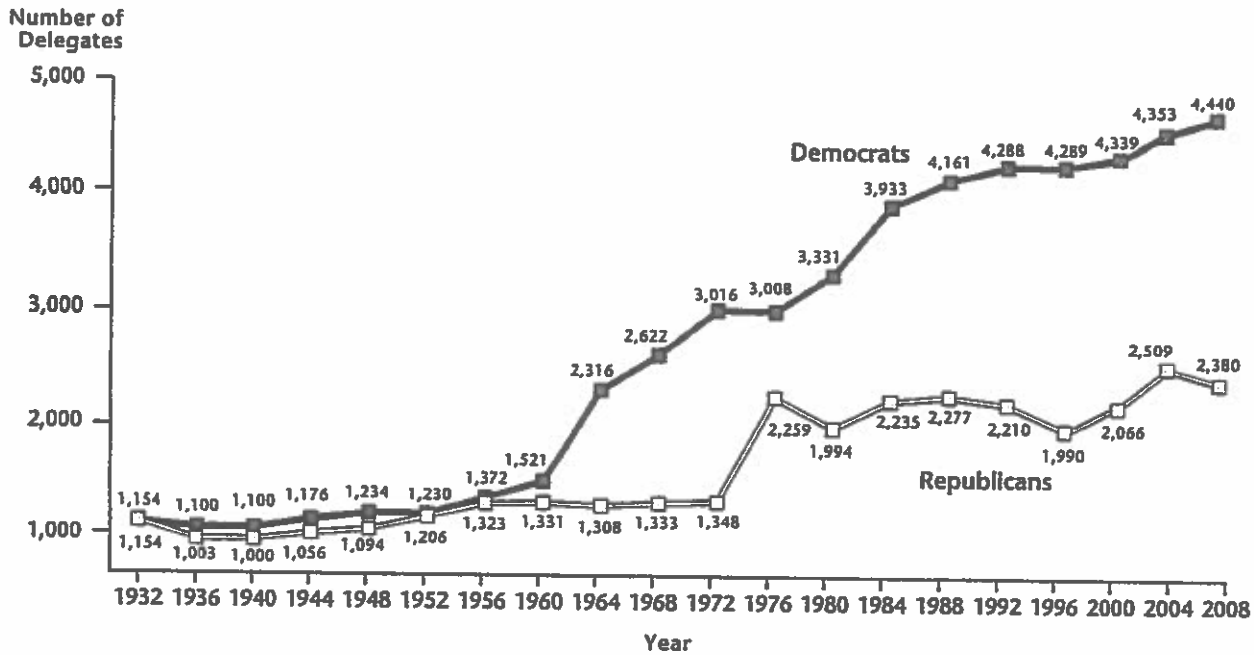


Source: CRS calculations based on delegate totals from the *Call of the 2012 Republican National Convention*.

1. How many delegates were determined during the month of January?
2. During which month was it possible for a candidate to have enough caucuses and primaries to have secured the nomination? At the end voting on Super Tuesday, how many delegates had been chosen?
3. What was the grand total number of Republican delegates are available? In what month were the states done voting and all delegates had been determined?

The Republican and Democratic Convention Delegates chart shows how many delegates existed in each election from 1932 to 2008.

FIGURE 3-1 Republican and Democratic Convention Delegates, 1932–2008



1. In 1932, how many delegates attended and voted in the Democratic convention? The Republican convention?
2. When did the delegate totals for each party change noticeably, and how?
3. How would you characterize the difference in the number of delegates voting at nominating conventions for each party?
4. Why does this variance begin and why does it exist today?

## Minor Party Conventions

Party (candidate)	Year	Percentage of vote	Next election
Anti-Mason (William Wirt)	1832	7.8%	endorsed Whig
Free Soil (Martin Van Buren)	1848	10.1	4.9%
Whig-American (Millard Fillmore)	1856	21.5	—
Southern Democrats (John C. Breckinridge)	1860	18.1	—
Constitutional Union (John Bell)	1860	12.6	—
Populist (James B. Weaver)	1892	8.5	endorsed Democrat
Progressive (Bull Moose) (Theodore Roosevelt)	1912	27.4	0.2
Socialist (Eugene V. Debs)	1912	6.0	3.2
Progressive (Robert M. La Follette)	1924	16.6	—
American Independent (George C. Wallace)	1968	13.5	1.4
John B. Anderson (Independent)	1980	6.6	endorsed Democrat
H. Ross Perot (Independent)	1992	18.9	8.5 (Reform Party)
Reform Party	1996	8.5 (Perot)	0.4 (Buchanan)

1. What minor party was the first to nominate a candidate, when, and who was the candidate?
2. Name two additional minor parties, their presidential nominee, and date of convention.
3. Who was the Populist candidate in 1892, and what percent of the popular vote did he receive? What percentage did independent H. Ross Perot receive in 1992?
4. What two presidents in this list ran for office again under a minor party banner?
5. What percent of the popular vote do minor party candidates tend to receive in the general elections (an average or a range)?

# HIGHLIGHTS OF NATIONAL PARTY CONVENTIONS, 1831–2008

- 1831 First national political convention held in Baltimore by Anti-Masonic Party.
- 1832 Democratic Party met in Baltimore for its first national convention.
- 1839 Whig Party held its first national convention.
- 1840 Democrats set up committee to select vice-presidential nominees, subject to approval of convention.
- 1844 Democrats nominated James K. Polk—first “dark-horse” candidate—after nine ballots. Silas Wright declined the vice-presidential nomination. First time a convention nominee refused nomination.
- 1848 Democrats established continuing committee, known as “Democratic National Committee.”
- 1852 Democrats and Whigs both adopted platforms before nominating candidates for president, setting precedent followed almost uniformly ever since.
- 1856 First Republican national convention held in Philadelphia.
- 1860 Democrats met in Charleston, S.C. After ten days and deadlocked on a presidential nominee, delegates adjourned and reconvened in Baltimore. Benjamin Fitzpatrick, the Democrats’ choice for vice president, became the first candidate to withdraw after convention adjournment and be replaced by a selection of the national committee.  
First Republican credentials dispute took place over seating delegates from slave states and voting strength of delegates from states where party was comparatively weak.
- 1864 In attempt to close ranks during Civil War, Republicans used the name “Union Party” at convention.
- 1868 For the first time, Republicans gave a candidate (Ulysses S. Grant) 100 percent of vote on first ballot.  
A letter from Susan B. Anthony was read before Democratic convention urging support of women’s suffrage.
- 1872 Victoria Claflin Woodhull, nominated by the Equal Rights Party, was the first woman presidential candidate. African American leader Frederick Douglass was her running mate.
- 1880 Republicans nominated James A. Garfield for president on 36th ballot—party’s all-time record number of ballots.
- 1884 Republican Rep. John Roy Lynch of Mississippi became first black elected temporary chairman of national nominating convention.
- 1888 Frederick Douglass was first black to receive a vote in presidential balloting at a major party political convention (Republican).
- 1900 Each party had one woman delegate.
- 1904 Florida Democrats selected delegates in first-ever presidential primary election.
- 1920 For first time, women attended conventions in significant numbers.
- 1924 Republicans adopted bonus votes for states that went Republican in previous election. GOP convention was first to be broadcast on radio.  
John W. Davis was nominated by Democrats on record 103rd ballot.
- 1928 Democrats nominated Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York for president—first time a Roman Catholic placed on national ticket by a major party.
- 1932 Republicans began tradition of appointing their party leader from House of Representatives as permanent convention chairman.  
Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt became first major party candidate to accept presidential nomination in person.
- 1936 Democratic Party voted to end requirement of two-thirds delegate majority for nomination.
- 1940 Republican convention was first to be televised.
- 1944 Democrats adopted bonus votes for states that went Democratic in previous election.  
Thomas E. Dewey became first Republican candidate to accept nomination in person.
- 1948 Democrats began appointing Speaker of the House as permanent chairman. Republicans renominated Dewey—first time GOP renominated a defeated presidential candidate.
- 1952 Adlai E. Stevenson was chosen as Democratic nominee in one of few genuine “drafts” in history.
- 1956 Democrats used party loyalty provision in selecting delegates for first time.
- 1960 Democrats adopted civil rights plank that was strongest in party history.  
Republican nominee Richard Nixon was party’s first vice president nominated for president at completion of his term.
- 1964 Sen. Margaret Chase Smith was nominated for presidency at Republican convention—first time a woman placed in nomination by a major party.
- 1968 Democratic Party voted to end unit rule. Outside the Chicago convention, antiwar protests erupt in violence.
- 1980 Democratic delegates were composed of an equal number of men and women.
- 1984 Democrats nominated Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York for vice president—the first woman placed on national ticket by a major party.
- 1996 The Reform Party conducted its first convention in a two-stage process that allowed balloting by mail, electronic mail, or phone.
- 2000 Democrats nominated Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut for vice president—first time a person of Jewish faith placed on national ticket by a major party.
- 2008 Democrats nominated Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois for president—the first African American placed on national ticket by a major party. Republicans nominated Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska for vice president—the first woman placed on national ticket by the GOP.

## NOTABLE CREDENTIALS FIGHTS

**1848, Democratic.** Two rival New York state factions, known as the Barnburners and the Hunkers, sent separate delegations. By a vote of 126 to 125, the convention decided to seat both delegations and split New York's vote between them. This compromise suited neither faction: the Barnburners bolted the convention; the Hunkers remained but refused to vote.

**1860, Democratic.** Dissatisfaction with the slavery plank in the party platform spurred a walkout by several dozen southern delegates from the Charleston convention. When the tumultuous convention reconvened in Baltimore six weeks later, a credentials controversy developed on the status of the bolting delegates. The majority report of the credentials committee recommended that the delegates in question, except those from Alabama and Louisiana, be reseated. The minority report recommended that a larger majority of the withdrawing Charleston delegates be allowed to return. The minority report was defeated, 100½ to 150, prompting a walkout by the majority of delegates from nine states.

**1880, Republican.** Factions for and against the candidacy of former president Ulysses S. Grant clashed on the credentials of the Illinois delegation. By a margin of 387 to 353, the convention rejected a minority report that proposed seating pro-Grant delegates elected at the state convention over other delegates elected at a congressional district caucus. Three other votes were taken on disputed credentials from different Illinois districts, but all were decided in favor of the anti-Grant forces by a similar margin. The votes indicated the weakness of the Grant candidacy. The nomination went to a dark-horse candidate, Rep. James A. Garfield of Ohio, on the thirty-sixth ballot.

**1912, Republican.** The furious struggle between President William Howard Taft and former president Theodore Roosevelt for the nomination centered on credentials. The Roosevelt forces brought seventy-two delegate challenges to the floor of the convention, but the test of strength between the two candidates came on a procedural motion. By a vote of 567 to 507, the convention tabled a motion presented by the Roosevelt forces barring any of the delegates under challenge from voting on any of the credentials contests. This procedural vote clearly indicated Taft's control of the convention. All the credentials cases were settled in favor of the Taft delegates, and the presidential nomination ultimately went to the incumbent president.

**1932, Democratic.** Two delegations favorable to the front-runner for the presidential nomination, Franklin D. Roosevelt, came under challenge. However, in a show of strength, the Roosevelt forces won both contests: seating a Louisiana delegation headed by Sen. Huey P. Long by a vote of 638¼ to 514¼ and a Roosevelt delegation from Minnesota by an even wider margin, 658¼ to 492¼. Roosevelt won the nomination on the fourth ballot.

**1952, Democratic.** The refusal of three southern states—Louisiana, South Carolina, and Virginia—to agree to a party loyalty pledge brought

their credentials into question. The Virginia delegation argued that the problem prompting the loyalty pledge was covered by state law. By a vote of 650½ to 518, the convention approved the seating of the Virginia delegation. After Louisiana and South Carolina took positions similar to that of Virginia, they were seated by a voice vote.

**1952, Republican.** Sixty-eight delegates from three southern states (Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas) were the focal point of the fight for the presidential nomination between Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio. The national committee, controlled by forces favorable to Taft, had voted to seat delegations friendly to the Ohio senator from these three states. But by a vote of 607 to 531 the convention seated the Georgia delegation favorable to Eisenhower. It seated the Eisenhower delegates from Louisiana and Texas without roll calls. The general went on to win the presidential nomination on the first ballot.

**1968, Democratic.** A struggle between the anti-Vietnam War forces, led by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota, and the party regulars, headed by Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, dominated the seventeen cases considered by the credentials committee. Three of the cases, involving the Texas, Georgia, and Alabama delegations, required roll calls on the convention floor. All were won by the Humphrey forces. By a vote of 1,368¼ to 956¼, the regular Texas delegation headed by Gov. John B. Connally was seated. A minority report to seat the entire Georgia delegation led by black leader Julian Bond was defeated, 1,043.55 to 1,415.45. Another minority report to seat a McCarthy-backed, largely black delegation from Alabama was also rejected, 880¼ to 1,607. Humphrey, having shown his strength during the credentials contests, went on to win an easy first ballot nomination.

**1972, Democratic.** The first test of strength at the convention between Sen. George McGovern's delegates and party regulars came over credentials. Key challenges brought to the convention floor concerned the South Carolina, California, and Illinois delegations. The South Carolina challenge was brought by the National Women's Political Caucus in response to alleged under-representation of women in the delegation. Although the caucus's position was supposedly supported by the McGovern camp, votes were withheld to avoid jeopardizing McGovern's chances of winning the important California contest. The caucus's challenge lost 1,429.05 to 1,555.75. The California challenge was of crucial importance to McGovern, because it involved 151 delegates initially won by the South Dakota senator in the state's winner-take-all primary, but stripped from him by the credentials committee. By a vote of 1,618.28 to 1,238.22, McGovern regained the contested delegates, thereby nailing down his nomination. With victory in hand, the dominant McGovern camp sought a compromise on the Illinois case, which pitted a delegation headed by Chicago's powerful mayor Richard Daley against an insurgent delegation composed of party reformers. Compromise was unattainable, and with the bulk of McGovern delegates voting for the reformers, a minority report to seat the Daley delegates was rejected.