

IDAHO CAUCUSES AND PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Political parties use more than just one method for selecting their Presidential candidate. Besides the familiar Presidential Preference Primary election process, some states instead use a caucus system. This can vary by state and by party even within the same state. As opposed to a primary election where the actual voting is fairly brief and done by secret ballot, a caucus selects candidates through a meeting where you actually vote by grouping together in a room with like minded voters who support your candidate. It is not secret at all. Through one of these methods, delegates are chosen for the national convention of each party who in turn vote for the eventual nominee. The process has some similarities to the [Electoral College](#) we use in our federal elections for President. Caucuses are therefore controlled by the rules for that political party whereas as primary elections are conducted by [County Clerks](#) in accordance with state law and under the supervision of the [Idaho Secretary of State](#).

In Idaho, the [Democrat party](#) has chosen to use the caucus system for Presidential candidates while the [Republican party](#) nominees are chosen through the traditional [May Primary](#) Election. Even though the Democrat candidates for President will appear on the Primary Election ballot, it is the results of the caucus that are binding for them. It is important to also remember that all other party nominees are chosen at the Primary Election and may include federal offices such as Senator and Congressman as well as state offices including legislators, down to county offices and some non-partisan judicial offices.

The [Democrat party 2008 Caucuses](#) will be held in counties all around Idaho on February 5th, [Super Tuesday](#).