



A Guide to the Maine Republican Caucus

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What We Will Cover

- The purpose of the Biennial Caucus
- Who may participate in the Caucus
- Calling the Caucus
- What happens during the Caucus
- Expressing Presidential Preference
- The Opportunity in 2008

The Biennial Caucus

What is the purpose of the Biennial Caucus?

The purpose of the municipal caucus is to reconstitute the Republican Town Committees (MRP Rule 36) and to elect delegates to the State Party Convention. (Title 21-A, §311)

The Biennial Caucus

Who may participate in a Biennial Caucus?

- Any resident of the town holding the caucus who has been registered as Republican for at least 15 days prior to the caucus (Title 21-A, §144). Must be at least 18 as of the date of the upcoming general election (Title 21-A, §111).
- Voter Registrars shall attend (or send a deputy) at least 30 minutes preceding the caucus so that first time voters can register. Town Committees are responsible for verifying voters as they enter. The committee must have the most recent voter list available to check voters in. (Title 21-A, §158).

The Biennial Caucus

Who may participate in a Biennial Caucus?

- Voters may register at the caucus as Republican only if they are registering for the 1st time or have just moved to the town in which the caucus is held (Title 21-A, §114).

- Upon the a challenge of a voter, the caucus chairman may allow the person in question to participate following administering an oath:

- "I, (name of challenged person), swear that I am a registered and enrolled voter in this voting district, that I am a member of the party holding this caucus, and that I have not been enrolled in any other party in this municipality within the last 15 days."

(Title 21-A, §314).

The Biennial Caucus

Calling a Biennial Caucus

- May be called by the chair or a majority of the members of the municipal committee of a political party.
- The county committee may call the caucus if the town doesn't and the town committee is responsible for providing space in a public building for a caucus. A town may hold its caucus outside the town if several towns elect to meet on a consolidated basis or if the committee calling the caucus determines that a facility outside the town is more suitable.

(Title 21-A, §311-1)

The Biennial Caucus

Calling a Biennial Caucus

- Must be held during the general election year before March 20th. (Title 21-A, §311-2)
- The State Committee set the 2008 Maine GOP Republican Caucuses for February 1, 2, & 3. (MRP Rule 36)
- A Notice must be published in a local newspaper at least 3 and not more than 7 days before the caucus is to be held or posted in a public place at least 7 days in advance. (Title 21-A, §311-3) Caucus can be declared void if challenged by a voter (Title 21-A, §311-3A)
- The Secretary of the committee shall file a copy of the notice with the clerk who shall record it. (Title 21-A, §311-3B)

The Biennial Caucus

What happens at the Biennial Caucus?

1. Election of the Caucus Secretary and Chairman
2. Adoption of the rules and procedures of the caucus
3. Election of delegates and alternates to the state convention and the Chairman of the delegation
4. Nomination of County Committee members
5. Nomination of Election Clerks*
6. Ratification of the Municipal Committee By-Laws
7. Open discussion of the State Party Platform
8. Survey of Presidential Preference

New!

(All according to MRP Rule 36. Election Clerks* required by Title 21-A, §503)

The Biennial Caucus

Election of the Caucus Secretary and Chairman

- Elected first, the Secretary is responsible for documenting the proceedings and filling out and filing the required forms in the caucus kits.
- The Chairman, elected second, is responsible for presiding over the meeting (maintaining order and making sure the body adheres to the rules). For established town committees, the town chairman traditionally presides.

The Biennial Caucus

Adoption of the rules and procedures of the caucus

The Maine Republican State Committee will issue the agenda and instructions for the procedures of the caucus (**MRP Rule 36**). Municipal caucuses can add other business to the agenda providing that it does not conflict with State Law or Party Rules.

The Biennial Caucus

Election of delegates/alternates to the state convention

Delegates are elected as the primary representatives of the town at the Republican State Convention. They are responsible for participating in the business of the convention; voting on issues on the convention floor; and voting in elections held at the convention.

The Biennial Caucus

Election of delegates/alternates to the state convention

Alternates are elected to replace delegates in the event delegates cannot attend the state convention. Alternates are credentialed to attend the convention but cannot vote.

BOTH – Delegates and Alternates – must pay a fee to attend the state convention \$25.

The Biennial Caucus

Election of delegates/alternates to the state convention

A chairman of the delegation is elected to ensure the orderly filling of delegate replacements from the alternate pool and to lead the towns delegation at the convention by providing instructions on activities on the floor to the delegation .

The Biennial Caucus

Election of delegates/alternates to the state convention

Delegate Allocation is based on the last gubernatorial or presidential elections (the most recent of the two), each municipality shall be allocated three (3) delegates for the first fifty (50) Republican votes or portion thereof and two (2) delegates for each one hundred fifty (150) Republican votes or portion thereof above the first fifty (50). The number of alternates allocated to each municipality shall be equal to the number of delegates allocated.

The Biennial Caucus

Nomination of County Committee Members

Towns shall nominate members of the County Committee in the number specified by County By-Laws. Nominees are confirmed at the County Caucuses during the State Convention (MRP Rule 37).

The Biennial Caucus

Nomination of Election Clerks

- Town committees shall nominate individuals to serve as election clerks of the towns. Election clerks assist the Town Election Official at the polling place during elections.
- The Town Official “shall consider” the Party’s nomination upon making appointments, but the law does not say they shall appoint.
- Election clerks are nominated in equal numbers from each party and the total number depends on the town and number of polling places.

(Title 21-A, §503)

The Biennial Caucus

Ratification of the Municipal Committee By-Laws

The By-Laws of the Town Committee must be presented and ratified by the caucus. If By-Laws do not exist, a template is provided in the caucus kits in a fill-in-the-blanks format. (MRP Rule 37).

The Biennial Caucus

Open discussion of the State Party Platform

The Party Platform is developed by the Standing Resolutions Committee and delegates of the Maine Republican State Convention have the sole authority to adopt it. Towns are tasked with reviewing and discussing the platform ([MRP Rule 38](#)).

The Biennial Caucus

Survey of Presidential Preference

- A ballot will be distributed to participants of the caucus so that they can indicate which presidential candidate they support.
- The ballots will be tallied and reported to the County and State Committees for publicity purposes only.
- The results of the balloting DO NOT BIND state delegates to a presidential preference.

(Ruled by the State Committee on 9/8/07 under MRP Rule 36)

The Biennial Caucus

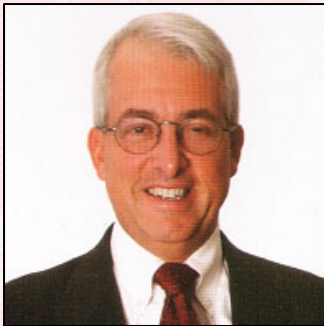
Review of what happens at the Biennial Caucus

1. Election of the Caucus Secretary and Chairman
2. Adoption of the rules and procedures of the caucus
3. Election of delegates and alternates to the state convention and the Chairman of the delegation
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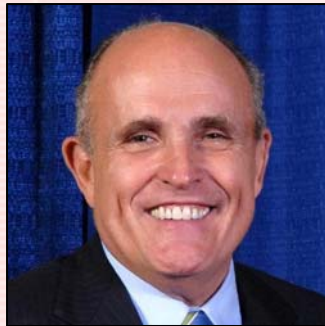
New!

(All according to MRP Rule 36. Election Clerks* required by Title 21-A, §503)

Presidential Preference 2008



John Cox



Rudy Giuliani



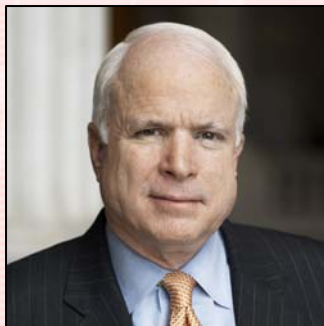
Mike Huckabee



Duncan Hunter



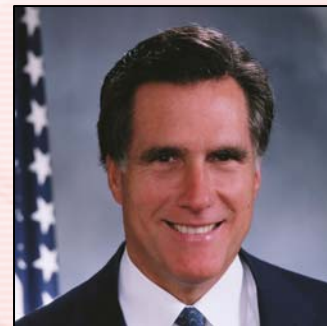
Alan Keyes



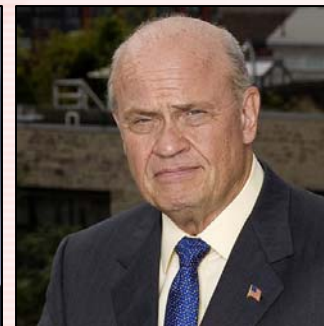
John McCain



Ron Paul



Mitt Romney



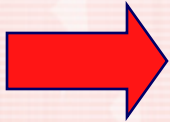
Fred Thompson

Presidential Preference 2008

Quick History

- The Caucus Years

- **1980** – Anderson, Baker, Bush, Connally, Crane, Dole, Hernandez, and Reagan
- **1984** – Reagan Reelect
- **1988** – Bush, DuPont, Haig, Kemp, and Robertson
- **1992** – Bush Reelect, Buchanan



- The Yankee Primary Years (CT, MA, ME, RI, & VT)

- **1996** – Alexander, Buchanan, Dole, Forbes, Gramm, Keyes, Lugar, and Taylor
- **2000** – Bauer, Bush, Forbes, Keyes, and McCain
- **2003** – State Statute allowing Maine to participate in Yankee primary repealed

- Back to the Caucus

- **2004** – Bush Reelect

Presidential Preference 2008

- Delegates to the Maine Republican State Convention are elected by the municipalities on Feb. 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Each municipality is allocated a certain number of delegates and alternates (See the "2006 Maine Republican State Convention Delegate Allocation" document)
- Candidates for delegate or alternate are free to express their presidential preference and attendees of the caucus are free to ask candidates their presidential preferences. Candidates **SHALL NOT BE BOUND** to their presidential preference.

Presidential Preference 2008

- Presidential campaigns are free to encourage participation in local caucuses. They are also free to endorse candidates for state delegates and alternates.
- A survey of presidential preference will be taken of the caucus via ballot. The results will be reported to the County Committee and State Committee and is for publicity purposes only. Delegates **SHALL NOT BE BOUND** to the results.

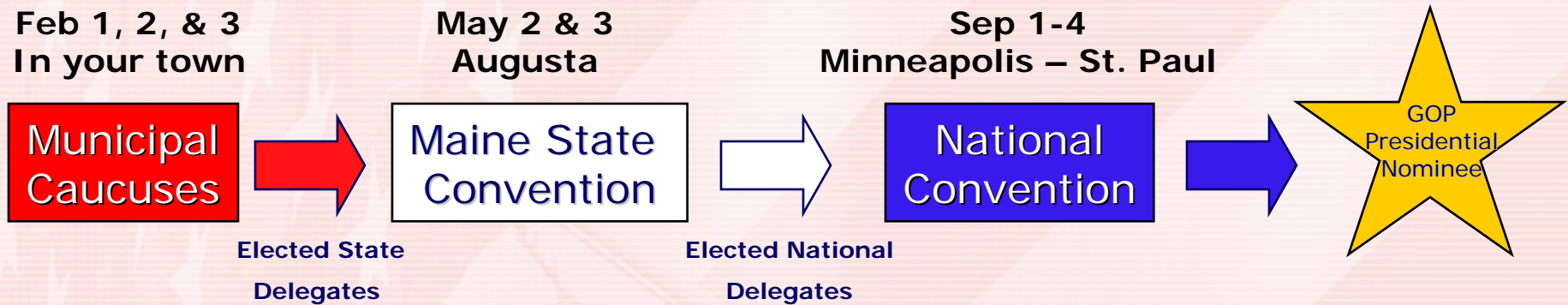
Presidential Preference 2008

- Delegates to the Maine Republican State Convention will elect national delegates and alternates at the State Convention May 2nd and 3rd.
- Candidates for national delegates and alternates are free to indicate their presidential preference and attendees of the state convention are free to ask. Candidates for national delegate and alternate **SHALL NOT BE BOUND** to their presidential preference.

Presidential Preference 2008

- Presidential campaigns are free to encourage individuals to run for national delegate and alternate. They are also free to endorse candidates for national delegates and alternates.
- Maine will have 21 delegates and 18 alternates at the National Convention.
 - 3 National Committee Members
 - 6 elected from the congressional districts (3 each)
 - 12 elected At-Large

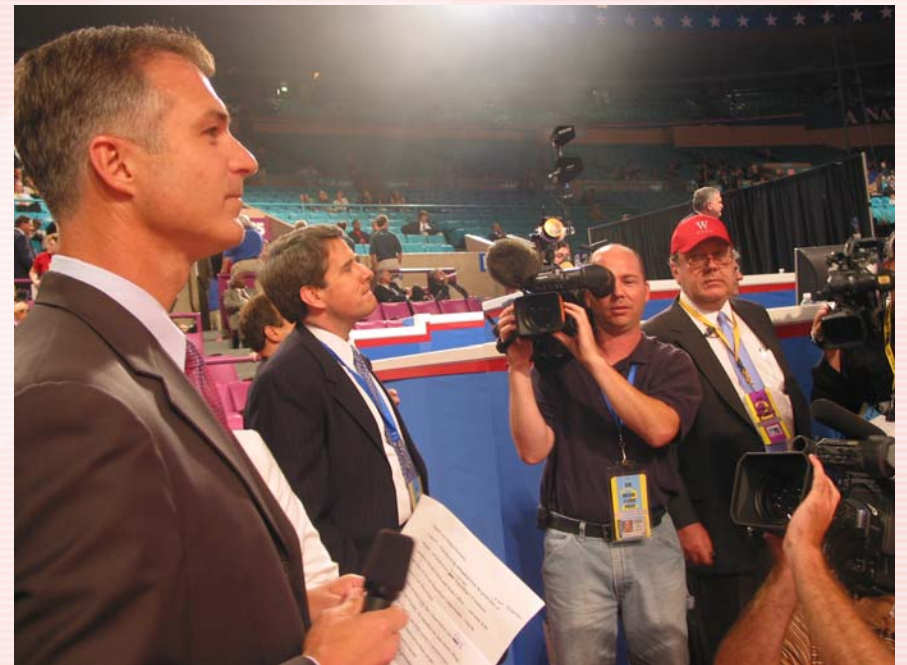
Presidential Preference 2008



Presidential Preference 2008



Ross Connelly casts votes for Maine at the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, PA



Peter Cianchette casts votes for Maine at the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York, NY

Presidential Preference 2008

Rationale

- Current State Party Rules were adopted in 2006 for the 2006 – 2008 biennium. Changes cannot be made to the rules.
- This process encourages the involvement of the presidential campaigns. Statistically speaking, the presidential campaign that turns out the most people to the caucuses will carry the day.

Presidential Preference 2008

Rationale

- The dates (2/1, 2/2, & 2/3) were selected based on what we anticipated would happen nationally. We wanted to go before 2/5, "Super Tuesday" and before Maine Dems on 2/10 to maximize publicity.
- The non-binding aspect of the process allows us to go earlier than 2/5 allowed by RNC rules and gives us the flexibility to adapt to the dynamics of the race.

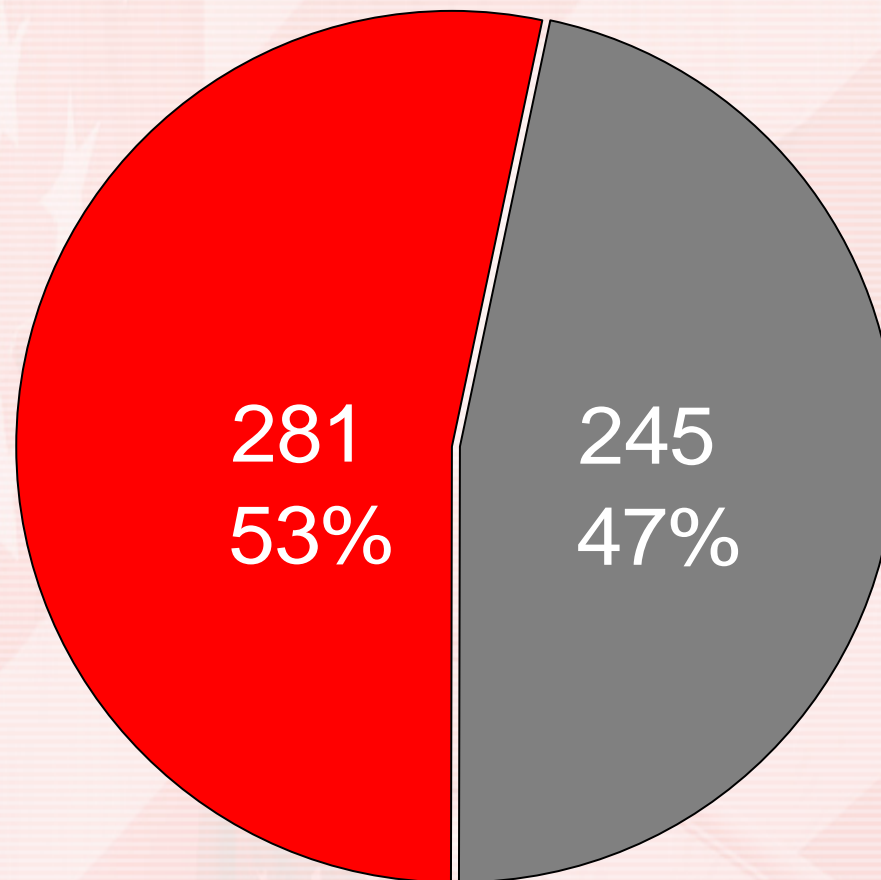
The Opportunity In 2008

Goals of the 2008 Biennial Caucus

- We want our 21 voices to be heard at the Republican National Convention.
- Draw attention to ourselves and to our candidates from the media.
- Draw our activist out (seasoned and new) to the caucuses by in record numbers.

What Happened in 2006?

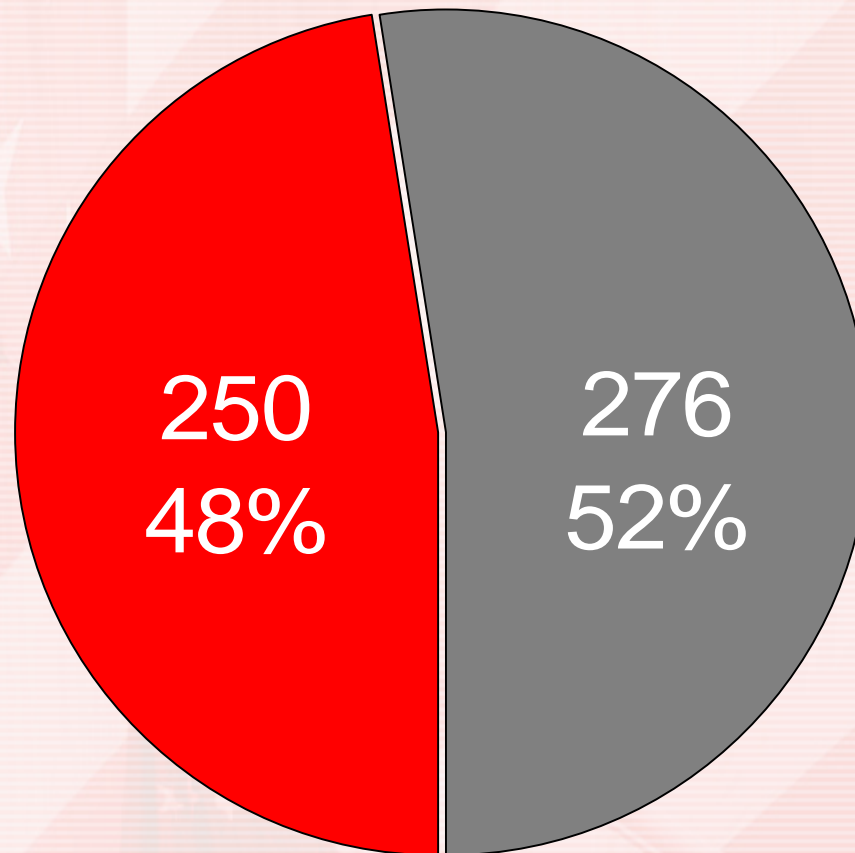
Towns that caucused in 2006



■ Towns That Caucused ■ No Caucus Held

What Happened in 2006?

Town's with GOP Town Committees



■ Towns with GOP Committees ■ Towns without GOP Committees

The Opportunity In 2008

Percentage of Towns without GOP Committees by county

Aroostook 92%	Knox 39%
Franklin 75%	Hancock 38%
Piscataquis 73%	Kennebec 34%
Washington 68%	Waldo 27%
Somerset 62%	York 24%
Penobscot 59%	Sagadahoc 20%
Oxford 45%	Cumberland 15%
Lincoln 42%	Androscoggin 7%

The Opportunity In 2008

What happened in 2006?

- **22%** or **62,884** Republicans statewide reside in the towns that do not have GOP committees.
- We lost the Governor's race by **42,022 votes**.
- I'm not suggesting that those 62,884 Republicans didn't vote for Chandler.
- I'm suggesting that we could have squeezed a significant amount of votes out of our base with a stronger organization.

The Opportunity In 2008

**Municipal committees
are the foundation of the
Maine Republican Party.**

The opportunity in 2008 is to leverage the presidential caucus to strengthen and grow the Party through the Municipal committees.

References and Resources

For **Maine Statutes**, go to: www.maine.gov

- Click on "Government" in the upper left of the screen.
- Click on the "Full list of Maine Statutes."
- Click on Title 21-A.

Direct link: <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/21-a/title21-Ach0sec0.html>

For **Maine GOP Rules and By-Laws** go to:
www.mainegop.com

- Click on the "About" button.
- Click on the By-Laws or Rules options.

Questions and Answers

