

State Party Conventions

Each of the recognized political parties (Republican and Democrat) will hold a state convention in 2008. In addition to conducting party business and establishing party platforms, these conventions may nominate candidates for one Public Utilities Commissioner and three Presidential Electors. Candidates running for these offices do not go through the June 3 primary process but are nominated directly by their party convention.

Who are the Convention Delegates?

Each party determines in their bylaws who their convention delegates will be from each county.

Republican county delegations include the county party chairperson, vice chairperson, state committeeman, state committeewoman, precinct committeemen, precinct committeewomen and three at-large delegates from each county. The chairperson, vice chairperson, state committeeman and state committeewoman are elected at a county party meeting. Precinct committeemen and women file a statement of candidacy with the county auditor by March 25 to run for their position. If more than one man or more than one woman files in a precinct, the names go on the primary election ballot in that precinct. Individuals running for at-large delegate file nominating petitions by March 25. If more than three file for this position, the names go on the primary election ballot for the county.

Democrat county delegations include four delegates from each county (including the county party chair, who is an automatic delegate) with one additional delegate from Brown County and Lincoln County, seven additional delegates from Pennington County and 16 additional delegates from Minnehaha County. Up to three alternates are elected by the County Central Committee in each organized county. The chairperson is elected at a county party meeting. Individuals running for at-large delegate file nominating petitions by March 25. If more than the allowed number file for this position, the names go on the primary election ballot for the county.

Voting at a State Convention

Each delegate shall vote the number of votes equal to his proportionate representation as to all delegates present from that county bears to the number of votes cast in his county at the last gubernatorial election for his party candidate for Governor. For example, if a county gave 5000 votes to that party's gubernatorial candidate in 2002, that county delegation casts 5000 votes at the state convention. If one delegate is present from the county, that delegate casts 5000 votes. If ten delegates are present from the county, each one casts 500 votes.