



NASS
National Association
of Secretaries of State

Model Legislation to Adopt a Rotating Regional Primary/Caucus System

Approved February 12, 1999
Amended July 2, 2000
Reaffirmed July 27, 2003
Amended February 15, 2004
Reaffirmed February 12, 2009

Section 1

Findings and Declaration

The people of the State of _____, acting through their elected legislative representation, find and declare that:

The quadrennial election of the President and the Vice President of the United States is among the most important civic acts of the voters of the State of _____.

The process leading to the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States should be as open and participatory as possible. The National Association of Secretaries of State encourages States to continue utilizing the primary process as the means for delegate selection in their State.

A coordinated, orderly and defined electoral schedule will enhance voter participation, strengthen the political process, and protect the rights of all States and their citizens.

The State of _____ will participate in a rotating regional presidential primary/caucus system as defined herein.

Understanding the historically important role that smaller states have played in the presidential election process in terms of retail politics, the states of New Hampshire and Iowa shall be allowed to conduct their primary election or caucus prior to the commencement of the rotation schedule.

Section 2

Definition

"Presidential primary/caucus" is the official primary/caucus election conducted or sanctioned by the State of _____ held in any year that is evenly divisible by the number four at which delegations to national party conventions are to be chosen.

Section 3

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the State of _____, consistent with its decision to affiliate with Region _____, as defined by the National Association of Secretaries of State, shall not hold its presidential primary/caucus sooner than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, April, May or June of each presidential election cycle, but in no case later than six (6) days after said Monday in the order defined below in Section 4; and shall rotate in subsequent presidential election years as specified in Section 5.

Section 4

For the purpose of presidential primaries/caucuses, the States should be grouped as follows:

Eastern Region (1)

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Southern Region (2)

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Midwestern Region (3)

Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Western Region (4)

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming and Guam.

It is the intent that a lottery will be held to determine which Region will begin the sequence of presidential primaries/caucuses in March. The other regions will follow in numerical order in April, May, and June. In subsequent cycles, the first region to hold its primary/caucus shall move to the end and all others in the sequence shall move up.

Section 5

Rotation of the Date of the Presidential Primary/Caucus

In the presidential primary/caucus elections subsequent to the year 20__, the date of the election shall be the first Tuesday of the month preceding the month of the most recent presidential primary/caucus election, except if the most recent election was conducted on the first Tuesday of March. In that case, the date of the election shall be the first Tuesday of June.

AFFIRMATION EXPIRES: WINTER CONFERENCE 2014