



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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State Election Officials to Make Push for Regional Presidential Primaries

Nation's Secretaries of State Holding Special Meeting in the Nation's Capital to Make Case for Presidential Primary Reform Plan That Would Create Regional Primaries in 2012 or Beyond

Washington, DC — The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), which represents the nation's top state election officials, today announced that the NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries will hold a special meeting from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Hall of States in Washington, DC on Friday, November 16, 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the frontloaded 2008 presidential primary calendar and the need for a regional primary system beginning in 2012 or beyond.

What: National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries Meeting

Who: Secretaries of State, Staff, Academic Experts, Congressional Representatives & Political Party Officials

When: Friday, November 16, 2007 (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, with Media Availability from 3:30 PM – 3:50 PM)

Where: Hall of States, 444 N. Capitol Street, NW (Room 333/North Tower)

To Confirm Attendance: Contact Kay Stimson at 202-624-3528 or nass@sso.org. Press credentials required.

Topics of Discussion Include:

- The NASS Rotating Regional Primaries Plan and Strategies for Its Adoption in 2012 or Beyond
- The Troubling 2008 Presidential Primary and Caucus Calendar
- The Historical Role of Iowa and New Hampshire in the Nomination Process
- Congressional Legislation to Establish a Regional Primary System
- State Efforts to Adopt Regional Primaries for 2008
- Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee Updates

Background:

The 2008 presidential nominating schedule is the most front-loaded in U.S. history. Thirty-four states (plus DC) will vote in January or February—more than three times the number that did so in 2000. Twenty-one states alone are slated to vote on February 5, 2008.

The compressed schedule gives highly-funded candidates with national name recognition an unfair advantage from the start, and it effectively disenfranchises almost half of our voting population. The worst effect, however, may be that it creates a prolonged general election campaign season.

The NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries includes the following state officials:

Hon. Todd Rokita, Indiana (NASS President); Hon. Trey Grayson, Kentucky (Co-Chair); Hon. Michael Mauro, Iowa (Co-Chair); Hon. Pedro Cortes, Pennsylvania; Hon. William Gardner, New Hampshire; Hon. Susan Bysiewicz, Connecticut; Hon. Ron Thornburgh, Kansas; Hon. Mark Ritchie, Minnesota; Hon. William Bradbury, Oregon; Hon. Brad Johnson, Montana; Hon. A. Ralph Mollis, Rhode Island; Hon. Riley Darnell, Tennessee; Hon. Sam Reed, Washington; Hon. Gary Herbert, Utah; Hon. Jay Dardenne, Louisiana; Hon. William Galvin, Massachusetts; and Hon. Ross Miller, Nevada.

For more information, visit www.nass.org.

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