



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **State Election Officials Available to Discuss Presidential Primaries & 2008 Election Issues**

**Washington, DC**—With Iowa preparing to lead off the 2008 presidential nominating process tomorrow, the National Association of Secretaries of State announces the availability of chief state election officials in early voting states and other members who can discuss key topics for the 2008 primaries. The expert list includes:

#### **Early Primaries and Caucuses**

Iowa is the first state to vote on January 3, followed by New Hampshire on January 8, Michigan on January 15, and Nevada (along with South Carolina Republicans) on January 19.

**Michael Mauro** is the Iowa Secretary of State and a former local elections official with extensive experience in election administration. Contact: Pam Conner at 505-281-7041, or [pam.conner@sos.state.ia.us](mailto:pam.conner@sos.state.ia.us).

**Bill Gardner** is New Hampshire Secretary of State and one of the longest-serving members of NASS. In addition to having the legal power to set the date of the first-in-the-nation primary, he has co-authored a book on the Granite State's primary, entitled, "Why New Hampshire?" Contact: 603-271-3242.

**Ross Miller** is Nevada Secretary of State and at age 31, the youngest member of NASS. Miller is available to discuss the historic importance of Nevada's addition to the early contests in the 2008 presidential nominating process. Contact: Bob Walsh at 702-486-2436, or [rwalsh@sos.nv.gov](mailto:rwalsh@sos.nv.gov).

#### **Primary Preparedness and the NASS Regional Primary Reform Plan**

The 2008 presidential nominating schedule is the most front-loaded in U.S. history. Thirty-four states (plus DC) are voting in January or February—more than three times the number that did so in 2000. The compressed schedule creates a prolonged general campaign and gives highly-funded candidates an unfair advantage. Members are urging adoption of the NASS Rotating Regional Presidential Primary Plan, which would establish regional primaries and rotate their order to give all states a chance to play a role in the nomination process.

**Trey Grayson** is Kentucky Secretary of State and co-chair of the NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries. He is an authority on the presidential primary process, party nominating rules and the NASS Rotating Regional Presidential Primaries Plan. Contact: Les Fugate at 502-564-3490 (x404), or [les.fugate@ky.gov](mailto:les.fugate@ky.gov).

#### **Supreme Court Case on Voter ID**

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments regarding the constitutionality of Indiana's voter identification law on January 9, 2008. The high court's verdict on the issue will affect states such as Georgia, Michigan and Missouri, which have adopted laws that require voters to show government-issued photo IDs at the polls. It will also affect states where photo ID legislation is pending or under consideration.

**Todd Rokita** is the Indiana Secretary of State who supported adoption of the photo ID voting law that is the focus of the court case. He will be in Washington, DC for the Supreme Court hearing and will be available for interviews on January 8 – 10. Contact: Allison Fore at (317) 233-8655, or [afore@sos.in.gov](mailto:afore@sos.in.gov).

Secretaries of State **Jennifer Brunner** (Ohio), **Deborah Markowitz** (Vermont), **Robin Carnahan** (Missouri), and two former secretaries submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court opposing Indiana's photo ID law for voting. Carnahan can discuss facts as related to Missouri's experience with a similar photo ID law that has been since overturned. Contact: Ryan Hobart at 573-526-4734, or [ryan.hobart@sos.mo.gov](mailto:ryan.hobart@sos.mo.gov).

For more information, including 2008 presidential primary dates and registration deadlines, visit [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org).

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