



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**Contact: Kay Stimson**

Director of Communications for NASS

202.624.3528 office

703.869.5868 cell

nass@sso.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 6, 2008

### **NASS Report Urges Adoption of Regional System for Presidential Primaries**

*National Association of Secretaries of State Calls on National Parties to Work Together on Overhaul for 2012*

**Washington, DC**—A new report urging adoption of a regional system for presidential primaries is now available online. The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) today released the report of the NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries entitled, “The Case for Regional Presidential Primaries in 2012 and Beyond.” Developed with input from leading academics and chief state election officials in more than twenty states, the document is aimed at state and national political party representatives, as well as other opinion leaders with the ability to bring about changes to the process for the next presidential election cycle.

“If the system remains unchecked for 2012, the process will remain chaotic, unfair and subject to the decisions of state leaders who can afford to ignore party rules and sanctions,” said Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, co-chair of the NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries. “It is time to stop the frontloading of the presidential nominating calendar so that states are not pitted against each other in a quadrennial attempt to land a prized early spot in the sequence of voting.”

The NASS plan would divide the country into geographical regions (East, South, Midwest and West) and spread out the primaries and caucuses over a time period of four months, beginning in March of each cycle. The voting order of the regions would then rotate every four years. The traditional “lead-off” contests in Iowa and New Hampshire would still come first, but only as a warm-up to give lesser-known, under-funded candidates the chance to establish themselves as genuine competitors in the larger, regional competitions that follow.

In addition to providing details and background on the NASS Rotating Regional Presidential Primaries Plan, the new report outlines the broad support that exists for the proposal, from political endorsements to major newspaper editorials. It also provides information on the 2008 nominating calendar and charts the frontloading phenomenon from 2000 to 2008. A special section details the impacts of frontloading on election administrators, many of whom were forced to carry out election preparations during the busy end-of-year holiday season.

“Although no system is perfect and without its flaws, we believe that regional primaries are the best way to choose our president,” said Iowa Secretary of State Michael Mauro, co-chair of the NASS Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries. “Election officials don’t want to live through another campaign cycle where we’re trying to get ready for caucuses and primaries while people are celebrating Thanksgiving and other big holidays. It’s just not rational.”

NASS members plan to send the report to national and state political party leaders. The RNC Standing Committee on Rules will meet this spring to consider adopting a modified version of the NASS plan, along with four alternative proposals. The DNC has also indicated that it will examine its nominating procedures.

For more information, download the report at [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org).

*Founded in 1904, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) is the oldest professional, non-partisan organization of public officials in the United States. Members include the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, visit [www.nass.org](http://www.nass.org).*