

Presidential Delegate Voting Method

Overview

The Presidential Delegate Voting Method is only used in a Presidential Preference Primary where the voter is issued (or chooses) a party specific ballot and political party rules in the state requires use of the method. It consists of a Presidential Preference contest for the party which, in addition to allowing the voter to choose a preferred presidential candidate, also controls the allowable selection of delegates to the party national nominating convention in one or more delegate contest categories.

The Presidential Preference contest lists the presidential candidates as well as an uncommitted choice. The various delegate category contests list the delegate candidates in the category with their supported presidential candidate or uncommitted. The Presidential contest not only allows the voter to indicate their preferred presidential candidate or uncommitted, it controls the available selections to the voter for delegate in the various categories. Thus a selection of Candidate A for president restricts the voter to only selecting delegates representing Candidate A in any of the delegate contest categories. Any selection for a delegate representing another candidate will be ignored.

An analogy to this voting method is the Open Primary with a Party Preference contest. The party selection in the Party Preference contest restricts tabulation to partisan contests of that party. Here the restriction is to delegate candidates representing the selected presidential candidate.

Presentation of a delegate contest within a category may appear as a single contest with the name of the candidate listed along with the name of the candidate they support or may be listed as a set of contests, one for each presidential candidate who has candidates for delegate who support them.

This voting method is in current use by both the Democratic and Republican Party in Alabama although the delegate categories that appear on their respective ballots differ. It is also used by the Democratic Party in Rhode Island.