Home / News / Elections

http://www.columbiamissourian.com/news/elections/tuesday-s-primary-marks-the-beginning-of-a-lengthy-caucus/article_2bbdd812-e61d-11e5-adcf-675a83e266cd.html

Tuesday's primary marks the beginning of a lengthy caucus process

KELSI ANDERSON AND ALLISON GRAVES   *Mar 11, 2016*

Correction

*An earlier version of this story misstated the number of states with Libertarian candidates on presidential preference primaries.

Need-to-know Glossary

Primary: An election where voters choose a candidate from a political party that they think is best suited to run in the general election. The results are used to select delegates for conventions.

Caucus: A meeting held to choose a particular party's candidate for an election. Caucus attendees' discuss and debate candidates out-loud and votes must be public.

Open Primary: Registered voters can vote in any party's primary, but only one. Missouri holds an open primary.

Closed Primary: Voters register to vote in a particular party's primary.

Mixed Primary: Unaffiliated voters select a party's primary to vote in, while voters who are already registered with a party's must vote in the respective primary.

Blanket Primary: Voters choose a candidate regardless of the party affiliation. The candidate who gets the most votes from the party advances to the general election.
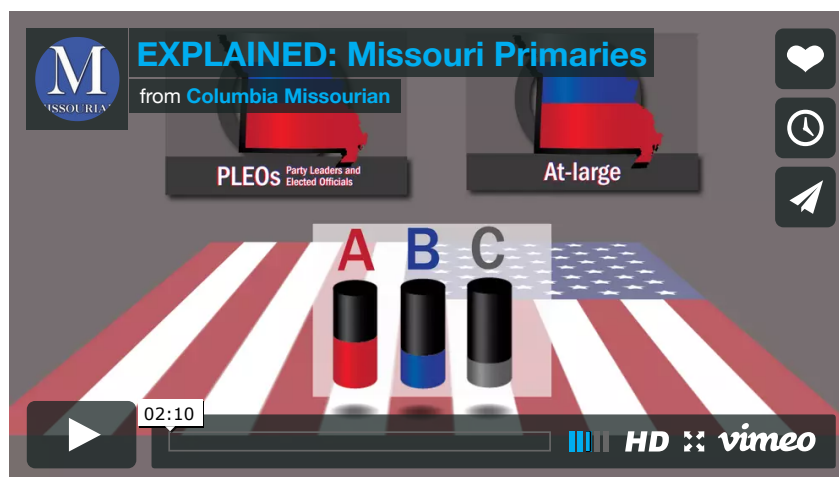
Binding Primary: A primary in which delegates are legally bound to vote for a particular candidate. These delegates are called pledged delegates.

Non-binding Primary: A primary in which delegates are not bound to the results of the primary and may vote as they see fit. These delegates are called unpledged delegates, or superdelegates.

Sources:

https://ballotpedia.org/Primary_election

https://ballotpedia.org/Caucus

MORE INFORMATION

Democratic Presidential Candidates

EXPLAINED: Missouri Primaries from Columbia Missourian on Vimeo.

COLUMBIA — Boone County voters will join others across Missouri on Tuesday to cast ballots in the Missouri presidential preference primary.

Tuesday's vote tallies won't go directly to the candidates, though. Rather, the results of the party primaries determine how delegates will vote in their parties' national conventions.

Delegates act as a sort of middle man or woman, representing the preferences that primary voters express. But each party has a different system for allocating delegates based on the vote count.

Missouri uses an open primary system, which means voters don't have to be registered with a particular party. They simply show up at the polls and ask for the party ballot they want.

Twenty-six candidates — nine Democrats, 12 Republicans and five Libertarians — will appear on Missouri ballots, even though some already have dropped from the race. No candidate filed for the Constitution Party, whose platform is based on principles of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution.

How delegates are chosen

Republican and Democratic delegates will select their parties' nominees at national conventions in July, while the Libertarians will do so in May.

- The Republican National Convention will be July 18-21 in Cleveland, Ohio.

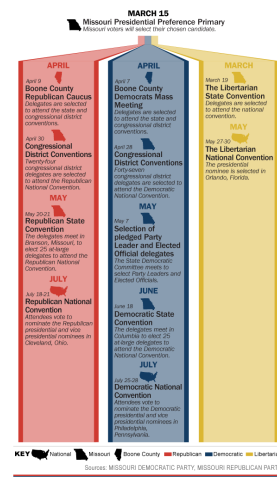- The Democratic National Convention will be July 25-28 in Philadelphia.

- The Libertarian National Convention will be held May 27-30 in Orlando, Florida.

Before the big events, though, the parties will hold caucuses, as well as state conventions, to select delegates and to consider their parties' platforms.

At county caucuses, party members select local delegates and alternates to attend caucuses in each of the state's eight congressional districts and the state conventions. Delegates to the national convention are picked at the congressional level. Boone is one of 26 counties in the 4th Congressional District.

At the state convention, the parties will select at-large delegates to attend the national events.

The process to select delegates to the Republican and Democratic national conventions begins at the county level. In each of Missouri's 114 counties, voters will select delegates to attend the congressional district conventions and state conventions. Each party has its own congressional district convention and state convention. At these meetings, delegates will be selected to attend the Democratic and Republican national conventions where the parties presidential nominee will finally be selected.

MARY RYAN, MISSOURIAN STAFF

Boone County delegate selection

	Republican	Democrat
Hosted by	Boone County Republicans	Boone County Democratic Party
Where	Holiday Inn Executive Center	Gentry Elementary School
When	April 9, 10 a.m.	April 7, 7:30 p.m.

- The Democratic State Convention will be June 18 at the Columbia Exposition Center.

- The Republican State Convention will be May 20-21 in Branson.

Missouri's Republican and Democratic parties have distinct processes for awarding delegates based on primary results. Missouri is one of *four states that will have a Libertarian ballot on its primary.

Democratic delegates

The Missouri Democratic Party is expected to have 84 delegates. Of those, 13 will be unpledged, meaning they are not bound to the results of the primary and can vote for anyone they choose. The remaining 71 that will be bound by the primary results include congressional district delegates, at-large delegates and party leaders and elected officials, also known as PLEOs.

Democratic presidential candidates need to win at least 15 percent of the primary vote to qualify for a share of the state's delegates. Congressional district delegates are awarded proportionally based on primary results in each

congressional district. At-large delegates and pledged PLEO delegates are proportionally awarded based on Missouri's general primary results.

The Republican Party expects to have 52 delegates. This includes 24 congressional district delegates, 25 at-large delegates and three Republican National Convention delegates.

The process for allocating Republican delegates will differ from 2012, when the primary had no influence over how delegates voted. Jonathon Prouty, executive director of the Missouri Republican Party, said this year's process is in line with the traditional way of doing things, where delegates actually will be bound to candidates.

"Actually, 2012 was the outlier," Prouty said. "We had to make an emergency decision in 2012 to change from a binding primary to a non-binding primary because our primary was out of compliance with (Republican National Committee) rules."

Missouri's 2012 primary was held Feb. 7, but GOP rules required that any primary held before March 8 had to be non-binding. If Missouri Republicans had failed to make the switch, they risked losing as many as half their delegates, Boone County Republican Chairman Mike Zweifel said.

This year, the winner in each of Missouri's eight congressional districts will win all three of that district's delegates, plus two at-large delegates. The remaining nine at-large delegates and three Republican National Committee delegates will go to the overall winner of the primary.

All that is thrown out the window, though, if a candidate gets more than 50 percent of the state's primary vote. In that case, Missouri becomes a winner-take-all state.

Supervising editor is Scott Swafford.

HTTP Status 500 - Request processing failed; nested exception is java.lang.IllegalArgumentException: Invalid encoded sequence "%,13/nPledged Delegates: 84.5%,71"

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type Exception report

message Request processing failed; nested exception is java.lang.IllegalArgumentException: Invalid encoded sequence "%,13/nPledged Delegates: 84.5%,71"

description The server encountered an internal error that prevented it from fulfilling this request.

exception

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        org.springframework.web.servlet.DispatcherServlet.doService(DispatcherServlet.java:
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        javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet.service(HttpServlet.java:618)
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