

January 10, 2008

Tsunami Tuesday

by Jennifer Robinson, MPA, CPPA Research Associate

Introduction

Tsunami Tuesday, Mega Tuesday, Super Tuesday, Super-Duper Tuesday – no matter what you call it, it's a big deal! It's the day on which twenty-two states will hold their primary/caucus to select the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates. Unlike previous campaign years when the candidate was selected very early, this year the race is highly competitive and each state seems to matter. That bodes well for some states that have been largely ignored in the past, including states in the West.



Western issues do appear to be on the radar screens for candidates and two factors seem to be at play. The first factor is the early Nevada primary on January 19. The second factor is the February 5th primary (Tsunami Tuesday) when 6 western states hold their primary/caucus elections. Those states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho (Democrats only), New Mexico (Democrats only), and Utah.

The purpose of the early Nevada caucus and the February 5 "Western Primary" was to increase the attention that presidential candidates pay to western issues – such as federal lands, water, and mining. Mike Stratton, political strategist for Gov. Richardson's presidential campaign summed it up: "The goal was the candidates would have to campaign out here and get immersed in the West," he said. "Is it more than we've gotten historically? Exponentially more. Look at how much time the candidates are spending in Nevada."[\[2\]](#)

While candidates may be paying more attention to the West than they did historically, western issues did not get a lot of attention.[\[3\]](#) "A few national issues have been framed with, say, a slightly Western tilt," said Eric Herzik, head of the political science department at the University of Nevada. "But besides Yucca Mountain, which is an easy issue for Democrats, they haven't talked about water, they haven't talked about land, they haven't talked about the role of the federal government in Western states."[\[4\]](#) Candidates did give attention to issues such as the economy, Iraq, and health care that affect all Americans, including westerners.[\[5\]](#)

General Requirements to Vote in Utah's Primary

- Must be at least 18 years of age on February 5, 2008
- Must be registered to vote
- Must be a resident of the State of Utah for at least 30 days before the election
- U.S. citizen
- Not be a convicted felon currently incarcerated

Who can Vote in Utah's Democratic Primary?

To vote in the Democratic presidential primary an individual must be registered as a Democrat

Primary/Caucus States[\[1\]](#)

February 5, 2008

Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Georgia
Idaho (Democrats)
Illinois
Kansas (Democrats)
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Missouri
New Jersey
New Mexico (Democrats)
New York
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Tennessee
Utah

or unaffiliated. If you have questions, call the Utah Democratic Party at 328-1212.

Who can Vote in Utah's Republican Primary?

To vote in the Republican presidential primary an individual must be a registered Republican. If you are currently registered as "Unaffiliated" you may change your status to "Republican" at the polling location. If you have questions, call the Utah Republican Party at 533-9777.

[1] Federal Election Commission, www.fec.gov.

[2] David Montero. "Political frontier moves West." Rocky Mountain News, January 19, 2008.

[3] Josh Patashnik. "Bad Bet: The Nevada caucuses are a gamble that hasn't paid off for Democrats." *The New Republic*, January 19, 2008.

[4] Mark Z. Barabak and Seema Mehta. "Democrats duel to the end in Nevada." *Los Angeles Times*, January 19, 2008.

[5] John, Marelius. "Nevadans find themselves in the spotlight with early caucuses." *San Diego Union Tribune*, January 19, 2008.

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