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Western Presidential Primary Update

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Front-Loaded Primary: The presidential calendar is being compressed into a very short time frame. As of now, Iowa will lead the calendar (January 14), followed by Nevada (January 19), New Hampshire (January 22), and South Carolina (January 29). The remaining states seem to be jockeying for February 5, which is the next earliest date available under Democratic party rules. As many as 10 states are hoping to move their caucus or primary to February 5, including California, Florida, Illinois, Alabama, Arkansas, New Jersey, West Virginia, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. The Western states of Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico were hoping to become a force in the presidential election by having their primary/caucuses on the same date. If California (with its 322 Democratic delegate votes) moves into the February 5 slot, it could negate the benefits for those other states. Candidates will bombard California – and largely ignore the other states.

Potential 2008 Presidential Calendar	
January 14	Iowa
January 19	Nevada
January 22	New Hampshire
January 29	South Carolina
February 5	Alabama Arizona Arkansas California Florida Illinois New Jersey New Mexico Utah West Virginia



National Party News: The recent announcement that the 2008 Democratic National Convention will be held in Denver, Colorado is another signal that the West becoming a bigger political voice for both Democrats and Republicans. "There is no question that the West is important to the future of the Democratic Party," said Howard Dean. "The recent Democratic gains in the West exemplify the principle that when we show up and ask for people's votes and talk about what we stand for, we can win in any part of the country." The Republican National Convention will be held in Minneapolis-St. Paul on September 1, 2008 - four days after the Democratic Convention (August 25-28, 2008).

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