

**PSCI 281 – CAPTURING THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION**  
**PROFS. JOHN GEER AND HAROLD FORD**

**Assignment:**

Given that there are 50 states with unique features, we are going to start the class by gathering information. You will each turn in a 2 page report on September 17<sup>th</sup> by 10am (the day before class). We will assign you a state. You are to become an expert in the rules and political climate of that state. You should find out, for example, the recent presidential voting in the state, how many delegates at stake, when is the voting, who can vote in the primary or caucus, what are the major media markets (and likely cost), the influential politicians in the state, who has endorsed who, what are current polls saying, etc. You want to make sure these reports are both accurate and informative, since we will share them with the entire class (and we will assess them as well).

**Sources to consult about the primary in your state:**

**Background Information about Your State and Its Political Climate**

*Almanac of American Politics*, 1972-. (Database; Latest on READY REF JK 1012 .A44--Bookcase 1)

*Politics in America*, 1982-. (Database; Latest on GOVT REF JK 1010 .P64--Bookcase 1)

*Almanac of American Politics* gives a 2-page summary of the political climate in each state; *Politics in America* gives data on campaign finances. Otherwise, these two sources provide very similar coverage. Both are arranged alphabetically by state. For each state, provides profiles of Governors, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, and each Congressional district. For Senators and Representatives gives biographical information, committee assignments, election results, key votes, and interest group ratings.

*State Rankings*. 2 vols. (REF HA 203 .U17)

Ranks states on everything from agricultural products, to crime, to defense spending in the state, to transportation

**Delegates**

*The Green Papers - Election 2008: Primary, Caucus, and Convention Phase - January 2008 thru September 2008.*

(<http://www.thegreenpapers.com/P08/>)

**Look here first.** Covers the allocation of delegates for the Democratic and Republican parties. "Delegate Selection and Voter Eligibility" gives for each state whether it has a closed or open primary, a caucus or convention, and whether votes are awarded proportionately or winner-take-all. The Democratic Party refers to PLEO delegates, which are "Party Leaders and Elected Officials."

**Other sites about delegates:**

*The 2008 Democratic National Convention: How To Become A Delegate*

([http://www.demconvention.com/a/2007/03/how\\_to\\_become\\_a.html](http://www.demconvention.com/a/2007/03/how_to_become_a.html))

Includes a map. Click on your state to find the number of delegates and how many delegates will be pledged to the winning primary candidate and how many are for partyoffice holders.

*Google U.S. Government Search* (formerly Uncle Sam) (<http://www.google.com/ig/usgov>)

To see if the primary rules for your state are online, in the search box enter the name of your state and these words: primary election rules. This database searches all U.S. federal, state and local government .gov and .mil sites, as well as select government sites with .com, .us, and .edu domains (e.g., .usps.com, .ca.us, and ndu.edu).

*Roster of States - National Association of State Election Directors (NASED)* (<http://www.nased.org/membership.htm>)

Links to state election pages. Group formed in 1989 because of concern that national networks were releasing presidential election results before all polls had closed. Click on the web site for that state. Most of the sites have

search boxes. Enter “primary” or “primaries” to see if you can get information about the primaries. You can also call the listed officials to see if there are other state government or political party sites that have the information you need.

### **Primary and General Election Results by State**

*America at the Polls, 1960-2004: A Handbook of American Presidential Election Statistics*. 2005. (REF JK 524 A73)  
Presidential general election returns by state and by county.

*Congressional Quarterly's Guide to U.S. Elections*. 5th ed., 2005. 2 vols. (GOVT REF JK 1967 .C662 2005)  
Vol. 1 includes chapters on “Presidential Primaries” (pp. 315-330), “Presidential Primary Returns, 1910-2000” (pp. 331-430), and “Nominating Conventions (pp. 431-450).

*United States Presidential Primary Elections, 1968-1996: A Handbook of Election Statistics*. 2000. (REF JK 522 .C66 2000)  
Provides a page or two about primaries (or caucuses) in each state, including such information as when the state first held primaries, and provides primary election results by county through 1996.