

# Primaries Ahead!



photo by Matt Wade

## Mini Fact:

The political conventions will take place in July and August this year.

As we start the new year, Americans are already hearing a lot about candidates for president and their positions on different issues. People 18 and older have 10 months to decide who they will vote for as our next president.

The first official steps will be **primaries** and **caucuses**. These are state contests to decide who would be the best **candidate** for each party.

In addition, states choose **delegates** to attend political conventions later in the year and nominate the presidential candidate.

This year, the primary season begins with the Iowa caucuses, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 3.

## Primary or caucus?

Political parties in each state hold elections to see which candidate within a party gets the most votes. Most states use primaries, or elections where voters use secret ballots.

Other states may use caucuses, gatherings where party members meet to choose their candidate. They may use a show of hands to vote, and they may meet in someone's home.

## Other early elections

After Iowa on Feb. 3, other early primaries and caucuses will follow:

- New Hampshire primary, Feb. 11
- Nevada caucuses, Feb. 22
- South Carolina primary, Feb. 29

## Who can be president?

A candidate for president must be:

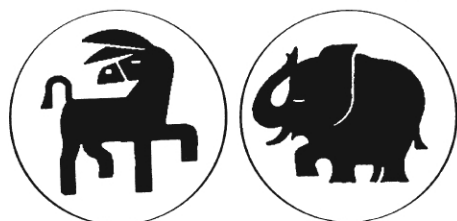
- at least 35 years old.
- a natural-born citizen of the United States.
- a resident of the United States for 14 years.

## Who's running?



President Donald J. Trump

President Donald J. Trump is expected to be the Republican nominee for president. He was elected in 2016. According to the U.S. Constitution, he is allowed to serve one more four-year term.



The donkey is the symbol of the Democratic Party. The elephant is the symbol of the Republican Party.

## Party time

A **political party** is a group of people who work to promote their ideals and candidates. While the states set down the election rules, political parties select the candidates who run. There are other parties, but most people vote for candidates of either the Democratic or Republican party.

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of primaries are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

CANDIDATE, CAUCUS, CITIZEN, CONVENTION, DEBATE, DELEGATE, DEMOCRATIC, ELECTION, IDEALS, IOWA, NOMINEE, PARTY, POLITICAL, PRESIDENT, PRIMARY, REPUBLICAN, TERM, VOTERS.

S J L N O M I N E E P V H T E  
U N O I T C E L E R M D V Z T  
C N E Z I T I C E V T E R M A  
U S L A E D I S P A R T Y E G  
A R I N A C I L B U P E R T E  
C E O V J D P O L I T I C A L  
F T W S E T A D I D N A C B E  
I O A N J P R I M A R Y Q E D  
J V T C O N V E N T I O N D T  
Z D E M O C R A T I C Y U S B



## Cook's Corner

### Peach Berry Smoothie

#### You'll need:

- 1 cup strawberries
- 2 cups frozen peaches
- 8 ounces low-fat plain yogurt
- 1 cup fruit juice (any flavor)

#### What to do:

1. Wash strawberries and cut up berries and peaches into chunks.
2. Place all ingredients in a large blender.
3. Process until smooth and creamy. Makes 4 servings.



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. writer of a book (6) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Steph Curry's game (10) \_\_\_\_\_
3. make (5) \_\_\_\_\_
4. nothing (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. noisy black bird (4) \_\_\_\_\_
6. brave (8) \_\_\_\_\_
7. estimate (5) \_\_\_\_\_

RO	RL	BUI	ESS
BALL	GU	KET	OW
FEA	ZE	AUT	ESS
BAS	CR	LD	HOR

Answers: author, basketball, build, zero, crow, fearless, guess.



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## Democratic challengers

This year, a large number of candidates are competing to be the Democratic nominee for president. At press time, there were 16 candidates for voters to consider. They include seven current or former members of Congress, three mayors and one governor, along with business leaders and a former vice president. Four women and five people of color are among the candidates.



photo courtesy History News Network

## Debates

Have you or your family been watching any of the Democratic presidential debates on television? These events give the primary candidates a chance to tell voters about their positions on many issues.

After a Democratic candidate is named, that person and the Republican candidate will have one-on-one debates.

## What would you ask?

If you were holding a debate among presidential candidates, what questions would you ask? Make a list, then compare your questions with those of classmates or family members.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPprimaries](https://bit.ly/MPprimaries)
- [bit.ly/MPelections](https://bit.ly/MPelections)

### At the library:

- "How Do We Elect Our Leaders?" by William Thomas

## Mini Jokes



**Lindsey:** Where did the music student leave his keys?  
**Leon:** On the piano!

## Eco Note



It's important that we learn to take care of the planet to preserve our resources for the future. This is known as **sustainability**. Earth has plenty of food, water, timber and minerals. But these resources aren't limitless. If we take too much now, there will be less in the future. For example, 30% of all the food produced each year is thrown away uneaten. Sustainability means using natural resources carefully, to preserve stocks for the future.

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## For later:

Look in your newspaper to find out when the next presidential debate will be.

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