

If You Want To Be A Delegate to the 2012 Convention...

Below is a *summary* of the rules you must follow to run successfully to be a SC Delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention, which will be Sept. 3-6 in Charlotte, NC.

If you plan to run for a delegate position, **you should read the entire SC Delegate Selection Plan**, because all requirements are not included in this summary. It is available at www.scdp.org or by calling 803-799-7798.

The first step in South Carolina delegate selection process is attending your **Presidential Primary/Precinct Reorganization meeting at 10:00 am on January 28, 2012 OR at 10:00 am on March 3rd, 2012**, depending on which date your county Chairman has set for your county precinct reorganization meetings. There will be no actual primary since only President Barack Obama has filed with the SC Democratic Party to run in a primary. Therefore, participating in your precinct reorganization will be considered as the first step in the delegate selection process. All delegates will be Obama delegates since there are no other Democratic candidates for the office of President of the United States. **You must be recorded in attendance and then participate in your precinct meeting to run for delegate to the National Democratic Convention. This is a new requirement for 2012.**

Democrats at the **precinct meetings** elect delegates and alternates to **County Democratic Conventions**, which will be held between March 15 and March 27, 2012. **Being elected as a delegate to your county convention is the second step in the national delegate selection process.** A list of the dates and times for each county convention is listed on the SC Democratic Party website at www.scdp.org or you can call your county party chairman for details.

The third step is getting elected at your county convention as a delegate or alternate to the S.C. State Democratic Convention, which will be in Columbia on May 12, 2012.

Finally, delegates to the Democratic National Convention will be elected by the delegates to the SC State Democratic Party Convention. To vote, a participant at the state convention must sign a pledge of support for President Obama, as he is the only candidate who filed in SC.

So, **you must attend your precinct meeting** and be elected as a delegate or alternate to your county convention and then at your county convention you must be elected as a delegate or alternate to the state convention **before** you can run to be a delegate to the National Convention.

There will be **62 delegates** from South Carolina, in several categories, plus **5 Alternates**:

6 Unpledged Party Leader Delegates are automatically selected because of their positions: SC's Democratic Congressman and the Democratic National Committee members.

37 Congressional District Delegates and 4 Congressional District Alternates.

- The apportionment of delegates and alternates per Congressional District was determined according to 2008 presidential primary results (based on 6 districts in effect in Jan. 2011).
- These delegates are elected at each Congressional District caucus at the state convention.
- No more than half of the Congressional District delegates may be from any one county.
- All district level delegates (combined) must be equally divided between men and women.

7 Party Leader and Elected Official Delegates

- Must be county or state party officers above the precinct level officer or elected officials.
- These delegates are elected by all the state convention delegates.

12 At-Large Delegates and 1 At-Large Alternate

- Elected by all the state convention delegates.
- Apportioned between men and women to reach the overall goal of an equal division between men and women.
- Affirmative Action goals are taken into account in choosing at-large delegates

You also should know:

- The overall delegation (all categories of delegates and alternates) must be equally divided between men and women.
- The delegate selection process is open to all Democrats who are registered voters. The Democratic Party encourages participation by underrepresented groups in party affairs, including African Americans, Hispanics, ethnic identity, youth, those over 65, lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons, persons with physical disabilities, and persons of low and moderate income, rural residents and women.
- Our goal is to elect at least 38 African American delegates, at least 3 GLBT delegates, at least 5 who are under 30, at least 1 who is Hispanic and at least 1 who has a physical disability. The election of at-large delegates may be used to reach these goals.
- To run for delegate, **you must file a notice with the State Party by April 12 by 5:00 pm.** (Filing forms will be available from the Party or on the web at www.scdp.org.)
- **Presidential candidates have the right to approve every candidate** for his/her delegate slots. This helps insure that a candidate's strongest supporters are elected.
- Delegates and alternates are responsible for their own expenses to attend the Convention. The Delegation will meet on **May 19, 2012** in Columbia.
- **A few counties require you to file** in order to run for delegate or alternate to the state convention. Check with your county chair to see if your county has this requirement.

Again, the information above only summarizes the rules you must follow to become a SC Delegate to the National Convention. If you plan to run for a delegate position, you should read the entire SC Delegate Selection Plan, which is available at www.scdp.org or by calling 803-799-7798.