



San Antonio Alamo Area Local Legislative Updates

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Volume 2 No. 4

January 27, 2016

2016 Presidential Election Calendar explained

The 2016 election is kicking into high gear. But before we choose the 45th president of the United States, there are a few stops along the road to the White House.

There are more debates on the horizon. Before April, there will be three more Democratic debates and six Republican debates.

Then, in February, voting for each party's nominee gets underway with a series of caucuses and primaries. When it comes to caucuses, attendees listen to speeches, then make their decisions. The Democrats cast their votes by arranging themselves behind their top picks. Republicans vote by a show of hands or paper ballot. Primaries, however, are just a simple vote at a polling place.

First-in-the-nation status goes to the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 1 and the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 9. A lot of significance is placed on these two states as indicators as to how the rest of the country will vote — although critics say Iowa and New Hampshire aren't diverse enough to clearly predict nationwide results.

Votes are cast in the rest of the states up until mid-June. Then, the next stop is the conventions. This year the Republican National Committee is holding its convention in Cleveland, July 18-21. The Democratic National Committee convention is being hosted in Philadelphia, July 25-28. At these four-day events, delegates pledge support to the candidate of their choice and the party's nominee is officially selected.

The finish line is in sight, but before Election Day, there are the presidential debates. The first is on Sept. 26 in Dayton, Ohio. The second is on Oct. 9 in St. Louis, and the last debate is in Las Vegas on Oct. 19. Then, Election Day is Nov. 8. The president-elect waits until Jan. 20, 2017, to be sworn in as the next commander in chief.

Here Are All The Dates You Need To Know For Election 2016

It may seem as though the 2016 presidential election has been going on for an eternity. But technically, it hasn't even started yet! Soon, though, voters will actually begin to choose who they want to be the next president. Lucky them. Lucky all of us.

Here are some of the big dates to keep in mind in 2016:

- Jan. 14** -- Fox Business GOP debate in North Charleston, South Carolina
- Jan. 17** -- NBC Democratic debate in Charleston, South Carolina
- Jan. 28** -- Fox News GOP debate in Des Moines, Iowa
- Feb. 1** -- Iowa caucuses
- Feb. 6** -- ABC News/Independent Journal GOP debate at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire
- Feb. 9** -- New Hampshire primary
- Feb. 11** -- PBS Democratic debate in Wisconsin
- Feb. 13** -- CBS GOP debate at the Peace Center in Greenville, South Carolina
- Feb. 20** -- Nevada Democratic caucus and South Carolina Republican primary
- Feb. 23** -- Nevada GOP caucus
- Feb. 27** -- South Carolina Democratic primary
- March 1** -- Super Tuesday: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont and Virginia primaries; Alaska (GOP), Colorado and Minnesota caucuses
- March 5** -- Kentucky (GOP), Maine (GOP), Nebraska (Dem.) and Kansas caucuses; Louisiana primary
- March 6** -- Maine Democratic caucus
- March 8** -- Idaho (GOP), Mississippi and Michigan primaries; Hawaii Republican caucus
- March 13** -- Puerto Rico GOP primary.
- March 15** -- Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Missouri and North Carolina primaries
- March 22** -- Arizona and Utah primaries; Idaho Democratic caucus
- March 26** -- Alaska, Hawaii and Washington hold Democratic caucuses
- April 5** -- Wisconsin primary
- April 19** -- New York primary
- April 26** -- Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island primaries
- May 3** -- Indiana primary
- May 10** -- Nebraska (GOP) and West Virginia primaries
- May 17** -- Kentucky (Dem.) and Oregon primaries
- May 24** -- Washington Republican primary
- June 5** -- Puerto Rico Democratic primary
- June 7** -- California, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota primaries
- June 14** -- Washington, D.C. primary
- July 18-21** -- Republican National Convention in Cleveland
- July 25-28** -- Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia
- Sept. 26** -- Presidential debate at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio
- Oct. 4** -- Vice presidential debate at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia
- Oct. 9** -- Presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis
- Oct. 19** -- Presidential debate at University of Nevada-Las Vegas
- Nov. 8** -- Election Day