



San Antonio Alamo Area Local Legislative Updates

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Super Tuesday 2016

Super Tuesday 2016 is being held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. There are 14 states holding primaries or caucuses mostly in the South, causing some to dub this the "SEC primary." This is after the college athletic Southeastern Conference in which teams from many of the states represented play.

It's the second-most important Tuesday in the American political process. While it's a political tradition now, Super Tuesday isn't all that old. The first one was held in 1988, after the Democratic National Committee worked with several Southern states interested in reasserting the importance of their role in producing a nomination for the party. In 2008, Republicans and Democrats held contests that collectively spanned 24 of the 50 states, making it the largest Super Tuesday to date.

Super Tuesday was basically designed to nationalize the message, to try to reduce the influence of the so-called 'Iowa syndrome,'" Virginia Senator Chuck Robb told Robert MacNeil in an interview on "NewsHour" following the first Super Tuesday in 1988. Iowa is one of the first local nominating contests every four years and holds a lot of political influence.

Robb, one of the architects of the original mass-primary plan, was looking to offset a lot of the retail politics, touching on issues of local importance rather than the issues that might win the general election that come from spread-out primaries. Super Tuesday was meant to be a sink-or-swim boot camp for campaigns to determine if they could run a tight race on national issues in a manner that would be required of a candidate once he reached the White House. Super Tuesday was intended to bring out the wholesale politics that affect everyone in the United States: foreign policy, war and the economy.

Voters from a number of states all vote or caucus on the same day. These states are of equal importance, unlike spread-out primary schedules where the most important state is the one that's holding the next primary. Iowa and New Hampshire have traditionally been viewed as important states in the primary season because they hold their nominating contests first in the nation. Super Tuesday is important because it's a test of how a candidate plays across a broad spectrum of voters and entire regions and can also give parties an idea of how their candidates compare to those from the rival party.

Such a complex contest as Super Tuesday can't help but pose problems with a group of primaries and caucuses scheduled together on the same day, is that it demands a fast pace. Candidates don't have time to get their message out and voters don't have time to hear it. It also means that if you're a candidate with limited funds, it's a good bet you'll be broke before the campaign leading up to Super Tuesday is over. Flying from state to state in a short time really adds up.

Another troubling aspect of Super Tuesday is that it usually determines a party's nominee early in the presidential race. This leaves fewer people feeling as if they have a say in primaries that come later on. With huge amounts of delegates going to one candidate or another in a single day, the delegates from states with later primaries become less important. This is especially true after a Super Tuesday where a clear victor has emerged and has garnered nearly enough delegates to carry his or her party's nomination.

It will also be the first presidential primary day under new Republican National Committee rules designed to give states that vote later in the year more influence in the nomination process and at the GOP convention in Cleveland, Ohio, in the summer. Under the Republican Party's new rules, states that hold their primaries and caucuses on March 1 through March 14 will award delegates on a proportional basis instead of winner-take-all. The rule is designed to prevent states from trying to leapfrog each other for influence and attention during the primaries.

List of States Voting on Super Tuesday March 01, 2016

Here are the states that are holding primaries or caucuses on Super Tuesday 2016, followed by the number of delegates being awarded to the party conventions:

- **Alabama:** 50 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 60 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Alaska:** 28 delegates at stake in the Republican caucuses (the 20 delegates at stake in the Democratic caucuses are awarded on March 26, not on Super Tuesday)
- **Arkansas:** 40 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 37 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Colorado:** 37 delegates at stake in the Republican caucuses, 79 delegates at stake in the Democratic caucuses
- **Georgia:** 76 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 116 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Massachusetts:** 42 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 116 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Minnesota:** 38 delegates at stake in the Republican caucuses, 93 delegates at stake in the Democratic caucuses
- **Oklahoma:** 43 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 42 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Tennessee:** 58 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 76 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Texas:** 155 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 252 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Vermont:** 16 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 26 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **Virginia:** 49 delegates at stake in the Republican primary, 110 delegates at stake in the Democratic primary
- **North Dakota:** 28 delegates at stake in the Republican primary
- **Wyoming:** 29 delegates at stake in the Republican primary

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